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The Beacon welcomes Island Stories, Articles, Photos, and Letters to the Editor. Thanks to all who call & email with news!
4. NEWS FROM THE TOWNSHIPS

St. James Township

The hot topic on a cold night at the St. James Township December meeting, following the perfunctory approval of previous minutes and budgets, was snow plowing. Or, more accurately, the lack thereof.

Supervisor Don Vyse read from a recently received letter from the Charlevoix County Road Commission concerning how their ongoing lack of funding will negatively impact their approach to clearing roads of snow. According to the CCRC, only the main highways they are under contract with MDOT to plow and the five major county primary roads will be plowed “on weekends or evenings, when conditions justify overtime operations.” The balance of the roads, the letter adds, “will be plowed only during the week.”

As Vyse pointed out, “We had our first adventure this last weekend,” referring to our first winter storm that dropped six wet and heavy inches of snow on the Island. Compounding that situation, Vyse added, was the fact one regular plow driver was off the Island and the other laid up due to an injury. A replacement driver was not yet up to speed on all the heavy equipment and former driver Darrell Butler was enlisted to fill in to help at least clear most of the Island’s roads. Other volunteers pitched in, as is often the case here. “It was a little slow,” Vyse said of the overall response, adding, “The important thing is, we don’t want any snow on the weekends.” No motion was made or passed on that provision.

One audience member asked about emergency vehicle travel on snowy weekends. The CCRC letter said: “When a life-threatening emergency exists, the Road Commission will continue to respond to those individual situations, but our response may be slower than in the past due to not having employees already working and available.”

Fire Chief and trustee Tim McDonough openly pondered the County’s savings once an emergency effort is thwarted due to unpassable roads. Thus prompted, Vyse said, “In an emergency we will jump in. We’re all in it together.”

Among the monthly reports were the following items:

Vyse and secretary Jean Palmer met with Ed Welter, John Works, and Paul Welke concerning the internet tower project, and are still waiting on a land use agreement from the attorneys.

The Township received a note from their attorney concerning the Wolverine Power easement for Arranmore Park, stating that the sticking point in this transaction remains an agreement on property taxes.

BIRHC is waiting to get prices on emergency equipment. Ken Taylor has offered up to $5,000 toward such purchases. BIRHC manager Donna Kubic explained that Munson Hospital has donated linens, blankets, and towels, allowing for the purchase of more trauma-related supplies. A number of...
emergency cots will also be purchased. This equipment will be stored in the basement of the Government Building.

In a discussion of Old Business, Vyse revealed that two inquiries were received in regards to the Ordinance Enforcement Officer position—from John Fiegen and Gordon Heikka; and one inquiry into the Marina Manager position, from Jim White. Vyse said the next step was to process these applications, set up interviews, and evaluate the applicants.

Bids were received for both fuel oil and propane from Island Energies. The proposed price for fuel oil was $3.72 per gallon, up from the previous year’s bid of $2.88. Propane costs were at $2.69 per gallon from last year’s $2.08. While these bids were accepted, it was also moved to change the bidding procedure to the summer months when the prices should be lower.

A bid of $82 per hour was received from Gordon Heikka for snowplowing at the Government Building, to be billed in one-tenth hour increments. This is up from $74/hour last year. This includes cleaning snow from the building’s access doors and the ambulance door. Since the bid calls for 24/7 service, which is necessary for both the sheriff’s deputy and the ambulance, it was accepted. It was left unsaid what the ambulance would do on a Saturday night once it reached an unplowed King’s Highway.

Two committee openings are upcoming in January, John Fiegen’s position on the Planning Commission and Vyse’s spot on the Airport Board. It was moved to post these openings.

Tim McDonough was approved for another three-year term on the Zoning Board, while Rick Speck was approved for another year as Township representative on the BIRHC Board.

Vyse announced a new agreement with the County concerning collection of delinquent Personal Property Taxes, as the County has agreed to collect these moneys and then reimburse us as required. “This has always been a challenge,” Vyse said, “and this is better than having the state involved in our tax collections.”

A question was raised concerning the Arranmore Park property tax situation, to which Vyse responded, “Our Master Plan calls for open space and parks along the harbor. That land then goes off the tax roll. That’s the tough part.”

**Peaine Township**

The Peaine Township meeting began with a thank you from Supervisor Works to the board for conducting last month’s meeting in his absence.

A bid was received from Gordon’s Auto for snowplowing the Transfer Station, front and back, at $87 an hour, a $7 increase from last year due to increased fuel and insurance costs. Supervisor Works, who himself does snow plowing professionally, thought this rate was reasonable. An audience member asked if the Township had actively sought bids; the job was continued on page 6.

was not posted because the other professional plowers had been asked and were not interested. An audience member suggested that while other professional plowers may not have been interested in the Transfer Station plow job, possibly someone “with a truck and a plow” might want to do it. The board agreed to post it next year, though there was the question of how much insurance a plower would need to carry. Works said he carried $1 million of liability insurance and would expect anyone else to carry the same. Gordon’s Auto bid was accepted this year, and the board agreed to request information on what coverage Gordon’s Auto carried, and to look into what amount was really necessary to plow the Transfer Station so that it could be posted next year in case anyone else might be interested in bidding.

Colleen Martin reported on the appointment of election inspectors (Hoogendoorn, Ruis, and Scoggin) for the January 15th primary this year. A class is held once a year for election inspectors.

Peaine also received the letter from the Road Commission stating that in order to save money they won’t plow on the weekends unless an emergency occurs. The past weekend a snowstorm left roads impassable; with our primary Road Commission employee injured and a second on the mainland, the driver on duty was not adequately equipped, plowing only with the body scraper, and no plow on the front. On Monday, work was still ongoing to clear the roads, with the County Plow having gotten stuck at Donegal Bay. The Road Commission Supervisor was on vacation until Thursday with no one clearly in charge at that level, so Supervisor Works called in Jim Wojan to get the County Plow out with a loader, and to start helping plow the roads. Darrell Butler was asked to get the front plow attached. Works reported to the Township Board within 5 days and approached the Road Commission to pay for Darrell’s and Jim Wojan’s time, to which they agreed. Shirley Roloff “thought a lesson was learned,” the situation on the mainland was even worse. “We’re lucky we have a lot of independent people here.”

The audience again expressed some disbelief on the blunt policy to not plow on weekends: “What constitutes an emergency?” Not responding to mother
nature, and just saying “no plowing on weekends makes no sense.” The audience felt “our guys do a great job, when allowed to do it.” Still it was thought that our men here would have more freedom to respond to weather issues than they would on the mainland, and in an emergency like a fire, contractors would bring their own loaders and equipment to get the job done in the absence of county service.

An audience member suggested that a township board member should attend the County Road Commission meetings “so our voice is heard, whether or not immediate results would be seen.” Pete Lodico however questioned if that would be cost effective; the Township board member wouldn't have any vote at these meetings, and “we already tell them what we want and need.” However, once a year in the summer, the Road Commission comes to Beaver Island to hold a meeting, and only one or two people show up. The best way for the public to be heard is to attend next year’s County Road Commission meeting when it is held on the Island.

On a very positive note, “Santa Claus came early,” Supervisor Works reported. Though nothing is on paper yet, it now looks certain that a check for $77,000 will be coming for the Tub Grinder after Works reapplied for a grant. The board voted to open a temporary “Peaine Twp. Tub Grinder” savings account to accept the check.

Finally, the board discussed rezoning the Lake Geneserath Paquin property (where Cable’s Creek flows across the road, near the launch ramp road) from Agriculture to R2; “everything around it had already been changed to R2” previously, but at that time the Planning Commission could not reach the owner for approval which is done before any change. Supervisor Works noted that it was “highly unusual” that the proper procedure to place this on the agenda before the meeting had not been followed, but it was explained that once again the Planning Commission didn’t get the paperwork from the County level until the day before the Township Meeting, and since the issue had been ongoing for 3 months and before the P.C. several times, they didn’t want to keep the property owner waiting for yet another month. The Township Board approved this rezoning.

2008 HORIZON

St. Patrick’s Day
Beaver Island Citizen of the Year: April 12th, 2008. www.beaverisland.org
The Fourth of July
Beaver Island Music Festival July 18th-19th, 2008. www.bimf.net
Beaver Island Air Show featuring the Yankee Lady B-17 July 18th-19th
Baroque on Beaver July 29th-Aug. 3rd.
Homecoming
Celtic Games September 13th, 2008.
Bite of Beaver Island and the Island Boodle October 4th, 2008.

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She stepped out from the woods and headed down the runway that connects with another one on a far ridge. She came across the center of my viewing area. I knew instinctively that this was a doe on a mission. Looking back over her shoulder once or twice, she walked as though she had a purpose. My heart started to thump, thump in my chest. This is it, I thought, a buck will be following her at any moment. My heart rate started to settle down as I composed myself. She continued across the ridge and stopped in my 10 o'clock slot. I was still waiting for the buck. I caught movement to her left. I brought my rifle up, took off the safety and got ready. But I am getting ahead of my story.

