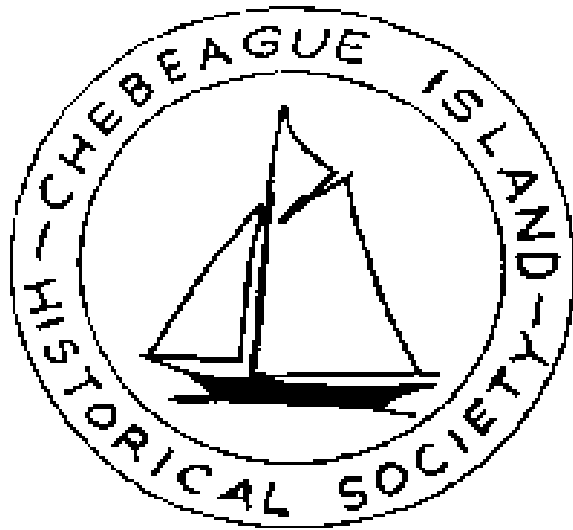


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Chebeague Island Annual Newsletter 2006



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Cover:

It would seem that something was in the blood of the dedicated Islanders who devoted so much of their time and energy to convincing the Town of Cumberland, MSAD #51 and, ultimately, the Maine State Legislature that Chebeague's island community is worth saving and self-government is the best chance we have to do so.

The secession group was advised by our Long Island friends that a presence in the halls of the Legislature was essential to raising awareness of and, eventually, support for our cause.

Beverly Johnson created the button depicted in life-size on the cover and soon every Maine senator and representative was familiar with the buttons and the people sporting them around the State House from February through April of 2006.

Apparently the buttons and the message behind them worked — all but four of the 168 legislators who voted on the issue supported Chebeague Island's drive for self-government.

Beginning on Page 5, Beth Howe presents the history of the secession movement, its ups and downs and how it all came together. It's a long and sometimes complex story, but it needs to be told and recorded for posterity's sake.

While 2006 may be remembered as the year of independence for Chebeague, there was plenty more happening on the Island and this year's *Newsletter* tells those stories, too.

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Foreword

The Chebeague Island Historical Society publishes this report, the *Chebeague Island Annual Newsletter*, as its contribution to all the organizations that make the social environment of Chebeague what it is for our population. The *Newsletter* is a cooperative venture by the 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 and 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 \$8.00 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 Dale Rand 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

2006 Memorial Day Speech

Editors’ Note: Jerry Wiles gave this speech to the Grange assembled at the Church on Memorial Day. It speaks to many of the events and values of today’s Chebeague.



In July 2007, Chebeague Island will become its own town, no longer dependent, no longer governed by the Town of Cumberland. The 185 year connection between our Island and the mainland will be ended. It will end because our citizens had the

opportunity to go forward with this arduous, and at times, contentious task, to make our lives better. Now the citizens of Chebeague will seize the opportunity to formulate a new government that will serve our future needs. Yes, we have a chance to live in a time and place where we can determine our own destiny, where we can live out our dreams and seek happiness. So we gather here today to pay tribute to those men and women who went forth during times of crisis and gave their lives in order that our lives would be better. We should hold what they did for us close to our hearts, we must remember that their lives were not lost in vain and we do, indeed, respect their courage and must use what they did to inspire us. In recalling their names and their contributions on this Memorial Day 2006, we should ask what inspired those citizens who became soldiers and went to war. What did our nation's history offer them to make it possible to say goodbye to their surroundings, their homes and their loved ones, knowing full well for some it would be their last and final time. I would like to think of those soldiers who faced those Herculean tasks

That within their hearts and minds was a piece of our Nation's heritage that inspired and gave them courage. For those who went to our early wars of the 18th and 19th century maybe part of our Declaration of Independence bolstered their determination and helped them through the dark moments. That yes, it was important for them to know that their endeavors would make it possible to carry out the beliefs that all men and women are created equal with certain unalienable rights to live.... and to live free. Knowing full well that those words so eloquently stated by Jefferson could mean in 1776 the potential loss of their own lives, their fortunes and sacred honor. Jefferson's words clearly told the future generation that at times sacrifice would be necessary in order to preserve a way of life or when seeking self-determination . And so with this blessed document stored into our national heritage our thriving country turned into the 20th century. A century that will call forth way too many times our citizens to fight and die in foreign lands. A century that began with a speech by Theodore Roosevelt, on April 10, 1899. A part of his speech was to inspire reluctant citizens who questioned the reasons for war. He clearly stated:

“Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.”

Later those words by Theodore Roosevelt would be reinforced by President Woodrow Wilson 's call to arms speech “to save the world for democracy” and then later with a different Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt 's “day in infamy” speech after the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor December of 1941. Hopefully those leaders with their inspiring eloquence gave encouragement to our “greatest generation.” And so wasn't it sad that after the carnage of both World Wars there would be more wars, more calls to duty and unfortunately a need once again for more inspiration . With this in mind, perhaps the last great motivational speech of the 20th century was given on January 20th 1961 by John Fitzgerald Kennedy during the height of the so called Cold War.

“.....Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans—born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage- and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this Nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world. “Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe in order to assure the survival and success of liberty.”

And, indeed, our nation did pay a price with the Vietnam War. Those times have past, those bits of inspiration are a part of our national heritage, in the end. However, it doesn't make it easier to accept the death of those who were lost to these wars.

