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Ken Bruland Jenna Butler Wendy Fogg Rich Gillespie Pinky Harmon Leonor Jacobson Andrea Moore Nancy Peterson Eric Myers Frank Solle Paul Welke Connie Wojan

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

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4. NEWS FROM THE TOWNSHIPS

millage from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1.

St. James Township

The Town Board approved the proposed budget, which had been approved by the public at the Annual Meeting.

Sarah McCafferty was approved to be paid \$26,000/year as the full-time Director of the EMS and one of its Paramedics. She will put in 280 days, and always be on call. To generate the funds for this each township will pay the EMS up to \$9,573 from its Contingency Fund. An attempt will be made in the August primary to raise the EMS

BEAVER GEMS TO BUILD SCHOOL

On April 14th the Board of Education awarded the contract for its construction project to Beaver Gems, Inc, Robert Gillespie's firm, which built CMU, the Health Center, and the Community House. Having the low bid was not mandatory to get the contract,

BIDS WANTED -

Bids will be accepted until June 1, 2008 for re-roofing the Stables building with either shingles or metal roofing. Bids must include all supplies, labor, and cleanup. The deadline for completing the work will be September 1, 2008.

For further information please contact either Buck Ridgeway, Buildings & Grounds Chairperson, or Bud Rouch, PSJA's Island Agent. but Beaver Gems was also the lowest bidder. Ground-breaking ceremonies will start on May 15^{th} at 11 a.m.

Two ordinances were in the works.

An "invasive species" ordinance was

being drafted to allow the Townships to take action and bill property owners.

The poverty exemption for reducing an

individual's property tax was being examined; the proposed amount

matches guidelines set by the Depart-

ment of Health and Human Services,

low-speed vehicles on the roads was

studied. It was thought that golf carts

The state requirement for allowing

which change every year.

The BICS School Year Calendar has been changed to accommodate construction. The school year will end on May 30^{th} .

STABLES' ROOF

Bids will be opened following the deadline at either a special board meeting or the regular Board meeting on June 28, 2008. The bid accepted (if any) will be notified by July 1, 2008. The Port of St. Association reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Please mail your bids to Port of St. James Association P. O. Box 298, Beaver Island, Michigan 49782.



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were unlikely to qualify. They would need lights, brakes, turn signals, nofault insurance, and a license.

Peaine Township

The Town Board approved the proposed budget.

Sarah McCafferty was approved to be the full-time Director of the EMS and one of its Paramedics. Peaine will match any increased amount generated in St. James through millage. In the August primary it is hoped the General Fund, Fire Department, and Transfer Station millages will be renewed.

THE PAINTING OF YOUR CHOICE

Mark your calendars for a wonderful opportunity to bid on an original piece of artwork by Mary Blocksma and support the Health Center. So original it will only be seen by you and your guests! Thanks to the unending generosity of Ray Cole and Nina Simpson-Jones, Mary has been commissioned to do a painting of your cottage, home, gardens or whatever you choose on Beaver Island, if you win the bidding. She will arrive on the Island in late July and work over a few days getting photos and dimensions and finish your masterpiece over the winter.

To win you must bid at the Beaver Island Health Center or online during the month of July. Her work will be displayed in the lobby of the Health The zoning ordinance amendments for the towers and the X-zone will be published preparatory to becoming law.

Two bids were received for dust control: Beckman's, for a 38% solution at 98¢/gallon, and Beaver Gem's, for a 26% "natural brine" compound at 71¢/gallon. The Board agreed to make the main applications with the stronger solution and use the weaker for fill-ins.

Tina Morgan announced she will not run again for Treasurer. Nominations for a replacement must be at the County Clerk's by 4:00 on May 13th.

Center as well as at the Historical Society's Museum Week Art Show (July 16-18.) The winner of this bidding war will be announced at a very special dinner being planned by Ray and Nina at "Nina's Restaurant" (all proceeds will go to the Health Center) in late July. The date is still to be determined and more details will be coming in June.

Many of you have enjoyed bidding on our previous summer auctions. This season's event will be short and sweet! You don't have to be present to bid or win. Think about having this art hanging in your home to remind you of all the wonderful days on your piece of paradise, Beaver Island! Thank you again Ray and Nina!!

More to come -Connie Wojan



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6. RICH GILLESPIE TO RUN FOR CCC

I have submitted a petition to run for County Commissioner for District 6 of Charlevoix County.

In recent years the county has paid out more than 1.5 million dollars to settle cases among personnel who filed grievances against the county and either negotiated settlements or received judgments. This is unacceptable, particularly for taxpayers who elect Commissioners to oversee the various departments of the county. If the proper oversight was applied none of this would have happened.

Charlevoix County has committies for public safety, building and grounds, judicial, and personnel, amongst others. When I served on the county board some years ago, if there were grievances or disharmony in any department it would come to these committees. What has happened? There is no excuse to frittering away public money when standing committees should be exercising diligent oversight on departments and personnel.

In my previous experience as a County Commissioner I was well regarded by my fellow Commissioners, and chaired or served on most of the committees in that time. We never had a situation like we have dealt with in recent years. In these tough economic times it is important to have people in place who will act conservatively with public funds. With public support I promise to do so.

- Richard Gillespie

BIRHC ANNUAL APPEAL SUCCESSFUL

The Beaver Island Rural Health Center's Annual Appeal was very well received. A record \$29,504 was donated to the Special Projects Fund between November 15th and February 29th. The BIRHC Endowment Fund took in \$1,900 in Annual Appeal contributions during the same period.

Charlevoix County Community Foundation funds play an important role in supporting the Health Center's operations. For example, \$12,500 from the Special Projects Fund will be used as matching funds for the telemedicine grant we were awarded last fall. The Endowment Fund will generate about \$41,000 in income to supplement our operations in 2008.

Everyone concerned offers their thanks to all 173 donors who have helped provide 24/7 health care on Beaver Island with your support.

LETTERS-CONSERVATION EASEMENT

The 170+ acre easement recently announced by the Little Traverse Conservancy of 1700' of Lake Michigan frontage, the west end of Barney's Lake etc. is BY FAR the greatest contribution to land conservation and the environment of Beaver Island ever. Terry Scully and family merit all the thanks and appreciation that the Island can muster. —Jack Kelly



ELECTRIC CAR SHOW PREVIEW 7

Beaver Island will host its first Electric Car Show on Friday June 27, and Saturday June 28. Two mainland

EV dealers will bring over a total of thirteen cars from four different manufacturers. The cars will be shown on the brick paver section in front of The Shamrock Bar & Restaurant and Harbour Market.

Cars and trucks from Zenn, GEM, Zap, and Vantage will be included in the show, and

all will be available for test drives, according to dealer representatives Vic Staley and Frank Veraldi. Special show pricing will be offered, along with dealer financing and leasing options. The GEM dealer, Fox Motors of

Charlevoix, will bring a mix of new and used vehicles, while the cars and trucks from North Central Zenn (New London, OH) will be new 2008 models.

All thirteen cars will arrive on the same ferry,

Friday June 27 at 10:45 a.m. "It'll be quite a spectacle to see all those EVs come off the boat at once," said local EV enthusiast and show organizer Dan Wardlow. "We're hoping to show Islanders that a variety of EVs are available right now, and that they present viable and clean transportation alternatives for our community," he added. "It will be a great

opportunity to see a wide variety of cars and trucks without even leaving the Island."

With its compact size and light traffic, Beaver Island is uniquely well-suited to electric vehicle use during most of the year. The current crop of EVs

have a range of 30-40 miles on a charge, and a short stop for convenience charging extends that range. The Island has a network of free public charging stations for EVs. Currently there are three free charging stations (Paradise Bay Coffee Shop, Stoney Acre Grill, and McDonough's Market), and

two new locations will come online before Memorial Day. Island Airways and Central Michigan University Biological Station have generously offered to allow EV drivers to charge there as well.

There are six EVs

already in use on the Island, and those EV owners are invited to show their cars as well. The Electric Car Show is sponsored by North Central Zenn, Fox Motors, The Shamrock Bar & Restaurant, and Harbour Market.





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8. THE VIEW FROM FIVE HUNDRED FEET

an occasional series of stories capturing Paul Welke's adventures flying around Beaver Island

Since I started writing this column two months ago I have tried to devote it to historic aspects of aviation on Beaver Island. I have selected incidents which were both interesting and humorous yet portray some idea of what flying was like here over the past 40 years.

My topic this month is my mother, Betty Welke's, role in aviation on Beaver Island. When we started Welke Aviation in 1975 up to and after the time

COMMISSION

Thirty-five people attended the Charlevoix County CoA's meeting here on April 9th at which its representatives answered questions about its services, passed out copies of its strategic plan, introduced a newly-hired consultant (David Emmel), and discussed a proposal to contribute to the Community House to allow it to upgrade its kitchen.

The CoA derives three-quarter million dollars from millage, and conducted a survey sixteen months ago to ask taxpayers how they wanted the we became Island Airways in the early 1980s, my mom took on all of the administrative duties, such as flight scheduling, staff scheduling, accounts receivable collection, accounts payable, and other similar tasks.

For nearly 20 years she met virtually every flight and helped the pilot load, unload, and get turned around in a timely fashion. All her work was conducted from her kitchen table. Her house became the center of a continuous flow of people,

ON AGING

money spent—and then spent six months analyzing the results. Yet some people in the audience were not aware of what services were available. Forming a local committee to get, and spread, deeper information was suggested. The CoA noted that it publishes a regular free newsletter available to all who ask (currently ~35 Islanders), and hopes to expand its mailing list.

Several questions had to do with bringing a physical therapist to the Island. The CoA can't hire one, but can freight, pilots, and mechanics, day and night. She manned the radio from the kitchen. She kept the all-important spiral notebook with the flight schedule in pencil, and the rule was the Charlevoix crew called every time a change was made. Believe me, it only took one phone call from my mom for the new summer help to remember this rule!!!

It wasn't until the mid 1990s when we staffed the terminal at Welke Airport that she began to take some time off.

MEETING

ΒI

help with a therapist's transportation costs. So far those who have been queried have too many clients already and can't spare the time to come here.

The CoA hopes to hire a nurse's aid (at \sim \$10.50/hour) on Beaver Island, working part-time to provide relief to the current full-time employee.

Don Tritsch and Jon Fogg spoke about PABI's intent. They have used no public money, having come this far through donations, and don't want to step on any local businesses. Their



Even though she cut back some she was still actively involved for many more years.

My mom was also one of the first women on Beaver Island to solo. She had flown with my father from the time she was 16 or 17 (1945-46). I believe their first trip to Beaver Island was in 1947, and I clearly remember coming to Beaver Island as a child in the 50s and 60s in their Tripacer (a four-place airplane) with two of my siblings in the

mission was formulated through years of public meetings: to establish a youth center, a senior center, and a welcome center, and to provide cultural and entertainment opportunities for the entire community. The fact that 65 local families contributed much of the funding shows their broad local support. They have planned on including a kitchen, but if they are to provide senior meals it will have to be upgraded; current bids indicate the upgrade will cost \$68,362. The CoA seemed close to back and my mother holding another infant. She was always passionate about aviation and was always game to go flying.

