some stories in this issue:

Into the Fire: Beaver Island Fire Department Propane Training Exercise
The Second Annual Beaver Island Celtic Games; Many thoughts on Northcutt Bay
Out of the Blue – Episode 2, The Birds – a serial sci-fi; A Big Canoe; X-10-U-8 Figurehead & Model
Islanders Kick Off Soccer Season; Kalenberg Engine returns to Island. Reassembled by Karl Bartels!
Beaver Island News and Events, History, People, Places, Photography, Art, and more....
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The Beaver Beacon welcomes Island Stories, Articles, and Letters to the Editor and would like to thank all those who call and e-mail with news and events.
News from the Townships

**St. James Town Board**

At the Township Board meeting of 9-6, the resignation of Airport Manager John Harris was announced. The Township opened an account with *Fresh Air* in order to be able to use its services when necessary. The Township Attorney had modified the Airport Ordinance to remove the paragraph in which any service provider wishing to use the facility would have to build a new terminal, apron, and additional parking lot, and the revision was passed. An operator will still have to have a license agreement with the Airport Authority and carry at least a million dollar liability policy.

Jean Palmer was reappointed to the Library Board for another four-year term. Ken Taylor and Kitty McNamara were reappointed to BITA for three-year terms.

Tom Graham has sold the lot next to the Town Hall (on the side towards town) to the Little Traverse Nature Conservancy, which strengthened the conservation easement on it (from requiring all buildings to be in the ‘lighthouse complex’ style to allowing no buildings) and transferred it to CMU for its planned Great Lakes Research Center.

The tennis courts have been resurfaced, with private donations reducing the Township contribution to well below 50%.

Two people said the restrooms needed an overhaul. The North Shore Campground also needs work.

The naming of private roads (residents suggest; the Town Board recommends; the Equalization Department approves) was revisited for the beach lot access road running south from near the east end of Lake Drive. Two property owners each suggested five names (e.g. “Heronwood Drive”; “Limestone Ridge Road”) but the Supervisor noted that it followed an old two-track that had been designated “Downers Lane” on old surveys. A discussion found several supporters of a name from 35 to 40 years ago and even longer: “Popss’ Road,” after “Popss,” a Coastguardsman who was the brother of Sister Gilbert.

Several of the twenty people in the audience were present because the status of the two lots at Donegal Bay purchased several years ago by St. James Township was to be discussed. Supervisor Vyse, though, said the issue had changed back and forth recently, even right up to the meeting time, and what had been agreed to was to appoint a five-part committee: two representatives from the Port St. James POA, two from the St. James Board, the attorneys from each side, and a concerned resident with extensive knowledge of the matter. Now the plan is for this negotiating team to try to resolve the matter in the next thirty days.

Bud Left reported to the Town Board that he acted on their statement that his sidewalk problem was a matter for the Charlevoix County Road Commission to solve. He called them, but...
they threw the matter back to St. James Township by insisting that their responsibility was only the roads. He said his attorney was adamant about identifying who was responsible. Jim Wojan volunteered the information that after two years of negotiation, the CCRC had just obtained the right to unplug a nearby drain, which would be done in two weeks and would in all likelihood solve the problem. He said the curb at Bud’s home might also be raised at that time.

**Peaine Town Board**

The Peaine Board accepted the proposed revision of the 1992 Airport Ordinance, dropping the requirement that any new commercial service (a) build a new terminal building, (b) create a 9,000 ft² apron to it, and (c) add 2,600 ft² of parking.

A letter was read from Cory Gratsch, whose Scout Troop rebuilt the trail between the Bill Wagner Campground and the Blue Trail. Supervisor Works had inspected the job and praised it highly, saying the Scouts had overcome several obstacles.

Works also complimented Glen LaFreniere for the high quality of his maintenance of the Campground, and added that the new well there is working, and the new outhouse at Lake Geneserath is done.

The Peaine Roads Committee offered two letters, one to the Board outlining its planned approach to the Charlevoix County Road Commission and another to the CCRC itself. The letter asked for input on four matters: paving; gravelling; dust control; and ‘other.’ This ‘other’ asked for help on four matters: getting M-66 extended onto Beaver Island; establishing an ‘Act 51’ alliance of islands with roads to lobby for a much-needed doubling of the road reimbursement; getting a work commitment to use in the effort to convince voters to pass the County Road Millage (which recently failed by 158 votes); and raising the gas tax.

In this letter, estimates were placed on the costs of three paving projects: resurfacing King’s Highway: $900,000; paving the East Side Drive from Four Corners to the Welke Airport: $500,000; and paving all of Tom McCauley’s Road: $600,000.

**‘Ambassadors’ Arriving**

The *Harlem Ambassadors* are coming to Beaver Island for a 7:00 p.m. basketball game at the gym on Tuesday, October 17. They combine above-the-rim maneuvers and dazzling ball-handling with slapstick comedy routines. The creative force is Ladé Majic, the ‘Queen of Show Basketball,’ the team’s first member. The Ambassadors’ tours include 120 stops in a hectic schedule, sometimes ranging abroad—they’ve entertained the troops in Europe and elsewhere, and packed halls from Korea through Micronesia. They concentrate on helping nonprofits raise money, and this performance will help fund our sports programs.
Honoring Jerry

Dr. Jerry Charbeneau was honored by the Red Cross for his work organizing the Rita Gillespie Memorial Blood Drive. Jerry was responsible for reestablishing the Blood Drive in 1996 and indicated last year that 2006 would be his last time to coordinate the drive.

Representatives of the Northern Area of the American Red Cross were on the Island September 11th to present a certificate of appreciation to Jerry for his ten years of service.

EMS Education

The first meeting for the evening EMT class was on September 19, 2006. It was discovered that the commitment for this program was much more than anyone could give, so no evening EMT class will be offered at this time. The commitment was for 172 hours of classroom and 32 hours of clinical time either in the hospital or on an ambulance service, both on the mainland. This is quite a sacrifice, and the community needs to thank those who have already made the commitment and passed the National Registry Exam to become Basic EMTs to serve the visitors and residents of Beaver Island.

The next opportunity for EMS education for the community is a medical
The first blood drive on Beaver Island was held on July 23, 1992 under the auspices of the American Red Cross. They have been held once a summer every year since, except for 1995. The name ‘Rita Gillespie Memorial Blood Drive’ was given to the event during those early years to honor a long-time resident of Beaver Island who had required transfusions during a lengthy illness that eventually took her life.

The drives were coordinated by Mike McGinnity, a PA whose responsibilities at the health center became so demanding that he had to discontinue his role as blood drive coordinator. In 1995 Jerry Charbeneau met with him about reestablishing the event. In early 1996 Jerry again visited with Mike and newly-arrived Penny Kiss, and learned of Fred Haubold’s interest in the blood drive. Jerry contacted the Red Cross and enlisted their support, and a date was set during the Homecoming Week.

Jerry and Fred were co-coordinators of the event and established the sponsorship of the three churches through their church boards. Jeanne Howell represented the Episcopal Church, Fred the Catholic Church, and Jerry the BI Christian Church. They made announcements at the services, solicited cookies, made calls to prospective donors, planned the drive, and organized volunteers. When Fred moved away, Connie Wojan replaced him. Lars Larson joined the team in 2003.

For the first drive, a goal was set for 80 units that resulted in 96 potential donors, including 9 first-timers. Eighty productive units were obtained. There have been a total of 12 blood drives here since 1992. The average number of donors is 89, with 10 first-timers; the average pint per drive is 80 units. A total of 883 units were collected. Using ‘Component Therapy,’ each unit is manufactured into 3 life-saving products. Over 2,600 lives have been saved by the generosity of the donors and volunteers on Beaver Island.

first responder class during the school day at the Beaver Island Community School. The class meets from 1:15 - 2:00 on Monday and 1:25 - 2:20 Tuesday through Friday. The course begins in late January or early February and runs until the second semester is completed in early June. There are no classes when school is not in session. Adults are welcome and encouraged to attend this course which is offered to the 10th grade students at the BICS. The commitment is approximately 90 hours of classroom time with no clinical requirement. If interested, contact Sarah McCafferty (448-2238) or Joe Moore (448-2416). Pre-registration is required.

– Joe Moore
On September 7th the Michigan Propane Safety Team held a firemen’s safety training exercise on Beaver Island. Besides our local volunteers, a few mainland fire departments sent some of their men.

After an hour of classroom material, the group reconvened at 7:30 on the northwest corner of the Welke Airfield, where the Fire Department had previously positioned a truck, dropped off equipment, and hooked up and tested a pump to draw water from the pond that has formed at Rich Gillespie’s well-organized gravel pit.

The MPST had also prepared a single team, but as the fires to be put out grew, two teams had to combine their efforts. In each case the advancing firemen trained their stream to check the flames until one of them (a “third man”) could reach and turn off the valve.

The first exercise only required a sequence of burns, starting with a small gas grill and moving up to a special 250-gallon “pig.” The firemen formed 3-man teams: two abreast, each with a solid grip on the powerful hose, and a third behind to push them and control the backlash.

The exercises were halted when a plane landed, and halted again when it took off.

The initial fire dousings were interesting, but some of the 40 onlookers mumbled that they could have done pretty much the same thing with a garden hose. However when the pig was set off and deafeningly loud flames leaped 30’ in the air, everyone intuitively took a few steps back. The heat was overwhelming, and the natural reaction was to turn and run. Yet the firemen, now composed into four teams (two 3-man flankers with focused hoses and two 3-man attackers with diffused sprays), clenched their teeth and dug in.

