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some stories in this issue:

The Third Annual Cantata

The School Christmas Program

A Coyote on the Ice; Successful Hunter Report

The Way it Was: The Helen N, an Island-built boat

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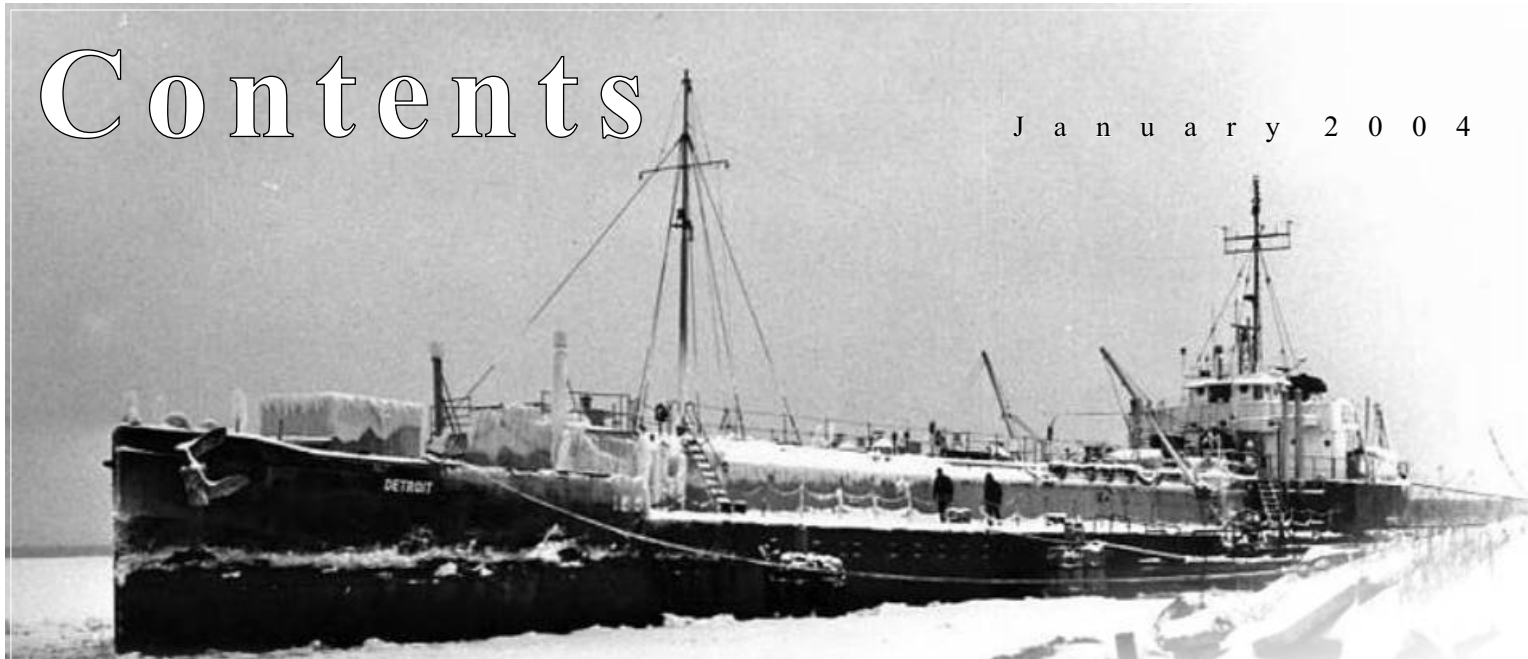
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the Island Monthly since 1955

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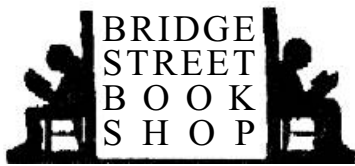
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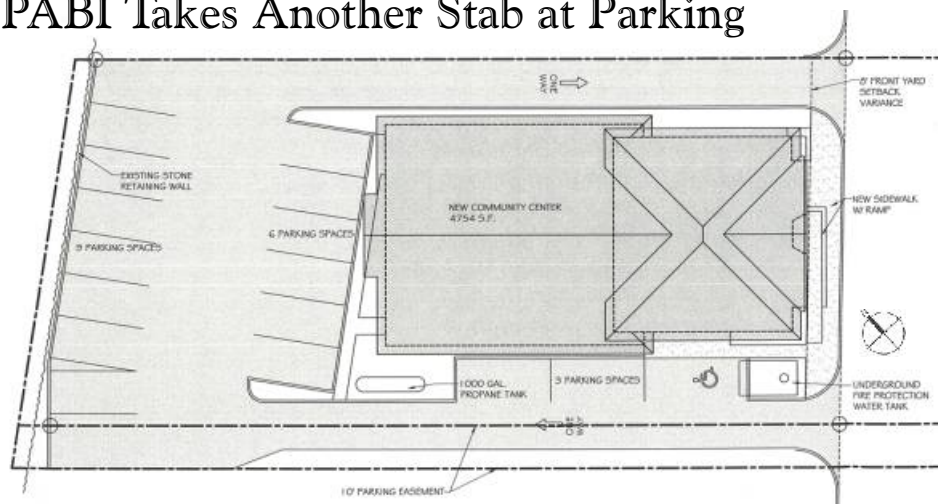
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PABI Takes Another Stab at Parking



The Preservation Association brought a drawing of its most recent parking plan to the St. James Township Planning Commission in early December. The Community House's planned size was decreased from 9200 ft² to 6700 (primarily by raising the Events Room ceiling and eliminating some 2nd floor rooms) to decrease the number of parking spaces required from 23 to 17.

The 3-year-old rule for determining how many parking places are required is twofold, half very exact and the other half left to the PC's discretion. The first rule is that half the building's space (4600 ft² in the previous drawing) is divided by 200 ft² (figuring a typical parking spot is 10' x 20') to obtain the minimum number of spaces. But the other part of the rule is that parking spaces should be determined by use, which would seem to give the PC the authority to raise or lower the number. However the Events Room will accommodate 150 people, who might arrive in as many as 100 cars.

The available area has a shape that lends itself to differently shaped parking spaces; by changing them to 9' by

22.2', two additional spaces might fit behind the building. At the same time the drawing showed a lot that was essentially paved-over, leaving no room for landscaping. Don Tritch, representing PABI's building committee, said he would like the PC to accept fewer than the 17 spaces they calculate would be the minimum number so PABI could add some landscaping and create a more appealing site.

The Planning Commission sympathized with this idea, although it could not commit itself at this preliminary point. The Chairman, John Fiegen, remarked that he wished they could expand on a phrase mandating them to "preserve Beaver Island's character" by letting aesthetics influence their decisions. "We can require the proper size and height and setbacks," he said, "but if someone builds an ugly building, we've taken a step backwards. Particularly in the MR zone around the band of harbor. That really bothers me."

(Notes: The MR zone runs from Main Street to the harbor's edge. The site plan above shows the parking requirement, but is not necessarily the final plan.)

PABI says Thanks

The Events Committee would like to give a huge round of applause to all those who made our Las Vegas Night such a success.

First of all, to those gamblers who braved the snowstorm to venture out. We hope you had a great time.

Also to all the workers: bartenders, waitresses, dealers, etc. – all the 20-odd people it took to make this event happen. Thank you so much.

To all the businesses and to the individuals who donated such superb auction items.

And last but not least, to Pat Rowley, for acquiring the lion's share of the auction items, and to John Fiegen, for his auctioning expertise. We couldn't have done it without each one of you!

–Sue Welke, Lisa Gillespie,
and Joan LaFreniere

Successful Deer Hunter Report

Beginning October 1, 2003 the Beaver Island Wildlife Club has sponsored a Successful Hunter Contest. Any licensed hunter with a legally tagged deer was eligible to win a 12-gauge shotgun by checking in their deer at one of the four sites on the Island. Even though the contest will run until the end of December 2003, we have some preliminary information.

Records show:

Number of deer taken – **177**

Number of does – **84**

Number of bucks – **93**

Bucks with 2 points – **25**

Bucks with 3 points – **10**

Bucks with 4 points – **11**

Bucks with 5 points – **6**

Bucks with 6 points – **13**

Bucks with 7 points – **9**

Bucks with 8 points – **18**

At the same time we have been engaged in obtaining deer biological data for the DNR that will be used to determine the health and status of our whitetail herd. Stats were gathered on age, sex, spikes, left and right diameter of antler beams in mm, total points, har-

vest date, season, and location. Jeff Powers who recorded information on 89 deer took most of this information.

Of interest is the following information:

1. The greatest number of points on any deer was 8
2. The ages of these 8 point deer ranged from 1 ½ to 7 ½
3. There was one 1 ½ year old who had 8 points
4. There were two 1 ½ year olds who had 6 points

Conclusions have not been drawn on this information. We will be meeting with the DNR in the near future to discuss this matter.

The club has corn available for supplementing food for the wild turkey. If you know of a flock and are willing to feed on a daily basis, please call Mark LaFreniere at 448-2220 and he will arrange to supply you with feed. The corn is for feeding wild turkeys only, and should not be used for deer.

Next meeting of the club is January 8, 2004. Please try to attend. We will be holding the annual election of officers. We meet at 7:30 p.m. at the St. James Fire hall. – Lois Williams

Changes at the Chamber

Chamber of Commerce Director Steve West recently said that three seats on the Chamber Board will be open. Any member in good standing can be nominated – in writing by January 5th, to have ballots ready by January 25th. The Chamber is teaming up with the

Charlevoix C of C to purchase a full page in the WMTA magazine. And the *Citizen of the Year* award will be split into two awards in 2004 – one for an individual, and the other for a group. Nominating forms will be available at the Chamber office in early February.