What about our soldiers who are fighting today in Afghanistan and Iraq? How are they being motivated and inspired? What do they cling to? I wish each soldier that has been called upon to fight in those distant lands would know about our island in Casco Bay, I wish they would know how a group of citizens made the word Democracy more than merely a word but a call to civic action and participation. And maybe, just maybe, our fighting men and women who are giving a supreme effort will know what they are doing is not in vain, and some day those very people they are striving to help will enjoy the same opportunities that our fallen brethren made possible for we the people to enjoy.

— Jerry Wiles

The Birth of a Town



The House of Representatives approves LD 1735

Secession began with a school crisis. It was not unlike others the Island had faced such as the closing of the Chebeague High School in 1956. This time, when residents met in the Hall on February 20, 2005, probably no one expected that 14 months later Chebeague would be authorized by the Maine State Legislature to become its own town and school district. How did we get from there to here?

A variety of issues came together to make secession seem necessary. Rising tax assessments and taxes had been issues for ten years. Increasing divergence between the Island and mainland in terms of concerns, values and lifestyles was a factor. But most important was a serious threat to the survival of the Chebeague Island School. Without an elementary school sustaining a normal year-round community with families as well as younger and older couples and single people would probably be impossible.

Maine is a state with a very long tradition of strong town government. Many of the state's towns existed before Maine became independent. Even so, since the 1950s state and even local policy makers have been trying to encourage more multi-town cooperation in order to save money by taking advantage of economies of scale. The consolidation of many town schools into School Administrative Districts beginning in the 1950s was an early example.

Still, the pull toward more local control is strong. Across the state there are communities that would like to get out of multi-town school districts. Many communities complain about high assessments and taxes and some try secession as a solution. Hope Island is Chebeague's closest example. One secession begets another. Allowing one community, like Long Island, to secede encourages others, like Chebeague and Peaks. And it isn't just islands, though islands may be more likely because of their obvious physical separation from the mainland parts of their towns. So to discourage this desire of local areas to try to "go it alone," the bar at the state level is set pretty high to justify the creation of new, smaller units of government.

How Chebeague got from being part of Cumberland to being an independent town also was a result of Chebeague's ability to act effectively in the face of a crisis. The Islanders brought to the effort the ability to create and use organizations effectively and to call upon the expertise of members of the year-round and summer communities. The need to protect the community by controlling the school was also an issue that people on the mainland could understand and identify with. It, more than any of the other reasons for secession, defined Chebeague's secession effort as justifiable.

The structure of the present secession law created both advantages and disadvantages for Chebeague's effort. The requirement that a potential secession territory start by negotiating with the town or school district it would leave forced Chebeague not to put off the difficult process of trying to get agreement with Cumberland and MSAD #51. Once those agreements had been reached, Chebeague could go to the Legislature with agreement on a very clear, specific proposal. The statutory requirement for a petition for a town wide hearing and then a referendum ensured early discussion and participation on Chebeague and indicated to the Legislature how strong the support for secession was.

The one source of problems for Chebeague was the lack of any statutory requirement for a vote on the agreements reached with Cumberland and MSAD #51. Up to that point the rhetoric of the process was that Islanders were simply “exploring” the possibility of secession. A vote would have defined the point at which Chebeague stopped “exploring” secession and actually decided whether to go forward or not. Opponents would have had a well-defined opportunity to make their substantive case against separation, and specific financial proposals to focus on. As it actually played out, opposition at this stage focused on the structure of the process.

There was opposition to secession on the Island. But it is clear that a large majority of residents did support the effort.

The School Issue

On February 18, 2005 an internal Maine School Administrative District (MSAD) #51 budget proposal suggested eliminating one teaching position, thus closing one of the two classrooms of the Chebeague Island School. In line with a restructuring of the elementary schools on the mainland, Chebeague’s fourth and fifth graders would move to North Yarmouth Memorial School. The proposal was made rather casually, without any advance notification of Island parents or residents.

However casual the SAD was about making the proposal, Islanders saw it as a serious threat. Parents and probably anyone who had been a parent thought that nine and ten year olds were too young to commute to the mainland by ferry and school bus every day. Both parents and other Islanders also saw the idea of reducing the school to one classroom as a clear first step toward closing the whole school.

So Carol White, Herb Maine, Beth Dyer, Bev Johnson and others quickly organized a public meeting at the Hall for February 20 to plan a response. Residents were urged to write to SAD Board members expressing their opposition. A second meeting on March 6 galvanized 70 Islanders to go to the March 7 School Board meeting to oppose the proposal. This quick reaction did bear some fruit. At its next meeting the School Board removed the proposal from the 2005-06 budget. But the members refused to give up on the idea entirely, and indicated that they would bring it up again later for additional discussion with the Islanders.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Many Islanders were shaken by this proposal for several reasons. One was simply that it illustrated very clearly how little control they had over whether the school remained open or not. The other was the School Board’s apparent lack of understanding of, and responsiveness to, the Islanders’ concerns about the effect a school closing would have on their community.