When thinking about contributions my mom made to Island Airways and to Beaver Island, one in particular comes to mind. From the day we started Welke Aviation, my mom was always aware of people in need. If someone needed flights off the Island for medical reasons or if someone was having money problems but needed to get to CVX, my mother made it happen. It was always done very quietly and in a very dignified manner. She just wanted people to be taken care of, and it was one of the most important lessons she ever taught me.

Since her passing many anecdotes have been related to me about my mom and her interaction with other people. I had never heard many of these stories. She will be sorely missed.

-Paul Welke

granting them this amount.

Some people in the audience wondered if the Community House was the best place for senior meals, suggesting the soon-to-be-built Senior Housing Center, the Gregg Fellowship Center, or Peaine Hall as possible alternatives, as well as existing commercial facilities. The amount of parking at the Community House and the size of its elevator were also questioned. The CoA pointed out that it had made comparable grants to facilities in other villages in the County. A suggestion was made to target Island seniors with a new questionnaire, but the CoA felt its last survey provided sufficient information. The Senior Housing doesn't have enough room, and the Gregg Hall is not publicly owned. The CoA was waiting for an attorney's opinion about a proposed contract with PABI for using its upgraded kitchen, and seemed not to expect so many questions about its plan at this stage of the game.

More on the CoA can be found at *www.beaverbeacon.com/CoA*



10. REUSE - RECYCLE - RESALE AT ISLAND TREASURES by Frank Solle

of operation, beginning this month. Open

Monday and Saturday during the off-

season, Stambaugh plans on adding Tues-

days early in May, and then Wednesdays

before the month is over. The Resale Shop

Fridays as well," Stambaugh said, pro-

vided a few more volunteers step up for

either two- or four-hour shifts. Anyone

interested in helping out this worthy cause

Resale Shop since its inception in the base-

ment of the St. James Township Offices in

1985 is Carol LaFreniere. Having stayed

with the Shop through its moves to and

One volunteer who has been with the

can contact Stambaugh at 448.2797.

"We hope to add Thursdays and

hours are always 12-4 p.m.

from the old Meat Market

(currently Whimsy), the

he return of the Resale Shop has been nothing but a boon since its reopening last fall after a long, three-year absence due to the lack of a facility.

But with the help of the local AmVets, who donated the new, recycled building, a generous offer on the present lot on Donegal Bay Road, and the assistance of near countless volunteers to get the lot, the site, and the building ready for occupation, this Fire Department fund-raising operation is back in business, and business is booming.

"Even this past winter we were doing \$100-150 worth of business each day," said Shop manager Donna Stambaugh.



"And all our profits go to benefit the Fire Department.

Aside from helping the Fire Department purchase muchneeded



equipment -over \$31,000 was earned by

the Shop from its start in 1985 until it closed in 2004—the Resale Shop helps the Island in other ways. "We are very green," Stambaugh said of the service offered. "We are recycling things in ways no one else really can."

While the Resale Shop doesn't accept everything, their inventory is as large as it is diverse. "You can always find new uses for old things," Stambaugh said, referring to the long Island tradition of innovation. "Plus, everyone gets a good deal here."

The Shop will slowly expand its days



times and the bad. "This is just wonderful," she said of the new building. "There's

more room, better lighting, a prep room, and, best of all, a bathroom." Carol lessthan-enthusiastically recalled the need for workers to lock the Shop and walk to the Shamrock in order to use the facilities when located at the Livery site. "We've been selling a lot more here because everything is hung up and nicely displayed," she added. "It's the best shop we've had."

Electronics, appliances, most books (other than cookbooks and children's books; regular books can go to the BIHS), old shoes, and out-of-season clothing are the main items the Resale Shop will not accept. If you have questions about a possible donation, bring it by during hours and someone will look it over. "There is a sorting process we need to go through because of space," Stambaugh said.

The Shop does have a bulletin board that can be used for posting notice of large sale items not accepted, in exchange for a donation from the proceeds.

While the Shop is up and running strong and settling in to its new location, there are still things to be done. "We have siding that needs to go on the building," Stambaugh pointed out. "Also we need a new roof with eaves to protect against falling snow and ice, and skirting around the

> base of the building." All these projects need volunteer helpers and donations and will aid in reducing off-season operating costs.

Over-

all, the new facility and location have been great. "It's really



been quite a success," Stambaugh said. Two upcoming events will highlight that success. An Open

House is scheduled for Saturday, June 14th, to give anyone who hasn't yet stopped in a good reason to peruse all the offerings. Treats and refreshments will be available. Then, later this summer, a Resale Shop Fashion Show is planned, headlining the latest in retro-Resale Collectibles. "It will be a lot of fun-and funny," Stambaugh said.

And there you have it-fun, good deals, and for a good cause. That sums up our Island Treasures Resale Shop.





^{ohotographs by Frank Solle}





CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

n April 9^{th} a packed house at Stoney Acres witnessed the awarding of the 7^{th} Beaver Island Citizen of the Year.

The evening began with the crowd looking over the new Chamber of Commerce brochure—Chamber membership has grown year after year, closing in on 150. A second hand-out was a new ad touting our appearance on Michigan's Lighthouse Trail—shown on a pull-out map. Chamber director Steve West also revealed that the Michigan Outdoor Writers were holding their annual meeting on the Island—amounting to \$200,000 worth of free advertising.

Chamber president Kathy Speck read from the letters nominating the top seven candidates. Dr. James Gillingham was nominated for having "contributed to the health, growth, and prosperity" of the Island in a number of ways, for having made the Bio Station "an integral part" of the community. Steve Crandall was nominated for his professionalism, both in his work, which he always does expertly, and his service as a fireman or taxi driver. Sue Welke was nominated for her work with PABI, Hospice, and the BIHS.

Judi Meister was a candidate for her

efforts holding the Christian Church together at a trying time, for leading the Girl Scouts, and for her performance with the Cantata and other musical endeavors. Pam Grassmick made the list because of her tireless effort launching our attack against phragmites, her efforts on the part of our seniors, and for her long-term work with the BIPOA. Father Pat Cawley was included because of the spiritual inspiration he provides to the entire Island, and for the care and concern he shows to everyone here. And Kitty McNamara was nominated because of her total commitment to improving the education of our children.

Selecting the winner was a nearly impossible task because each candidate had so many qualifications. After much discussion the choice was split between Pam Grassmick and Father Pat—who was not able to attend. The audience heartily agreed, applauding loudly enough to bring tears to Pam's eyes as she thanked them for their kindness and support (her letter follows).

After the applause died down, one of the fine Island groups, *Island Soul* (Kevin White, Cindy Cushman-Gillespie, Amanda Rooy, and Patti Cull), launched into a magnificent set of country/rock/folk songs, rich and deep music that kept the celebration going.

Thanks

To the Chamber of Commerce and the citizens of Beaver Island,

Thank you for the honor bestowed on me by naming me Citizen of the Year with Father Pat. Just to be nominated is a great honor. And many others have been instrumental in the programs I have been involved with.

The township officials, especially John Works and Don Vyse, along with every Beaver Island property owner who took the initiative to understand and respond to the *phragmites* threat, are the true heroes of this story.

Without the excellent coverage by the *Beaver Beacon* and the *NorthernIslander* this pioneering program would not have been effective.

Both seasonal and year-round residents can be proud of our Island's accomplishments. When we all row in the same direction, it's amazing what we can achieve together.

'Thank you' to all from the bottom of my heart. I will always cherish the memory of this most distinguished award.

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A WINNFR

The winner of PABI's "The Tower Goes Through The Ice" contest was Kathy Speck with a guess of April 8th at 11:34 p.m. which was 3 hours and 24 minutes after the tower went down. Second was Tony Connaghan whose time was 4 hours and 4 minutes before it went in. The latest guess was the 16th of May. Total ticket sales were about \$2.000.

Thank you to all those who participated in this year's contest.





The three new sturdy EW Marine towers (page 34) soar high above the trees.



AFTER NINE YEARS

Carrie Podgorski graduated in style, getting a teaching degree from Carroll College in Wisconsin with cum laude attached. She worked diligently to obtain her goal, which took her nine years, during which she also continued her music career—lately her band has been playing several times a week.

Now she has joined other graduates in attacking the next stage: trying to find a job. She's qualified to teach from kindergarten through the 9th grade.





16. ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

from Joyce Bartels

Charlevoix Courier Wednesday, May 6, 1908 Just Among Ourselves: "The *Beaver* went to Cross Village Tuesday with a load of potatoes."

"John S. Gallagher, of St. James, was in Charlevoix the first of the week on business."

"The steamer *Beaver* made a trip to Cross Village Tuesday with a cargo of seed peas for the D. M. Ferry Co."

Charleviox Sentinel Thursday, May 7, 1908 Local News: "The steamer *Beaver* made her first Cross Village trip Tuesday."

"W. W. Boyle of St. James, came over Monday on his way to Harbor Springs where he will stay a week."

"Mrs. C. C. Gallagher, and her sister, Miss Condon (sic) of St. James, were guests at the Eaton several Days last week, returning home Monday."

"State Game Warden Pierce arrived here tonight to confer with Charlevoix and Beaver Island fisherman concerning matters of mutual interest."

"Jas. McCann, of St. James, is here in attendance on the conference of fisherman with Game Warden Pierce, which is noted in another item in this issue. Probably there is no law governing any one question that has in it so many ridiculous inconsistencies as the law governing commercial fishing. The fisherman is 'damned if he does, and damned if he don't.' He is always between the devil and the deep sea, and he never knows 'where to get off at.' It is to have a better understanding of these matters that the meeting is being held."

"Dr. A. M. Wilkinson and wife, of St. James, came over Monday returning yesterday."

"Mrs. Blodgett, who has been spending a week or more with her daughter, Mrs. Dr. Wilkinson, at St. James, returned home Friday."

"Dr. A. M. Wilkinson, of St. James, has sold out his practice and property on the Island to Dr. Graham and will leave the Island in a week or two."

Beaver Island News: "Mrs. James Donlevy left last week for a visit with friends in Chicago."

"Mrs. George Gagnon has opened

up a millinery shop at her residence."

"Rev. Mr. Wright of Charlevoix, held services at the Island last week."

"Dr. Wilkinson, wife and family are at Charlevoix this week on a visit with friends."

"Joe Hyland the new engineer on the Beaver Island railroad expects to move his family here."

"The Gallagher boys are making some fine hauls of fish with their seine lately."

"Mrs. C. C. Gallagher and sister Nellie Connaghan returned from a visit at Charlevoix."

"We understand from good authority Dr. Wilkinson has sold out his interests here to Dr. Thomas Graham."

Charlevoix Courier Wednesday, May 13, 1908 Just Among Ourselves: "County Commissioner of Schools Milford and Truant Officer Bashaw were at the Beavers last week on school matters."

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, May 14, 1908 Local News: "The board of County Superintendents of the poor



went to Beaver Island Monday to look up several cases coming under its jurisdiction there. They returned Wednesday."

"Dr. Allan M. Wilkinson, who has been the Beaver Island physician and surgeon for several years, has sold out there, and will remove to Charlevoix next week. He has rented the Miller cottage on the north side and will office with his brother, Dr. Frank Wilkinson."