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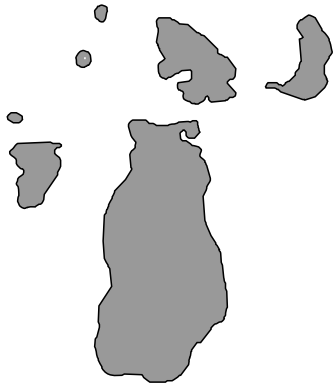
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The Helen N, an Island-built Boat

Seeing the new ice grow along the big lake's shores and cover the inland lakes brought to mind one of the many tales about how dangerous it can be. This one concerns Israel Nedeau, who moved his family to Beaver Island in 1909. He had heard the fishing was good, and so it was. However eight years later he returned to Muskegon, where his brother Steve got him a job as a machinist for the railroad.

Three years later, in 1920, Israel and Steve, with a third brother, Harvey, decided to go into commercial fishing. Needing a boat, they bought the *Blue Finn*, but soon became disenchanted with its cantankerous engine. After much discussion they agreed to have Israel's Beaver Island friend Gus Mielke build them a new boat. People were still talking about the wonderful job Gus and his partner John Roen had done building the freight-hauling *Rambler*.

The new, 44' fishing boat, which they named the *Helen N* after Harvey's daughter, was a beauty to behold when she was finished in 1922. She was built of oak, and equipped with a reliable Kahlenberg steam engine. She incorporated a new design, which proved so successful that it is still used today. Instead of an open deck on the bow and catwalks on the sides of the cabin, the cabin was widened to the sides, and the bow was sloped up to within a foot of the roof, leaving only enough room for a small windshield. With tightly sealed doors she was a

much better challenge to the elements.

For a few years the Nedeau brothers lived typical fishermen's lives: day after day of backbreaking work to supply the Chicago market with whitefish at five cents a pound, but no more than the usual travail. Then on Tuesday, January 26, 1926, the *Helen N* got caught up in an historic "unfortunate incident." At 7:00 a.m. she left the dock with another tug, the *Indian*, for the fishing grounds. The barometer was falling, indicating a storm was on its way, but Israel and Steve were sure they could lift their nets and get back before it hit.

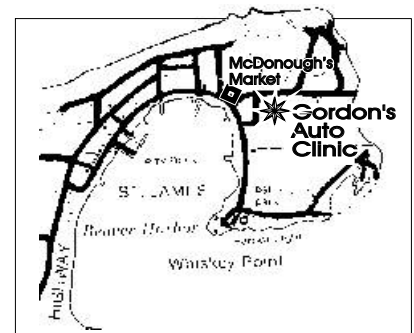
Early in the afternoon the gale hit and snow started to fall. The two tugs turned toward port, but the wind was against them and the thick slush ice began to churn, making progress impossible. The Coast Guard could see their distress, and kept watch. At supper time, with the two tugs stuck in place, the Coast Guard captain, George Gatfield, got in touch with Captain Stufflebeam of the *Alabama*, a large freight and passenger vessel tied up at a local dock. Within the hour the trapped tugs began sending distress signals, prompting Shuffebeam to try going to their rescue. The *Alabama* was able to make the channel, but the gale had reached 56 mph, and the growing and restless ice field impeded further progress.

During the night the two tugs drifted slowly south. At 1:00 a.m. the Coast Guard took its Lyle gun to the

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adjacent beach and tried to fire them a line, but its 600-yard reach fell far short. The blizzard soon worsened, throwing a curtain around the tugs, so the Coast Guardsmen went back to the station.

In the morning the tugs were seen a mile off shore and two miles farther south. The *Indian*, owned by the Jensen brothers (who had seen plenty of rough days on Garden Island), had a steel skin to help withstand the squeeze of the ice, but the *Helen N* was unprotected wood, and the families of its four-man crew began to worry.

The temperature dropped below zero, and the wind and snow increased. By the afternoon of the following day they had been pushed another mile south by the ice. There were two potential rescue boats docked at Grand Haven, but they were held in port by the mounting ice.

Paralyzed, the Coast Guard stated that it did not believe the boats were in any great danger – unless they got crushed. But the families of the eight men on board were not so sure. Some of them set up a camp on the beach and kept moving it south as the tugs continued to drift. From what they could see in Wednesday's dwindling light, the ice that had trapped them was also protecting them from the full brunt of the sea.

Thursday brought the end of the food and fuel on the trapped tugs. One of the men on the *Indian* was so fed up that he announced he was going to jump over and hop from cake to cake until he reached the shore. His friends tried to dissuade him, but couldn't. Miraculously he reached land after several hours – but no one on board knew, because the snow was so thick.

This man reported that conditions on board were growing dire, so Major Lamphier was inveighed to fly west from Selfridge Field to conduct an air drop of supplies. Late Thursday the car ferry *Grand Haven* finally made it out of port and began cutting its way towards a rescue. It got close enough to be able to pass some food to the *Indian*, but then it became stuck as well. Now

there were three trapped in the ice.

The men on the *Helen N* had some timbers on board and tried to use them to brace against the ice – to no avail. Sometime during the night the heaving of the sea lifted her up and sat her on top of the ice. At first the men were alarmed, but then they realized they had just been saved from the greatest threat: being squeezed to death. When Friday dawned they climbed onto the ice to check out the boat – and discovered that their rudder had been torn away.

Unbeknownst to them, two Douglas Army transports had arrived from Selfridge and were loading the ten-pound relief packages. Early Friday the air-drop began. The supplies landed close enough for the men to retrieve: food, and, equally important, coal. They scrambled back into the ship and feasted on what they claimed was the best meal of their lives.

Having had a decent meal, the men were hopeful when Saturday arrived. Conditions had improved, and the *Alabama* could leave port – but she needed 20' of depth, and the trapped tugs had blown too close to shore for her to operate. So the men had to wait for a wind to blow them further out.

On Sunday morning the mighty *Alabama* steamed out of port and cut a channel to the *Grand Haven* and the *City of Milwaukee*, which had also tried to help but become stuck. Then the *Indian* was freed. The *Helen N* had to be pulled off the ice shelf, which was done without difficulty. Then the *Indian* towed her into port, tying up in the middle of Sunday afternoon.


In a few days the rudder was replaced, and the Nedeau brothers were back in the fishing business. But time took its inevitable toll, and by 1939 this proud boat had reached a point of decline where it could no longer be used. It was allowed to sit for awhile and then gradually sank to the bottom, its inevitable end brought on sooner by five full days of having its frame wracked by the unrelenting force of ice whose deadly grip she certainly well remembered.



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'Twas the Week before Christmas, and all through the Hall

On December 18th the school outdid itself again with its presentation of a Christmas pageant featuring much splendid singing and dancing. The program opened with three numbers by the Tappers, including a solo by tap teacher Signe' Thomas. With every performance of this hard-working group they seem to

show more self-confidence and love of their art, as well as a cohesiveness reflected in the subtle cues they gave each other during their dance.

The second phase of the show featured six kindergarteners energetically delivering Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer while exemplifying this trait with

reindeer-ear hats and painted noses. Next up, eleven 5th and 6th graders presented Famous Americans' Wishes, which they researched and wrote. Each took a turn telling the audience which personage they were and what they hoped would come to pass in the future: stylized variants on the universal desire





for freedom, liberty, and respect.

Everyone present was amazed by the next act, a solo of *O Holy Night* by Danielle Cary, accompanied by Judi Meister on the piano. Beaver Island has a long tradition of great singers, and the way Danielle hit every note and held it with both a crystal purity and surprising

power puts her right at the top of the list.

The extended final phase involved the twenty-one member 1st through 4th grade choir, expertly coached by Mike Myers. It's a mystery how he could get this large group to show such enthusiasm while maintaining control, but they did; their movement, their emotion, and

their voices were perfectly coordinated as they went through a repertoire of songs and interspersed poems. For the final two numbers they were joined by four members of the Student Council, leaving the large crowd with a smile on their faces and a song in their hearts as they wended their way home.



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News from the Townships

St. James Township, 12-3-2003

Preliminary remarks at the St. James Township Board's December meeting indicated that the head of the Tri-county Emergency Plan would be on the Island in January to help us create a plan for coping with an emergency, terrorist-sponsored or otherwise. Rick Speck was appointed at the St. James representative to the BIRHC Board for another year. Supervisor Don Vyse noted that his letter to Peaine requesting consideration of the tax inequity had not been answered. He also revealed that the town sewer was out of operation because it had been hit by lighting.

A response from the Township Attorney to PABI's request for a well on township land was read. The attorney pointed out that the road right-of-way could not be used for a connection, so that easements would be required from intervening land owners. He asked if such a well would advance the township's long-term interests, and if the value of township property would be enhanced or reduced. He indicated that even though PABI is a community-oriented agency, it is a private entity, and there are strict rules prohibiting a township from acting in such a way that the only benefit is to a private entity. For these reasons the Board was not inclined to grant PABI's request.

The Township's ordinances (nuisance, parking, yacht dock, and bike path) will be amended to allow one person to serve as an Ordinance Enforcement Officer for all of them. When the Township Attorney reported that in most cases the supervisor serves as the OEO, Don Vyse offered to fill that (unpaid) position so long as Clerk Jean Palmer would serve as his deputy.

