

Chebeague Island Annual Newsletter 2005



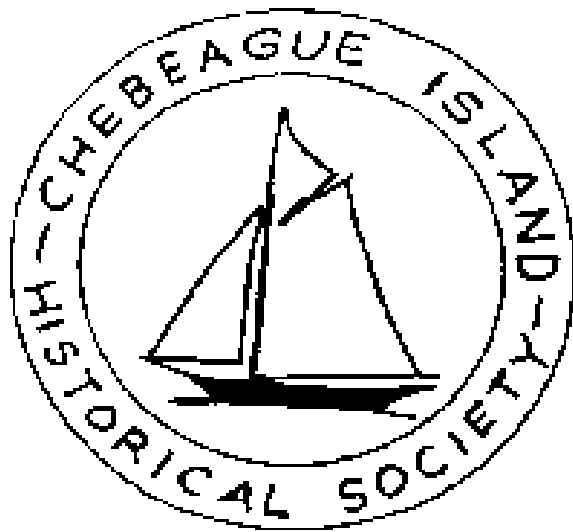
Students in Front of the School

Front row: Andrew Speidel Hamilton, Maegen Dunbar, Wilder Manion, Ryan Murphy, Tricia Hamilton, Stephen Rich

Second row: Noah Boisvert, Natalie Murphy, Julia Stefanilo, Jenny Dyer, Evan Boisvert, Chloe Dyer, Emma Coombs, Dylan Doughty, Timothy Calder

Back row: David Hamilton, Cassidy Jeffers, Julia Maine, Benjamin Hillicoss, Tracy Calder, Tyler Campbell, Brenna Martin

Chebeague Island Annual Newsletter 2005



Cover:

Last year it was LNG, the year before that it was property taxes, and this year it's a threat to the K-5 Chebeague Island School that jeopardizes the future of Chebeague Island as a viable community.

The cover presents twenty-two reasons why many people fear for the future of the little two-room schoolhouse and, consequently, the survival of Chebeague.

Two points of view highlight this year's *Chebeague Island Annual Newsletter*. Ruth Kermish-Allen of the Island Institute presents her views of the future of island schools beginning on Page 2. On Page 5 Carol White details the proposal of SAD #51 to eliminate one of two teaching positions at the Chebeague Island School and to transport 4th and 5th graders to the mainland. She also examines the Chebeague community's response to that proposal and the importance of the school to the social fabric of the Island.

As we go to press, this issue is spawning a movement that may eventually result in the formation of the Town of Great Chebeague Island.

But, in the meantime, life goes on here on Chebeague and this year's *Newsletter* chronicles the events of the past year.

Table of Contents

Foreword	1
The Fight to Keep a School	2
MSAD #51's "Modest Proposal"	5
Casco Bay Island Development Association	10
Chebeague Island Community Association	13
Chebeague Island Council	14
Chebeague Island Fire Department	16
Chebeague Island Grange #576	17
Chebeague Island Hall	18
Chebeague Island Historical Society	20
Chebeague Island Library	23
Chebeague Island Rescue	25
Chebeague Island School	28
Chebeague Island Community Sailing School	33
Chebeague Island Yacht Club	34
Chebeague Needleworkers	37
Chebeague Parents' Association	40
Chebeague Post Office	41

Chebeague Recreation Center	43
Chebeague Transportation Company	50
Chedemption	51
Cumberland Mainland and Island Trust	53
Cumberland Town Council	56
Friends of the Library	59
Great Chebeague Golf Club	60
Great Chebeague Tennis Club	62
http://www.chebeague.org	63
Island Commons Resource Center	64
Mother Sells a Car	67
Recompense Foundation	68
Save Casco Bay	70
Stephen Ross Scholarship Fund	72
Town of Cumberland Islands Committee	74
Transfer Station	76
United Methodist Church	77
Whalers	79
Chebeague Census and Vital Records	81
Cumberland Street Map	84
Chebeague Island Road Map	85

Foreword

The Chebeague Island Historical Society publishes this report, the *Chebeague Island Annual Newsletter*, as its contribution to all the organizations that make the social environment of Chebeague what it is for our population. The *Newsletter* is a cooperative venture by the dozens of 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, the Cobbler Shop, 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 Fight to Keep a School

The Chebeague Island residents now have a new appreciation for the tenuous situation of small Island Schools. The community found out that the MSAD 51, which they are part of, had proposed to move the Chebeague Island 4th and 5th graders to the mainland North Yarmouth Memorial School. The most frustrating part of this situation is that the islanders were not included in any type of dialogue between community members and MSAD 51.



“You have as many pupils on the Island as on the mainland. Accommodations for them are very poor.” – Oscar R. Sturdivant, Supervisor of Schools, Cumberland, February 21, 1895
During the Spring Term that year, there were 129 students on the mainland and 134 on Chebeague. The class was pictured above around 1898.

This proposal was included in the MSAD 51 2005-2006 budget, due to fact that the district is planning to reconfigure their elementary school grades into a K-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12 school configuration. MSAD 51 superintendent Dr. Bob Hasson said, “ moving the island

students into a mainland school when all the other 4th grade students in the district will be changing buildings as well would make the transition to a larger mainland school easier.” Island parents say “No Way!”

Try to imagine what this would mean to a 8 or 9 year old 4th grader. You would wake up at 6 or 6:30 in the morning, get on a cold boat in the morning, ride across the ocean for 15 minutes--or even longer--in all kinds of weather. You would then get onto a bus to take you to school where you would wait for your school day to begin. Don't forget about the ride back home, either!

The Rural School and Community Trust has found that young students dealing with this type of routine tend to be tired at school and do not do as well as students who do not have the same travel ordeals each day. Would you want your 9 year old son or daughter riding that ferry back and forth every day?

In recent memory school closing have lead to the demise of island communities. One example of this vicious cycle can be found in the story of Criehaven Island. Over time the funding for the school began to dwindle, and it became necessary to close the school due to budgetary reasons. So, the children and mothers had to go to the mainland to attend school while the fathers worked on the island. Over time, entire families made the move off island to live next to where their children went to school. A whole community washed away with the tide of events set off by the closing of a community's center...its school.

Chebeague residents love their school and the creativity it inspires in their children. For example, this winter Bowdoin College Anthropology students and Professor Anne Henshaw are working with Chebeague students to create a website about their community and it's rich lobstering heritage. The Bowdoin students go out the island school once a month to help students formulate interview questions for lobsterman, do research on community buildings and residents, as well as learning new technology skills. In addition, these elementary students are exposed to college life, they visit the Bowdoin campus and work one on one with students and professors. How many other schools can offer this type of an experience to their students?

Small schools that use their funding creatively have the ability to give students a higher quality of education than larger mainland schools...if supported by their community and administration. Some

examples of the great success are the three smallest high schools in the state, which are found on the islands of North Haven, Islesboro, and Vinalhaven in Penobscot Bay. North Haven, the smallest high school in the state, with around 60 students K-12, has a graduation rate of near 100%, daily attendance of 98%, and an arts program that rivals any in Maine. 98% of its students attend post secondary education and most students score very well on the MEA. In fact, all three island high schools score right around, if not above, the state average on MEA tests. Islesboro central school has such a dynamic curriculum that it actually attracts magnet students from the mainland that pay tuition to attend the island school. Just to put this into perspective, Islesboro is about a 20 minute ferry ride from the town of Lincolnville, so it has a very similar situation to Chebeague Island, as far as ferry distance.

Schools have a very strong effect on the community population as well. The Rural Schools and Community Trust found that throughout the country 60 % of the communities with schools saw population growth, while only 46% of those without schools grew. We know how tenuous an island population can be, and Chebeague is only strengthened by its school. A number of Chebeague residents have stated that they actually moved to the island so that their children could attend Chebeague school, they were drawn to its personal and high quality education.

Young professional families move to Maine for the quality small schools that are a tradition in our state. How can we attract these families if the schools they desire for their families are a dying breed?

Thanks to overwhelming community support and activism MSAD 51 decided to take the proposal to move the 4th and 5th graders to the mainland off the budget for this coming school year. Although, a great deal of debate is still in store for the situation. The school board would like to revisit the issue in the coming years. Island residents hope that in the future, proposals such as this will be introduced to the community and an open dialogue between island residents and the school district will create an atmosphere of respect and the opportunity for creative solutions to problems.

– Ruth Kermish-Allen,
Education Outreach Officer at the Island Institute

MSAD #51's "Modest Proposal"

In September, 2004 it seemed like the school year was off to a great start. There was an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation as the smiling faces and new backpacks passed through the green doors of the Chebeague Island School. All seemed well in the warm days of early fall as the school children rode their bikes to school and took hikes on the shore for their nature project. Little did we know what was in store for the Chebeague Island School community in the upcoming year. Ms. Beule was back in the K-2 classroom with 12 students including 3 new kindergarteners. Ms. Rohrbach's, our new teacher, had arrived from Vermont to teach the 3-5 classroom. We were all full of energy and enthusiasm for the new school year.

The first hint of what lay ahead came in early October. The MSAD #51 School Board traditionally holds their October Board meeting on the Island. It was at this October 4th meeting, after the lobster dinner that the Parents Association served the Board members and staff that the uneasiness and indigestion began. Parents and community members were put on notice that if the statewide referendum known as Question 1 or the Palesky Tax Cap Initiative was approved by the voters in November a number of changes could occur due to school budget reductions. A Board member pointed out, rather unsympathetically, that the Chebeague Island School might be closed if the Tax Cap initiative was successful. Close the school: That would extinguish the year-round community, I remember thinking.

The Tax Cap Initiative was defeated in November, 2004 by a majority of the voters in the State of Maine and also a majority of Chebeaguers. Although many were relieved about the outcome of this referendum relative to status of the Island school, we were painfully aware of how rising property values and property taxes were affecting our community. Most Islanders agreed that some form of tax reform was long overdue. Every year we were losing year-round Islanders due to the escalating cost of living, increasing property taxes and lack of affordable housing. These factors make it hard for families with young children to live on the Island. Many of us are struggling to just to hang on.

Earlier efforts by Chebeaguers Bette Tellinghuisen and David Hill to provide long-term residents with protections against excessive valuations were rejected by the State Legislature (See the *2003 Chebeague Newsletter* for the full story of the Maine Land Bank).

Despite the fact that the tax cap was defeated, an undercurrent of uncertainty still permeated the community. We were hoping the affordable housing initiative could provide some solutions.

The school year flew on through the fall and into early winter. After Christmas break, winter settled in hard on the Island. Freezing temperatures and ice in the bay disrupted the boat schedule and our lives. Traveling was difficult due to the brutal cold which caused the elimination of some ferry trips. Practices and games were missed, meetings were postponed and events were canceled due to limited and uncertain boat schedules. Junior high and high school students and adults stayed overnight with friends or in motels in order to participate in sports and community activities. Oil prices were climbing. Community members were ill. Families were struggling. This is the time of year when we question why we live here and wonder if we can garner the financial resources and personal energy to stay.

In February, 2005, on the Friday after Valentines Day, the Island got wind of a proposal to eliminate the Grade 3-5 classroom at the Chebeague Island School. This proposal was outlined in a memo prepared by Susie Robbins, the principal of the Mabel I. Wilson School and Chebeague Island School's former principal, called for a reconfiguration of Grades 3 to 5 in the District. The proposal included transferring Grades 4 to 5 from the Island School to North Yarmouth Memorial School on the mainland leaving a single K-3 classroom at the Island school. This proposal had literally come out of nowhere. There had been no notification or discussion with the parents. Even the Island teachers had not been consulted or informed. The community was in shock. The general undercurrent of unease quickly escalated to alarm. The Island erupted. We called a community meeting.

On Sunday February 20th, just two days after hearing about the proposal, we held a public meeting at the Community Center to discuss the potential impact of the proposed re-configuration of the Island school. Over 100 Islanders attended. The community discussed the impracticality of sending 8 to 10 year olds to the mainland on a daily



basis and how that would affect them educationally and socially. It is hard enough for older students and adults to complete this trip on a daily basis: How could we even consider sending children of this age across? Beyond the concern of the impact on the individual children,

we discussed the potential impact on the entire Island community. Requiring young children to travel to the mainland by boat would certainly discourage families with young children from living on the Island. At this meeting there was unanimous support and recognition of the importance of the Island school to the continued existence of year-round community. A petition was circulated on the Island requesting a meeting with the School Board to discuss the matter. In only a few days over 100 signatures were collected requesting that the MSAD #51 School Board convene a meeting on the Island to discuss the elimination of the 3-5 classroom teacher.