At this point the hose water only...
seemed to make the fire god more enraged. The hissing, roaring flames induced a feeling of chaos and panic in everyone—except the firemen, who held their positions and functioned as a coordinated, experienced team, even though the water condensing on their visors made it difficult to see. The flankers and they did it all again.

They did it again, and again. At 9:00 they stepped back so another plane could take off. Then they did it again.

Everyone watching had the same sense, that this was the moment at which men defined who they were, and our firemen rose to the occasion, and didn’t want to do it exactly right when they had to.

It’s highly unlikely that any of these men were able to fall asleep at their usual hour that night after vanquishing an inferno.

Who are the winners? First, the men themselves, who now know they are more than men. And second, the Island community, to be so blessed with such an outstanding, dedicated, and highly-trained group of modern-day heroes. In times when anything might happen, we’re ready for anything.
Out of the Blue

A serial science fiction story

Previously: After a freakish hail storm on a clear autumn morning and an unexplained ‘drop’ from a jet flying over Beaver Island, six Islanders each discovered at different places on the Island a small, blue pyramid-shaped object of an unknown substance. A few days later all of the objects disappeared. Meanwhile, one of the scenes in the scene starring people and places of Beaver Island took a turn for the unexpected.

November 23, 2006, Thanksgiving Day…

Phyllis Moore could not believe what she was reading on her computer. A year ago, she had memorialized the traditional Island Thanksgiving dinner with a big headline on her beaverislandnews.com website: “Thanksgiving Dinner a Huge Hit This Year.” The annual event was an inspiring gathering of the community—all ages, all faiths, and all bellies filled.

But tonight’s dinner at the cozy Beaver Island Christian Church had been, well, a huge disaster. Last year every place setting at every table had been filled. This year the place was half empty. But it wasn’t just an attendance problem. Many people hadn’t come because they were too sick to eat, to drive, or even to leave their homes. Some kind of flu was spreading rapidly to numerous Island residents. And now there was really bad news, which Phyllis was about to break on her website. Her fingers tapped out the frightening scoop:

By last count of the Beaver Island Rural Health Clinic, 139 Islanders, young and old, have come down in November with a mysterious flu-like illness. The symptoms are quite odd. For a few days, most of the victims feel terrific—super-alert and endlessly energetic. But then they decline: a constant blinding headache, painful stomach cramps, high fever, dizziness, and serious dehydration, high blood pressure, unstable heart beat, and seizures. Nothing seems to relieve the symptoms, even after weeks of treatment. Once you get sick, you stay sick.

So far, 17 Islanders, mostly elderly residents, have been sent to hospitals on the mainland. My father, Phil Gregg, was the first to leave, six weeks ago, and he is lingering in the hospital, not getting better. So many kids are sick that they’re talking about closing the school for a while. Yesterday, the boat company didn’t have enough healthy crewmen to run the ferry to Charlevoix in the morning.

Word is—I can’t believe I am writing this—that scientists from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta are investigating our Island epidemic. They want to know if what’s happening here is the avian flu!! If it is, these would be the first cases in the United States—and it could be VERY contagious.

In case you’ve been living on another planet for the last year or two, the avian flu is…

The Monday After Thanksgiving…

Anxiety about avian flu was spreading faster than the virus itself… all the way to a remote house off Paed een Og’s Road. Hannah and Levi Connor had been raising a coop full of chicks since the spring, growing them into big, sassy chickens with stunningly beautiful plumage. They knew that in China and Europe millions of healthy chickens had been slaughtered to prevent the flu’s spread. Was their own brood at risk—from human hands—if the virus was found on the Island?

Although school had closed

——

Out of the Blue

Episode 2: “The Birds”
indefinitely to prevent more kids from catching the flu, Hannah got up early to visit the chickens, which were roosting in the coop to keep warm. She snatched them up one by one, checking closely for signs of illness. Just for fun, she hypnotized her favorite, laying it on the ground and, starting from the end of its beak, using a stick to draw a line six inches long in the dirt. The chicken stared at the stick and did not move when Hannah stepped away; it might stay that way for hours. All of the chickens looked healthy enough, Hannah decided, a few maybe even better than usual. Perhaps there was nothing to worry about.

Wendy White drove up to her dental office in the rural health center building with mixed feelings. She knew that right next door there would be lots of Islanders suffering from the flu that was making people sick and weak. She felt bad for them, but she was also glad that she hadn't caught whatever it was. In fact, she felt great! She'd noticed for a few weeks now that she was super-alert and energetic.

Inside the office, Jayne Bailey was waiting, a little early for her appointment. They chatted briefly, mostly about the epidemic, while Jayne settled into the dentist’s chair. To Wendy’s surprise, she mentioned that she also had been feeling super-peppy the past few days.

“Usually at the beginning of winter I feel like hibernating, slowing down, taking it easy. You know, to restore my energy. But I don’t feel like that at all. I’ve been all revved up—don’t need much sleep—for weeks. Ever since early October.”

“That was around the Boodle.” said Wendy. “Me, too. I’ve felt like this for more than a month. That’s when I found this weird rock out at McCauley’s Point.”

“What rock?”

“A blue rock. It was a royal blue like this smock I’m wearing. I put it in my pocket, but it was gone when I looked for it later.”

Jayne’s eyes widened. “I found a blue rock that day—down on Cable Bay. But it wasn’t really a rock. I don’t know what it was. And it’s gone too.”

Wendy was so startled that she took several steps back from the side of the dentist’s chair and bumped into a little table. Her special cup, full of hot coffee, fell from the table.

“Oh!” Wendy reached quickly toward the falling cup. She missed it,
but it didn't hit the floor. It stayed suspended in the air, two feet off the ground, the steaming liquid somehow still inside the overturned vessel.

Jayne stared at her. A look of intense concentration was on Wendy's face.

"I did that," Wendy said. "I'm doing it! I wanted the cup to stop and... and it did!" She plucked it from the air and gently put it back on the table.

"Boy," said Jayne, "maybe we shouldn't tell anyone about this. They'll think we were on laughing gas."

"I don't use laughing gas," Wendy laughed, "even though some Islanders are always asking for it."

A little later in the morning, under a sky grey with heavy clouds, Jim McDonough was walking slowly into a waterfowl pond along Angeline's Bluff, trying to spot other swans. Some particular had sent a chill rushing along his spine.

Jeff Powers, the Island part-time veterinarian, was in the woods alright, but he was looking for turkeys, not deer. He also had avian flu on his mind, ever since he'd heard about the CDC's interest in the flu spreading on the Island. He'd gotten a copy of a confidential memo someone in the CDC had sent to the new deputy sheriff. One sentence in particular had sent a chill rushing along his spine.

If we confirm that on Beaver Island cases of avian flu have spread to the human population, then a total quarantine of the Island will be required to prevent further spread to mainland populations.
If bird flu was on the Island, Jeff had reasoned, then some birds must have it and maybe they were sick—or dead. So he’d driven around looking for the flocks of turkeys that, since a few of the birds had been ‘planted’ years ago, had prospered and become an unexpected source of entertainment for passersby. Some were crossing Karnes’ Road—a half-dozen toms strutting and spreading their tail feathers, two of them fighting, twisting their long necks against each other and biting at them. None of them looked sick.

Jeff’s cell phone rang. It was Cindy Rickgers calling from his hardware store in town with an urgent message from Jim McDonough, something about a dead swan.

“It’s called a necropsy, when you autopsy an animal,” Jeff Powers said to Jim McDonough. They were standing around a metal table in the middle of the veterinarian’s office at the back of the hardware store. Both were wearing surgical masks. Jeff slowly removed the swan from its wrapping. He handed the vest to Jim. “If it turns out to be avian flu, you may have to burn this.” Jim winced.

“Don’t worry,” Jeff said. “I’ve been watching the birds here and I don’t think we’ve got avian flu—not yet anyway.”

“What’s so dangerous about it?” Jeff explained. “Avian influenza is nothing new. It’s a contagious disease in birds that is caused by viruses. Sometimes the viruses cross the species barrier to infect humans. A new bird-flu virus, called H5N1, emerged 10 years ago. You see, viruses can mutate—they adapt to improve their survival. Since 2003, H5N1 has been found in about 250 people worldwide. More than half of them died.

“No one’s quite sure why some people get the bird flu and others don’t. Most of these cases were in south-east Asian countries, but the flu in birds has spread eastward into Europe, due to migratory birds, and it’s certainly going to arrive in the US.” As he talked, Jeff took an x-ray of the swan.

“What scientists are worried about is if the virus figures out how to move just from a bird to a person. It’s called ‘adaptive mutation,’ the virus improves its ability to bind to human cells.”

Illuminated from behind, the x-ray revealed something solid in the swan’s gizzard, the organ that grinds up food. “That’s probably what killed it,” Jeff said. “Last year I had a swan with a safety pin inside it, probably poisoned it. Okay, let’s take a look inside,” he continued. “And I can get some tissue samples to send to the CDC.”

Jeff used a scalpel to cut slits along both sides of the swan’s rib cage. The breastbone was too thick for cutting. “There’s not going to be any bleeding,” he said. “It’s been dead a while.” He peeled back the skin and looked at the internal organs. Nothing else seemed to be wrong. Spotting the gizzard, tucked against the liver and spleen, he made another slit and peeled back its moist outer surface.