"The St. James fishing tug *Ciscoe* was here over Sunday getting her boiler replaced."

Charlevoix Courier Wednesday, May 20, 1908 Front Page Article:

"TWO MEN WERE FOUND DEAD. Beaver Island Fisherman at Green Island Saturday. WERE OVERCOME BY GAS THE CAUSE Both Were Well Known Residents at the Islands. Raymond McDonald and Cornelius Johnson Funeral Was Held at St. James Tuesday

"Saturday night the dead bodies of Raymond McDonald and Cornelius Johnson, two of the best known men on the Beaver Islands, were found in their boat, which was beached on Green Island, near St. Ignace.

"When John Easton, a fisherman at St. Helena Island, went to attend his nets shortly after 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon, he saw the craft and upon approaching it found the dead bodies of its crew. Easton notified Coroner Frank Walker, who secured a gasoline launch and went to Green Island Saturday where he found the bodies. That of McDonald was lying face downward over a fish box and Johnson was on his back in the bottom of the boat. The craft's engine had run at full speed until there was no fuel left as was evident by the blades of the propeller having been broken. Coroner Walker empanelled (sic) a jury which viewed the bodies after they had been brought to St. Ignace late Saturday night.

"When the news reached Beaver Island, a large party of men went to St. Ignace on the tug *Margaret McCann* and from them it was learned that McDonald and Johnson left the Beavers Monday to take a load of fish to Cheboygan. Wednesday they telegraphed that they would start home from Cheboygan that night, and nothing further was known of them until their bodies were found. They had about \$20 in money left upon them.

"No marks of violence appeared on their bodies nor was there any indications of drowning. Investigation showed that the gasket had blown out and the men had been overcome by gas. Raymond McDonald was clerk of St. James township and about 33 years old and leaves a wife and seven daughters, the oldest ten years old and the youngest born since Monday. He was a member of the Maccabees, Ancient Order of Hibernians and National Protective Legion and was insured in the New York Life.

"Cornelius Johnson was 23 years old, a farmer and fisherman and the only support of an aged mother his father having died last year.

"The bodies were taken to St. James Sunday night, where the funeral was *continued on page 18.*



Parcel 22 of Western Shores (northern acreage parcels)

A 10-acre parcel with a total of 435.92 feet of Lake Michigan frontage. (This frontage is around a point; the actual width of the parcel near the shoreline on a straight line roughly north-south is about 320 feet - so you might call this 320 feet of frontage.) You really could, however, build on either the south side of the point and have a view of the lake to the west-southwest, or build on the north side of the point in the little sandy bay that the VanAcker home is on and have a nice view that is west-northwest with High Island being very visible from the northern building site. This parcel lends itself well to a large lakefront home and also a fairly sizable guest house that would be near each other and yet separated with a slightly different view from each. This parcel has a driveway already in that provides access to either of the building sites. Since the couple on Parcel 21 (33915 Western Shores Road) have built near the north part of their 322 feet of frontage, and Parcel 23 to the south of subject property would likely build in the center of their 390 feet of frontage, this Parcel 22 offers someone a really secluded lakefront spot on the west side of Beaver Island. With the water being as low as it is right now, a lot of rocks are showing up out front and it is not a really good swimming beach. The view, the sunsets, Gull and High Islands, etc. make up for this, however. There is a good sand strip where sand was always washing up on the western edge of this parcel during normal water level times. We feel certain that those water levels will come back again in the not too distant future. Owners of this lakefront piece have an easement to walk the inland trail known as Karl's Trail from near the turn in the road on the north end of Parcel 20 down through the southern end of Parcel 24. The walking trail passes through this Parcel 22 near its eastern end (see the survey copy of this parcel available at the Ed Wojan Realty office or on our website). The sellers have decided to buy property on a bay farther north to have their retirement home closer to friends. They have therefore priced this parcel to sell now at a reduced price. Other parcels with less frontage at Western Shores have sold for more than this asking price of \$245,000.

18. One Hundred Years Ago, from page 17.

held Wednesday, business being generally suspended, burial taking place at the Holy Cross cemetery."

Just Among Ourselves: "Dr. Am M. Wilkinson went to the Beaver Islands Friday, returning Wednesday.

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, May 21, 1908 Local News: "C. H. Heimforth, who is lumbering on High Island, and his attorney J. J. Tweedle, of Traverse City, went to Beaver Island yesterday. (Note: J. J. Tweedle and C. H. Heimforth, Traverse City appear in the Hotel Beaver guest register on May 20, 1908)

"Mrs. Mollie Smith who has been at St. James visiting her parents the past month, and recuperating from her recent operation for appendicitis, returned home yesterday."

OFF-SEASON WATER DANGERS

by Ken Bruland, BIEMS

The ice has finally melted after a long winter. The days are getting longer and air temps are finally on the rise. Time to dust the cobwebs off of our canoe, kayak, rowboat, jon boat, powerboat, fishing boat or sailboat. "Wow, the temp today is 65°. Get the poles, tackling gear, bait and don't forget to pack a lunch. I'm going to wear my favorite blue jeans, a T-shirt and maybe I'll bring a light windbreaker just in case."

If this sounds like a possible scenario for your near future, wait a second and read on. Let's not forget that the water will remain very cold for quite some time. In the Spring and Fall the air may be warm but the cold water still presents a very real danger. We tend to ignore the water temperature on a nice warm day, but warm air does not cancel out the potential dangers of cold water. "Chas. E. See went to Beaver Island Monday, returning yesterday."

Front Page Article:

"KILLED BY GAS. Two Beaver Island Men Found Dead In a Drifting Gasoline Boat at St. Ignace last Saturday afternoon. A gasoline boat named *Mary Meath* was found drifting about in the bay. In the boat were found the dead bodies of two men, which proved to be those of D. R. McDonald and Cornelius Johnson of St. James.

"The boat was an ordinary fishing craft, and was enclosed. They had left St. James Monday with fish valued at \$110 for Cheboygan. The evidence shows that they had disposed of the fish, and that they left Cheboygan Wednesday morning for the return trip. When the bodies were discovered \$15 was found

The consequences of falling into cold water can be fatal. Highly-trained strong swimmers dressed in street clothes and not wearing a lifejacket have died in less than 100 yards.

If you have the misfortune of falling into cold water without a PFD (Personal Flotation Device), several things will occur. You will probably involuntarily gasp for air—not a huge problem if your head is above water, but your head more than likely will be under, at least momentarily. Potentially fatal, this can usually be prevented by wearing a life jacket. Next, you will probably start to hyperventilate which will just make things worse. This could lead to unconsciousness—not a good thing, especially in the water.

Your body will begin to rapidly lose heat. Our bodies love 98.6° and don't do well if we're off by even just a few in the pocket of one, and \$3 in the pocket of the other, which would tend to refute and theory of foul play.

"It came out in the evidence at St. Ignace that the boat was seen for two days with her bow ashore on Green Island, about four miles west of St. Ignace. A man living near there testified that the engine was working when discovered, and was running several hours after. The St. Ignace officials wired St. James Sunday morning, of the discovery, giving names disclosed by papers on the bodies, and the tug Margaret McCann left at once for St. Ignace, taking the bodies to St. James that night. The evidence all strengthens the theory that the unfortunate men died from asphyxiation. There are several cases on record of similar casualties.

degrees—on either side. Since water cools the body 25 times faster than air, it won't take long (minutes or even seconds) for you to begin to lose the ability to function. After about 5 - 10minutes in 50° water, you'll lose the ability to use your fingers and hands which may be necessary to grab something to pull yourself to safety. Swimming or thrashing around will only increase the rate of body heat loss.

Your heart rate and blood pressure will dramatically increase initially, thereby increasing your chances of cardiac arrest. Irregular heartbeats are very common in cold water and they can lead to cardiac arrest. And unfortunately, alcohol will only make things worse.

And just to make it real, since you are boating in the off-season, there are fewer people on the water available to help you if you need it.



With an enclosed boat, the fumes of escaping gas, possibly augmented by an unknown leak, slowly but surely caused 'sleepiness'. Once this condition came, the work was quick. Their death was due to ignorance of the deadly effect of gas.

"D. H. McDonald or 'Raymond' McDonald, as he was generally known, had been a resident of Beaver Island for 32 years. He had been clerk of St. James township for many years, and was an industrious and upright citizen. He leaves a wife and seven children, the youngest having been born last Tuesday.

"Johnson was unmarried. He was a son of the late Capt. John Johnson who formerly sailed the small schooners *Rough and Ready* and *Nellie Johnson*.

"Later: Since writing the above the

There. Have we scared you enough? Hopefully not too much. Maybe just enough so you might consider taking some preventative measures. Being on the water in the Spring or Fall can be a joy. The fact that there are fewer people out there is a plus for some of us. You feel like you have the whole lake to yourself. Nature is beginning to show its Spring colors, and it is truly beautiful — as any boater knows who has traveled this time of the year. We just want you to be aware of the potential dangers and some things you can do to prevent an injury.

Wear a life jacket for floatation and insulation. It only works when you are wearing it. If it's sitting in the boat when you hit the water, it won't help. Tie a whistle onto the zipper pull while you're at it.

Wear a warm hat since we lose around 40% of our heat from above the

information comes from Beaver Island that the discovery was made on the boat that a gasket had blown out of a cylinder. The body of McDonald was found in a position near the cylinder, indicating that he was engaged in an effort to repair the leak, and was overcome by the fumes. Johnson was also near the engine. The boat was using kerosine as fuel.

"The double funeral occurred at St. James Tuesday."

Charlevoix Courier Wednesday, May 27, 1908 Just Among Ourselves: "The steamer *Beaver* is receiving a new coat of paint this week.

"Most of the time of the probate court was taken up this week with the Indian case from Beaver Island."

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, May 28, 1908 B: "The steamer *Beaver* begins

collarbones.

If you do fall in the water and begin to hyperventilate, force yourself to slow your breathing-this can be done. If you fall in very cold water more than 100 yards from shore, you're better off holding still and letting help come to you -use your whistle. If you have your PFD on, you won't have to move around treading water to stay afloat. Go into the Heat Escape Lessening Posture (HELP). Cross your arms in front of your chest, cross your legs, and bend your knees a little up toward your chest — kind of like the fetal position. Lean back, let your PFD keep you afloat, blow your whistle, and wait for help. Only if you have no other choice should you swim long distances in cold water. If you are not the only one who has fallen in the water it's time to get in the HUDDLE position (group hug) to conserve heat.

trips to Beaver Island June 1st." 19.

"Judge J. M. Harris, of the Probate court, was at Beaver and Garden Island last week on legal business." (*Note: J.M. Harris, Charlevoix, appears in the Beaver Hotel guest register on May 20, 1908*)

"Speaking of the recent death of McDonald and Johnson, the Cheboygan Tribune says: 'Only a short time ago the Kennedy Bros. and another fisherman were near death's door by the gas coming from the engine and being housed in the cabin too long a time without opening any doors, and when they arrived here were deathly sick and barely able to crawl from the boat. They did not tell one another of being sick. They never want to experience the same again'."

Carry a throw rope on your boat. This is about 75-100' of rope in a brightly colored cloth bag that you can throw to someone to help pull them to safety.

Wait until August and then go jump in a lake and practice different ways to get back into your boat.

