

\$6.00

Chebeague Island Annual Newsletter 2003



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Kim Munroe, Erno Bonebakker, Cathy MacNeill, David Hill, Beth Dyer, Virginia Tatakis-Calder and others.

Chebeague Island Annual Newsletter 2003



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Cover:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Purchase price in 1928: | \$4,000 |
| Property taxes in 1992: | \$1,750 |
| Property taxes in 1997: | \$3,500 |
| Property taxes in 2003: | \$7,000 |

Being able to pass the family homestead
on to the next generation: **Priceless!**

*There are some things money
shouldn't have to buy.*

The year 2002 will be remembered as the “Year of the Revaluation.” For many Chebeague families, the line was crossed between high, but affordable property taxes and taxes that will force unwanted sales of ancestral properties.

Fear that property taxes will continue to double every five years has caused untold anguish among Chebeague residents, both year-round and seasonal.

David and Nancy Hill’s home on the East End is pictured here as an example of the escalation of tax assessments that could eventually change the face of Chebeague Island forever.

Those who consider land and homes as simply another investment view this as a “good problem to have.” Others whose interests are less financially driven fear for the very future of our unique island community. Their story is told in the review of the Battle for Tax Reform, beginning on Page 4.

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Foreword

The Chebeague Island Historical Society publishes this report, the *Chebeague Island Annual Newsletter*, as its contribution to all the organizations that make the social environment of Chebeague what it is for our population. The *Newsletter* is a cooperative venture by the nearly 25 organizations of all sorts involved in life on our island, the largest “non-connected” island in Casco Bay. If it succeeds in summarizing what went on during the past year or so, this is due to the help and cooperation of many people who contribute their time and skills without reward. We appreciate their help with this effort, and hope that our product meets with your approval. As we like to say: If an organization’s report is missing, it is probably because they’ve been too busy doing all the good things they do for Chebeague; too busy to get around to reporting their activities to us for this publication.

As always, the cost of publication is underwritten by the Historical Society and met in part by the modest \$6.00 that we charge for each copy. We want to reach as many as possible; please help us by spreading the word.

Copies are available at the Library, either of the Island’s two gift shops the Cobbler Shop and the Artisan’s Ice House, or at any of the Historical Society’s functions as well as at the new Museum. Upon request to Mac Passano, 168 South Rd., we will mail it to any address in the United States for an additional fee of \$2.00 .

We would like to thank our printer Portland Speedy for their patience and helpfulness to us. For those of you who are computer literate, the current and past issues of the *Newsletter* can be downloaded in standardized PDF format file from the Chebeague Website (www.chebeague.org). As an added bonus, the illustrations will be in *color!*

— The Editors:
David R. Hill
Beverly S. Johnson
L. M. Passano

A Walk in the Woods

On the first weekend of May Jeanette Hamilton and I had the pleasure of going on a “Wild Wilderness Walk for Women” with Bev Johnson, Stephenie Martin, Beth Dyer, Sheila Putnam, Lea MacDonald and Page Boisvert.

We went to Joe Dodge Lodge at Pinkham Notch in New Hampshire.

We left on the early boat so were there by 10:00. It was too early to get into our rooms so we had a lunch packed at the restaurant and headed out for what Jeanette and I thought was going to be little walk on a little flat dirt path. Loaded with lunch, water and munchables we were off; it didn’t take long to discover we were really heading up, up, up. I had never climbed before so you can imagine my amazement when I discovered that I was really climbing up *Tuckermans Ravine*. Half way up we stopped to have our lunch, with other hikers with skis, sleeping bags, blankets and lots of water flying by us.

Jeanette and I knew our limitations and started back down, and to our delight we came upon a waterfall with a nice place to sit that we had completely missed on our way up because we were watching our feet.

When the rest completed their climb and joined us we were checked in, cleaned up and went to supper which was a great Yankee Pot Roast at the Lodge. Afterwards there was a talk by a naturalist on bluebirds that was most informative.

We all crashed after that but were up bright and early the next morning. After a great buffet of all the usual we once again started out. Jenny and I kept up but both of these trails were hardly little walks in the woods like we had been led to believe.

The first was fairly short but straight up and when we did get to the top we sat on this square flat rock looking across at *Tuckermans Ravine*; it was beautiful. I found it harder going up and stretching these little short legs across many streams coming down seemed easier.

The second trail was longer but every once in a while you actually came to a flat place and when we got to the top we were across from *Wild Cat looking down on Creation* . God really did a good job.

It was a big success even though *The Old Man* fell down and it wasn't our fault. I'd recommend to everyone to give it a try and hope to go back next fall.

— Joan Robinson



The Battle for Tax Reform

In the summer of 2002, the Town of Cumberland performed a property revaluation with the effect of drastically shifting the tax burden from inland areas to coastal properties which had suddenly become very popular over the past ten years. Shorefront properties that had doubled in value five years ago doubled again. Properties worth \$100,000 in 1992 were suddenly worth \$400,000 and taxed accordingly.

Land that Portland banks wouldn't accept as mortgage property in the 1950s was suddenly worth \$125,000 an acre and up.

Properties on inland Chebeague and in mainland Cumberland also went up, but only about 25%. The result? The tax burden was shifted from the rest of the town to the now highly desirable shorefront properties, with associated tax increases of three to four times the 1992 level.

Since most of the shorefront in Cumberland is located on Chebeague Island, our small community was rightfully shocked by the impact it was being asked to absorb. There was talk of a tax revolt or secession and Chebeague received a considerable amount of press, such that the problem of skyrocketing assessments became known as the "Chebeague problem." Of course, the problem is far more widespread than that, as other areas of Maine are coping with similar challenges.

Understandably, residents were chagrined at the least and panicky in the extreme, as their incomes had certainly not kept up with this kind of inflation. Public meetings were immediately convened with the overriding question being, "What can we do?"

The answers were frustratingly elusive. The Town had done nothing illegal, though many questioned their compassion and even their ethics. Secession was discussed, but it soon became apparent that the only thing that would change is who was collecting the tax revenues. There was a California Proposition 13-style tax cap petition being circulated, but many believed that would do far more damage than good.

The "Save Our Island" movement was launched, along with an Internet website, thanks to Bette (Boopie Doughty) Tellinghuisen.

Sub-committees were formed to explore the various options and aspects of property taxation, but these efforts sputtered as no real direction revealed itself. Attention was focused on challenging the individual assessments, one-by-one, an incredibly daunting task spearheaded by Boopie, with a lot of help from her friends and neighbors.

For example, Boopie discovered that by law the margin of error in property assessment is plus or minus 20%. This means that with two identical properties each worth \$100,000, one could be undervalued at \$80,000 and the other could be overvalued at \$120,000. So it's perfectly legal and acceptable for a property to be taxed 50% more than its identical twin!

Boopie discovered people being taxed on mudflats in front of their land, others being taxed on property owned by the Town of Cumberland, and some whose houses didn't even match the pictures on their assessment cards! But these were seen as relatively minor errors and were dismissed by the Town as only "anecdotal evidence" of a flawed revaluation process. Some adjustments and abatements were granted, but the underlying problem and anguish persisted.

So the search for a legislative solution continued.

Sometime during the spring of 2002, before the tax assessments had hit the fan, Donna Damon mentioned to me that we would soon have a huge property tax problem and that she thought there should be some kind of program that would allow people to keep residential land in the family, a program patterned after Maine's Tree Growth program, which allows forest land to be taxed at current use productivity levels rather than at fair market value.

During that summer, David Chipman of Harpswell, who had aspirations to the Maine Legislature at the time, posted a website that mentioned the possibility of a Tree Growth based property tax relief program.

During the late summer and early autumn, I had been doing a considerable amount of research on the Internet to learn what other states were doing to address the problem of runaway property assessments. My objective was to devise a solution that could be presented to the Maine Legislature. I was under the impression that the time was right and ripe for tax reform in the state as there were

several petition movements that could force the issue in an unpleasant way for state government.

I had been unable to find a solution that I felt would really work and be politically palatable. But I started drafting my document anyway. I created an outline framework and started filling in the sections on background and problem, but I was stuck when it came to the "Solution" section. The best I could come up with was the concept of Limited Market Value, currently in place in thirteen states, but fraught with problems and difficult, if not impossible, to sell to the political leadership in Maine.

Then, on October 11, Malcolm "Laddie" Whidden of Harpswell sent an e-mail that was distributed to our Chebeague group, still struggling to find a solution to our taxation dilemma. It was when Laddie's e-mail hit my computer that the answer seemed to hit me between the eyes. Of course! Marry Limited Market Value with Tree Growth and there you have it! Just the way Donna had suggested months earlier. And the Maine Land Bank and Community Preservation Program was born.

From there, my document practically wrote itself. Boopie and I became so excited about the idea that we actually started drafting statute legislation, drawing upon the language I'd found from other states on the Internet.

We became curious about how the program would work practically and mathematically, so we created an Excel spreadsheet that answered the questions about what would it cost (answer: Nothing) and would it shift taxes (answer: No).

We discussed our idea with other Chebeaguers around Boopie's kitchen table and with interested taxpayers assembled at the Island Hall. Unanimously, the islanders said, "go for it."

Our emerging proposal morphed into a PowerPoint presentation so that we could effectively get the idea of our program across to people, particularly the skeptics and disbelievers among us, not to mention the Legislature.

We formed a loosely organized Maine Land Bank Committee comprised of Boopie, Laddie, Rep. Leila Percy and yours truly to formally draft legislation. As with the problem that spawned the solution, the press dubbed our work the "Chebeague Plan," reflecting its humble place of origin.

The plan that evolved is a combination of Limited Market Value and Maine's agricultural and open space tax law. A base value for the land only will be established equal to the 1997 assessment adjusted to 100% using an appropriate adjustment ratio. For recently purchased land, the purchase price will be used or, if that cannot be determined, the fair market value of the land will be used.

Increases in the property assessment base value will be limited to two percent per year or to the increase in the consumer price index, whichever is smaller. Decreases in property assessment could happen at any time.

If circumstances change and an owner chooses to sell land banked



A few of the attendees at the Taxation Committee hearing in Augusta

property, a significant penalty will have to be paid before the property can pass with clear title. This could amount to as much as 30% of the difference between the sale price and the Land Bank value. There may be lesser penalties for sales to unrelated buyers who wish to remain

in the Land Bank Program

Land will remain in the program if transferred or sold to a direct relative or bequeathed to anyone. There will be no recapture penalty as long as the land remains banked. As proposed, the recapture penalty translates to approximately sixteen times the annual tax relief. For properties with values rising more than about 4% annually, the penalty exceeds the life to date tax savings plus interest for well over a 100 year period! It is this penalty which provides funding for the program and makes it sustainable and self-supporting.

Our proposal was drafted based upon public input obtained from over a dozen public meetings held around the state between October, 2002 and March, 2003.

The details of the Maine Land Bank and Community Preservation Program will be found in the text of the proposed bills and amendment, which are posted at www.MaineLandBank.org.

The concepts first developed in the autumn of 2002 evolved into LD 938 and LD 951 which were brought before the 121st Legislature in February of 2003 in bills sponsored by Leila Jane Percy of Phippsburg. The first LD is the constitutional amendment which adds another category to the kinds of land that can be taxed based on current use. In addition to open space land, agricultural and timberlands and land for wildlife sanctuaries, the amendment would add "lands used for long-term ownership." The second LD specifies the statutes to create and maintain the Maine Land Bank and Community Preservation Program.

With the help of our friends in Harpswell, we professionally videotaped our PowerPoint presentation at their public access TV studio. Fifty copies of the videotape were made and sent to public access stations around the state who agreed to air our presentation. This led to increased public awareness and support.

On April 15 ("tax day" – how appropriate) the Taxation Committee room at the State House in Augusta was crammed full of people seeking tax reform including about forty people from Chebeague and other towns speaking in favor of the Maine Land Bank and Community Preservation Program. Legislators stated that the Maine Land Bank had generated more public interest and support than any of the other tax reform proposals. Only one person spoke in opposition to the bill, afraid that the taxes that had shifted away from him might shift back in some small measure.