“This is weird,” Jeff said.

“What the heck is that?” Jim pointed into the swan’s open gut. Jeff pulled it out of the gizzard and wiped off a slick coating. It was a small object, blue, and shaped like a pyramid.

... to be continued
Report on Beaver Island Phragmites Program

Growing awareness of the spread of the invasive phragmites on Beaver Island has led to a series of responses. Small patches have been identified in the harbor, on the east side from Sand Bay south, and from Greenes’ Bay up the west side to Donegal Bay. The major growth on Cable’s Bay now stretches along a third of the shoreline with heights over 10’. There are also patches on Lake Genezareth.

In short, although most patches are still relatively small, Cable Bay demonstrates the potential to take over entire shoreline areas.

The Beaver Island Property Owners Association took the initiative of sending an introductory warning letter, designed by the township Supervisors and Realtors, to over 200 shoreline property owners. Answering letters, e-mails, and phone calls came from many owners who are not on the Island and are not in a position to take any action personally. In the meantime, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources at Gaylord was seeking funding for an identification and spraying program on the 11 state shoreline tracts. However, no expenditures were authorized until after October 1, making any Fall 2006 action impossible. The BIPOA hope had been that private owners would be able to piggyback on a DNR contract.

In the meantime, several property owners have taken preventive action by manually pulling up small patches, carefully getting the long runners and placing the plants in plastic bags or otherwise keeping them from re-rooting. They have also cut the purple seed plumes to lessen re-seeding, or cut the plants entirely when the runners could not be pulled intact. Some have also sprayed with glyphosate in a soap mixture such as Roundup, although federal and state regulations do not approve use in wetlands or near water. (There are other mixtures approved for use by licensed applicators.) Some have also been good neighbors by pulling plants on land where owners are absent, or on state land.

The Current Situation

There have been many more sightings of phragmites. For example, there is a major infestation on the state land just north of Western Shores. The window for Fall spraying ran to late September. However, the Michigan DEQ deadline for obtaining permits for Fall expired in mid-August. It is not too late, however, to pull where possible, cut where necessary; be sure the seed plumes are removed and isolated.

Several contacts with certified aquatic weed control companies have been initiated. At this point two have expressed an interest if they can combine a DNR contract with one with private owners. The permit process for Spring spraying to be done by a certified applicator could be completed in the winter. However, it involves precise identification and mapping of sites to be sprayed. How this could be accomplished on an Island with 45 miles of shoreline, 11 public tracts, and over 200 private owners, is not clear. The DEQ permitting process seems to be designed for small inland lakes. DEQ staff are willing to help with getting permits, but not with organizing.

Further, DEQ is monitoring two control programs on the east side of the state, but has NO programs on the west side or this far north. It would appear
that they define their mission as monitoring externally initiated programs rather than being proactive.

BIPOA can continue to be in contact with DNR as their program materializes, and follow up with certified sprayers to see if any are willing to work with multiple owners plus DNR. However, the requirement that no spraying be done on any private land without the written permission of the owner means that such a program could miss many *Phragmites* sites that would then continue to seed and broadcast seed by wind and wave action.

**What can we do?**

Obviously, there is no quick fix. At best, we are in for several years of protecting our shorelines. This is no trivial matter. Cable Bay could be lost in two years or so, demonstrating the power of the invasive plant. We can only imagine the potential loss to those with lake access and views as well as to property values for the entire Island, where the economy is second homes, tourism, and related services. Beaver Island has to continue to offer an environment and experience that is worth the time and money of coming and living here.

There are, however, a few possibilities that can be explored:

1. BIPOA has written our legislators and chairs of the Natural Resources committees calling for adequate DNR funding and staffing to deal with the problem on state land and for a proactive DEQ program that would make Beaver Island a demonstration site for the state.

2. Individuals can deal with small patches as suggested above: pull plants and runners when possible, cut plumes or plants where necessary, segregate pulled or cut plants, and take necessary steps to prevent further expansion.

3. One control expert suggested cutting the bigger patches, getting DEQ permits to bring in a licensed sprayer in the Spring, and contracting for a continuing service where necessary. (Jean Palmer’s Lawn Service will contract to do cutting for those needing help - phone 448-2915. Eric Bacon at DEQ can provide information on applying for permits - baconer@michigan.gov)

4. One longer-term possibility is that the two townships could form a special assessment district that would then take the initiative of locating and identifying patches, obtaining permits, and contracting for cutting and spraying. The cost spread among all taxpayers would not be great and all would benefit, directly or indirectly. Having such a program in place would help with the next invasion. Contact your township supervisor if this appeals to you (or if you oppose such action.)

BIPOA will continue to explore possible programs and gather information. If anyone on the Island could see this as a long-term business opportunity and become certified in aquatic control, either alone or in cooperation with an established company, that would solve some problems. It is clear that the weeds are not likely to just go away. But this is a big island and 45 miles plus inland lakes is a lot of shoreline. In the East on Chesapeake Bay and at other water sites, there are miles of weeds 12’ high. We can’t have that here.

— Jack Kelly
New Township Airport Plow
Thanks primarily to a grant, this mighty truck will keep the Municipal Airport’s landing strips snow-free.

Thanks for a Good Job!
Thanks to Rich Gillespie and his men for doing such an excellent job leveling and seeding the land he previously cleared east of the Municipal Airport. The work was of superior quality. I only wish you and your guys had done the clearing across the road a few years back, which is nearly impossible to mow.
– Terry Saxton

Labor Day Bridge Walk by Terry Saxton
On the 4th of September many Beaver Islanders got together for the traditional Bridge Walk. After a brief speech by designer and chief builder, Douglas Tilley, the eldest Islander present, Jean Vreeland, led the way across the deep chasm below. Tilley predicted that no one would be bothered by any swaying of the sturdy structure that spanned the void, and he was right. The 30+ Islanders crossed in pairs or in single file, taking a break at the midpoint to look up and down the rocky gorge before safely returning to terra firma on the south side of Cable’s Creek.
Bartels brings Kahlenberg back, assembled!

After only eleven months and more than four hundred donated hours of intense effort, Karl Bartels has transformed one of the balky Kahlenberg engines that were once common around Beaver Island’s harbor into a dazzling work of art. He and a friend brought it back to the Island in late September, looking so trim and clean that even its mother (the Kahlenberg factory in Two Rivers, Wisconsin) wouldn’t recognize it.

Robert Gillespie pitched in to lift the engine off Karl’s friend Jerry’s trailer and set it on the cement floor of the Heritage Park barn, where it will sit until spring while Barry Pischner figures out where to put it. His choice is back in the Bob S—after all, its sister ship, the Evelyn S, in South Haven has its engine in it, so all that’s needed is a little strengthening of the Bob S and a technique to put the five-ton machine back where it was.

If not, it will be positioned on a slab under the roof over the Bob S. It will be a fantastic exhibit thanks to all who helped: Jerry Hefflebower, who made two trips, and Beaver Gems’ Robert Gillespie, who put it on and took it off the two trailers, and, most of all, Karl Bartels.

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(231) 448-2805
New Arts Organization Takes over Baroque on Beaver

The folks who have brought us the summer concerts known as Baroque on Beaver for the last five years have formed a new organization to sponsor, manage, and present the music festival, and provide charitable support for other cultural arts education and enrichment activities on Beaver Island. The new group is called Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association (BICAA), a Michigan nonprofit corporation in the process of applying for Federal tax-exempt status. It has a nine-person Board of Directors: Jane Maehr (Chair), Christy Albin (Vice Chair & Assistant Treasurer), Paul Glendon (Secretary), Ruth Kelly (Treasurer), Jayne Bailey, Krys Lyle, Joe Moore, Deb Plastrik, and Kathy Speck.

The Board held its first Annual Meeting on August 28. Among actions taken were to set July 25-29 as the dates for Baroque on Beaver 2007; expand the festival’s musical offerings to include two major (identical) concerts at the Parish Hall and at least two concerts at other, smaller venues, plus impromptu ensemble appearances at various places in the community; and contribute $2,500 in support for expanded music instruction and other cultural arts activities for BICS students through this school year and into Summer 2007, culminating in their participation in the B-on-B Summer Music Camp and next July’s concerts.

Chairperson Maehr expressed the group’s gratitude to St. James Episcopal Mission, under whose auspices the first five festivals were presented and through which net proceeds have been disbursed in charitable support of local school music instruction, and to Mission Treasurer Don Vyse for his service in that regard. Maehr said the advisory group who has guided B-on-B for the past few years decided establishment of a separate nonprofit corporation was the best course, both to assure the festival’s continued success and to centralize and formalize increased support for community education, enjoyment, and participation in the cultural arts.

For more information, contact Jane Maehr: 448-2926/734-994-8904/jmmaehr@hotmail.com

Doing Our Part to Reduce Algae

Regarding my article Green Slime Returns in the September Beacon, I would like to include the following information. Phosphorus pollution, one of the primary causes of algae overgrowth, can be reduced by using low-phosphate dishwashing detergents and hair shampoos.

