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Chebeague Island Annual Newsletter 2004

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Cover:

One of the *Newsletter* editors was asked what his fondest wish would be. The spontaneous answer was, "Just one year where Chebeague Island doesn't have to fight for its very survival."

It seems that in the recent past, Chebeague has been tested (and continues to be challenged) by issues such as property taxes, ferry access to the mainland and, most recently, the specter of thousand-foot vessels chewing up the lobster grounds and feeding an industrial giant with the capacity to incinerate all within a four mile radius.

While many will dispute the veracity of this last statement, none can deny that the issue of the siting of a liquid natural gas (LNG) terminal in Casco Bay or anywhere in Maine, for that matter, has ignited a firestorm of controversy that is figuratively equal to that of an LNG explosion.

The issue has sharply divided our neighbors in Harpswell and threatened to do the same in the Town of Cumberland, possibly pitting islanders against mainlanders.

On Page 2, Mac Passano recounts the history to date of the Fairwinds Storm, the LNG controversy and how it has affected residents of Chebeague.

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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

The Fairwinds Storm

Introduction

Until late in 2003 the name "Fairwinds" meant nothing to the people of Chebeague Island. It was only when the selectmen of our neighboring town of Harpswell disclosed that they had been approached by an international energy consortium made up of ConocoPhillips and TransCanada Pipelines, calling itself Fairwinds, that the name became synonymous with the possibility of a large regasification facility.



Liquified Natural Gas, or LNG, is a quintessential energy source of our times. Originating deep underground in areas usually associated with oil fields, natural gas is brought to the surface and then piped to a port where it is chilled into a very cold liquid of -260 || F to reduce its volume 600 fold. It is then shipped in 1000 foot long specialized tankers to its eventual market. LNG is brought to North America from such places as Algeria, Venezuela and Indonesia. Upon arrival at its terminal port, it is reconverted to gas and put into the gas pipeline network for delivery to the ultimate consumer. LNG is identical to natural gas piped directly from its source to the consumer, and has the virtue of being a clean fuel compared to crude oil, to say nothing of coal. Thus its combustion is less harmful to the environment than are other fuel sources.

With the rapid increase of its use, the limit on domestic supplies of natural gas has become a major problem. The transoceanic shipment of gas in its LNG form has thus been an attractive solution,

providing the industrialized nations with clean energy while providing a market for their natural gas by its producers.

On the other side, however, this new energy source will only exacerbate our dependence on energy from third world countries with its associated balance of payment demands and the possibilities of disruption to our economy from interruptions in supply. The entire LNG infrastructure with its very large specialized tanker ships requires very sophisticated design and construction engineering and a large capital investment.



The proposed terminal in Harpswell was expected to cost between \$500 million and \$1000 million (1 billion) and take 3 to 5 years in construction. Once constructed the regasification terminal was set to require only a small skilled work force to operate. It is likely that the security force would be larger than the operating force of the terminal.



There were a number of local arguments, pro and con, on the siting of LNG regasification terminal in Casco Bay. To Chebeaguers opposed to the plan, the disruption to the lobster fishery was the major issue, although the effect on tourism was a concern as

well. It was also feared that our CTC lifeline to the mainland would be interrupted during construction of the terminal, especially in the building of an underwater gas pipeline from Harpswell across the Bay to the mainland in Yarmouth or Cumberland. The interference

to fishing and recreational activities by the project would be greatest during this period, but it would also continue as a significant problem during regular operation, particularly because of the large security zones required by the Coast Guard around the tankers in transit and during the off loading to counter the terrorist threat.



Two arguments favoring the proposal were the possibility of tax relief at the local level, and the chance that the Wyman Station power plant on Cousins Island would be converted to cleaner burning natural gas. The latter would be a significant improvement to the environment of the region. However the ecological consequences of the proposed terminal are bound to be at least significant, and may well be very grave. With the serious decline of most of the commercial fisheries, our local fishing economy has become almost completely dependent on lobstering. There are many unanswered questions about even the most fundamental aspects of lobster biology, especially in the areas of larval and post-larval (juvenile) behavior, that make it difficult to predict the impact of a large LNG operation on Casco Bay lobsters. Professional lobstermen and applied fishery biologists alike are concerned that building a LNG terminal and pipeline in Casco Bay is a risky gamble on lobstering that serves as an icon for the Maine way of life.

The First Harpswell War

The town of Harpswell owns the site in West Harpswell of the former U.S. Navy aviation fuel tank farm (unloading and storage facility) built to support the Brunswick Naval Air Station during the Second World War and continued in operation for some years afterwards. The site was cleaned up and given to the town about 15 years ago, when it was designated a town park. In 2003 the town selectmen (the town still has a "town meeting" form of government) were approached privately by the Fairwinds consortium and entered into negotiations to lease the property and change the zoning to permit a LNG terminal to be constructed there. Included in this proposal was the creation of a Tax Incremental Finance District (or TIF) , for the mutual benefit of the consortium and the Town. In October the proposed deal was disclosed to the public and political discussion began.



At first the town selectmen and Fairwinds were pushing for an early up or down vote by the town electorate. However opposition to the scheme quickly surfaced. A group of the town people led the opposition and made their opinions known at the public meetings of the selectmen. Harpswell has its own television station, channel 14, which can be viewed throughout the town and in many neighboring communities as well, including quite a bit of Chebeague. The publicity, the major impact of the proposal and the quickly hardening division of people into two opposing groups, Fairplay for Harpswell and Friends of Fairwinds, each with their action committees and publicity drives, made the Fairwinds proposal the hot issue in the town. A group of fishermen organized themselves into Fishing Families for Harpswell (FFFH) to oppose the proposal, while a contrary group of fishermen organized to support it. Several opponents even made a fact finding trip to Alaska to see the ConocoPhillips gas liquification plant at Nikiski on the Kenai Peninsula and to gather information about this LNG plant and its impact on that community. Early on, Fairplay for Harpswell



commissioned its own study of the project to counter that of Fairwinds.

The debate rapidly deteriorated from the genteel to the shrill. The vote was postponed before being finally set for March 9th. By that time rallies had been held; the town roadsides and front yards blossomed with signs pro and con; neighborhoods were split into opposing camps; bumper stickers appeared. The town selectmen clearly lost control of the referendum process.

Governor Baldacci came out in favor of the plan because of the jobs it would create. As opposition developed he also stated that he was only in favor of locating it in a community that wanted it.



The Harpswell television station attempted to maintain an impartial position. However they gave both sides an outlet to spread their views rather than simply reporting on the Town Selectmen's meetings. This action was viewed, at least by the Selectmen, as indicating a bias unfavorable to Fairwinds. Eventually the station manager publicly stated that he was personally opposed to the proposal, while he continued to try to present both sides of the controversy. Fairplay for Harpswell and Fishing Families for

Harpwell countered the presentations of Friends of Fairwinds with studies and presumed expert testimony of their own.

They also sought out support from lobstermen in the surrounding towns, and this brought them to Chebeague. The lobster fishermen of Casco Bay are a close knit community at least when they see their collective interests threatened. Involvement by people on Chebeague convinced some Harpswell residents that the issues raised involved a broader constituency than the town of Harpswell alone.

A group of Chebeague fishermen and their families hosted a meeting at the Hall in mid-February to hear from FFFH. As a result there was growing support for the Harpswell anti-LNG movement. This led to a substantial number of Chebeaguers going to Harpswell on February 21st for a FFFH rally in which many participants joined hands to model a full sized "human LNG tanker" on the rally grounds. Islanders demonstrated their home addresses by fastening yellow "Chebeague Island" signs on their clothing.

A week later an even bigger delegation went to the public hearing held by the Town of Harpswell at their school. We sat "in the back of the bus" on hard bleachers on the end of the gym through the long afternoon meeting chaired by the Town Selectmen and televised by Channel 14. Finally it was the turn of the people from Cumberland to make statements. Our Town Councilor Donna Damon read a letter from the Town Manager Bill Shane that noted the "...significant impact to the citizens of Cumberland..." that a Harpswell LNG plant would cause. When one of the Harpswell selectmen countered that Cumberland never consulted Harpswell when Wyman Station was built on Cousins Island, Donna reminded him that the plant is not in Cumberland, but is located in Yarmouth, so that we had had nothing to say in the matter!

A number of Chebeaguers made statements in opposition to the LNG plant, which might have influenced some Harpswell voters. The group also ran an advertisement in the Brunswick Times-Record for the week before the Harpswell voters went to the polls to decide the issue.

Most people on Chebeague were delighted and relieved when the lease proposal was soundly defeated 1931 to 1518, with almost three quarters of Harpswell's voters voting. There were nearly 2000

absentee ballots cast. Even though there has been considerable talk by Fairwinds supporters of having another vote, at this writing over two months later, this has not materialized.

Stealth Attack

Trans-Canada Pipelines did not give up; rather they switched their target to other coastal communities. There were occasional rumors of further LNG activity but it came as a bombshell on Wednesday morning May 5th when the Town of Cumberland announced that the Town Council had met in secret ("closed executive session") the night before and had voted 5 to 2, with Donna Damon as one of the minority, to ask Cumberland voters in a non-binding vote at the June 8th primary election whether the Council should open negotiations for a LNG terminal on privately owned Hope Island, a part of our town. Cumberland Council Chairman Jeffrey Porter was shown on television the next day supporting the Hope Island location because of the tax relief it would bring to the town although the Council had taken no official position for or against the proposal.

This time the opposition was quick to organize. At the urging of Donna Damon and others, an Island informational meeting was held at the Hall Thursday night, with Beverly Johnson as moderator. In addition to a hundred people from Chebeague, there were people from Harpswell, Cliff and Long Islands present. Town Manager Bill Shane came from the Town government to explain what had happened. He did not advocate either side of the question, but he was concerned about the legitimacy of the process and was aware of the divisive nature of the issue to the town. He told us that we could come to the meeting of the Town Council on the following Monday night where there would be the opportunity to speak out in opposition to the Council's action. There appeared to be little chance of getting the Council's action annulled, but participation at the Council meeting would give us a chance to talk directly to Cumberland mainland voters, because all Council and Planning meetings are televised on the community cable channel which reaches all cable subscribers in mainland Cumberland. The open and honest demeanor of our Town Manager impressed the people at that

meeting, who were determined to make their feelings known to the Council.