Some of my most memorable hours have been spent in a deer blind. To acquaint those of you who aren't familiar with a ‘deer blind,’ it is a place where you can see deer, hopefully, undetected. My blind is a little cedar shack that allows you to see deer, hopefully, undetected. My blind is a little cedar shack deep in the woods that has been in place for nine years. Whitetail deer are a sporty animal to hunt. They are unpredictable, usually silent gray ghosts in the woods, possessing skills of concealment and a surprising instinct for survival. My introduction to hunting whitetail began in the early 1980s. It started into the woods. It began with walking miles and miles of Beaver Island looking for signs of whitetail habitat. Soon I was able to see rubs and scrapes made by deer to mark their presence during mating—also called the rut. I began to detect trails or runs made by deer as they moved from one area to another. I learned that bucks left scrapes and used a branch above the scrape to leave their scent for does that were ready to breed. Soon I was caught up in the sport of hunting. When asked how I can shoot and kill such a beautiful animal I find the answer in Isak Dinesen’s Out of Africa, where she writes about the hunter being in love with the game—real hunters are true animal lovers. I love whitetail deer.

Most hours in a blind are spent observing and listening to all that is around you. Sometimes you see deer during those hours. A day in the blind starts early. By 7 a.m. I am in the blind and settled in to wait for light to seep into the woods. Little by little the closet space around you opens up to the woods. Anticipation is the key word when hunting. At any moment you might see a deer—that deer might be a buck. Patience is another key to hunting since hours may go by without seeing a deer. As you sit you notice that the woods are mostly vertical. Any movement is linear and can be detected even if it's the slightest flick of a tail.

The 2007 firearm season started two days ago. I am once again engrossed in the art of observation. At 9 a.m. one morning I caught movement to my right. Unable to make identification right away I stared at the site. It was a coyote that stopped behind a log about 40 yards away. There were several squirrels near him nibbling on whatever it is that squirrels nibble on. That coyote charged at the squirrels. He lunged so vigorously that I heard him. The squirrels went flying. He wasn't successful. The squirrels were up in the trees just barking away. He sauntered off down the center of my viewing area—a big silver-gray beauty. I whistled softly but he didn't hear me. Then there was silence.

One day I had the most amazing ruffed grouse show. Some were ‘budding,’ looking like feathered acrobats walking out on the smallest of branches nibbling off buds. Grouse were walking, racing, ruffing, running, and flushing. One was fanned out like a minia-
picture tom turkey. It was a picture-perfect day, and I observed a few deer also. When I walked out at dark the coyotes began a concert behind me. They sounded so close that I even imagined they were chasing me.

By the third day of the season I was alone in my endeavor. My husband slept in, the neighbors slept in, and I left the house in total darkness. Driving out I saw no cars. I parked and started into the woods. It had snowed and the pallet-bridges over the swamp were covered and looked like giant pillows. Just over the bridges I saw a set of fresh coyote tracks. By the time I got to the blind I began to wonder just why this 70-year-old woman was out there trying to outsmart a whitetail deer. It didn't take long for an answer when I heard a great horned owl calling. By daylight I was back in my anticipation mode, comfortable and confident of seeing a nice buck. I didn't see a buck, but I did see a gold crowned kinglet, a tiny plump bird you hardly ever come across. I am content to sit for hours in a state that can only be associated with meditating, just listening and looking.

It was now the ninth day of the season, the day after Thanksgiving. Remember that doe I was telling you about that stopped in my 10 o'clock slot? Let me continue the story. She stopped in the slot, which is one of my shooting lanes. Since I suspected she was a doe in heat I expected a buck to be following her but I caught movement from her left—the opposite direction. I was on high alert. My rifle was up, the safety off, and I was steady and ready. She put her head down. The buck came out and filled up the slot. He looked at me. In an instant I knew this was mine. I raised the rifle, put the cross hairs high on the shoulder for the one-shot kill, and squeezed the trigger. He went down like a sack of lead. He never moved. I took the safety off and exhaled. Ah, the sweet feeling of success! It had been five years since I had seen a buck worthy of harvest. This one wasn't a giant but he did sport 6 nice points on his rack and was aged at 4½ years.

This season is now history. I love whitetail deer, and I love to hunt.

Lois Williams, 12-17-07
It was a full house at the Holy Cross Hall on December 18 as the youngest students at Beaver Island Community School took the stage to celebrate the holidays and entertain family and friends in the annual Christmas Program. With a theme of “Let’s all Sing Holiday Songs,” the students, from preschool through eighth grade, under the direction of music teacher (and Cantata soloist) Miranda Rooy, hit the highlights, and the high notes, in another outstanding production.

Of the dozen songs sung by the children, eight featured strong solo performances, opening with Sarah Avery lending her voice to Deck the Hall.

Two cultural songs followed: Feliz Navidad and Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah, with the entire choir participating.

Erin Myers-Dixon took to the microphone as part of Here Comes Santa Claus, followed by Meg Works helping to lead the group in Jingle Bell. Hannah Robert and Erin Boyle were spotlighted in Jolly Old St. Nickolas. It was then time for Olivia...
Cary and Emily Boyle to share center stage for a rendition of *Over the River and Through the Woods*.

Again the choir held its own for a version of *Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree* before Jewell Cushman and Ron Marsh assisted in recounting the story of *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. Marsh, in his bright green Santa suit, was the embodiment of an Irish Santa. Emily Burton was the next solo performer, letting the crowd know that indeed *Santa Claus is Comin’ to Town*.

*Silver Bells* was the next offering before the wonderful show wrapped up with Hillary Rasch soloing during the singing of *Up on the Housetop*.

The program ended with an appearance of one of Santa’s elfin helpers in the guise of Heather McDonough, not an uncommon practice this time of year what with all the school programs being performed and Santa’s work of checking all his lists. But given their performance at this year’s program, the young students here shouldn’t worry about Santa’s next appearance Christmas Eve.
Island musician Ted Nicholas recently released his first CD, now available on CDBaby. Produced at the studio he and Mike Hurkmans created on Paid een Og’s Road, Emerald Isle Technologies, it can be obtained at cdbaby.com/cd/tednicholas

Sampling can be done at their own website, emeraldisletechnologies.com

CDBaby is a reputable indie-artist distributor. Eventually, hopefully in 2 to 4 months, each song from the CD will be downloadable from Apple’s iTunes store, Yahoo Music, MSN Music, and many other locations. This seems like a good starting point for distribution of Island sounds. In the Emerald Isle Tech studio, Ted and Mike, and Larry Hall, will also be recording, engineering, and composing music for other Island musicians. They are hoping to have several CDs on the market in the future.

As you can imagine, Ted is very excited to finally be doing something with his musical talent. He hopes all music lovers will support his efforts. “Go to CDBaby and check it out—then buy a copy,” he urges. “Buy ten copies—for your ten best friends!”
Island musician Ted Nicholas distributor. Eventually, hopefully in 2 music for other Island musicians. They recently released his first CD, now to 4 months, each song from the CD are hoping to have several CDs on the available on CDBaby. Produced at the studio he and Mike Hurkmans created, it can be obtained at cdbaby.com/cd/tednicholas. As you can imagine, Ted is very excited to finally be doing something with his musical talent. He hopes all music lovers will support his efforts. Sampling can be done at their own Emerald Isle Tech studio, Ted and Mike, and Larry Hall, will also be buy a copy," he urges. "Buy ten copies–for your ten best friends!"

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from Joyce Bartels

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, January 9, 1908 Local News: “John Bonner, a brother of Capt. M. J. Bonner, of St. James, died in Toledo Sunday, of pneumonia. Deceased followed the lakes and generally spent his winters on the Island. The remains arrived here last night and were taken to the Island today on the mail tug, accompanied by the two brothers J. J. and Thos. J.”

Beaver Island News: “Mr. Miles Stafford who has spent the holidays in Manistee returned home today.”

“Capt. Chas. Allers returned from South Haven last week. He was accompanied by Miss Hattie Hoffman.”

“Joe Peter an Indian on High Island died Saturday night as a result of drinking tincture of aconite in mistake for Jamaica ginger, and if it had not been for the prompt appearance of Dr. Wilkinson on the scene several others would now also be in the Happy Hunting Ground. This ginger is a favorite medicine with the Indians for the cure of cold, and on making a purchase of this liquid, the local store keeper on the Island sold them two bottles of aconite in mistake, with the above result.”

“Word reached here Monday that Capt. John T. Bonner of this place died at Toledo, Ohio from an attack of pneumonia. The news of his sudden and unexpected death came as a terrible blow to his many relatives and friends here on the Island, as no one had heard of the illness. Capt. Bonner was well known in marine circles, having held several responsible positions on the lakes, and also enjoyed the distinction of being one of the best vessel Captains in this region. The Captain had a bright future, being upright and honorable and possessing those sterling qualities which go to make up a successful navigator, and his many friends and relatives will be grieved to learn of his early demise. He was but thirty seven years of age, and unmarried.”