Don't go out boating alone. Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return.

Carry some kind of communication device (marine radio, cell phone, whistle). The more communication devices the better—Murphy says that at least one will certainly fail.

Consider wearing a wetsuit. Keep a set of warm dry clothes with you in a waterproof bag.

Consider taking along some chemical heat packs.

And enjoy the beauty of Spring weather.





20. THE OUTSIDE COMES IN

This beautiful wall mural by noted artist Gerry Post began as a backdrop for *Belinda*, Hans and Davi Stein's stuffed beaver, which is mounted on a facsimile birchstick lodge in the large and tall entry hall of their new Island home, just inside the main door. Gerry created the lodge on a curved base supplied by carpenter Don Ross, and blended in a

matching background.

Gerry's murals in Rochester, Michigan have gained him some fame. He's been a serious full-time artist for almost twenty years after retiring from his graphic design business. He has done a number of paintings and murals of historic sites, with signed and numbered prints being used as fundraisers. Some of his paintings will be in the BIHS's Art Show starting July 23rd.

To get the Beaver Island ambiance right, he and his wife Carolyn went to Miller's Marsh and took CMU's nature loop, shooting pictures along the way. He studied the wall for awhile, finally beginning with a single small pine at the left. Once his hand went to work, his mind sprang into action and his natural creativity provided plenty of direction.



e spent eleven long days on the project last fall, and finished it this spring, preserving the painting with a varnish coating. He even had a little time left to paint a subtle background to the Stein's *Wall of*



Fish—ceramic examples of Great Lakes fish.

The mural is a masterpiece; appropriately themed for the Island, it induces a sense of tranquility that grows the longer it's studied. It looks so



real—observers feel they've seen the scene before. But it would be a mistake for them to go back to where they think it might have been, because the only place it exists, aside from the *Stein Haus* wall, is in the artist's imagination.



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MURANO, ITALY: THE ISLAND OF GLASS by Nancy Peterson

Last summer I was offered a chance to study glassmaking with a master artisan, Lucio Bubacco, on the island of Murano, Italy, the "heart" of glassmaking.

LAMPWORK

Let me begin with a short primer on the art of making flameworked beads. The glass rods I use are called "soft glass," as they contain high soda

content and have a bright color palette.

lucio bubacco

My class with Lucio Bubacco and his Scuola Bubacco was six days long. Lucio makes artistic compositions of glass-not beads but whole structures, which can sell for over \$1,500. As he says on his website

I thought about the offer for about a day and then decided what an opportunity

> to work with the maestro of glass control and expand my horizons, both professionally and person-

They measure about 13", and are melted with a focused source of heat: a torch flame. Most of my glass rods actually come from the Moretti factory on

Murano, through an American supplier.

ally. The class consisted of eight other American beadmakers. As many of you know, I am a glass beadmaker, creating flameworked beads from a rod of glass that comes from Murano, and then selling

Glass can then be formed into any composition. The process is both science and art. Everything is done to a bead while it is molten hot. A variety of metal tools are utilized to poke, form, or pull the molten glass to create a piece of art.

(www.luciobubacco.com): "Lucio Bubacco's sensuous works combine the anatomic perfection of Greek sculpture with the Byzantine gothic architecture of his native Venice. Seductive themes.

metamorphosis and transformation, forms emerging from the void, echo themes from our mythological past when sexuality was spiritual, not political."

Lucio is really a glass maestro. He



HISTORY OF GLASSMAKING IN VENICE AND MURAN The earliest evidence of glassmaking the 13th century. The demolition of all main center of glass manufacture in the

in Venice is from AD 982. Fragments of glass kilns in Venice was ordered in 1291. Murano-made glass date from

GLIMPSE

Everything goes by water in Murano and Venice; it reminded me of Beaver Island. Most people who visit Venice only go to Murano for a few hours, with their eye on the clock and the timetable for the vaporettos back to Venice. I lived on Murano for

three weeks, taking side trips to Florence and Tuscany, which let me glimpse the rhythm of Murano (yes, I will go back!). There is an invisible side of Murano with



furnaces the public cannot visit, people you usually don't meet. and little shops you may not have time to visit. Glassmaking there is more than a job; it is a passion which absorbs the glassmakers' lives.

Early in the morning my roommate and I got up, opened the window to the canal, and made some café latte in our gas percolator. We had a tiny washing machine but no dryer-except a

clothesline outside. Walking around on Sunday, I saw lots of laundry hanging outside. Of course, there are no vehicles. You walk, or take a boat or bicycle. The vaporreto provides transportation everywhere-from different parts of Murano to Venice or to the airport or other islands, such as Burano. The locals have a pass that allows them to hop on any boat. We usually bought a one-way ticket for 6.50 euro or a 12 or 24-hour pass on the weekend.

Venetian Empire. Being on a separate

island protected the wood buildings of



NANCY PETERSON GOES TO SCHOOL

the beads individually or designing them into jewelry which I sell on my website, www.BeaverIslandJewelry.com, or at Beaver Island's Livingstone Studio, www.LivingstoneStudio.com.

After a bead is formed, either on or off the mandrel, it goes into a 940° kiln for annealing or hardening. This temperature is ramped down over 6 hours. When I make a bead, there is a ventilation system to draw the fumes from my kiln outside,

only uses a rod of glass, a marver, and the

Murano lies a kilometer off the northern side of Venice. Several interesting islands hide in the shallow

Venetian lagoon, which is part of the Adriatic Sea. The shallow

and I have on didyium glasses to mute the flare from the soda glass. This process of making glass beads with a flame is called lampwork. The "lamp" is a gas-

fed flame which is used to soften and

waters and treacherous sandbars made Venezia safe from attack by land or water; no city wall was needed!

Murano is a working class town of about 5,000 people.

model canes of colored glass. In the 15th century, the flame was supplied by oil lamps and was permitted in Venice after furnace glassmakers were

banned to Murano.

torch; figures just dance out of the flame! It is amazing and inspiring to watch him work. The class featured the art of figurative work which is all off the

mandrel. Since this was a new concept for me my figures are in the "developing," stage but I learned control in the flame.

In the class we formed a centaur, a graceful mermaid, and other compositions out of glass.

Lucio, a master in a ponytail, was able to create a "leaf lady" in about 10 minutes. It was so lovely that I bought it at the end of class.



Venice, and the secrets of glassmaking were safe on Murano. Originally mosaic glass was made on Murano, developing

Fresh vegetables are sold from a boat, and in Venice I saw the fish market boat! At a nice grocery store on Murano, called "The Coop" I heard singing and thought it was a radio but discovered the meat market man singing opera. For dinner we fixed a lot of fresh pasta, very delicious sweet sausage or seafood, cheeses, fresh bread, and wine. In the morning I would see unloading of cargo, the DHL boat, the dump boat, the garbage boat, the veggie man selling his wares from the canal,

into glass vases, goblets, sculptures, and beads. From the 19th and 20th centuries Murano glass was embellished

along with people waiting for the vaporetto just like the bus.

Everything closed on Murano about 7 p.m. The trattorias take turns being open in the evening. One night we stumbled upon the one open restaurant where we enjoyed some wine, café and sweets.

Walking around at night we could hear and see the furnaces charging up for the next day's glassmaking. A few people with filigree and adventurine, dragons, swans, serpents, storks and flowers, in a distinctive style.



would be out walking their dogs. Speaking about dogs, you had to be careful about where you stepped on the cobblestone walks; the dogs have no grass to do their duties. Italians seem to love their dogs; it is a very dogfriendly country. Dogs were on

the trains, in stores, in the trattorias, on the boats, in the airport, everywhere!

Next month I'll show you the special access we received behind the scenes.









CASTAWAYS CAST EYE ON HOMELESSNESS

by Frank Solle

This year's BICS Elementary music program, *The Castaways*, took on an expanded cast by including students from preschool through twelfth grade, as well as a serious tone with the focus of the performance centered on homeless, orphaned children.

But despite that tone, the musical play was, as always, a delight, as the students, under the direction of Ms. Miranda Rooy, sang and acted their parts to near perfection.

The theme of the story, by Michael and Jill Gallina, is a look back through the eyes of a choir director (Brogan

Maudrie) as she tells her students (Desire Duhamel, Tessa Jones, Hannah Robert, Olivia Schwartzfisher) the story of her grandmother who lived on the streets of New York City as a young girl during hard economic times.

The grandmother, Willie (Sarah Avery), dresses as a boy in order to shine shoes. Eventually she is befriended by a group of homeless children, the castaways, who spend a good deal of time running



from police officers O'Reilly and O'Toole (Bryan Timsak and Ron Marsh in full Irish accent), as well as the







grocery store owner (Michael McCafferty) and two wellintentioned, and highlyrespectable appearing, social workers, Ms. Grimsby and Ms. Barnaby. (Maeve Green and Samantha Kuligoski).

The grocer's wife, Mama Rose (Katie LaFreniere) supplies the children with food, while a somewhat inscrutable, and quite Dickens-esque character, Sam Slattery (a second role by Michael McCafferty), attempts to enroll them into his pick-pocketing schemes.

While each scene centers around a

song, the two highlights are solos by _____ Avery and McCafferty.

Avery sings *The Milky Way*, a touching, and very-well performed, plea for dreams to come true, for up in the Milky Way "your dreams are reality."

McCafferty, as the sly Slattery, sings and deftly pantomimes the *Trickster's Tune*, describing his pickpocketing trade as a work of art, for as the song claims in the end, "the hand's much quicker than the eye." *continued on page 26.*

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^{26.} *Castaways, continued from page 25.* Yet the good-hearted castaways aren't fooled by the slippery Slattery who is soon apprehended by our friendly Irish gumshoes.

But with winter coming on the castaways soon become not only lonely and hungry, but cold as well. Lured in by Mama Rosa's fresh bread, they are

BETTY WELKE 1928-2008

Betty Welke passed away on March 27, 2008 at Holly Convalescent Center.

She was born on October 17, 1928 in Portland, Indiana, to Pauline and Lee Culter. She grew up in the Wixom Walled Lake area outside of Detroit and graduated from Walled Lake High School in 1946. On December 28, 1946 Betty married the love of her life, William (Bill) Welke (1922-2002).

She was a longtime member of Holy Cross Church and a prominent member of the Peaine Township Board.

Betty was predeceased by her husband, Bill, and her parents. She is survived by her brother, Richard, and her five children and their spouses: Jean and Bruce Kinsley of Beaver Island; Paul Welke and Angela LeFevre of Beaver Island; Mark and Sue Welke of Marquette; Carl and Laurie Welke of Tecumseh; and Anne Welke and Bruce reluctantly rounded up and delivered to the Children's Society Home by Ms. Grimsby with the help of officers O'Reilly and O'Toole.

Cleaned and fed and rested, the castaways are then ready to be presented to prospective adoptive families. Here other students join in with short solos in the next to last number, *Choose Me*,

as Hillary Rasch, Emily Boyle, Susan Myers-Dixon, Austyn Oliver, Forrest Avery, Emily Burton, Brighid Cushman, and Erin Myers-Dixon all take turns in the spotlight, hoping to be chosen for a good home, "We'll be loyal, we'll be true. We're the perfect ones for you," the group sings.