We were greatly encouraged by the support of our neighbors as well as the singlemindedness of our community. By another day a new ad hoc Island organization had been formed, SaveCascoBay (Beverly Johnson president, Jim Phipps secretary, Tom Cushman treasurer). From the very beginning the new organization was thought of as involving all of Casco Bay, not just one island, for both philosophical and practical reasons. Surrounding islands would be as much affected as Chebeague and small communities need a stronger voice to get themselves heard in Cumberland or in Augusta.

By the end of the weekend, a clear strategy had been adopted. Monday night's appearance at the Council meeting had become a "choreographed" set of presentations, in the words of one opponent, with careful attention to the choices of speakers and topics. Along with T-shirts and bumper stickers, both needed to identify our group and spread the word, SaveCascoBay would stand up to the power of the energy conglomerates and their new Tax Relief allies. A letter writing campaign was undertaken both to Town of Cumberland voters and to officials in state government.

It was a nervous yet determined group of Islanders who went over to the mainland Monday evening and were greeted at the Cousins Island pier by Gail Miller selling newly minted SaveCascoBay T-shirts as we flocked ashore. By the time we arrived at the Town Hall at quarter to seven there was a large crowd of islanders on hand and more arriving by the minute. More chairs were found for the overflow crowd.

When the meeting started the wording of the proposed "June 8th Non-binding Referendum Question" was slightly modified and the Chairman Jeffrey Porter made a initial statement supporting the Council's action and his TV endorsement of it. Then he opened the meeting to public comment and there followed an extraordinary succession of 40 individually brief, thoughtful and heartfelt presentations by representative people as organized by SaveCascoBay, as well as other individuals. Beverly delivered a petition signed by 158 people from the island asking that the vote be delayed. Several speakers urged the Council to rescind its vote of

the previous week. The cumulative effect was overwhelming, and as the meeting approached its climax there was a surge of hope that the Council might change its mind. And that is just what happened. One of the Councilmen who had previously favored the referendum , Michael Savasuk, changed his mind and called for a new vote. After a brief discussion the May 4th vote was rescinded by 6 to 1; only Jeffrey Porter continued to support it. It was a wonderful victory round for Chebeague. The Future

At the present time there are only four LNG regasification terminals in the United States, at Everett MA near Boston, Cove Point MD, Elba Island GA and Lake Charles LA. More than 30 additional LNG terminals have been proposed by the energy industry, but many informed observers believe that only a handful of new ones will be constructed. These might most likely be built in the Gulf of Mexico because "energy ventures of any stripe have traditionally met the least resistance there" (New York Times May 14th); nevertheless there is much energy industry support for a LNG terminal somewhere in New England (Wall Street Journal, May 14th).

An off shore site for a LNG terminal might have fewer safety and environmental problems than a shoreline site. One such facility exists today, off Louisiana at a platform that was built years ago to exploit a now depleted natural gas field with a gas pipeline to the shore connected to the national grid. A new such terminal built offshore in New England would also have to be connected to the natural gas pipeline grid. That would inevitably involve some disturbance of the marine bottom environment. In addition, building an offshore terminal would increase the construction costs, and it would be more expensive to operate, but it should be easier to guard against terrorism and cause less disruption to other uses of the marine environment,

Many organizations both governmental and non-governmental now recognize that the complex economic, environmental and political components of the siting of a LNG terminal can best be dealt with by a regional or national governmental body. It is obvious that a Maine town government is not adequately equipped to deal with such a complex matter. As Councilman Savasuk said, "... The

whole issue is too big for us, is too big for any one town." (Community Leader May 13th). Thus SaveCascoBay is appealing for a regional approach to finding the best solution.

Having said this, there is still a considerable possibility that a LNG terminal might come to the Maine coast somewhere or even to Casco Bay. To be continued.

— Mac Passano

Casco Bay Island Development Association

The chief concern of the Casco Bay Island Development Association for the past year has been the golf cart issue on Great Diamond. The media coverage of the controversy over who drives a golf cart where has lacked background material that needs to be known.

The Declarations and Covenants part of the deeds of McKinley Estates homeowners restricts the passage of vehicles through the gates to the South end to service vehicles and to two vans, owned by the Homeowners Association for the purpose of getting people to and from the state-owned dock at the South end of the island. These covenants are part of the duly signed legal agreement between Dictar Associates, the developer of McKinley Estates on the former Fort McKinley property, and CBIDA, the Island Institute and the Maine Audubon Society. The three latter organizations spent seven years following Dictar Associates through the permitting process before the Portland Planning Board, Portland City Council, Maine Board of Environmental Protection and Maine Superior Court to ensure a development that an island environment could support. The developer's original plan? You don't want to go there.

It is generally known now that the Casco Bay islands are the tops of mountains in an area drowned by melting glaciers at the end of the Ice Age. Great Diamond has areas of extremely limited topsoil that cannot support unlimited vehicle traffic of any kind of vehicle. The covenant restrictions may seem repugnant to independent Mainers, but there are restricted communities where hanging the washing outside, keeping a truck or being a child are not permitted. To paraphrase a City Councilor's comment, "if you don't like it, don't buy it".

Although CBIDA has no wish to be unreasonable or unkind, the agreement gives it the responsibility of maintaining the agreement. It was drawn up and signed carefully and thoughtfully with a long eye to the future of Great Diamond Island. CBIDA sent a formal

request to the Portland City Council to uphold and enforce the restrictions; it appreciates the Council's action.

Casco bay has recently and rightly been called a community. CBIDA is the civic association for that community. The steering committee meets monthly at the Casco Bay Terminal conference room, usually on the first Saturday of each month at 9:30 A.M.. All meetings are open. For more information contact Ruth Mistark, Cliff Island (telephone: 766-2618), or Jean Dyer, Chebeague (telephone: 846-4188).

— Jean Dyer

p.s. CBIDA's May meeting took place before the news of a possible LNG terminal on Hope Island broke. A special meeting was considered, but in the light of the Cumberland Council's action on Monday evening May 10th, it was felt to be unnecessary.



Chebeague Island Council

Since its founding in 1947 the Chebeague Island Council has played a major role in supporting both seasonal and year round life on Chebeague. True to its mission, the Council participates in a number of activities and projects that are important to Chebeague.

The best known project of the Council appears in your mailbox every month (or it should). The Calendar is a "must read" if you want to know what is happening on Chebeague. Edited by Barbara Hamilton, the Calendar is mailed out to all residents of Chebeague free of charge, the first of every month. It is mailed out third class to off island Council members. Those of you who want to be sure to get the Calendar pay the extra cost (\$14 per year) and have the Calendar mailed to them First Class.

One of the Council's primary responsibilities is health care. The Council supports the Medical Clinic housed at the Hall and Library building and staffed by Ginny Ballard, PA-C. Ginny is not only qualified and certified, she is dedicated to her patients. She maintains regularly scheduled office hours, and also makes house calls when needed. Her office hours are published in the Calendar. The Council also cooperates with Island Commons with a medical loan program that makes crutches, wheelchairs, hospital beds and other medical equipment available to those who need it without charge.

The Council sponsors and maintains the Samaritan Fund, a fund designed to help those in need medical assistance. The Council has also become the sponsor of Chedemption which is reported on elsewhere in this volume. The Council share of this organization's profits goes to the Samaritan Fund. The Fund pays for prescriptions, medical alert emergency response devices and it has paid for non-slip pads for rugs, so those who have trouble walking don't slip and fall because of throw rugs. If this is something that you need help with, please see Ginny. Remember, all inquires are confidential. Donations should be sent to Gail Miller, the Council's Treasurer, and are always welcome.

The Council also sponsors 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



that 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 visitors guide. The brochure is distributed free by the Inn, Veteran's 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 the extra money and receive the Calendar by First Class mail. Please send your check to our Membership Chair.

One more thing—we hope that you will join us for the annual meeting held each August at the Parish House. However, if you can't, PLEASE send your proxy in. We need to have those in order to have a quorum at the meeting. Thanks.

The current officers and Board members are:

Peter Rice, President
Louise Doughty,
Vice President
Mac Passano, Secretary
Gail Miller, Treasurer
Cliff Barker,
Membership Chair
Jennifer Belesca

Mona Calthorpe
Karen Hamilton
Esther Knight
Banú KomLosy
Kim Martin
Kelley Rich
Susie Stavropoulos

— Peter Rice

Chebeague Island Fire Department

The Fire Department had no serious fires the past year. We responded to a variety of calls, including a couple of marine-related calls, trees on wires, etc., and we assisted the Rescue several times with lifting help. Thanks to everyone on the Island for making it a safe place to live.

We continue to upgrade equipment as the budget allows; we certainly appreciate the donations we receive and those moneys go to buying items that do not come from the budget. We do on occasion have a fund drive to buy a piece of special equipment



and, as always, everyone turns to and help us to buy. Again, we thank you for your donations. The trucks continue to serve us well. The last new truck bought for the Island was in 1972. The trucks sent over from the mainland have served well but they too are ageing. It is time for the Town to think seriously about putting a new truck here on the Island.

We continue to train on all aspects of fire fighting, and continue to with the mutual aid people from Long Island, Cliff Island and the other islands, and the members from the mainland also. I think that we have a good system in place for covering not only the islands of Cumberland but all the neighboring islands as well.

The annual open house continues to be a fun day for the department. It's a chance for everyone to view the equipment and it's a chance to show it off. Look for it in August. Thanks to all the members who help make it happen.

There are times when we have to shut off a road in an emergency. I would ask everyone to cooperate and not to pass the road blocks for your safety and ours.

I would like to thank all the members for their support the past year. They are always willing to turn out regardless of the time of day, weather, etc., leaving the warmth and safety of their home. Also, thanks to their families for understanding the importance of their spouses or parents going to meetings, drills and emergencies. We are always looking for members to join us, young and old, guys and gals alike. There are many jobs to do other than entering a burning building; running the pumps and driving the engines are vital to make our job complete. If anyone reading this is interested in joining contact any member of the department for information on how to join.

Burning permits are required for almost any type of outdoor fire. These permits are regulated by the State of Maine, not by the Town of Cumberland. There are five "class days", 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest fire risk. No burning is allowed on Class 3 or higher. Also if the winds are predicted to be over 12 miles per hour, no permits are issued by state regulation. To obtain a burning permit call Tom Calder, 846-8758 or Dianne Calder, 846-4176.

I would like to ask those who rent their house to place the following information near their telephone:

- 1) the correct number to call in a fire emergency is 911.
- 2) the correct street name the house is on.
- 3) be sure to give the name of the house owner as well as their own name.