So even though the proposal was withdrawn, the organizers of the initial response decided not to just settle back into normal life. Instead they called an Island-wide meeting on March 20 “Where do we go from here: The future of the Chebeague Island School and the year-round community?” This resulted in the creation of seven committees to explore various ways of gaining more control over the school. One of them focused on “separation” and from the beginning there was considerable interest in this topic. A meeting during this period with the State Department of Education (DOE) moved the focus even more toward secession. The question the Chebeaguers put to DOE officials was whether there was any way the state could help Chebeague gain control over the decision to close the school. The answer from DOE was that the only mechanism available under existing state law would be to create an independent Town of Chebeague Island that might then be able to secede from MSAD #51. The process would be complex. In fact, no one really could say exactly what the procedural requirements would be since Chebeague was the first community to think about such a dual secession.

Of course, secession was not a new idea on Chebeague. Most recently there had been talk of secession after the comprehensive property reassessment in 1997 which reflected the booming economy of the 1990's and the growing demand for island and especially shorefront land. Between that 1997 reassessment and the next one in 2003 property values on Chebeague increased 61.7 percent. But influential Islanders such as Donna Damon, Beverly Johnson and then-council member Jim Phipps opposed the idea of secession. Instead they responded by focusing Island efforts on the development of a Chebeague Long-Range Plan, focused on the problems being created by this property boom.

After the SAD proposal to close one classroom at the school, however, it was apparent that making and adopting long-range plans

was not enough. A new town-wide reassessment was also in the offing, with Chebeague's property reportedly assessed at only 55 percent of full market value. Now Islanders like Donna and Bev with ties to the Town as Council members began to change their minds.

By the end of April the secession committee had developed a diagram of the key steps in secession from a town. At that point they went to talk to Town Manager Bill Shane, who had gone through Hope Island's effort to secede. The finance committee also talked to Shane about the financial feasibility of Chebeague secession. He helped to gather initial information about Chebeague revenues and expenses. Publicly he said he was sad about the emergence of secession as a real possibility but he didn't think the Town Council would stand in the Island's way if that was what they decided they wanted (*Forecaster* 5/26/05).

The whole group also went to Long Island in early May to talk to people there about their experience with secession from Portland in 1992. They could see the study that the Long Island Research Committee had prepared, exploring whether secession was a practical idea. Taxes had been their preeminent issue, but, as with Chebeague, in the background was the issue of the difference between Maine's largest city and a small, rural island with a resource-based economy. Perhaps the most important piece of information the Chebeaguers came away with was that Long Island had been able to pay off its debt to Portland and run the town without raising taxes

On May 15 the Chebeague research groups reported their initial findings to another community-wide meeting at the Hall. The Finance and Self-government Committees reported that with revenues of \$2.2 million and a rough estimate of expenditures of \$1.85 million, the Town of Chebeague Island could be self supporting. To the question of whether a place with a year-round population of 350 could really run a town, they reported that 220 self-governing towns in Maine had smaller populations than Chebeague's. Moderator Herb Maine summed up the issue facing the Island. Secession is "feasible. The question is whether or not it is desirable. We don't know yet" (*Forecaster* 5/26/05).

Interest in secession was building. Even so, at the meeting Herb did his best to encourage opponents to voice their concerns. He emphasized that no commitment had been made to pursue secession.

Even if the process was not stopped by some external force that could not be overcome, it would be possible for Islanders to decide at any point along the way that this was not the road to follow. At the end of the meeting in a straw poll, 82 of the 88 people present voted to continue to explore the idea of secession.

Creation of the Chebeague Island Community Association

After that vote things began to jell. If Chebeague was really going to mount an effort to explore secession with Island residents, Cumberland and MSAD #51, it would need to raise money, get expert legal, financial and administrative help, some of which might be volunteer but some of which would have to be paid for. They had to explore the financial feasibility of independence in more depth, learn about how to approach the Legislature and consider how a new town and school district would be run.

So they recruited additional people from the effort's active volunteers for a formal organizational board. And, as many other groups on the Island have, they went to Jim Phipps to apply to the IRS to create a non profit, 501(c)(3) organization, the Chebeague Island Community Association (CICA). Its statement of purpose was "to ensure the survival and long term viability of Great Chebeague Island as a year-round community" (CICA incorporation papers). Its officers were Herb Maine, President, Bob Earnest, Secretary and Cheryl Stevens, Treasurer. (More information on CICA can be found in the article on CICA on Page 55).

Secession Takes Shape

CICA became the motive force behind the secession movement. They didn't start out quite this way. Instead they wanted to be an organization that would deal with a broad range of issues facing Chebeague — things like affordable housing, economic development and the survival of the school. The activists wanted to stimulate "town meeting" like, open discussion to involve as many residents as possible and not to leave the discussions up to Chebeague's informal rumor-mill. There was a strong feeling among not only the CICA Board but its core group of 10 to 15 most active volunteers that "local control" was a key to dealing with island issues. So it was not surprising that they decided to explore secession — not just talking

about it, but doing research and taking action under state law to see if it would be feasible and desirable. It was also not surprising that they were committed to trying to work with Cumberland and MSAD #51 in an equally open and non-adversarial way.

They started on their open approach to the Cumberland Council with a joint workshop on June 13. They discussed the petition process, pending Chebeague items in the capital budget and, most important, the territory that Chebeague was asking for. The meeting was useful, but clearly there were strong and conflicted feelings on both sides.