The community was galvanized in support of the school. Phone calls were made, letters and emails were sent to School Board members and the administration questioning the proposal and asking that it be reconsidered. The Board did not choose to meet on the Island, so the

Island went to the Board. In early March, approximately 70 Island residents attended the School Board budget meeting at the Cumberland Town Office. During their presentation, the school administration indicated that the cost savings for eliminating the Grade 3-5 teaching position would be approximately \$48,000. They indicated that this proposal had been developed to address both financial and educational concerns. Following their brief presentation, Islanders were given a chance to speak. One after another, Islanders stepped up to the podium to talk about the absurdity of the proposal and hardship that it would cause for the children, their families and the community. The actual cost savings and educational basis of the proposal were questioned. The importance of the school to the survival of year-round community was stressed. Concerns about the process were expressed. After several hours of discussion the School Board agreed to reconsider the proposal. Exhausted, we went home on a special late boat hopeful that we had been heard. At a meeting later that week, the School Board agreed to take the Chebeague Island School 3-5 reconfiguration out of the budget discussion for the upcoming year and said they would revisit this issue at a later date, probably in the fall of 2005. The panic dropped back to a level of general unease and uncertainty. We were OK for next year:. But what about after that? Families talked about moving.

At the May budget meeting the 24 million dollar budget passed with little opposition. Although the budget had an overall increase of 6% (1.3 million dollars) the District projected a slight drop in Cumberland's mill rate from \$14.59 to \$13.89 due to increased funding from the state. The revised school funding formula had resulted in an additional 2.1 million dollar increase in the state subsidy for MSAD #51 for 2005-06. Approximately one-third of this increased funding (\$725,000) was slated to go back to the taxpayers in the form of tax relief. The remainder of the money (1.4 million) was applied to the operating budget and debt service in 2005-06 school budget. As I sat at the meeting I couldn't help but reflect on the fact that our community had been put in an uproar and run through the wringer over a mere 0.2% of the overall school budget (if even that much), but no one was questioning that only one-third of the increased state subsidy was going back in the form of tax relief. At that time Freeport was in the throes of discussing how much of the state educational

subsidy money should be used for local tax relief . On Long Island, the school committee had decided to direct all of its increased state subsidy to local tax relief. I wondered what we would have done on Chebeague if it had been up to us.

A few days later, voters in SAD #51 rejected a proposed budget validation process by a mere 55 votes out of 2,161 votes cast. However, on Chebeague, the referendum passed by better than a four-to-one margin. This landslide most likely reflected the feelings of disenfranchisement Islanders have regarding the District.

It has been a difficult and exhausting year for the community. The uneasiness lingers as the uncertainty about the future of the Island school remains. Some good has come out of all the sleepless nights and the anxious moments: A reminder, for me at least, that despite all the hassles, the work and the missed opportunities, I am grateful that my family is part of the Chebeague Island Community. It is this strong sense of community, endangered or extinct in many other towns and islands, that we cherish and keeps of us here. It is worth fighting for.

I am encouraged by the fact that the community unified regarding the importance of maintaining the Chebeague Island as to being vital School to the survival of the year-round community.

During our research, the Islanders discovered that MSAD #51 was eligible for and will receive an additional \$19,000 in State subsidy due to the Island school's geographic isolation.

We have started discussions with other island schools in Casco Bay about supporting each other's educational programs and community survival.

The Island school issues spawned the organization of the Chebeague Island Community Association (CICA – see Page 13) whose mission is to ensure the survival and long term viability of the year-round island community. This group is currently exploring self-governance including local control over the Island school.

This year has challenged our community in ways we never expected and has united Chebeaguers in their determination to preserve the Chebeague Island School, because without a school, there is no community.

– Carol White

Casco Bay Island Development Association

*Casco Bay Island Development Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 3373, Portland, Maine 04104*

After several years of annual meetings in Portland, CBIDA held its 2004 meeting at The Fifth Maine Civil War Museum on Peaks Island. Before the meeting members had the opportunity of taking a golf-cart tour of the island with historian Kim Mac Isaac, whose fund of information is amazing as well as fascinating. At the meeting the following officers were

elected: President, Jane Laughlin, Great Diamond; Vice-President, Ruth Mistark, Cliff Island; Secretary, Edmund Gomes Sr., at large; Treasurer, Gene Taylor, Peaks Island.

Also in 2004 CBIDA had occasion to prove that we stand by our commitment to the environment and quality of life of the Casco Bay Islands. A bit of history is needed here: during the development boom of the 1980's an outrageously inappropriate plan was presented for Fort McKinley on Great Diamond Island. Concerned for the domino effect on other islands should this plan succeed, CBIDA, together with the Island Institute and Maine Audubon, spent seven years of presentations before Portland's Planning Board and City Council, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Maine Bureau of Environmental Protection to ensure that the development of Fort McKinley into McKinley Estates, a condominium, would be appropriate for a fragile island environment. In exchange for no further objections the developer finally reduced the number of units and adjusted their placement, and agreed to certain restrictions that would be binding on the properties in perpetuity. Only service vehicles and two vans belonging to McKinley Estates were to be allowed to travel to the South end where a summer cottage community had been in



place for some one hundred years. These restrictions were necessary to protect the narrow unpaved roads and shallow topsoil of this part of the Island. Traffic from the cottages to the Fort was automatically restricted by the fact that McKinley Estates was entirely private.

The restrictions were included in the Declarations and Covenants of the deeds to McKinley Estate properties. As the years passed the rules have been increasingly ignored until golf carts from the condominiums have created a real traffic and dust problem on the cottage end and a parking problem at the south end dock. It became obvious that the regulations needed to be enforced. Two years of negotiations between the cottage end and the condominium end brought forth no solution -- acceptable or otherwise -- and CBIDA accepted the fact that it was necessary to "put our money where our mouth is" and hired a lawyer to represent us before the City Council, where the McKinley Estates was trying to get the rules set aside. Sadly the two lawyers who had worked with us during the seven years were both in the same firm as the then Mayor of Portland and therefore were unavailable to us. At least the seven years had taught us to deal with set-backs. We hired another lawyer and brought him up to speed. At the moment the golf cart traffic has ended, use of the vans has solved the parking problem and the cottage/pedestrian lifestyle has a chance to maintain the island environment. CBIDA takes pride in being good for its word.

CBIDA supported and contributed to SaveCascoBay.org, continues to support Cumberland Mainland and Island Trust and remains involved in the Waterfront Alliance and the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (formerly known as the Casco Bay Estuary Project).



Casco Bay Lines' new Aucocisco III

The 2005 Boating Pamphlet, with updates on marine services, is available free at the Chebeague Island Boat Yard.

CBIDA meets monthly on the first Saturday of each month (except for holiday conflicts) at 9:30 AM at the Casco Bay Ferry Terminal in Portland. New members are welcome. For more information contact the undersigned at 846-4188.

— Jean Dyer



Rescuers retrieve an errant punt float liberated by a fierce May Nor'easter

Chebeague Island Community Association

The Chebeague Island Community Association's mission is *"to ensure the viability of Great Chebeague Island as a year-round community."* The association was formed in 2005 as a result of research done by a group of community members concerned about the risk of losing the elementary school on the Island.

During the initial research there was broad support in the community that a local on-island school at least through grade 5 is essential to support a year-round community. Other critical issues soon emerged such as affordable housing and transportation. While these critical issues are being addressed by various groups including Island groups, Town officials, MSAD and private concerns, there is no community based Island entity that provides a public forum to discuss all issues related to health and safety of the year-round community.

The Association is committed to an open forum and the inclusion of all individuals with a concern for the Chebeague Island community. This includes registered voters, year-round residents, summer residents, mainland residents, friends and neighbors. We are committed to working in a positive way with Town officials and MSAD #51 to address the critical issues.

The first board of directors and officers of this newly-formed association are:

Donna Colbeth	Herb Maine, President
Mabel Doughty	Jeff Putnam
Mark Dyer	Cheryl Stevens, Treasurer
Robert Earnest, Secretary	David Stevens
Beverly Johnson	Carol White
Phil Jordan	John Wilson
Ester Knight	

– Herb Maine

Chebeague Island Council

It's that time of year again. The cold and icy winter is over and one of the coldest and wettest Mays on record with only two days of sunshine, are behind us. Thank goodness. Time to report on our activities for the past year.

Our best known and appreciated effort is the monthly Calendar, a "must read" for everyone who wants to know what is happening on Chebeague. Edited by Barbara Hamilton, the Calendar is mailed out to all Chebeague residents free of charge, the first of every month and to all Council Members. Some Council members have found it worthwhile to pay an extra \$12 and have the Calendar mailed to them First Class, otherwise it is sent out Third Class.

A key service that the Council supports is the Medical Clinic housed at the Hall and Library building. Ginny Ballard, PA-C, a highly qualified, certified, and dedicated, Physician's Assistant, not only maintains regularly scheduled office hours, but also makes house calls when needed. Her office hours are published in the Calendar. We are lucky to have Ginny. A full report of Clinic activities is contained in a separate report in the newsletter.

The Council also helps the Commons with a medical loan program that makes crutches, wheelchairs, hospital beds and other similar medical equipment available to those who need it free of charge. Donations are always accepted.

Another Council activity, the Chedemption program, is also reported separately in the newsletter. I just want to note that this year, Chedemption sent out checks in the amount of \$554 to eleven different nonprofit organizations. The Council donated, as it does every year, its check to the Samaritan Fund.

The Samaritan Fund, a Council sponsored and maintained fund, is designed to pay for medical necessities for those who cannot afford them. The Samaritan Fund pays for prescriptions, Medical Alert Emergency Response devices and has paid for non-slip pads for those who have trouble walking so they don't slip and fall because of throw rugs. If you might need help with medical expenses, please see Ginny; all inquiries and assistance are confidential. A couple of years ago the Samaritan Fund paid out \$5,666. This year, the Samaritan Fund paid

out \$15, 360, over \$10,000 of that in prescriptions. Donations to the Samaritan Fund are tax deductible and are always welcome. They should be sent to Gail Miller, the Council's Treasurer.

Last fall, the Council was again able to sponsor the annual flu clinic. This spring the Council sponsored a free Screening Health Clinic. The clinic was part of the Casco Bay Partnership and the screenings were done by University of Southern Maine Nursing students. Thanks to Claire Ross for arranging it.

The Council sponsors the Fourth of July parade, which starts at the Inn and ends at Chandler's Cover, where the picnic is held every year. We publish an annual Welcome to Chebeague brochure, with a handy map and visitor's guide. The brochure is free and is available from the Inn, Veteran's Taxi and the Island Market; copies are also available at the Library.

Join the Council for only \$12 and get the Calendar. Pay an extra \$12 and receive the Calendar by First Class mail. Please send your check to Cliff Barker, our Membership Chairman. Check the Calendar for the exact time and place of the Council's Annual Meeting, which will be held in August. Until then, the current officers and Board members are:

Peter Rice, President
Louise Doughty,
Vice President
Mac Passano, Secretary
Gail Miller, Treasurer
Karen Hamilton,
Membership Chair

Jennifer Belesca
Carol Lynn Davis
Esther Knight
Banú KomLosy
Kelley Rich
Gina Ross

— Peter Rice

Chebeague Island Fire Department

The Fire Department responded to several calls this past year, and once again no serious fires. These calls included several for trees on wires, assisting Rescue with lifting help, and marine related issues. We also responded to several calls for fire alarms sounding at various locations. A great deal of thanks goes to the people of Chebeague for being extra careful with burning permits and for keeping their chimneys and in safe condition.

Our training continues in all areas of fire protection. We have added several new members this year: Mark Dyer, Ginny Ballard, Nancy Earnest and John Martin have come aboard. Mike Feinberg, a career fireman from Massachusetts joins us when visiting his in-laws Kitty and Dick Freeman on Chebeague. Lida Munroe is a member of the Explorer Post. All of these people have worked hard training, both on the Island and attending schools on the mainland. It is great to see these new faces at our meetings or at fire calls. There is always room for more!

Our equipment continues to serve us relatively well. We have news that one of our trucks will be replaced in 2005-06; we look forward to seeing the new truck arrive. Thanks go to the Public Works crew for keeping the trucks repaired and running smoothly. We have also replaced some of our smaller tools, etc., on the trucks. The Town has been awarded a grant for some extraction tools for the Island, hopefully to be delivered soon. We have also continued to train with other Island fire personnel under the mutual aid agreement.

A great deal of thanks goes to all the members for unselfishly giving their time to protect the Island. Remember, all the training is donated with no pay. And we all are indebted to Gordon Murphy, who keeps our truck checks up to date, insures that our breathing packs and tools are in good working order, and keeps the water tanks full and the pumps tested so that we are ready to roll at all times .