This bit of information will make it easier and faster for us to respond.

Once again thanks to all the members of the department and to the residents of the Island for keeping their chimneys in clean order and being careful with outdoor burning. Change the batteries on your smoke and CO detectors every year. Fire protection and safety starts with you.

— Tom Calder, Fire Chief

Chebeague Island Garden Club



The Chebeague Island Garden Club is in its fifth 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, hands-on workshops and a yearly perennial plant swap amongst the members. We also have Dutch bulbs for sale as a fundraiser which has been very popular in the past.

From the beginning we have been committed to a project for Island beautification and our main beautification project is the Chebeague Island School. In the past we have had seed planting workshops with the school children which they have really enjoyed. They put their names on a Popsicle stick and place it in with the seedlings, then place the seedling tray in a sunny window and water them and watch them grow until it is time for the Garden Club to plant them in the garden before Memorial Day in May. This year the Garden Club will be purchasing very hardy annual plants for the school garden because the seedlings had a tough time surviving the constant hot sun in the front of the building. This year we also plan to seek the advice of a local nursery to guide us in purchasing hardy evergreen shrubs for the garden. The Garden Club plans a "clean-up" day in May at the school followed by the planting of annuals and the new shrubs. During the summer months we take turns weeding and watering the school garden.

We welcome new members and even if you are only on the Island for a short time during the summer, please join us and share your gardening experiences, learn something or join us for a house and garden tour which we usually do in July.

— Mona Calthorpe, President

Chebeague Island Grange #576

With this largely inactive membership it is hard to find something new to report for this Newsletter, however this Grange has such loyal support from Island residents that we are able to maintain a busy schedule of community service: island road cleanup, Memorial Day observance, the Thrift Shop, the Annual Fair and Auction, and the Gifts to Shut-ins. Income from two of our projects allows us to fulfill our Grange commitments, fund donations to this community and maintain our building as well. We are especially appreciative of all the help we get on "Fair Day". It is incredible how many people show up to help us to move all the stuff around, out of the building, and then a lot of it back in again. We also appreciate some very generous donors who help fund the Christmas boxes.

This Grange, although small, supports Grange activities such as the Howes Nursing and Educational Funds, the Investment in Youth program, deaf activities, an agricultural scholarship fund and Women's Activity projects. General donations go to the Salvation Army, Red Cross, Maine Children's Home, United Way, Bruce Roberts Fund, UNICEF, the Chebeague United Methodist Church, CPA Halloween and Christmas parties and other Island organizations when a need arises.

It is sad to report: we lost Doris Feeney this past winter. She was the backbone of the Thrift Shop for so many years. Her loyal family still comes from the mainland to help set it up, believe it or not! Her right hand, Tink Lessing, still plans to be with us this summer and we hope that Karen Hamilton, Pat St. Cyr and Pommy Hatfield will be able to help her out again.

Many thanks to all of you who lend us a hand, a truck, dollars etc. You are helping keep this Grange alive, and very well.

— Martha O. Hamilton

Chebeague Island Hall Community Center

We started out this winter with a very successful Columbus Day Weekend Spaghetti Supper that netted over \$580 toward our maintenance expenses. There have been requests to repeat this and it is already scheduled for next Columbus Day Weekend. The drawing was held for the antique Victorian wall quilt which was won by the Parsonage. This raffle raised \$400. We also had a Valentine's Dance and a March supper for fundraisers. With all our suppers, it was discovered we needed to replace our kitchen stoves. They have been installed and are working well for the Quilters' suppers. We also had new vinyl replacement windows installed. We ordered them to match the library's windows. We have already seen a reduction in heating costs and look forward to being able to open screened windows during summer functions.

There have been several work parties by members of the CIHCC Board to do repairs and maintain the Hall. We would like to thank Rodney Hamilton, Bob Jones, and Ken Hamilton for their help with these repairs.

We have an ongoing project of providing the community with a generator to maintain the furnace, water pumps, water heater and lights for all the Community Center in case of an emergency. The CIHCC would be able to provide a place to cook and serve hot meals, the Medical Center would be able to serve the community, and the Library could be opened with light and heat. We hope to have the generator functional by this winter. This generator was part of our USDA grant for our addition. The addition has provided more floor space in the Hall, with all chair racks and supplies stored there.

We could not renew our liquor license this past year under our previous agreement with the town, due to behavior at a BYOB function last summer. We now must notify the Town whenever we rent the Hall for a function that will have alcoholic beverages available. They will send a police officer to be present at any said functions, at the renter's expense. The CIHCC has had our wooden floor examined and we must have it refinished. We are hoping this

will be finished in time for our summer season. Unfortunately, it will cost \$4,400 because the floor is down to bare wood in some places. We are hoping to have fundraisers this summer to help us with this expense. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Our most important goal is to maintain and keep the CIHCC available to the community. All the donations of time and money from the community are what make this possible. We sincerely thank you for your support.

— Peggie Jones, President



A beaver visits briefly...

Chebeague Island Historical Society

In the belief that a picture is worth a thousand words...



Chebeague Island Library



We had another busy and exciting year at the Chebeague Island Library. The staff and Board of Trustees continue to look at the Library with an eye to the future. We adopted the following mission statement:

The Chebeague Island Library provides a welcoming center to foster the learning of the entire Island community. The Library cultivates knowledge and enjoyment and brings enrichment and stimulus to Chebeague through diverse collections, innovative technology, research and educational resources, programs and services in response to Island interests.

The mission statement gives Library staff a framework within which to serve the community. We seek and encourage your participation in what we can do for you.

The year 2003 saw 14,316 visitors through the doors. These visits resulted in 17,377 materials checked out. Students continue to make use of the educational and technological resources on school

nights. Island elementary students are introduced to the workings of a library and a lifetime of literary appreciation.

We continue to rely on our neighbors' and friends' talents and expertise for programming. Phil Jordan created a new Maine Humanities Council "Let's Talk About It" book discussion series on the American Revolution. Phil's ability to impart history through the eyes of people long since gone makes it come alive. Jerry Wiles gave us Thomas Jefferson at the Hall in July and provided us with anecdotal stories of this historical figure and his influence on the development of our Republic. Kate Kennedy and Barrie Shepherd came and spoke about the craft of writing. Two very different approaches, and a fascinating look at the process.

Mark McGee began to educate and entertain us with Groovy Movie nights. Features have ranged from Chaplin to Hitchcock, and the after movie discussions have become a big part of the whole experience. And we have popcorn! Our first Family Movie Night at the Hall was Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, a big success!

To coincide with the release of the 5th Harry Potter book, The Order of the Phoenix, the Library hosted a Harry Potter party for kids of all ages.

Fun and fundraising reached a new level with the Island Friends Dinner in July. Culminating at Robert and Linda White's home, and organized by Nancy Pierce, this was the ultimate in community participation. Lovely dinners, auction under the tent, desserts and fireworks! Hats off to all those who made this such a success.

Art displays still enthrall throughout the year. BJ Abrahamson, Sandra Rice, Cathy McNeil, Jane Hahn and Marty Rossoll all added to the Library experience with their show of artistic talent.

Volunteers continue to work the desk, weed the garden and help with maintenance tasks. They have a much appreciated love of the Library and the community.

The Library is here for you.

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

Chebeague Island Rescue

We had 67 rescue calls this year that were transported to one of the hospitals in Portland. It has been hard this past year trying to find enough medics to go on rescue calls. At the present time there are only four medics on the island, Ralph Munroe, Polly Wentling, Jill Malony and this reporter, Marlene Bowen. Ralph works off island



and Polly works with the CTC and goes to school, so that left Jill and me most of the time to respond to calls. Med Bowen and Dave Campbell go on most of the calls to drive and to help us carry patients. Gordon Murphy as a First Responder also really helped us out.

Now things are looking up. I am happy to announce that we will have three new medics coming on our rescue calls, Rich Brewer, Glen Combs and Gordon Murphy. All winter they have been taking the 133 hour EMT course which involves trips to the mainland two nights a week and nearly every Saturday. We will surely welcome them to our unit.

Speaking of our unit, as most of you know we have a new rescue vehicle. It is very nice to work in, with lots of room for all of our equipment and it rides much more comfortably for the patients. With

the help of the Fire Department, when needed to help carry our patients, and the crew on the CTC boat, our rescue calls really go smoothly. Cumberland Rescue meets us on Cousins Island with ALS (Advanced Life Saving) personal aboard and transports the patients to the hospital destination. All told, we can get patients from their home to the hospital in 40-45 minutes.

A big thanks to everyone involved in our rescue efforts. And I would also like to thank everyone for the donations that have been given to us. We appreciate your support.

— Cumberland Deputy Chief Marlene Bowen
Rescue 2, Chebeague Island



Chebeague Island School



This has been another productive and successful year of learning for the students of the Chebeague Island School. In our Multiage K-2 classroom, taught by Susan Beale, the students have studied seasons, farm animals and a culture study on Japan. In March, the class took a trip to Pineland Farms in New Gloucester for a hands-on experience with farming. Beth Dyer came into this classroom in early May to share slides from a trip she took to Japan several years ago. All of the children have



made tremendous academic progress in both literacy and math. We have been busy and the year has flown by.

In our Multiage grades 3 - 5 classroom, taught by Gwen Smith, the students have learned about the American Revolution and, thanks to a grant from the CPA and meticulous planning by Beth Dyer, the class visited Boston



and walked the Freedom Trail with the aid of a tour guide dressed in period costume. After an enjoyable lunch at Faneuil Hall, the students learned more about the events that led up to the American Revolution via Boston's famous Duck Tour. Plunging into the river in the World War II vintage land and sea vehicle was great fun.

In December, our class visited the Island Commons for our



Service Learning Project, met with the adults who now call this facility home and wrote biographies of the residents' lives. It was with great sadness that we heard the news of the passing of Steve Capps. He welcomed the children into the Commons and gave them good assistance in completing their assignments.

While our social studies and science units are often noted, we would also like to recognize the work students are doing in math and literacy. This intensive, daily work has resulted in our students becoming amazing readers, writers and mathematicians.

The teachers would also like to acknowledge the hard work and wonderful efforts of all of the staff at the Chebeague Island School including Susie Robbins our K-5 Principal, Winty Bryan Ed. Tech. for the MA 3-5 classroom, Lee Robinson Ed Tech. for the MA K-2 classroom, Elaine Doughty our cook and custodian, Tom Calder our bus driver and all the wonderful and talented allied arts teachers who come from the mainland each week. Thank you for another great year.