In the 1970s when Michigan laws pioneered control of phosphorus, the law only controlled phosphates in laundry detergents. Based on the indicators on our Beaver Island beaches, it is time to restrict dishwasher products to a content of no more than 2.0% phosphates, or to be phosphorus free. ‘Phosphorus free’ is defined as a product content of 0.5% or less phosphate. The highest amount of phosphate allowable by present law in Michigan is 8.7% but remember that when you use these high phosphate products, it is analogous to dumping fertilizer directly down your drain. This fertilizer, phosphorus, will eventually make its way to waterways (streams and lakes) no matter where you live. It is essential for each of us to understand the role of phosphate in contaminating our waterways and to reduce or stop our contribution to the problem by purchasing only the lowest phosphate dishwasher detergents.

Some of the phosphorus free automatic dishwasher detergent brands available are Seventh Generation, Bi-o-Kleen, Trader Joe’s, and Ecover. Read the labels of the brands you see at the store.

Mission Accomplished

A few years ago an editorial in an Island periodical asked for more “protection.” That editor must be happy now. I’ve never been anywhere more protected. We had eight protectors for Homecoming. Our newfound safety must be bringing many new visitors, who were previously afraid to come here. I know I’ve never felt safer.

—Marc ▲ Tenser
A Big Canoe

On June 20, a memorable trip was made from Cross Village to Beaver Island via a tribal jiiimaan across Lake Michigan. A few hardy souls (Fred Harrington, Jr., Larry Denemy, Jacy Greensky, Susan Pitawanakwat, Tony Miron, Matt Lesky, Maria Harrington Burgent, and myself) left Cross Village a little later than we should have to cross Lake Michigan and paddle to Beaver Island. We were participating in an Eighth Annual Jiibaakwe Celebration event held by the Odawa Institute.

That morning, we started from a beautiful shining shore after we waited for some “no-shows” until the last possible minute. We knew we had to get started, so we offered our sema and prayers, and got a good shove off. We paddled along smoothly for quite a few hours, singing a song led by Larry Denemy. The song went, “You are a star, You shine, I am a star, I shine... Way a hey, a way a hey.”

All was going along smoothly, but as we crossed into the channel to Lake Michigan, we were hit by a good northwest wind. It was all we could do to hold our own for two hours, one paddle forward, two paddles backward. Then the wind changed, and we were plowing into three-footers. After another wind shift, we were parallel with the tumultuous, good-sized waves.

After seven hours of paddling, we were exhausted. Unknown to us, an NDR search boat had been sent out for us. But by the time it reached us, we were paddling smoothly again, TIRED, but paddling, so we declined their help.

After all, we thought we had been through the worst winds and waves. We knew we could make it! No one could see us from the shore, but we could see our destination. I guess we were too low in the water for anyone to see us. But later, Joe Mitchell said he saw “glints of light, and knew it was the paddles in the water.” Everyone knew in their hearts that we were safe.

About two miles from shore, another wind shift hit us right in our face. That was that. With that last wind shift, we knew we had to call and ask for assistance from the Tribal Search and Rescue Team. NRD came up, threw a line, started to tow us in, and asked if we wanted to paddle in on our own.

We said, “No.” We were given a towing rope, and we were ready for a rest. We had hoped to land on the beach at Central Michigan University’s biological station, but we came in on our own to the Tribal dock at St. James Bay much further north. We were happy to see friendly smiles when we arrived with happy hearts and sunburnt faces.

It’s a story good for a few grins, and we had some very proud moments also. Eight happy souls have a great tale to remind us of how our ancestors used to travel all the time.
The Celtic Games returned for a second face-off of a dozen or so of the strongest athletes to set foot on Beaver Island — including Island resident Tim Wearn, who was competing for the first time.

It was a grand occasion, with 150 spectators drifting on and off the Bud McDonough Park throughout a beautiful warm sunny day. In the midst of the huffing and puffing and out-and-out roars, hammers and sheafs and various-size weights flew up and, in some cases, over the required height. Periodically the pipers played and the dancers gathered on Jim Wojan’s plywood-decked trailer to demonstrate their passion and finely-honed technique. Vendors from Stoney Acres and the Paradise Bay Coffee shop provided delicious snacks.

Everyone had a good time. Sweat rolled down many a crinkled brow as shutters constantly clicked from all the media photographers who were all over the field. TV personality Vic McCarty was on hand to finish his video essay on Beaver Island, signing autographs for his fans. The announcers took turns, explaining the nature and origin of each strong-man event and harassing all those whose effort fell short.

At one point a 300-pound giant who had come from Germany to watch these events was induced to try his hand at throwing the legendary Beaver Island Stone of Strength, which proved more difficult than it looked: despite his ear-splitting growl, he was only able to hurl ‘the bugger’ 6'-8", when the winning toss flew all of 10'.

The Second Annual Beaver Island Celtic Games
The Second Annual Beaver Island Celtic Games

After Ken Crum from Trenton won the 30-pound stone toss at 28'-3" and the 16-pound hammer throw at 97'-7", and lofted the 56-pound weight 13' high to win that event, he was heavily favored in the Caber Toss, done with Island-cut 18' cedar logs that are difficult just to lift. But he was beaten out in this event by Bill Gordon, who exhibited near-perfect form. Then it was time for the Tug-O-War between the athletes and everyone else—not just those who had donned their event t-shirt, but young, old, man, woman—and that combination proved too difficult to defend. The Ragtags won; in fact, it was no contest.

After a little more singing and dancing, the final event was begun: the lifting and carrying for distance of an immense 210-pound boulder. Bill Gordon garnered much support because of his physique and caber-throwing efficiency, and he obliterated the hopes of those who had managed to carry the rock 110', 112', even 118' by staying upright (although staggering) for 200'. The audience thought he would be crowned when the final contestant was 'little' (at 175 pounds) Troy Drebenstedt, who at first seemed unable to get the rock to his chest. But the son of our Veterans’ Affairs administrator (one of two sons to enter) surprised everyone and was carried. His Energizer Bunny impersonation, hauling the big rock for 300' before his legs quit working completely and he had to be helped from the field. Oh there were parties that night! Unfortunately, the athletes were so exhausted from their great expenditures of effort that most fell asleep and missed all the fun.
On This Date

Ten Years Ago The Beacon was proud to announce that the BICS juniors tested well above the state average in the Michigan High School Proficiency Tests. Their greatest success was in reading and writing, but they also did well in science and math. And the 5th and 8th graders did even better, with all of our 8th graders hitting the ‘proficiency’ level: Christy Heller, Jessica Keehn, Travis Martin, Jessica McCafferty, and Ryan Wojan. Many of the ’96 grads (Michael Himebach, Erin McDonough, Ryan Oliver, and Tara Palmer) were continuing their education.

Island resident Betty Hoffman, the best friend of Harriet Rafferty, created an amazing dollhouse for the Christian Church to raffle, in honor of her recently departed friend. The winner turned out to be Jenna Battle, Harriet’s great-granddaughter.

Not yet aware of the shortcomings of the Dockside Market’s foundation, the Community House backers were energetically raising funds for new windows and a new roof through teen parties, a bridge tournament, a flea market, and a concert by Martha Guth. But the former driving force for the project, Dennis and Fran Clarkson, left the Island for Chicago.

The King’s Highway repaving was finished, with special thanks to County Commissioner Rich Gillespie and longtime Road Committee chairman Paul Nelson, who both stayed after this.

Bob Mogford brought his car-crusher to the Island and intended to haul at least 300 cars plus scrap metal and white goods, at no charge.

Chuck Schellenberg related a story in which Dave Gladish and Dick Burris showed up at his home on a Sunday night and convinced him to put off his trip to Grand Rapids to go diving with them on the Fox Islands. As they were cruising south, Dick suddenly told him to steer, which he had never done before. He took the wheel, and a moment later understood why, as Dick began playing his harmonica and Dave his accordion. They slept on the beach, built fires, and located several shipwrecks during the outing.

The rising lake level was at 9’ above average.

News from the Golf Course: Jim McElwain had a 32 (par is 35), and Glen Wagner had a hole-in-one.

Passings noted included Harold Bartels and Topper McDonough. Harold had first come to Beaver with Phil Gregg when they were teenagers. He had attended MSU and served in the Merchant Marines. He had been a charter member and past commander of the Lansing Power Squadron. Topper, a painter, had graduated from the Island school, and was thought of as brilliant but troubled. He had lived elsewhere, but always came back to live here.

Twenty Years Ago The Beacon went to justified columns.

St. James Township held a special meeting to discuss the $35,000 offer made for the Town Hall, an offer it considered because of the difficulty and expense of using the Hall in the winter. At the meeting it was reported that if the building were to be sold, a second offer might be forthcoming from Tom Child, owner of the boat house next door. But the consensus was: retain the building; don’t ever sell.

An attempt was made to create a position combining Charlevoix County deputy and DNR officer, with a salary paid by both parent agencies.

Rich Gillespie was to provide the music at the CMU closing party.

Kitty McNamara was promoted from teacher, a post she’d held since 1979, to principal. She was also to continue teaching social studies and phy.
ed. Other teachers included Sister Marie Eugene, Jim Hibbler (who volunteered to do the Beacon typing), new hire Shelly Kammer from NMU and Grayling, Jacque LaFreniere, Jayne Lilly, and Joe Moore. Alice Belfy was Administrative Assistant. The school had 70 students—(one fewer than today, although there were 98 ten years back.)

The passing of Joseph Sendenburgh (Joe M’Fro) was noted. A fisherman, he had been born here in 1901, and lived here his entire life.