Three students from the School (Danielle Cary, Barry McDonough, and Rachel McDonough) appeared to ask for support for their project of sprucing up the deteriorating scoreboard and the storage building at the Bud McDonough Ball Diamond. They needed help purchasing materials (mainly paint, for about \$245); the Township agreed.

Connie Wojan, representing BIRHC, asked the Township for permission to submit a grant request to the Grand Traverse Tribal Council, seeking help moving to the new facility and then equipping the Community Room. She said at least one other grant request would be generated by the Island-Joe Moore's, for help equipping the air-evac plane—but Gerald LaFreniere had told her that both groups should go ahead. A resolution of support was passed.

A presentation was made by Jane McKenzie of the Northern Homes Community Development Corporation, who was working with Pete LoDico's Senior Housing initiative. She said that her non-profit agency (created by Northern Lakes Economic Alliance) has built 75 units in northern Michigan, including 46 in Petoskey and, most recently, 11 in Bellaire. She and Pete were hoping to find funding for a plan based on Bellaire's, but for an initial stage of two units (they can build one unit for every two concrete requests; in response to a survey, there were 5 concrete requests among 15 positive responses.) Her agency would own the building(s) on BICDC land (deeded to the Community Development Council by the BIRHC) and manage it (them) through a local site manager. Her hope was that once they get started, 6 units (3 duplexes) might appear in the next few years—all accessed by an independent driveway and separate parking lot opposite Stoney Acres.

For this approach to work, a P.I.L.O.T. (payment in lieu of taxes) ordinance had to be approved. This would allow the project to receive tax credits from the state, which it would then parlay into construction funds from a consortium of northern Michigan resources. Ironically, the project would have to give up its tax-exempt status and begin paying an annual "service charge" to St. James Township in order to obtain the funds it needs to come into existence. After digesting this the Board passed the ordinance, subject to approval by the Township Attorney.

Peaine Township, 12-10-2003:

The same three BIHS students who appeared at the St. James meeting also appeared before the Peaine Board with the same request: almost \$250, matching St. James, for materials for sprucing up the Ball Diamond. They explained that this was part of the school's new in-service learning program, which teaches life skills and also requires them to do two hours of community service work a week. They said that even though the Ball Diamond is owned by St. James, it is used by both townships for summer-long games (and by the Lighthouse School.) They said new Island contractor Ryan Smith had agreed to supervise them, and the school would cover any liability.

Paul Nelson, Peaine's representative on the BIRHC Board, asked for a resolution supporting a grant request to the Grand Traverse Bay Tribe for multi-media equipment, a new copier, help with the T-1 line, and help moving the X-ray machine and other equipment to the new facility, a request expected to be for about \$35,000. After the resolution was passed, Paul was appointed to serve another term with the BIRHC.

A letter to the Board concerning the BIRHC's behavior was read into the minutes by Terry Saxton. In addition to revisiting the Open Meetings Act and terming our current employment of only one practitioner a contract violation, its import was that suggestions from the public had not been given much weight. He said the building was too large (and was appalled that not all the BIRHC Board members knew how big it actually was), the siding too expensive, and now the choice of propane for heat was going to cost the Island community much more than if fuel oil had been selected. He pointed out that even GLE (the propane supplier) used fuel oil for providing electricity to the Island in its generators. In the discussion that followed, a case was made that heating with propane costs 80% more than with fuel oil. The propane-only furnaces are in place, but have not

been fired, so they could be sent back with only a restocking charge, and fuel oil furnaces obtained.

An additional concern was that mistakes that may have been made in the creation of the new Health Center could be made with the new Peaine Township Fire Hall. "I don't want the Fire Barn to be another white elephant," Terry Saxton said. Bud Martin thought the current plan was excessive, especially since money will have to be borrowed to get it built. But supervisor Works, who once again ran an even-handedly controlled meeting, replied that none of the firemen thought it was big enough. He said the plan had been determined three and four years ago by a task force including members of the Fire Department and the EMS. He added that he had called the architect and asked specifically about the intended source of heat, filling him in on our prices for the two fuels. He also revealed that plans are afoot to house the second Deputy here.

Treasurer Tina Morgan said there were 24 delinquent personal property tax bills whose recipients had not taken advantage of her offered period of grace. The MTA told her to get an attorney's opinion on how to proceed, and she had followed the Township Attorney's advice by directing him to write threatening notices to each delinquency. If all were settled, she said, the revenue going to the School alone would be about \$8,700.

Moondance returns to Arranmore

We travel to Arranmore next week (12-8) for 4-5 days. Thursday/Friday consists of location shots. Friday night, music session. Saturday interviews with locals and Sunday reenactments: evictions, leaving on the 'youl' boats to the mainland, and the long walk to Donegal town. We also have the co-operation of the newly-reconstructed famine ship (which cost 12 million to build), the *Jeanie Johnstown*, for onboard reenactments and departure of the ship. It's presently docked in Dublin port.

— Shane Brennan

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Charlevoix County Commissioners

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met at 3:00 p.m. on **November 12, 2003** in Charlevoix. All Commissioners were present.

Minutes of the October 22, 2003 meeting were approved as corrected.

Motion approved purchase of laptop for the Treasurer's office.

Motion approved Resolution #03-081, Support Cooperative Extension.

Motion approved Resolution #03-082, Grandvue Operating Transfer and authorized the Treasurer to make this

transfer.

Motion approved Resolution #03-083, EOC Mutual Aid Agreement for Emergency Services between Charlevoix, Cheboygan and Emmet Counties, and authorized the Chairman to sign said document.

Motion approved Resolution #03-084, P.A.'s Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Contract and authorized the Chairman to execute the contract.

Motion approved Resolution #03-085, FOC's Title IV-D Cooperative Reim-

bursment and authorized the Chairman to execute the contract.

Motion approved Resolution #03-086, Building Inspection File Cabinet Purchase.

Motion approved Resolution #03-087, Purchase of InfoGeographics GeoConnector software and an AutoCad 2004 Map Upgrade.

Motion approved Resolution #03-088, Aerial Imagery Grant Request and authorized the Chairman to sign said applications.

Motion approved Resolution #03-89, 2003/04 P.A. 511 Agreement and authorized the Chairman to sign said applications.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met again at 3:00 p.m. on **December 10, 2003** in Charlevoix. All Commissioners were present.

Minutes of the November 12, 2003 meeting were approved by consensus.

Motion confirmed the appointment of Corrine Russell to the Commission on Aging.

Motion confirmed the appointment of Tom Wieland and Bob Draves to the Planning Commission.

Motion confirmed the appointment of Louis McKenzie to the Veteran's Affairs Board.

Motion confirmed the appointment of W.R. Frykberg to the Economic Alliance Board. Chairman Frykberg abstained from voting.

Motion confirmed the appointment of Gary Osterbeck to the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance.

Motion confirmed the appointment of Vic Patrick to the R. C. & D. Council.

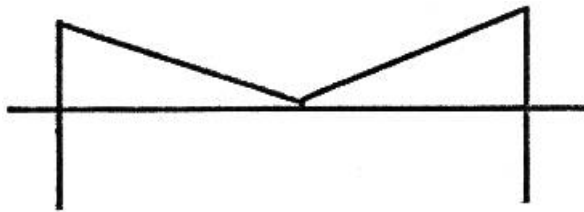
Motion confirmed the appointment of Lenore Senter to the Fair Board.

Motion approved Resolution #03-090, Amended Resolution to form The North Country Community Mental Health Authority.

Motion approved Resolution #03-091, Sane Interlocal Agreement.

Motion approved Resolution #03-092, Application for Funds. The Sheriff's Dept. wants to apply for gaming funds available through the Tribal Council to

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use for software and computer for evidence collection and measurement. Chairman Frykberg to sign any documents for these funds.

Motion approved Resolution #03-093, Application for Funds. The Sheriff's Dept. wants to apply for gaming funds available through the Tribal Council to use for Infant and Child Safety Restraint seats. Chairman Frykberg to sign any necessary documents for these funds.

Motion approved Resolution #03-094, Gladys S. Smith Appreciation, for her many years of dedicated service to the County of Charlevoix as a member on the Commission on Aging Board.

Motion approved Resolution #03-095, Robert Potter Appreciation, for his many years of dedicated service to the County of Charlevoix as a member on the Commission on Aging Board.

Motion approved Resolution #03-096, Grandvue Operating Transfer and authorized the Treasurer to make this transfer.

Motion approved Resolution #03-097, Award Proposal. Design Proposal for a park for Thumb Lake awarded to Gosling Czubak to do engineering estimates.

Motion approved Resolution #03-098, Court Appointed Attorney Contract Amendment.

Replacement of Attorney Thomas Schraw with Attorney Robert Banner for the years 2004, 2005, 2006.

Motion approved Resolution #03-099, Probate Court Phone System.

Motion approved Resolution #03-100, Application For Funds. The Charlevoix Area Hospital wants to apply for gaming funds available through the Tribal Council to use for cardiac rehab area. Chairman Frykberg to sign any necessary documents for these funds.

Motion approved Resolution #03-101, Application for Funds. The Charlevoix Humane Society wants to apply for gaming funds available through the Tribal Council to use for a publishing quality copier for producing newsletters. Chairman Frykberg to sign any necessary documents for these funds.

Motion approved Resolution #03-102, Marine Grant Application and authorized the Sheriff to sign.

Motion approved Resolution #03-103, Remonumentation Grant Application and authorized the Clerk as Grant Administrator to sign said application.

Motion approved Resolution #03-104, Surveyor Contracts. Authorized Chairman to sign said contracts as soon as notification from State is received.