Rounding out the cast are Ireland

Cessna 195. Together they enjoyed many flying adventures.

Also dear to Betty were her beloved dogs (Katie, Kelly, Marnie, Casey, Snoopy, and many others) and other pets. Many people visited the 'bunny barn' located at Welke Airport – it was a mission of Betty's to keep the bunnies happy and healthy so the children could enjoy them and chase them when their flight landed. So many children (now adults) still come to Welke Airport to show *their* children and grandchildren the rabbits at the "Hareport."

A memorial service took place at Holy Cross Catholic Church April 7, with Father Pat Cawley officiating. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the Holy Cross Catholic Church / Ellen Welke Memorial Fund, c/o Beaver Island, 49782.



McPhilips of Charlevoix. Also surviving are Bill's brothers and sisters-inlaws, Robert and Sue Welke of Beaver Island; Donus and Dory Welke of Archbold, Ohio; and Charles and Catherine Welke of Beaverton, MI.

Bill and Betty lived in the Walled Lake area from their marriage until they moved here in the late 1960s. When they arrived, they started several family businesses including excavating, welldrilling, sawmilling, and Welke Aviation (which eventually became Island Airways.) Bill was the deputy sheriff for many years, Betty the main bookkeeper and crew manager of all the family undertakings. She was instrumental in the establishment and on-going success of Island Airways.

Betty shared a passion for flying with Bill and some of her most treasured times were in 'Yellow Bird,' their Bigelow, Brennan Jones, MacKenzie Martin, Zander Drost, Emmalee Antkoviak, Resse Johnson, Skylar Marsh, and Elsie Burton.

Finally, all is well that ends well, as the homeless city children are adopted by good-hearted families from the Midwest. And while it sounds much like a fairy tale, the story told to the audience

CLARENCE MAUDRIE 1928-2008

Lifelong Naubinway resident, Clarence P. "Bullo" Maudrie Jr., 80, died on April 3, 2008 at the Schoolcraft County Medical Care Facility in Manistique.

Born February 2, 1928 in Naubinway, son of the late Clarence Sr. and Christine (Wachter) Maudrie, Bullo was a veteran of World War II, having served in the United States Army until his honorable discharge in 1947. On May 8, 1948, he married the former Norma J. Smith, and they made Naubinway their home.

Bullo sailed the Great Lakes with his father Clarence Sr. on the *W. E. Fitzgerald*, and later was employed as a stone mason for 26 years. Following his father's death he continued working as a commercial fisherman on Lake Michigan until his retirement. He fished on the *Bob S*, bringing it to through this production is a true one. Between 1855 and 1929 over 150,000 orphans and castaways were transported to the Midwest from large, eastern cities, and, as the authors say, "were taken into the hearts and homes of many families."

This performance was enhanced by the artistic, cityscape backdrop created by Brittany Crandall, Maeve Green,

Beaver Island in the 1980s, and lived on Freesoil Avenue.

Bullo was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, member of the V.F.W. Post #8372 of Engadine, and member of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers. His hobbies and interests included hunting, fishing, reading, and jigsaw puzzles.

Besides his parents, Bullo is preceded in death by his sons Paul and Eddie and siblings Earl, Richard, Larry, and Jackie. Earl and Eddie played important roles in life on Beaver Island until their untimely passings.

Survivors include his loving wife of over 59 years, Norma J. of Naubinway; children Diane (Cliff) Walmsley of Curtis, Luanne Keinonen of St. Ignace ,and Bonnie (Howard) Tetrault of Melbourne, FL; 13 grandSam Kuligoski, Danielle Dedloff 27. and Ms. Rooy. Deb Plastrik assisted backstage to keep the performers coming in on cue, with the help of Kim Newport who also arranged the lighting. Tom Whitman also deserves acknowledgment for his efforts in repairing and refinishing the stage.

A standing ovation to all.

children and 8 great-grandchildren; siblings Joyce Merriam of Naubinway, Hubert of Interlochen, FL, Maryann Kelly of Houston, TX, Marcella (Brent) Schultz of Flint, Lida Moffat of Ypsilanti, Phyllis Widmayer of Dexter, Loretta Ryum of Dalton, GA, and Donna Falls of Tombul, TX.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 6, 2008 at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Naubinway with Fr. Tim Hruska officiating.

BOB MCGLOCKLIN

Word has been received that Bob McGlocklin, former owner and operator of the Circle M, equipment operator *extraordinaire*, and long-time resident of Beaver Island, passed away in Florida on April 25th.



28. BEAVER ISLAND BIRD BABBLE

The very first harbinger of spring, to me, contrary to the red-breasted robin's reputation, is the great blue heron. Steadfastly they return every early spring, despite the stubborn ice clinging to the fringe of the shoreline. They come and swoop about, scoping Gull Harbor, the Free Car Wash area, and the wetlands in front of the Toy Museum. What a joy to see the very first one, signifying winter's end and heralding the coming of spring. Can't keep the smile off my face as I return home from my brisk morning walk.

Another early bird on some warm years, late late April but most often around the second week of May, arrives to announce spring, the lovely, hovering humming bird, as sure as spring rain. Optimistic Islanders hang out their feeders early, filled with sweet nectar awaiting the whirring, bejeweled bird's return, never disappointed as the iridescent little darlings flit and hover and figure-eight with tiny, invisible wings in perpetual motion. Impolitely they arrive early and stay late, much to our pleasure, right on through September.

The swans come to Paradise Bay, and sail past majestically. Plumping up

their plumage and then dipping their Audrey Hepburn necks deep into the water to feed, rumps saluting, high in the air. So lovely and arrogant, with inappropriate squawking voices and mean-spirited territorialism. They rule the harbor, sending mallards and mergansers scurrying across the lake.

Once in awhile, precious times, early in the morning, loons will alight in the bay, their barred backs sometimes barging little furry black chicks, announcing their arrival with melodious song. Lucky people on Font Lake and Lake Geneserath are routinely serenaded with this lovely, distinctive loon song, but us harbor rats consider the melody to be a rare treat.

Mallards by the millions call the harbor home. Delightful ducks, the drakes colorful luminous heads, the hens drab, followed by a flurry of peeping chicks in the spring. Suz and I count the babies and then, as mother nature dictates, we see the number decline as seagulls, hawks, and large fish take their toll, sad but inevitable. The mallards tame and lose any fear of humans quickly, and learn just what folks will feed them.

There's a constant parade of

quackers filing across Main Street to Barb and Bud Cruickshank's for their daily bread, halting traffic. Most of us smile as we wait, but after a mile of waddlers, a few going against the grain, momentarily disoriented, we're tempted to lay on the horn. If you give in to this temptation to toot, it causes mass confusion and the ducks break rank and squawk, skedaddling in all directions, making for a much longer delay. Oh what the hell; we're not in a hurry anyway. When mallards walk on the shore to feed, their webbed feet leave a trail of miniature sails. How sweet.

Canada geese are frequent visitors. Loud, trumpeting across the harbor sky in formation. We walk Little Sand Bay often, which necessitates sidestepping and artful maneuvering (as we always walk barefoot) to avoid the characteristic cigarillo-shaped doodoo left by the geese. Isn't it amazing that they can produce these while our deer, so much larger, leave such little pellets. Go figure.

In early spring and late fall the buffleheads spend time with us. So easy to identify with their little white hoods, they circle the harbor, diving deeply to feed. Red-headed mergansers, also



divers, appear at those times.

The ever-present garbage can with wings, the sea gull, seems never to leave Paradise Bay. In artistic northern Michigan souvenir shops they are so breathtakingly beautiful, carved in wood or portrayed in porcelain, but in the flesh they are birds of a different feather. Loud, obnoxious, and known to decorate a boat, a car, your furniture, your roof, and many a sunbather with pearlescent icing splattered willy nilly from above. They are omnivorous eaters, enabling them to churn out all that icing. They like to eat fish, garbage, fish garbage, entrails and skins alike, baby ducklings, did I say garbage, stuff off the backs of pick-up trucks, unguarded picnic food, and garbage. They have been known to take ice cream cones and cookies from unsuspecting kids playing on the beach. I personally had a very brave and fearless gull pluck a piece of meat off my barbecue grill. They follow the fishing boats like bloodhounds on a fresh trail. Islanders are amazed and chagrined to see tourists blithely feeding and photographing these avian trash recyclers.

In the summer the Island also attracts (dirty word deleted here) cormorants. Despite some naturalists and bird lovers' opinions, cormorants are persona non gratis here. In the early summer mornings' first light, the harbor gets blanketed with dark black unending clouds of these fish-loving predators. Able to plunge deep and equipped with great eyesight, they are skilled anglers. They descend in great hungry ebony hordes and devour everything they see under the water's surface. They can often be seen drying their outstretched wings like some eerie oversized vampires. Don't like 'em, nope.

At the feeders in our yard here on the harbor we attract cooing morning doves, arguing bossy blue jays, several woodpeckers who occasionally knock on our house, tiny chickadees, and upside-down nut hatches. At certain migratory times the Baltimore orioles arrive to devour orange halves, pretty pretty birds. We've had the lovely rare bluebirds and scarlet cardinals, and one year a yellow-headed blackbird favored us with his presence for almost a full week. This past year this rare bird (to these parts, anyway) was seen at the Holy Cross Cemetery quite often. Barn swallows abound, and black grackles and crows. And robins. All this right here on the harbor. Out in the country, where it's more protected, evening grosbeaks, goldfinch, and purple finch are frequent feeders. Hawks are a common sight, hunting and gliding over open fields. Eagles visit often; one year a big male delighted us by landing on the ice in the harbor for several days.

This year a flock of sand hill cranes visited the open land across from Katherine Ricksgers' home, so tall and imperious; what a sight! Our planted turkeys are a huge success; big family groups can be seen strutting ungainly across the roads, paying absolutely no attention to idling automobiles.

Snipes, plovers, killdeer, and sandpipers dance across our dunes and shorelines, feeding. Protective parents, they feign injury to discourage any one, human or canine, from approaching their young. Any swimmer or sunbather recognizes and respects the ruses of these little long-legged beach birds.

Well folks, this essay has no end, no plot, no rhyme or reason. I just penned it to let people know that I have done much more than count the deer here on the Island. I also watch the birds. Oh well; somebody's got to do it.

–Pinky Harmon





^{30.} PAR FOR THE COURSE by Fairway Frank

Once again the sun is shining. Once again the birds are singing. Once again little children laugh. Once again we are golfing.

Surprisingly enough, even with the length of this winter's long white, I swung my first swings one day earlier this Spring than last. While the course was still wet and sloggy, with some snow lingering on some greens, we have the sanctuary of the covered hitting shed. And at this time of the year there is the advantage of the April Early-Birdie Special: hit'em and pick'em up yourself. There are a number of those nifty ball caddies that you press firmly atop the ball which magically pops into the tube, eventually working its way up to the canvas tote bag. In just 10-15 minutes you can easily fill a small milk crate without the reward of back-tasking stooping that mimics a strawberry harvest and the next golfer is ready to go.

So while I was able to hit balls earlier this year, I was over a week later actually getting on the course. But that's okay as I was primed, seasoned, warmed up, and ready to strut my stuff. Oops. So the old sod isn't quite like the soft, forgiving astroturf in the shed. Still ... let's not forget the design of the event that is occurring. Golf.