Under the direction of Bob Pittman, twenty volunteers met at the Heritage Park to stand the walls of the barn. The Wojan and McDonough sawmills donated much of the lumber.

Elaine West sent in a delightful story about how she had started writing about Beaver Island’s appeal in the third grade—and now her former classmates finally accepted an invitation to see it for themselves. They joined her on Beaver, and had a wonderful time, touring the Island and meeting the local characters. They were as teary-eyed as she usually became herself when they finally had to leave.

Thirty Years Ago A bracingly cold winter was expected. Fishing
ended, and hunting was about to begin. The rabbits were down some from the previous year, but the deer herd looked good. The dry summer forced the beavers to move to the shores of Lake Michigan, and could even be seen in Paradise Bay. The state bounty on coyotes was being matched, for members, by the Beaver Island Game Club.

Rod Nackerman served as narrator for his parents’ Golden Anniversary at the Parish Hall, which included Frank and Grace’s 18 grandchildren, and many others. A choir with Terri Hart and Maureen and Dan Nackerman sang several songs, and later Jewell Gillespie, Ed Palmer, and Don Hogan provided music for dancing.

The 11th Beaver Island Caper was held in Grand Rapids, raising $882 for Holy Cross’s carillon.

The 3rd Fly-In drew 150 planes; 500 people attended a whitefish dinner at the Hall that night.

North Central Michigan College was offering two courses on the Island, including accounting, taught by resident Ed Ladd.

Passings noted included Edna Douglas, operator of the Cloud Nine Cabins; Delores (Gillespie) Pischner, who was born here in 1911, married Emil Pischner in 1932 (they then made their home in Charlevoix); and John Peternard, who had been born in Hungary in 1908, came to Chicago in 1912, and married Sadie (Galagher) McDonough in 1947.

Forty Years Ago Hunters found the Island to be enjoying a wonderful Indian summer. Rabbits were down from the previous year, but there were plenty of partridge, and six deer were taken by archers. The Island’s first turkey season was about to begin.

The drive to raise money for a new Convent had passed $15,000. Montgomery Ward came from Petoskey to host a spaghetti dinner, at which it encouraged people to shop at its store. The $152 raised was added to the Convent Fund. Another fund-raiser was the Grand Rapids Party, which was attended by over 500 people.

Bob Malloy acted as Island representative for Charlevoix’s American Legion membership drive.

Island cranberries were plentiful.

Beaver Island was enjoying a building boom. Don Nelson’s school addition was nearing completion in St. James. Walt Wojan’s crew was finishing Dr. Ratliff’s double dwelling at Sand Bay. New contractor Leo Kujawa was building cottages for Erwin Grabow and Bucky Vreeland. Perry Crawford hired Walt Wojan to build a restaurant next to the Erin Motel. Beaver Haven’s boat storage building was almost done. New resident Clyde Fogg was about to erect a steel shop.

Great white hunter Archie LaFreniere returned from Wyoming, where he bagged a good-sized antelope and a mule deer.

Mary Vesty McDonough, the Island’s oldest resident, celebrated her 87th birthday. She had 29 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren.

The school had 75 students, 18 more than the year before–most being members of five new families which moved here during the summer. Teachers were Sisters Kenneth Marie, Wilma, Florian, and Julia Mac.

Passings noted included William Ricksgers (who left Germany in 1877 and moved to Beaver in 1899, where he married Bridget Gallagher and farmed his entire life), Don Angus (a Coast Guard navigation teacher who helped purchase the heating plant for the Med Center), Mike McCafferty (who was born on Beaver in 1885 and died in California), and Marie Johnson (who was Skip McDonough’s mother).

Fifty Years Ago Beacon typist Rose McDonough enrolled at Aquinas, and was succeeded by Kathleen Gatiff.

Dr. Vail and his wife and son left Beaver Island in mid-September, and potential new doctors were arriving for interviews. Dr. Morgan (Kentucky), Dr. Fleming (Paw Paw), and Dr. Skinner (Louisiana) all said they needed to think about moving here.

The fledgling Historical Society had 43 members.

The Beaver Lodge had to close for the winter.

Sixty bird hunters were on the Island, bringing 44 cars.

The State Waterways Commission appropriated the funds it needed to do a survey of the harbor.

Island stories were being gathered by writers Norm Kraft (Detroit Times) and Harvey Buettner (Northwestern University.)

Passings noted included Ernst Allers, who was born on the Island, and Hugh Ray, the Football Code pioneer who was a summer resident (he owned Isle Awhile) for 38 years. At 5’ 6” and 136#, he was an All-American player.

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Letters to the Editor

Northcutt Bay

I've enclosed a photo of the ‘happening’ at Northcutt Bay on Garden Island this Labor Day. What a great event. We had a wonderful time, and I think others did too. I counted twenty-one boats in this picture for

As a Boater, my Views on the Northcutt Shelter Built by Volunteers

As a vacationer and boater enjoying what Beaver and the surrounding islands have to offer, I want to express my views on the Northcutt Cove and the shelter built by volunteers.

As a boater I've also discovered the House of David settlement on High Island, the lighthouse on Squaw, the Indian burial ground on Garden, and the rustic DNR cabin in Garden Island Harbor. For many visitors, the end to a perfect day of exploring comes with scooting into Northcutt for swimming, picnicking, and relaxing in the cove.

This cove is a natural draw for people, a Caribbean find on a mid-west island. This has been enjoyed for years, and hopefully will be for more years to come. What goes with this is: the possibility of being stranded by mechanical problems or weather. Thank you so much for the DNR cabins and the shelter in Northcutt, left with supplies for people to use. These structures are left
24.

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Letters to the Editor

panorama by Bob Tidmore

Northcutt Bay

As a Boater, my Views on the Northcutt Shelter Built by Volunteers

The Old DNR Cabin

The Northcutt Building

As a vacationer and boater enjoying what Beaver and the surrounding rustic DNR cabin in Garden Island and hopefully will be for more years to come. What goes with this is: the possibility of being stranded by mechanical problems or weather. Thank you so much for the DNR cabins and the shelter in Northcutt, left with supplies for all the boats were unlocked for the public to use if a need arises—as it did for me on a night in June, when I lost anchorage due to building winds. My vessel was grounded on the rocks in Northcutt’s shallows. I found comfort in the enclosed shelter until daylight, and then radioed for help.

The original shelter was a tent with left-over supplies. It was occasionally blown over, and finally ripped to shreds by high winds.

To remedy this, volunteers built a fixed shelter: a roof with four sides and an unlocked sliding door. People have chosen to keep these islands clean, and have done a great job. I have never witnessed drunkenness and litter—only wonderful people enjoying that cove.

Thank you for the DNR cabins and the fixed shelter, built by the people, for the people.

– Brian J. Ladd; yachtsman from Newaygo

Enjoyable community event.
– Bob and Kathy Tidmore

from Beaver Island. Thanks to all who helped organize and manage this very enjoyable community event.

– Bob and Kathy Tidmore
Responses to Kayak Ken’s letter

Ken,

It would have been easier to respect your point of view if you would have stated your real beef with the Garden Island refuge, instead of skating around it by bringing up smokescreen issues.

If environmental concerns were paramount, it would seem that you’d take issue with the disgraceful condition of the existing DNR cabins.

If issues of State jurisdiction over Garden Island were a major concern, one might want to keep in mind that the shelter is not just for bad weather. The same thing happened to Brian Ladd when his boat had problems and he stayed in the shelter for the night, till he could get help the next day.

There were two couples over there grilling out; just about the time dinner was done, the black flies came out. They used the shelter so they could continue dinner.

The shelter is not just for bad weather. The same thing happened to some people who were there with their grandchildren: their food was done, then the black flies came out.

As far as respect for Northcutt, I can’t tell you how much of other people’s trash I’ve taken away at my expense.

I spoke with a DNR officer, who

More about Northcutt

I just recently found out that Garden Island is part of St James Township.

When I met with Senator Jason Allen, he told us that with the support of St. James Township it could become an official park. It has been an unofficial park for over 30 years, I am told. I don’t know for sure; I have only been here for 20 years.

Last fall, when we had 85 mph winds, deer hunters used the Northcutt Shelter for refuge when their tent blew away. Then in early June Brian Ladd had boat problems and stayed in the shelter for the night, till he could get help the next day.

There were two couples over there grilling out; just about the time dinner was done, the black flies came out (anyone who has spent any time there knows what I’m talking about), so they used the shelter so they could continue dinner.

The shelter is not just for bad weather. The same thing happened to some people who were there with their grandchildren: their food was done, then the black flies came out.

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I spoke with a DNR officer, who

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The Conflict at Northcutt

Yes, I would have to say there is a conflict of interest regarding the Shelter at Northcutt Bay. There may be a few who don't agree with it. That's fine. Everyone has their own opinion, but there are about 250 others who really care about it and want it to stay.

For me, Northcutt is a place where I can go with my family and friends and enjoy their company and its beauty. People have been visiting Northcutt long before the Shelter was built.

For several years my family and I have enjoyed that bay. Whenever we would go, my parents made a point of cleaning up all the trash—not just ours. They've been the ones keeping Northcutt pristine.

I don't see Ken, or the DNR, hauling garbage away. Perhaps he should write a letter to the DNR about the mess at Indian Harbor.