Motion confirmed appointment of Ron Reinhardt to the Northern Michigan Substance Abuse Services Board.

Motion approved advertising for an IT position. Mary Beth Kur will do the

wording so it will be known that this position may not be funded.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting. — Jane E. Brannon, County Clerk

New Year's Eve Party

Don't miss the Beaver Island Fire Department Auxiliary's New Year's Eve Dance, 7:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. Free will donation with a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres, and DJ. School age kids are invited with an adult from 7:00 - 9:00 (9:00 - 2:00 for those 18 and older.)

Bring your sweetheart!

The Beaver Island Club of Grand Rapids welcomes our friends and family to the

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Santa Arrives

Twelve days before Christmas all the Island children who had worried some fluke in the weather would keep Santa away were able to set their minds at rest. And because he knew the prospect of his arrival had raised so many doubts, he brought along his wife, Mrs. Claus, for good measure.

He held court at the Emerald Isle Hotel, where the AmVets provided hot dogs and punch to fortify the supplicants before they climbed on The Knee and revealed the extent of their aspirations. Happy elves guided the guests to

the makeshift dining room and then up to the third-floor lounge, where the Clauses had plunked down by the fireplace. Gifts were distributed, and Denny Fisher handed out polaroid pictures of the excited kids.

There was a brief moment of concern when Mrs. Claus looked up from the notebook where she was furiously scribbling down everyone's wishes and said, "Hold on, I'm confused; who gets the pony, and who in the heck gets the thumbscrews?"

The big surprise was not that so

many munchkins appeared, but that a dozen adults also availed themselves of the opportunity to whisper their wishes into the Royal Ear. One of them, a long-time Island woodsmith, plunked himself down squarely on The Lap and said, "Listen, Santa, I imagine you get pretty tired of just hearing what everyone else wants, so I've come to tell you some stories instead." So for the next several minutes Santa took his delight in being regaled by one of Phil Gregg's much-treasured *Beaver Tales*.

But that's another story.

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Letters to the Editor: Heating the new Health Center

To the Directors of the BIRHC Board, December 15, 2003: The CCG expressed a concern over the fact that the BIRHC approved the highest of the propane bids as the supplier of heating fuel for the Health Center. Upon further review, the CCG has a greater concern over the fuel type selected, propane vs. fuel oil.

Based on the current and future financial concerns for operating the new Health Center, the CCG would offer this for consideration:

1. BTUs being the energy measurement, heating oil contains 140,000 BTU's per gallon compared to 91,300 BTUs per gallon for propane. Fuel oil is 53.34% more efficient than propane.
2. Fuel oil consistently sells for 10-20 cents less per gallon than propane.
3. Combine these two facts and for every \$2000 spent on propane it would have cost only \$1000 for fuel oil. If the annual estimated cost of propane for the new Health Center is \$10,000 to \$12,000 for propane, it would be an annual savings of \$5,000 to \$6,000 with fuel oil.
4. Additionally, fuel oil is a safer product with regard to explosion and possible carbon monoxide poisoning. EPA data indicates that fuel oil, with modern equipment, burns

as clean as propane and has no greater impact on our environment.

Based on the above, making a decision to go with fuel oil vs. propane could have a significant year-after-year financial savings to our Health Center.

The CCG would ask that this letter be read and discussed at the January BIRHC Board meeting. We would ask that the decision to continue with propane and its cost implications be discussed with the possibility of the Board reversing its earlier decision.

If the decision is made prior to firing up the propane furnace, the equipment can be exchanged for a fuel oil furnace with all related costs added to construction costs and use of the \$200,000 balance on the original \$1.5 million. If the fuel oil equipment is not available until the boat runs, not heating the new Health Center for this winter would add to the savings.

— Kirk D. McBride; Chair, CCG

BIRHC Response:

The decision concerning the type of fuel to be used to heat the new Health Center was made early last summer. At that time the one and only fuel oil supplier to Beaver Island was approached and told that a decision would be made soon concerning type of fuel. Despite this notification, that supplier never submitted a fuel oil proposal to any

BIRHC Board member. Unsolicited bidding is not an uncommon practice should a supplier wish to exercise that option. The Board's Construction Committee had discussed alternative fuels for several months. The decision to go with propane was influenced by the reliability of supply, as well as comparative price and having more than one supplier from whom to solicit bids. Based on this decision, propane furnaces have already been fully installed in the new building.

The decision to select the propane supplier was thoroughly discussed during the October 21st, 2003 BIRHC Board Meeting, which was well attended by the public. The Board considered the competing propane bids and voted to award the contract to Great Lakes Energy, who had offered to run a gas line free of charge to the new building, eliminating the need for a large tank onsite and all installation costs. That gas line has already been run.

Price relationships between various sources of energy vary widely over time. Therefore, the BIRHC Board has a letter of understanding with Great Lakes Energy which stipulates that after one year the fuel supplier matter will be reviewed. The decision will then be made on whether or not to continue the present arrangements based on the conditions at that time.

— Connie Wojan, President, BIRHC

BIRHC Thanks Those who Helped with the Annual Appeal

The entire BIRHC Board would like to thank all those who helped get out our very important Annual Appeal letter. Through the efforts of Angel Welke and crew, Brenda LeFevre, Krys Lyle, Tammy McDonough, and Marylee Pischner, over 1300 letters were mailed during the first week of December. Many hands definitely made a tedious job go much faster.

Also thanks to Mr. Kirk McBride and the CCG for their recent \$100 donation to the Health Center. The Board appreciates the gesture of good will this donation symbolizes. — Connie Wojan



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Letters: Freedom to Shop

I received a phone call the other day that really upset me to no end. We had made a large purchase from the mainland and the purpose of this call was to make me feel ashamed. Like most people on the Island who live on a fixed income, I wanted to save money and make every penny count. If this is a crime, then "Lord Help Us!" We feel as though we should not be chastised by the local merchants for extending our income by trying to save a little money. We feel we make enough purchases here on the Island and when we can save money by purchasing across we do.

The last time we looked, Beaver Island is still part of the United States and its freedoms. Therefore we should not be made to feel guilty for trying to save a buck. So I am airing my concerns and disappointment and hopefully I'll feel better.

— Mike & Sharon Hurkmans

Apology to North Flight

I wish to apologize for providing incorrect information about the North Flight Air Ambulance fees. The correct fees are \$2950 for emergency transport plus \$30 per loaded mile. North Flight EMS has my complete respect for a very professional service provided throughout northern Michigan.

— Joe Moore

Editor's Note:

North Flight also responded to the comparison with Island Airway's typical 30-minute emergency departure time and under-\$500 cost (as reported in the October *Beacon*), saying their records show they "average under 45 minutes from request to take-off. Our last two calls from Beaver Island had 60 minutes and 51 minutes between request and landing at your airport." They noted that the decision where to transport a patient is never up to them. "The FARs require the base of the cloud layer over Beaver to be 600', with visibility of 1 mile. At Charlevoix the FAR is 700'; Pellston, Marquette, and Traverse City have minimums down to 200' and ½ mile. We stand ready to serve any medical emergency requiring transport."

—Bill Biggar and
Carol Smith, North Flight

The CCBS

The Beaver Island Southenders would like to announce the formation of the Chuckhole and Chatter Bump Preservation Society. New members will need to have a keen interest in how to preserve these road conditions.

We already have two candidates for honorary membership (men who currently work for the Charlevoix County Road Commission.) They have done an excellent job all summer maintaining, in original condition, the Chuck Holes at the Jordan River curves and Nomad's Corner, and preserving the Chatter Bumps on the lower portion of the East Side Drive.

Another candidate was submitted but quickly rejected for putting his blade down below the troughs in Chatter Bump Valley, producing smooth roads that lasted for weeks. Not surprisingly he is no longer working for the CCRC.

— TS

Geography Bee Returns

Once again our 5th through 8th graders get to answer the always-pressing question of, "Dude, where you at?" The public is invited to see them try—on Tuesday, January 13th at the School at 7:00 p.m. Moderator John Fiegen will do his best to keep the action fast and furious as our "voyagers of the imagination" compete for the right to move to the next stage.

"Lucky" shares his Thoughts

First snow
Time to go

On Trees: What with human activity, and high winds, the Island lost a number of large signature trees. Enjoy the ones that are left. When the wind generators come, we could paint them to look like white pines.

On Blacktop: At the rate this is being applied, soon all of St. James Township will be paved – except, of course, for the public roads.

On Celebration: A truly vintage year for parties; too many to mention them all. I Bit the Beaver with the third coast; there was talk of the Bliss – next year. The Johnny Cash Memorial night at the *Beachcomber* had a golden glow. Thankfully the fudge is on hold. The week with Moondance was Homeric: the House Party was classic; all the Five Families were there.

— MT

Grandparents' Day

This year's "Grandparents Day" took a new approach: using substitute grandparents so every student had one at the recent sumptuous feast at school. Everything worked out well, thanks to Pinky Harmon and John Fiegen's organizing efforts, Kathy Speck's MCing, and the caroling support provided by musicians Patti Cull, Laraine Dawson, Judi Meister, and Joe Moore.