— Tom Calder, Fire Chief

Chebeague Island Grange #576

Members and friends of this Grange plan to continue the roadside cleanup in the spring. And to sponsor the Memorial Day program in the church, including the marking of Veterans' graves in the cemetery with flags, but possibly not decorating them with hand made fir sprays and roses as we have done in past years. Getting the "brush" and making the sprays is always a hassle, especially now that there are so many graves to decorate. We have been looking for, but have not yet found thus far, a substitute for the hand made sprays. We hope to keep this tradition alive somehow.

At this writing, the operation of our Thrift Shop is in some doubt, but this may still be resolved. However Fran Calder has said definitely that she cannot run the Annual Fair In the fall. We have not come up with an alternative plan to date. Watch for notices. Both of these activities are our major fund raisers and losing them will put a serious crimp in our support of Grange commitments as well as our local donations. The distribution of holiday food and good cheer to Christmas shut-ins is usually funded by generous donations from friends, as well as from the Thrift Shop and Fair, so that may continue as long as we have the extra help.

As always we thank the non-Grangers who have always supported us and helped with our projects and activities. Without your help we could not have maintained our community service projects this long.

— Martha O. Hamilton

Chebeague Island Hall Community Center

The CIHCC, The Hall, continues to serve the Chebeague Island community as the focal point for Island activities, both public - concerts, elections, town and organizational meetings, and fairs - and private events - weddings, dances, and parties (alcoholic and nonalcoholic). If you need space and/or chairs and tables for that sudden meeting about a threat to the Island School, an anniversary or wedding party, a Mark Dyer dance, or for a Don Buxbaum retirement party, please call Martha Hamilton.

To assure the provision of this service the Board of CIHCC spent a busy twelve months. The hardwood floor was refinished at the cost of \$4,400. The generator now functions automatically on all power outages and offers a warm refuge with facilities in case of a long term outage or other emergency. The light board for those stage events that bring so much enjoyment to the Island was replaced with help from the Rec. Center, and fund raising is currently well underway to replace the Hall's sound system.

Our modest fee structure for chargeable events (many public events appropriately are provided for free) and some Town funds administered through the Library help cover the cost of maintaining the Hall. Those moneys aren't enough and other major costs such as roof replacement and better foundation insulation lay ahead. We must still rely heavily on the generosity of our friends and foundations - be it \$25.00 to our annual appeal, a pie or casserole for one of our three fund raising Hall suppers held during the past year - or a \$2,500 grant from the Fairfield Martindale Foundation. All are the result of Board member efforts and the voluntary input of many other whom we really appreciate. Simple things like all those who helped one of the Board to try and find the Hall well to those who volunteered their help with the generator pad.

Every Island tax payer is a CIHCC "member" by virtue of the Hall bylaws. We don't ask for dues, but hope that you will consider making a generous donation.

The Hall and its Board look forward to continuing to serve the Island.

Thank you for your support.

Jane Abrahamson
Martha Hamilton
Diane Brewer
Roy Jackson

Cheryl Buxbaum
Bev Johnson
Mabel Doughty
Tad Runge

Barbara Hamilton
Pat St. Cyr
Susie Stavropoulos

— Tad Runge, President



Lori and Chris Rich christen their new boat Stelias (6/24/04)



...while the crew readies the vessel for duty.

Chebeague Island Historical Society

2004 was a great year for the Historical Society. The West End exhibit was extremely popular drawing in many folks who had never been to the museum. Approximately 92 people lent photos, researched, created the exhibit (including all of the folks who perfected their Velcro dot skills), lent or donated materials, served as docents, or prepped the building for the opening. Thanks to all of you. Much of the exhibit will remain for the summer of 2005. In addition, a new exhibit will open July 2 to commemorate the building of the church 125 years ago. You won't want to miss it! The Museum will be open 1-4:30 PM, Tuesday-Sunday until mid September. We are happy to open at other times just call Joan Robinson- 846-4077; Jane Frizzell – 846-4937; or Donna Damon – 846-5140. This year students, Island residents and members will be admitted free of charge. Admission for all others will be \$3. As always we welcome donations at anytime! Don't miss our new hats and bags in our gift corner.

We have reached an all time membership high – 458! Thank you all for your continuing support.

During the year several school groups toured the museum and we hope to promote more of this work in the future.

Thanks to a generous Island family we are hiring a summer intern. Sarah Brown, daughter of Nina Gomez, will join us for the summer. She will spend mornings cataloging our collection and will serve as a docent in the afternoon. When Sarah goes back to school we will be welcoming an Island Institute fellow, who will assist us with our many projects, for



Anna Hamilton and the West End Exhibit



*Life-size photos of
Edmund and Calvin Dougherty*

at least the next year.

We have polished our grant writing skills and in addition to the fellow's grant we received support from Recompense Foundation for the Church Exhibit; two grants from the MBNA Foundation allowed us to stock up on archival supplies and to purchase a video camera, digital camera, and a power point projector to enhance our technology. We hope to produce some great documentaries as time goes on. The Rines Thompson Foundation partially funded the purchase of Past Perfect, cataloging software

that will allow us to catalog our ever growing collections of materials relating to Chebeague. A donation from the Marshall family was used to buy the hardware to support the Past Perfect software. Thanks Barb and Bill.

We were saddened by the passing of long time member Carol Stranahan and were honored to be a recipient of memorial contributions in her name.

Last year we recognized three Chebeaguers as volunteers of the year. Chris Burgess, who has maintained the grounds and opened and closed the public bathroom; Wayne Dyer, who donated gravel, men, machines and his own labor on many occasions since our renovation began; and finally Bev Johnson, whose ability to work magic on pictures via the computer, has made our exhibits come to life. Thanks to all of these people and to all of the folks who help out in so many ways.

My stint as president ends this year. It has been an exciting three years. Thanks again for your support.

– Donna Miller Damon



Chloe Dyer, Brenna Martin, Tyler Campbell, Benjamin Hillicoss and Anna Hamilton in front of a life-size picture of Jim Rich.

Chebeague Island Library

The Library continues to be an active, vibrant and innovative institution. The Board of Trustees and staff are always looking at ways to improve or modify services and to uphold the mission statement of the Library. Reaching out to reluctant or intermittent library users continues to challenge us, and we hope many of the recent changes will bring more of these people in.

In the calendar year 2004, 12,985 people came through the doors. We ended the year with 1410 cardholders, although one card may represent several users as a single card is frequently issued to a household of busy readers. 16,653 materials were checked out. We counted 1,856 computer users.

The Library has continued to update its technology components. Thanks to the generosity of MBNA's Library Grants program, funds were awarded to cover the cost of upgrading the Internet access to the faster T1 line installed at the very end of 2004. The Library is now wireless and access extends outside the Community Center so you can still get on line after Library hours. The broadband T1 line also enables us to host our own website with the Library catalog online (chebeague.chebeague.lib.me.us) plus we now host www.chebeague.org for all the Island non-profit organizations.

BIW donated a computer we are now using as the new dedicated card catalogue. The handsome, wooden card catalogue is now being used to house our shelf list cards in the office.

Programming started off gangbusters with 28 people attending a discussion of the very popular Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown. A late winter book group got some of us out on wintry, Sunday afternoons for great discussions about great books.

Jim Millinger facilitated another Maine Humanities group, Going to Sea: A Variety of Voices and we are grateful to Jim for his insights and expertise. Jerry Wiles presented us with Abigail Adams at the Hall in July, and his story telling abilities bring his subjects alive. Author and Long Islander Roberta Ricker enthralled us with the stories of her family from her book, West by North .

Groovy Movie ran two sessions with Mark McGee guiding those attending through cinematic treasures that ranged from Buster Keaton

to Kurasawa to Spike Lee. Many of the films shown have turned into our "water cooler" conversation makers around the Island.

Local artists continue to showcase here, and we saw works by B.J. Abrahamson, Lee Bowman, Buzz Baldwin and Bruce Kaminsky. A collection of local rug hooking pieces was of particular interest and brought many patrons to the Library.

Here's to another great year.

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



Chandler's Cove

Chebeague Island Rescue

Chebeague Rescue has been and remains an all volunteer service with our members on call 24/7. The Rescue meets twice a month for ongoing training and CEU upgrades. All patients are transported by boat to Cousins Island where Cumberland's Rescue provides transportation to the appropriate hospital. CTC provides this transport free of charge. The Captains and crew are there waiting, with the boat running and ready to go upon our arrival. Regardless of the time of day or the weather, they are there, and the Rescue would like to thank them for their dedication & readiness this past year.

Last year we had 61 transports to the mainland for transport to either Maine Medical Center or Mercy Hospital. We also had 7 transports or pickups from private ambulance services and 27 calls where we responded but no transport was needed.

This past year we also had some promotions and new additions. Marlene Bowen was promoted to Deputy Chief and Bill Calthorpe was promoted to Captain. Additionally, we also now have year-round Paramedic coverage with the new and welcome addition of Nancy Hill to the Island Rescue. Congratulations also go out to Ralph Munroe who was recently accepted to the Portland Fire Dept. Ralph will not only receive ongoing training in the fire dept., but in EMS as well. Gordon Murphy also recently enrolled in the Paramedic program at S. M. T. C. In addition to the above members, the Island Rescue also includes Jill Malony, EMT-B; Polly Wentling, EMT-B; and Rich Brewer, EMT-B. We are also fortunate to have Mike & Christie Feinberg, both Paramedics, volunteer in the summer. Both are Paramedics in Massachusetts and take time away from their vacations to respond as needed on the Island. Their expertise is welcome and greatly appreciated. Med Bowen and David Campbell are also always there ready to drive the unit when needed, for which we are also thankful. The Rescue also thanks the Chebeague Fire Dept. and firefighters for all their help on calls where we need lifting assistance.

The Rescue, through your generous donations, was able to purchase new equipment this year. We finally retired "Annie" our old CPR dummy, fortunately we will no longer have to look for, chase and

reattach her arms. We purchased new adult, child and infant CPR mannequins. In Addition we were able to purchase all new blood pressure cuffs and stethoscopes, new oral and nasal airways, as well as new splints and personal safety equipment.

The Rescue would encourage all residents to keep a ready list of all medications that you may be on as well as any allergies and past medical problems. This will help speed up our transport time and limit the many questions we need to ask a patient. It could also save a life if someone is unconscious and unable to provide us with this information.

We also would like to remind everyone that the Rescue has provided a wheel chair for anyone's use, which is kept aboard the CTC boat. This is for transport from the boat to a waiting vehicle or from that vehicle to the boat.

Please do not take the chair off the wharf and after using it, be sure it gets back on the boat so it will be there for the next person that needs it.

In the winter time, please keep a path for our stretcher and be sure all entry ways are accessible to us and that the doors open freely. Another reminder to anyone that may have bee sting allergies, if you have an Epi-pen, please keep it with you at all times. The rescue does not have one and if we are responding without a Paramedic, we are unable to provide the needed medication without you having your own Epi-pen. Another reminder, this is going to be another bad year for ticks and brown tails, so please check daily for ticks and any abnormal rashes. Additionally, please keep all children in car seats when traveling on the Island and when biking please be sure everyone is wearing a helmet.

Ginny Ballard, P.A.C., has been an immense help to us this past year, as always. We are grateful for her time and all she has done. Ginny is available in her office twice a week and on call during her off office days; however, please respect her hours and do not call or page her after 6 p.m. As always, during any emergency please call 911.

Please have a safe and healthy summer.

— Captain Bill Calthorpe
Rescue 2, Chebeague Island



*Marlene Bowen and Gary Ross
raise money for tsunami relief*



...while the kids help out, too

Chebeague Island School

The students on Chebeague Island have spent the year looking into wellness matters. Their inquiries have ranged from diet and gardening to exercising. The students first began with looking into healthy foods. A grant was written and Anne the food service provider buys non-processed foods and serves up delicious concoctions. Thursday's soup is not to be missed. They have also been interested in producing less waste at meal times. They have instituted "Zero Waste Days". On each day of the month that ends with a zero the students practice producing no waste from their lunch. They have begun composting and examining packaging waste. The students hope to start a garden this spring and grow vegetables they can harvest in the fall and consume as part of their school lunch. The last piece of their wellness awareness is exercise. On May 4th, they experienced a "walking bus" where one student started walking to school and then others joined in all along the bus route to create a "walking bus." The students were served a healthy breakfast when they arrived at school. There were activities in gym and art classes that day to help the children see how fitness can play an important role in their daily lives. Plans are underway for more emphasis on exercise during recess and in general.



Education Appreciation Night



Front row: Wilder Manion, Andrew Speidel Hamilton, Tricia Hamilton

Standing: Ryan Murphy, Noah Boisvert, Timothy Calder, Stephen Rich, Meagen Dunbar, Emma Coombs, Dylan Doughty

The two classes are also in the process of creating a nature trail as a community service project. They recently went on a field trip to Audubon in Falmouth to walk a nature trail and talk about plant and animal life along the trail. The purpose of the trip was to get ideas for their own trail on the Island that work will resume on once the snow is gone. This fall a sight was chosen for a trail and some basic preliminary work was done on it.