Have a Happy Summer.

— Susan Beale, MA K-2 Teacher
Gwen Smith, MA 3-5 Teacher

Chebeague Island Yacht Club and Community Sailing School

Sailing School

Forty students attended sailing school, ten of those were in boating basics. Students were on the water as much as possible despite the fog. "If we could see Crow Island through the fog we sailed". On big wind days most boats had an instructor in the boat with them. Sailing school always ran the full 2 hours (or 1 hour for



boating basics); no early finishes.

Instructors are always looking for leaders amongst the students to groom for future instructors.

The 5 new (2002) sailing school boats performed well again last year. No major scratches or dings acquired (thanks to the Seitech dollies). With sailing school registration up restoration efforts are happening with Kermit (one of the original 420's). Sailing school boats will again be able to be stored indoors in the red barn at the boatyard. (Thank you CIBY!). A special thank you to all who served

as committee boat personnel this summer. (Carlos Nottebohm, Nancy Earnest, John Ash, Barbara Marks, Bob Buxbaum, Linda Stephens, Jim and Mallie Cox-Champman, Peggy Brown, Tom Rothschild and Jane Frizzell.



Race Results:

The results of our 2003 racing program were as follows:

- Ocean Race/Burgess Trophy - Ralph Ragan
- Hamilton Beach Race (small boats)/R. Harper Brown Trophy - Scott Earnest
- West End Race/Shattuck Cup - Bob Earnest
- Round Island Race/Trower Trophy - all boats DNF; canceled due to time / no wind!
- Round Island Race (small boats)/Corson Trophy - all boats DNF
- Bates Island Race/Hubbell Mug - Bob Earnest

- Bates Island Race (small boats)/Marks Trophy - Nolan Lushington
- Small Boats Overall - 2003- Scott Earnest
- Large Boat Overall - Bob Earnest
- Club Champion - Bob Earnest



Tom Rothschild has agreed to donate a perpetual trophy for the Crow Island Race.

The most important award each season (or at least the source of most debate) is the Bungle Award. The title is self-explanatory. The nominations were:

- Ralph Ragan for his West End detour.
- Reggie Babcock for his abuse of navigational aid and the dousing of his crew in the wild winds of the Hamilton Beach race
- John Ash for providing entertainment for locals and tourists whilst aground in the Royal River
- David Burgess for his mandatory man overboard
- Bob Earnest for his East End rock encounter with his precious newly acquired Ensign.

And the winner was

- Reggie Babcock. His entire crew voted for him - now that's teamwork!!!



Other Activities

The Yacht Club hosted many of its other traditional events, and looks forward to these and others in 2004: Powernight, overnight cruise to Snow Island, Piners concert, and reception at the Commodore's. Watch the Calendar for particulars.

— Reg Babcock, Commodore

Chebeague Needleworkers

The quilters have fully evolved into a more diverse group of women doing all kinds of needlework, hence the official name change.

We are still quilting:

Two fundraisers were organized this year. One was Beth Howe's and Martha Hamilton's small antique pineapple log cabin which was raffled to benefit the Hall. As the parsonage was renovated during the summer, it became obvious that this quilt would be a perfect accent piece for the newly painted stairwell. So people were persuaded to buy chances on behalf of the church and when the drawing was held, the parsonage was the winner. The other is a Lone Star quilt pieced by Deborah Gordon and given to the quilters to finish when she moved. It will be raffled this summer for Angela Weagle's family.

Collective projects: In August Nancy Raymond of Whimsey Cottage quilt shop in Park City U gave us a "mystery quilt" class. Six colors/designs of fabrics were pieced into three-piece units which could then be assembled in amazing number of different variants. Jeanette Hamilton did one is light oranges and blues, while Peggy Jones and Jane Harrington worked in pastel pinks, yellows and greens. Beth and Cheryl Hillicoss helped Kim and Lida Munroe make a Trip Around the World quilt to take as a gift to her host family in Japan this coming summer. Lida picked out the fabrics which had a southwestern Indian theme in turquoise, rust and deep red tones. Lola Armstrong and Peggie Jones have spent several weekends in Vermont taking quilting classes and producing quilts that go way beyond our run-of-the-mill quilts for friends and family.

Individually Jeanette made a colorful quilt out of her woolen skirts and her uncle Gordon's plaid pants. Jane Harrington finished the Grandmother's Garden quilt that had been pieced by her mother back in the 1930s. Joan Robinson also finished a quilt whose squares with appliqued butterflies had been made by either her grandmother or one of her great aunts. Jane Abrahamson began to put together the squares that had been made for her birthday four years ago by 48 of her friends. She squared them up and put sashing around them and they will soon be a beautiful and very memorable quilt. Mimi Moulton who

just joined us recently, started out by finishing an "Adirondack" quilt which she had begun about four years ago when she was living in upstate New York. She then went on to make a Trip Around the World quilt for her grandson. Nancy Sharp produced an elegant Mariner's Compass wall hanging and then found that it is too big for the wall where she was going to hang it in North Carolina. So she may spend the coming summer making it into a bedspread.

Knitting:

This is what most members do when they don't feel energetic enough to quilt. The rage this year was fluffy scarves made of "eyelash", "fun fur" and "boa" yarns. The names of the yarns give a pretty good idea of the final effect. Colorful mittens, socks and baby sweaters seem to roll off needles as if by magic. Louise Doughty, Bev Dyer, Jane Harrington, Mimi Moulton, Sue Jackson and Nancy Adams and Joyce Soucek all produced some knitted item.

Hooking:

Sue Jackson has been working on a rug with a picture of Portland Head Light. The sky, of lovely pearl-like colors seems to go on for ever. Joyce Soucek was put temporarily out of commission by illness, but is back with a new series of hooked rugs with pictures of the Red and Yellow Houses.

Embroidery:

Martha Hamilton did a Garden of Eden sampler which was subject to much humorous discussion since the anatomy of the drawing made Adam look more like Eve. Barbara Hamilton worked a traditional cross-stick sampler. Susie Stavropoulos does exquisite counted cross-stitch in her own designs. Jeanette and Peggie have been working on needlepoint and embroidered flower panels.

The dinners during the winter months get more and more mouthwatering. Lola's Provencal chicken takes the recent prize for the most unusual and delectable offering. Dinners ranged from several versions of spaghetti and lasagne to the roast pork feast for the Christmas party.

So if you like to do needlework, enjoy good company and good food, join us every second and fourth Tuesday of most months, all day at the Hall.

— Beth Howe



Chebeague Parents' Association

The Chebeague Parents' Association had another successful year. Our yearly fund raisers, including the Silent Auction, cookbook, cards and Sally Foster sales, helped to provide the funds for the many different functions of the CPA. During 2003, we were able to purchase equipment for the Chebeague Island School, including two AlphaSmarts, and we continue to purchase and install equipment, chips and wood for the playground. We've supported island students through our donations to scholarship programs, and we've helped one Chebeague Island student in her fundraising for a trip to Japan this coming summer. As always, our Halloween and Christmas parties were well attended and plans are underway for our 2004 events.



The CPA-supported pre-school program has had another successful year, thanks in great part to our wonderful teacher, Linda Ashe-Ford. The following is Linda's report of the activities of the Preschool for the 2003-2004 school year:

Preschool Year 2003-04 We have had a very busy year in the Pre School Classroom. We learned about our bodies, the changes in the seasons, fire safety, things that go, plants, animals and community helpers. Along the way we wrote stories, made music and did science experiments. We cooked treats, sang songs and listened to stories. We enjoyed our trip to the fire station and love our school bus ride around the island. The children have grown and expanded their reading skills. Most know or are learning the alphabet and the letter sounds. They are busy with pre math activities and fine motor projects. Each morning is full of fun, laughter and the excitement of learning new things. It has been a joy to get to know my four students and watch them grow. --- Linda Ashe-Ford Thanks to all the supporters of the CPA and all the parents who have attended meetings, worked tirelessly, and supported our many different events. Special thanks to Beth Dyer and Virginia Tatakis-Calder, who have attended every meeting and have helped make my transition into the presidency a smooth one.

— May Hall, President

Chebeague Post Office

Here we are in another year with another new employee, Tina Runge. Tina fills in as Debra's replacement as a mail carrier. Tina and her husband Tad are new home owners on the Island but not new to the Island as they have been involved over the years with community activities as well as support. We welcome them both.



The E-911 is now in effect and by now everyone should have changed to their new address in order to have their mail sent and forwarded in the proper manner. If you haven't changed to your new address please see me at the Post Office so that I can be of help.

Let me take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support to our Post Office whether in person or through your patronage by mail. For those of you away we welcome your orders of stamps accompanied with your payment. These purchases help insure the continuation of the Island Post Office. This support is greatly appreciated.

— Gina Ross. Postmaster

Chebeague Recreation Center



It's hard to believe that the CRC is already entering its seventh summer of operation. Virginia Tatakis-Calder continues to direct all recreation programs and staffing in her fifth year as the Recreation Director. Beth Dyer is in her seventh year as Administrative Director.



Gail Miller retired as our custodian but will continue to act as Pool Operator, lifeguard, and water fitness instructor extraordinaire. We welcomed Pam Pulsifer as Custodian. Many other people served as lifeguards, camp counselors, teen center supervisors, program instructors and office helpers. In 2003, the CRC

employed 30 people, 18 of them year-round residents.

The past year brought many wonderful moments at the CRC for folks of all ages. We had another great summer with lots of great pool

weather. Once again, hundreds of people enjoyed the Collins Pool, with 172 season 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 42 swimmers per day, plus another 50/day when camp and swim lessons were in session. Happy campers enjoyed the fourth year of Camp Chebeague and Lobster Camp. Theater-goers were entertained by the superior performances of Buggy Malone by the Chebeague Children's Theater under the direction of Rachel Damon, and Anything Goes! by the Chebeague Players under the direction of Stacyann Stewart.

The CRC again offered afterschool programs Monday through Thursday during the school year. Stop by any weekday afternoon and you are likely to see potters, gymnasts, athletes, crafters, or kids just having fun in a million different ways. Bob Libby was awarded the Volunteer of



the Year award for his dedication to the kids' afterschool programs. Bob has been coaching gymnastics for several years, offers fall and winter sports programs such as soccer and basketball, builds birdhouses with the kids in the spring, and is generally

always there to offer a smile and encouragement to the kids at the CRC.