It didn't take too many days of early warm sunshine combined with a steady

south wind to dry things out, even to the point of an Island-wide burning ban. But those desiccated conditions didn't prevail everywhere. The tee box at number five was one. There was enough standing water surrounding the elevated tee that it challenged the false Greatness claim of Lake Champlain. After tiptoeing to the tee box (ah, where's Tiny Tim when you need him?) and, of course, hitting the normal, towering, straight and true drive, it became necessary to walk back to the fourth green in order to get around the protective (one word for them) cedars and then all the way to the left gorse in order to once again find nearly dry ground to pass through.

The second area, as anyone familiar with the course would imagine, lay in the Valley of Bogey below the sixth green. At it's greatest flood stage, even the Melville Bridge was submerged, lacking as it does the stately and elevating stone arches of bridges Hogan and Nelson at Augusta.

So early on it was best to simply stay away from those holes and stick to the ones in the open that were dry and therefore much more playable. If only it all were that easy.

But the season has begun. And it should be a good one.

The annual Wayne Nix Men's

League is scheduled to begin play on May 21. League elder John Runberg, Sr. is ready to not only once again carry his hack partner around the course, but to defend their league title at the same time. There currently are 12 teams signed up with room for a couple more as well as a need for extra substitute players. Anyone interested in joining should call Buck Ridgeway at 448-2680.

The Ladies League should get underway shortly after that in early June. For more information on that contact the clubhouse at 448-2301.

Given the success of last year's mixed doubles tournament, three such events are on the slate for this summer. More information will be available soon at the clubhouse.

Of course there is the annual Fourth of July tournament, the Ladies Tournament on July 26, and the Jerry Sowa Outing in August. Watch for more information of these great events as they draw closer.

So there you have it. Clean up those clubs, dust off the spikes, and start limbering up. And if you haven't been out before, or have often thought you should give golf a try, well there's no time like the present. Contact the golf course for information on lessons, on fees, and join in on a lifetime pursuit of joy and bliss.





Island Airways Memorial Day Special

Adult One Way - \$40

Purchase a booklet of 10 tickets / get one free* Price per ticket drops to \$36.36

Child One Way - \$26

Purchase a booklet of 10 tickets / get one free* Price per ticket drops to \$23.63

Large Dog - \$18

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> *All One-Way Tickets LIMITED TIME OFFER (231) 448-2071 or 1-800-524-6895

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THIS YEAR? 32.

- Road Rally PABI's 6th annual Road Rally May 4th, 1:00 p.m. at the Shamrock. Pay a \$15 entry fee and get in a car to take part. A fun-filled Island tradition.
- School Board election, + voting on BICS operating millage and Special Ed millage. May 6th.
- Sports Boosters' Chinese Dinner -Saturday May 10th at Nina's Restaurant. Reservations please call 448-2396. Take-out orders will also be available.
- Deadline for filing for fall elections -May 13th.
- State Superintendent of Education Mike Flanagan visits: Groundbreaking ceremony for new school building at 11:00 a.m.; lunch at Shamrock. May 15th.
- **Donna Gillespie Fundraiser** May 15th at Stoney Acres: Mexican Buffet and live music, 6:00-8:00
- Concert Evening of Chilean Song in recognition of Fr. Pat Thursday, May 15th. Pre-show Chilean wine and cheese social: 6 - 7pm, with concert to follow.
- Health Center Clean-up and planting, May 28th; most of the clean-up was done by the Lighthouse School students-so just come and plant!
- AA: Tuesday/ Thursday/ Saturday: 7 pm at the Beaver Island Christian church; Friday 12 at the BIRHC



McDonough's 75th Anniversary May 31st Luncheon in the parking lot, 11:00-2:00; "Everyone will be there!" to celebrate 75 years since Lloyd and Eva bought the store.



- Hazmat material accepted, by appointment only (448-2228) at the Transfer Station (except for paint) -May 31st, 10:00 – 2:00. Summer/fall hours begin May 1st: Monday thru Saturday 8:00am -5:00pm.
- CMU Nature Walks: 9:00 a.m. -12:00: schedule to be announced
- **Beaver Island Electric Car Show** June 27th-28th. Test drives will be available for all of the cars at the brick paver area at the Shamrock and Harbour Market. See page 7.

- 2008 Phragmites Eradication Plan meeting - A public meeting on June 24^{th} , 2008 at the Peaine Hall at 7 p.m. to discuss the proposed 2008 Phragmites Eradication Plan. A letter will be mailed June 1st outlining this vear's process. John Works, Don Vyse, Brian Mastenbrook, and BIPOA will answer questions.
- The Fourth of July!
- The Beaver Island Association (formally BIPOA) Annual Meeting July 14th, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Peaine Hall. Election of officers, reports and other business. Open to the public.
- 2008 Beaver Island Music Festival July 18th-19th, 2008. www.bimf.net
- Beaver Island Air Show featuring the Yankee Lady B-17 July 18th-19th
- Museum Week and MAD Camp July 21^{st} - 26^{th} , 2008.
- Jazz and More music camp July 28-August 1. baroqueonbeaver.com
- **Baroque on Beaver** July 29th-Aug. 3rd.
- Livingstone Studio's Meet The Artists August 2nd. *livingstonestudio.com*
- Beaver Island Writers Gathering and Literary Event August 4th-8th.
- **Homecoming** August 8th-10th.
- Ransom Street Big Band September 12^{th} -13th.
- Celtic Games September 13th. Bite of Beaver Island and the Island

Boodle October 4th.

BEAVER ISLAND GARDENERS BOOT UP!

Hey Gardeners, Green Thumbs, Dirt Diggers, whatever your outdoor passion: It's time to be thinking about our spring clean-up and plantings for the Health Center.

Some of you expressed interest in helping complete the spring plantings at the Health Center, and those of you off the Island may want to pitch in when you arrive back.

May is always a good time to go around and assess for damage as well as pick up rubble, twigs, litter, and leaf piles. Many of us can go around on our own (or with a friend) and pick up twigs and rubble and dispose of them. Plan to finish the cleaning up and raking around the 28th of May. The students at the Lighthouse School spent April 17th working on this, so most of the work has

already been done.

Once the danger of frost is over, the Health Center will gladly accept either annual or perennial plantings. McDonough's, Powers Do-it Best Hardware, Heidi Connor, and Cheryl Podgoski will all have flowers for sale at the end of May. So anyone interested in bringing flats or even some geraniums or potted perennials to the Health Center is encouraged to do so.

We also would be glad to have some people donate a bucket from Bill Freese. He generously gave us three last fall, and if we can get some more we can line the front, side, and rear entries with geraniums.

We will also gladly accept contributions of manure, fertilizer, black dirt, or cash (hopefully you will specify its

use) to fill our needs. Please contact me at vour earliest convenience regarding your interest in beautifying our Health Center. Leonor Jacobson (448-2894) or bgordonj@gtlakes.com

Some of you have suggested, and I agree, that it would also be fun to try to do some cleanup around other public buildings. Some of you already are helping cultivate a garden at the Library. That's great! Those having an interest in sprucing up the Historical Society properties can contact Bill Cashman about needs there. Interested gardeners might also want to contact Township, Boat Company, or PABI board members to offer their services. Remember there is no fee to join us except that of hard work!

-Leonor Jacobson



FIRST TRIP OF THE YEAR

On a foggy April morning the barge carrying the huge crane truck, internetcell phone buildings, and other cargo emerged on the horizon, pulled by the *Cisco* and the *American Girl* in tandem. The tugs pulling together evoked the

image of a mighty two-engine train as they pulled across the water and entered the harbor.











On April 28th and 29th the stumps to the three Island towers, which had been set just before the Island was buffeted by snow last fall, were extended high into the air.

Five months ago the assembly was called off because the million-dollar

crane truck was afraid of coming over on a barge and getting trapped here for the winter. But the barge, pulled by the *Cisco* and the *American Girl*, brought it in, an imposing machine with seven telescoping 40' sections. It got right to work, lifting the first of three preformed concrete utility buildings onto a Beaver Gems' flatbed and following it to its site to set it on its foundation.

Then the truck put out its four stabilizing legs and hydraulically lifted itself off the ground. Once the crane was secure, it extended four of its boom sections for the first 60' stage of the tower–which, with the 40' base, would give the tower a 100' height.

The tower assemblers, John Timmer and his highstepping helper, climbed up the steel studs on the base's poles, carrying tools and bolts in a bucket. As the two nimble men strapped themselves into place the crane operator began lifting the first section, using

three reinforced fabric straps. The crane is capable of reaching 300' in height and lifting 86,000 pounds, so this was easy.

Once the section was held vertically

in the air a foot above the base, the two men had to spin it into position and bolt its pole plates to the matching ones atop the base. It was a chilly morning, just above freezing, and they were warmly dressed, but for precision work they had to remove their gloves.

ressed, but for precision work they had oremove their gloves. equi





Once the two pieces were bolted together, one of the men shimmied up the diagonal bracing to detach the crane, carefully using a pair of safety straps. There was a time when a man could ride up or down with the crane, on its hook or on a section of steel, but not anymore.

Once the men were back on the ground they began assembling the equipment platforms almost at the top of

the final section, an 80' triangular truss lying horizontally on wooden blocks on the ground, the tower's taper ending at its midpoint. Then it was the same as before: both men scrambling up to their 100' perches as the crane lifted the final piece into place, with them revolving it until it was in the perfect position for bolting down.

When that was done, one of them had to climb the ladder bolted to the side all the way up to the 180' mark to unstrap the crane. That didn't bother John, the company president, who had been on 1,500' towers. He learned his trade in the air force, although he was not allowed to wear a chute.

It was one after another until all three E. W. Marine towers were up. The next day the crane headed back to the mainland on the barge, and the tower climbers set about lifting the lower ladder sections into place with a rope hoist and bolting them on.

It was not the kind of job

many people would dare undertake, but somebody had to do it. And this crew did not mind, joking and laughing high above.





36. ON THIS DATE

Ten Years Ago Bud Martin's 64', newly-purchased ferry, the West Shore, arrived on Beaver Island. She was a sister to the South Shore. both having been owned by the Miller Boat Line of Port Clinton, Ohio. Built in 1947, she had a 30' beam and a V-12 Detroit Diesel. She was on the South Bass Island run her entire life. Bud, Bob Banville, and Denis Glen met Mike Cull for the inspection, found her in good order, drove their cars on board, and headed for home. Weather turned bad so they spent the first night at the Bean Dock under the Bluewater Bridge, and then made the rest of the trip in 28 hours starting the following day. Bud planned to run her between Beaver Island and his dock in Manistique.

The Grant High School students who come to the Island for a week every year, courtesy of CMU, pitched in to help purchase Miller's Marsh by conducting fund-raisers before they arrived and donating the money. So far CMU had raised \$96,000 toward the purchase price of \$138,000.

Steve and Robbie Kenwabakise arrived in the *Gertrude K* to start fishing, setting their first nets for whitefish just outside of Whiskey Point.