The K-2 class had visitors from multi-age classes on the mainland in grades one and two on the second week of May. Six different classes visited over a period of three days to tour the Island and to spend an hour at the Chebeague Island School. The K-2



A Bowdoin student, Jennie Dyer, and Bowdoin College Anthropology Professor Anne Henshaw



Front: Julia Stefanilo, David Hamilton and Benjamin Hillicoss

Standing: Brenna Martin, Tracy Calder, Anna Hamilton, Tyler Campbell, Chloe Dyer, Julia Maine, Natalie Murphy, Cassidy Jeffers and Evan Boisvert

Chebeague students shared their own personal autobiographies with their mainland friends. The purpose of this was to give the visitors information about the Island that may differ from their lives. Many students talked about their parents occupations, the recreation center and how one does not need to worry about getting lost on the Island!

The 3-5 class went to Boston in June. The trip was funded by the Chebeague Parents Association and some of the places visited were the Boston Aquarium and Museum of Science.

— Susan Beale, MA K-2 Teacher



The Lobster Experiment



*Teachers Kristin Rohrbach, Sue Beale
with Winty Bryan, Lee Ann Robinson, Nancy Earnest*

The upper elementary class is involved in a project called Lobster Tales in concert with Bowdoin College. Students from the college are helping the Chebeague students create a website which profiles the Island. The students are studying the Island's historical families, geographical features, and peoples' careers. They are interviewing our local lobster catchers in order to write biographies for the website. In conjunction with this program they will have our catchers put special bands on lobsters so the children can track where lobsters are caught and bought. As an added bonus the students are looking into raising lobster larvae in their classroom this spring. Visit the site at <http://academic3.bowdoin.edu:9780/chebeagueisland/>



Ann Long, Food Service

Chebeague Island Community Sailing School



In 2004 we enrolled thirty seven students; nine of these chose the new five week session. These large numbers are both good and bad news, the good news is strong enrollment and a good learning opportunity for lots of students. The bad news is that we had to turn away a few students, some classes were full. To alleviate this situation we have purchased an additional sailboat for 2005. This will allow us to enroll eight additional students. Our fleet is now six boats strong, two 420's

and four JY-15's. All the boats are in great shape.

We employed six instructors in 2004. Instructors (some for the entire season and some for part of the season) : Barbara Marks, Toby Lunt, Jay Cox-Chapman, Duncan McGovern, Isaac Julien and Bobbie Marsee. Thanks to all of them for a job well done. For the 2005 season our school will employ Toby Lunt, Jay Cox-Chapman, Isaac Julien and Kyra Freeman.

Sailing school students are often eager to crew for larger boats. If you would like to crew for day sailing or racing, contact Bob, Toby or Jay. To learn more about the Chebeague Island Community Sailing School, please visit the Chebeague website and click on the link for Sailing School. Or call me at 846-0924.

— Bob Earnest

Chebeague Island Yacht Club

2004 was a splendid season on the water for CIYC members engaged in a variety of yachting activities. The winds were fair, the skies were clear, the bay beckoned!

Most importantly the bay welcomed new sailors enrolled in the Chebeague Island Community Sailing School (CICSS) – the most important undertaking of the club.

In 2004 CICSS enrolled thirty seven students; nine of these chose the new five week session. These large numbers are both good and bad news; the good news is strong enrollment and a good learning opportunity for lots of students. The bad news is that we had to turn away a few students – some classes were full. To alleviate this situation, the school purchased an additional sailboat for 2005. This will effectively allow us to enroll 8 additional students. Our fleet is now six boats strong: two 420's and 4 JY-15's. All the boats are in great shape!

There were six instructors in 2004: instructors (some for the entire season, some for part of the season): Barbara Marks, Toby Lunt, Jay Cox-Chapman, Duncan McGovern and Isaac Julien, Bobbie Marsee. Thanks to all of them for a job well done! For the 2005 season, the school will employ Toby Lunt, Jay Cox-Chapman, Isaac Julien, and Kyra Freeman.

Sailing school students are often eager to crew for larger boats. If you would like crew for day sailing or racing, contact Bob, Toby, or Jay. To learn more about the Chebeague Island Community Sailing School, please visit the Chebeague website and click on the link for Sailing School. Or, call Bob Earnest at 846 0924.

Commodore Babcock kicked off the Chebeague Island Yacht Club (CIYC) season with a gathering on his porch over the Fourth of July weekend. The agenda of renewing old friendships and greeting new members prevailed over the business agenda for this particular meeting and set the tone for the summer.

Rear Commodore Dave O'Donnell exhibited his considerable organizational skills by getting a great turnout for "power lunch". Not only did he manage to feed everyone, but upon arrival, everyone who shows up gets assigned to a boat. No one ever gets left behind, you do

not have to own a boat to participate, and everyone is glad they made the trip! Many thanks go to new powerboat owners Gerry Johnston and John Ash for volunteering to pilot members to these memorable lunches.

Sailors saw plenty of action in both July and August. The winds were strong, perfect for day sailing and racing. The Ensign fleet now numbers 17 boats thanks to the addition of Jim Cox-Chapman's A Cappella in 2004 and Aaron Julien's Ensignator in 2005. Some highlights of the 2004 season's races were:

- Sailing instructors Toby Lunt and Jay Cox-Chapman handily beating their fathers in the Bates Island race
- A four second gap between Jim Cox-Chapman and Bob Earnest at the finish line of the Round Island Race
- Masterful sailing by Ralph Ragan in the Opening Race and the Hamilton Beach Race
- Bob Earnest hit a rock on a course he set – and still managed to win the West End Race

The season closed once again at Commodore Babcock's porch over Labor Day weekend. The only business conducted was the awarding of trophies and debate over the awarding of the "Bungle Award". There were too numerous nominees to mention. Many thanks to all those who organized outings, manned the committee boat, and participated in races. Club members hope to increase the number of boats racing in the coming season through the availability of CICSS students as crew. Teaching someone to be comfortable on the water is a great gift that members can pass on to the younger people on the Island.

The club looks forward to a glorious 2005 season under the leadership of Commodore Charles Marks.

Race results and trophies for 2004:

Club Champion: Bob Earnest (Ripple)

Club Champion – Small boats: Isaac Julien (CICSS Foxy)

Crow Island/Rothschild Trophy (new for 2004): Ralph Ragan (Ariel)

Ocean Race/Burgess Trophy: Ralph Ragan (Ariel)

Hamilton Beach Race: Ralph Ragan (Ariel)

West End Race/Shattuck Cup: Bob Earnest (Ripple)

Round Island Race/Trower Trophy: Bob Earnest (Ripple)

Round Island (small boats)/Corson Trophy: Jamie Freeman (Nitty Gritty)

Bates Island Race/Hubbell Mug: Toby Lunt (#665)

— Reg Babcock, Commodore



Chebeague Needleworkers

To paraphrase Garrison Keillor “It’s been a quiet year on Chebeague” at least as far as the what used to be called The Quilters are concerned. It’s not that we haven’t kept meeting on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month for a pleasant day of sewing, knitting, hooking, embroidery and other (mostly) needlework activities. We also continue our practice of collective dinners during the winter. But we haven’t taken any trips, or organized any fund raisers, and by the end of February our numbers were pretty well depleted by people going off on trips. Mostly they went to places sunnier and warmer than Chebeague, but Peggie Jones went to Alaska and Beth Howe, to Antarctica, making everyone else wonder whether some unknown schism had sent them off to opposite ends of the earth.

A quiet year means more knitting and less quilting and generally knitting projects, though useful and pleasant to make are not notable. Perhaps the exception was Mimi Moulton’s Norwegian-style sweater and hat for her grandson. The hat had a border motif of spiders, one of his enthusiasms.

Quilts

Maybe we are just running out of beds to cover and people to give full-sized quilts to. Even so some people kept quilting at several different scales. During the winter Jane Harrington finished her version of Nancy Raymond’s “mystery quilt”. It’s pastel pinks and greens brought a breath of spring into the Hall. Jeanette Hamilton made a large whole-cloth quilt with antique mattress ticking on the back. Before leaving for their polar excursions Peggie and Beth began projects that could be worked on in airplanes, airports and ships. Peggie’s was a hand applique design and Beth’s was a baby quilt.

Lola Armstrong and Peggie went to Rangeley in the fall to take a class on hunter’s star quilts. Lola, as usual finished hers and made a second, while Peggie got hers out again this spring to try to figure out how, exactly, the pieces that she had carefully pinned around the outside before leaving for Alaska were supposed to fit.

Probably because of the diminution of beds to be covered, a number of people worked on wall hangings this year. Peggie introduced us to “stained glass” applique. Simple, boldly colored

designs are outlined with contrasting bias tape. She began in the fall with pumpkins and corns talks, then did cardinals for winter and tulips, daffodils and irises for spring. Jane Harrington and Jane Abrahamson also got their start with the pumpkins and cardinals and have now gone on to a larger and more elaborate design of ladybugs and flowers.



At Cousins Island in the ice

Before Christmas Martha Hamilton, Cindy MacNeill and Tina Runge made a series of about eight banners with themes taken from songs that were part of the Whalers’ Christmas concert. These hung on the walls of the Hall for several months thereafter, also cheering us through the cold and snowy weather.

Also around Christmas Joyce Soucek kept us all in a state of amusement with her continuing struggle to complete a Christmas hanging with small panels depicting snowflakes, snowmen and mittens. It had come many years ago as a kit, complete with fabric and instructions. The panels were small and detailed, the fabric was not generous enough for any errors, and the instructions were not clear enough for errors to be avoided. But Joyce was determined, and we all participated in trying to interpret what she was supposed to do, and

Chebeague Parents' Association

The 2004-2005 school year has been a very busy one for the Chebeague Parents Association. We have supported many important functions and activities this year including the following: funded supplies for CIS classrooms and preschool program, subsidized preschool program, hosted SAD 51 School Board for a lobster dinner before their October meeting held on the Island, hosted the annual community Halloween and Christmas parties, donated to the Stephen Ross scholarship fund, helped fund the CIS violin program, funded the CIS grades 3-5 class trip to the New England Aquarium in Boston, and hosted Education Appreciation Night.

Our fundraisers for this year include Sally Foster wrapping paper and gifts sale and a combined Silent Auction/Bake Sale/ Lobster Luncheon. We are also very excited that our new cookbook will be going on sale this summer. Many thanks to Allison Manion for all her efforts this past winter putting together this project. It has lots of old favorites as well as some new ones and will be a must have for your cooking library!

I would also like to thank Beth Dyer who has worked tirelessly to keep the ball rolling during my recent illness.

As we are now in a time when our island school's existence is questionable I would like to remind parents as well as community members how important it is to be involved. Having a school here is instrumental to our year-round community. Thank you to everyone that supports our organization or is a member. We try to meet the first Tuesday of every month and strongly encourage parents to attend.

Thank you for supporting our children. They are our future.

— Jen Belesca, President

sympathizing with her frustrations. The finished product, as is usual with Joyce, was perfect and charming, so much so that Mimi decided that she had to make one, too, though perhaps not right away. We laughed as Joyce handed the pattern over to Mimi with great skepticism.

Susie Stavropoulos and Barbara Hamilton continued to work on counted cross-stitch samplers. Susie has also become intrigued by 19th century embroidered crazy quilts. Jeanette got out a pattern of crows that she had gotten some years ago and made it up. In the spring Susie and Barbara were joined by Sue Jackson who was embroidering lovely, old fashioned pillowcases.

As usual, we had many pleasant dinners, and a splendid Christmas feast of roast lamb with all the trimmings and a chocolate cake decorated with a cut paper Christmas tree made by Martha, surrounded by chocolate “presents” wrapped in foil.

— Beth Howe

Chebeague Post Office

Greetings from the Chebeague Post Office.

By now most of you are getting used to your new E-911 mailing address. I want to thank you for your cooperation in understanding and having your new addresses changed.

Deborah Johnson, our full time mail carrier for the past 10 years, moved on to take a new position in Hiram, Maine. We miss Deborah and wish her the best of luck in her position. A full time replacement was advertised for and a part time carrier from Long Island applied for the job and was granted it. Her name is Kathleen Floyd. Kathleen took over for Deborah on October 31st of last year, and I can assure you that your mail is in the right hands. Kathleen is a very capable and personable person and fits into the job quite well. We could not be any luckier. If you have not met her please drop in and say hi.