Skiing at Lost Valley continued for its fifth year as a popular program on Wednesday early-release days during the winter. This spring, 14 island kids participated in the cross-country running program and competed at meets every Wednesday in May on the mainland under the tutelage of coach Gordon Murphy. As of this writing, a kid's overnight hike is planned for June 19th at Lonesome



Lake in New Hampshire, to be partially funded by the generosity of the Recompense Foundation.

The Teen Center saw a lot of action in the summer of 2003 with an average of 30 kids per night. The annual Interisland Teen Pool Party drew many teens from Chebeague and neighboring islands for a cook-out, swimming, and a dance. Over the winter island teens got involved in a teen leadership project in conjunction with the Hyde School in Bath. This spring and summer staff have planned a teen overnight hike to the White Mountains and a rafting trip on the Kennebec.

Adults enjoyed the facility for walking, working out, Weight Watchers, rug hooking, mosaics class, and many other activities. "Fitness with Shirley" continued to be a great way to start the day for several folks and Shirley Barker will be sorely missed when she moves away. Pick-up volleyball happened on some Thursday evenings during the winter, and pick-up basketball is still ongoing on Wednesday nights. The fitness room underwent major construction this winter and was almost doubled in size. We did not add new equipment, but spread out the existing equipment to make the room more comfortable for users. We also gained some much needed storage space. Thank you to fitness room users for your patience during the renovation, and thanks to The Thaxter Company for a job well done, and to the USDA Rural Development office for a grant to partially fund the addition.

A new venture for the CRC this winter was our involvement in helping out at Sanford's Skating Pond. The CRC has offered to coordinate community efforts to keep the ice pond going, and it was a learning year for us all. Under the guidance of Sanford, we tried to learn the ins and outs of snow clearing, ice testing, equipment upkeep, and shed supervision. There's no way Sanford's decades of experience could be transferred to us in one season, and he still did a heck of a lot of the work himself, but at least we have a better idea of what to do next year. It was a great year for skating with lots of ice and little snow, and we thank Sanford once again for opening up his pond to the community, and thank everyone who helped make it work.

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



annual appeal for donations which was mailed out in November. Over 80 donors responded to the request and their generosity yielded over \$14,000 for the CRC. We also brought comedian Bob Marley to the island in August for two hilarious shows at the Hall. The Winter Carnival in January, the Teen Center's biggest fundraiser, was a big success as well. This

year's air temperature was a mere 15 degrees and the water temperature was only 38 degrees. The six plungers had to jump in at the Boatyard as Bennett's Cove was all iced-in. Lida Munroe was the top pledge earner with just under \$1,000. Teens again did a Rockathon where they rocked in rocking chairs all night long for pledges. Jim Stefanilo outrocked everyone again this year for a total of 7 hours and 20 minutes. In the Chili/Chowder Challenge, a soup category was added this year. All the entries were delicious, and the top winners were: Chili: Melissa Doughty, Chowder: Gail Miller, and Soup: Donna Damon. The Winter Carnival raised about \$3,000 for the Teen Center. Thank you to everyone who made all this fundraising possible. The Board of Directors also made a formal appeal to the Town of Cumberland for an increased allocation and we were granted an additional \$5,000, bringing our allocation for 2004-05 to \$37,500 from the Town, which represents approximately 20% of our annual operating budget. We look forward to the Island Luau Golf Tournament & Silent Auction on August 11, 2004. This event is coordinated by Bev Johnson and Kim Bogle. We also look forward to the children's production of *That's Entertainment!* on July 23 and 24, and the adult theater production of *42nd Street* on August 12, 13, and 14. Camp Chebeague is fully-enrolled, and we are offering the second year of the popular *PlaySoccer!* camp the week of July 19. There's lots more planned for the summer so stop by and see us to get more info.

As always, special thanks go to the Board of Directors who oversee all of CRC's operations and help in ways too numerous to count. This year's Board members are:

This year's Board consisted of:

David Hill, President

Laura Summa,

Vice-President

Shirley Barker, Treasurer

Robert Libby, Secretary

Leila Bisharat

Warren Bogle

Deb Bowman

Bob Earnest

Ginger Hobart

Beverly Johnson

John Martin

Geoff Summa

Vail Traina

Jerry Wiles

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

— Beth Dyer, Administrative Director



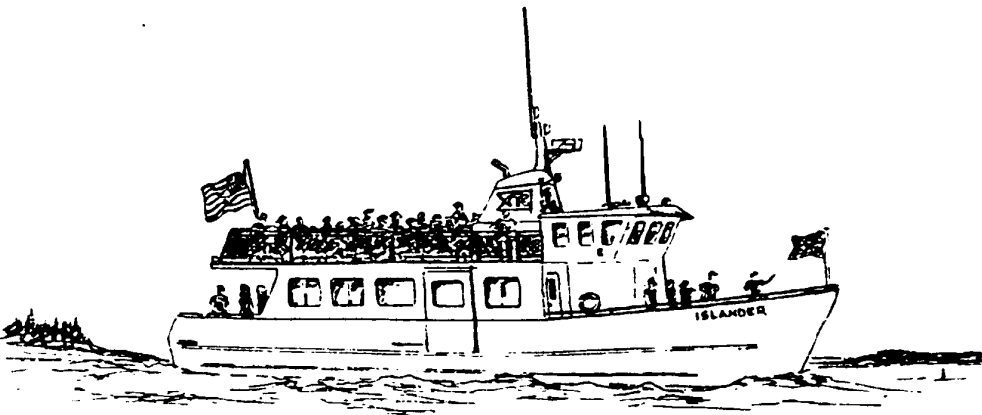
Chebeague Transportation Company



Chedemption

Chedemption, which recycles redeemable bottles up at the Transfer Station, is running along smoothly, though we can always use more volunteers especially in the summer. During our "year" which went from October 2002 to October 2003, we collected 1367 banana boxes of beer, liquor and wine bottles and 308 bags of soda, juice, water and beer cans and plastic bottles. This translates to five and a third full "silver bullets" like the ones that you see up at the Transfer Station. So we are keeping quite a lot of stuff out of the "waste stream" and saving ourselves and the Town tax dollars. Although technically we are a part of the Council, we operate independently of it.

More important, we collected \$7,201.93. We had \$552 in expenses, so the distribution to each of the 12 island non-profits was \$554. The organizations we support are: the Chebeague Island Council's Samaritan Fund, the Chebeague Island Hall and Community Center, the Chebeague Island Historical Society, the Chebeague Island Library, the Chebeague United Methodist Church,



the Chebeague Parents Association, the Chebeague Recreation Center, the Cumberland Mainland and Islands Trust, the Chebeague Island Yacht Club's Sailing School, the Island Commons Resource Center, Sanford's skating pond, and the Stephen Ross Scholarship Fund.

We have help from many people and organizations. First we want to thank everyone who brings their bottles and cans to our green shed at the Transfer Station. The Chebeague Fire Department and the Town let us keep the Chedemption trailer at the firehouse during the summer. Casco Bay Lines takes our boxes and bags into Portland free of charge. East End Redemption Center takes them even when they are overwhelmed in the hot summer months. The Chebeague Inn gives us all their bottles and cans through the summer. Regular volunteers during the past year were: Gail and David Miller, Tom Calder, Frank and Marianne Durgin, Cliff and Shirley Barker, Karen Hamilton, Ann Thaxter, Mac Passano and Beth Howe, Susie Stavropoulos, Jim Millinger, Ginny Ballard, Peggie Jones, Dick Collins, Bob and Nancy Earnest, Marlene Bowen and Frankie Doughty. We always have a Chedemption Banquet in the fall after the summer rush to thank ourselves; if you want to be included, volunteer by getting in touch with Gail Miller or Mac Passano.

This year we will be trying a new plan for manning the Transfer Station during the summer. We are asking each of the organizations that gets Chedemption money to organize a group to pack boxes and change bags for one week during the summer. If you are a volunteer for one of the non-profits listed above, you may find yourself being asked to help us. We hope you will, and you may even finding the assignment enjoyable as well as rewarding.

— Beth Howe

Cumberland Mainland and Island Trust

2003 was and 2004 is a promising time for conservation opportunities. We continue to see unprecedented growth in our island and mainland community. Recent interests in developing new energy facilities in our region bring home the importance of appreciating the natural resources that



most of us have assumed will be here tomorrow. CMIT has been quietly working to make sure that important elements of our natural heritage and open space remain part of the fabric of our island and mainland community. The Trust was founded seventeen years ago just for those purposes: "to promote and preserve the rural character of the mainland and island communities of the Town of Cumberland for the public by offering land use options that preserve in perpetuity Cumberland's natural, scenic, recreational and historic sites".

I am very pleased to announce that the Trust and the Town will complete the Trust's purchase of a permanent conservation easement on the Curit property this summer. The Trust's purchase of the easement will allow the high conservation value portion of the property, riparian and shore areas, to be permanently protected and to ensure permanent public access and use of the shoreland area. The upland portion of the Curit property will be used to provide affordable housing opportunities for Chebeague families. The unique partnership between the Trust, the Curit and Gosselin family members, the Chebeague community and the Town made the project possible and demonstrates the tremendous power of collaboration in addressing the needs of our communities. I thank all who opened up their hearts and wallets to support the effort.

During the last two years the Trust took a very active role in putting the building blocks together to work towards permanently preserving the Sunrise Acres Farm. The farm is one of the few remaining farms still involved in agricultural production in the Greater Portland area. Recently the Trust learned that its efforts with

the State and the farm owner Sally Merrill have been put on hold while the farm struggles with the difficult task of cementing a long range business plan. The effort is indicative of the many complexities facing agriculture and farm conservation. The Trust has pledged to continue supporting the efforts of preserving Sunrise Acres and our agricultural heritage. Please stand by and be prepared to help.

I am also pleased to announce that CMIT's list of conserved properties in our island community has grown again. Working with the Trust last year, Christy and Bill Belvin granted the trust a permanent conservation easement on their Chandler's Cove Chebeague property. The easement covers all 8.5 acres of the Belvin's property, will permanently protect part of the property as "forever wild", will help to ensure the preservation of the historic cemetery on the property and preserve the shoreland area. The trust is very please to have the opportunity to help the Belvin's share their commitment to conservation and their interests in continuing the family's rich legacy of contributing to their community.

Summer is an ideal time for you to visit and enjoy the Trust's other island properties. The public is welcome to visit our Basket Island Preserve for day activities throughout the 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 and please remember that all of us are stewards for these publicly accessible properties.