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, January 16, 1908 Local News: “The days of trouble for Beaver Island travel and mail communication have begun. Saturday and Sunday the tug McCann made several ineffectual attempts to leave Beaver Harbor for here but could not break through the ice. Tuesday the mail tug Pup left here with a number of passengers, and made a landing at Sucker Point just north of the harbor. She exchanged mail and returned the same night. The Pup will continue to make mail trips as long as any point on the Island can be reached.”

“The tug Pup went to Beaver Island on her mail trip this morning.”

IN MEMORY: AGNES ALLEN 1915-2007

Mrs. Agnes Allen died very peacefully after a short illness on November 24, 2007, in Dearborn, Michigan. She was almost 93. She was the wife of Henry Allen, who died in 1976.

The funeral took place at Assumption Grotto Church, where Father Matthew Kadenrabek, L.C., offered the funeral mass for his grandmother. Mrs. Allen was laid to rest in the Assumption Grotto cemetery.

Henry and Agnes Allen were the parents of four sons, Tom (deceased), Michael (Santa Monica), Joseph (Washington, Michigan), and Stephen (Santa Monica).
was united in marriage to Wm. J. Malloy, and Catherine and Rose Allers to James H. and Arthur J. Gallagher. The latter was a double wedding. The money strengten (sic) has no terrors for the above young people.”

**Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, January 30, 1908 Local News:** “Mike Green has bought Pete McCafferty’s interest in the tug *Pup*, but Capt. McCafferty will continue as master until Island mail trips are discontinued.”

“The tug *Pup* made a good round Beaver Island trip Saturday, exchanged the mail at St. James dock. A trip was planned for yesterday, but ice conditions on that side prevented. At this writing it looks as if the next mail will go over on the Cross Village ice route; but we can not say what a week will bring forth. If the tug can reach any spot on the Island in reasonable decent weather, she will try it again.”

“On the last mail boat from ‘the Beavers’ the editor of this paper received a present from an Island friend. It consisted of a dozen perch of fifteen pounds weight. One weighed two pounds. Several Charlevoix perch cranks have been eating fried perch this winter of which it would take six or more to make a pound, and this gives rise to the inquiry: Why are perch caught at Beaver Island four times the size of those caught in Round Lake? With a heart and mind absorbed in the problem of human happiness, we sought out an experienced commercial fisherman, and he raised the screech that has for so long hid from a suffering community the one secret that has blighted the hearthstone felicity of many an otherwise happy family. The aforesaid expert fisherman said that the feeding grounds of the perch are the cause of all the sorrow. Charlevoix harbor—Round Lake—is the reservoir of Charlevoix sewage. No self-respecting fish will remain long under a sewage discharge. At Beaver Harbor, where the perch grow to a two pound size, the bottom is a land of milk and honey, and the perch grow fat and multiply the species. St. James is not the only spot on earth where joy is unrestrained! The bottom of Beaver Harbor is a veritable cloverfield, knee-deep, for piscatorial gormandizing. We have asked ‘Bowery’ about it and he asseverates that surface conditions have very much to do with the situation. Perch, ‘Bowery’ says, thrive better ‘under’ a high standard of moral influence; that the respectful and quiet surroundings at St. James discourage ‘race suicide’ and propagate the species. To wind up the subject, we regard perch as the most toothsome and altogether the best fish caught in these waters. Why are they not more of a factor in the commercial fish harvest?”

(Ypsilanti), and nine daughters, Louise Allen (Dearborn), Julie Kaderabek (Salem, NC), Mary Siebert (Shelby Township), Betty Smith (San Diego), Jane Allen (El Cerrico, CA), Patti Fogg (Holland), Angela Allen (Naples FL), Emily Allen (Minneapolis), and Trece Tisdale (Chicago). Present at the funeral were Mrs. Allen’s twelve living children and some of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Allen was a former resident and long-time summer resident, having come to Beaver Island every summer, save this last one, since 1937.
ECONOMIC CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

Since last June we have been in conversations with many Island residents about the economic future of the Island. We wanted to know what they thought the Island’s situation was; what sort of projects might help expand, attract, and start businesses on the Island; and especially how to attract more young families to the Island. We weren’t looking to shape a ‘grand vision’ for the Island or a strategic plan or agenda for the townships, school, or anyone else. These were just informal conversations in groups and some one-on-ones to find out what some people were thinking and wanted to do.

Now we want to share what we found out with the rest of the Island community—year-round and summer residents—and to publicize the steps that some people are taking as a result of these conversations. And we hope to expand the conversation by holding a community forum in the spring.

We found out—no surprise—that when it comes to economic expansion and development, the Island has some real strengths and vulnerabilities. And it turned out people already were working on many projects for economic development and had lots of ideas about what more they could do. At the last group conversation just before Thanksgiving, volunteers said they would tackle eight ideas early next year to see if they were feasible and beneficial.

Beaver Island’s economic strengths are easy to agree on. Like many rural places in the U.S., Beaver Island has rich natural amenities that attract retirees and people who want to live outside of cities. The Island is still a beautiful, relatively unspoiled place. Its residents are hard-working people. The Beaver Island Community School is one of northern Michigan’s high-performing K-12 schools. The Island’s basic infrastructure is much better than it was, say, 10 years ago: the Rural Health Center; the nearly-completed Community Center; improved school facilities; wireless Internet access in the harbor area; and existing

1. We can seek to expand the basin area.

2. We can develop

The Island’s basic infrastructure is much better than it was, say, 10 years ago: the Rural Health Center; the nearly-completed Community Center; improved school facilities; wireless Internet access in the harbor area; and existing

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range health services; affordable housing) that might attract and support year-round new people and businesses, as well as more visitors.

- The Island continues to lose its young people. Many parents push their children to go off-Island for work. Year-round employment is not available, nor are there opportunities to pursue the careers kids go to college for. An estimated 75% of the Island’s high school graduates in the last 10 years live off-Island with no plans to move back.

- Many of the Island’s ‘civic assets’—volunteers, donors, and organizers; year-round and summer residents—feel burned out. These people generate a remarkable amount of funding and activity, but many are feeling stretched thin by the work and growing needs of the Island.

- The Island faces energy risks. The Island is vulnerable to energy costs and availability; its transportation system—ferries and planes—is highly sensitive to gas costs.

- The Island’s business development faces barriers. Business development is constrained by a number of perceptions and factors, including lack of public funds to support development and not tapping the potential of summer residents. Zoning on the Island is considered ‘strict’ but implementation of zoning has been flexible and supportive of investment (e.g., since 1997, only 3 of 165 requests rejected; 2 of those appealed successfully; tower ordinance being revised to fit Internet opportunity).

Events during last summer and fall confirmed some of this assessment. The number of ferry passengers in 2007 was down about 11 percent from 2006. The health center received a $60,000 federal grant for a telemedicine connection with mainland health care providers. Real estate sales were largely limited to expensive beachfront properties. Usage of the public marina was up, but mostly by bigger boats. Voters approved millage for investment in school facilities. There was continued growth of sales during the October Boodle/Bite of Beaver weekend. A private service brought wireless broadband to the harbor district and investment is being made to extend the service Island-wide by summer 2008. There was continuing progress on developing a senior residential facility.

In discussions about these vulnerabilities and strengths of the Island, it seemed there were three basic strategies for responding.

1. We can seek to expand the existing business base of construction, tourism, and summer residents.

2. We can develop new economic base businesses that generate income.

3. We can build more of the modern infrastructure that businesses/families need.

As a result of the conversations, some participants volunteered to explore the feasibility of specific ideas that had come up. Here’s a list of the ideas and the volunteers, who will be receptive to help from others.

**Continued on page 18.**
**Economic Development, from page 17.**

Project Leaders:
- **Elder Care Facility** Explore potential for senior services business, including health care, such as assisted living facility. Angel Welke, Kitty McNamara
- **Whiskey Pt. Project** Explore possibilities for developing tourist-attractions, such as a restored keeper's house. Don Vyse
- **Internet-based businesses** Explore potential of various types of Internet businesses, as well as how to use Internet to support existing businesses. Ric Denny, Bob Tidmore, Barb Schwartzfischer, Dan Wardlow, Kitty McNamara
- **Small, Light, Green Manufacturing** Explore potential of attracting investment in certain types of manufacturing on the Island. Ric Denny, John Works, Dan Wardlow
- **Organic produce** Explore potential of organic agricultural production on the Island. Dan Wardlow
- **Small conference marketing** Develop a strategy for promoting the Island as a site for small conferences (corporations, associations, etc.). Steve West, Barb Schwartzfischer, Rachael Teague, Dan Wardlow
- **“Package deals” for tourists** Develop a strategy for promoting package deals—combining transportation, lodging, food, and activities—for tourists. Angel Welke, Bob Tidmore, Rachael Teague, Eric Hodgson
- **Business incubation & retention** Explore possibility of developing Island capacity to help entrepreneurs create new businesses and help existing businesses succeed on the Island. Eric Hodgson, Rachael Teague, Ric Denny

Each of these projects will get attention over the next few months, until we can assess their feasibility. The volunteers will be supported by Peter Plastrik, an Island resident with experience in economic development.