Another addition to our staff is Gail Jenkins. Gail started in December and is a back up carrier for our other carriers. Gail works at the Island Commons and also delivers newspapers for the Portland Press Herald. We are lucky to have such good and hard working people.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our other workers Tina Runge, Ginger Sharpe and Martha Hamilton, who are willing to pitch in at a moments notice. Thank you all for your hard work. Anther



Gina Ross and Kathleen Floyd

addition to our office is a computer. You can go on line (www.usps.com) and do the necessary business with our Post Office, for instance, forwarding, holding mail, etc. And we do monitor it on a daily basis.

And lastly I would like to thank you the customer for your patronage of our Post Office. The seasonal as well as the year-round folk that order stamps from us help provide this office with an important function in our community. Without you we would not be what we are.

Thank you.

— Gina Ross. Postmaster



The expanded Stone Wharf at low tide

Chebeague Recreation Center

The CRC opened its doors on February 28, 1998 and we now enter



Kids showing off their healthy snacks (from left to right: Benjamin Hillicoss, Evan Boisvert, Julia Stefanilo, Maegen Dunbar)

our eighth summer of operation. Virginia Tatakis-Calder continues to direct all recreation programs and staffing in her sixth year as the Recreation Director. Beth Dyer is in her eighth year as Administrative Director. Pam Pulsifer is in her second year as Custodian and we welcome Gail Miller back as Pool

Director again this summer. We had 29 employees total in 2004; 18 of them year-round Islanders serving as lifeguards, swim teachers, camp counselors, teen center supervisors, program instructors, office helpers and more. The CRC also benefitted of course from the many fabulous volunteers who helped out in different ways – as board members, teen center chaperones, office workers, program instructors, lifeguards, coaches, fundraisers, and so much more. Our 2004



Kids wash cars (and each other) for the CRC

Volunteer of the Year Award went to **Glenn Coombs**, our Island pastor, for his dedication and many hours spent in the Teen Center as well as help with children’s after school programs and office work. Thanks Glenn!

The past year was another wonderful, successful one at the CRC. We had a very dreary July with lots of fog and rain, and although August was brighter, we did not get very many hot summer days. The weather did not stop people of all ages from enjoying the many offerings of the Chebeague Recreation Center though, including the Collins pool. The pool was open 86 days last summer with an average daily attendance of 35 people, not including the 35 campers on camp days and more than 30 kids who took swim lessons. More people bought pool passes than ever before (201), and 21 adult lap swimmers kept track of their mileage and together swam over 300 miles!

Camp Chebeague celebrated its fifth year with 93 families participating in the program. *Play Soccer!* camp had another successful



2005 Polar Plungers

summer and, together with a new lacrosse camp, drew over 40 kids. An average of 14 teens per night visited the Teen Center, with the most kids on July 17th (34). We were entertained by the hugely popular and well-done theater productions of *42nd Street* by the

Chebeague Players under the direction of Stacyann Stewart, and *That's Entertainment!* by the Chebeague Children's Theater directed by Rachel



The cast and crew of 42nd Street

Damon. Marty Trower taught many adults how to create beautiful mosaic mirrors, some of which were displayed at the library.



That's Entertainment! cast members Jamie McCatherin, Natalie Murphy, Evan Boisvert, Chloe Dyer

The winter brought a lot of snow and cold weather. For the second year, we helped with the operation of Sanford's Skating Pond, which had 19 skating days and was a challenge to keep clear! The Wednesday early-release program continued to be popular with the elementary school kids, and several

Island kids participated in the *Ski Lost Valley* program again this winter. Gymnastics also continued to be popular with Coach Bob Libby, who also taught soccer and tennis in the fall, and basketball and volleyball this winter. Kids had ample opportunity to hone their pottery skills with the winter classes taught by Alison Manion and spring classes by Towanda Brown. Arlene Dyer taught a class on healthy snacks and Virginia did a jump-roping class. Rich Brewer organized a class over February vacation called "RADKids" where children were taught about personal safety and self-defense. Rich bravely donned a padded suit and let the kids practice their moves on him! Spring running drew 12 kids who enjoyed practicing on the Island and running in meets on the mainland under the tutelage of Gordon Murphy, Nancy Earnest and Glenn Coombs.



Tracy Calder fending off Rich Brewer in the RADkids program.

Adults continued to enjoy the facility for walking, working out, rug hooking, scrap booking, Ukrainian egg-making, and many other activities. Virginia developed a "Circuit Training" program in the gym that has

been well-received. She once again put together a team of Islanders ("The Chebeague Shakers") to participate in the *LightenME* statewide program for exercise and weight loss. Sandra Rice taught another adult watercolor painting class in the fall, and Gail Miller initiated a popular morning Pilates class twice per week.

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 *Island Luau Golf Tournament, Silent Auction & Dinner*, coordinated by

Kim Bogle back in August. Thanks to Kim's direction and the hard work of many, the event raised over \$13,000 for the CRC. Thank you to everyone who participated. A holiday fundraising letter in December brought over 80 donations to the Rec. Center, many of which were designated for the Endowment Fund, and the CRC is thankful to all who replied to that appeal. The Winter Carnival in January, the Teen Center's biggest fundraiser, was a huge



Kids' Basketball back row: David Hamilton, Cassidy Jeffers, Ben Hillicoss, Chloe Dyer, Coach Bob Libby, Maegen Dunbar, Brennah Martin, kneeling: Evan Boisvert and Tim Calder.



Katie Phipps on duty

success and raised the most money ever. Seven Chebeaguers and nine Hyde School kids made the plunge in air temperatures of 22 degrees with a wind chill of 10 and a water temperature of 38 degrees! The teens raised almost \$7,000 with Lida Munroe once again the top pledge earner at \$1,460. An anonymous donor agreed to match some pledges and raise another \$3,750 designated for the program we are doing in conjunction with the Hyde School. This creative program has brought Chebeague teens and Hyde teens together for teen leadership

workshops, as well as brought Laura Gauld to the Island for a series of fabulous parenting workshops based on her and Malcolm Gauld's innovative book and workshop program called "*The Biggest Job You'll Ever Have*". In the Annual Chili, Chowder and Soup Challenge the top winners were: David Hill, Chili; Gail Miller, Chowder; and Beth Howe, Soup. The winner of the Pie-Eating Contest was Chris McCollum.

Looking ahead to this summer, we anticipate lots more fun at the pool, with our children's camps and programs, and with the Chebeague Players' Production of *L'il Abner* and the Chebeague Children's Theater production of *Peter Pan*.



42nd Street cast members Linda Carelton, Martha Hamilton, Denise Hamilton, Sonja Gabrielson

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

Bob Earnest, *President*
Laura Summa, *Vice-President*
John Martin, *Treasurer*
Robert Libby, *Secretary*
Leila Bisharat
Warren Bogle
Debbie Bowman

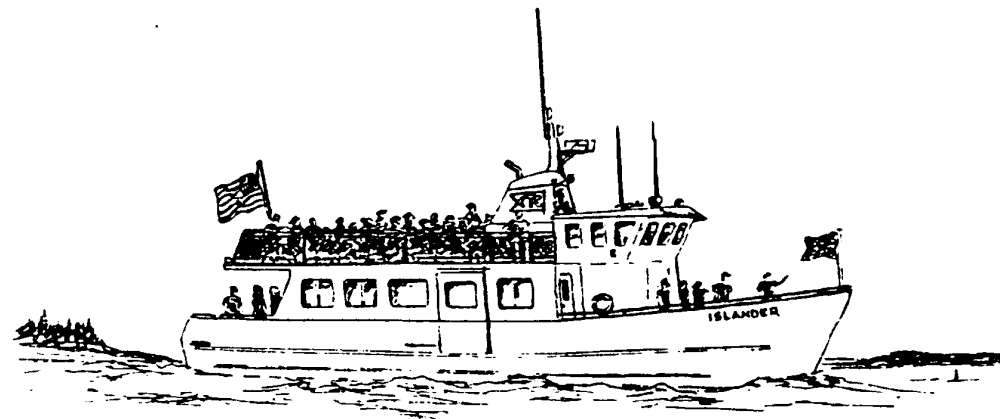
Pam Brewer
Ginger Hobart
Beverly Johnson
Leah McDonald
Gail Miller
Geoff Summa
Stephanie Miskell

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

— Beth Dyer, Administrative Director



Chebeague Transportation Company



Chedemption

Chedemption had another busy and successful year. Between fall 2003 and fall 2004 we collected \$7,139, and had expenses of \$491 for insurance and supplies. This means that the net proceeds were \$6,648 or \$554 for each of the 12 Island non-profits.



We tried a new system for “manning” the Transfer Station during the busy summer season. Each of the 12 organizations was asked to provide volunteers for one week during the summer. They all did, and we would very much like to thank:

Sally Ballard	Pommy Hatfield
Warren Bogle	Beverly Johnson
Dick Bowen	Peggy Jones
Deb and Bruce Bowman	Diane Lukac
Sue Burgess	Rod MacCormack
Dianne Calder	John Martin
Glen Coombs	Betsey Ross
Mabel Doughty	Doug Ross
Beth Dyer	Tad Runge
Bob Earnest	Steve Silin
Melanie Gustafson	Pat St.Cyr
May Hall	Susie Stavropoulos
Ken Hamilton	Jerry Wiles
Martha Hamilton	

As one might expect on Chebeague, some of these people “did Chedemption” several times during the course of the summer. We weren’t very good at keeping track of who worked, so if you should be on this list but aren’t, we apologize and hope to do better in the coming year. We also thank “the regulars”: Tom Calder, Frank and

Marianne Durgin, Karen Hamilton, Beth Howe, Gail Miller and all her family including Cliff and Shirley Barker, and Ann Thaxter.

We also want to thank Martha Dumont, the new owner of the Chebeague Inn. She continued the past practice of giving the Inn’s bottles and cans to Chedemption. This is a significant contribution and produced comments each week from passers-by about “what a large party you must have given” as Mac and Beth sort the bottles in their pick-up truck.

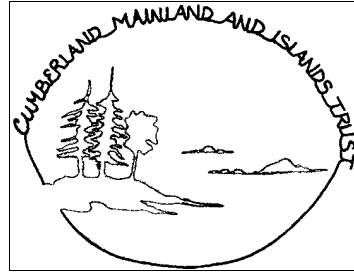
Also during the summer Chedemption was the subject of a short feature on the Evening News at one of the Portland TV stations. It featured pictures of the Chedemption shed at the Transfer Station and the Chedemption trailer, and had an interview with Deb Bowman at the Library as a recipient of the Chedemption proceeds.

Finally, this winter when the Town proposed a “pay-per-bag” fee for using the Transfer Station, we provided Donna Damon with information about the volume of bottles, bags and cardboard that is kept out of the waste stream by people bringing their bottles and cans to Chedemption. And we thank everyone who does.

— Mac Passano

Cumberland Mainland and Island Trust

CUMBERLAND MAINLAND AND ISLANDS TRUST



In December 2004 Cumberland Mainland and Islands Trust completed the purchase of a permanent easement from the Town of Cumberland on the Curit property on Chebeague Island. The easement is the result of more than two years of planning, negotiations, and fund raising by CMIT and the community. It conserves approximately 8.2 acres of mixed woodlands, traversed by a fresh water stream, and 575 feet of shore land on the west side of Chebeague; ensuring permanent public access to the shore, protecting habitat for wildlife and shellfish, and providing a peaceful natural area for people to visit.

The land preservation agreement is the result of a five party collaboration between the Curit family members, the Chebeague Island community, CMIT, the Town of Cumberland, and several private organizations. The agreement dovetails the interests of land conservation and ensuring public access to the ocean, while holding open an opportunity for affordable housing development. The project was made possible by the Curit family's offer of the land to the Town of Cumberland at a bargain sale price. CMIT's fund raising effort for the easement purchase was supported by over one hundred individual contributions from community members and by generous grants from the MBNA Foundation of Belfast, the Davis Conservation Foundation of Falmouth, the Casco Bay Estuary Project, and the Recompense Foundation of Chebeague Island.

CMIT's efforts to ensure the protection of the Curit land however did not stop with the purchase of the easement. While the Town has, for the present, reserved the non-easement six acre upland area of the parcel for possible affordable housing, it is unknown if the site can economically be used for that purpose. The Island's needs and opportunities for affordable housing are currently under study through a grant from Maine Community Development. In January of this year—to ensure that public benefits from the Curit parcel will continue

if the study determines the upland area is not ideally suited for development—the Town and CMIT entered into an option agreement that will allow CMIT to purchase a similar conservation easement over the upland six acres. If the Curit land proves to be not suitable for housing, CMIT will launch a new fund raising campaign to complete the protection of this remarkable property.