While enjoying your summer please be thinking of the many other promising opportunities to expand conservation lands on Chebeague, Cumberland's other islands and on our mainland. Landowners and our community can continue to benefit from the many conservation opportunities offered through CMIT. It is never too early to be thinking about how the Trust can help harvest the rewards of land conservation through many tax program benefits and other funding opportunities. If you or someone you know would like to speak to the Trust about these opportunities or the Trust operations and properties, please call me (home 829-3201) or speak with one of the Trust Island representatives - Sue Burgess, Michael

Porter, Diane Lukac, Melanie Gustafson or Richard Bowen. We would love to hear from you.

— Robert J. Crawford, President



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 during this past year.

On July 12, 2003, the Friends of the Library sponsored the Island Friends Dinners. We dined at various homes on the island and then congregated at the home of Linda and Robert White for dessert, champagne, fireworks, and a silent auction. The entire evening was wonderful! Many thanks to Linda and Robert. We had a little rain, which gave everyone a chance to go into the tent where the silent auction items were set up. Our guests then had time to raise their bids on the small antiques, artwork, jewelry and fine crafts donated by members of the community. A big thanks to Nancy Pierce, who acted as our chairperson, and to the entire committee, who worked so well together.

The posters and stationery featuring the quilt of the Flora and Fauna of Chebeague designed and made by Linda White are still available at the Library. There are also aprons and corkscrews commemorating the Island Friends Dinners and pins made by Gail Miller of Miller Designs.

In the fall Polly Wentling joined me as co-chairperson of Friends of the Library. We sent a membership letter out last fall and another one this spring. Please remember that the membership fee is your donation to the Library. Everyone, who contributes to the Library, is considered a member of the Friends and is entitled to vote at the annual meeting, which will be held sometime this summer.

The 2004 Chebeague Island Directory will be out July 4, 2004. This is a major charity contribution to the Library, due to the efforts of many people both on and off the Committee.

This year's committee has been:

Ricka Boisvert
Jeanette Hamilton
Beth Howe
Debra Johnson
Al Traina
Vail Traina

Polly Wentling
Jean Whitaker
Linda White
Robert White
John Wilson

— Vail Traina and
Polly Wentling, Co-chairs



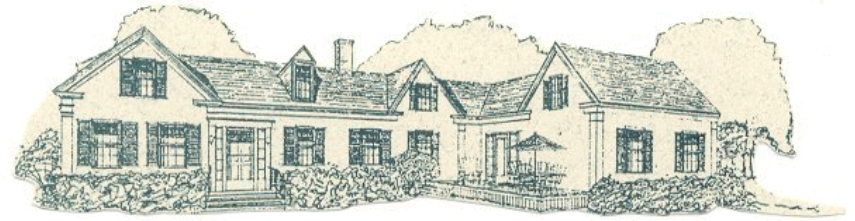
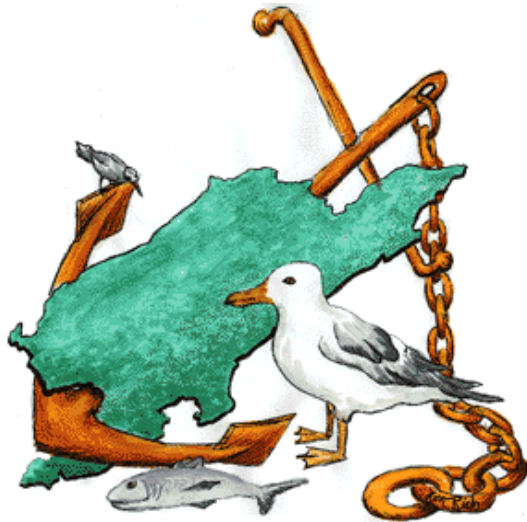
There are a few things in life that I've grown tired of. Like the Red Sox losing every year. But one thing I never tire of is keeping the Island website up and running.

I'd like to believe that it provides a real service to people, such as keeping them up to date on the latest developments with LNG in Casco Bay (see Page 2). Or letting people know what's happening at the church (Page 74). Or spreading the good and bad news about births and deaths (Page 82)

Sure, we do all these things in this *Newsletter*, but if I can keep people up to date daily at www.chebeague.org then I'm happy.

So please keep supplying me with the information that all Chebeaguers need to know. No digital divide on this island!

— Beverly Johnson, Webmaster



"A PLACE TO CALL HOME"

Island Commons Resource Center continues to offer the Chebeague community a variety of health-related services:

- Senior Lunch Program for nine months
- Periodic seminars and workshops
- Health and Care library
- Home Care Equipment Loans (in partnership with the Council)
- Residential Care
- Adult Day Program
- Respite Care

Our residential care home, Island Commons, is "a place to call home" for up to six adults for whom living in their own homes is no longer an option. We provide room, board and personal care for residents, as well as meals, care and activities for adults in our Day Program. Island Commons employs 12 devoted and committed island care givers and administrators for this superlative 24/7 service.

Our 2004 operating budget is over \$280,000. Income is derived from resident and day service fees, as well as from MaineCare reimbursements. Over 25%, however, must come from individual donations and foundation grants. Your participation in annual giving, volunteering and fundraising is absolutely essential to Island Commons. We are most grateful for your help and support.

Among contributions received since May 1, 2003, are gifts given especially in honor of, and in memory of, the following people:

In honor of Gladys Bennett, Kathy and Steve Capps, CTC Employees, Eleanor Hill, Cheryl and Darren Hillicoss, Betts and Eldon Mayer, Ruth Slowik;

In memory of Ernest P. Abrahamson II, Leo J. Belesca, Albert Bennett, Bud Bennett, Clyde Bowen, John Hamilton Calder, Steve Capps, Mary Rose Conley, Earle E. Doughty Sr., Barbara & Dick Graves, Steve Graves, Garland A. Gray M.D., Dorothy Griffin, Elda E. Gwillim, Ellen C. Hamilton, Eleanor Hanscom, Alden H. Hayden, Josie & John Holt, Bob Howard, Gertrude F. Jones, Jeanne & Gard Layng, Elizabeth Leonard, Loved Ones, Isabelle & Harry Mansfield, Phyllis & Paul MacVane, Joy & Lawson McLellan, Rebecca Phipps McGee, The Millers, Brooke Olsen, Joseph C. O'Neil Jr., David C. Perkins, Priscilla Rich, A.J. & Pete Rodman, Betty Ross, Emery Ross, Etta & Jim Ross, Lewis Ross, Steve Ross, June Scamman, Smitty, Hermine Stevens, Andromache K. Thurlow, Leah Webber.

The 2004 Island Commons Resource Center Board of Directors includes Sally Ballard, Ann Belesca, Pam Curran, Mary Cushman, Steve Harris, Pommy Hatfield, Ester Knight and Vicki Todd.

— Pommy Hatfield

Ladies Aid

I believe we may be the only organization that has not risen their membership dues since it was organized in the 1800's. The only difference, we pay the one dollar fee annually where they paid it quarterly back then.

We meet Thursdays and make items to be sold at our summer and Christmas Fairs. Both of these fairs were successful and worth all the work that goes into these events.

Are proceeds are mainly used to help keep the Parsonage, Parish House and Church properties in repair and buy materials to make items for the next year's fairs. If we have a little extra we give donations to maybe help a needy child go to summer camp, help with a disaster, as part of our off island mission.



We welcome new members -- if interested why not come join the fellowship. We range in ages from the forties to ninety eight. Many thanks to those of you who cannot attend but work at home making things for us, every little bit helps.

We do a Thinking of You ministry where we sent cards to keep in touch with those we hear are ill, shut in or mourning the loss of a loved one. In 2003 we mailed out a total of 582 greeting cards. Since I am the person in charge I would like to thank those who have donated greeting cards, blank note cards and stamps. These donations all help our efforts.

We have started a tradition of celebrating members birthdays once a month. When September came we made arrangements to take birthday cake and ice cream to Island Commons. Member Gladys Bennett is a resident there and unable to attend meetings so we took a party to her.

Our main project in 2003 was helping with the restoration of the Parsonage. The 2004 project is removing the old storage addition on the back of the Parish House and replacing it with a bigger and better one. We are hopeful that this project will get under way this fall.

Last but not least well thank ALL of you that helped us with our fairs, collecting food and making up our balsam wreath orders. Those that helped on wreath making day joined us in celebrating our oldest member's 98th birthday.

— Betsey Ross, Secretary Pro Tem

Great Chebeague Golf Club

The golf season saw some great tournament play with Joan Dayton emerging as the Women's Champion and John Merchant as the Men's Champion. Kristin Nottebohm, with that perfect golf swing, won the Junior Championship. Bill Marshall bested the field for the Men's Handicap Championship as Susan West did the same for the Women's Handicap Championship. But, perhaps this year will be most noted by some changes which were instituted by action of the Board of Directors in October. These included changes in dues, lowering temporarily Initiation and Stock Certificate fees, limiting play on the weekends, and increasing greens fees. One significant item that did not change was the ability for Islanders to play at no charge after 5:00 P.M.. The Board is not interested in changing the character of the course, but instead to put it on sound financial terms so as to ensure its viability as a land use and environmental asset to the Island.

After a one year absence, we again enjoyed a Scramble/Lobster Bake. Doug and Gina Ross, and Steve and Beverly Johnson pulled off a most successful bake. The meal was perfectly cooked, and the weather and meal presentation made for a picture-taking scene.

There were a few significant additions to the golf club landscape. Much to the pleasure of golfers, but not to seagulls, Wayne Dyer completed a drainage project on the first and second fairways. Looks good and seems to be working well. A granite bench was added near the clubhouse in memory of "Doc" Houghton and Mike Hamilton. All are invited to stop by, sit, and enjoy the beautiful view of the bay. A new aluminum flagpole donated by family members was erected in memory of Lawson McLellan. Because of our concern of possible damage to the new pole, the star was missing from the annual Christmas light display.

We experienced some problems with the State regarding water testing of our well under the clubhouse. I believe that the out of specification tests were the result of a temporary condition near the wellhead. However, we have agreed to add a chlorinator next year to ensure the suitability of our drinking water.

Cynnie Sheketoff has been our able Clubhouse Manager for a number of years but has opted to take life a little easier for the coming season. We are most appreciative of her efforts over the years to transform our facility into a real clubhouse. Next season's attendants will be Marty (Trower) Rossoll, Barbara Hamilton and Joan Robinson. We must also mention the efforts of Frankie Doughty over the years. Her fine attention to detail around the traps and greens will be sorely missed, but we wish her well in her new position at the Transfer Station. Bob Jones will reemerge from retirement to give Bob Libby a hand this season.