Islanders who want to get involved by commenting on our findings, offering an idea for further exploration, or participating in one of the exploratory projects (those listed here, or others) should contact Kitty McNamara, Don Vyse, or John Works.

— Kitty McNamara, Don Vyse, and John Works 12/17/07

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**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS MOVING FORWARD**

by Frank Solle

Brett Kronlein of Beta Design was here again to update school officials and the public on December 11 about the progress in school improvement project. Along with highlighting a more detailed overall plan, Kronlein said bids for the project should go out in February, with groundbreaking set for spring. Beta hopes to determine “overall what's reusable and what's not.”

The main office/administration area will be adjacent to the main building entrance, which is now the entrance to the gym. There will be three offices plus a counselor’s office and area along with a teacher’s work area, a copy area, and a kitchenette.

The south wing of the building will house the younger students—half new and half renovated. For the very youngest, access to bathrooms, utility sinks, hand washing areas, and areas for small groups is in the plan. An open area between the third-fourth grade room and the fifth-sixth grade room will provide a unique teaching/study space. A small room will house the fifth-sixth grade run school store.

The north wing will house the high school, and will become a “Learning Community. All classrooms open into a multi-function/purpose room with seating for 48,” Kronlein said. An open computer station will be provided as well.

Three general education rooms will be used for math, language, and social studies. There will be a 900 ft² science/art lab. A computer room is still being designed. Another area is set aside for special projects and music.

A mechanical room and small shop for the janitor completes the wing. The new heating plant will probably be a geothermal unit, but Kronlein envisions radiant electric heat for a backup source, along with a rebuilding and conversion of the current boiler to propane.

The much-called-for fitness area will be along the north wall of the gym, behind the current storage area, although access has yet to be finalized.

Good progress has been made since the last meeting, and more can be expected when Beta returns. Copies of the current floor plans were left with school officials for public viewing.
Economic Development, from page 17.

Project Leaders: Denny, John Works, Dan Wardlow

Elder Care Facility

Explore Organic produce potential for senior services on the Island. Eric Hodgson, business, including health care, such as assisted living facility.

Small conference marketing

Whiskey Pt. Project

Explore possibilities for developing tourist-attractions, such as a restored keeper's house. Don Vyse, Kitty McNamara

Internet-based businesses

Explore potential of various types Internet businesses, as well as how to use Internet to support existing businesses. Ric Denny, Bob Tidmore, Barb Schwartzfisher, Dan Wardlow, Kitty McNamara

Business incubation & retention

– Kitty McNamara, Don Vyse, John Works – 12/17/07

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Brett Kronlein of Beta Design was students—half new and half renovated. A science/art lab. A computer room is still being designed. Another area is set aside for special projects and music.

For the very youngest, access to bath-areas, utility sinks, hand washing areas, and areas for small groups is in progress in school improvement project. Along with highlighting a more detailed overall plan, Kronlein said bids for the project should go out in February, with groundbreaking set for spring. Beta hopes to determine "over-all what's reusable and what's not." School officials—half new and half renovated. The north wing will house the high school, and will become a "Learning Community. All classrooms open into a multi-function/purpose room with seating for 48," Kronlein said. An open computer station will be provided as well.

Good progress has been made since the last meeting, and more can be expected when Beta returns. Copies of the current floor plans were left with school officials for public viewing.
Bover Island’s Cantata Choir truly exceeded expectations in their wonderful retrospective concert, held on two days in mid-December. Two hundred people were greatly moved by the performances.

Long-time Choir Director Kathy Speck again acted as MC, introducing each act and thanking the performers after their exquisite deliveries. Every act became a new high point, from the Quartet (Kevin White, Jayne Bailey, Jean Palmer, and Mike Scripps) to the reformed Recordolerios (multi-talented Davi Stein is the new member).

The general thrill deepened when the Cantata Choir launched into a melodic sequence of songs, introduced with a narrative written by Deb Plastrik and delivered by John Fiegen and Pinky.
Harmon; it included favorite selections from previous years, and was very well received.

Perhaps the single apogee was a breathtaking solo by Miranda Rooy, which was followed by a duet of Sherri Timsak and Mike Scripps. The extended piece closed with the all-time favorite, *Mary Did You Know*, which sent shivers down everyone’s spine.

The final song was a dazzling solo by Christy Albin, accompanied by Scott Kassbaum and Mike Scripps; it had an African beat, so infective that the Choir could not stay still. The entire Choir and the accompanists joined in for an extended encore.

When it was over and the large crowd regretfully filed out, still hearing echoes of the music in their heads, a common refrain among the many enthusiastic remarks was, “Imagine! Something like this, right here on Beaver Island!”
First Snow — Time to Go

Local Singer wins prestigious award

Water levels homogeneity where others offer audience was persuaded, awarding finesse. "The intensity and with an awareness of its pleasing end to her stunning recital. The Strauss, sung with "the greatest of its melismas balanced by strength and The following Kaddisch edges, as became clear in her opening voice never rose above mezzo-piano she "made complete sense" of rounded lyric soprano, without sharp boyance. The voice itself was a Richard Strauss's best known songs. and the minimum of theatrical flam- with the final two items from among the preliminary round and Berlioz's interpretations of Messiean's premature death, formed a contrast readings of Messiean's occasions and being a prize winner in her experience allowed her to carry off. have been chosen because of its high- clarity of tone." With wide ranging deep concentrated program, which Rachmaninov was his nary a kind word. When I learned they ness. Since all of the Library's services I told a fella I went to Beaver were ... was ready to enlist. not close the entire Library? could afford to live there. Imagine my shock and awe when I

The Canadian soprano offered a An unusual choice of song by fully controlled, right through the economy of physical effort." 2003. Her voice was said to be "beauti-

The gravel being put on our rural It's designed as a punishment for it to pack down before it can be smoothed. After that, maybe we should I don't get it. The same folks who wanted more pave them, perhaps with lines and a protection are now saying the Library

On Roads On Vengeance

What to do; what to think? were ponds so big and so permanent that frogs were living in them. It doesn't matter if they wave back; it alien kind.

On Snubbing On Free Wireless

Dream

War

Morgen

Violon

11.5

1018

Marc Tenser

Resurrection

La

Morgen

Dream

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ON THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

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ON THE PRICE OF FREEDOM
Former Island resident Martha Guth, currently living in New York, won the recent Wigmore Hall / Kohn Foundation International Song Competition for 2007, held in London’s equivalent of Carnegie Hall.

The Canadian soprano offered a deeply concentrated program, which her experience allowed her to carry off. While there was a rawness about some of her rivals, she could afford to interpret her material with “urbanity and the minimum of theatrical flamboyance. The voice itself was a rounded lyric soprano, without sharp edges, as became clear in her opening pair of Copland songs. Ravel’s *Kaddisch* was gorgeously performed, its melismas balanced by strength and intensity and with an awareness of its homogeneity where others offer sameness.”

Three songs by Poulenc showed off Guth’s “perfect intonation,” the last of them, *Violon*, being delivered through parsed lips, another example of her “economy of physical effort.” An unusual choice of song by Rachmaninov was his *Dream*; it may have been chosen because of its high-lying phrases. A song by Chris DeBlasio, published in the year of his premature death, formed a contrast with the final two items from among Richard Strauss’s best known songs.

*Morgen* “was wholly convincing; her voice never rose above mezzo-piano and conveyed the spellbound state of the reunion which the song predicts.” The following *Ständchen* was a crowd-pleasing end to her stunning recital. The audience was persuaded, awarding Guth their warmest ovation of the evening.

She is a veteran of the competition, having taken part on two previous occasions and being a prize winner in 2003. Her voice was said to be “beautifully controlled, right through the register, with an absolute purity and clarity of tone.” With wide ranging program choices she was outstanding in all three stages of the competition. “Her readings of Messiaen’s *Resurrection* in the preliminary round and Berlioz’s *La mort d’Ophélie* in the semi-final were particularly memorable.” In the final she “made complete sense” of Poulenc’s difficult *Mon cadaver est doux comme un gant*, and she left the audience with two songs by Richard Strauss, sung with “the greatest of finesses.”

**WATER LEVELS**

Water levels around Beaver Island could drop 6” more than the normal seasonal decline this winter, according to the Army Corps of Engineers office in Detroit, because of decreased precipitation and increased evaporation. It is nearing record low levels, according to a report released last week by Army hydrologists. Last month the Michigan/Huron basin continued its period of seasonal decline and reached a level about 25” below average.

In November water levels were also about 10” below “chart datum,” meaning the water is lower than the minimum level noted on nautical charts. When this happens, mariners are cautioned to pay close attention to their vessels’ draft to not run aground.

Precipitation last month was 1” below average. For the year, precipitation over the basin has been about 2.4” below average while evaporation has been above, the Army report noted.

“Because of large differences between air and water temperature, the months of November and December on average have the largest evaporation rates,” the report stated.

The Corps predicts the lakes will fall to 27” below the long term average recorded between 1918 and 2006. Levels will be between 9 and 15” below last year’s levels. Water levels will remain below the chart datum through May 2008. “If the lake experiences very dry conditions, water levels could approach record lows in the January through May timeframe,” Army hydrologists said.