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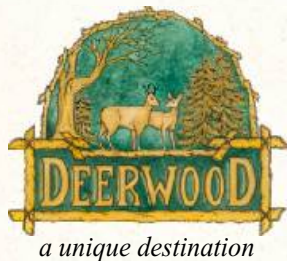
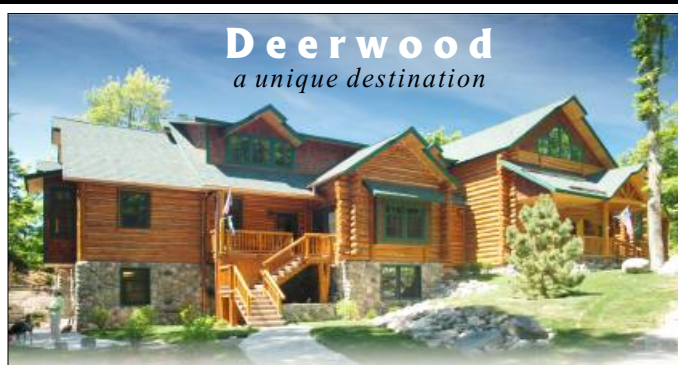
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The Cantata Returns

In early December the long hours put in by the Community Choir really paid off with the double presentation of a Christmas program, *The Promise of a King*, at the Christian Church. After opening renditions of Christmas songs by students at the school, followed by a violin solo by Joe Moore, the full choir took the stage. They were capably backed up by drums, piano, organ, trumpet, clarinet, euphonium, flute, violin, and bass guitar, but there was such harmony uniting their strong voices that nothing else would have been required. Their cycle of songs (including the much-enjoyed *Mary Did*



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You Know), in combination with readings by Pinky Harmon, did a wonderful job of telling the Christmas story. Particularly appreciated were Kathy Speck's adroit direction, the professional guidance of the three Scripps brothers, and the two fine solos, by Jane Bailey and Brenda LeFevre.

As the audience slowly filtered out afterwards, savoring their enjoyment, more than a few expressed the hope that the divisiveness that has been such a prominent feature in the past half year would be ameliorated by the cohesiveness of this 40+-member musical group.



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On This Date

Ten Years Ago: The *Beacon* included a history of the Post Office (which had just changed its name and operator) put together by Phil Gregg. The building was built, in one week, by Johnny Greene in 1904, and served as a saloon – the Silver Top Saloon, run by Willie Boyle. Silver Top beer was served on the first floor, but the card players up above could get their drinks in a box pulled through a hole in the floor by a rope. The bar was put out of business by Prohibition in 1918. It became a tailor shop for awhile – Frank Nackerman got his first pair of long pants there. When the tailor left, it became a Post Office in 1923, with Willie Boyle appointed Postmaster. He held the position until Frank Nackerman took over in 1939.

News appeared of the passing of Frank's wife, Grace (Campbell) Nackerman, 87. She lived on Beaver Island for 65 years, including 20 spent as postal clerk.

Jene Casper wrote a letter thanking the EMS for their prompt, courteous, and effective help; her husband Ed had called them about her sudden stomach pain.

Russ Green was profiled, recounting his childhood on the Green farm, his

service in Korea, his courting of Joy McDonough, and his putting all eight of their children through school. His retirement was commemorated in a poem by Bea Ransom, with this first stanza:

*For many years you've sailed the lake,
But now you say you're done.
We'll miss your warm and friendly smile
When you've made your final run.*

The marriage of Kathleen Green to Dana Dvoracek of Charlevoix was announced.

In the Peaine Township minutes, mention was made of a thank-you letter written by Phil Lange of the Medical Center for "the loan needed to carry out its fiscal year."

Twenty Years Ago: The *Beacon* reprinted James Pooler's 1954 Detroit Free Press story, "When Santa Missed the Boat for Beaver Island." Part of the story recounts the exploits of Frank Left's horse Queenie, who had a magical sense of how to cross the ice safely.

In Township news, Darrell Butler suggested that St. James install two independent bubbler systems at the Yacht Dock so they can be alternated and better maintained. The proposed pur-

chase of two lots at Iron Ore Bay could not be put to a vote until March. The GAO offered to sell the Whiskey Point Boat House. The Fire Department bought a second-hand paging system from Northville. Jon Bonadeo asked that Main Street south of Bonner Street (the playground) be improved because he has property that would benefit from this access. Other property owners in the area, namely the Fitzpatricks and Evan Karnes, objected to any improvement. The St. James Board declined, noting that a rough trail exists for access and the limited road funds should be used for more crucial projects.

The Civic Association again made plans to hold Winter Games – with the added event of snowshoe softball.

Heavy snow kept the Airport closed the three days prior to Christmas. Quite a crowd of Islanders developed in Charlevoix, all wanting to come home; the one coming the longest distance, only to be stopped 32 miles short, was Ray Cole from Barrow, Alaska. When the weather broke at 11:00 a.m. on Christmas morning, a hooray went up from the mainland that was heard all the way here.

The New Year's Eve party at the Parish Hall featured music from Ed Palmer, Dan and Rich Gillespie, Randy Osborne, and John McCafferty. Another favorite Island band, including Joe Moore, Rick Delamater, Joe Cunningham, and Gwen and Matt Marston, entertained those who went to the Shamrock.

Joe and Tim Timsak were headed down the King's Highway in a pick-up, until Joe heard a funny sound and asked his dad to stop. When Tim applied the brakes, the truck tipped. Climbing out, they discovered a wheel had come off a mile back, but the vehicle drove fine on three until the brakes were put on.

Lynn Ann McDonough and Greg Cary were married; Diane Wojan and Rich Scripps were married; and Laura Esch and Rich Gillespie were engaged.

The passing of William J. Carnes, 91, was noted. He was the grandson of Lamus O'Donnell, heir to the O'Donnell castle. Lamus came to Beaver and settled near Beaver Head, and then bought 40 acres on Sloptown. A daughter met

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James Carnes in Chicago; they married, and their third son William J, a violin prodigy, was a frequent visitor to the Island – sometimes arriving on what was thought to be the first motorcycle here. He played at several dances on a fiddle borrowed from Ellie Raymond, and also helped the fishermen tune their engines. In 1917 he married Sylvia Senderburgh (Joe M'Fro's sister.)

Thirty Years Ago: The Beaver Island Boat Company announced the purchase of a 2nd boat, the *South Shore*, a sturdy if slow 65-footer, from Put-in Bay.

The Game Club issued its hunting wrap-up: 30 deer taken, but better luck was had with grouse and rabbits. For rabbits, Melvin Napont was acknowledged as being the Island's top hunter. Bill Wagner again spearheaded a timber cutting to provide habitat for the deer. The coyote population was said to be low.

Passings noted included Bert McDonough, who was born here in 1898 and served at Beaver Head Lighthouse; John R. Martin, known as "Big Dick," a commercial fisherman; and Ted Hine, who had helped bring power and telephone to the Island. Word reached Beaver of the engagement of Elaine Pike to Steve West, breaking several hearts.

On New Year's Eve, two of the five Coast Guards stationed at Lansing Shoal decided to come to Beaver to see the new year in. They set off at 4:30 p.m. in a 16' open boat powered by a double set of oars. Unfortunately they became lodged in drift ice off the north shore of Garden. Word went out from Lansing Shoals to the Charlevoix post, which alerted Deputy Sheriff Bill Welke. Even though the temperature had dropped to 12 degrees, there was nothing Bill could do until first light. As soon as he could, he hopped in his plane, found them, and called the Coast Guard, which dispatched a helicopter. The men, Lyle Hansberger and David White, were treated for exposure in the hospital and released.

Buz Anderson was dealt a perfect cribbage hand in a match with Topper McDonough, Bert's son.

Father Herbert thanked the Beaver

Island Club of Grand Rapids for three kind donations, to the Church, the Medical Center, and the cemetery.

Forty Years Ago: A white winter was celebrated for providing good rabbit hunting – particularly for Milt Bennet and the Martin boys, Erwin, Ernie, Emmett, and Bud. Plans were made to keep the East Side Road open all the way to Lake Geneserath.

News arrived that Father Roland McCann was installed as pastor of St. Vincent Ferrer's church in mid-town Manhattan. Father McCann was born on Beaver in 1924, served in WW II, and then joined the Dominican Order.

The Coast Guard increased the passenger allowance on the Beaver Islander from 150 to 200.

Bud McDonough was elected President of the Civic Association. Mary Minor became President of the Altar Society.

The Historical Society published its financial statement for the preceding year. Thanks to \$438 in dues, \$253 in admissions, and \$24.25 in donations, it was able to balance its income with its annual expenditure of \$1,484.80.

The Island girls, young and old, went door to door singing Christmas carols once again.

Dr. Haynes decided to repeat the program he started the previous year, in which adults get together every two weeks in the basement of the Medical Center to discuss "topics of interest."

Phil Gregg's Beaver Tales supplement concerned Buffalo Malloy, who was 19 in 1876 and found himself working in a logging camp on the Fox Islands. He could see Beaver on a clear day, where the girl he loved was living. Close to Christmas he decided to go see her – by walking 18 miles across the ice. Ominous cracking began to occur more frequently as he neared Beaver Head Light. Noticing that the ice was only an inch thick, he decided the only thing to do was to lie down to distribute his weight. Not wanting to spend days lying there as the ice thickened, he tried rolling, and quickly learned he could roll quite well. He rolled until he reached some snow-covered ice and then stood, discovering the Lighthouse was not far away. He walked to shore, and then on to Nomad, where his sister lived. Unfortunately, she ruined his day by telling him the girl he loved had despaired of seeing him and had just married another man. After he got over his grief he married Bridget Boyle, and they raised 12 Beaver Islanders.