To get the ball rolling, bill sponsor Leila Percy, representative from Harpswell, serenaded the Taxation Committee with the 1970 Joni Mitchell song "Big Yellow Taxi" – "Don't it always go to show that you don't know what you've got til it's gone...they paved paradise and put up a parking lot."

Another highlight of the day occurred when Rep. Barney McGowen (D-Pittsfield) stated that excessive assessment is "a nice

problem to have,” and the room full of Chebeaguers loudly answered as one, “NO!”

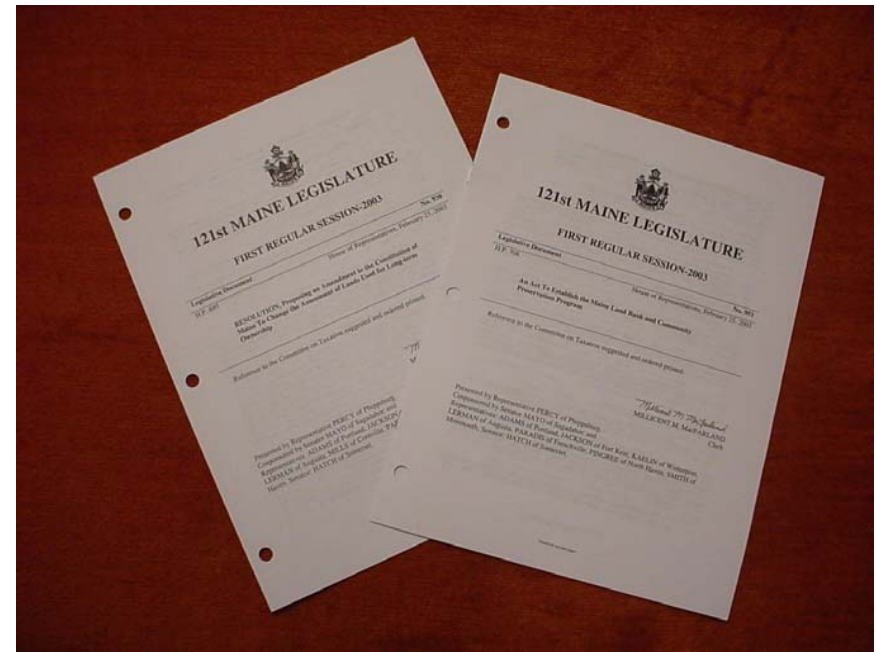
But the testimony that the legislators found to be most memorable and compelling came from Vika Johnson and Katherine Hill who roleplayed a conversation between two beleaguered taxpayers and made the whole assessment dilemma a little more real to their audience.



Cousins Vika Johnson and Katherine Hill address the Taxation Committee

The Taxation Committee had over two hundred bills laid before it, most dealing with some form of tax reform. Many dealt with specific issues or groups, such as veteran exemptions, while others suggested more sweeping reforms. Only a handful were passed on with an “Ought to Pass” recommendation (with or without amendments). The vast majority were killed by an “Ought Not to Pass” judgment. About a dozen were tabled in anticipation of developing a comprehensive bill incorporating the best features of each. Ultimately, no such bill emerged and most of these were carried over to the next session.

The Maine Land Bank and Community Preservation bills were among the ten tax reform bills voted to be carried over. While a form of the proposal was included in the chairmen’s recommendation, there was disagreement over the details of implementation. So it was decided that the bills would be carried over in order to (a) obtain a better idea of what other tax relief might be waiting in the wings for victims of excessive assessments and (b) allow the Taxation Committee more time to consider the details of the program.



At the time of this writing (November, 2003) we are still waiting to see what happens with the Legislature. The summer session chose not to advance the bills so we will have to wait until the second session begins in January.

We continue to publicize this potential landmark legislation to communities throughout Maine and to promote its value and benefits to legislators at every opportunity. Enhancing and strengthening the original concept by expanding its flexibility and adapting its application to create an even more effective tool for preserving homestead, along with working waterfront, farmland, and forestland properties, Land Bank Committee leaders and MLB sponsors are making every effort to put these amendments before the Taxation Committee in a last ditch effort at passage.

We are grateful for the help and support of hundreds of people around the state and wish we could individually thank each of them.

A lot has been learned about property taxation, public policy, the Legislature, politics, and human nature. We’ve had our moments in the sun, but much of our experience has been very painful and a high emotional price has been paid by many of those whose lives seem to

have been dedicated to tax reform for the past year and who fear that the battle will continue for at least another year.

But those who are fighting this battle, year-round and seasonal residents alike, believe in this “cause” and are convinced that the ultimate goal of preserving personal and community integrity is well worth the effort.

Would you like to help? We could sure use your assistance. And you may just save your home and save our island!

— David R. Hill

{For Cumberland Town Councilor Donna Damon’s observations concerning the revaluation and Maine Land Bank efforts, please see Page 55}

Casco Bay Island Development Association

The speaker at the Association’s (CBIDA) annual meeting was Nick Mavadones, Operations Manager for Casco Bay Island Transit District and a member of the Portland City Council. His talk focused on the Transit District which CBIDA was instrumental in creating and with whose activities and needs the Association remains involved.



The weather was pleasant for a change for CBIDA’s biennial *Legislators Meeting* when legislators representing Cumberland, Long Island and Portland are invited to meet with island residents for give and take discussions of our concerns. Unfortunately a Budget Workshop seriously reduced the number able to be there. Chebeague can take its usual bow for attendance as Terry McKenney of Cumberland joined Mike Brennan, Portland, at the CBIDA meeting and Karl Turner, Cumberland, was at the workshop.

CBIDA was able to provide meaningful support to the Casco Bay Estuary Project when members, two of whom spoke, attended the Legislative Hearing before the combined Appropriations/Natural Resources Committees with regard to a proposed reduction in state funding for the project -- a 50% cut per year for two years. You do the math! State support is necessary to match federal funding for the project which is instrumental in opening clam flats and preserving growing lobsters from the effects of needed dredging, as well as reducing pollution in the Bay. Co-Chair Joe Brannigan, Karl Turner, Cumberland and Ben Dudley, Portland, members of Appropriations, have all attended CBIDA’s *Legislators Meetings*, appreciate the concerns of the Bay and were very supportive. Some funding has been restored to the Project.

The CBIDA Steering Committee has kept a close eye on the golf cart problem on Great Diamond Island. Some parties in that conflict

went to the City of Portland seeking changes in the present restrictions which, in fact, are part of a legal binding agreement between CBIDA, the Island Institute, Maine Audubon and the developer Diamond Cove Associates. Settled for the summer, the issue will be considered in the fall. More than willing to be reasonable, CBIDA does not plan to ignore its ongoing responsibilities according to the agreement.

The Association has continued its membership in the Waterfront Alliance. The 2003 Boaters Pamphlet with information about the islands and services available at local marinas will be available free at the Chebeague Island Boat Yard.

The Casco Bay Island Development Association welcomes all island residents, year round and summer. Dues start at \$7 single and \$10 for a couple. Steering Committee meetings are held monthly on the first Saturday at 9:30 A.M. at the Casco Bay Ferry Terminal Conference Room and are open to everyone. For more information contact Jean.

— Jean Dyer



Chebeague Health Services

This was a very busy year for the Health Center, with no dramatic events or surprises. In fact it is so busy that Ginny Ballard, our P.A., couldn't find the time to write this piece between patients, so she agreed to be interviewed..

Just to give an idea of how busy the Health Center has become, in May Ginny saw 67 patients, even though she was a way for a bit, and in the first two weeks of June she saw 51. This doesn't count house calls – how many doctors do you know who make house calls now? And visits to the Island Commons, where Ginny provides assistance to both patients and staff at least once a week.

Island Commons, of course, provides important care and support for Chebeague's elderly. As it has become established and the residents grow older, there has been a greater need for more intense health care both from the staff and from Ginny.

Elderly people who do not live at the Commons, and other people who may be homebound by serious illness, can be connected to home help through the Health Center. Community Health Services provides assistance to the homebound; they can get physical therapy at the Health Center or at home through CHS, and Ginny can arrange for medic alert bracelets.

The annual Flu Shot Clinic was held at the Hall in November with the help of Community Health Services. Happily the flu season itself was quiet, not only on Chebeague but in Maine, in general.

In December the ophthalmologist, Dr. Curtis Libby, came out and saw 18 patients at the clinic, some of whom were referred on to specialists for additional care. In July Dr. Wes Johnson, Dr. Pat Phillips' successor at Yarmouth Intermed for many people on Chebeague, will be coming out to see patients, and talk with other islanders who may want to become Intermed patients. Ginny's supervising doctor, Dr. Hugh Harwood comes out sometimes to see specific patients, but Dr. Johnson's visit will be the first time since 1999 that a doctor has come out to see his regular patients on Chebeague.

The Island Council's Samaritan Fund is a critical element in Ginny's ability to provide effective care to people on Chebeague. This is an Island Council fund that is spent under Ginny's direction. How

it is spent is completely confidential. Chebeaguers who live on fixed incomes or others who are in difficult financial straights sometimes find that their money can't stretch to cover additional, expensive but essential medications or other health expenses, and this is where the Samaritan Fund Comes in. It is used, either on a one-time or an on-going basis, to help with costs of medication, medical appointments, household safety equipment, medic alert bracelets and mainland transportation. The Council's share of the money from Chedemption goes to the Samaritan Fund, and other people generously donate to it. As use of the Health Center has increased this year, the need for the Samaritan fund has increased as well.

Finally, the Health Center and Ginny couldn't manage without Joan Robinson and Susie Stavropoulos, who run the office, make appointments, pull charts, answer the phone and take the blood samples over to the lab on the mainland. As the business of the Center has grown over this past year, their contribution has grown accordingly.

— Ginny Ballard PA-C, to Beth Howe



Keeping the pressure in check

Chebeague Island Council

Founded more than 50 years ago, after the Second World War, the Chebeague Island Council plays a major role in supporting both seasonal and year round island life. Its mission, as set out in its bylaws is to "promote and assist in the development of activities and projects designed to improve conditions important to the inhabitants of Great Chebeague Island." Towards that end, the Council does a number of things.



Fourth of July Fun Run

Perhaps our best known and appreciated effort is the *Calendar*, a "must read" for everyone who wants to know what is happening on Chebeague. The *Calendar* is now edited by Barbara Hamilton who graciously agreed to take over from Karen Hamilton, after Karen was called up for service. Karen did a wonderful job and we thank her for years of service. The *Calendar* is mailed out to all Chebeague residents free of charge, the first of every month. Most off islanders and Council members receive it Third Class mail. Since Third Class mail is slow and does not get forwarded, some Council members have found it worthwhile to pay an extra \$14 and have the *Calendar* mailed to them First Class. That extra charge has meant that the Council has an additional \$2,023 to help offset the *Calendar* publishing costs, which were \$7,072 last year. They also rest easier, knowing that they will get their *Calendar* quickly. So if you want to be sure that you continue to get your *Calendar*, pay a little extra and have it sent First Class.

Another key service that the Council supports is the Medical Clinic



Karen Hamilton in Kuwait

housed at the Hall and Library building. “Summer native” Ginny Ballard, PA-C, a qualified, certified, and dedicated, Physician's Assistant, not only maintains regularly scheduled office hours, but also makes house calls when needed. Her office hours are published in the *Calendar*. This year clinic expenses totaled \$6,292. A full report of Clinic activities is contained in a separate report in the newsletter. Another Council activity, the Chedemption program, is also reported separately in the newsletter. The Council also helps the Commons with a medical loan program that makes crutches, wheelchairs, hospital beds and other similar medical equipment available to those who need it free of charge. Donations are always accepted.

The Council sponsors and maintains the Samaritan Fund, a fund designed to pay for medical necessities for those who cannot afford them. The Samaritan Fund pays for prescriptions, Medical Alert Emergency Response devices and it has even paid for non slip pads for those who have trouble walking so they don't slip and fall because of throw rugs. If you might need help with medical expenses, please

see Ginny; all inquiries and assistance is confidential. This past year, the Samaritan Fund took in \$4,220 and spent \$5,666. Donations to the Samaritan Fund are tax deductible and are always welcome. They should be sent to Gail Miller, the Council's Treasurer.