CICA held its first Island-wide meeting on June 26. It was, of course, pretty much like the meetings that had occurred before, with Herb Maine as moderator, but now it was run by a formal organization with a clear focus: To put before the Island residents the possibility of becoming an independent town. The CICA Board came to the meeting prepared with six talking points discussed in a short report. One was a diagram showing the steps that were required by state law for a territory to secede from a town. The rest of the memo spoke to the various steps.

Second, they brought a petition asking the Town of Cumberland to hold a town wide hearing on secession. This would be the first formal step in the process. The petition would have to be signed by 50 percent of the voting residents of the secession territory. Once the hearing had been held, the Council would set a time for an advisory referendum, and again, 50 percent of the secession territory voters would have to vote for secession. If that test was met, the municipal officials would vote whether to approve secession or not. Either way the Council voted, negotiations with the Town would follow. If agreement could be reached then Chebeague would go to the Legislature. How negotiations with the School District fit into the picture was still not clear.

CICA also brought to the June 26th meeting a map of the proposed new town. Many people, especially the fishermen who were canvassed by Jeff Putnam, felt strongly that the new town should include at least all of the Cumberland islands on the ocean side of Chebeague. This was Chebeague's lobstering territory, and just as the secession effort was gaining momentum in the fall, the state notified Cumberland that someone had applied to establish a mussel raft off Hope Island. But time to prepare for the initial hearing was lost because (it was learned

later) Cumberland's harbor master had left and notification from the State Department of Marine Resources (DMR) was not passed on to Island fishermen.

Fourth, CICA presented a list of the official representatives of the secession territory as required by state law: Mark Dyer, Mabel Doughty, Beverly Johnson, Jeff Putnam and David Stevens. All were members of the CICA Board. All had also been willing to commit themselves to a job whose parameters and responsibilities were far from clear. The Territory Representatives would answer to the community. The various committees of CICA would do research for them.

Fifth, CICA brought a preliminary town budget, showing revenues of \$2.3 million and expenditures of \$2,166,175. Revenues would come from taxes, state revenue sharing, state education aid and a list of six kinds of fees from car registration to building permits. On the expense side the budget essentially reflected expenditures of \$1.1 million presently being made by Cumberland for various services such as administration, roads, general assistance, dredging, public safety, elections and County tax. There was also an estimate of \$707,700 for running the Island school. Finally debt service for bonds issued for 20 years to meet payments owed to Cumberland and MSAD #51 was anticipated to be \$272,400.

Finally, CICA came with an over arching rationale for why Chebeague should separate from Cumberland. It focused on "Diverging Communities":

"As the years have gone by the differences [between Chebeague and the mainland] have become more obvious. The Island's population has remained stable for more than half a century while the mainland population has increased nearly seven times. On the mainland old families are few and far between. Few mainland residents remember the traditional New England town meeting. All the while the Island population and culture remained the same. A large percentage of Islanders live and work here. Cumberland has evolved into a bedroom community of Portland while Chebeague has maintained its independent, rural character (CICA 6/25/2005)."

The Official Representatives each talked about why they supported exploring independence. Most were committed, some were uncertain. A group from Long Island talked about how secession had worked for

them. Town Manager Bill Shane was there and gave honest answers to questions.

Petitioning for a Hearing

Over the summer CICA circulated the petition to hold a September hearing. They went to the Store at Sunday paper time and to various events at the Fourth of July celebrations. The various CICA subcommittees kept working. Two groups worked on education. One focused on the education plan and discussions with State DOE. Phil Jordan volunteered to talk with MSAD #51 officials. John Wilson's budget committee kept working with help from Bill Shane. Bev Johnson talked with property owners from the other islands that might be included in the new town. They hired a lawyer, Peter Lowe, discussed whether they should hire a lobbyist, and managed a variety of opportunities to get Chebeague's story out into regional and national media.

On August 5 State Commissioner of education Susan Gendron came down to the Island and met with the CICA Board. The meeting convinced her of Chebeague's need to control its school, and she said she would not oppose secession legislation. She suggested that instead of going through the process of secession from the Town and then from the SAD, that the two processes should be combined in the Legislature. CICA had already agreed to prepare an educational plan that would be submitted to DOE covering education from kindergarten through high school including how the Island school would be operated, special education, transportation and governance. The DOE would review the plan and report to the Legislature whether it met the requirements of state law.

By the middle of August more than a majority of Chebeague's voters had signed the petitions so CICA submitted them to the Town Clerk for verification. Then on August 19 CICA held another Island-wide meeting in part to report and in part to have another general discussion of secession while summer people were still on the Island. More than 50 people came. The five Territorial Representatives spoke to the same issues they had addressed at the beginning of the summer including the outer islands, the budget and the Island's ability to govern itself. David Stevens said that he had talked to the Cumberland representatives in the Legislature.

Representative Terry McKenney was supportive, while Senator Karl Turner was noncommittal. Herb Maine said that for the CICA Board the process had gone beyond "exploring" secession to thinking that it would be a good idea. But he was concerned that other residents not feel forced to agree.