**FIRST SNOW—TIME TO GO**

**On Waving**

One of my Island rules is: wave all the time. It’s a service I perform to benefit the tourist trade; quaint, you know. It doesn’t matter if they wave back; it only matters that I wave.

**On Snubbing**

I don’t get it.

**On the Phragmites War**

Heard about them for years, and nary a kind word. When I learned they were going to lower property values, I was ready to enlist.

Imagine my shock and awe when I finally saw one. Back in Brooklyn we called *phrags* “Nature.” They looked pretty to me, and I respected their will to live.

What to do; what to think? Knowledge is power, so I did some research. Turns out there are two kinds, and we are planning to kill the invasive, alien kind. *Phrags* say, “Bring it on.” I say, I hope the poison we use is safe.

**On Free Wireless**

The same folks who wanted more protection are now saying the Library should discontinue its wireless internet service to increase the profits of a business. Since all of the Library’s services take profits from some business, why not close the entire Library?

**On Roads**

The gravel being put on our rural roads is not “good enough?” Used to be, there was *no* gravel at all. There were ponds so big and so permanent that frogs were living in them.

We are now in a road-building period. There are places where the road surface is actually above grade. Yes, we need more gravel; yes, it takes a year for it to pack down before it can be smoothed. After that, maybe we should pave them, perhaps with lines and a bike trail.

**On the Price of Freedom**

I told a fella I went to Beaver Island. He said, “Only millionaires could afford to live there.”

**On Vengeance**

It’s designed as a punishment for others, but becomes a poison to ourselves.

—Marc Tenser
Ten Years Ago

The Beacon trumpeted the Emerald Isle’s first voyage, with 190 passengers riding from Beaver Island to Charlevoix in a wicked snow squall. A chorus of hearty cheers went up as the new ferry passed under the bridge, from the passengers, crew, and the dozens of mainlanders gathered on the channel banks, echoed by a thunderous bellow from the boat’s horn. When she emerged from under the bridge she was greeted by sprays of lofted water from the Charlevoix fire engines. At the pier another 200 well-wishers were waiting. About 60 students from the Beaver Island Community School were on board; they took in a movie and a swim at the Community Pool before returning home. The mighty ferry did not head back until 5:00 pm, giving the adults on board plenty of time to shop. While she was at dock several hundred people came aboard for a tour. Once she was out of the channel, she encountered a heavy sea, but had no trouble cutting through the breakers and arriving home without worry. A complete triumph!

The Beacon also continued the story of John Gallagher, captain of the Whiskey Point Coast Guard Station in 1942, getting his men to the mainland in a 38’ open lifeboat so they could be home for Christmas. A storm was brewing, and Johnny was risking two things: his life, and, if he somehow made it, his own ability to enjoy a Christmas at home. They pushed off despite the warnings—into a gale, with a following wind and a rolling sea, which buffeted them all the way to Charlevoix’s channel. The Charlevoix commander urged him not to try to return, to wait for better weather, but he said he didn’t want his friends and family back on Beaver to sit and worry, so he set off back into the same gale. Twenty minutes later his radio assembly washed over the side, but he was able to wrestle it back on board. The Ludington car ferry came upon them and offered to haul the little craft on board, but Johnny declined and plowed on. He and his crew of two were so covered in ice that bailing was out of the question. Yet, miraculously, they made it—fully sheathed, outside and in, with ice.

Twenty Years Ago

The first issue of the Beacon to come out in 1988 was May’s, with a lead story, “Beaver Beacon under new Owner.” The Civic Association, which had originated and always published the Island newspaper, gave way to the Chamber of Commerce, which didn’t want to take it on, so it was sold to local residents Ray and Ann Stanhope and their daughter, Mary Russell.

Thirty Years Ago

Everyone was enjoying snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, sledding, and ice skating—until the Island, and everywhere else, was hit by one of the worst winter storms of the century. The school was closed for two days. Drifts of 5 and 6′ were common, with 2½′ on the level. Temperatures plunged to near zero.

The hunting report indicated 300 hunters had taken 66 deer, with 17 on Garden Island adding 4 more—down from the previous year. For the 3′ year in a row the first deer was taken by Mark LaFreniere; the biggest was taken in his first hunt by 14-year-old Ron Gregg: a 195# 10-point. One on Garden, though, weighed in at 224#. The bag limit during beaver season (12-1 to 4-2) was 15.

A “Let’s dance to lose weight” program started by Chris Warburton and Meg Works had 35 ladies kicking up their heels each afternoon at the school.

Former Islander Nora McDonough of Manistique retired as Deputy County Treasurer after 40 years of service. The addition to the Medical Center was progressing nicely.

Sister Marie Thomas had to leave her position at the school for medical...
Passings noted included Island historian Clementine McCauley, 77, a much-honored teacher whose father, Owen McCauley, survived the 1900 Squaw Island Tragedy; Captain Bernard (Benny ‘Big Neil’) Gallagher, 97, who was born here but later settled in Escanaba and founded Gallagher Marine; John Kempker, one of the pioneers of Lake Geneserath’s South Arm development; Walter Campbell, the brother of Grace Nackerman; and long-time summer resident Willie Adams.

**Forty Years Ago**

Word was received that Ernie Martin was shot in the leg in Viet Nam, earning him a purple heart. More shots were fired at him; his radio, hanging on his chest, took three bullets. He was recuperating in Japan after surgery.

The Conservation Department changed the ice shed posting rules, requiring the owner’s name in 2" letters on all four sides. There was lots of snow, so much that the dogs couldn't flush out the rabbits.

At organizational meetings, Loy Malloy was elected president of the Altar Society, Perry Crawford of the Civic, and Marge Wagner of the Christian Church’s Women’s Circle.

Passings noted included two commercial fishermen, Julius Wabaninkee, 78, and Simon Wabaninkee, 79, both born in Suttons Bay and living at Northport before moving to Beaver Island. Also the farmer Daniel Greene, 91, who spent 79 years on his patch of ground, and Betty Napont, who was born on High Island in 1920.

The *Beacon* included two 4-stanza poems, each entitled “Beaver Island.” The first was from 12-year-old Janet Scovie (George Egbert’s granddaughter), and concluded

> And when you find its golden riches,  
> An earthly heaven will be yours.  
> Once you’ve learned you’ll soon remember  
> How to open Heaven’s door.

> The other was submitted by a 15-year-old girl living in Chicago, the granddaughter of Bernard McCafferty.  
> It concluded,  
> Why do I walk along the beach,  
> And how do I know I’ve really found peace?  
> ’Cause this is a place of love, I believe,  
> And this is a place I’ll not again leave.

This poet grew up to become Colleen Martin.

**Fifty Years Ago**

The school students staged two Christmas plays a few weeks before their parents were asked to pick up their report cards.

The Christmas Bazaar was a big success, as was the Christmas Dance, at which 30 couples braved a bad snow storm to enjoy the music of Jewel Gillespie, Laraine and Russell Palmer, and Pat Bonner.

Two logging camps were set to open and run into March. Lawrence LaFreniere’s was to include Pete the Swede, Joe M’Froe, and Albert Lewis, with Mat Melville acting as cook. They would cut and turn stock for croquet handles. James Gallagher’s would have Paul Ken, George Wajsaw, and Jimmy Floyd, and would cut timber for Ernie Manthei of Petoskey. He announced that his daughter Janet was engaged to Richard O’Donnell.

Fox and Coyote hunters were set to arrive for a hunt sponsored by the Game Club. “The Conservation Department is deeply interested in the coyote problem on Beaver Island,” the *Beacon* stated. A dozen or more “top notch” dogs were to be flown in.

The moving of the church was almost completed.

Whiskey Point turned off its light, but four Coastguardsmen were to be left here to protect the property.
These gravestones are the oldest in this little cemetery. The four graves are Roman, believed to be of soldiers, and date back to around 500 A.D. Ireland was never part of the Roman Empire, as was Britain, but historians such as Tacitus report that the Romans contemplated an attack. Roman ruins are generally rare here. What is most interesting is that the Celtic Cross design is inscribed on each of the gravestones. It makes one wonder what these soldiers were doing here, and how they fit into the culture.

This Celtic Cross was the only one with this clover design. Like most of the gravestones, it is inscribed with Gaelic. Other Roman relics, such as coins and pottery (sherds of Samian ware), are generally thought to have arrived much later.
Writers of fiction and nonfiction from around the country are expected to visit the Island in August to attend the first annual Beaver Island Writers Gathering and Literary Event.

The five-day retreat will be held August 4th-8th at the Bluebird Farm and will feature nationally-acclaimed writers, editors, and a literary agent. Forty-five participants will be accepted to the program, according to Writers Gathering organizer and part-time summer resident Jennifer Nix.

“I’ve been dreaming up ways to share Beaver Island with friends and colleagues since my husband and I bought the Bluebird, and to provide a venue for artists, journalists, and ‘creative instigators’ to meet and mingle,” said Nix, who is a writer, and publisher—most recently of the New York Times bestseller, How Would a Patriot Act? by Glenn Greenwald.