The Council also sponsor's the annual flu clinic and the Meals-on-Wheels program, delivering hot meals to those who have trouble getting out. The Council sponsors the Fourth of July parade, which starts at the Inn and ends at Chandler's Cover, where the picnic is held every year. We publish an annual *Welcome to Chebeague* brochure, with a handy map and visitor's guide. The brochure is free and is available from the Inn, Veterans' Taxi and the Island Market; copies are also available at the Library.

We urge you to help us fulfill our mission, and join the Council for only \$12, or pay that extra fourteen dollars for a total of \$26 and receive the *Calendar* by First Class mail. This year, the Council raised \$8,010 from membership dues. Please send your check to Cliff Barker, our Membership Chairman. Check the *Calendar* for the exact time and place of the Council's Annual Meeting, which will be held in August. Until then, the current officers and Board members are:

Peter Rice, President
Jane Abrahamson, Vice President
Susie Stavropoulos, Secretary
Gail Miller, Treasurer
Cliff Barker, Membership Chair

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Banú KomLosy | Mona Calthorpe |
| Kelly Rich | Louise Doughty |
| Jennifer Belesca | Karen Hamilton |
| Mac Passano | Mark McGee |

— Mac Passano and Cliff Barker

Chebeague Island Fire Department

This year we saw Med Bowen step down as Deputy Chief after 10 years of service. He still remains active in the department and we thank him for a job well done.

We responded to 52 calls this past year; 33 of these were assisting the Rescue with lifting help. The other calls were made up of things like car fires, trees on wires, missing persons, etc.; there were no serious fires this past year; **we thank everyone living on the island for being careful with open burning and keeping your chimneys**



Don Moody and Tom Calder

clean. Remember, a permit is required “to be in hand” for all outdoor burning.

Due to a new engine for Cumberland Center we received a “new” truck for the island. It is a 1980 1000 gallon a minute pumper with a tank of 500 gallons, replacing a 1976 chassis with a World War II Army

surplus pump in the rear of the truck, which carried no water and very little room for equipment. The new truck also carries 1000 feet of 4 inch hose. This is a great addition to the island and should serve us well for a long time. We now have: two 100 gallon a minute pumpers, two 750 gallon pumpers and a 1900 gallon tank truck. The combined water on wheels is about 5000 gallons. Each pumper also has 1000 feet of 4 inch hose plus all the other needed equipment. Last fall on a very rainy day we did a test for the ISO (insurance service office) to set the rate for fire insurance here on the island. It is based on the ability of the department and there are a lot of factors that go into this test - the island stayed at 7 where the score is 1 (the best) to 10 (the worst). Considering that there are no water mains, the isolation, etc, this is not a bad rate. There should not be any reduction in your fire insurance rate but you should make sure that your carrier knows the rate.

Since the first of the year our station on Chebeague has been the



host for a joint training course for firefighters from several of the Casco Bay islands, Long, Great Diamond, Peaks and Cliff as well as Chebeague. This is Full Firefighting I training as dictated by the State.

Chebeague Island Garden Club



The Chebeague Island Garden Club is in its fourth year and we meet monthly at the Commons the second Wednesday of the month. We try to have a variety of educational programs, garden/house tours and hands-on workshops. From the beginning we have been committed to two community projects for island beautification.

The first project is that of a perennial and annual garden in front of the Chebeague Island School. In April we spend some classroom time with the children doing a seed planting. The children planted Burpee *Teddy Bear* sunflowers again this year. The children write their names on popsicle sticks and put them in their individual seed pots; when we transplant the seedlings in May, they can identify and watch the progress of their individual plants during the summer and into the fall. The Garden Club members take turns throughout the summer months weeding and watering the garden.

Leah MacDonald, the Island Institute intern here on the island, approached the Garden Club this spring and asked us to help her and the teenagers from the Rec Center plan a garden for the Island Commons. We got together with Leah and discussed how to prepare the soil and get it ready for seedlings. Leah asked for input from the Commons' staff as to what vegetables the residents would like and what the staff would like to plant. Leah and the Island teenagers will do the planting, weeding, watering and general maintenance of the garden throughout the summer. The staff and residents will enjoy fresh vegetables from their own garden. We are all anxiously waiting to see the end results of this new project.

During the past year we lost one of our favorite gardeners, June Scamman. She had the most beautiful garden and spent hours and hours in it. She was proud of her hard work and beautiful flowers and was always willing to give you a tour through her garden. June always shared her perennials with us and most of us have a flower or two that came from her garden. In May the Club will plant a flowering shrub in a sunny spot at the Commons in memory of June. She will be greatly missed.

In addition to the regular curriculum, the students are also looking at the best and quickest ways to help each other in case there is a serious fire on any one of the islands, becoming familiar with the resources that each of the islands have. We have about 25 active members and there is always room for more help. There are a number of jobs besides entering a burning building that need to be done. Anyone interested in joining please contact me. We hold our annual open house in August which are well attended with a free door prize of a row punt built by Bob Dyer. We furnished the material and he donated his time. Watch for the announcement of the 2003 open house in the *Calendar*

We had a really nice addition to the station grounds this fall, a *Smokey the Bear* sign. It shows the daily fire danger that is issued by the State and determines if we can issue a burn permit. The sign project was headed up by a young fireman from Cumberland, Don Moody. I think that it is a great addition and he should be proud of a job well done.

I also want to thank the members who donated so many hours to the department, all training and work details are donated time by the members - there is a great bunch of volunteers willing to leave their family and the warmth and safety of their homes at any time when duty calls.

And thanks again to the people of the island for being very careful with fires.

— Tom Calder, Deputy Chief

We welcome new members and even if you are only on the island for a short time during the summer, please feel free to join us and share your gardening experience.

— Mona Calthorpe, President



The Stone Wharf barely at sea level

Chebeague Island Grange #576

In the article in last year's *Annual Newsletter* I reviewed the history of our Grange and its activities since the founding in 1951. There has not been much change to report here as most of the same people are involved in our various projects ... Dianne Calder, Sanford Doughty and Jane Abrahamson head up the Spring Cleanup planning, Joan Robinson marks the veteran's graves in the cemetery with flags provided by the Town, and many volunteers help make the sprays which are placed on these graves after the Memorial Day service, which is organized by Martha Hamilton. "Tink" Lessing ably took charge of the Thrift Shop last year in Doris Feeney's absence as she has been Doris' *right hand* there for many years.

The Annual Grange Fair came off well under Frances Calder's general direction and with Roy Jackson holding forth as Auctioneer. Just before Christmas some very generous islanders provide us with extra funds to give out fresh fruit, canned goods or flowers and candy, while members supply the home baked goodies for our *shut in* boxes. We also support the Bruce Roberts Fund and the Coats for Kids Program at this time of year. We are able to keep the old schoolhouse that serves as our Grange Hall in repair and expect to have the sign painted and up again for the summer of 2003 with the Thrift Shop operating during the summer months. The Annual Fair is scheduled for Saturday, September 20th this year. Hope to see you there.

— Martha O. Hamilton

Chebeague Island Hall Community Center

The biggest news from the CIHCC is our new addition. With the help of a grant from USDA and funds from the community our dream has finally been realized. The interior has just been finished as this is being written and we are waiting for the grading to be done outside. The storage cabinets in the addition should hold all the supplies for the groups that the CIHCC sponsors: the Whalers, yoga, and the Quilters.

We also are offering some storage space to the CPA and to Ginny for the Clinic. One of the most important uses of the addition will be to store our chair racks. This will clear up more floor space in the Hall. We could never have had this addition without Beverly Johnson's willingness to write the grant and follow through on all the myriad of details to get the approval of our application from the USDA.

The CIHCC board of directors regretfully accepted the resignation of Sylvia Ross this winter. Sylvia was one of the founding members of the CIHCC and we are pleased she has accepted an honorary membership on our board. We surprised Sylvia with a potluck supper in her honor in January. Karen Hamilton organized the tribute, before she left us for Kuwait, and raised nearly \$350 for the CIHCC.

We also had another potluck supper in March organized for us by Cindy Riddle. With her help, the CIHCC raised nearly \$400.

It is important to point out that the CIHCC would not be able to function without the support of our community. There are so many people who have done so much extra to help this board reach their objectives. Our most important goal is to maintain the Hall so it will be available as needed. All the donations of time and money from the community are what makes this possible. We sincerely thank you for your support.

— Peggie Jones, President

Chebeague Island Historical Society

The central focus for the Chebeague Island Historical Society in the past year has been completion of the Museum of Chebeague History and preparation for the grand opening on July 6, 2003. The Chebeague community enjoyed a first look at the renovated District No. 9 Schoolhouse late last summer, when several hundred people attended an open house to admire the design of architect Carol A. Wilson and the work of the Thaxter Company. During last fall construction was virtually completed.

By late spring 2003, CIHS obtained a second grant from the MBNA Foundation (the first provided for construction of the controlled storage vault in the museum) to fund compact shelving for proper storage of artifacts and documents that will comprise the collections of the museum.

With the building ready for occupancy, the CIHS board turned to preparation of the inaugural exhibit for the museum. The planners sought a theme that would tell an important Chebeague story and also introduce topics for future exhibitions. The answer came in the school girl diary kept by Robert Wheldon's grandmother, Mabel Hamilton Hill, when she was thirteen years old. Her regular entries, beginning in 1878, record in great particularity life on Chebeague in her family, community and school -- a remarkable account of a middle-class Victorian neighborhood on the East End. With the diary as the chief source for the exhibit, a CIHS board committee assembled other documents, photographs, books, pictures, maps, memorabilia and furnishings for a Chebeague parlor of the period -- all from CIHS collections or provided by Chebeaguers. These have been displayed and arranged on panels, platforms and vitrines (made on Chebeague) to tell the story of Mabel Hamilton's life and family, school, church and community in concrete detail. The sub-themes of the exhibit, stone slooping, for example, suggest subjects that can be developed into future shows at the museum.

As a forecast for this first exhibit at the 2002 annual meeting, CIHS President Donna Damon compiled and directed a staged reading from portions of Mabel Hamilton's diary with notable Chebeaguers taking parts as Mabel, her family and friends. Other

programs during the year included a thoroughly researched and engagingly presented study of the Great Bridge Controversy by Beth Howe and Mac Passano.

On Columbus Day weekend, last fall CIHS sponsored and served a harvest supper for Chebeaguers who were closing their cottages or preparing to winter over. A large crowd enjoyed a hearty meal and contributed to the financial well being of the Society. The success of this event encouraged the board to see it as the Historical Society's first annual harvest supper.

In support of the museum and in continuance of fund-raising trips sponsored by CIHS, Leila and Suhail Bisharat welcomed a group of Chebeaguers and friends to Washington and Baltimore in February, as sequel to the trip to Turkey in May 2002.

The group visited the Textile Museum to view an exhibit of Anatolian rugs, saw Byzantine art at Dunbarton Oaks and the Walters Museum, heard a lecture at the Jordanian Embassy, enjoyed at reception at the Bisharats' house and dined sumptuously on Turkish dishes in remembrance of Istanbul.

Thanks are due to all CIHS officers and trustees, all volunteers, all members of CIHS and to the Island at large for making this past year a landmark in the history of our Historical Society.

— Phil Jordan, Vice-President

Chebeague Island Library



The Chebeague Island Library continues to grow, change and thrive. The community of Chebeague has come to rely on our full service and hours, and our goal is to continue providing what the community expects. A library is the heart of so many small towns, and ours is no exception.

In 2002, we counted 16,645 people coming through the doors. Throughout the year these people checked out 16,472 books, videotapes and other items. We presently have 1,353 patrons in our system. This is a significant portion of our population, year round and seasonal. While some of these cardholders may not be active users, others represent entire households of very busy library users. In comparison with other libraries of our size, our circulation is very high. This is particularly true for the number of hours we are open: 6 days, 38 hours weekly. Your access to the library and its resources is better than for most libraries of comparable size.

In May we completed our first full year with the automated circulation system and we are making the most of this exciting new technology. In 2002, 1,941 people made use of the public access computers. On many occasions during the busy summer season, staff had to enforce the 15-minute use limit in order to accommodate everyone.