Now that secession was beginning to take shape, a few opponents did raise questions. Michael Porter was critical of the generality of the draft budget. Barbara Porter argued "fiercely" that separating from the School District might give the Island control over its own school, but it would mean giving up any influence Chebeague would have over the Board from inside the system. She had been active in working with the District on Chebeague school issues when her children were in the system, and thought the Board would listen now. She was answered by Carol White, one of the CICA leaders who had played a similar role in recent years, who said that she was frustrated that efforts to get the District to respond to Chebeague needs and concerns never seemed to produce lasting results, and that it would be better to use this wasted energy on an Island School Board instead. So some specific questions were asked and answers were given.

But it was not really a matter of specific objections to secession that worried some people. It was more the uncertainty created by the idea of such a major change in the status of the Island. How would the secession process actually play out and what would be the result if the Island did secede? Some people worried that self-government would open up conflicts that the residents would not be able to manage. There was also a concern among some opponents that rather than "saving" the year-round Island community, secession would only hurry the process of transition to an upscale haven for wealthy people from away.

At the Town Council meeting on August 22 CICA officially submitted the verified petitions to the Council. Of 336 voters on Chebeague, 273 (81 percent) had signed. Since 169 were required for the petition to be "sufficient" the Council set the public hearing for September 15 and a Town wide referendum for November 8.

Public Hearings

On September 15 the Town Council held its hearing on secession at the Town Hall on the mainland. Before the meeting CICA

distributed its Report of the Chebeague Island Secession Territory Representatives to the Town of Cumberland. The report was written by a committee headed by Donna Colbeth and David Hill, consisting of Beverly Johnson, Donna Damon, Mable Doughty, Phil and Sheila Jordan, and David Stevens.

The report traced the history of the Island, the divergence, since 1940, between the growth rates and economics of the Island and the mainland, the nature of the present population, and the importance of Island institutions, particularly the school, but also the many other non-profit organizations providing Island services. It spelled out the boundaries of the new town and the rationale for including the outer islands. It described how the new school system would work and gave some initial information on the impact of secession on property taxes on the mainland portions of the existing Town and SAD. Finally, the report concluded with a section on why Chebeaguers thought it was necessary to secede — the geographic barrier of the water, the growing cultural gap between the Island and the mainland, and recent evidence of threats to the Island school. The report ended with a vision of the future Town of Chebeague — a small town governed by traditional Town Meeting.

The hearing began with a video written and narrated by Donna Colbeth and produced by Beverly Johnson, about Chebeague's history, life and institutions. Then the five Territorial Representatives spoke about the school, rising taxes and stewardship of the outer islands and the desire of Chebeaguers to manage their own affairs. The tone was fairly gentle — what the CICA minutes call “taking the ‘high road.’” The message was that the relationship with the Town had been long and generally supportive, but that the mainland and the Island were diverging so much that the tie had reached the end of its usefulness. Several speakers pointed to the way that over the years the Island had built its own infrastructure — library, recreation center and assisted living facility. A sore point that came up several times was the Town Council's interest in exploring the idea of an LNG (liquid natural gas) terminal on Hope Island.

Though only one hearing was required by the secession law the information from the State on tax impacts, required to be discussed under state law, had not been available until September 14. So a second hearing was held on the Island on October 18 to present this

information. Town Manager Bill Shane indicated that the loss of the Town of Chebeague's \$2.1 million in property taxes, \$1.5 of which went to MSAD #51 would require the state to provide \$600,000 in additional funding to offset some of the loss. It would also redistribute some of the tax burden for the schools to North Yarmouth.

A third hearing was held on the mainland on October 27 to present the same information there. This hearing was notable for the testimony of State Senator Karl Turner (R. Cumberland) and the ranking minority member of the Education Committee, who said that even if Chebeague succeeded in seceding from the Town it would still remain part of MSAD #51. As a fiscal conservative, Turner saw Maine's tradition of strong local government as outdated. “We [in Maine] spend more on government per capita than any of the other 49 states” (*Forecaster* 10/27/05). The idea of creating both a new town and a new school district so that Chebeague could keep its school open was simply unacceptable to him, and he held out to Chebeaguers the idea of passing legislation instead that would prevent school districts from closing small schools.

Turner also said that it was unlikely that Chebeague secession would be accepted for consideration in the January 2006 special session since secession was not an emergency and would require the Legislature to appropriate \$600,000 to make up the MSAD #51 shortfall that would be created by Chebeague's secession.

Turner's testimony was discouraging news for CICA and the secession supporters. He was the Island's own state senator, so Chebeague would not have support in the Senate from its own most natural advocate.

Some anonymous opposition was also surfacing on Chebeague. Below the surface of the secession discussion were other divisive issues that might come before an independent Town of Chebeague. One was the status of the Chebeague Transportation Company (CTC). Because of the connection of some of the CICA Board members to the CTC, long time critics of CTC saw secession as a way of trying to get town financial support for the ferry company that had never been forthcoming from Cumberland, despite its support of CTC's struggles with the Town of Yarmouth over the parking on Cousins Island. In mid-October anonymous fliers were placed on windshields of cars in the Cousins Island lot charging that, among other things, CTC was

“mismanaged,” and “controlling the secession movement.” While these charges were answered by a letter from the CTC Board, the issue of whether CTC was in financial trouble and might come to the new Town of Chebeague Island asking for a takeover or at least for a financial bailout continued to crop up in worried discussions about secession through the entire effort.