Cumberland Mainland and Islands Trust now holds easements on, or owns, fourteen properties, five of which are located on Chebeague. We are also currently working with the Town on a mainland easement opportunity that will permanently protect the Rines Forest property. The Rines Forest encompasses over 230 acres of outstanding forested land located in the heart of Cumberland.

CMIT is your land trust, committed to furthering the preservation of our land and shorescapes and assisting members of the island and mainland community in promoting conservation. If you are interested in conserving land, joining the Trust, or helping CMIT, please contact one of our Chebeague Directors: Michael Porter, Susan Burgess, Leila Bisharat, Melanie Gustafson, Diane Lukac. We hope to hear from you and look forward to another year of promising projects, with the continuing support of the Chebeague community.

— Robert J. Crawford, President



*One of the wettest spring seasons in memory
re-configures the shore at Roses Point*



Cumberland Town Hall, Cumberland, Maine

From your Cumberland Town Councilor

Well, I'm just finishing my fourth year on the Council and much has happened during the past year.

A committee worked diligently this spring to create an ordinance governing the use of the Chandlers Cove property and the Town Council has made most of the regulations applicable to all other Town owned properties. The public is welcome to use these facilities from sunrise to 10 PM. Picnickers need a permit to build a fire; the fire must be built below high water; and the debris needs to be cleaned up. No consumption of alcohol will be allowed. Please check the Town of Cumberland Web site www.cumberlandmaine.org for more information.

The Town is still working with the engineers trying to perfect the wave break. Stay tuned for the next modification.

About a mile of road was paved in 2004, which included the Main Road through the Center. AKA South Rd.

Another revaluation may be on the horizon, because Chebeague's values are at about 50% of market value.

Golf carts are now legal on the Island, but they must meet certain criteria. Check with the Town 829-5559 for a complete list of the rules and regulations.

Although the Town has no control of MSAD 51, the council worked with the Districts on several projects. In addition, the Town of Cumberland has requested that the Town's share of the expenses be calculated on number of pupils vs Town valuation. It has recently been determined that since 1992 Cumberland has paid more than \$7

million dollars more than it would under the per pupil charge. You will be hearing more about this very soon.

I know that many people are very disappointed that I do not write monthly updates in the Calendar. Some weeks this winter due to ice and Council obligations I did not even come home for days at a time. To do this job right requires an incredible amount of time. With the exception of the time when my parents died I think I have missed only one regular meeting and have left early only once. Check out the tapes of the meetings if you want to see me in action. On most nights I have a long list of your concerns that I bring to the Council's attention. Please call me anytime and I will be happy to fill you in on what is going on. I frequently put important items on the WEB page and the Forecaster and Community Leader cover all meetings. Thanks for your support.

After many years Ted Curtis retired as harbormaster and this summer Tom Burgess has taken his place. A special thank you to Beth Howe who serves as our Planning Board rep., which is another very time consuming job. Beth is also serving as chair of the Islands Committee, which is grappling with creating an affordable housing project.

You probably all have heard about the movement to create the Town of Great Chebeague Island. If the petition goes forward the Town Council of Cumberland will be holding a public hearing. This is a huge issue and EACH AND EVERY citizen needs to be informed about this important issue.

I recently came across a 1987 Council Newsletter. On the cover were all of the Island children from birth to 6th grade. The commuting students were pictured inside the cover. In his Council report, Michael Porter pondered the future of the Island and wondered if the youth of 1987 would be able to live on the Island as adults. Of the 49 children depicted in Newsletter (actually 50 as Tyler Putnam was about to be born!), very few are still on the Island. They are Nathan Doughty, Brent Riddle, Pam Brewer, Mark Bowman, Greg Riddle, Caitie Bowman, Steve Todd (absent from photo), Jeff Putnam, Jonathan Miller, Rachel Damon (transitioning from college), Hank Whetham, David Vittiner, Eric Ross (all fishing along the shore but not domiciled here) and full time students Lauren Miller, Brad Putnam, Tom Damon and Tyler Putnam. There are other young people living on the Island

now, such as David Rich who is committed to the Island, but he wasn't living on the Chebeague at the time the picture was taken. How can we ensure that more than 20% of our children will be living here five or ten years from now? It is a tough question, but the future of our community depends on the answer.

That is all for now. Call anytime you have a question or a concern and I'll try to route you in the right direction. We have a great Town manager in Bill Shane feel free to contact him anytime.

– Donna Miller Damon
Councilor representing the Cumberland Islands
as well the folks on both sides of the water!



Friends of the Library

The Mission of the Friends of the Library continues to be the raising of funds, which enables the Library to expand its services to all members of the Chebeague community. We would like to thank all who have contributed to our fundraising efforts during this past year.

There continue to be note cards and posters of the quilt, designed and made by Linda White, Flora and Fauna, available at the Library. There are also small trinkets available as well. We are currently looking for the perfect book bag to sell as well, keep your eyes peeled. The Friends of the Library are going to try for an old time Fisherman's Fair sometime in the late summer. This hopefully will be something that the whole family can join in and have a good laugh.

Thanks to the efforts of many people both on and off the committee, the 2004 phone book was a great success. This was our major fundraiser for the 2004 year. It will remain on sale at the library. The Friends would like to acknowledge Beth Howe for all of her hard work for the cause of the Library. We have also had some wonderful donations. Milo Matrazzo, last year, donated Red Sox Tickets for two games and has donated two more games again this year. We also have two quilt squares that never made it into Linda White's Flora and Fauna quilt. These will be in a silent auction.

The Friends of the Library membership letter will go out in the early fall; this is your donation to the library. With your donation you become a member of the Friends of the Library. As a member you are allowed to vote at the annual meeting, which will be held in August sometime. We will post signs, so come and share some ideas, meet new people or just stop by and have some cookies and tea.

—Polly Wentling

Great Chebeague Golf Club

The Golf Club had a great season in 2004. We are pleased to say that the incentives put in place by last year's Board of Directors, making it attractive to join the Club, resulted in an increase of almost thirty new Members. Welcome new Members! Stating the obvious, the members of any organization are its lifeblood. This increase in our Membership will allow the Great Chebeague Golf Club to gain on its fiscal health and help us continue maintaining and improving our course and Clubhouse. As our past President, Malcolm Rice, pointed out in last year's article, golf is a great game with lots of tradition and honor that one can play at almost every stage of life. Please encourage your friends who are not yet members to join!

Many thanks to Jim Knowlton, who ran our tournaments for several seasons and who, at the end of last season, retired from that position. Our tournaments were well contested with Linda Grant winning our Women's Championship (Brown Cup) and Jim Sharples the Men's Championship (Spalding Cup). In the Handicap division, the Women's (McCall Cup) was won by Donna Clark and the Men's (Zaugg Cup), by Bob Jones. Our Junior Championship tournament unfortunately went uncontested last summer.

We offer our thanks to Doug & Gina Ross, who together with Malcolm and Sandra Rice spearheaded the spectacular Lobster Bake in July. And we're also grateful for our new members, Martha Dumont and Bill Zeitz, who together with the Rice's (again), hosted and ran a great Family Barbecue Scramble event in August. This summer we look forward to some of our other new members heading up the Barbecue and Lobster Bake, Anne & Jim Gallagher and Tina & David Murphy respectively.

Chuck Hilly is this year's Tournament Chairman and Jean Knowlton is heading up the Women's Committee and the Junior Clinics which will be held on Thursday afternoons again this summer. Bob Libby is continuing as our course Superintendent with a new position of Equipment Manager being filled by veteran Bob Jones. Returning this season as our Greens Committee Chairman is Wink Houghton. We are also excited to say that Barbara Hamilton, having worked at the Club now for several seasons, has been promoted to be our Club Manager this year.

Thanks to all our Members, employees and volunteers who helped out around the Club last summer. We hope everyone will get out and participate in our tournaments and social events and enjoy the great game of golf on our beautiful Island.

— John Layng, President



Great Chebeague Tennis Club

Around three decades ago, Jerry Johnston and David Perkins convinced some of their Chebeague friends to help them found a tennis club. The golf club rented us the land, and two first rate clay courts were constructed. Since then, hundreds of kids have taken free tennis lessons at the club, and hundreds of adult friendships have flourished. Children do not have to be members to learn tennis – all they need to do is to bring one can of balls to their first lesson, and they can attend the free junior tennis clinics every Tuesday and Thursday from June 28th to August 18th, from noon to 1:00 p.m. The club has several small racquets, or juniors can bring their own.

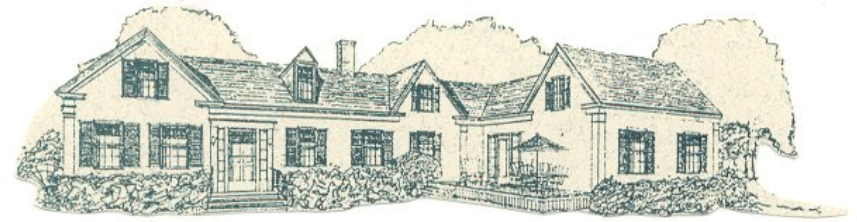
How about those of you who used to play a bit? Our membership has a wide range of skill levels, so there probably will be several who hit just about the same as you. Why don't you take up the sport again? Some of us just like to volley and not even keep score, while others are very competitive. After a fairly small initiation fee, dues are only \$50 per year for the first family member, \$15 for a spouse, and \$10 for each child.

Men's scrambles are Mondays from 9:00 to 11:00, and women's are on Thursdays at the same time. Just show up at the courts, and play doubles with different partners.

This year Tink Lessing and her four daughters are sponsoring a new mixed doubles tennis tournament, at which we will remember Bob Lessing. The format of this event will be somewhat different from our ongoing Brown and Perkins tournaments, in that each participant will be at least 55 years old. It will be a few years before any of Bob's talented daughters are old enough to play in their event, but my guess is that at that time there will be quite a sibling rivalry for the yearly winner's plaque.

If you are interested in joining the club, call Jane Shattuck at 846-9410 for an application form, or call me at 846-9847 with any other questions. Do join us, get in shape, and have a fun time socializing with some great Chebeaguers.

— David O'Donnell, President



“A PLACE TO CALL HOME”

The past year has been full of activity at Island Commons. We have been fortunate to maintain a full house of residents (both year-round and summer Islanders) all year long. We continue to offer exceptional care by well-trained, dedicated, and caring staff.



Island Commons is the heart of our nonprofit corporation, yet we strive to provide services that reflect our mission: “to provide advocacy and action for informed solutions to health care concerns on our rural



Beverly usually writes about her website here. Or, more honestly, I usually ghostwrite something for her, since she would really rather avoid the limelight. Such as it is.

This year, I'm speaking for myself because there have been some notable changes on the Internet scene here on Chebeague.

First, the Library received a broadband T1 line which enabled the Board of Directors to kindly authorize the use of the Library server to host the Island website and other Chebeague non-profit organizations. Since much of this cost had been carried by the Recompense Foundation, the savings can be applied elsewhere on the Island.

And second, as we go to press, Chebeague anxiously awaits the deployment of Wi-Fi broadband Internet service across the Island. More information may be found at www.ubiquitair.com.

So Chebeague continues to develop its technical resources in order to stay in better touch with the “outside world.”

— David R. Hill , Volunteer Geek

island community”. We aim to do this through periodic seminars and workshops, Home Care Equipment Loans (in partnership with the Island Council), Health & Care Library, Senior Lunch Program, Adult Day Program, and Respite Care.

The ICRC Board of Directors, Administrators, Volunteer Committee members, and Staff have worked hard this past year to implement changes that will enable us grow into the future as a secure business. We have done this through Board and Staff training and workshops, upgrading to Level IV Assisted Living so that we can have more beds available, creating new positions and committees, more community outreach, and preparing to launch our Endowment Campaign, “Secure the Future...Honor the Past”.

The support that comes from all of you arrives in many forms, and we appreciate all of them. Since May 1, 2004 the following people were honored and remembered:

In honor of Gladys Bennett, Kathy Capps, Linda & Sky Grant, Bertha Gray, Barbara Gwillim, Cheryl Hillicoss, Sue & Brian Layng Family, Bill & Dorothea Lunt and Ross Martindale, Sr.

In memory of Ernest Abrahamson, Clyde Bowen, Rita Bowen,



Ann Boxer, Alger Burgess, John Calder, Steve Capps, Charlotte Doughty, Mary Doughty, Gina Toohey Ensign, Garland Gray, Dorothy Griffin, Ellen Hamilton, Emery Hamilton, Oscar & Eleanor Hamilton, John Holt, Eleanor Johnson, Jeanne & Gardner Layng, Elizabeth Leonard, George & Emily Leonard, Monty MacNeil, Ross Martindale, Jr., Joann Perkins, Priscilla Plat, Susan Pomeroy, Ruth Regels, Archie Ross, Everett “Bill” & Pearl Ross, Stephen Ross, June Scammon, Louise Capps Scranton, Stephen Searway, Ruth Slowik, Hermine Stevens, Ida, Bill & Billy Stilphen, Harold Todd, Bernice White and Ed White.