I am afraid that I must give the same report as last year regarding parking in the area of the Stone Pier. The Golf Club remains interested in a mutually beneficial solution to the issue. Perhaps a meeting between the Town and the Club scheduled for this Spring will begin to bear fruit.

Thank you to everyone who has helped out over the year. And, to anyone who is not a member of the Club, consider it. Golf is a great sport which can be played throughout your entire life. We have very active and unintimidating Women's, Men's, Junior's, and Social programs. Think about it.

— Malcolm Rice, President

Great Chebeague Tennis Club

A decade ago, club players queued early in the morning to sign up for an hour's play the next day. This summer, you'll be able to play just about any time you want - pick up a racquet and join us! We are changing the time for kids' lessons from 8:00 A.M. to a more reasonable mid-day hour; any child can take lessons two days a week all summer for a total fee of one can of tennis balls - membership in the club is not required.

Last year, we had the most competitive mixed doubles tournament ever (the Brown Cup), as Harry and Allison Bond barely edged Nancy Earnest and Jim Van Fleet by one point. Molly and David O'Donnell won the Perkins Cup. Hobey Hinchman did a great job running both of these events, as well as the two round robins. This summer, Sue Bogle will take over as event coordinator. Tournaments represent but a small piece of what the club is all about. Mostly, lasting friendships develop as we get together to just hit the ball or have a low key doubles game.

Morgan Phillips will once again teach the kids and be the court keeper. His dad, Earl, has agreed to stay on as VP of court maintenance. Arguably, his is the toughest job. Clay courts are kind to the body, but a bear to maintain. Tom Rothschild remains as treasurer, but Jeff Hahn and I both have tough acts to follow. Jeff is replacing Tineke Breed as secretary, and I will take over as president from Carl Tubbessing. A past president and children's instructor, Tineke has done much for Chebeague tennis over the years, and Carl was one of our best presidents.

Tennis, anyone?

— David O'Donnell, President

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 Soucek, Director; Gail Miller, Director; Roy Jackson, Director, Manny Morgan, Director, Ralph Munroe, Director, Betts Mayer, Director, John Rich, Director, Douglas Ross, Director. During 2003, the Foundation supported the following charitable activities. Contribution of \$1,000 was made in support of the Chebeague Care Resources and \$1,000 to the Chebeague Historical Society. A contribution of \$1,000 was made to the CIHCC for its expansion program. The Foundation also supported the Chebeague Community web site for \$560. Also, \$174 was contributed to the Chebeague Career Program, \$750 to the Mountain Adventures program, \$1,000 to the Chebeague Recreation Center, and \$1,500 for the Parsonage Restoration Project. The Foundation continued to support the Beautification Program in the amount of \$648.

The Board would appreciate all applications for awards to be submitted by August 15, 2004. 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, 2003

Cash	\$ 19,470
Other investments	100,000
Total assets	\$ 119,470
Foundation equity	\$ 119,470

Statement of Revenues and Expenses

Year Ended December 31, 2003

Investment income	\$ 199
Total income	199
Administrative costs	79
Taxes and fees	33
Charitable contributions	7,632
Total expenses	7,744

Realized gains and losses-

Excess of expenses over revenues	\$ (7,545)
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The annual tax return (Form 990-PF) of the Foundation is available for inspection during normal business hours by any citizen who requests inspection within 180 days by contacting Glenn S. Kersteen, Executive Director, 299 Mitchell Road, Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107, (799-6611).

— Glenn Kersteen, Executive Director

Sanford's Pond

Ice Skating at Sanford's Pond

The blades on my new ice skates glimmer and shine as I glide across the shimmering ice.

As I skate, my long brown hair waves free in the breezy wind of January.

The bright yellow moonlight shines brightly on my cold white face.

An owl hoots.

I listen to the sound of crickets chirping.

A delicious scent of food and the smell of smoke and fire burning tells me

it's time to go home for supper.

I take off my skates and walk away from the cold icy pond for supper.

— Chloe Dyer, age 9

Stephen Ross Scholarship Fund

On behalf of all the members of the Stephen Ross Scholarship Committee, I would like to thank everyone who contributed this past year to our Scholarship Fund. It is a pleasure to see the familiar names on the Community Foundation's fund statement. Names such as Chebeague Parents Association, Chebeague Island Council, F/V Old Salty Inc., Ronald A. Malony, James Millinger and Willoughby Sharp. This group contributed just under \$2000 this year. It would really be appreciated if some new names appeared on next year's statement. We keep hoping that might happen. Our secretary reports that since the inception of the scholarship in 1968 we have awarded nearly \$30,000.

I would like to wish everyone good health and a happy summer here on Chebeague Island. A lot is going on in regard to real estate, taxes, LNG, Hotel and transportation, but the unnamed force that draws us to the island remains solid and healthy. So, welcome.

Last year (2002-2003) we helped Lauren Miller with \$1200 and Bradley Putnam with \$1700. Lauren will be a junior at the University of Maine at Farmington. Bradley will be a sophomore at Harvard in September. Rachel Damon will be a senior at Colby College this fall. Ryan Ross has graduated from Stonehill College and will be employed by a business in South Portland. I have lost close contact with other recent recipients such as Mat McCullum, Chris Towle and Brooke Pettit. I do know that Chris is in the merchant marine service after graduating from Castine Maritime Academy. We wish all of these young people great success and are proud to have helped in a small way.

Committee members:

Kenneth Hamilton	Dianne Calder	Susan Burgess
Maxwell Doughty	Douglas Ross	Hartley Brewer
		Betsey Ross

— Kenneth Hamilton, President

Stone Wharf Committee



A new Stone Wharf Committee, including some veterans of previous committees and some members new to the situation and even the process, was formed by the Town Council in late summer of 2001. It began meeting in the fall of that year under the able chairmanship of Steve

Moriarty and quickly made two key decisions. The first of these was to break the problem into three sections, the fabric of the wharf itself, usability from the marine side, and usability from the land side, and the second was to engage Prock Marine Company of Rockland to provide engineering support and to design and construct whatever the Committee and the Town decided on. Prock engineer Steve Durrell and Town Public works Director Adam Ogden worked with the Committee to implement its recommendations.

During the winter and Spring of 2001-2002, Committee members and Steve Durrell identified several problems with the structure of the wharf and

Durrell proposed solutions to these, and the Marine Subcommittee identified storage of small craft as the major marine usability problem and



proposed a solution similar to what was finally constructed. Prock submitted a draft proposal covering everything that had a price tag of almost \$1,000,000, a figure the Committee felt was too high, both for political reality and for its impact on the budget. In the meantime, discussions with the Town Manager had made clear that a budget of approximately \$500,000 could be met without raising taxes by combining contributions from a revolving capital improvement fund and from user fees for a new float system, so that number became the target and the Committee worked hard to prioritize and trim the proposal to fit. The good part of this is that there is no impact on our taxes, but the downside is that the Town Council would never have accepted the project without the user fee contribution.

Matters languished for a year while the Town dealt with the retirement of the Town Manager and the financial uncertainties involving the Blanchard lot on Cousins Island, but in the Spring of 2003 attention was again turned toward the project and in June the Town Council passed it as recommended. Construction started in the late fall, with the dredging being accomplished in the dead of winter (a legal requirement), and by the spring of 2004 the project was finished. The most serious structural problems were the effect on the wharf of the impact of the Islander (chiefly as she lies at the float during westerly breezes), which had already moved several of the upper blocks some inches, the heavily rusted condition of the ramp platform, the breakdown of the wall on the north side of the barge ramp, and the subsidence of the wharf surface. The Committee decided to address these problems and dredging the channel, which had become vitally necessary. Several problems remain, most notably the condition of the south wall of the wharf, and perhaps these can be addressed later.

As to usability, the Committee had some fender piles driven along the east face of the wharf for boats to lie against while loading, but the major change is the float system off the east end. These are protected to some extent by a wavebreak designed to mitigate the effect of major storms and oriented toward the east-northeast, where the fetch is longest and therefore the waves biggest. This is designed

like a similar system Prock built in Rockland which is said to be very successful. Michael Porter

Stone Wharf Committee Members:

Samuel Ballard
Peter Bingham
Ernest Burgess
Milton Calder
Donna Damon
Martha Hamilton
Winthrop Houghton
Robert Libby
Allen Malony

Stephen Moriarty
(Chairman)
Michael Porter
Malcolm Rice
Peter Rice
Tad Runge
Linden Smith
David Stevens



Town of Cumberland Islands Committee

We are a committee of island people appointed by the Town Council to provide advice on issues related to Chebeague. Such a committee has existed since the early 1990s, but, as with many committees on Chebeague, it has had more and less active periods. In the past year the Town Council adopted the Chebeague Long-Range Plan as part of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Then last summer they reconstituted the Islands Committee.

The current members are: Beth Howe (Chair), Council member Donna Damon, Nancy Adams, Sam Ballard, Tom Calder, Mabel Doughty, Jean Dyer, Jane Frizzell, Sam Hunter, Beverly Johnson, Ester Knight, Marjorie Munroe, Michael Porter and Bruce Riddle. Carla Nixon, the Town Planner provides staff assistance to us and comes to some of our meetings. Our meetings are at 7:00 pm on the second Thursday of each month, usually either in the Hall or in the Firehouse. Our meetings are open and public and we are pleased to have other people attend.

The major issue we have taken on this winter and spring is whether there is a need for affordable housing on Chebeague, and who may need it. The Town and the Cumberland Mainland and Islands Trust have bought the Curit property on the North side of the island. The area along the shore will be kept in conservation and open to the public. The rest might be a site for affordable housing. We have had the help this spring of a class of graduate students from USM's Muskie School. On May 13th they gave a presentation to members of the committee and some additional islanders at the Museum (since the Hall was having its floor refinished). It reviewed the nature of Chebeague's population, the possible groups that might need affordable housing and various ways of providing, paying for and maintaining affordable housing. They also produced a substantial report that the Committee can use to develop a proposal for a Community Development Block Grant this summer.

Rather to our surprise, the affordable housing issue was also the subject of a quite upbeat article in the Portland Press Herald in April, and then an editorial charging that the effort was "exclusionist, if not

downright snobbish". We answered the latter charge in a letter to the editor saying that we were not far enough along in the process of planning the project to know if it would be exclusionist or snobbish.