The last public hearing in the roll out of secession was at a meeting of the MSAD #51 Board held on Chebeague on October 17. Phil Jordan had been talking with school administrative officials about how an independent Chebeague might relate to MSAD #51. Here the tone the Board members and their lawyer Bruce Smith presented was hard nosed. If Chebeaguers hoped the school officials might admit that they had made a mistake in making the proposal to close one classroom at the school, they were disappointed. Smith also argued that no SAD board would be able to bind future boards to guarantee that the Chebeague school would be kept open. Moreover, if Chebeague chose to leave MSAD #51 the District would not take Chebeague middle and high school students on tuition once the students presently in the system had graduated. This despite the Board’s insistence that they “valued Chebeague’s diverse community” and wished to see the Island stay in the District.

Most of the questions and comments by the audience were hostile. Barbara Porter argued passionately for the School Board to listen seriously to the issues Chebeague was raising, while also trying to suggest that Chebeaguers would be reasonable about accepting a minimum enrollment for the school to remain open. Carol White, equally passionate, talked about her frustration over agreements reached with the SAD about school issues that never seemed to last, the time and energy it took to work with the SAD at all, and the Board’s lack of responsiveness.

In the days after the hearing, the SAD backed off somewhat on its statement about not taking tuition students from Chebeague. CICA, for its part, was talking with Yarmouth, Freeport, Portland and North Yarmouth Academy about taking the Chebeague students. All voiced interest. But adding to Chebeague’s concern, MSAD #51 was also saying that next fall they were planning to put a bond issue on the ballot for \$8 million to add to and renovate Greely High School.



In the Senate Chamber

Chebeague Prepares for the Legislature

While all of these hearings were being held, CICA continued to hold weekly meetings on Tuesday evenings at the Parish Hall. They also raised money for and created a separate 501(c)(4) organization, Chebeague Island Secession Association (CISA), that could do political lobbying and in September CISA hired lobbyist Bob Howe and his colleague Pam Cahill, both of whom were ex-legislators themselves.

They had also begun to talk with Cumberland Representative McKenney about the legislative process. An initial, fairly simple, secession bill was drafted to put Chebeague secession in line for consideration by the Legislature in its January session. The big legal issue was still whether secession from the Town and the School District would be two independent processes, or whether secession from the Town would mean automatic secession from the SAD.



David Hill, Representative Brad Moulton, Bev Johnson, Representative Terry McKenney and David Stevens at the State House

Howe and McKenney were also insistent that Chebeague could only be successful in the Legislature if they came to Augusta with financial agreements for secession with the Town and MSAD #51. It was not the job of the Legislature to settle local squabbles. Moreover, since they wanted their bill to be considered in a special off-year session of the Legislature, Chebeague would have to persuade the Legislative leadership to allow the bill to be considered. In “regular” sessions, held in January of odd-numbered years, any legislation could be introduced, but in shorter special sessions bills had to be approved by the leadership. They would only be convinced if it looked like Chebeague would be able to come up with agreements with the Town and School District. Terry McKenney, Chebeague’s representative agreed to sponsor the secession bill.

On October 27, contrary to Karl Turner’s prediction, the Legislative Council, made up of the leadership of both houses by a 6 to 4 vote accepted the bill for consideration during the special session in

January 2006. With Howe’s help, Dave Stevens, Bev Johnson, and David Hill had made a strong case for Chebeague being included. This was a significant victory. If the leadership had declined to consider the bill, legislative action would have been put off until January 2007, considerably reducing the momentum of the secession movement.

On the other hand, being accepted for the special session placed a great deal of pressure on CICA and the secession representatives to reach agreements with the Town and MSAD #51 quickly before the session was scheduled to end in April.

The Referendum

Tuesday November 8 was Election Day. The only issues on the ballot besides secession were five bond issues, one constitutional amendment (on current use taxation of waterfront land used for commercial fishing) and a “people’s veto” on gay rights. The wording of the secession referendum was: “Do you favor secession of the territory described below from the municipality of Cumberland?”

The Sunday before the vote CICA held an Island-wide meeting to bring residents up to date on secession and to hear from the various experts CICA had recruited to help with the effort.

The most important announcement was that DOE Commissioner Susan Gendron supported developing a “private and special” bill that would include Chebeague’s education plan. The import of this decision was that if Chebeague seceded from the Town it would automatically secede from the SAD and no separate legislation would be required for that to occur.

Bob Lyman, an education consultant and the retired Superintendent of Schools in Freeport for 17 years, reported on his and the Education Committee’s work on the education plan.

Bob Howe, the lobbyist, complimented Islanders for getting their act together so effectively. He said that lobbying in the Maine Legislature was generally not a matter of making back room deals. It was a matter of making your case in terms that legislators could identify with. Generally the effort to create a new, small town and school district would be swimming against the tide in Maine toward consolidation of services across town boundaries. So it would be important to make the argument that the Chebeague case was unique. Legislators from Portland, including two members of the Legislative

leadership, would be the most likely to be skeptical because they were hearing talk about secession by Peaks and maybe Cliff Islands. But at least those issues would not be taken up in this session. It would also be easier to kill the bill in the smaller Senate so it would be important to work hard to get support there. It was critical to settle local differences between the Island and the Town and SAD before going to Augusta. And, most important, it would be critical to have visible, strong, unified and active involvement by ordinary Chebeaguers.