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Time's "Man of the Year" visits Beaver Island

On December 23rd sixty people braved a bitter night to attend a presentation at the school by MSG Ron Gregg, son of Lil and Phil and brother to Phyllis and Ruth, on his experience in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Ron has been in the service for seventeen years, but grew up on Beaver Island which is why so many friends – and the fire trucks – greeted his arrival. Just back from an extended tour in Iraq, his wife and children sat nearby as he showed two moving films created by he and his friends, and then answered questions.

He described having faced dangers from within as well as from without: on the night when he happened to be looking up as two patriot missiles screamed through the night sky to strike down, in error, a British plane, his camp was fragged by a deranged engineer who

tossed two thermite grenades into a commander's tent, with fatal results.

The films were well-made, with sound tracks put together from the patriotic songs that have lately appeared on Top Ten lists. At the end of the second, a list appeared of the soldiers we have lost in Iraq, with their ages and home towns: the audience cried over so many young men having given their lives.

After the films but before taking questions, Ron distributed some things he had brought back: a hat from the *USS Carlton* for his dad; a flag for Aunt Skip; a rosary for Aunt Joy; a captured Iraqi flag for Big Jim; and, for his mother, the Bronze Star given him for having taken his men over there and brought them all back.

He had a different view of the war from the one we get on TV. "I saw

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enough over there to know that our Commander-in-chief made the right decision," he said. "There was overwhelming support from the people. Much of our work involves rebuilding schools, getting water, turning on the power. The mullahs in charge don't have a clue how things work. We divided up into groups of ten to tackle these problems. Imagine a bunch of 20-year-old Americans soliciting, evaluating, and awarding construction contracts in a foreign land. Yet they rose to it; they did a good job.

"One time we wanted to speak to the cleric in charge of the Golden Mosque of Ali. We called him up, and he said to come right over. So ten of us went in, only to be surrounded by an angry, stone-throwing mob. There was only one thing to do: take a knee, point our barrels at the ground, and smile as if

our life depended on it. It did."

He toured one of Sadaam's palaces overlooking the ruins of Babylon. Even though it had been picked over, the remaining ostentation showed a phenomenal decadence. "Even the lower fixtures on the toilets in the basement were pure gold," he said. "While a mile away, whole families were starving in their dirt-floored huts."

He credited soldiers' training and discipline for America's success. His most rewarding experience? "Seeing young soldiers grow up before my eyes." His greatest challenge? "Keeping up with the young guys. After all, I'm forty years old." Could that be? In many of our minds he was still the helpful boy at Phil's marina – although in every way he was a stirring representative of what is best in our country.



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A Parallel Archipelago

Po to wo ta mie Island affords another instance where the melodious Indian name has been taken off and a soapy sounding, laundry-toned English cognomen substituted therefor. It is now called Washington Island. Many Indian relics are found on the Island, such as arrow and spear heads, tomahawks and grave mounds. In one of these mounds the skeleton of an Indian was found, at the side of which was a copper kettle containing the bones of a duck. No meat was left on the duck's bones, showing that it had been picked very clean.

There are some good farms up here and the Island abounds in game, of which there is a variety. The kind of game that are mostly sought for are porcupines, euchre, deer, ducks, croquet, wild geese and poker. Quite a number of visitors come to Washington Island from southern cities during the berry season and amuse themselves by going into the woods and kicking open ripe wasp nests and having the yellow-

striped seeds fly out and hit them in the face, after which they apply raspberry juice to the spot where the seeds struck and then go back to the city and tell everyone that they became rosy and plump in a few days.

Pilot Island consists of three and a quarter acres of rocks and boulders on which there is an imported croquet ground, a few ornamental trees, a strawberry patch, two fogsirens, a light house, a frame barn, a boat house, and some blue bell-shaped flowers and goldenrods that grow out of niches in the rocks. It lies about two miles east of Plum Island, which is so called because it is plum in the center of Death's Door. This paragraph was written in the tower of Port du Morts light station, which is located here, and I am assisted in throwing light upon the subject by a flash light that cost over seven thousand dollars.

This is truly an isolated spot and some people might call it a very dreary place, but I have now spent five days on

Pilot Island and they are among the happiest days of my eventuality. At sunrise every morning the 1st assistant, Chas. E. Young, would wake us up with an invitation to go bathing. Then the keeper and 2nd assistant and myself would leave our cozy beds, run down with him to the landing, and plunge into the almost ice-cold water. We would swim to the leeward of the Island where the breakers meet as they come from both sides. Every few moments they would crash together and hoist us into the air in the midst of a cloud of foam and spray. Our bathing suits consisted of legless trousers. Being a visitor, I wanted to wear a full suit and have a distinguished appearance, but that was not conventional and so I had to ply the surf in the same manner as the rest of them did.

Midnights are like being in a dream of ideality to walk alone over the moss-covered rocks and listen to the swish of the breakers that crash over the breakwater at the boat landing; hear them



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roaring on all sides of the little Island, and see huge vessels under full sail crossing the moonglade on their way through the Door. One seems to be completely separated from all that is worldly and bad. There is no field for gossip out here. The land is not suitable for general farming purposes, but it is a splendid place to raise an ample crop of good pure thoughts.

One of the fog sirens at this station is an exact duplicate of the one that was on exhibit at the World's Fair held in Paris. Its voice is also the same and it utters the words of its brother verbatim. Its song can be heard at a distance of forty miles, and when it sings all the lights in the signal house must be hung by strings to prevent them from going out. The sound is so intense that no chicken can be hatched on the Island, as the vibration kills them in the egg, and it causes milk to curdle in a few minutes. Visitors at the lighthouse on foggy nights sit up in bed when the siren begins its lay and look around for

their resurrection robes. How I would like to see this fog siren enter into conversation with one of those human objects of charity who possess lips that never lie still. I think that it would prove a cure for gossip.

Spider Island lies away off to the southward from here and looks just like a monstrous spider, on the horizon, with its head about three miles north of here, and is densely covered with timber. With the aid of a powerful telescope belonging to the U. S. Light establishment, Detroit Island can be made so close to appear as though it were only a stone's throw from here, and the names of passing vessels are plainly discerned at a distance of two miles. The barometer at this station has the holosterics, but otherwise it is as true as love between cousins. Well, I must quit for the present, as there is a cricket in my writing desk and I want to pour some oil on it to stop its creaking.

—Ben Faag, *Door County Advocate*,
6 Sept 1890; submitted by Bill Olson

The BIFD Rolls Again

In early December the call came in: a house was on fire on Tom McCauley's Road. A signal went out, calling the Island's brave firemen to assemble at the Fire Hall or meet up at Veronica Bigelow's, at the top of the hill. Luckily, it wasn't bad, just wood stacked against the side of the home that had caught from either a chimney spark or poorly-placed ashes—although the basement windows were blown out by the heat. But these well-practiced men sprang into action, demonstrating once again their mastery of discipline and coordination in the face of potential tragedy. Everyone knew their job and did it well, as usual, and, as usual, we give them our thanks and another stirring round of applause.

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Furniture Arrives

On December 15th a moving van full of furniture and equipment for the new Health Center rolled off the *Emerald Isle* and was parked at Stoney Acres until it could be put inside a storage building the next day. Munson Medical Center and many very kind, gracious people have been instrumental in their donations.

The furniture, computer equipment, and signs are being donated by Munson Medical Center.

The key people are:

Larry Hansz, Munson Facilities/Equipment Planner. Larry is a BI property owner who just built a home on the Island, and is the key person with whom the Transition Manager and the BIRHC Board worked. He organized all of this, with the full support of Mr. John Rockwood, Munson Healthcare President and CEO. The furniture is used at various Munson-owned properties and items they no longer need. Also on the truck were some used Munson computers, for which **Gerry Barczak** of Munson Information Systems worked with Larry to coordinate the donation and transfer.

Don Clewley will be installing all

the furniture and donating his time and work. Don is not a Munson employee, but his company does the furniture installation for Munson. He works closely with Larry. He arrived on Monday from his headquarters in Traverse City.

Art Morse, owner of Morse Moving and Storage in Traverse City donated the use of the moving truck and all the time for an employee to bring it over on the ferry. Morse Moving does a lot of work with Munson, too, and because of this affiliation has made the donation.

Larry was terrific in organizing all of this. Many, many thanks to him! Also, Munson donated the outdoor signs that will be installed at the Health Center; two were on the truck. They were previously used by Munson, and have been repainted for BIRHC. Munson does its sign work with Universal Sign in Grand Rapids, a company owned by **Mike Penkevich** who is married to a McDonough. He donated the repainting of the signs, and will provide all the interior signs for the Center as well.

This was another very generous contribution. —Arlene Brennan

Writer's Workshops

Former Beaver Islander Mary Blocksma has set the dates for two writing workshops (\$125 each – maximum 10 and 15 people, respectively) she intends to hold at the Brothers' Place. The first, *Finding Focus*, will be June 18-20; the second, *The Six-foot Life* ("find a fresh way to launch your life story"), will be June 25-27. For more information contact her at (989) 894-5925 or mblocksma@yahoo.com

New Arrivals

Weighing seven pounds two ounces and measuring twenty and a half inches, son Tiernan Timothy was born to Chris and Kristin Bass on December 8th. The very proud grandparents are Kathy Sykes (Akron), Per and Karen Göthe (San Diego), and Bob and Margaret Bass of Beaver Island.

Correction

Last month we mistakenly identified Heather (Gillespie) Barile's new son as McKinley Daniel, who called us to say he was the three-year-old *first* son. The new 21" baby, born on 11-14 and weighing eight pounds and two ounces, is named Colin Francis. Sorry, Heather, Scott, and McKinley.