During the school year, 702 student visits occurred. . Weeknights are “homework nights” and the box of school supplies available for students always needs refilling. The island school children come every Friday afternoon for library science, stories, book sharing and work on school projects. The staff works closely with the island teachers and provides them resources for classroom use. Students also use the library for violin practice and the community has heard the results.

Programs offered during the past year were many and diverse. We continued with the Maine Humanities “Let’s Talk About It” series of facilitated book discussion groups. Off island field trips included the Longfellow House/ Maine Historical Museum, Portland Observatory, and McLellan-Swett Mansion. Noted Portland historian and Chebeaguer, Cissie Lindemann acted as our tour guide on several of these trips. Russ Hunter spoke to us about his book, “It Just Happened Again, Dear” a collection of traveling coincidences. He generously donated all proceeds from the sale of his book to the library.

Artists continue to showcase here at the library. BJ Abrahamson started out the season with his new sculptures. Lee Bowman again dazzled us with his photography and Sandra Rice treated us to her lovely paintings of two halves of our world, Chebeague and Indonesia. David Scrase with his magical woodworking showed how he creates his magnificent bowls. Alice Haiss finished out in September with lovely watercolors. The library is committed to providing space for local artists and artisans to share with the community their vision of the world around us.

The Friends of the Library continue to be active and provide the library with the necessary funds to support open hours and programming. A raffle of the beautiful Flora & Fauna quilt made and donated by Linda D. White was held, and associated posters, note and post cards are still selling well. We are so thankful for the efforts of this committee. Finally, our many in-house volunteers help out the

library with desk coverage, shelving, collection maintenance and myriad special jobs, large and small.

This library belongs to you – come and see!

— Deborah A. Bowman, Director
Sheila Putnam, Children’s Librarian
Laura Summa, Assistant Librarian



The Christmas Cantata

Chebeague Island Rescue

We had a long cold winter, a wet cold spring and now we are waiting to see what the summer will be like.

Happily we had fewer rescues last year than usual. I hope that this trend continues and I think that Ginny Ballard is behind it all. It is great to have her on the island. I am sure that everyone joins me in a big *Thank You* Ginny.

We have nine Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) on the island. Bill Calthorpe Jr., Jason Hamilton, Ralph Munroe, Louise Doughty, Polly Wentling, Deb Johnson and Jill Malony. Eric Weagle is working on the island and will be responding with us days. Gordon Murphy has taken a First Responder course and will be on some of our calls. We have two Paramedics, Christine and Michael Feinberg, who we welcome aboard every summer. So all together we have a full crew.

We have all the necessary equipment and training to handle any emergency at the EMT-B level and also medical supplies for the paramedic to treat patients at the ALS level.

You all have a nice summer and do not forget to renew your Bee Sting kit. We do not carry them on our rescue. Victims have to have a kit of their own prescribed by their doctor.

We would like to thank everyone who gave donations to the Rescue. It is not yet carved in stone, but it looks like we might be getting a new rescue vehicle for Chebeague this summer. I am sure that all of your donations will be put to good use. When a call comes in for Chebeague Rescue, our members are at the station in minutes, CTC crew is always ready and Cumberland Rescue is waiting at the dock at Cousins Island. We all work very well together.

Again, thank you.

— Captain Marlene Bowen, Chebeague Rescue

Chebeague Island School

The island school welcomed a new teacher, Susan Beale, to the K-2 classroom.

Also new to the school was Evan Boisvert, a first grader and Tim Calder, our only Kindergartner. Conrad Birkett also joined the 3-5 classroom as a fifth grader.

Highlights of the year for Ms. Beale's class was a December trip



to Lewiston to see *A Christmas Carol* along with Mrs. Smith's class. In March the students from both classes performed *The Wizard of Oz* under the direction of Alison Manion, our music teacher. Mrs. Manion was replaced by Sharon Grossman in April.

Arts Appreciation Night was held at the Recreation Center in May. This enabled parents and interested community members to view artwork from Sara Asch's art classes, observe dances by Wendy Rosene's physical education classes and to enjoy musical contributions

by Sharon Grossman's classes. In addition, the efforts of all the teachers, volunteers, bus drivers, and custodians were recognized.

Martha Hamilton continued the monthly *Art Goes to School* program for K-5. One or two famous artists were profiled by Martha and then discussed with the students.

The Garden Club visited the school in May for the annual seed planting workshop. The sunflower seedlings were planted in the beds in front of the school early in June in anticipation of at least some sunny days ahead.

A new math program called *Everyday Mathematics* has been implemented K-5 and is being used throughout the MSAD #51 district. The program nicely balances the importance of computation and mathematical concepts. Both parents and teachers are pleased with the program and students seem to enjoy it as well. Teachers have received ongoing training for the program on the in service staff sessions on Wednesday afternoons.

The unit studies for K-2 included rocks and minerals, dinosaurs,



Australia and most recently, birds. The children enjoyed a bird

watching experience at the home (and bird sanctuary!) of Stephen and Beverly Johnson, whose many feeders attract numerous species of birds. A variety of new books were purchased for the K-2 classroom and the children's enthusiasm for reading has blossomed this year.

Field trips made by the 3-5 classroom, whose teacher is Gwen Smith, included an excursion to Massachusetts to see the musical play, *Into the Woods, Junior*. Alison Manion, their music teacher, planned the trip. There were also visits to The Museum of Witchcraft, The House of Seven Gables, and the Portland Museum of Art. Unit studies were biomes, pioneers and the westward expansion and weather. While Mrs. Smith was on sick leave, a very capable long term substitute, Winty Bryan, introduced several interesting projects. The student made yarn weavings on looms, wind socks, barometers, anemometers and weather collages. They also collected tadpoles from a local pond so that they could be observed in the classroom.

There is a projected enrollment for 2003-2004 of twenty two students. Regretfully, Cheryl Hillicoss, who has been a great asset to the school for two years, will not be returning next year. However, we anticipate an exciting year with at least six new students, all Kindergartners!

— Susan Robbins, Assistant Principal

Chebeague Island Yacht Club and Community Sailing School

The Yacht Club hosted a number of special events in 2002 which were enthusiastically received. The *American Promise* Lobster Bake was great fun, and raised over \$700 for the Sailing School. The *middies* enjoyed taking the sailing school students out on *Promise* for the afternoon and even enjoyed the surprise sunset water balloon attack launched by the shoreside bake crew. Special thanks go to Brother Ross for providing the lobsters for this event.

Power Night and the newly-introduced Power Lunch were well attended. As were the pre-face picnics on Crow and Bates Islands. The Yacht Club cruise and overnight on Snow Island was once again one of the highlights of the season, with kayaking, trail walking beneath the nesting ospreys, swimming in the 75 degree waters of Quahog Bay and another fabulous lobster dinner cooked on the shore.

The Community Sailing School enrolled 33 students in the two sessions of the year. Instructors Barbara Marks (the younger) and Scott Earnest were aided by part-time helpers Toby Lunt and Jay Cox-Chapman. Jamie Babcock was a great asset as Launch Driver. With the financial support of the Recompense Foundations, the Hoyt Charitable Foundation and member donations, we were able to purchase three new J Y 15's and thus were able to make the classes safer and more lively for the students and the instructors. The Sailing School award for sportsmanship was earned by Duncan McGovern.

The winners of the Yacht Club races are as follows:

Ocean Race: David Burgess

Hamilton Beach Race/Harper Brown Trophy: Scott Earnest

West End Race/Shattuck Trophy: Bob Earnest

Round Island Race (small boats): Toby Lunt

Round Island/Trower Trophy: Manny Morgan
(who acknowledges the total expertise of
Ricky Tonks and daughter)

Bates Island Race/Hubbell Mug: James Regan

Bates Island Race (small boats): Bob Earnest

Other Awards:

Overall Small Boat: Scott Earnest

Overall Large Boat: Tom Rothschild

Bungle Trophy: Tom Rothschild

Club Champion: Scott Earnest

Thanks go to all of the Race Committee Boat Volunteers: Barbara Marks, Anne and Melanie Stephens, Carlos Nottebohm, Barrie Shepard, Sam Ballard, Bob and Sue Buxbaum, Scott McGovern, Donna Damon and Karen Corson. And many thanks to Tommy Damon and Reverend Bob Leon for operating the launch for picnics. What a great group! We could not function without the support of all of you.

We hope to see more islanders on the water in 2003, and also welcome non-boaters to attend the picnics for the races (the launch will run from the Boat Yard). And other special events planned for the 2003 season.

— Manny Morgan



The Christmas Cantata

Chebeague Piecemakers

The Chebeague Piecemakers have gotten further along in the project discussed in last year's Newsletter, of changing its name. The latest proposal is the Chebeague Fibre Arts Group, but we are a bit worried that may sound too "artsy" or "upscale" both for us and for Chebeague. Even by our old name, we are growing even farther beyond quilting, rug-hooking, embroidery, knitting, now even to paper silhouette. So if you like working with "fibres" including cloth, yarn, felt, raffia, rope, paper, wood-splint, rattan, copra or anything else you can imagine, you are welcome to join us on the second and fourth Tuesdays of most months, all day, at the Hall.

This year as a group we have contributed money and will contribute the proceeds of a quilt raffle to support the Hall's new addition. The quilt raffle is a long-delayed project. The quilt is made of "pineapple log cabin" squares originally pieced out of silks and velvets 100 years ago but never assembled into a quilt. Martha Hamilton gave the squares to the quilters several years ago. Beth Howe put them together with sashing and a border as a gift for Martha Hamilton on her retirement as librarian. Martha promptly returned it to be raffled as a benefit for the Hall – an arrangement satisfactory to all concerned, but now several years in the past. Finally, the quilt is being raffled this summer.

We are also finishing a quilt originally begun by Deborah Gordon which will also be raffled off as a contribution to Angela Weagle's medical costs in her continuing battle against cancer.

As far as our individual quilts go, they are spreading out across the country to places as close as Cow Island in Casco Bay to as far away as Alaska. Peggie Jones is finishing the applique work on her Sunflower/Tennessee Waltz quilt which will go to Alaska. She has also been making a Delectable Mountain quilt in lovely greens and purples. Beth is finishing her Amish style woolen quilt which will go off to Wisconsin. Lola Armstrong made a quilt for a new baby in New York; and Jane Abrahamson finished a long cabin quilt which was sent off to California.

Closer to home, Jeanette Hamilton finished her Hawaiian applique quilt as well as a series of flannelette baby quilts and is now working on

a Yellow Brick Road quilt in bright blues and oranges. Lola has been doing one in blues and yellows. Nancy Adams and Jane Harrington are both working on summery quilts with Grandmother's Garden "squares" – actually they are made of small hexagonal pieces of fabric. Suzanne Jackson made a bear paw quilt for her mother, Gladys Bennett, who is living at the Commons. Audrey Collins finished her stack and whack quilt and Nancy Sharp has been working on a Radiant Star formed out of small diamonds. These last two projects have necessarily been lengthy since neither Audrey nor Nancy is with us in the winter

Among the "hookers," Nancy Adams finished her Portland Head Light rug and declared that that is the end of her hooking career. Sue Jackson is still working on hers, with considerably more patience than Nancy ever has. Joyce Soucek, not content with one 2' x 3.5' rug showing a large dog, is well into another portraying more family animals.

The embroiderers, Susie Stavropoulos and Barbara Hamilton, have both been working on cross stitch samplers. They develop the designs themselves and carry them out at a scale that amazes those of us who only did large, ready-made cross stitch projects as little girls.

Martha Hamilton is the one who has been doing a series of paper silhouettes. These started with wonderful, intricate Christmas designs in the German-Swiss scherenschnitte style, and have developed into multi-color Polish wycinanki ones.

Knitting seems to fill any time left over. There are never any "idle hands" among us. Jane Harrington has been making entertaining striped socks. Louise Doughty works in almost every form, commonly knitting, but also making Block on Block and Spinning Spools pillow covers, and embroidering vicariously. Bev Dyer had been extending the range of "fibre skills" by crocheting a scarf.

Except in the summer, each quilting day ends with a collective dinner. These range from the ordinary and comforting – American chop suey or hotdogs and beans -- to the sublime and elegant – roast loin of pork or leg of lamb. Cooking was not one of the "fiber arts" listed above, but it is another art at which the quilters excel.