The literature sent out by CICA to all postal patrons a few days before the election stated clearly:

“If the vote is favorable, the process continues. At any point up to the Governor’s signature, our community can terminate the process if it becomes clear that it is not in our best interest to continue (CICA 11/3/2005)”

Donna Damon also sent a letter to all Islanders supporting secession and giving her reasons. She addressed concerns that she had heard about secession: that the “wrong” people might be elected to be selectmen; that there would not be enough money to run the new town; that the only issue that was really important to Islanders was taxes; that the new town would not have any control over the outer islands. She, too, emphasized that the process could be stopped at any point by the Islanders themselves.

Another event occurred the Sunday before Election Day which may have swayed the opinions of any undecided fishermen. At a meeting regarding the proposed mussel raft off Hope Island, it was learned that the Town of Cumberland had received notice from DMR regarding the proposed project but, in the absence of a harbormaster, had failed to pass the notice on to the fishermen.

When the votes were counted on November 8, 246 of the 287 Islanders who voted (86 percent) were in favor of secession. On the mainland 1,507 of 2,973 (53 percent) voted opposed to secession. Both Town Manager Shane and some CICA board members were surprised at the size of the majority for secession on the Island. It did appear to mean that CICA did not have to worry, as they had at their October 25 weekly meeting, how much of a majority was required to indicate “widespread” support on Chebeague.

The response from the Town was somewhat mixed as it had been all along. Everyone seemed to accept the idea that secession was now very likely, but it was not clear how the Council and the Island were to work this out. It was now up to the Council to decide whether to let



Representative Robert Crosthwaite, a minister when not in the Legislature, consulted the Bible and granted Mabel Doughty 15 additional years of life.

Chebeague go willingly or to put roadblocks in its way. Jeff Porter urged his fellow council members to vote “no” on secession quickly in order to give the mainland a stronger negotiating stance and prevent the Legislature from getting involved too soon. Porter was supported by five other council members and by several members of the School Board. Damon and Steve Moriarty saw such an early “no” vote as counter productive; negotiations should occur and the vote should come afterwards. When the vote was taken on December 1, it was “no” 6 to 1, with Moriarty voting reluctantly with the majority and only Damon voting against.

Negotiations with Cumberland

Negotiations began on November 29. Two weeks before then, the Group of Five met to consider their bargaining strategy, particularly in relation to the issue of territory. Council Chairman Bill Stiles, Council member George Turner and Manager Shane would negotiate for the Town. The five Territorial Representatives negotiated for Chebeague, with Herb Maine and John Wilson as staff. The two negotiating teams met on Tuesdays and Thursdays. After meeting for all of December it was apparent that the process, though cordial, was not working. So instead, on Saturday January 7 the Council held a nine hour executive session with the Chebeague negotiators and they finally were able to reach a resolution.

Chebeague would take the 16 outer islands. Porter and Storey's refusal to accept the loss of their tax revenue was resolved by simple division: Chebeague would pay 50 percent of the property taxes received from the outer islands to Cumberland for 50 years. Cumberland also retained clamming rights to the islands, an issue that bothered Storey. More generally the parties got around the problem of becoming entangled in the minutiae of the division of particular parcels of land and pieces of capital. Town property on Chebeague would go to the Town of Chebeague Island, while property on the mainland would stay with Cumberland. In addition Chebeague would pay \$1.3 million to Cumberland within six months of being established to cover the cost of a new fire truck, the Curit property and its share of Cumberland's debt. Chebeague would cover this debt by issuing a 20 year bond. Over time Chebeague's various payments would make up for the tax revenues Cumberland would lose because of secession. The lease on the Blanchard parking lot on Cousins Island and the Wharf agreement there would be transferred to Chebeague.

At the end of the meeting the Council voted unanimously to approve the agreement. Chebeague would become an independent town on July 1, 2007. A happy and relieved Donna Damon congratulated both sides for holding "reasonable and professional negotiations." Shane praised it as a good settlement. Later David Stevens said it renewed his faith in people from different perspectives being able to work together to a common solution. Everyone was surprised that in the end, agreement had been achieved so quickly.

At the end of its January 10 Board Meeting the motion was made "that the Board of CICA enthusiastically endorse the tentative agreement between and Town and Chebeague (CICA Minutes 1/10/2006). The motion passed unanimously. At a January 22 Island-wide meeting, the negotiators reported to the whole community on the settlement.

Negotiations with MSAD #51

Because the state's secession law was essentially silent in the case of a territory that wanted to secede from both a town and a school district, there was no formal requirement for Chebeague and MSAD #51 to negotiate. But after the referendum, the SAD's lawyer Bruce Smith asked that District representatives be included in the negotiations. The result was a separate set of negotiations covering issues of concern only to the District. Board members voted at the beginning not to oppose secession if the negotiations could arrive at a solution that would meet the education needs and the long term financial requirements of the District.