A month and a half ago my Dad and I walked from Northcutt to Garden Island Harbor and came upon the DNR dump. It was amazing; it looked like at least ten dump trucks worth of trash.

Ken, you should be more specific in citing when you can't bring your customers to Northcutt. We have never discouraged you.

We go over to have a good time, camping, laughing, singing around the bonfire. We are all good people, lucky to live in a beautiful place, which we want to preserve. Northcutt is for everyone to enjoy—including Ken and his customers.

– Christine Runberg

did not think a DNR pilot flying at 2000' could have spotted the shelter under tree cover. A local pilot who knew the general area had a hard time finding it at low altitude.

As far as having to pay the state to take people to Northcutt, one DNR officer said Ken would have to have a charter permit, but the state hasn't charged to take people on state land.

We have well over 200 signatures of people who want the shelter left there. Besides Ken and a few others who object, how often if ever do they go there? I know that in the spring, before we had a chance to clean up, some people went there and it was a mess. I usually am there first thing in the spring but this year my boat was damaged so I didn't get over to clean up as early. Last fall the hunters had to leave in a hurry so they didn't have time to clean up properly. So the camp site was a mess. We cleaned it up once my boat was fixed.

We have everything set to put a marine radio in the shelter for emergency use if someone needs to call the Coast Guard for help.

I would like to thank every one who has donated to and/or supported the shelter.

Sincerely

John S Runberg

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Response to ‘Conflict at Northcutt’

We happened to be over at Northcutt on Sunday of Labor Day weekend. It was a fabulous family day with 21 boats in the harbor. Some people were hiking, others were visiting on the shoreline in chairs or on blankets. Two young men played their violins. Some were grilling food for the group. A grandma, great-grandma, and grand-child were seen enjoying their swim together. All in all, it was heartwarming and fun—of course there was some drinking, as is the case at most Island social events, but no one was drunk or out of control.

Yes, it is a pristine beach area, and we should all be able to enjoy it. Mr. Bruland should be able to take his paying clients there without undue concern, anytime Monday through Friday when Garden Island is quiet and the Beaver Islanders are busy at work. Of course most of us know there are six harbors on Garden, and Pete Manitou’s Bay adjacent to Northcutt is always available. Should the many be denied the use of a particular beach to enhance the com-

Another Response

Northcutt is a beautiful bay. It's also a large bay with many spots for camping out of range of hearing other people. We've taken several people there, from age 6 months to over 90 years. They have appreciated using the building there as a brief respite from flies and sun while eating lunch. Not everyone is a hardy kayaker.

The beach is a good spot for a Sunday picnic, especially after a hard week’s work. The beach is sandy and shallow, good for children swimming. Where else would these boaters go for this picnic and swimming?

On the rare day that there are too many people for kayak clients, why not look at the satellite photo shows that Sand Bay or Pete Monatou’s Bay? A look at the satellite photo shows that bay is about the same distance from the

BIRHC Truck Raffle Ends a Great Success

After a very slow start the Beaver Island Rural Health Center Fifth Annual Truck Raffle concluded a resounding success. By the time former BIRHC President Dr. Phil Lange drew the winning number, an even mix of Beaver Island permanent and part time residents had purchased 450 tickets. This represents a net profit to the Health Center of $24,529, which will be spent to supplement its everyday operating costs.

Many thanks to all the BIRHC Board members who volunteered their time to sell tickets, and to the four non board members, Larry Kubicek, John Harris, Joe Reed and Leonor Jacobson who also helped out. We also owe a great debt to McDonough’s Market for allowing us to sell from their parking lot and for selling a large number of tickets for us when we could not be there.

Words are not enough to express how much the Board of Directors and the Staff appreciate the generosity of all
mercial use of the same land?

The shelter is handy for boaters stranded due to bad weather or mechanical problems—as it was by a family this spring and deer hunters last November. It is unreasonable to expect people to use the two DNR buildings, which are mice-infested and in disrepair. Also, the dump behind one of the DNR cabins, which includes several used propane tanks, is a disgrace.

There were many people involved in the construction and financial backing of this new building. It can be enjoyed by all, as a mounted sign states. It would be a shame to destroy this building now, and wouldn't accomplish keeping folks away—they would still go to this beach.

Yes, there are petitions circulating in favor of keeping the building, with over 200 signatures, proving good local support. If you are interested in lending your support, please attend the St. James Township meeting on Wednesday, October 4th at 7:30 at the Township Hall at the Point.

—John and Joyce Runberg

Live Fire Zones

People were concerned this month by the Coast Guard’s announced plans to have 34 “safety zones” across the five Great Lakes, including one that contains six miles of the Beaver Island ferry route. In each zone, crews would shoot at floating targets 2-3 times a year with M240-B automatic rifles. The CG says it needs to practice to be prepared.

those who responded to our appeal to buy a ticket. Thanks especially to those who came forward to buy additional tickets when they heard sales were behind. Despite record patient numbers, 28% of the Health Center’s operating budget must come each year from fund-raising. We know there are many other summer fund-raisers on Beaver Island and are thankful so many people from the community recognized the importance of 24/7 access to local health care.

Butch Hogarth won the truck, but in reality all ticket buyers were winners because their support will enable the Health Center to be there whenever they need it.

In closing, everyone at the Health Center would like to thank all registered voters who approved the renewal of the Health Center millage by a wide margin. Like donations, that millage is also essential to funding BIRHC operations.

—Connie Wojan
Islanders kick off soccer season
Story by Frank Solle. Photographs by Andrea Moore and Frank Solle.

The Beaver Island Community School soccer team is off and running with another successful soccer season, winning its first six contests of the fall campaign.

The Islanders opened the season at rival Mackinac Island and bested the Lakers 9-4 and 8-2.

Senior Saygan Croswhite led the Islander attack with seven goals and three assists. Fellow senior Jared Wojan added five goals along with three assists. Junior Brenden Martin kicked in three scores while assisting in three more. Seniors Tony Bousquet and David Schwartzfischer each added goals, with Schwartzfischer helping on out two others. Freshman Dereck McDonough also assisted in one goal.

The Islanders then opened an eight-game home stand with strong wins over an undermanned Hannahville team. The Soaring Eagles made the trip with just 10 players and Islander coach Mike Myers did his best to match the Eagles’ numbers throughout the weekend.

Proving to be too much for a young and inexperienced team to handle, the Islanders cruised to 10-0 and 7-1 victories. Wojan and Tony Bousquet each netted four goals over the two-game set while juniors Daniel Runberg and Eric Albin each added a pair of goals, as did senior David Bousquet.

While Myers was pleased with the play of his veterans, he also pointed to the defensive efforts of freshmen Cameron LaVasseur and Jenna Butler as key to the two wins.

Next up were the Paradise Rockets, who gave the Islanders two terrific battles over the weekend of Sept. 22-23.

The Islanders found themselves trailing 2-1 at the half on Friday and 3-1 early in the second half before reeling off four

Celebrating 50 Years

Fifty years ago on September 1st, 1956, Dick & Ellen (Nackerman) Verduyn were married on Beaver Island at Holy Cross Church by Fr. Joseph Herp. Ellen was born on Beaver Island and graduated from high school here. Dick was born and raised in Detroit.

On July 29th this year their children and their spouses organized a wonderful 50th Anniversary party. The celebration was held under tents with a Hawaiian theme in their son David and his wife Melissa’s back yard. The party was complete with catered barbecue, Hawaiian decor, performing hula dancers, a live band, and over 90 friends and family attending.

Their sons and wives, Kevin and Maureen from Carlsbad, California, David and Melissa from Troy, MI, Bruce and Molly from Houston, and Brian and Kim from St. Clair Shores, MI, were all able to attend. Their daughter Susan, deceased in 2004, was sorely missed, but her wonderful husband Dan and their children were with them. All 10 and ‘3/4’ grandchildren were also there.

Both Dick and Ellen retired in 1997, Dick from the engineering Dept of Chevrolet after 39+ years of service and Ellen from Bi County Community Hospital, where she worked part time as a Registered Nurse for 26 years.

In October the 50th celebration will conclude with a flight to Venice and a Greek Island Cruise, ending with an extra 3 nights in Rome.
Seniors Tony Bousquet and David Wojan each netted in the second half before reeling off four scores while assisting in three more. The Islanders cruised to 10-0 and 7-1 victories. The Islanders found themselves trailing at the half on Friday and 3-1 early in the second half. Junior Brenden Martin kicked in three and the inexperienced team was able to handle the challenge. It was a good weekend for us.”


The district tournament will be played once again at Big Bay de Noc High School in Cooks, with the Islanders playing in a scheduled double-header on Monday, Oct. 16. The time and opponent will be determined the week prior to the tournament. The district final is set for Friday, Oct. 20.
Over Labor Day Weekend
Beaver Island’s Tara’s Meadow celebrated it’s 10th annual camp-out retreat. The theme this year was crafting your own pilgrimage to more deeply get acquainted with the Island’s special places, then sharing your experiences with others in original new ways. Barbara McGrew of Milford, a first time camper this year, relates her experiences:

This was my intention for the Labor day weekend retreat at Tara’s Meadow.

As I left this plaque hanging on my kitchen wall, I knew I was off on a great adventure. Jim Norgaard had sent wonderful instructions for the necessary supplies and preparations. I really felt like a pioneer going off to the wilderness. “Seamus” is a wonderful guy, and the idea he had 10 years ago for these peace retreats was powerful.