— Beth Howe

Chebeague Post Office

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for their patronage of our local Post Office. From our year round residents to our seasonal friends and even casual Island acquaintances have all had a hand in making our Post Office a very viable part of the community. I would like to thank our personnel, Debra, Ginger, Martha and our newest Pam Brewer for their dedication in making sure that the mail goes through day in and day out.

By this time everyone has their new E-911 address and should be using it on a regular basis. As of September 1st you will need to use your new address. The Postal Service will try to deliver your mail with your old address but there are no guarantees.

If you have any questions please free to call me at the Post Office (846-5820) and I will try to help. Thank you.

— Gina Ross. Postmaster



A scene from Guys and Dolls

Chebeague Recreation Center

The CRC opened on February 28, 1998 and we now enter our sixth summer of operation. Virginia Tatakis-Calder continues to direct all recreation programs and staffing in her fourth year as the Recreation Director. Beth Dyer is in her sixth year as Administrative Director. We said goodbye to Ken Hamilton who retired as our custodian and all-around handyman after four years of invaluable service. Gail Miller, who wears many hats at the CRC, took over as Custodian. The CRC was fortunate to welcome Leah McDonald last September. Leah has a one-year appointment as a fellow in the Island Institute Fellowship Program and among other things, has been a huge asset to the CRC. She spends most of her time here in the Teen Center but has helped with other programs too. Leah's background in environmental studies made her a natural guide for the Fall and Spring wilderness trips she led for children, teens, and adults. Many other people served as lifeguards, camp counselors, teen center supervisors, program instructors and office helpers. In 2002, the CRC employed 28 people, 21 of them year-round residents.

The past year brought many wonderful moments at the CRC for folks of all ages. We had one of the hottest, driest summers in a long time, followed by one of the coldest, snowiest winter in a long while. In the summer hundreds of people enjoyed the Collins Pool, with 178



pool pass holders and many children enrolled in swim lessons, teens and adults in lap swim, and others enjoying water exercise classes. The pool was open for 98 days and saw an average of 80 swimmers per day, including campers and lesson participants. Happy campers enjoyed the third year of Camp Chebeague and Lobster Camp. Theater-goers were

entertained by the superior performances of *Oliver!* by the Chebeague

Children's Theater under the direction of Rachel Damon, and *Guys and Dolls* by the Chebeague Players under the direction of Stacyann (KomLosy) Stewart.

During the cold winter, the Wednesday early-release program



Volunteer of the Year, Carol White

continued to be popular with the elementary school kids. Gymnastics also became very popular, with Bob Libby coaching the kids every Thursday afternoon for the past year. "Coach Bob" also taught soccer in the fall and basketball and volleyball during the winter. Virginia taught kids' art classes and our young artists produced some beautiful drawings and watercolor paintings. Skiing at Lost Valley continued for its fourth year as a popular program on Wednesday early-release days. Spring running drew many children who get a chance to participate with kids from other schools when they run cross-country races on the mainland.



The Guys and Dolls cast

The Teen Center saw a lot of action in the summer of 2002 with an average of 30 kids per night. Teens started the summer with an overnight trip to Boston where they took in a Red Sox game, the Omni Theater, and Quincy Market. During the summer they had several dances, including the annual Inter-island Teen Pool Party. In March, a group of teens remodeled the Teen Center with fresh paint and furnishings, lending it a whole new look that is warm and inviting.

Adults continued to enjoy the facility for walking, working out, rug hooking, chair caning, and many other activities. "Fitness with Shirley" continued to be a great way to start the day for several folks. Volleyball night was resurrected and started out as a Thursday night event and quickly became a Tuesday and Thursday night activity, and pick-up basketball night is still ongoing on Wednesday nights. The fitness room will be under construction this fall as we expand the size of the

room and add some needed storage.

Many Chebeaguers and friends of Chebeague made valuable contributions to the Recreation Center by donating time, expertise, material goods, and money. The major fundraiser this year was the Treasure Island Golf



"Rockathon" contestant

Tournament, coordinated by Eldon Mayer, and Ship Rec Party, coordinated by Vail Traina, back in August. This may possibly have been the best-attended fundraiser on Chebeague in recent memory with over 250 people at the Ship Rec Party, and the whole event raised over \$15,000. A holiday fundraising letter in December brought over 60 donations totaling almost \$15,000. The Winter Carnival in January, the Teen Center's biggest fundraiser, was a huge success and the coldest plunge day yet. Ten brave souls made the plunge in air temperatures of 8 degrees and a water temperature of 33 degrees! Brrr. Tom Calder was the top pledge earner. New this year was a Rockathon where teens rocked in rocking chairs all night long for pledges. Jim Stefanilo outrocked everyone for a total of 12 hours, beating his sister



Lida Munroe sees that Leah pays up on her bet

Arianna by one minute. They cut a deal and Jim took home the top prize, while Arianna won the honor of cutting Leah's hair along with Lida Munroe. Leah bravely offered her hair as incentive for the teens to earn money and it worked, and she got a very nice haircut too!

The teens raised over \$5,000 for the Teen Center. Thank you to everyone who made all this fundraising possible.



Hike to Zealand Falls

The CRC Volunteer of the Year Award is given to a community member who is not on the Board of Directors who volunteers time, energy and expertise above and beyond the call of duty. While there are so many volunteers who help, each year we

choose one person who shines. The 2002 Volunteer of the Year Award went to Carol White for Lobster Camp. Carol developed the idea, formed the curriculum, got the materials, and donated two weeks of her summer to teach young people about Chebeague's most important industry. This summer marks the fourth year of Lobster Camp.

As always, special thanks go to the tireless Board of Directors who oversee all the operations of the organization and help in ways too numerous to count.

Here's to another great year, and see ya at the Rec!

This year's Board consisted of:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Shirley Barker, Treasurer | Eldon Mayer |
| Leila Bisharat | Gail Miller |
| Warren Bogle | Geoff Summa |
| Deb Bowman | Laura Summa, Vice-President |
| Erica Formisano | Al Traina |
| David Hill, President | Vail Traina |
| Ginger Hobart | Jerry Wiles |
| Beverly Johnson, Secretary | |

— Beth Dyer, Administrative Director



*Dianne Brewer proudly shows off her new car.
Isn't it ironic that the owner of the only gas station on the Island
owns the only electric car on the Island?*

Chebeague Transportation Company

“The mission of the Chebeague Transportation Company is to provide safe, reliable, efficient transportation for Chebeague Island.”

A chapter in CTC’s history books was closed on June 20th, 2002, with the Maine Supreme Judicial Court ruling that the State of Maine was rightful in taking the Blanchard Lot for use by people traveling to and from Chebeague Island. Another chapter opened with the Maine Department of Transportation unveiling their proposed design and construction of a new transit improvement project on Wharf Road in Yarmouth. The project would begin at the entrance of the Cousins Island Parking Lot and continue to the pier at the end of Wharf Road.

The Pied Piper was added to CTC’s fleet of vessels. Arro Yachts



Pied Piper

in Arundel, Maine built the Pied Piper in 1991. The vessel was constructed as a commercial vessel for coastal waters and is similar in size to the Islander. Twin 375 H.P. Detroit Diesel Engines propel her and the hull is of cored fiberglass. Modifications will be made to the Pied Piper before she begins to service Chebeague.

The Islander had a new engine installed and work done on her hull. Passengers and crew seem to enjoy the subdued sound of the

new engine.

CTC had another successful barging season and our gratitude is



Islander and Pied Piper

given to Ralph Stevens of Yankee Marina in Yarmouth, for again offering us an additional landing site.

The bus service to and from the Route 1 parking lot operated year-round. For safety and security reasons, a decision was made by the Board of Directors to no longer stop at Sea Meadows Road on Cousins Island.

CTC’s business office moved from the “Nellie G.” location to 123 Roy Hill Road on Chebeague and research began on finding a new telephone information system.

We would like to acknowledge all of CTC’s Employees for their



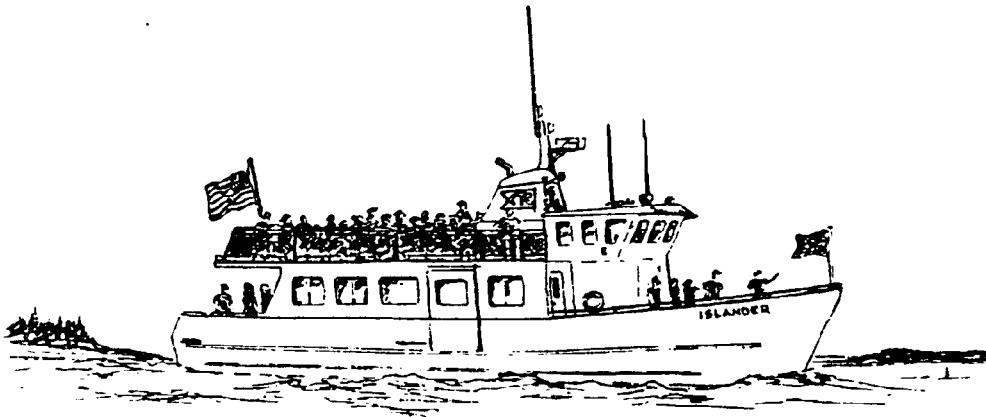
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hard, dedicated work to insure that transportation to and from Chebeague is safe and reliable.

CTC Employees in 2002

~ Brenda Anderson ~ Lisa Arsenault ~ John M. Ash IV ~ Henry Bangert ~ Don Blanchard ~ Dana Brown ~ Gloria Brown ~ Don Buxbaum ~ Dianne Calder ~ Jamie Calthorpe ~ Susan Campbell ~ Clayton Cass ~ Paul Chesley ~ Louise Doughty ~ Bruce Doyle ~ Jason Doyle ~ Willie Doyle ~ Don Fish ~ Greg Googins ~ Leland Hamilton ~ Leon Hamilton ~ Cheryl Hillicoss ~ Darren Hillicoss ~ Linda Kelly ~ John Maxon ~ James Millinger ~ Kim Munroe ~ Bill Munroe ~ James Murray (died October 8, 2002) ~ Lindy Smith ~ Cindie Thibeault ~ Louise Todd ~ Bonnie Twomey ~ Bill Walsh ~ Polly Wentling ~

— Jami KomLosy, Public Relations



Chedemption

Chedemption had a busy and profitable year. Just as a reminder, we are a subsidiary of the Chebeague Island Council which collects redeemable bottles and cans and gives the proceeds to 12 Island non-profit organizations. Chedemption is run by volunteers. We have a shed at the Chebeague Transfer Station where we collect and sort most of the bottles and cans. At least every week, and more often in the busy summer months, we transfer the packed boxes and bags to a storage facility where we keep them until they are shipped, free of charge by the Casco Bay Lines, to East End Redemption Center in Portland.

The new wrinkle in Chedemption's operations this year was the acquisition of a used 6' x 12' trailer which we can use to store the boxes and bags of redeemables and then take them directly to the Casco Bay Line wharf when we make a shipment into Portland. It cost \$2500, which reduced the money distributed to the recipient groups, just for this year. This summer we have been given permission by the Town to try keeping the trailer at the Public Safety Building.

The number of bottles and cans that Chedemption redeems has grown in each of the three years we have been in operation. This past season (October 2001 to October 2002) we sent over 1400 boxes of bottles, and 385 bags of bottles and cans to Portland. We estimate that this kept 5371 cubic feet of material out of the Town's waste stream, saving us all some tax money. This was the equivalent of 6 "silver bullets" completely full of bottles and cans. This volume was up from 3972 cubic feet of material in 2000 - 2001.

The increase in the number of bottles and cans redeemed, of course translates into more money for the organizations we support. We divide the money equally among: Chebeague Care Resource, The Chebeague Island Council, the Hall and Community Center, the Historical Society, the Library, the Methodist Church, the Parents' Association, the Recreation Center, the Sailing School, Sanford's Skating Pond, the Stephen Ross Scholarship Fund and the Cumberland Mainland and Islands Trust. The first distribution in November, 2000 was \$2605. In Fall, 2001 the distribution was \$5900.