Special guest writers will include Croatian-born writer Josip Novakovich, author of the novel April Fool’s Day, Chicago-based author Elizabeth Crane, whose short fiction collection, When the Messenger is Hot, was adapted for the New York stage, and Phillip Robertson, who has covered the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq for national and international media.

Gina Frangello, writer and former editor of the award-winning literary journal, Other Voices, and Nix will act as session moderators, and Anna Ghosh of the New York literary agency Scovil Chichak Galen will round out the line-up. Between them, the faculty has won several prizes and awards (the Pushcart, and O’Henry, for example), and published work in national media outlets and blogs.

“With all the changes occurring in publishing, journalism and art, and with new media and distribution methods, I want to bring writers from across disciplines together, to learn about each others’ work, be inspired, and to dream up where literature—fiction and nonfiction—can take us in the next decade,” Nix said. “What is literature today, and what are its responsibilities? We all have different answers.”

Nix also plans to launch a blog in January, www.literaryoutpost.com, where these questions can be explored in the months leading up to the event.

Applications will be accepted as of January 1st. The application can be found at www.beaverislandwriters.org.

Tuition for the week is $550, but a $100 discount is offered for registrations post-marked by March 15th. There is no deadline, but prospective attendees are encouraged to apply and register as early as possible, as classes are expected to fill quickly. Nix is working with Island motels, bed-and-breakfasts, and cottage and campground managers to line up lodging for the attendees.

The program will include workshops in the morning; early afternoons will be reserved for craft, industry and ‘instigation’ seminars. Readings will close out most days. A Literary Event, featuring the Writers Gathering faculty and special guests from the Beaver Island community, will be open to the public on the evening of August 7th. Details will be available in the spring.

Nix plans to hire an Islander to help coordinate activities. Volunteer positions will also be available. To apply, offer space for conference attendees, or receive information about sponsorship opportunities, email info@beaverislandwriters.org.
The Beaver Island Islanders opened the boys and girls basketball season with mixed results over the weekend of Nov. 30-Dec. 1, when they played host to the Mackinac Island Lakers in the first of just three home series this winter.

The Lady Islanders tipped off their historic first season with a pair of victories over the Lakers, who were reinstating a girls basketball program that had been dormant since the early 1990s.

The Islanders boys were not as successful in first-year coach Dan Martell’s debut, losing big on Friday night and then staging a great comeback effort on Saturday morning before dropping a tough one-point decision.

More bad times came the Islanders’ way when their scheduled mid-December weekend at Ojibwe was canceled after the Eagles came up shorthanded due to disciplinary actions. While each Islanders team picked up a pair of forfeit wins, the lack of action wasn’t what they had in mind going into the holiday break.

There are only two series on the slate for January. The Islanders wing to Hannahville Jan. 4-5, then host Paradise Jan. 18-19. Hannahville will be here February 1-2 in the only other home action of the season. The Islanders wrap up the campaign with trips to Mackinac Island (Feb. 15-16) and Grand Marais (Feb. 22-23) prior to post-season play. Mark your calendars and come support your teams.

Girls put the broom to the Lakers

There was no mistaking which was the better team on the basketball court during the Lady Islanders series against the rival Lakers.

The Lady Islanders swept their way to a pair of victories, sinking the Lakers 34-24 on Friday night and then 32-25 on Saturday morning.

In both games the Islanders took the early lead and never looked back.

Junior Maeve Green got things going Friday, grabbing the opening tip directed her way by the Islanders towering six-foot junior center Heather McDonough; she drove down the court and made good on the team’s first historic shot. McDonough netted the next three buckets, and the Islanders were well in command with an 8-0 lead after the opening quarter.

The Lakers battled back in the second quarter, drawing within two points at two different occasions, but a 6-0 Islanders’ run pushed the lead back to eight, 20-12, at the break.

Freshman forward Clairessa Kenwabikise showed a strong presence inside and a good shooting touch as she scored half of the Islanders’ 12 points in the second period.

With another 6-0 run to open the third quarter, the Ladies extended the lead to 26-12. Junior Briana Maudrie came off the bench to snare a number of steals, adding to the already intense Islanders’ defensive effort. The Islanders held a comfortable 28-19 lead heading into the final eight minutes of play.

The tempo of the game slowed over
the final frame, with senior Samantha Kuligoski scoring twice inside and Green going up after an offensive rebound to account for the Islanders final six points.

McDonough led the Islanders scoring attack with 10 points. Green finished with eight, Kenwabikise six, Kuligoski and Maudrie with four each, and promising sophomore Alex Kuligoski with two.

Knowing her team had a big edge in ability, coach Marianne Brown was more liberal with her bench on Saturday, making sure all 14 of her charges saw some floor time.

The Islanders jumped ahead early as Green again grabbed the opening tip and drove for a score. Maudrie and Samantha Kuligoski each scored before the first minute of play was over—the Islanders had a 6-0 lead and the rout was on.

Kuligoski added another inside score and the Islanders held an 8-2 lead at quarter’s end.

In the second quarter the Islanders held the Lakers scoreless until the final minute of the half, building a 16-2 lead before Mackinac managed a late basket. Still, the Islanders had a huge 16-4 advantage at intermission.

The teams settled into play in the third quarter, combining for a 50 percent shooting. The Islanders however proved a tad stronger, hitting for 10 points to the Lakers’ nine, giving themselves a 26-13 lead with eight minutes to play.

The highlight of the third quarter came in the final minute when Islanders’ eighth-grader Jenna Battle drove the right side of the court, pulled up eight feet out, and sank the first shot of what can only be expected to be an impressive varsity career.

The Lakers were able to keep the pressure up against the Islanders’ bench during the final frame, pouring in a dozen points, but never getting closer than the final seven-point margin.

The Islanders had a balanced scoring attack with Maudrie and the Kuligoski sisters each netting eight points. Green finished with four, while Kenwabikise and Battle added two apiece.

Coach Marianne Brown was understandably pleased with the weekend’s performance. “We’ve got some talent out there, that’s for sure,” she said. But only as a coach could, she added, “We’ve got some things we need to improve on. We want to get better, and to do that we know we’ve got to keep working.”

The best thing for the Islanders was getting all the players on the court. “I was glad to get everyone in the game,” Brown said. “They showed an excellent spirit—they’re a good group. The girls I had on the floor those last three minutes Saturday are my youngest players,” she pointed out. “They’ve paid their dues, and earned floor time. Plus, they’re our future.”

And if this series was any indication, it’s a bright future to be sure.
Boys beaten and heartbroken

It certainly was a tale of two games against the visiting Lakers for the Islanders boys’ team.

The Lakers ran away from the Islanders in the Friday night contest, shooting over 50 percent from the floor, in a decisive 63-37 win. And just when Saturday morning’s game looked to take a similar turn, the Islanders poured on the defensive pressure, fought back from a 10-point deficit to briefly take a late, one-point lead, only to have the Lakers find a way to claim a hard-fought 50-49 win.

No succumbing to disappointment is what builds character. That’s what they say.

Saturday’s game was a better showcase of Islanders talent than the flat performance the boys gave on Friday night. They stayed with the tall, talented Lakers for most of the game until a third-quarter barrage of three-pointers lifted the Lakers to a 12-point lead midway through the period.

But with no give in their gut, the Islanders fought back. A late driving basket by senior Eric Albin closed the gap to 43-32 heading into the final quarter. Then in the fourth quarter the Islanders switched to a 2-3 zone defense, and played it to perfection, covering the passing lanes, helping their teammates, and frustrating the Lakers in the process.

Denying the Lakers time after time at the offensive end, the Islanders clawed their way back into contention. Triples by Albin and sophomore Bryan Timsak keyed the effort. When senior Brenden Martin scored on a pull-up jumper with 41 seconds to play, the Islanders were suddenly within a point of the Lakers, 46-45.

After the Lakers scored their final field goal to push the lead to 48-45 with 32 second left, the Islanders worked the ball until Timsak was fouled and sent to the line for two shots with nine seconds remaining. Despite the team struggling from the line throughout the weekend, Timsak calmly sank both attempts, again bringing the Islanders within one, 48-47.

Fate finally turned in the Islanders’ direction on the Lakers ensuing inbounds play. The pass sailed long and high, hitting the ceiling. After a short discussion, the refs ruled the ball out-of-bounds and reset the clock to nine seconds back, giving the Islanders what appeared to be a final chance to claim the win.

An inbounds throw and a quick pass brought the ball around to the right
side of the lane where junior Patrick Cull connected with just four ticks left on the clock and the Islanders clinging to a sudden 49-48 edge.

But the Lakers knew who to get the ball to. Junior Michael Gamble (who hurt the Islanders three seasons ago as a long-range eighth-grader) took the inbounds pass and was trapped and fouled. With zeroes on the clock, his one-and-one attempt for the win.

“The one thing I feel I made a mistake on, once Patrick made his shot, was I should have called a time-out,” said coach Martell. “I knew I had one left. We could have set ourselves up better defensively.”