We are blessed with a community that values our elders enough to make Island Commons a reality and a place to call home.

— Vicki Todd



Mother Sells a Car

Kim Boehm and Wayne Dyer have recently mounted a drive to rid the Island of junk cars, much to the appreciation of all on Chebeague.

I was reminded of an earlier day, when we had what was affectionately known as “the dump.” In addition to household trash, bottles, cans and all other forms of rubbish imaginable, this is where old cars went when they died. And it was where the owners of cars that were still running would come to find parts to keep ‘em rolling.

Sometime around 1958, my mother, Vera Hill, wanted to sell a care we’d inherited from my grandfather, Billy Hill. If I recall correctly, it was a 1951 Hillman-Minx. It had a leather interior, ran well, and it had little turn signal arms that would pop out of the columns between the front and rear doors. Kind of neat. My mother asked \$100 for the car, which was a fair price. She put up signs around the Island and waited for prospective buyers.

But they didn’t come and it didn’t sell. I’m pretty sure she didn’t receive any inquiries at all. So she decided to put it on the dump. But



once she got it to the dump, she took out the battery and took off the wheels. After all, they still had some life left to them.

It wasn’t more than two hours before the phone rang (ring two) with somebody on the line who wanted to know how much my mother wanted for the tires and battery.

“Why, I guess you could have those for \$100,” replied my mother. “Done,” said the caller.

Of course, by then the vultures had descended upon the old Hillman-Minx and parts had already disappeared and some damage done.

But that was OK...the proud new owner had a “free” car!

– David R. Hill

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 2004, the Foundation supported the following charitable activities. Contribution of \$1,000 was made in support of the Island Commons and \$1,000 to the Chebeague Historical Society. A contribution of \$1,000 was made to the Chebeague Island Council for its Samaritan Fund. The Foundation also supported the Chebeague School Lunch Program for \$1,000. Also, \$400 was contributed to the Mountain Adventures program and \$1,000 to the Chebeague Recreation Center for its internship program. The Foundation continued to support the Beautification Program in the amount of \$237.

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, 2004

Cash	\$ 2,827
Other investments	114,998
Total assets	\$ 117,825
Foundation equity	\$ 117,825

Statement of Revenues and Expenses

Year Ended December 31, 2004

Investment income	\$ 636
Total income	636
Administrative costs	105
Taxes and fees	175
Charitable contributions	5,637
Total expenses	5,917
Realized gains and losses-	3,637
Excess of expenses over revenues	\$ (1,644)

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

Save Casco Bay

Last year's cover article described the efforts of Harpswell, Chebeague and other Casco Bay communities to defeat proposals for a liquified natural gas (LNG) terminal in the Bay. The initial proposal for a terminal in Harpswell was defeated by the Harpswell voters in March 2004 after a divisive campaign. Chebeague swiftly organized in May to oppose a proposal to place a terminal on Hope Island. The article in last year's Newsletter ended with "... to be continued". And this is the continuation.

An organization named Save Casco Bay was formed and has continued to monitor this issue throughout this year, though events since last summer have not been as dramatic as those of last winter and spring. Rumors of a LNG terminal on Cousins Island riled up Yarmouth residents in June. The idea was shot down before it became a formal proposal. A petition to hold a re-vote in Harpswell was turned down by the selectmen in July. The energy companies quickly shifted their attention away from Casco Bay to the Pleasant Point Indian Reservation down east at Passamaquoddy Bay.

As tempers up and down the coast heated up, the Island Institute, the Muskie Institute at USM, Bowdoin College, the Maine Chamber of Commerce and the Conservation Law Foundation organized a conference on LNG which was attended by many people from Casco Bay. It's intent was "to bring expert knowledge of LNG to a public forum and to stimulate informed discussion of LNG issues in a non-partisan, non-advocacy manner". Perhaps needless to say, the "advocates" from groups like ours thought that the conference was biased toward the perspectives of the LNG industry. However, Robin Alden, former Commissioner of the Maine Department of Marine Resources did talk about the impact the industry would have on the lobster fishery – loss of bottom, trap loss, interruption of fishing and displacement of fishermen.. There was some dialog between the attendees and the speakers from the LNG industry, but probably no minds were changed.

Because of the crisis atmosphere last summer the Save Casco Bay finance committee quickly raised \$25,000 and then \$30,000 more. Some of this was used for T-shirts and bumper stickers and for a full-page ad in the Maine Sunday Telegram on July 11 publicizing the

risks of LNG. In November we reported to our donors that though things were quiet in Casco Bay we remain vulnerable as long as there is unused capacity in a major gas pipeline from Sable Island, Canada, through Maine to Westbrook.

The energy industry's efforts to increase the importation of liquified natural gas have led to proposals for LNG terminals not only in Maine but in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Alabama and California. In September 2004 a bill was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives that would put the approval of such terminals on a "fast track". One element of this bill was to prohibit states or local governments from adopting any regulations concerning the "siting, construction, expansion or operation" of LNG plants. This bill ultimately was folded into President Bush's energy bill. This has passed in the House and at the time that this Newsletter goes to press, is pending in the Senate. Save Casco Bay will be sending out information to its members about this bill and the threat it poses for us here.

Save Casco Bay is headed by Beverly Johnson, with Chebeaguers Jim Phipps as Secretary and Tom Cushman as Treasurer. The Board represents all areas of Casco Bay: Tom Allen and Chris Duval of Harpswell, Diane Lukac of Freeport, Roger Berle of Cliff, Elliott Thomas of Yarmouth, Mark Greene of Long Island, Marjorie Phyfe and Lynne Richard of Peaks. Frank Soule, Jr. of Falmouth plus Chebeaguers Leila Bisharat, Ernie Burgess, Beth Howe and Claire Ross. The board met regularly throughout the summer and into the fall by the wonders of teleconferencing. Since things have quieted down, we have met less often but kept in touch by email. We have a website at www.savecascobay.org.

— Beth Howe

Stephen Ross Scholarship Fund

It is time again to thank all who have made a contribution to the Stephen Ross Scholarship Fund. Last year I stated that it was a pleasure to see the familiar names on the Community Foundations Fund's statement. I am not going to name you all this year, but please realize how much your gift may mean to one of the Island's high school graduates.

The Community Foundations Fund's statement shows that we received the following amounts of money:

Less than \$100	2	contributors
\$100 to \$200	3	"
\$200 to \$300	3	"
\$500 to \$600	2	"
\$1000 or over	1	"

There you have it folks. Eleven kind people gave the Scholarship Fund \$3049 to help our graduates. That is not a good representation of our community. We will not be knocking on your door nor sending out mailings for your help. We would rather have gifts because something caught your eye and said to you: "I should be helping these kids get an education". You will not get envelope address labels for your generosity, only our sincere thanks for donating to a very worthy cause.

In May of 2004 we had \$2960 to allocate to the recipients. This money is the interest generated by our invested principle. We use only the interest on your contributions so your generosity just keeps on giving year after year. Do it now before you forget!

In 2004 we awarded Martin Bradley \$1200, Viktoria Johnson \$1200 and second year student Bradley Putnam \$560. In the coming weeks the committee will be making awards to this year's graduates who have applied for financial aid. Do not forget!

Congratulations to Rachel Damon who graduates from Colby College this spring.

Committee members:

Hartley Brewer
Susan Burgess
Dianne Calder

Mabel Doughty
Ken Hamilton

Betsey Ross
Douglas Ross

— Respectfully, Kenneth Hamilton, President



Town of Cumberland Islands Committee

The Islands Committee is made up of 13 island volunteers. It is appointed by the Cumberland Town Council to make recommendations to the Town on issues related to the Island, and to work on ways of dealing with issues identified in the Chebeague Long-Range Plan or through other processes.

The Islands Committee spent most of its energy this past year on the issue of affordable housing on Chebeague. As land and house prices go up, we are concerned that low and moderate income individuals, couples and families will find it harder to stay on, or to come to live on the Island. The discussion that occurred in spring 2005 over a reduction in the number of classrooms at the Chebeague School (put on hold, at least for the moment), and the inevitable increase in ferry fares further emphasized the challenges the Island faces in trying to ensure that we continue to be a “real”, diverse, year-round community.

Last spring we had an opportunity to have the assistance of a group of students from the Muskie School of Public Service at USM for a study of the need for affordable housing. Professor Mark Lapping offered the services of his Community Development course to Cumberland’s Town Planner, Carla Nixon and she suggested affordable housing on Chebeague. Twelve students analyzed census data on the Island, collected and analyzed data from the Town assessment records on the nature of the housing stock and sale prices of houses since 1990. They also explored several factors that make living on Chebeague more expensive than living on the mainland. Finally they laid out a variety of both community-based and individual strategies for providing or maintaining affordable housing. They recommended that a more detailed study of the demand for affordable housing be undertaken, focusing on the needs of elders living alone and on younger families. The students came out to the Island to present their findings to a group of Islanders on May 13, 2004.

During the summer, with the Muskie students’ study in hand, Beth Howe and Carla Nixon wrote a proposal for a \$10,000 Community Development Block Grant planning grant from the State. Chebeague is a small housing market, and the Muskie students suggested a more detailed market study in order to be clear about what kind of housing

is most needed and to be sure that “if we build it, they will come.” So we proposed to hire a consultant to do this more detailed study. We were awarded the grant in October.

During the fall and winter the Committee worked on a Request for Proposals for the study that the Town could advertise to recruit a well-qualified consultant. At the February meeting Bruce Mayberry and Helen Hemminger were chosen to do the study. Once all the paperwork for using the grant was filed with the state, Bruce started working with the committee on the design of the study and its surveys. By the time this Newsletter comes out, probably many readers will have received questionnaires.

Other issues in 2004-2005:

At the request of the Cumberland Town Planner the Committee reviewed the Island zoning districts and suggested a number of changes that might be taken up in a general overhaul of the ordinance. No formal proposals to the Town Council have yet been made on this. At the request of the Police Department we reviewed proposed legislation on golf carts on the Island. Town Council Member Donna Damon brought up the issues of a pay-per-bag fee for trash collection and closing Chandler Cove Beach at night for discussion. We also considered ways of encouraging a private septic system pumping business on the Island.

— Beth Howe, Chair

Transfer Station

The Transfer Station continues to operate at the usual pace. The Town of Cumberland has implemented a new State-mandated program for universal waste. Information can be obtained at the Transfer Station. Bulky waste weekend will be in August and Hazardous Waste Day will be in July. If you have any questions please see the attendant on duty.

Have a safe and healthy summer.

— Frankie Doughty



United Methodist Church

Our church continues to be a half time charge with Glenn Coombs as our student pastor. While Glenn attends seminary classes, working towards ordination, we continue to meet year-round for worship. Glenn is also available year-round for pastoral visitation and counseling, as well as conducting special services for weddings and memorials. Our church is very fortunate to have a student pastor who has to be reminded that he is only supposed to be working 20 hours per week!



Our Sunday worship service attendance has risen and we now have



The Cancer Society Walkathon

a wonderful chancel choir. The number of children attending Sunday School, run by Karen Hamilton, has also increased. Over Labor Day weekend the children conducted a Lemonade

Crusade for victims of the Florida hurricanes. On September 11th, we hosted a Family Day with members from Clark Memorial United Methodist Church. Monthly (almost) church suppers were begun in September and all who have attended have enjoyed the fellowship of good people with some really good food. Proceeds have gone to different funds that support our community. We had a coat drive for Preble Street Resource Center in November, and in December we decorated our sanctuary Christmas tree with new hats, gloves, mittens and socks for the Christmas boxes given out by Preble Street. Our latest large endeavor was to have a walkathon for the American Cancer Society for the first weekend in June. We had 20 participants and raised over \$3,250. We hope to make this an annual event and to have even more walkers next year.

I think we can honestly say that the United Methodist Church is alive and well and growing on Chebeague.

— Peggie Jones, Administrative Assistant

Whalers

The same faces and voices ... Under new management and having a great time! John Howard took over the direction in early January and presented us with a challenging theme for last spring: a concert for and about children. As usual the important part for us is to be able to sing



Sunrise Service, Easter Sunday
East End Point, March 27th, 5:32 am, 22°

every week. That is what keeps us going. Some of John's selections were very ambitious for us as many members do not read music. However John made rehearsal tapes for each part. You should hear him singing the soprano parts on some of those pieces, it almost ruined his voice. However it did help and we were able to persevere and entertain a loyal audience.