This past Fall the total was \$7221. From that we deducted the \$2500 for the trailer, making this year's final distribution \$4721.

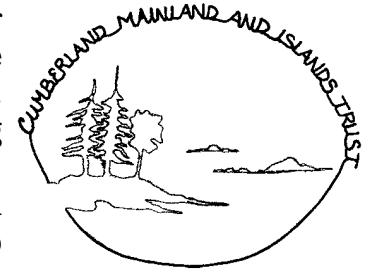
The heart of Chedemption is YOU. Its success depends on your bringing your redeemable bottles and cans to the Transfer Station. We also always need volunteers to pack bottles into banana boxes and to transport them to the trailer. We can manage in the quiet winter season with seven to ten regular volunteers. In summer the bottles and cans pile up at the Transfer Station and we need at least twice that number – people who are willing to come regularly to pack and transport. **If you are a member or a supporter of one of the organizations we give our proceeds to, please help your organization by helping us.** We also have a wonderful volunteer appreciation dinner at the end of the summer, if that's any incentive.

— Beth Howe



Cumberland Mainland and Island Trust

2002-2003 promises to be another great year in the activities of the Cumberland Mainland & Islands Trust. Here is a brief summary of ongoing Trust projects:



1. The Curit Property: A Collaborative Effort with the Town to Create Coastal Access, Preserve Riparian Areas on the Island and Create an Opportunity for Affordable Housing.

Last year the Trust guided the formation of a partnership to purchase and preserve portions of the Curit property located on North Road on Chebeague. The property is comprised of approximately 12 acres of undeveloped woodlands, a stream area and shoreland with clam-flats.

The project is a unique collaboration between the Town of Cumberland, the Cumberland Mainland & Islands Trust, the Curit family and interested members and friends of the Chebeague Community. Residents of Chebeague and the Town are interested in promoting affordable housing on the Island. The Trust is interested in securing opens space, in conservation of the small stream and associated riparian habitat areas and in permanently securing public access to the shoreland areas. The Curit family members responded positively to the project by offering the property to the Town at a below market price.

The Town completed the purchase of the property earlier this year. The Town has also agreed to grant the Trust a conservation easement over approximately one half of the land. The easement will protect the riparian area, the shoreland and forested uplands by placing them into permanent conservation protection. The conservation area will be available for low impact (hiking, nature study, etc.) public use. The Trust will receive the easement when \$100,000, half the purchase price of the land, is paid to the Town.

Chebeaguers have been successful to date in raising funds for the purchase from two grants. The MBNA Foundation has awarded the

project a 1:1 challenge grant-- for every \$1 donated to the purchase, the MBA Foundation will match it up to a total of \$50,000. The Davis Foundation has also just awarded a grant in the amount of \$10,000 towards the project. In addition, the project may be the subject of another award of \$5000 from the Casco Bay Estuary Project.

Chebeaguers have until August to raise the balance of the \$100,000 purchase price to support the project. The Trust would like to also secure additional donations to cover the costs of building a trail and other improvements to allow public access through the property and to the shore and to pay for future costs associated with the stewardship of the protected area. The Trust continues to receive donations to support the project. Due to the Trust's non-profit status donations may be tax deductible. If you are interested in supporting this project please contact Beverly Johnson or Sue Burgess.

2. Whale Boat Island.

Last summer the Trust was also successful in supporting, in conjunction with the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, fundraising efforts to purchase Whale Boat Island. That transaction was completed late last summer.

3. Mainland: Another Collaboration to Secure Permanent Protection of the Sunrise Acres Farm.

For the last two years the Trust has been working with the owner of Sunrise Acres Farm on the Range Road in Cumberland Center to secure permanent protection of the farmstead. The farm has been ranked as the number one priority in the Land For Maine's Future Farmland Protection Program. The Farm is the cornerstone of the Cumberland Farmer's Market and one of the three last operating farms in the Town. The farm through its Community Supported Agriculture provides subscribers with fresh organic produce. The farm is also the host site for numerous other community and agricultural activities throughout the year. The Trust is now working with the Town to partner on the local match of funds required to purchase the development rights of the farm. The funds will be used by the farm to make farm improvements and for long term operating funds that will ensure the farm remains viable and operating into the future. If you are interested in learning more about the Sunrise Acres project or donating to the project contact any of the Trust Board members on Chebeague: Sue Burgess, Melanie Gustafson or Richard Bowen.

4. Visit the Trust Preserves.

Summer is an ideal time for you to visit and enjoy the Trust's island properties. The public is welcome to use the Trust's Basket Island Preserve for day activities all summer. We remind everyone that during spring and early summer (April 15th to July 15th) that the Trust's Stockman Island Preserve is closed from any use to protect sea bird nesting areas. Be sure to take time to visit the Trust's Deer Point Property this summer.

5. Consider Enrolling Your Property in Conservation Protection.

While enjoying our coast please be thinking of the many other promising opportunities to expand conservation lands on Chebeague, Cumberland's other islands and on the mainland. The recent results of the Town revaluation confirm again that hidden costs of development continue to adversely impact each of us. Landowners and communities can benefit from the conservation opportunities the Trust can offer through preserving open space, habitats for wildlife and the tax benefits available for income and property tax purposes and estate planning. If you or someone you know would learn more about these opportunities, the Trust operations and properties, please call me (home 829-3201) or one of the Trust Island representatives - Sue Burgess, Melanie Gustafson or Richard Bowen.

— Robert J. Crawford

From your Cumberland Town Councilor

Reflecting back on the past year of representing the people of Chebeague I cannot help, but sigh. It has been a tough one! When I decided to run for Town Councilor I pledged that I would not leave meetings early to catch the boat, and I have kept my word. But little did I know that I would have to stay on the mainland so frequently that the Freeport Inn would send me a coupon for a free over night because I was such a good customer!



The revaluation was a contentious and frustrating process. The Town Council voted in 2001 to do a partial revaluation by updating the assessments on all properties in Town based on “fair market value.” This meant that the assessors would not inspect the interior of every house, but the Council was assured by Vision Appraisal, in the presence of the Town Assessor, that drive-by inspections would be made of all properties and adjustments would be made that could be made based on a visual exterior inspection. This never happened

and people received their new assessments based on Vision’s old neighborhood model data. They based the value of Chebeague property on one piece of shorefront property that they had never visually inspected. Assessments went through the roof. Islanders were scared. Could they pay their taxes? The inherently inequitable nature of local revaluation was evident as people compared their assessments to others on the island and the mainland. A grassroots movement was formed that resulted in the creation of an organization entitled *Save Our Island* and a group of people captained by Boopie Tellinghuisen and David Hill created proposed legislation known as the *Maine Land Bank*. The Maine Land Bank was one of only a handful of more than two hundred tax reform bills to survive this past legislature. It has been tabled but is still alive awaiting action! Great work Boopie and Dave! [Our humble councilor neglected to mention that the basic concept for the Maine Land Bank was conceived by her! Please see the article beginning on Page 4 – Eds.]

Let us hope that programs such as the Maine Land Bank will be enacted before the next revaluation, because if it isn’t many of us who call Chebeague home today will not be living here in ten years.

Bob Benson, longtime Cumberland Town Manager, decided to retire as of June 30, 2003. During Bob’s tenure the Town bought Chandlers Cove Beach, Sunset Landing as well as the Sharp and Gosselin properties. The new Firehouse was built and the Town acquired over one thousand feet of shorefront at Division Point. The Dump closed and the Town built a new Transfer Station. The most recent Town project was the construction of the new Public Works facility. Bob Benson was supportive of the efforts of the Chebeague community to build the Library and the Recreation Center, and secured a place in the Town budget for both of these organizations, that are really performing Town functions. Benson worked behind the scenes with others to convince the DOT to take the Blanchard Parking Lot and to develop the Route One Lot.

We are fortunate to have hired Bill Shane, a Cumberland resident and former Yarmouth Public Works director, as our new Town Manager. Chebeaguers have already been impressed with his knowledge and understanding of our needs by his support of the comprehensive plan for the Stone Wharf. Bill has reinstated the practice of having a *satellite* Town Hall open once a month on

Chebeague. If you need to register a car or conduct some other Town business call 829-5559 to find out the details.

It is interesting to note that although it seems as if there is building happening everywhere on Chebeague, no Chebeague building permits were requested in 2002. In fact at least five of the houses that were part of the first building cap panic a couple of years back are still under construction. That being said all four permits for 2003 have been taken out. No, there is no way to use the ones from 2002. You can put your name on the list for 2004, but sign up only if you really plan to build right away. We do not want to create another panic!

Some other highlights of the year have been:

- The acquisition of the 13 acre Curit property on the North shore in conjunction with the Cumberland Mainland and Islands Trust. They are raising half of the purchase price to ensure that the wildlife values of the property will be protected while the Town plans to develop the upper portion of the property as an affordable housing project, which is yet to be defined.
- The Cumberland Islands Committee was reactivated and has a membership of more than 15 people ready to work on island issues.
- Kudos to the Stone Wharf Committee for a job well done, developing a master plan for the wharf. The channel will be dredged and the wharf repaired this Fall. Next Spring the new ramps and floats should be in place.
- The Council has been reviewing the Mooring Fees and Clam License procedures and will be reviewing them again soon. Contact me if you want more information about either of these issues.
- As this goes to press the Town is considering the acquisition of a significant parcel of property on the Mainland. Known as the Rines Property it has the potential of providing wilderness experiences close to home and even has a stream, two waterfalls and fish!

No list of town activities would be complete without an update on the Cousins island situation. Nancy Blanchard decided not to appeal her latest setback in court and settled the saga of the parking lot once and for all for \$900,000. The original amount was \$600,000. The additional \$300,000 has put a strain on the State which has many other

financial pressures, but the money is there and the bill will be paid. However the turn-around project has been on hold waiting for a signed wharf agreement between Cumberland and Yarmouth. When that occurs we will be back to the drawing board to try to correct the public safety issues at the bottom of the hill. Stay tuned!

The greatest news of all? The Town has just ordered the new rescue vehicle for the Island! Hurray!

Call anytime at 846-5140 or email me at publicservant1@aol.com If I don't call you back please try again. I'm sure I've forgotten something but stop me on the boat or look for me at coffee break at the store when school's out!

— Donna Miller Damon, Cumberland Town Councilor



Friends of the Library

The mission of the Friends of the Library is to raise funds, which enable the Library to expand its services to all members of the Chebeague community. We thank everyone who contributed to our fundraising efforts last year. The magnificent quilt, *Flora and Fauna of Chebeague*, designed and made by Linda White, was won by Lori Cavanaugh, a summer visitor from Denmark, Maine. When she received the call that she had won, she and her family were redecorating their living room and talking about where they would put the quilt if they were lucky enough to win it. What perfect timing!

Posters and stationery featuring the quilt and individual squares for wall hanging are on sale at the Library, through Robert White (846-4113 or white@gwi.net), and at Archipelago in Rockland. We are also selling aprons with the Library logo on them and pins by Gail Miller (Miller Design. The 2002 Chebeague Island Directory is still available for another year before the next edition appears.

On July 12 the Friends of the Library is sponsoring the *Island Friends Dinners*. It promises to be a fabulous evening commencing with dinners at various homes around the island followed by dessert and champagne at the home of Linda and Robert White. There will be a silent auction featuring small antiques, artwork, jewelry, and fine crafts. All of the items for the silent auction are available for viewing at the Library. After the closing of bids for the silent auction, we will be treated an exciting fireworks display.

The Friends of the Library membership letter will go out in early fall. There will be an annual meeting held during the summer. Be sure to look for the date at the Library. Officers will be elected and new and innovative ways to raise Library funds will be discussed. Everyone is invited to attend.

This year's committee has been:

Jeanette Hamilton
Beth Howe
Al Traina

Linda White
Robert White
Jean Whitaker

— Vail Traina, Chair

<http://www.chebeague.org>

Well, here it is another year has gone by, actually more than a year, actually a lot more than a year and here I am still cranking out the island website.

It still is a lot of fun and I sincerely hope that the page helps to keep the community informed and united, no matter how far flung our people are.