The Historical Society promised to have *Volume Four* of its ongoing series, *The Journal of Beaver Island History*, ready for the Fourth of July. Jim Willis resigned as St. James Supervisor, and Don Vyse was appointed to take his place.

Carrie Podgorski won the TDS essay contest with a story set in a small town hospital in the south, in which the cure for a sick alligator is found on the internet.

The Beaver Island Wildlife Club revealed some of its history. Founded in 1922 as *the Sportsman's Club*, it changed its name in 1985. One of its high points was receiving a plaque from Governor Williams in 1951, which was written up in *Outdoor Life*. In the previous year it stocked Lake Geneserath with 2,000 bluegill, and provided 4,000# of shelled corn for its six turkey feeders.

The tragic passing of Sheryl (Schellenberg) Struik in an automobile accident was noted.

Twenty Years Ago The Chamber of Commerce, which was formed upon the dissolution of the Civic Association, sold the *Beacon* to Ray and Ann Stanhope and their daughter, Mary Russell, who agreed to honor previous subscriptions (\$12.50/year). Their first issue was dated May 26.

The Chamber elected its first officers: Chairman, Rich Gillespie; secretary, Edie Wilmot; treasurer, Marilyn Damstra. They planned to have a tourist office in the shed between the Museum and Daddy Franks, and to sponsor a raft race on the Fourth.

The Shamrock had new owners: Dennis and Frannie Clarkston, from Chicago, replacing Mike and Ginny Macken. They began building a deck on the side.

Sheldon Anderson and Carl Felix purchased the Beaver Haven Marine from Phil Gregg and Walker Hill.

Bill Freese opened the St. James Boat Shop in the old McDonough's Market—living above with his new wife.

Ernie Martin's dock was purchased and expanded by Gary Comer.

Bud Martin bought a new tug, the *Shamrock*.

The Beacon ran a story about Sister Marie Eugene, who taught 1,800 Island students over the years, and taught them well. She had not intended to be a teacher but was pressed into duty to meet a shortage and loved it. After teaching in Pewamo (near Ionia) she requested a transfer to the Island: she had never been here but had heard glowing reports from its former teachers. Hearing of her interest, Sister Dennis Marie, the Island principal, asked her to come to fill the k-4 vacancy for the fall of 1978. She agreed, and after a few years had her assignment changed to k-3 because of the growth of the school. She was named 'Woman Educator of the Year' in 1982 by the Delta Gamma Education Society.





Seventy members of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association held their annual meeting here. They were concentrating on the St. Helena Island Lighthouse, but expressed an interest in restoring the Squaw Island Light, which some visited.

The *Beacon* ran its first ever color page, with hand-colored drawings depicting 15 local wildflowers.

Passings noted included George Miller (Back Beach since 1972), William Burns (McCauley's Road), Josephine Dhaseler (St. James, 1914-1925), Owen Boyle, Rita Gillespie (b. 1927), Gene Connaghan (b. 1928), and Maurice Runberg (b. 1935).

Thirty Years Ago Nine 1st through 4th-grade Island students took a trip to Traverse City, visiting the Northwestern College Maritime Center, the zoo, and Cherryland Mall. They toured the Sleeping Bear Dunes, a horse ranch, an electronic game arcade, and Skateworld. The 5^{th} and 6^{th} -grades went to Greenfield Village, where teacher Joe Moore couldn't take his eyes off a Stradivarius. The next day they drove to Lansing to tour the Capital Building. The 9^{th} and 10^{th} grades went to Chicago, seeing the Aquarium and two Museums. They went to the top of the Sears Tower, and spent a day in Grand Rapids on their way back. The 11th and 12th grades stopped in Lansing on their way to the Air Force Museum, the Cincinnati

Zoo, and a campground in Kentucky. On the way back they toured MSU.

Pasings noted included Wanda Bolton, who lived on Lake Drive, John Hannon, 73, of Chicago, Marie Allers, the widow of the late Captain Charles Allers, Rob Burke, Patrick LaFreniere, who left the Island to become a tugboat skipper in Chicago, and Grace Salty and Mamie Salty Gallagher, who had been living in Green Bay—their Island home on the King's Highway recently lost its porch to age.

Forty Years Ago Smallmouth bass were being taken from Garden and Hog Islands; two and three pound rainbows from Fox Lake. The suckers were running, but not the smelt. Don Cole and Charlie Martin were having good whitefish lifts.

American Central bought a DC 6 to bring prospects to see the Port St. James.

Marge Wagner had the Beaver Tail restaurant ready, and Grace Cole the Killarney Inn.

The youth program held two campouts at Iron Ore Bay.

The *Beaver Islander* had to have its clutches replaced.

Henry Allen began developing Trout Island.

Walter Wojan got the contract to build the new Convent next to Holy Cross Church.

Beaver Haven received a Johnson

Outboard dealership, which required *Beacon* editor Phil Gregg to go to school for two weeks in Waukegon.

Passings noted included Daniel Greene, 91, who farmed here until 1955, when he moved to Charlevoix, and Mary Vesty McDonough, the Island's oldest resident at 88.

Fifty Years Ago A boat-launching ramp for the public was under construction at McDonough's Store.

Twenty boats and a float plane, all full of fishermen, anchored in the Harbor to pull in the perch.

Beaver trapping ended, with the largest weighing 55.5 pounds. Karl Kuebler and Rogers Carlisle took the most, 21.

A public opinion poll about changing "St. James" to "Beaver Island" received only 20 answers, 14 of which were pro.

The Island baseball team beat the Coast Guard team by twenty runs. The umpires were castigated, and there was almost a brawl.

Patrol Boats # 1, 2, and 4 arrived in early May.

Three pay phones were to be installed at the Airport, Lloyd's store, and Musette's gift shop.

The passing was noted of Joe Floyd, 73, who was born on South Fox and moved to Beaver when he was 13. He worked on the Island railroad, and also lumbered and fished.





38. COMPOSTING

by Eric Myers

I'd like to discuss the possibility of reducing the number of green bags you buy in a year, and a way to reduce by up to 1/5 the waste processed at the transfer station (think taxes). It also is a way to improve the beauty of flowers and the yield of crops you grow. I am writing about compost, black gold-as geeky gardeners often call it. Anyone trying to garden on Beaver Island or familiar with the history of Beaver Island knows that the soil is sandy and not the best for growing most flowers or crops. Sandy soils have few nutrients and dry out quickly. Planting with compost supplies nutrients to plants and helps them hold on to what water they get. Adding compost to your soil will help you grow better plants with no energy consumption or pollution. Composting reduces garbage and results in a soil-enriching product. Win-win. Best of all, it is free-or at most involves minimal expense. Not only is it low in cost yet high in rewards, but it allows one to put in as much or as little effort as desired. It can be as easy as making a pile of leaves each fall or a hobby that can be worked on daily.

So, what is compost? It is nature's way of recycling. It is plant mater that is partially decomposed. It improves soil texture (how air and water move through the soil), adds nutrients, changes the soil chemistry in a way that is beneficial to growing plants, and provides food for organisms in the soil that also benefit plants with their interaction.

Let me explain how a compost pile works. A compost pile is a complex feeding pattern involving bacteria, fungi, worms, and insects. The end product is decomposed matter. Keep reading even if that sounds gross, creepy, or complex! It is the same process that takes place on the forest floors of Beaver Island. When making compost, there are two main chemical components, carbon (the main energy source) and nitrogen (for growth and reproduction). Carbon (C) is dry brown material such as leaves, wood chips, straw, etc. Nitrogen (N) is fresh and green things like pulled weeds, kitchen scraps, grass clippings, etc. With the proper mix of carbon and nitrogen, you create the habitat for food webs where various organisms eat the

waste and become a food source themselves (if you build it, they will come). In time, the end result is black humus-like compost. In fact, carbon, nitrogen, air, and water are all you need to consider to be a successful composter and earth steward.

A ratio of 25:1 C-N will be 15:1 when decomposed, which is the ratio of C-N in a good garden loam soil. A ratio of almost equal C-N still gives good compost, so you don't need to measure carefully, unless you want to. If you have too much carbon, decomposition will take a long time (1-2 years). Too much nitrogen and the pile starts to smell, and you attract pests, like flies and their maggots. The number-one falsehood I hear about composting is that it is smelly. No! Bad composting can be smelly, but not all composting is. If the pile gets smelly you have too much nitrogen and need to mix in more carbon sources, or add more compost or dirt.

You might ask, "What can I compost?" You can use firewood ash, but no more than 2 gal/year unless you have a lot of oak leaves or pine needles in your compost. Wood ash makes compost/soil alkaline/basic, pine needles make the soil acidic. Soil that is extremely basic or acidic is not good for most plants. As for other things to add to a compost pile, it may be easier to say what you can't compost rather than what you can. DO NOT USE: meat, grease or dairy products, they can lead to internal parasites and disease, and they attract pests; colored/glossy paper-most use toxic ink; charcoal ash, which has toxic sulfur oxides; diseased garden plants, they may spread the disease; invasive weeds, you might help spread them; pesticide-treated plants, some pesticide can remain on plants and cause residual effects; and pet litter, never use feces of any animal that eats meat-there are numerous diseases that can be transmitted if you do. For example, healthy cats can have parasites in their feces that infect the brain and eyes of infants and people with weakened immune systems. Also, plastics don't decompose, so they should not be in a compost pile.

You can use woody material in a compost bin like twigs sticks, and even

logs. Some people do, but I don't add woody bits or thick grasses to my main compost pile since they don't break down quickly. I put woody stuff and thick garden materials in their own pile and give them a couple years to soften up. This way I don't have to grind them up and/or screen the compost before using it. Some may say that's being lazy; I prefer energy-efficient.

Getting Started Choose a spot that is flat and well drained. If you pile up your waste in a bin it will compost faster, and the bin will help keep out foraging animals. A shady location is preferable; direct sunlight may cause the pile to dry out. If you can, put the bin close to a source of water (e.g., within reach of a garden hose). Avoid placing the bin against a tree or wooden building; the compost will cause the wood to decay. Once your bin is in place, you can begin immediately to fill it with yard wastes and kitchen scraps. It may be helpful, when first building your compost pile, to mix in a small amount (one shovelful) of rich garden soil or finished compost; both are good sources of microorganisms essential to decomposition.

I began as a casual composter, and recently have gotten into more intense composting. Casual composting is just making a pile of material. With intense composting you need the right blend of nitrogen, carbon, moisture, and air (mixing). This results in temperatures of 120 to 140°. This will kill most seeds and speed up the decomposition process so the compost may be ready in 2 months or less. Alternating the types of materials (carbon and nitrogen) you add to the bin will speed up the decomposition process, especially if you alternate high-carbon materials with high-nitrogen materials and mix the contents. I still use casual compost techniques when I have a large pile of carbon-rich material, like leaves or dried garden material. I give it one mix and it takes a year. This is easy for the beginner since compost will "happen" even if you just make a pile of yard and food waste and water it occasionally. If you are in the forest and trees are extending their roots into the pile, turn it frequently so they can't make headway.

How to Tell When it's Done You

have compost when the original material has been transformed into a uniform, dark brown, crumbly product with an earthy aroma. If your pile gets as big as you like, you may want to stop adding to your compost pile.