Still, Martell was pleased with the team’s effort compared to the night before. “Our fourth quarter was much better than anything we played in either game,” he said. “We came back from 10 points down and got ahead at the end.”

Albin led the Islanders offensively with 23 points. Timsak added 10 while Martin and Cull each put up six. Senior Dan Runberg had four.

Regardless of the game’s final scenarios, what sank the Islanders’ chances was their performance at the free throw line. “We shot under 50 percent from the line,” Martell said. “Even if we would have made just two more, we would only have been at 50 percent, but we would have won the game.”

There was no what-ifs about the Friday game, however. The Lakers grabbed a 14-6 lead after the first quarter and extended that to 33-14 by halftime behind a 14-4 run that closed out the second quarter.

The Lakers added two to their lead through the third quarter and outscored the Islanders 19-14 over the fourth.

Although the Islanders out rebounded the Lakers 37-32 and committed fewer turnovers (19-15), they shot a dismal 25 percent from the floor, compared to a strong 51 percent by the Lakers. Each team connected for five three-pointers, but it took the Islanders 18 attempts to do so while the Lakers did it in just eight. It was that kind of night.

“We didn’t play our game,” Martell said afterwards. “We didn’t run our plays and we got frustrated. Regardless of how hard you practice, sometimes high school kids are, well, kids.”

Cull led the Islanders with 16 points, including four treys. Albin chipped in nine, while Martin, Timsak, and Runberg each scored four.
32. **NEWS FROM THE BIEMS**

When Ken Bruland and I wondered how we could show the public what BIEMS is all about, a monthly column was suggested. So I would like to take a moment each month to tell you about us, to provide the public with information, and to educate.

To begin, let me mention some unsung heroes. We talk about EMS and the things we do, and the things we need, but we never talk about the driving force behind us. Yes, we have a Director and a great membership, but who is it that picks up the pieces every time we walk out the door? Our families; without them we would not be able to do what we do. They put up with missed meals, interruptions in their schedules, total changes of plans, and they do this for the betterment of this community. My husband has taken over night-time feedings, my son has changed his whole schedule, and my daughter learned how to make a bottle and dial Nana’s phone at a very young age. They do this so we can help you in your time of need. They also deal with the emotion that EMS brings, whether it’s sadness, exhaustion, anger, or joy, and they stand beside us and tell us to take a nap, they will finish the dishes—or just give us a big bear hug when we need to cry. So, to start off this New Year I would like to thank the unsung heroes of Beaver Island EMS: the members of all of our families

—Sarah McCafferty, EMT-P

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**Beaver Island Rural Health Center**

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Beaver Island Rural Health Center has an opening for a certified nurse practitioner to work in a unique, rural practice shared with another family nurse practitioner. Brand new, beautiful facility. Duties include half time, routine primary care and urgent care for patients of all ages. Clinic and on call hours required. Great opportunity for an experienced practitioner to have a collaborative practice with another NP.

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Via email to donna.birhc@biip.net

Phone inquiries may be directed to Donna Kubic, Managing Director at (231) 448-2275.

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**MY TREATMENT**

I have now completed my 3 chemos and 35 radiations, and have been given a good prognosis by the doctors. The chemos were all-day affairs, but the radiations—7 blasts of high-energy X-rays from a moveable gun while my head was clamped in a mask bolted to a table—only took 10 minutes.

For eight weeks we went over, my wife and I, each Monday, and returned on Friday. We stayed at the Hospitality House: 16 rooms, two TV lounges, a large, dormitory-style kitchen/dining room, and a friendly staff. I mastered the art of acquiring the remote without causing offense. We met many people there who shared their life story, walks around the block, and rides to the store. We wished each other well. Naturally we invited two dozen or so to visit.

JoAnne was indispensable. She made our meals, and made sure I took my meds and showed up for my appointments. The only negative effect was, I became very tired, and took many naps. I lost my sense of taste, and the hair on my chin. On the bright side, we were given a library card, and read read read. We toured art galleries, second-hand stores (there are 4 on one corner!), Walmart, and the new casino. We went for a drive in distant rolling hills, and had no idea where we were when the transmission gave out; luckily we had a bottle of fluid in the trunk.

Everyone connected with the hospital was efficient and very friendly. Three of my nurses had relatives on the Island, and we ran into other Islanders who had come for treatment.

We want to thank everyone for their donations, cards, well-wishes, and prayers; knowing how much our community cared made all the difference in the world. While being away from a constantly ringing phone had its compensations, the best part of the entire experience, by far, was the day we got home.

—Bill Cashman

**THANKS**

After my return from the Mayo Clinic in early November, Johnny and I were amazed by all of our friends’ love and caring. We appreciate all of the cards, prayers, food, and visits. It reaffirms our decision to live in such a wonderful place.

—Joyce Runberg
A M E M O I R

September 22nd was the second anniversary of Papa’s (Frank Fry) death. I had been praying that something would lift Mama’s spirits this year; she and all of us miss him so much. My prayers were answered in an incredible way. 

A week before, Mama reached up to a shelf and pulled down some books. In her haste the cover of a notebook caught her eye. It read, Autobiography of a Builder, by Frank Fry—written on Beaver Island 2003. She (or any of us) had not known of its existence and she stumbled to a chair and began reading the 100 handwritten pages of his entire life, including many about Beaver Island. The title’s ‘builder’ refers to his many scientific inventions, building our family, hand-building his homes (including the one on Beaver) and the great faith he built in God. It is filled with accurate dates and names throughout his remarkable life and was written in 2003 on Beaver Island—the year he was stricken with macular degeneration (the beginning of his loss of sight) and just before hurricane Charley badly damaged the Florida home in 2004.

The final page of his autobiography refers to this wonderful time towards the end of his storied 85 years on earth and nearly 50 summers on Beaver Island. It also includes stunning insight about life, love and faith. Papa wrote:

“... This is the 100th page of written text. Because of my painting activity with Kathy I had a 5-minute spot on national television on the Home and Garden Show (HGTV.) After the show someone from the Ave Maria radio network ran a 30-minute interview with me. One thing both of these interviewers ask is, ‘Would you change anything if you had it to do again?’ This is a highly speculative question since you never have a chance to do it over. My answer in each case was, ‘I wouldn’t change a thing,’ Life is filled with great good times and some difficult times and I have no way of avoiding the difficulties. I have outlived my parents and siblings by many, many years but I have Momma and you kids and that’s enough. Plus I have my faith, which I have always adhered to and which is the rock on which everything has been built. My daily prayer has always been:

I thank You for my family
Lord Jesus be merciful to me when I have offended You.
Up to this point this autobiography has been written in our stay on Beaver Island. This island is an idyllic place to be and we enjoy every moment when we are here.”

Other news: in March of this year Mama was flown to New York City for the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) annual conference. She received a plaque inducting Papa into the Hall of Fame for his work as a pioneer in ultrasound. I have beautiful pictures of her receiving this honor in his name.

– Kathleen Fry Weltzin

HOSPICE GRANT

With great pleasure “Beaver Island Hospice and Helping Hands” announces that it has received a $4,000 grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation.

Hospice has been working with the Beaver Island Rural Health Center on this project. The grant is to support hospice patient travel costs and the purchase of much-needed medical and educational supplies.

For further information (from January through May 2008), contact Lois Williams (231) 448-2475, or Jane Dwyer (231) 448-2868.

Joyce Runberg, Hospice Coordinator, will return from Arizona in the spring.

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IN MEMORY: JOHN WORKS, SR.

Who would have thought a terrible case of poison ivy on a camping trip would prompt a 45-year love affair with Beaver Island?

John Works, Sr. arrived on Beaver Island in the early 1940s to camp, and unknowingly slept in a patch of poison ivy that gave him a case so severe it required hospitalization. He always remembered his trip to Beaver Island and twenty years later arrived with his wife Trudy to enjoy some R & R at Allens’ Cabins on Donegal Bay. They fell in love with the beauty of the Island so they bought land and built the first Allens’ Cabins on Donegal Bay; this was when a 2-track with occasional turnouts went out to Donegal. Since then, Beaver Island remained Dad’s special place to visit every summer.

Dad held many advanced degrees, and his natural curiosity of all things stretched him in many different directions, as his numerous hobbies can attest to; his boundless sense of adventure took him many places, too. His love of sailing started with a Sailfish he built himself and sailed in the nearby Chicago area when he was finishing his Ph. D. at Northwestern. The family motorboat carried everyone on summer visits to the nearby islands, from the Fox Islands to Hat Island. His passion for sailing finally cumulated in the Winds and Works, a 40-foot ketch from the Dickerson Boat Works. The entire family sailed the boat on a never-to-be-forgotten cruise up the east coast of the U.S. from Maryland to Maine, and then down the St. Laurence to Erie, Pennsylvania; this was in the days before Loran and GPS. The following summer the family brought the sailboat to Beaver Island and explored the upper Great Lakes on more wonderful sailing trips.