I've received notes from all around the world telling me that the Internet has made it possible to keep in touch with the "homeland" of Chebeague, no matter how far away home is. And if www.chebeague.org helps make that possible, I'm happy.

— Beverly Johnson, Webmaster



Island Commons Resource Center

Island Commons is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year!

Developed and completed in 1998 as a licensed adult family care home, Island Commons was most generously supported by the Chebeague community to address specific needs of our elder relatives and neighbors. It was completed by its non profit parent, Chebeague Care Resource, only by the determination of hundreds of participants to *make it possible*.

In FIVE YEARS, this truly remarkable community resource has evolved into a most attractive, superlatively staffed, and widely appreciated center that now includes a 6-bed residential care home, adult day service, respite care, a library of helpful literature on health and caring, community activities and programs, and a lively volunteer program. Off-campus programs include Senior Luncheons and Community Health Seminars.

This year, the Board of Directors decided to change its name (from Chebeague Care Resource – “CCR”) to **ISLAND COMMONS RESOURCE CENTER**. This reflects a desire to merge the programs, the administration, and the organization together, under one roof. Our office is now located on the second floor at Island Commons. Our only telephone number is 846-4456.

The Commons’ operating funds come from several sources: fees for service, MaineCare (Medicaid) reimbursement, personal and foundation contributions, in-kind donations, grants, and a very modest \$125,000 endowment. Recent astonishing and colossal increases in insurance premiums and energy costs in tandem with our determination to recognize, reward, and retain our dedicated all-island staff demonstrate a budget that now requires a yearly subsidy of over \$50,000.

Our plans for the NEXT FIVE YEARS are ambitious, and essential to continuing our mission and goals to serve the Chebeague community. Island Commons will experience growth in several ways:

4. by expanding board membership and training to meet changing demands,
5. by listening to you for program review and ideas to reach more people,

6. by enhancing our volunteer program with training and recognition,
7. by encouraging even wider community participation, and
8. by launching an endowment campaign to assure the life and quality both of our attractive buildings and our significant island programs.

We invite you, and encourage you, to continue your superb and enthusiastic support of money, in-kind gifts, volunteer service, and at fundraiser events. **Your contribution is the root of our success!**

Memorial and honorary gifts to **Island Commons** are a most personal way of sharing. In the past year the following people were so honored and remembered:

HONOREES

Ruth Slowik
Gladys Bennett – “for her smiles”
Dorothy
Virginia
Minnie
Island Commons’ caregivers – “for their dedicated and loving care”
The Commons’ staff
The volunteers – “who are such an integral part of Island Commons”
Pommy – “for her foresight and work”
Joan Bennett
Ross Martindale
Whalers’ Cantata male soloists – “in recognition of their participation”

IN MEMORIAM

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ernest P. Abrahamson II | Clyde Bowen |
| Elizabeth Van Arsdale | Marguerite Bowen |
| Lyman & Grace Banker | John Hamilton Calder |
| Joan MacCormack Barker | Irvina Pomeroy Cooper |
| Leo J. Belesca | Marjorie & Barton Curit |
| Albert Bennett | Mary Doughty |

Emery Doughty
Tamaria Eichelburg
Ginna Toohey Ensign
The Graves Family
Laura & Mauritz Froding
Ellen C. Hamilton
Bruce Hamilton
Eleanor Hanscom
Trot Hatfield
John & Josey Holt
Gertrude F. Jones
John King
Jeanne & Gard Layng
Dick MacCormack
Isabelle & Harry Mansfield
Melba & Ellsworth Miller
Edward Bailey Moulton
John Moulton
Brooke Olsen
Frances Otey

Kathy Parker
Ruth Regels
A. J. & Pete Rodman
Steve Ross
Archie Ross
Ann Hatfield Rothschild
Kathryn Runge
Lewis B. Sawyer
June Scamman
John Slowik
Helen Slowik
Earle E. Doughty, Sr.
Hermine Stevens
Ida & Bill Stilphen
Jean & Nancy Webb
Leah Webber
Marian S. Wessell
Chebeague people we
have lost

— Pommy Hatfield

Ladies Aid

This past year has been another busy one for the longest running organization on Chebeague, the Ladies Aid.

Both fairs, Summer and Christmas, went well and were well attended. We now have two or three members working on crafts and they are really making some neat things. This adds a lot to what we sell.

We really appreciate all the many boxes Madeline Brewer's family gave to the Aid. We will be working on the many pieces of embroidery, crewel, pictures, yarn etc, for a long time. If anyone likes to knit or crochet we have a good supply of yarn on hand now and we would like very much to have you work some of it for us.

Our main goal is to support the church. Parsonage and parish house but we are now able to contribute to most of the other island organizations plus some off island,

Our Thursday meetings are not all work. Last April we spent the day in Brunswick with Nancy Chamberlain and were entertained royally. In September we all went out for a lovely lunch in Windham before meetings started again.

On our wreath making day, December 5th, we were all provided with a great meal by Jane Abrahamson, topped off with her famous carrot cake and ice cream to celebrate our oldest member's 97th birthday.

Betsey Ross sent out 521 cards this past year. They seem to be appreciated very much.

New members are always welcome. The dues to join still remain one dollar. We accomplish a lot and have great fellowship and fun doing it.

— Victoria Smith, Secretary

Great Chebeague Golf Club

The Golf Club enjoyed a successful season with Bob Raymond and Linda Grant winning the Men's and Women's Championships while Nicholas Nottebohm and Anita Willett won the Handicap Championships. The season wrapped up tournament play with a somewhat soggy Frost Tournament with overall wins by Steve Johnson and Cooper Bowman.

The Club has a very active Women's Day group each Monday morning, which encourages ladies of all ages and abilities to participate in golf instruction and fun golfing. For the first time the women hosted a similar group from Val Halla. The event was very successful and a trip to the mainland as guests of the Val Halla group is planned for this season.

Men's Day is each Thursday morning. It's fun and non-intimidating, and will be under the supervision of Jim Knowlton this season.

The golf club facilities are utilized for fund raising tournaments on alternating years by CRC and CCR. The 2002 season saw a record golf turnout of 76 players for the CRC Tournament. That number, combined with one of the hottest days of the summer, made for rather slow play, but a successful tournament nonetheless.

The annual Lobster Bake/Family Scramble was not held this year since no competent chefs were available. The event will be held this July utilizing the culinary skills of local talent whose one previous lobster bake was surprisingly successful.

If your children/grandchildren are not already participating, sign them up for the Thursday afternoon Junior Golf Clinic. There is no charge. It is a structured, fun opportunity for them to learn golf, golf rules and golf etiquette. Golf is a lifetime sport, and young children who learn proper skills will be most appreciative in later years.

Bob Libby and his crew continue to improve the playing condition of the course. He now sits astride a totally hydraulic fairway mower purchased last Fall. As all functions are controlled from the operator's seat, fairway mowing can now be accomplished much more expeditiously.

In the Spring of 2002 the Golf Club held preliminary discussions

with the Town in a cooperative effort to improve the parking situation around the Stone Pier. A final resolution continues to appear elusive.

Hope to see you on the course some time this season.

— Malcolm Rice, President



Wagoneers Gary Ross, Marlene Bowen, Brother Ross, and Med Bowen

Recompense Foundation

The Recompense Foundation is a private foundation established in December, 1991 to engage exclusively in activities for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code for the purposes of devoting and applying the funds of the foundation a) for the maintenance, preservation, conservation and beautification of Chebeague Island, b) for the relief of the poor, needy, distressed and underprivileged residents of Chebeague Island, including providing funds to tax-exempt, charitable organizations which provide food, shelter and clothing, or basic services to such residents, and providing funds to individuals and families living on Chebeague Island who are unable to meet the costs of basic medical, health, nutritional and educational needs, and c) for charitable, religious, scientific, literary or educational purposes.

The business affairs of The Recompense Foundation are conducted and managed by its Board of Directors - Glenn S. Kersteen, Executive Director; Eldon C. Mayer, Jr., Treasurer and Secretary; Joyce Souchek, Director; Gail Miller, Director; Roy Jackson, Director, Manny Morgan, Director, Ralph Munroe, Director, Betts Mayer, Director, John Rich, Director, Douglas Ross, Director. During 2002, the Foundation supported the following charitable activities. Contribution of \$500 was made in support of the Chebeague Care Resources and \$1,500 to the Chebeague Historical Society for its inaugural exhibit. A contribution of \$1,000 was made to the CIHCC for its expansion program. The Foundation also supported the Chebeague Sailing School with a contribution of \$2,000 for the purchase of replacement boats, the CIC with an award of \$250 for its Samaritan Fund, the Chebeague Library audio-visual program for \$1,000, and support of the Chebeague Community web site for \$500. Also, \$1,000 was contributed to the Cumberland Mainland Islands Trust, \$500 to the Mountain Adventures program, and \$1,000 in support of its Chebeague instrument programs. The Foundation continued to support the Beautification Program in the amount of \$235.

The Board would appreciate all applications for awards to be submitted by August 15, 2003. A summary of the financial condition

of the Foundation is presented below. The market value of all assets approximates book value.

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2002

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cash | \$ 27,015 |
| Other investments | 100,000 |
| <u>Total assets</u> | <u>\$ 127,015</u> |

Foundation equity **\$ 127,015**

Statement of Revenues and Expenses Year Ended December 31, 2002

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Investment income | \$ 1,748 |
| Total income | 1,748 |

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Administrative costs | 94 |
| Taxes and fees | 101 |
| Charitable contributions | 8,883 |
| Total expenses | 9,078 |

Realized gains and losses 0

Excess of expenses over revenues **\$ (7,330)**

The annual tax return (form 990-PF) of the Foundation is available for inspection during normal business hours by any interested person within 180 days. Contact the Executive Director, Glenn S. Kersteen, 20 Long Creek Drive, South Portland ME. (773-2986)

— Glenn Kersteen, Executive Director

Stephen Ross Scholarship Fund

The financial picture of the Stephen Ross Scholarship Fund is sound although we have felt the pinch of lower interest returns from the Maine Community Foundation like everyone else.

Our principal now totals over \$50,000. Our by-laws state we are to “award only the interest.” This year the total awards will be approximately \$2900. This is one of the most important projects on Chebeague because its proceeds directly affect our young people in their attempts to further their education. We are all aware of the astronomical costs of education these days. With that in mind, I hope that you will dig a little deeper in your pocket and send a donation to the Scholarship Fund c/o Maine Community Foundation, 245 Main Street, Ellsworth ME 04605, or to our Treasurer Mabel Doughty, 23 Bennett Cove Road, Chebeague Island ME 04017.

The awards for this year are: Lauren Miller, second year student, University of Maine Farmington, \$1200; Bradley Putnam, entering Harvard College, \$1700.

This year was a sad one for the directors - our dear friend and board member Everett “Bill” Ross passed away in the spring of 2002. A large portion of donations received last year were in Bill’s memory. Bill was one of the founders of the fund in 1964 and had a great interest in the young people of Chebeague. He was a close friend of Stephen Ross for whom the fund is named and also worked for years for Steve’s dad Lewis and for his grandfather Merle B. Ross. We are happy to report however that Bill’s daughter Betsey has agreed to serve on the Scholarship Board along with Ken Hamilton, President, Mabel Doughty, Treasurer, Dianne Calder, Secretary, Hartley Brewer, Sue Burgess, Betsey Ross and Doug Ross.

The Scholarship Board thanks all who donated to the fund, whether it was a memorial to someone or was an annual donation to benefit Chebeague graduates. A special thank you to those faithful who continue to support the Scholarship Fund year after year. Our total contributions for 2002 totaled \$3245.

The Stephen Ross Scholarship Fund
Route 1, Box 204
Chebeague Island, ME 04017

— Dianne Calder, Secretary



The Christmas Cantata

Transfer Station

The Transfer Station saw another very busy year. I have noticed an increase in the general trash that gets compacted. We fill a forty cubic yard in about a week (four days of operation) in mid-summer and the same compactor lasts a little over a month in mid-winter. It is hard to say how many vehicles it takes to fill this compactor due to the differences in everyone's type of trash. The demolition and metal containers seem to get filled at about the same rate as in other years.