The Compost Bin I started composting in Lansing by making a heap of leaves in the back corner of my lot each fall. By spring it was mostly composted. After two years I had added so much compost that I needed to make raised beds, which made my peppers thrive, and I never had to buy brown bags for yard waste. I learned that if you stack the material in a bin, decomposition will take place faster. I've used a few styles of compost bins. You just have to try different bin styles with the material you have until you know how to get the right size bin and combination of air, water, carbon, and nitrogen. The compost pile should be moist like a sponge that has been rung out, wet to the touch but not dripping. You can mix the pile to incorporate air, or, I've seen people use PVC pipe with holes drilled in it, stuck into the compost pile to allow air into the pile. I've met so many people on Beaver Island far more ingenious than me so I will not attempt to describe the best compost bin; I will only mention that a compost bin should be at least 3' x 3' x 3' but any size pile will decompose. I have a 5'x 5'x 5' cedar wood bin in IL.

Do not make a bin out of pressuretreated wood; even though copper chromium arsenate is not used any more due to health hazards, other preservatives might later be shown to be toxic. I use untreated cedar wood, but even it rots over the years. Better to build a new bin every decade than eat potential poison your whole life.

Another way to speed up the composting process is to regularly mix

The following people were installed as officers of the AmVets Ladies Auxiliary at a luncheon held at Stoney Acres on April 16th. President: Kathy Adams; First Vice President: Susie Fisher; Second/Third Vice President: Loretta Slater; Secretary: the pile. If you are going to mix your compost, make sure you have access to the stuff in your pile with your mixing tools. I use a shovel and a pitchfork to mix the pile, depending on the density of the composted material. Some of my composting bins are three-sided, which allows access in the front for easy mixing. You don't have to mix your compost, but it will speed up the process if you do. Another method of bin construction I use is to cut about 7' of 5'high wire fence and attach 7' of 4'-high chicken wire along the base to get a container that will hold the material but allow air into the pile. You can stake the circular bin in place and start filling. When you want to mix the pile, you simply unstake and lift up the wire bin, set it beside the pile and refill the bin next to the pile. This puts the top of the pile on the bottom and lets you see how much composting has been done. I sometimes take some of the finished compost (soillike little black balls) and mix it in as I plant or transplant. You should always leave some finished compost in the pile; it helps keep the rate of decomposition high. My father-in-law puts bricks on top of a piece of fencing over the bin to keep out animals.

Using Compost Adding compost to the soil is beneficial to almost every type of plant. Compost adds nutrients and organic matter to the soil. Organic matter helps soil hold water in a drought, and helps water drain in a flood. It also holds onto nutrients so they are available to plants and don't just wash away with the rain. One problem is that once you start using compost, you never seem to have enough. Prioritize how you use compost. Compost eventually will decompose into nutrients and be absorbed by the plants. It will be completely decomposed in two years and should be replenished. With

AMVFTS POST #16 LADIES AUXILIARY INSTALLS OFFICERS

Kathy Tidmore; Treasurer: Tova Kopperud.

The following appointments were made at the same time: Sgt at Arms: Emma Jean Belfy; Chaplain: Peg Hoogendoorn; Hospital: Pat Rowley; Historian: Kathleen Antkoviak;

limited compost, place it where you get the greatest effect: flowerbeds in the front of your home, vegetable gardens to increase yields, or so crops need less watering. In the fall you can spread about $\frac{1}{2}$ " of compost in beds you will plant in spring.

If the area has poor soil, add 1" or more each year until you notice improved growth or a need for less water, then cut the compost back to $\frac{1}{2}$ "/year. If you have a prepared bed you can just throw the compost on top; it will break down by planting time. If you want to be thriftier with your compost you can compost in the spring as you plant or transplant. For your favorite perennials, work the compost into the topsoil next to existing plants. When you plant vegetables or annuals it is a good idea to mix compost with the soil in the hole for the seed or seedling so that nutrients are available throughout the growing season. However, when you plant trees or shrubs do NOT mix compost in the hole. Some recent studies have shown putting compost in tree-planting holes encourages roots to grow in a circular pattern, strangling the plants over a decade or two. Adding compost mixed with mulch on top of the area where you planted the tree will help encourage growth.

Once you get started and see what kind of material you have to compost, it can be rewarding on so many levels. Composting will save you money, give you better flowers and garden plants, and get you outdoors and more in tune with natural processes. What more could you ask for from things you used to just throw in the garbage? For more information look at the websites epa.gov/compost, www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/homecomposting and *compostguide.com*.

Please send comments or questions to Eric at: info@beaverislandecotours.com

Publicity: Sandy Latimer and Dee Gallagher; Parliamentarian: Dee Gallagher

Watch for upcoming postings of the Beaver Island Women's Cocktail Party, held annually to honor the women of Beaver Island.

40. REALESTATE, FOR RENT



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) 927-2374 nprawat@yahoo.com



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



3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1 double and 6 single beds, washer/dryer, wrap-a-round 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



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 1 ½ baths. All the amenities. Spectacular views! \$1100.00 per week. (630) 834-4181 E-mail to harborlightsbim@aol.com



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@chartermi.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 nrosso@hotmail.com.



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 (231) 448-2257

COTTAGE BETWEEN THE SHORES – Conveniently located 1 block from harbor district, yet tucked away on McDonough Rd. 2 king, 1 double, 1 twin. 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.

LOCH WOOD SHORES – Located about four miles from town on the beach of Sand Bay. 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 tammymcd107@yahoo.com.



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



NEAR DONEGAL BAY'S BEACH: 3BR 1 queen, 1 full, 2 twin & queen sofa sleeper. 2 Bath, Fireplace, W/DR, All Amenities, Satellite TV. / VCR/DVD, grill, bikes No pets. \$790/week. Off season April Thru June 13 & Sept 13 Thru Oct \$590. Call Gale or Warren Evenings (708) 389-0621 Day (708) 214-7049



ISLAND AERIE: Overlooking harbor next to Nature Preserve, easy walk/bike to town, 3 bathrooms, 4 BR w/ 2 king and 10 twin beds, large 1st floor decks, 2nd floor wet bar and deck, 3rd floor game room, all modern amenities and appliances, great for multiple families and groups. \$1600/week, reduced off-season and extended-stay rates. Call John and Jan **(989) 866-2159** *www.islandaerie.net*. *Jan@islandaerie.net*



JUDE'S RENTALS: Pleasantly situated in the heart of it all! Jude's house is nestled among the peaceful nature of Beaver Island in addition to being just walking distance from the harbor, historical museums, shops, restaurants and the beach. Call Jude Martin (231) 448-2673 or (616) 340-5339

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) 863-2655.

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).



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 suzigp16@comcast.net

7 PINES - Weekly Rental Close to town (short walk to Dalwhinnie) Sleeps 6, 1 ½ bath, washer/dryer, linens furnished, freshly remodeled, *PET FRIENDLY*, \$650.00/week, Contact Ryan & Gretchen Fogg at (616) 836-1597.

DONEGAL BAY - Clean/ Comfortable 3 Bedroom Home. Private Beach, Unforgettable Sunsets. Call Valerie Connors at (810) 487-1028. 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. Continued on page 42.



THE BIRCH HOUSE ON FONT LAKE/ DONEGAL BAY ROAD: Close to town, beautiful sunrise, fishing, and solitude. 3 bedroom (sleeps 6) and 1 1/2 bath. Phone Mary Rose @ (630) 750-7870 or email mrdoig@hotmail.com \$975.00/wk off season rates available.



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 available. \$1050/week. (231) 448-2809





For Rent



1200 sq. ft., 2 bedroom - 1 ½ bath, Kings Highway. Utilities and Satellite T.V. included. No Smoking and no pets. Above Laundromat. Deposit Required. \$800. a month. Fully furnished.

Call (231) 448-2050 or 448-2235 for information.





FOR SALE: 30'X40'X12' WELL INSULATED POLE BARN ON A 2 ACRE COMMERCIAL LOT with a 560 sq.ft. Office, Apartment addition, full bath and kitchen, underground power, phone, 320' rock well, septic, large gravel parking areas, located between four corners and Welke's airport. \$125,000. Call Mike Collins with Island Property at (231) 448-2923

REALESTATE, FOR RENT from page 41.

BEACON DISPLAY AD RATES:Starter\$15B/W\$25Full ColorSmall\$25B/W\$35Full ColorStandard\$45B/W\$60Full ColorHalf Page\$60B/W\$100Full ColorFull Page\$100B/W\$100Full Color

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lf you enjoy the Beacon, please support our advertisers who make the Beacon possible 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.

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

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

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

REAL ESTATE, FOR SALE

THE WALSH 40, SOUTH OF THE BEAVER ISLAND GOLF COURSE -Walk to the Fairway. Make offer: Asking \$90,000. (248) 649-4909 or (248) 515-8746.

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 mfolkening@pol.net

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) 671-5557. **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

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

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@sbcglobal.net

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WATERFRONT COTTAGE - On the east side. Available by the week or weekend. One BR, full kitchen and bath. Enjoy the water and the woods, year round. Off-season rates. Complete privacy. (231) 448-2907.

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

HAVE AN UN-RENTED WEEK? Rent your property more weeks this summer with a *Beacon* Ad. A \$15/month ad gets your ad in print 1,200-1,400 copies and on the web. Text ads are only \$1/column line. Call (231) 448-2476 or email *ads@beaverbeacon.com*



BEACHFRONT HOME FOR RENT: 3 bedrooms and loft – total 5 beds, hot tub, gorgeous views, solitude, wood stove, May-Sept. \$1050 Off-season \$795. Call Perry at (**313**) **530-9776** or e-mail pgatliff@hotmail.com

FOR SALE at \$379,000



FOR SALE: 28190 ISLAND WOODS RD. 3 Bedrooms; 2 Baths; Built in 2005; Immaculate with loads of character; For details and interior photos, go to *Forsalebyowner.com* (Listing ID #: 21207130) or contact Drew & Sarah at (231) 675-3746

LAKE GENESERATH Lot For Sale Parcel # 15-012-015-013-10, Hemlock Point Road; 140' lake frontage on the North Arm of beautiful Lake Geneserath; lot approved for building on w/o restrictions. (616) 772-9783; (616) 283-7227; cschrotenboer@ghyfc.org

WESTERN SHORES - Juniper Point Lot #6 - 451' frontage/3 acres on Lake Michigan. Overlooking High Island. Winding Driveway thru Red and White Cedars. \$285,000 FSBO 3% co-broke (269) 598-8042.

10 ACRES OLD FOX LAKE ROAD Beautiful, wooded, great building site; \$39,000 MUST SELL, please call (231)409-1214.

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 ¹/₂ baths. 2 decks. ~1-acre corner lot. Peekaboo view of Harbor. Asking: \$245,000. Call Jackie at (231) 448-2342.

40 ACRES ON SLOPTOWN ROAD - Call Bud at (231) 448-2397.

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ISLANDJOBS

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THE CUTEST LITTLE HOUSE ON BEAVER ISLAND, this 352 Sq. Ft. Home is located on Leonard Ln. It has one bedroom and a full bath. It has been completely redone inside and out and comes furnished; also included is a 1989 station wagon in good condition, competitively priced at \$59,000. Call Mike Collins, Island Property **(231) 448-2923**



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