Other projects that we have begun work on are: a renewed effort to get cable extended to Chebeague, and a plan to increase awareness of the need to pump septic tanks and to make doing it easier and cheaper.

— Beth Howe, Chair



A stranded seal

Transfer Station

The place to hear the news and meet your friends!

A few changes have taken place this year. After five years as attendant, Tom Calder gave up his position in August. Then Med and Marlene Bowen filled the gap until October when I started.

Thanks to Med and Marlene I received excellent training. That, along with some great advice from Tom has made it very easy so far. Of course, the summer "high season" is still to come. Tom reported last year that general trash is received in the busy summer months at four times the amount in the winter off-season. Luckily, everything goes smoothly when people cooperate.

It has been a pleasure working with Med, David and the Cumberland crew.

Please remember to recycle, and don't forget Bulky Waste weekend August 6th through 8th.

— Frankie Doughty



United Methodist Church



Just like people, churches have good times and bad times. Churches experience the same roller coaster ride that we all ride on each and every day of our lives. Like people, churches find themselves riding the crest of a wave to come crashing down upon them. In recent years, this has been where our church has been. At the bottom of the wave; waiting; watching. Financial problems, major repairs and renovation problems, declining attendance and a lack of spiritual awareness and direction are all factors that have plagued our church in recent memory. There were times when there seemed to be no hope.



But hope was never lost. Through a fellowship of incredibly faithful people and the support and

generosity of friends and neighbors all over this island and beyond, our church is once again riding the crest of the wave. Over the past year much has been accomplished within our church. The stewards of the property, the Board of Trustees, have tackled major problems such as the heating system of the church and the renovation and remodeling of the parsonage. Because of their stewardship, our church was open for services each Sunday through the winter. The Trustees addressed the problems of the parsonage with a massive fund raising and an extensive renovation plan. Because of their stewardship the parsonage has been renovated, remodeled and upgraded.



Within our church we have seen attendance consistently rising. Last year our average attendance was 30. This year our average to date is 67. Christian Education programs are now in place for Christians of all ages. Sunday School for the kids continues to grow and kids have become a part of

our worship experience. Our dedicated teachers, Karen Hamilton and Beth Dyer, have led a great curriculum for the kids and the kids have really enjoyed it. Average attendance at Sunday School is currently 10. For the adults we began a weekly bible study that continues today and all through the summer.

This past spring a fellowship of women gathered to partake in a bible study called "Sisters". These sisters walked a journey together seeking to better understand their relationship with God in a very complex world. Throughout the summer and fall more and more classes for all are planned.

Financially, our church is becoming stronger each and every day. We are not out of the woods yet, but much has been accomplished to insure that our church is on a strong and solid financial footing.

Over the past year, we have organized program committees to guide our church through the years. Worship, missions, outreach

have been meeting and planning with the goal of continuing the traditions of our church as a beacon of hope for all. That hope shone brightly this past year as our church proudly administered the Angela Weagle and Alnah Robinson funds.

As for me and my family, we continue to feel so very blessed to serve and worship God with this community. It is truly God's Grace



in our lives. Now we look to the future. We pray that God give us courage and wisdom to face all of the struggles that will be ahead of us. God provided what our church needed for its first 150 years and God will provide our church with what it needs for the next 150 years.

— Glenn Coombs, Resident Pastor

An Historical Footnote from Betsey Ross

When the renovation were being done on the parsonage in the fall of 2003, one of the members on the church Board of Trustees contacted me and asked if I knew when some specific things had been done. I did not but said I would go through my copies of the church newsletters and other church reports that I had kept over the years and see if I could come up with an answer.

While doing this I found an item from the Historian's Desk in 1983. This was a comparison of prices which I copied and decided to research again in 2003.

When the kitchen in the parsonage was remodeled in the mid 1990s some papers were found in the walls, among them a 1933 grocery slip of Rev. Hubbard. I copied the items down and put them in the corner of my shopping list so I could compare the prices in 2003.

	1933	1983	2003
1 qt. clams	0 .50	\$.50	1\$.00
1 lb. coffee	0.35	2.09	5.22
1 dz. oranges	0.27	1.20	6.00
10 lb. sugar	0.45	3.50	3.58
1 loaf bread	0.07	1.05	1.99
2 lb. butter	0.49	3.76	5.38
1 head lettuce	0.10	0.69	2.49
1 lb. chocolate	0.29	1.98	7.95
6 ½ lb. chicken	1.24	5.07	8.38
6 lb. bacon	1.20	9.48	15.00
Totals:	\$.96	36 .32	70 .99

I found this interesting and thought maybe others would too. The clams and bacon jumped a goodly amount, while sugar had only gone up eight cents in 20 years.

Thought maybe you might use this if you need some little tidbit to fill a space



Whalers



Another year another new adventure. We are still singing! We did assemble and sing some old school songs including the 1913 Class Ode written by Ethyl Hamilton Ross to the tune of Flow Gently Sweet Afton for the program at the opening of the Museum in July of 2003, but we did not have a concert of our own until Christmas.

After the success of the venture with a CD accompaniment, etc,

last year, we looked for something similar in a lighter vein, and found it in Forever Christmas, a "warm and wonderful holiday review" by Mac Huff. All familiar songs ... should be a cinch ... right? They were familiar, but with all set at lightening pace with many key



changes, a truly challenging endeavor. Fortunately John Howard was there, indispensable at rehearsals and we had a great gathering to help us including some new faces and voices which made the show entertaining from start to finish. Forever Christmas was only a half hour show so we also sang, after a short intermission, the traditional carols in an arrangement entitled A Glorious Christmas arranged by Tom Fettke. We really needed another month of rehearsals, but the show went on and was a great hit. So much so that Bev Johnson went into the CD music business and they sold like hot cakes. Where else can you hear Don Buxbaum "do" Elvis? Or Doug Clark's "Rudolph" saying "ho HO ho you all?"



These were only two of the priceless gems in a fun filled evening. Participants and credits: Whalers: Sally Ballard, Dianne Calder, Jane Frizzell, Khaki Habig, Cheryl Hillicoss, Ruth Houghton, Beverly Johnson, Banú KomLosy, Cathy MacNeill, Barbara Porter, Joan Robinson, Tina Runge, Susie Stavropoulos and Vail Traina.



Christmas Chorus: John Ash, Bob Brown, Doug Clark, Dick Freeman, John Howard, John Maxon and Mal Rice.

Special Guests: Don Buxbaum, Don Soucek and Michelena

Taliento.

Narrator: Gisele Phipps.

Technicians: Mark McGee (sound), Doug Ross (lights)

Thanks: the Library and Steve Todd for the loan of sound equipment; Peggy Jones and Barbara Hamilton, refreshments; Cathy MacNeill and Pam Dyer, decorations; Bob Habig, admissions.

Director: Martha Hamilton, with valuable assistance from John Howard.

We are working on a Spring Concert, with John Howard directing. Hooray!

— Martha Hamilton, Director



Chebeague Census

A quick census of Chebeague was done in January, 2004. There were approximately 365 people on the island at that time.

WEDDINGS....

Eliza Jane Adams to Rockland Helpen
Richard ("Stay") Graves IV to Shelli Bigonski
Patti Rich to Wink Houghton
Laura Trask to David Tyler
Shane Layng to Sarah Morse
Danielle Hamilton to Jeremy Bradley
Nina Brown to Mark Silverman
Nick Nyhan to Megan Jones
Dick Clark to Robin Horr

ANNIVERSARIES...

Congratulations to:
Dick & Kitty Freeman on 50 years of marriage
Don & Cheryl Buxbaum for 25 years
Nancy & Sam Hackenburger for 50 years

BIRTHS...

Holden Graham to Lisa MacNeill & Jeffrey Brown
Nicholas James to Rebecca Rich & James Koppmann
Whitney Elizabeth to Ashley Sidor & Kai Adams
Catarina Ana to Catarina & John Jordan
Nathaniel to Lindsey Hamilton & Nathan Barber
Rohan Edward to Richard & Paige Lestan Boisvert
Lydia Maude Littlefield to Melisa Erder & Kelly Wright
Lillian Rose to Kimberly Kuntz & Chris Gogan
Jonathan to Julie McDonald & Lindsey Fortin

Henry Malcolm Dugliss to Althea Dugliss & Charles Hall
Daniel James to Jeffrey & Lynda Feeney
Odin Ira to Ellen Burns & Christopher York
Zackary William to Erin Layng & Eric Benisek
from China... **Cloe Mei** to Jenny Levey & Bart DeCristoforo
Luke David to Jennifer Vintinner & David Hohner
from Ukraine... **Irena Betty** to Robert & Sarah Prescott
triplets! Born to Edward & Regina Leonard:
**Barbara Ann, George Edwin Linden IV and Margaret
Elizabeth**
Zachary Ramon to Jen Buxbaum & Ramon Serrano
Greta Helen to Richard & Jessica Jackson Flick
Emeline Boyd to Edward Weagle & Tammy Estabrook
Sebastian Alan Sanderson to Richard Sanderson & Paula
Erickson

GRANDCHILDREN...

Alexander Kinnealey, grandson of Barbara & Bill Marshall
Greta Helen Fleck, granddaughter of Jen & Leon Hamilton
Kerry Anna, great granddaughter of Margaret Gaston

DEATHS...

Priscilla J. (Ricker) Rich
Stephen Capps
Robert Muniak
Oscar E. Hanscom
Clinton K. Dobson
Joy McLellan
Elda Ewing Gwillim
Clarence Demming
Nancy Jane Duryee
Doris Worch Feeney
Richard Grannell

Myrtle Hamilton Bibber
Albert Ricker Hamilton
Elizabeth Ann (Johnson) Leonard
Nancy Rice Plummer
Louise Capps Scranton
John David Scott
Elsa Avery
Edward Harris
Nedra (Chaplin) Baker
Dorothy Forbes Griffin
David Day
Angela Varney Weagle
Robert Lessing
Ralph Vincent
Aubrey ("Dartie") Young

CONDOLENCES TO:

Bill & Lola Armstrong who lost her brother
Eleanor Hill who lost a sister Patricia Grant
Glen & Cindy Coombs who lost his father

We apologize if we have left someone out of these statistics.
Please send notices to Marjorie Munroe or Dianne Calder as they
occur so we can include them in the next Newsletter.

— Census data provided by Dianne Calder
and Marjorie Munroe