The Chedemption shed takes a tremendous amount of the cans and bottles out of the waste stream, thus saving us taxpayers money as well as leading to significant redemption repayments to the island non-profit organizations.

The annual "Bulky" weekend is generally held in early August as that is the time of year when most home owners are here and able to get things up to the Station. Last year's weekend did show some signs of a reduction in how much is brought in; maybe we are finally catching up.

The brush dump still grows in the amount being brought in and there is always plenty of free mulch available when we are open. Some of it is even approaching the grades of humus or loam!

There are occasions when we might be unable to open due to an extended power outage. Also a bad snowstorm might sometimes delay us from opening. This past winter certainly was cold up at the Station. I would like to thank Dick Collins and Di Calder for being my back up attendants, and thanks also to Med Bowen and Dave Campbell for their assistance.

Please remember to drive slowly in the yard; there are times when it is very congested. Thanks to everyone for being safe and helping to keep the Transfer Station clean.

— Tom Calder

United Methodist Church



Right up front: this report of the year's activities of Chebeague United Methodist Church is not being written by the pastor. Various health problems have, regrettably, made it necessary for Pastor Bob Leon to retire after serving this church for seven years. Our future at this point is that we are not sure what will happen next, but assured because we are Methodists and the immediate solution is in the hands of District Superintendent Gary Shaw, who we enjoyed welcoming at our annual Church Conference in the fall. We know that he will do his best for us in the limited

time he has before ceasing to be District Superintendent, due to a reorganization of the Maine Districts within the New England Conference.

While the most serious and far-reaching of our mishaps this is by no means the first in this year that this lay reporter is calling "unique," a suitably stiff upper lip word. For some time it had been noticed that people attending services in the sanctuary began coughing upon, or soon after, entering. It became obvious that these coughs were too many, too frequent and too regular. Air quality had to be the problem. In the fall the Trustees had the carpet professionally cleaned. The results were an unpleasant odor from the carpet and no reduction in the coughing. Further exploration turned up some holes in the furnace air ducts as well as in the flue running to the chimney at the far end of the building, **and** mold on the dirt floor of the basement. Remember,



the church was built in 1855.

Right after Christmas the church – which, of course, is the people – rose to the occasion and moved across the road into the Parish House. We were thankful for a nice building with an organ and the antique oak

pulpit available. Sunday School was in recess for the winter and “We have been so prompt,” we told ourselves, “we will be back in the sanctuary by Easter ... maybe even Palm Sunday!” The Ladies Aid brought our their seat cushions, the cross, candles, paraments and hymnals were moved across the road and we settled in.



As part of our Christmas observance, the outdoor creche had been set up. Baby Jesus was placed in the creche on Christmas Eve, just in time to greet the all-day Christmas snowstorm that buried Him and the entire display except for the very tip of the tallest

crown on one of the Magi. Fortunately the snow loosened up enough in a couple of weeks so that the figures could be dug out and moved inside. The ground on the spot was not bare until St. Patrick’s Day.



Any springtime reopening of Sunday School had to be given up when Sunday School Superintendent Karen Hamilton was deployed to Kuwait and word came that the air problem would be solved sometime after Easter.

So the small table serving as alter was strewn with palms, the Easter Breakfast became coffee and Danish, and our miracle worker flower arrangers surrounded the pulpit with Easter flowers in a truly beautiful display. The Easter morning sunrise was cloudless and beautiful, much better than many times before.

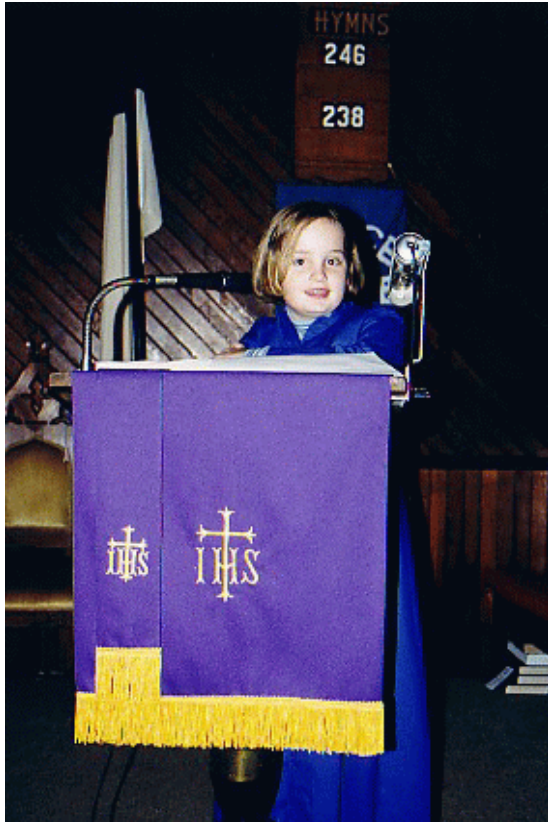


In the meantime our air quality expert got sick – very sick – three months of pneumonia. Hopefully by mid-June we will know our options as far as the sanctuary are concerned.

In May Pastor Bob’s health problems caught up with and

overwhelmed him, and us. For the present we are grateful to have the services for worship of our own Bob Brown and of Rev. Dr. William Doughty, who, in retirement, fills in for churches in our situation. Rev. Doughty will be with us through July and will be available on the Island on Wednesdays from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M..

It has been said that God never closes one door without opening another. All this strange winter as doors closed on us others opened. So Chebeague United Methodist Church moves on in faith that we will continue to face open doors.



Everyone is welcome at 10 A.M. Sunday services. We are here, on one side of the road or the other. We are functioning. We want you. We need you. Come join us as we experience God's love together.

— Jean Dyer

Whalers

It was a year of transition without our fearless leader of ten years,



as Deborah Garden left us in January, 2002. We continued to meet regularly at the CIHCC on Monday afternoons and we sang by request at church on Easter and for several funeral services. We did not get a concert together in the spring but launched a whole new venture in the fall. Diane Leon and Susie Stavropoulos had found a Cantata *Repeat the Sounding Joy* with its own accompaniment CD, practice tapes, etc, a compilation of sacred and popular Christmas music with narration, for four parts. It was evident that we would need the fourth part, the basses, and all the help we could get with tenors, altos, sopranos *AND* the narration, not to mention the sound equipment and some visual special effects. We wound up with 34 singing voices, including seven Sunday School children who sang *Away in a Manger* at the right time in the right key and looked angelic in their blue choir robes with white surplices thanks to Karen Hamilton. We had a very dedicated Mark McGee working with Beverly Johnson on the sound system (A *Rube Goldberg* affair that worked remarkably well because Mark ran it) and a *Power Point* computer rig and huge screen on loan from the library for the visuals. Bev spent untold hours on this alone

using photos, Christmas Cards, etc, to illustrate the Christmas story. She then provided an Island *slide show* as a bonus after the concert. Giselle Phipps and Deborah Hall narrated with short parts taken by John Maxon, Bonnie KomLosy, Barbara Porter, Bob Brown, Bob Leon and John Ash. Solos were ably sung by Joan Maxon, Bob Brown, Diane Leon and Britney Bernier. Lighting was expertly handled by Doug Ross. Refreshments were provided by the Whalers and a CIHCC committee with Peggy Jones and Barbara Hamilton in charge.

It was definitely a challenge: once that CD orchestra accompaniment began we had to get all the introductions, the key changes and keep up with the tempo; but, with many, many rehearsals (at least twice a week all during November) we persevered and *apparently* it was a rousing success. The audience really liked it and some people have ventured to say that they would like to join us if we should do another one, so who knows? We'll see. The proceeds allowed us to pay the expenses of this type of concert, to donate to the CIHCC which has provided us with a home without much remuneration to date, and to establish a fund for music or to enhance the Hall sound system, or whatever,

So far this year, the Whalers still meet on Mondays and we have been asked to sing at the new Museum opening in July in the renovated old school building. Come and join us and sing some of the old songs there.

Whalers:

Sally Ballard
 Dianne Calder
 Khaki Habig
 Cheryl Hillicoss
 Ruth Houghton
 Beverly Johnson
 Bonnie KomLosy
 Diane Leon
 Cathy MacNeill

Joan Maxon
 Eleanor Morse
 Caroline Partlow
 Barbara Porter
 Joan Robinson
 Susie Stavropoulos
 Vail Traina

Christmas Chorus:

John Ash
 Britney Bernier
 Bob Brown
 Doug Clark
 Dick Freeman
 Jane Frizzell

John Howard
 Bob Leon
 Leah MacDonald
 John Maxon
 Malcolm Rice

Sunday Schoolers:

Evan Boisvert
 Noah Boisvert
 Amanda Campbell
 Chloe Dyer

Genevieve Dyer
 Anna Hamilton
 Natalie Murphy

Many thanks for all the loyal support the island has given us over the years. For the Whalers,

— Martha Hamilton, Director



Chebeague Census

A quick census of Chebeague was done in January, 2003. There were approximately 370 people on the island at that time.

WEDDINGS....

Gretchen Tonks-Sennott to Jim Hartling
Matthew Stewart to Stacy KomLosy
Steven Parker to Margaret Sawkins
W. Curtis Armstrong to Pearl DeYoung
Askley Sidor to Kai Adams
Brooke West to John Williams
Ellen Burns to Christopher York
Jennifer Vintinner to David Horner
Mika Holiday to Nathaniel Lentz
Hugh Bowen to Danielle Thoronsen
Jennifer Carnes to Patrick Wright
Meredith Lestan to Jean Louis Beapre
Kimberly Kuntz to Christopher Gogan
Beth Wiliams to Gerald Wiles
Elizabeth Marshall to John Kinnealey
Debra Doughty to Nathan Bailey Jr.
Congratulations to Jason and Nicole Wheldon

ENGAGEMENTS....

Laura Emily Trask to David Tyler
September Chebeague wedding

Sarah Hinckley Morse to Shane Gardiner Layng
June Chebeague wedding

Patti Rich to Winthrop "Wine" Houghton Jr.
August Chebeague wedding
Nina Marie Brown and Mark Silberman
April 2004 wedding

BIRTHS....

Meadon Lynn to
Sara and Brian Phipps

Sophie Rose to
Mary and Rob Phipps

Anna Loxley to
Heather (Malony) and Mike Dougan

Sydney Elizabeth to
Steven and Margaret Parker

Richard "Ricky" Michael to
Peter and Carol Brenton

Lucille Meriam to
Margaret (Irwin) and Skye Yenco

Cameron James to
Vickie (Riddle) and Steve Todd

Beatrice Emma Althea Crossman to
May Hall

Jenna Danielle to
Jamie (Hamilton) and Bill Calthorpe

Leif Travis to
Russ and Jessica Boisvert

Lillian Jessie to
Mayo and Molly Shattuck

Kayleigh Mai to
Mimi (Lestan) and Jean Louis Beapre

Vivian Sherburne to
Jennifer and Matthew Keegan

AND CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Barbara and Charles Marks,
who have a new granddaughter Cordelia
Lesley Clark with a new grandson Ian
Phyllis MacArthur with a new great granddaughter, Ella
Carolyn Waller Bradley with a great grandson, Alec

DEATHS....

John Moulton
Robert Riddle
Elery Fowler
Lawson McLellan
Samuel P. Gaston
Emery Doughty
Kathleen Hutchinson Parker
James Murray (CTC driver for many years)
June Scamman
Warren Gee
Gertrude Jones
Walter "Wally" Knight
Polly Miller Springer
Dorothea Lunt
Anne Marie Skillen Boxer
Daniel J. Feeney
Elizabeth VanArsdale
Hermine Stevens
Kyleigh Mai Beapre
Lucy Hamilton
Ossie Beal
Steven Hudgins
David J. Scott
Condolences to....

Bill and Barbara Marshall (his mother)

Donnie and Norah Alper (his mother)
Carol and Frank Sabastianski (his mother)
Will and Maggie Vaughan (his father)
Elaine Doughty (her brother)
Roy and Suzanne Jackson (his sister)
Sheila Ross Burke (her husband)
John and Joan Maxon (his sister)

If you have a birth, death or marriage statistic you would like to have included in the Annual Newsletter next year, please contact either of us.

— Census data provided by Dianne Calder
and Marjorie Munroe