Dad taught ordnance at Aberdeen Proving Grounds during the Korean War as a first lieutenant, where he discovered his love of teaching. He bucked family tradition and attended Brown University instead of Yale, thereby becoming the ‘brown sheep’ of his family. His photography passion left behind a record of family and friends, and enough Donegal Bay sunset pictures to ensure his grandchildren’s grandchildren will never run out of photographic evidence of “the best sunset, ever.” The John and Trudy’s interest in golf his summers on Beaver Island as long as he was able, and visit the golf course with Trudy to work on his golf game or to relax.

John leaves behind a family and air balloon ride, and celebrated his 75th birthday with a parachute jump at the Municipal Airport. He loved to sail the winds. Engine Dead. Fishing in closed season for whitefish. Bill Beaudion, George & Emerald on board. Rescued by Johnny (Andy) Gallagher before the boat was beached. Thought boat would be gone; found in the morning.”

GRAICEN MAE

Graicen Mae Knox has arrived! She was born at exactly 9:00 the 28th of December weighing 7 lbs. 3 oz. and 21 inches long. Proud parents are Joseph Knox and Kellie Marie Gillespie Knox.
Beaver Island remained Dad’s special forgotten cruise up the east coast. His love of golf and the respite from academic life that the fairways offered him gave him many hours of pleasure, whether working on his golf swing with Trudy, or figuring out a new irrigation improvement.

Dad traveled throughout the world with the love of his life, Trudy, visiting the United States, Europe, South America, and Africa. Dad was Senior Warden at St. James Episcopal Church, Beaver Island, for many years, and ran the projector for the movies that were shown there in the late 60s.

The Alzheimer’s that Dad battled never robbed him of his dignity or his sense of humor. He continued to spend his summers on Beaver Island as long as he was able, and visit the golf course with Trudy to work on his golf game or just walk the familiar fairways. Family and caregivers worked together to create a safe and loving environment for him here on Beaver Island and at home in Ohio, where Sue Foore made his life comfortable and happy.

John leaves behind a family and many, many friends who miss him very much. They are comforted and sustained by the memories of the good times they shared, from sailing trips to family golf tournaments, and the wonderful example of a life well-lived and enjoyed. To be remembered and missed, who could ask for anything more?

**TOWERS**

Central Solutions’ Internet towers were assembled so quickly that we didn’t catch a shot of the team putting them together. The towers are impressive, and the first of three sections of each tower is now on its foundation.

Unfortunately, the freestanding towers are so large that a mainland crane is necessary to lift the upper two sections, and this couldn’t be scheduled before the winter weather closed in. So until spring, the towers will likely remain as ‘yard art’ to tease Islanders still stuck on analog, but they should provide a sturdy platform in the spring.
BEAUTIFUL COTTAGE on a wooded lot. This chalet-style cottage is new, bright and airy with a large front room and cathedral ceiling, lots of windows, and double sliding glass doors. Convenient access to the best beach on the island. Only $675/week. Off-season $425. Call (517) 927-8949 nprawat@yahoo.com

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 1½ baths. All the amenities. Spectacular views! $1100.00 per week. (630) 834-4181 E-mail to harborlightsbim@aol.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

BEACHFRONT HOUSE FOR RENT: Exciting cottage with view of High Island from large deck. Open floor plan, huge windows on extremely private beach. 2 BRs with 2 full beds + loft with 2 twins. 1½ baths, TV/VCR, W/D, microwave, gas grill, all amenities. $1200/week; spring & fall $895. Limit 6 people. Please call (941) 921-2233 or (317) 769-6563

ALLEN HARBOR-LAKE FRONT: One block W. of marina. Sharp 3 bedroom, 3 bath, washer/dryer. Sleeps 8. Awesome view of harbor from living room, kitchen/dining room, and master bedroom. $1,300/week. Call Patti Fogg (616) 399-5067 pfogg@charter.net or www.allenfoggcottages.com

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. $1,200/month. Call Nancy (231) 448-2050 for availability, bikes & auto for your use. Sleeps 6-8. No Pets. $975.00/wk off season rates available.

SAND BAY - "BAY HAVEN" COTTAGE - WEEKLY RENTAL - Lake Front, Sandy Beach, 5 br, great view, laundry, East Side Dr. - only four miles from town. This home is only two years old. Awesome sunrises- walk to beach is straight and flat out the lower level. Currently available to rent in June and the last two weeks of August for 2008. Please call Laurie Bos at (616) 786-3863 or email lauriesbos@charter.net Photographs of Bay Haven can be viewed online at bayhaven.beaverisland.net

BEAVER SANDS BEACH HOME - Located on Sand Bay, beautiful Lake Michigan waterfront home: 3 bedrooms, 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 nrrosso@hotmail.com

THE FISHERMAN’S HOUSE - Great ‘In-Town’ location across the street from St. James Harbor on the harbor road. 4 BR/2 Bath; W/D; Four bedrooms, three rooms with double beds and one room with twin beds, two bathrooms, bed linens and bath towels provided, fully equipped modern kitchen, washer/dryer, TV, enclosed porch, and open deck with grill. For availability, call Bill or Tammy (231) 448-2499 or (231) 448-2733.

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WATERFRONT HOME RENTAL/wk
3+bedroom, 3bath, 2,000s/f living space; at entrance of Beaver Harbor. Newly carpeted & painted, extensive decks, hand-crafted “shipwreck furniture” wet bar in sunroom/lounge w/ spectacular views of Lake Michigan & lighthouse. $1,200/wk bidproperty@gtlakes.com or (231) 448-3031


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 suziqpl6@comcast.net

LOEW’S 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

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.

LOG CABIN ON SAND BAY - pets allowed. 2 BR, 1 bath: $500. Call (734) 449-0804 or email delzey@earthlink.net

APARTMENT FOR RENT above the Sommer place. ½ block from town. Across from the library. 2 bedroom, with outside deck. Unfurnished. No pets or smoking. Newly remodeled. $525/month. Call Nancy (231) 448-2550 or Roger (517) 663-3977

DONEGAL BAY - 3 BR 2 bath Home; sleeps 6; many amenities. $900 a week. Reduced rates for off-season. Phone (313) 885-7393, after 4:00 p.m.

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 $700/wk; weekends available. (219) 253-6500.

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).

COASTAL BEACHFRONT HOME - $975.00/wk off season rates available. (219) 253-6500.

LOVELY APARTMENT FOR RENT in Harborbeach. 1 bedroom 1 bath apartment. $500 including utilities. Phone Mary Rose @ (740) 595-5065 or email mrdoig@hotmail.com

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FOR RENT - FULLY FURNISHED ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT available for year round rental. In town, close to McDonough’s Market. Heat, electric and cable tv included. $500 per month. Call (231) 448-2450 or email marieconnaghan@yahoo.com.

REAL ESTATE, FOR SALE

LOTS FOR SALE - Lots 727,728,729 in Port St. James #8 on Tamarock Trl. $12500 ea. Wish to sell all 3 at one time. $7500 down will finance $30000 bal at $350 per mo. for a few years. Will sell for cash for $34,500. Call Ben at (386) 439-3351.

HARBOR-AREA 2-STORY HOUSE - 2,688 ft² plus 2 car attached garage & full basement. 3 large bedrooms-master with private bath and walk-in closet, cathedral ceiling. 2 ½ baths. 2 decks. ~1-acre corner lot. Peekaboo view of Harbor. Asking: $245,000. Call Jackie at (231) 448-2342.

PRIME 20 ACRES NEAR FONT LAKE, close to town, w. apple trees, power and road in. $150,000 Erik Peterson (616) 240-8980.


LAKE GENESERATH Lot For Sale Parcel # 15-012-015-130, Hemlock Point Road; 140’ lake frontage on the North Arm of beautiful Lake Geneserath; lot approved for building on w/o restrictions. Call (616) 772-9783 (616) 283-7227; or with private bath and walk-in closet, cathedral ceiling. 2 ½ baths. 2 decks. ~1-acre corner lot. Peekaboo view of Harbor. Asking: $245,000. Call Jackie at (231) 448-2342.

LAKE GENESERATH - Beautiful lot on Hemlock Point Rd. 111’ lake frontage with lovely view across bay into state forest. Entire lot level with large hemlocks & no wetland or restrictions. $78,000. 616-399-5164 or cschrotenboer@ghycf.org

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WEEKLY RENTAL - Harbor Beach Two-bedroom Condos. $500/week. Call Satch Wierenga at (231) 448-2808.

RENTAL CABIN - for rent - Sand Bay Sleeps 8—amenities—available May-September $950.00 wk plus security deposit. (231) 582-5057 or email robin@robinleeberry.com.

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

10 ACRES ON WEST SIDE DR. - Land contract available. Low down payment. Contact Mike Collins, Island Property Real Estate. (231) 448-2923.

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.

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TWO LOTS IN THE PORT ST. JAMES near Font Lake. Perked, wooded, buildable. #708 & 709; electric and phone right there. $14,000 each. Call Peggy at (269) 677-5577.

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Please contact Mike Collins, Island Property Real Estate (231) 448-2923 MIKE@CSYIP.NET
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