On the shuttle from parking I got to know Patty and Bernhard Odenheimer and looked forward to more time with them. The ride over was wonderful. We were joined on the boat by Michael and Shannon Iverson – a beautiful young couple who have been on the retreats before. I was so struck by how open and loving everyone was – I was certainly the new kid on the block. As we approached the Island I felt a real sense of longing to be back. I had spent one day there 13 years ago with my daughter Dawn on her birthday while I was running an inn in Charlevoix. I vowed to go back, and I was finally completing that vow to myself.

Jim and Sally meet us at the dock and we crammed all of our stuff into 2 cars and went to pick home, and walking back to the meadow My job was to get the kitchen set and waiting for coffee, tea, and oatmeal. Soon we were eating breakfast. Everyone shared goodies. Patty had brought her homemade raspberry jam. Getting to know the other campers and facilitators was interesting. As we gathered at the stone circle for our first ceremony, I knew how very moving the weekend would be.

I brought a stone from an old farm in South Lyon, and with it came the hopes and dreams to create a Bed and Breakfast again. That night after dinner I was running an inn in Charlevoix. I vowed to go back, and I was finally completing that vow to myself. Jim and Sally meet us at the dock and we crammed...
all of our stuff into 2 cars and went to pick
wild apples. I had to gather greens for an
arrangement to put on the camp kitchen
table, along with the angel I had brought. I
have not camped in years and my friends
Randy and Steve had loaned me camping
gear. The real test would come in getting
the tent set up. Patty offered to help, and it
was a lot like “Lucy and Ethel Go Camp-
ing.” We laughed as the various poles kept
falling down, but eventually we got it up
and best of all it stayed up.
That night after dinner
in Seamus’s beautiful
home, and walking back to the meadow
and my tent by flashlight, I realized how
tired I was. I climbed into my sleeping
bag freshly showered, but with clean
clothes on, and fell asleep looking at the
beautiful moon and stars. I slept wonder-
fully. Waking to singing and drumming, I
looked out the tent flap to see Sally walk-
ning through the early morning “Briga-
doorn” meadow mist, singing at the top of
her lungs and drumming “Oh what a beau-
tiful Morning.” What a great
way to wake up and start my
first morning on the Island.
My job was to get the kitchen set and wa-
ter boiling for coffee, tea, and oatmeal.
Soon we were eating breakfast. Everyone
shared goodies. Patty had brought her
homemade raspberry jam. Getting to
know the 9 other campers and 4 facilita-
tors was interesting. As we gathered at the
stone circle for our first ceremony, I knew
how very moving the weekend would be.
I brought a stone from an old farm in
South Lyon, and with it came the hopes
and dreams to create a Bed
and Breakfast again.
Continued on page 34.
Peace, continued from page 33.
Sally led a wonderful 45 minute class in Sensory Awareness, and I began to feel the weight of my life lifting off my shoulders, and a lightness I have not felt in months. Dinner was catered by Storey Acres, and as it grew dark we gathered by the fireside for what was called “Collaborative Storytelling.” With this lively group the story telling became wildly funny, and I have not laughed this hard in years.

Sunday morning started with “Celtic Body Prayers,” led by Seamus, and found us stretching and flying through the meadow among the dew-covered spider webs. I felt one with the wilderness. Eric Myers joined us as a facilitator, and his love of the Island was apparent. It was difficult to select one of the adventures offered, but I finally chose one that included seeing the big birch, the huge Glacial boulder, Fox Lake, Protar’s home and tomb, and Barney’s Lake trail. I was looking forward to what I hoped would be a brief sharing of my experience, then a nap before dinner.

However our fourth facilitator (Lee Edwards) had other ideas. Her expertise is storytelling and her idea was to share the adventure in three parts, using three different voices. First, simply tell about your adventure and place; next talk to the place and experience as if you were addressing it as a person; finally speak as if you were the place/experience itself, relating the story of the day and the

BIHS receives figureheads from Island boats – now on display at the Marine Museum

In early September Maryellen Hadjisky and a friend arrived from Leland with a gift for the Beaver Island Historical Society: two figureheads from two sailing schooners that plied the waters around Beaver Island a hundred years ago. Many members of the BIHS were present to accept this donation, which had been appraised at $20,000.

Notes from F. Protar’s diary with the help of Antje Price

One Hundred Years Ago
by Joyce Bartels
Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, October 4, 1906 Local News: “Mrs. James Donlevy and her sister, Miss O’Malley, and Mrs C. C. Gallagher, of St. James, went to Chicago Thursday, on the Illinois.”

“James Donlevy, the St. James merchant, has just completed a new dock at Beaver Harbor, the work of Chas. Rowe of Harbor Springs.”

“Captain P. D. Campbell and wife are in Muskegon this week visiting friends. Capt. E. Small commands the steamer Beaver during the absence of Capt. Pete.”

(Note: October 9 & 10 Snowstorms! Damaging frost, 36-24 degrees F. Protar)
Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, October 11, 1906 Beaver Island News: “W. J. Gallagher, Supervisor of St. James, town, and W. D. Gallagher, Supervisor of Peaine township left Monday, both for the purpose of attending the county legislature in session this week.”

“Mrs. Irene Parks and daughter of St. Louis, Mo. Returned to their home this week, after spending the past month at the Hotel Beaver, until the Hay Fever Season was over.” (Note: these names do not appear in the Hotel Register)

“The schooner Rouse Simmons, owned by Captain Charles Allers–whose granddaughter, Dorothy Evans, also arrived for the presentation. BIHS Board member Barry Pischner had finished a model of the X-10-U-8, which

Figureheads from below the jib boom

Barry Pischner’s ‘X-10-U-8’

Dorothy Allers Evans with figureheads

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visitors that came your way.

At first I was at a loss as to how to do this. We began somewhat reluctantly, and this story-telling from 3 different perspectives lasted an incredible two hours. I was spellbound listening to the heartfelt stories from all the campers. The birch tree was the part that I became, and through tears and laughter I shared what this meant to me. After another great dinner we wove our individual sagas together and decorated our “talking stick” with pieces of colored cloth containing phrases from our adventures.

The second schooner was the Waleska, owned by Captain Bowery Bill Gallagher of St. James, her master around 1880. She too sank off the Beavers, just after 1900.

The birch tree was the part that I became, most moving ceremonies I have ever been honored to be part of. More tears and laughter and now the taking down of the camp site and coming into town. Hamburger and beer at the Shamrock and leaving on the 5:30pm boat. On the trip back, as I dozed on a bench I thought I could faintly hear Sally’s rewritten verses:

“There’s a bright Golden haze on the meadow/ The milkweeds as high as a wild emu’s eye/ And it looks like its climbing clear up to the sky.”

“Oh what a beautiful morning. Oh what a beautiful day! I have a wonderful feeling, everything’s going my way” I will be back next year with several friends. Slan go foil (Bye for now)

Barry’s carving matches up well

Captain Allers had given the figureheads to noted author Karl Detzer, who left them in a home he sold to the Hadjiskys in 1987. They ‘brought them home’ once they learned of their origin.

Barry, Dorothy, Joyce Bartels, and John Runberg: Phil Gregg too is amazed

was on display. This ship was owned by several other Beaver Island Gallaghers, including Johnny Mary Ellen and Johnny Andy. It sank off Beaver Island before 1900.

shore of the Island, and at the company dock.”

“The shingle mill here has finished the season’s cut and shut down Saturday night.”

“James Kirby, who has been running the Company’s double blocker shingle machine the past season, moved with his family to Charlevoix last week.”

“James Donlevy has his new dock completed and will at once erect a ware-

house thereupon.”

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, October 18, 1906 Local News: “Mrs. M. J. McCann, of St. James, spent a few days in town this week, visiting friends.”

Jos. M. Gallagher, of Philadelphia, nephew of the late Rev. Peter Gallagher, of St. James, and for many years parish clerk there, went to the Island Monday on a visit.”

Rev. Father Paschal, of St. James, came over yesterday and proceeded to Petosky to meet the Father Provincial of the Order of Franciscans, who is visiting the monastery there. Tomorrow the provincial will accompany Father Paschal to the Island to inspect that station.”

“Capt. Timothy Roddy, of St. James, is the new master of the tug J. V. Taylor of this port.”

(27 - 31 Some snow. NE storm 38 - 14 degrees F. Protar)
BEACHFRONT HOUSE FOR RENT:

THE HISTORIC BLUEBIRD HOME & ORCHARD: Available again as a rental. Charming and beautifully-renovated log farmhouse with apple orchard. Full housekeeping. 4 bdrms, 4 baths, jacuzzi tub. Fully-equipped kitchen, diningroom, parlor, library, and sunporch. Rates and reservations: (303) 817-2554 or TheBluebirdFarm@gmail.com.

LAKEFRONT
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1 double and 6 single beds, washer/dryer, wrap-around porch, views of sunset & overlooking Garden & Squaw Islands. $1200/week. (616) 405-8926 Website: www.whatproperties.com/PL48480 E-mail: Info@whatproperties.com

Real Estate, For Rent
LOCH WOOD SHORES – This house is located about four miles from town on the beach of Sand Bay. It has three bedrooms, two with double beds, one with two twin beds, one and a half bath, washer and dryer, full kitchen, gas grill, large deck that you step off onto the beach, gas fireplace, dish TV and VCR/DVD player, and a gorgeous view of Lake Michigan.
Reduced rates for June, September, and October. For rentals, call Bill or Tammy: (231) 448-2733 or (231) 448-2499 or email tammy@bluebirdfarm.com.
WEEKLY RENTAL - Harbor Beach Two-bedroom Condos. $500/week. Call Satch Wierenga at (231) 448-2808.