In the fall we had a totally different theme for a Christmas concert and again a challenging one. This time we were committed to all live music using piano, guitar, bass, violin and flute, and we had the

support of extra voices in all parts. The theme was: Christmas Revels . Susie Stavropoulos, with the help of Cathy MacNeill and Tina Runge, transformed the Hall with medieval decor in the form of banners that illustrated much of the traditional music chosen for the program. We had a Boar's Head, Father Christmas, the Sun and Moon Goddesses, the Lord of Misrule, Contra Dancers and Children, The stage went from England in the Middle Ages to Colonial Appalachia . The program contained appropriate readings as well as music following the traditional revels themes. Mark McGee ably handled the sound system so that we had a very good recording and the sales of CD's of the performance went well. David Hill and Darren Hillicoss did video taping as well so these versions are available if you are interested. Doug Ross was our right hand man at the light board and the capable kitchen duo for refreshments was Pat St. Cyr and Jody Doughty.

We are rehearsing for a new concert at present but have not yet set the date.

Whalers: Dianne Calder, Ruth Houghton, Joan Robinson, Sally Ballard, Khaki Habig, Cheryl Hillicoss, Joan Maxon, Jane Frizzell, Martha Hamilton, Cathy MacNeill, Susie Stavropoulos, Tina Runge, Barbara Porter. Guest singers: Doug Clark, Dick Freeman, Frank Willoughby, Leila Bisharat, Marianne Brenton, Cheryl Buxbaum, Sue Burgess, John Ash, Jim Millinger, Sue Willoughby, Bob Brown, Natalie Murphy, Emma Coombs. Musicians: Maggie Robinson, Barbara Porter, Jesse Russo, Herb Maine, Sue Willoughby and John Howard on piano. Dancers: May Hall, Cassidy Jeffers, Carol Lynn Davis, Allison Manion, Jon KomLosy and Jim Hamlin.

— Martha O. Hamilton

Chebeague Census and Vital Records

A quick census of Chebeague was done in January, 2005. There were approximately 353 people on the Island at that time.

WEDDINGS....

Tom Evans to Tink Lessing
Brent Prescott to Alisa Economides
Domonique Stavropoulos to Claudio Williams
Rebecca Towle to Michael Benson
Victoria Garcia to Joseph Gray
Zachary Grunko to Amina Rocklee
Tom Hall to Graciela Lamy
Benjamin Johnson to Cortney Hardie
Rodney Harrington to Stacy Willett

ENGAGED....

John Rich and Amy Quattrucci
Heidi Godin and Dave Pomerleau
Polly Wentling and Kevin Wentworth
Scott Belesca and Kristina Calhoun

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Nancy Kennedy on her 90th Birthday
Bertha Gray on her 99th Birthday
Harland and Mary Ellen Webber, great granddaughter
MacKenzie Bergeron
Frank and Marianne Durgan, granddaughter Elizabeth Ann

BIRTHS...

Logan Caleb to Mimi Lestan and Jean-Louis Beaupre
James Darren to Jill Trower and Darren Sparling
Cambell Rebecca to Rebecca Towle and Michael Benson
David William to Jamie and William Calthorp
Seamus Eli to Fiona KomLosy and William Cole
Zebadiah Pomerleau to Mikel Kuntz and John Gaudet
Kassie Lynn to Marcie and Scott Martindale
Acadie Jane Dunfee to Jennifer Dunfee and Andrew Sharp

Austin Bates to Libby Marshall and John Kinnealey
Emily Clark to Lisa Martindale and Jason Brown
Liam Arthur to Gina and James Kuntz
Zackary Soule to Kelly and Sherman Rich
Sean Trower to Jessica Jackson and Rich Fleck
Benjamin Savage to Alisa Economides and Brent Prescott

DEATHS...

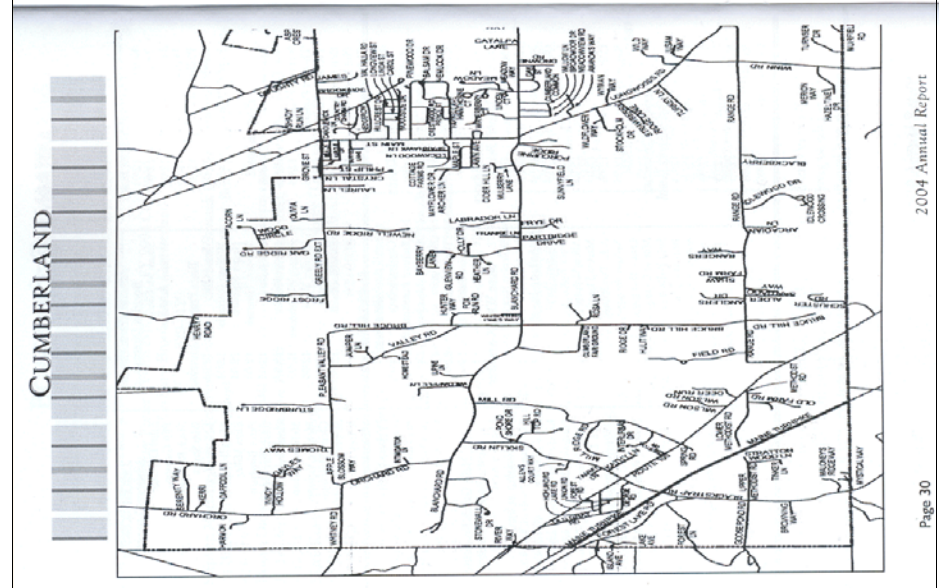
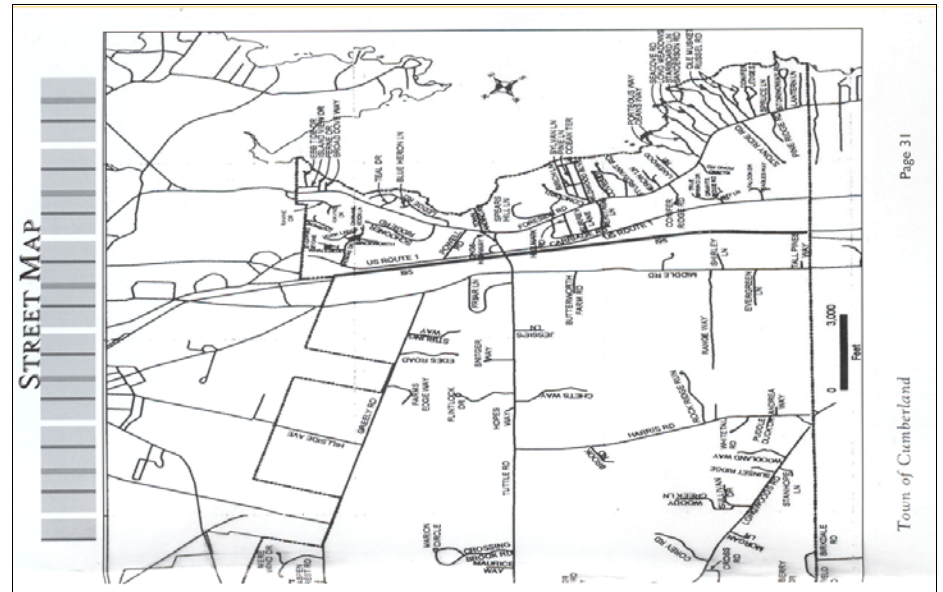
Richard Hudgins	Enid Haskell
Jack Zaugg	Don Fish
Merrill Worthen	James Leonard
Katharine Worthen Downey	Anne Gowen Brown
Capt. Fred KomLosy Jr.	David Nyhan
Eva Conrad	Sally Wile
Geraldine Small Killian	Dugan Middleton
Bernice Mc Lellan White	Fremont (Monty) MacNeill
Edward White Jr.	Joann Perkins
Alger Burgess	Ross Martindale Jr.
Frank Haines Jr.	Louise Weiss
Albert Marsh	Carol Stranahan
Ruth Mansfield Slowik	Everett Wood
Clayton Allen	Douglas DiNoia
Barbara Banker Kamar	Leland Hamilton
Walter Swett Jr.	Beverly Hamilton
Beatrice York Kendall	

CONDOLENCES TO:

Nancy and Will Sharp who lost her sister Susan Miller
Jeanette and Ken Hamilton who lost her brother Jim MacVane
Ruth Bradish, lost her son-in-law Dwight Benson
Khaki and Bob Habig, lost a sister Louise Rohver
Randy Dunphe, lost his father Kenneth Dunphe
Ross Martindale Sr., lost a brother Harry Martindale

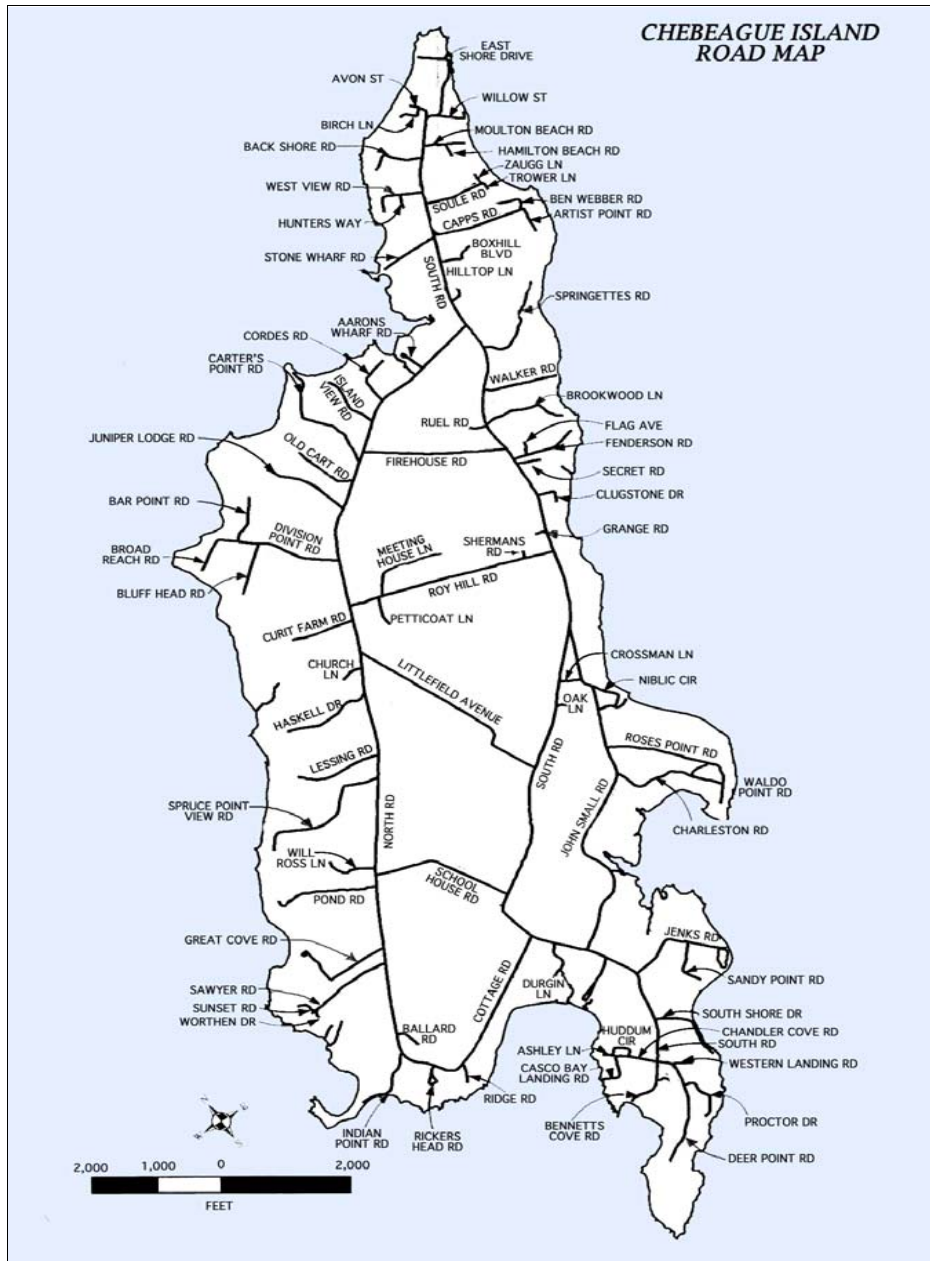
We apologize if we have left someone out of these statistics.
Please send notices to Marjorie Munroe or Dianne Calder as they
occur so we can include them in the next Newsletter.

— Census data provided by Dianne Calder
and Marjorie Munroe



Cumberland Street Map

**CHEBEAGUE ISLAND
ROAD MAP**



Chebeague Island Road Map