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A Coyote on the Ice



In the middle of December, before there was any serious snow, we took a walk along the south side of Font Lake to see what new patterns had been produced by the thawing and refreezing of the ice. As it had formed, a few diminishing patches of open water had held out for over a week, as if beneath them there might be springs fueling the shallow lake. Then, when they at last froze over, they could still be seen as circles of frozen chop on a great smooth plain.

We stopped at the edge opposite Maloney's Point and studied tracks in

the dusting of snow. They had come from the east and were heading west, stopping to sniff under a tilted cedar that in a year or two will be laying in the lake. A hundred feet to our left was a brittle grove of stalks that had been growing in clusters at the bog-like edge, and from this grove a mature coyote suddenly trotted onto the ice and towards the lake's center. Although its feet weren't flying, it moved at a surprising speed, from which we later deduced that it "kicked off" as it ran – and yet its body

remained fairly level. It wasn't galloping; its body motion was more like undulating.

The last time I had seen a coyote on the ice was twenty years ago, during the construction of June and Max Bunin's home at Sand Bay. As I watched it trot along perhaps 700' away, I rhapsodized about its successful and creative adaptation to this rugged environment until my daydream was punctured by one of the carpenters, who had picked up a rifle I had not noticed among the tools. He brought it down, saying "I'll go out

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on my sled after work to retrieve it.” I was shocked, in part because the blast had been so close and unexpected, in part because its single-minded devotion to its purpose, its apparent recognition of the human world but refusal to accord it any value, seemed, in and of itself, somewhat noble. Yet I'm willing to concede that if we don't keep these powerful brutes at bay, they may work up the nerve to slip in through our windows and steal our babies from their beds – they are said to be that clever.

The one on Font Lake was in no

danger. It was large, about the size of a big German shepherd, and healthy – it seemed to be eating quite well. Its coat was not a single color but rather looked as if clusters of dark and light hair were randomly intermixed. But the tail – what a trophy that was! Bushy, uniformly dark, a certain independence in its slight wag. It did not quite belong, and yet it was the animal's most prized possession; it was like the coyote's everyday tuxedo.

At one point I called out in a stupid falsetto, and, sure enough, the animal

broke out of its lope and looked back at us. It was too far away to be sure, but I imagined it tilted its face by ten degrees, adopting the cock-eyed expression of some such thought as, “These humans might just do *anything*!” A moment after it resumed making its escape, it was out of sight. We backtracked it for a few hundred feet, seeing a very serious and yet somewhat playful style of circling back and forth around a prospective mouse lair.

All in all it was a rare sighting, and it made our day.

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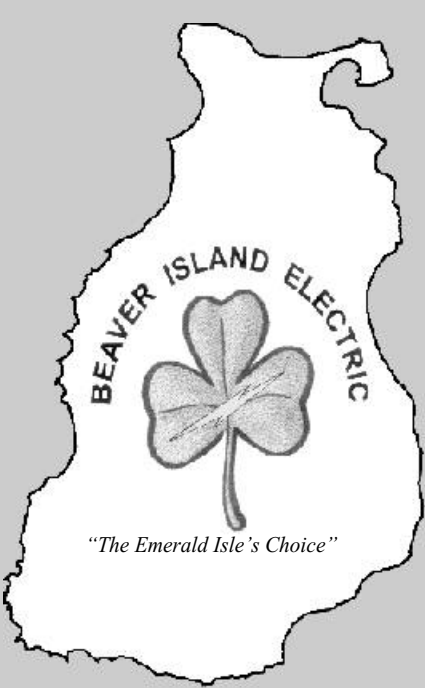


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One Hundred Years Ago

Charlevoix Sentinel
January 7, 1904 Local News: "Beaver Island navigation is probably suspended for 1903. The steamer *Beaver* made her last trip Thursday, succeeding only in reaching McCann's dock at 'the Point.' The extreme cold weather of Sunday settled the question and the *Beaver* lays up this week. Last year the *Beaver* made her last trip January 12th, but the mail went over on a tug January 21st. We may consider Beaver Island water communications closed until spring. Ice communication by way of Cross Village will undoubtedly be begun at once, as advice from the Straights is to the effect that ice is forming rapidly."

"Capt. Campbell sent the mail to the Beavers yesterday by the tug *Green*. Capt. Jenit took his boat to within a quarter of a mile of the harbor lighthouse and the mail was transferred with a team. Everything is all right at St. James."

Charlevoix Sentinel
January 21, 1904 Local News: "Frank O'Donnell died at the home of his niece, Mrs. A.A. McKinnon, in this village this (Thursday) afternoon, after a long illness. Deceased was upwards of 80 years of age. He was in the U. S.

Navy fourteen years, his service including the war of the rebellion. He was with Farragut in Mobile Bay, and in many other campaigns. 'Uncle Frank' was proud of his service in the navy, and saw much of the world during the fourteen years he sailed in Uncle Sam's ships. O'Donnell was a brother of B. O'Donnell, of St. James. He arrived here ill from the Milwaukee Soldiers' Home last fall."

Beaver Island News: "The B. I. L. Co. are getting out 500 piles for an addition to their dock this spring."

"John Green was down from the head with an abscess in his right hand last week."

"Preparations for the ice harvest are rapidly being made and Martin Bros. are already storing their share of the crop."

"Mr. Edward Pratt received a bad wound on the forehead from an iron lever about ten days ago while setting on the carriage at the mill."

"Hugh H. Boyle came over with the mail carriers from Cross Village last week. He had been working on one of the car ferries out of Milwaukee."

"On account of the bad weather the railroad has had hard work to keep logs enough ahead to keep the mill



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running. As a consequence the mill was shut down for a few days last week."

"A new school district is soon to be organized in Peaine Township. The school house will be located on Sec. 9 near Donlevy's. This will be a good thing as many of the children have had to walk three or four miles or stay at home."

"James McCann is getting his ice house in readiness and will build on a dock, net shed, and fish house in connection, enabling them to transfer their fishing operation from the Point to their steamboat dock. This will leave the Point dock and fish houses vacant next summer."

"On January 21, at noon occurred the death of Miss Mamie Green, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Green. Deceased has been sick for the past year with consumption, finally succumbing to the dread destroyer. Miss Green, though but 18 years of age, was well and most favorably known. She was the daughter of one of Beaver Island's most respected families and bore a reputation above reproach. The funeral was held Saturday morning."

"Capt. M. J. Bonner has a number of traps set around Garden and Hog

Islands for foxes. The captain tells a good one on himself. He was out looking for traps one day and found a fresh trail leading into a hole. He was armed with a shovel and a bundle of woven wire fencing. After making a cage around the opening of the den he proceeded to get into it and began shoveling out the game. After four or five hours hard work brer fox showed up, and made a bee line for a small hole in the cage and escaped. Imagine the exclamation points which pierced the air for the next while."

"The contract between Jack Frost and Uncle Sam, relative to the building of a winter postal road between St. James and Cross Village, has been carried out to the letter. In justice to Jack, we will state that the job was done ahead of time and exactly according to specifications which is more than can be said of some paving contractors we have read about. The first mail to go over the new route left Beaver island January 12, carried by Messrs. B. Martin and Wm Gibson. These gentlemen state that the road will be good till July 1st at present indications, and no money will need to be spent on it for repairs."

— Joyce Bartels



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- Dec. 31. Live Music at the Shamrock
- Dec. 31 BIFD New Years Eve Dance
7:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. (p. 13)
- Jan. 7 St. James Township, 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 8 Beaver Island Wildlife Club,
7:30 p.m. St. James Fire Hall
- Jan. 13 Second Annual Geography
Bee, 7:00 p.m., BICS
- Jan. 14 Peaine Township, 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 16 BICS Islanders vs. Munising
Baptist at Beaver Island
(The 16th & 17th)
- Jan. 23. BICS Islanders vs. Paradise
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June Quartermaine-McDonough 1913 - 2003

June Quartermaine McDonough passed away on November 30th at the Battle Creek Health System. She was 90. Her first husband, Harry Quartermaine, passed away in 1963, and she married Beaver Island's Lloyd McDonough four years later. He passed away in 1972, but she lived here another five years before moving to Battle Creek. She became the Director of the Emily Andrus Retirement Home there until she retired in 1990. That retirement was short lived; she was induced to become Director of the Northside Manor Senior Retirement Home, a position she held for four years. Along the way she was also Head Bookkeeper for Kellogg – twice.

Northern Lakes Expands

The Northern Lakes Economic Alliance announced this week that Sally Van Domelen has joined its staff as a Business Development Counselor, bringing 25 years experience in marketing strategy, human resources, operations, financial management and other areas of business development.

Northern Lakes is a three-county non-profit economic development organization serving Antrim, Charlevoix and Emmet. Director Tom Johnson recently explained, "New business start ups in Michigan rose by 15% this year, and the trend is expected to continue. In the past year alone, we counseled nearly 100 businesses with a positive local economic impact of \$3.7 million in new business or business expansions."

The Economic Alliance provides free and confidential counseling to help area businesses at various stages of start up, expansions and sustainability. Services include market evaluation, business plan development, strategy formulation, organizational management, financial analysis, process improvement, incorporating new technology and more.

Get Ready...

for the Third Annual **Chili Cook-off**, March 11th at Peaine Township Hall. Start spicing up your recipes to enter in the contest to be held from 5:30 - 7:30, with judging from 5:00 - 5:30. It's open to any variety or combination of Chilis. The event is sponsored by the B.I. Sports Boosters (free will donation.) Questions: call Diane McDonough at 448-2164.