COTTAGE BETWEEN THE SHORES – Conveniently located 1 block from harbor district, yet tucked away on McDonough Rd. 2 king, 1 double, 1 twin, 2 sleeper sofas. Fully equipped kitchen & laundry facilities. Linens and towels provided. Arbor deck with hammock swings and gas grill. $750/weekly. Call Beth Anne @ (989) 561-5079 or (989)-330-9528.

Calling all Pie Bakers!
Plan to enter the upcoming Apple Pie Contest at the Bite of Beaver Island Festival on October 7th. Bring your entry to the Hall kitchen between 11:00 and 1:00 p.m., and put your name on the bottom of the pie tin.
Emcee John Fiegen will announce this year’s 1st and 2nd place winners at 3:30 p.m., with last year’s Pie Queen, Betty Scoggin, to crown the winner. Prizes from Montage and Whimsy go to the first and second place winner and the top two pies will be auctioned, with the proceeds to go to the bakers’ favorite Island charity/organization. Questions: please call Elaine West at 448-2377.
See You at the Boodle!
Saturday October 7th, Race starts at 10:00 a.m. at the Shamrock. Proceeds benefit the Sports Boosters. Then enjoy the Bite of Beaver from 1-4 at the Hall.

LOEWS LODGE ON LAKE GENESERATH - 6 BR (queens in 4 BR, bunks in 2 BR), 2 shower baths, 2 screened porches. laundry facilities, linen and bedding provided. Fully equipped kitchen. Boat and motor available. $1050/week. (231) 448-2809.
HARBOR HOUSE - Weekly Rental
Close to town (short walk to Dalwhinnie)
Sleeps 6, 1 ½ bath, washer/dryer, linens furnished, freshly remodeled, pet friendly, $800.00/week, Contact Ryan & Gretchen Fogg at (616) 836-1597.

BEAVER SANDS BEACH HOME -
Located on Sand Bay, beautiful Lake Michigan waterfront home: 3 bdrms; sleeps 8; 2 full baths; w/dry; full kitchen, including dishwasher and micro; wonderful sunrise views with sandy beach & safe swimming, screened porch & large deck, everything included. Prime weeks open. Call Nancy: (810) 227-2366 or nrosso@hotmail.com.

DONEGAL BAY COTTAGE: 3 BR, 2 BA, full kitchen, W/D, fireplace, secluded patio & deck surrounded by pines and bluff and overlooking one of Beaver Island’s best beaches. $850 per week June-September; winter rates available. Call (734) 996-3973 or suziqp16@comcast.net

THE BIRCH HOUSE ON FONT LAKE/DONEGAL BAY ROAD:
Close to town, beautiful sunrise, fishing, and solitude.
3 bedroom (sleeps 6) and 1 ½ bath. Phone Mary Rose @ (630) 750-7870 or email mrdojg@hotmail.com $750.00/wk off season rates available.

HARBOR LIGHTS: a unique log cabin looking out over Paradise Bay. Enjoy the boat traffic from the huge deck, or sit around the fire pit on the beach. 3 bedrooms w/ 2 queen sized beds, 2 twins and 2 twin pullouts; 1 large bath. All the amenities. Spectacular views! $975.00 per week. (630) 834-4181 or (630) 995-0507 cell. E-mail to harborlightsbim@aol.com

DONEGAL BAY HOUSE FOR RENT - Nice wooded location. Two BR.
New kitchen. Summer: $675. Off-season $425. (269) 668-7892 or email nprawat@yahoo.com

SAND BAY - “BAY HAVEN” COTTAGE - WEEKLY RENTAL - Lake Front, Sandy Beach, 3BR, great view, laundry, East Side Dr., brand new home. $1700.00/week, available in September 2006. Call Laurie Bos at (616) 786-3863 or email lauriesbos@chartermi.net Photographs of Bay Haven can be viewed online at bayhaven.beaverisland.net

BEAUTIFUL SAND BAY BEACH SETTING FOR RENT – THE CAPTAIN’S QUARTERS:
Why not enjoy the best beach on Beaver Island? This attractive cottage has 3 bedrooms, 1 ½ bath. Sandy beach. Screened Porch Gas Grill. $1100/week. Call Ruth or Jackie at (231) 448-2342

Calendar of Events
Oct. 7th - Bite of Beaver Island & The Island Boodle 5K Run/Walk - Boodle entry forms: 448-2505 or www.beaverisland.org
Oct. 17th - Harlem Ambassadors vs. Island Diplomats, 7:00 at the School. Adults $8 advance, $10 at the door. Students and Senior Citizens $6 advance and $8 at the door.

Soccer Schedule
Friday, Oct. 6 Ojibwe Charter
Saturday, Oct. 7 Ojibwe Charter
Friday, Oct. 13 @ Grand Marais
Saturday, Oct. 14 @ Grand Marais
Soccer Districts Oct. 16-21
Home games 5:00 pm Friday & 9:00 am Saturday.
Real Estate, For Rent, continued from page 37.

DONEGAL BAY COTTAGE - Nicely furnished 3 BR, 1 bath, washer/dryer. On dune w/ beach access. $775/ July & August $600 off-season weekly. Dana Luscombe (248) 549-2701 eve or dpluscombe@msn.com

Real Estate, For Sale

WOODED HOMESITE IN PORT OF ST. JAMES - Huge lot, surveyed, perked, power available, 3 minutes from Donegal Bay Beach, call (269) 857-6084.

KING’S HIGHWAY LOTS ON THE EDGE OF TOWN - Two beautiful wooded lots right near town, the Brothers’ Place, and the harbor. Asking $40,000 each. Call (773) 646-1424. Odatlo@sbecglobal.net

SECLUDED BEAUTIFUL CHALET FOR RENT: 10 Acres of pine with 360’ of sandy Lake Michigan Beach. 2-BR (including loft), one bath, Great Room with 2 sofa sleepers. Fabulous views of the Lake. Large decks. Sleeps 7. Across from state land and hiking trails. Satellite TV. No pets. No smoking. $800 per week. Off-season $200 off. Deposit required. Call Ed or Connie Eicher (810) 629-7680 or (231) 448-2257

SECLUDED 1940’S LOG CABIN JUST ONE BLOCK FROM LAKE and market on one acre. Sleeps 4-6, pets welcome ($100 deposit.) Washer, Dryer & linens furnished. Bicycles, canoe, grill available $600/wk; weekends available. (219)253-6500.

TWO BEDROOM HOUSE FOR RENT: In a beautiful wooded setting near the riding stables. Walk out the back to Sweeney’s Pond. See the eagles and deer: let the loons lull you to sleep. Reduced rates for the off-season. Nice touches; everything brand new! Call (231) 448-2397

WEEKLY RENTAL - Lake front. “The Last Resort” 2 BR house on Sand Bay, great view, beautiful sunrise, laundry pair, 1 ½ bath. Phone Bill McDonough at (231)448-2733 (days).

RENTAL CABIN - for rent - Sand Bay - sleeps 8-amenities-available May-

FOR SALE:
27827 WHITE CEDAR TRAIL

PORT ST. JAMES HOME
Charming 1,132 sq. ft. home on two Port St. James wooded lots. Two bedrooms–one upstairs plus an upstairs hot tub & exercise room. Full bath downstairs, ½ bath upstairs. Every room has a combination ceiling-fan light fixture. Baseboard electric heat throughout the house which is well insulated, but there is also a propane heater downstairs. Kitchen with snack bar open to dining area. Close to Font Lake and the North Shore Park and about half-way between St. James and Donegal bay. $139,500.
Ed Wojan Realty:
Real Estate Office: (231) 448-2711
Toll Free Number: 1-800-268-2711

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Please Mail to: The Beaver Beacon, Box 254, Beaver Island, MI 49782
September $950.00 wk plus security deposit. (231) 582-5057 or email robin@robinleeberry.com


EXCELLENT BUILDABLE LOT ON MCDONOUGH ROAD. 139 ft wide, left side 111 ft, right side 291 ft. $37,500 possibly on land contract. (231) 448-3088.


FOR SALE, BEAUTIFUL LARGE BUILDABLE LOT - on the main part of Lake Geneserath. Call Julie @ (616) 566-3311 for details.

FOR SALE - Protected Harbor site: 60’ Lake frontage by 250’ deep. North of the Toy Museum. Call (231) 448-2391.

FOR SALE – HARBOR-AREA HOUSE:
Four bedroom, 1 ½ bath house on two lots with garage. Wonderful location near town and the harbor. Asking price is $225,000. Call Ed Wojan Realty:
Real Estate Office: (231) 448-2711
Toll Free Number: 1-800-268-2711
Dancing away the day at the Second Annual Celtic Games

Islanders prove they have what it takes when push comes to shove

A day at Garden Island’s Northcutt Bay

You can get there from here; it’s right across this bridge

X-10-U-8 Figurehead, Beautiful Model

The Manitou, scaring gulls again

Karl Bartles with the “Bob S” Kahlenberg Engine hj Rehault

a full moon rises into clear September night guiding sailors home

— Frank Solle