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Mary McDermott 1922 - 2003

Mary V. "Vickie" McDermott, 81, of Charlevoix and formerly of Beaver Island, died Monday, December 8, 2003, at the Charlevoix Area Hospital. Mass of the Resurrection was held on Saturday, December 13, at the Holy Cross Catholic Church on Beaver Island. The Reverend Patrick Cawley officiated. Burial will be in Holy Cross Cemetery.

Vickie was born December 29, 1921, in Saint James, Beaver Island, the daughter of Hugh and Katie (Malloy) Connaghan. She married Robert L. McDermott in Charlevoix on August 17, 1963. Vickie is survived by her children, Rosalie Harrison of Overland Park, KS, William (Jenny) Bennett of Stover MO, Charles Dudley of Peculiar, MO, Yvette Harris of Charlevoix; brother Lester Connaghan of MT; sisters Lila Selfridge of Charlevoix, Anna Maxwell of Wheaton, IL, Kathryn Gatliff of Detroit, Marguerite Welsch of New Jersey; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Vickie was preceded in death by her husband of 39 years, Robert; brothers, Raymond, John "Jack", Gene, and Roy; and sisters, Marie, Melvina, Frances, and Lilian.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Beaver Island Medical Center.

Economic Alliance Director wins Award

Tom Johnson, Executive Director of the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance, has been awarded a Community Luminary Award from DTE Energy and the Michigan Non-profit Association. The award recognizes outstanding leaders and volunteers for their dedication in contributing to the development of Michigan's communities and inspiring others around them.

Johnson was nominated for his ability to link diverse community sectors and leaders in the interest of the entire community, to inspire and motivate others to get involved, to identify and collaborate on complex economic development issues, and to initiate new programs to improve our local economy. As director of the non-profit Economic Alliance serving Emmet, Charlevoix and Antrim Counties, he has also guided the organization into non-traditional economic development areas of value-added agriculture, affordable housing and rural technology.

To honor the centennial of Detroit Edison, DTE recognized 100 outstanding leaders and volunteers throughout the state.

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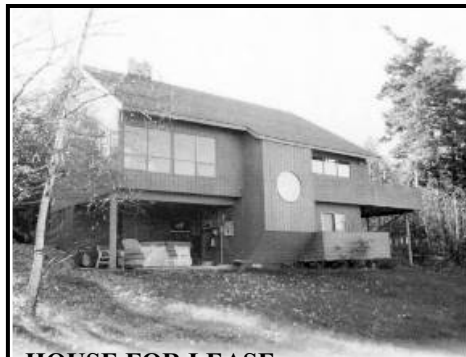
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For more information call Robert at (231) 448-2235



DONEGAL BAY HOUSE FOR RENT:

Nice wooded location. Newly built. Two bedrooms. New kitchen. Summer: \$675. Off-season \$425. (734) 449-8711 or nprawat@yahoo.com



HOUSE FOR SALE: On 10 Acres of beautiful woods. Custom throughout. \$139,900. Call Mike Collins (231) 448-2433

COTTAGE SITE: Vacant wooded lot in Port St. James. Power, perked, ready for building. Call owner (269) 857-6084



FOR RENT: Beachfront Home for rent with 3BR and loft—total 5 beds, hot tub, gorgeous views, solitude, wood stove, May-Sept. \$950 / Off-season \$795. Call Perry at (313) 530-9776 or e-mail pgatliff@hotmail.com.

STORAGE UNITS: You lock it, you leave it! Emerald Isle Storage. (231) 448-2577



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. \$1095/week; spring & fall \$895. Limit 6 people. Please call (706) 268-2022, (219) 874-4676. May to Nov: 448-2001.

Real Estate, For Sale:

BEAVER ISLAND HARBOR - Protected Harbor site: 60' Lake frontage by 250' deep. North of Toy Museum. Call (231) 448-2391.

GREAT LOTS FOR COTTAGE IN PORT ST. JAMES - 3 to choose from. Wooded, power, perked, Lake Michigan access nearby. Call (269) 857-6084.

100 ACRE PARCEL AVAILABLE - \$1500/acre. Hunting, vacation, or investment property. Call (231) 448-2167 or (231) 237-0173.

PORT ST. JAMES - 3 Wooded Lots #727,728,729 A few blocks to Font Lake, 1/2 mile to Lake Mich. \$29,000 for all 3. \$5000 down, will finance bal. Call owner in FL (352) 326-8979.

PARCEL ON GARDEN ISLAND HARBOR FOR SALE - 1000+ feet of Lake Michigan / Indian Harbor lake frontage on Garden Island. One of a kind property. 8 acres. Land Contract Terms. \$195,000.

Contact Jayson Welser, Box 357, Grayling Michigan 49738. (989) 619-2800. jaysonwelser@hotmail.com

LAKE MICHIGAN LOT - 175 feet of frontage overlooking Garden Island and Hog Island. Pebble and sand shoreline near Lookout Point. Call (616) 636-5685.

Wanted:

FONT LAKE PROPERTY WANTED - Turning 60 in 2004. I want the impossible: property on Font Lake. Can you make my dream come true? Call collect (773) 463-5494 evenings. flanaganl@lightfirst.com.

Real Estate, For Rent:

DONEGAL BAY - 3 BR 2 bath Home; sleeps 6; many amenities. \$830 a week. Reduced rates for off-season. Phone (313) 885-7393, after 4:00 p.m.

WEEKLY RENTAL - Harbor Beach Two-bedroom Condos. \$475/week. Call Carol Wierenga at (231) 448-2808, (231) 448-2598 or (231) 448-2596.



HOUSE FOR SALE: 38745 Squaw Island Ct. in the Port St. James. Interior not yet finished so you can finish it exactly how you like. Electrical and plumbing have been run and it is connected to GLE. \$59,000 Call Ed Wojan Realty (231) 448-2711



RENTAL ATTRACTION ON FONT

LAKE: 3-4 BR, 2 BA home, fully furnished with all the amenities. Sleeps 7. Beautiful view of lake and sunrises. New owners of this high-demand rental are taking reservations now, \$750/week. Off season rates available. Call Helena Webster (734) 730-8918 today; email hwebster18@yahoo.com



FOR RENT: Beautiful secluded new chalet near Donegal Bay's beach and gorgeous sunsets. 3 BR, 2 Bath. MBR has garden tub. W/DR/TV/VCR/Grill. Upon availability, bikes & auto for your use. Sleeps 6-8. No Pets. \$700/week. Ask about our 3-day package. Call (708) 389-0621 (evenings)



GULL HARBOR HOME FOR RENT: 3-BR home on the beach. Great view of the lake, the ferry, and beautiful sunrises. Very convenient location. Weekly for hunting or colors. \$650/week off-season. Phone (231) 448-2650

FOR SALE: Beautiful New Home located in Port St. James, 1,800 sq. ft. home, planned for efficient living: 3 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms, Cathedral ceilings (T & G Pine), large open loft, master suite with walk-in closet and master bath. Wrap-around covered porches, steep roofline with dormers, cedar siding. Beautiful wooded double lot. Quiet setting. One mile to Port St. James private beach on Lake Michigan. 1.5 miles to St. James village. Call Ed Wojan Realty: (231) 448-2711 or 1-800-268-2711



1986 BAYLINER 28': New 265 hp engine. Very good shape. Asking \$16,500. (231) 448-2342

1996 POLARIS SNOWMOBILE: XLT 600 2-up: electric start, reverse, excellent shape: \$2,800. Call (231) 448-2609

DONEGAL BAY COTTAGE - On dune with private beach access. 3 BR, 1 bath, sleeps 6, washer/dryer. Kayaks and bikes for your use. \$750.00/week. Off season rates on request. Dana Luscombe eve (248) 546-2701 dpluscombe@msn.com

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

COMMERCIAL BUILDING ON MAIN STREET - Prime retail or office - references, deposit and lease required. Contact John Johnson (616) 842-8214 or (231) 448-2533 or e-mail

Cloud9@chartermi.net

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.

CEDAR COTTAGE - on a bluff with view of harbor and mainland. 1/4 mile south of Catholic Church. 2 BRs, 1 dbl. bed, 2 single; TV/VCR, grill, complete kitchen, washer. No pets. \$580/wk. (734) 769-7565 (day), (734) 475-6178 (evenings).

mschroer@a2mich.com

2 BR, 1 1/2 BATH HOME IN TOWN - one block from Harbor. Sleeps 5-6. All appliances incl. Laundry. \$600 per week. Off season rates. NO pets. No Smoking. (616) 899-9922.

FLORIDA HOUSE FOR RENT - Spacious 3-bedroom, 2-bath home in Port Charlotte, FL (just north of Fort Myers). Swimming pool, fruit trees, near golf course. 3 miles to Gulf shoreline. By week or month. Call Laura Gillespie (231) 448-2366.

To Place an Ad:

Call the *Beaver Beacon* at (231) 448-2476, visit www.beaverbeacon.com or e-mail us at beacon@beaverbeacon.com



FOR RENT:

House and cabin in the woods for rent on the East Side Drive. Both 3 BR and sleep six. Both have washer, dryer, and 2 baths. Campfire pits and wood provided. Property connects to major hiking/nature trails. Quiet and secluded, on the east side - one mile from State campground and beautiful beach. Please call (616) 897-8564.

80 ACRE PARCEL HUNTING PROPERTY FOR SALE: Available at the South End of the Island. \$1350/acre. Call (231) 448-2167 or (231) 237-0173.



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