In many respects the negotiations with the District were more difficult and complex than those with the Town. They were more complex simply because of the elaborate system of state education aid to localities which had just been significantly revised in 2005. They were more difficult because, unlike the Town, SAD officials really did not care about Chebeague's secession in emotional terms. This was not because they were uncaring in general, but just that in a 2000 student, wealthy, rapidly suburbanizing district in which many residents placed a high priority on excellent, college oriented education, Chebeague's 22 elementary school students were just too small a constituency to make sacrifices for. Since the District was the recipient of 73 percent of the Town's tax revenues, they already faced strong cross pressures between less affluent mainlanders wanting to keep school taxes down and those who supported expansive and expensive programs. The demands from Chebeague to keep its very small and expensive school were becoming politically less and less viable.

The negotiators for Chebeague were Carol White, Beverly Johnson, Bob Lyman their educational consultant, and Glenn Kersteen who had helped Long Island with the financial aspects of its secession and had been persuaded to do the same for Chebeague. Those for the school

District were Polly Frawley, Betts Gorsky, elected Board members and Bob Hasson and Scott Poulin, top administrators for the District.

If proof was needed that Chebeague's secession effort was out of step with state and school district policy, throughout the period when the Town and the SAD were negotiating with Chebeague, the superintendents of MSAD #51, Falmouth, Yarmouth and Freeport were also holding a series of meetings about the possibility of at least merging some school services. Since the state supported cooperation and consolidation, the districts hoped to get state funding for a more formal, in depth study that might suggest even more consolidation. The combined enrollment of all the districts was 7,143 students including the Chebeague Island School's 22 children (*Forecaster* 2/26/2006).

The result of the negotiations was reported to the Island at a meeting on February 9. The settlement would be expensive. But Glenn Kersteen argued that since it would be spread out and decreasing over twenty years, the total was reasonable for a town with Chebeague's tax revenues. There would be an annual payment of \$200,000 for 18 years for debt service owed by the SAD. But Chebeague did avoid having to pay any of the cost for the future High School renovation. A \$3.5 million up front, lump sum payment would cover taxes lost by North Yarmouth (\$1.7 million) and \$1.8 million for tuition and mainland bus transportation for Chebeague's 6th through 12th grade students (both new and old) over the next seven years. School property on the Island would become the property of the new school district. The Board voted not to oppose secession.

Deciding

The February 9 public meeting was Chebeague's "moment of truth." Was the cost of the combined settlements with the Town and the School District more than Chebeague residents were willing to pay? Had there been any general change of feelings about secession since November? The number of people at the meeting was smaller than at any of the past meetings. Had opponents given up and were supporters beginning to assume that secession was a "done deal"? The notice of the meeting sent to all postal patrons said nothing about this being a major decision point, though CICA clearly came to the meeting

prepared to lay out the pros and cons and to make the case for secession.

Kersteen gave a PowerPoint presentation showing what he projected would happen to Island taxes if Chebeague did or did not secede. The graphs looked alarming if Chebeague remained in Cumberland and reassuring if it became independent. Because of the rapid increase in property values on the Island, as property revaluation occurred, Chebeague's share of Cumberland's taxes would increase from 13 percent in 2006 to 18 in 2007 and 21 percent in 2009. Since the combined budgets of Cumberland and MSAD #51 had been increasing at an average of 8.9 percent per year, the projected taxes being sent from Chebeague to the mainland would increase from \$1.9 million in 2006 to \$4 million by 2009 and \$6.1 million by 2014. The line showing tax increases being held to 5 percent per year by the new Town of Chebeague Island would result in an increase to \$2.5 million in 2009 and \$2.8 million in 2014.

Mark Dyer summarized the pros and cons of secession. Secession would provide local control over the school and general government, Chebeaguers would only have to convince each other rather than a council or school board representing a much larger area, taxes would stay on the Island. On the other side, Islanders would have to do the work, and pay of the debts resulting from secession. The Island would also have a smaller population to cover unexpected contingencies. Staying with Cumberland would leave the work to the existing town staff, and reap the benefits of economies of scale. On the other hand staying with Cumberland and the SAD would mean having no control over the school, the certainty of tax revaluation soon, additional debt for the high school and the risk of losing the year-round community. Mark stated that the balance of the pros and cons favored independence.

David Stevens, who had been spending a lot of time in Augusta, said that it was certainly possible to tell the Legislature that Chebeague had decided not to secede. But, he added, the session was well along and Chebeague was making good progress so it would make sense to keep going. If Chebeague wanted to make changes in the agreement with either the Town or the SAD they might renegotiate and go back to the Legislature for modifications next session, though he didn't think that the Legislature was likely to accept them.

Jeff Putnam said that the five Territorial Representatives supported the agreements. The negotiators fought hard for them, and the Island could afford them. The Legislative hearing on secession would be held on March 3 and Chebeague should go forward.

In the end, it really didn't seem like a big decision. Of course for a year the CICA Board members and the five Representatives had been eating, and drinking, breathing and sweating secession. It was in their dreams and in their thoughts on wakeful nights. Their families took a back seat and, since most of them were working rather than retired, so did their jobs. Everyone else at the meeting seemed to have gotten used to the idea of secession. The "devil you knew" was no longer more attractive than "the devil you didn't know." And how could anyone decide to reject negotiations painfully worked out by Island volunteers and recommended by them? There was discussion of the details of the school agreement. There was no straw poll.

During the next week CICA also mailed a summary of the various presentations at the meeting to everyone on the Island.

Going to the Legislature

The legislative session had begun on January 4, but preparations for it had been going on since October when the leadership met to decide which bills would be considered.

On Saturday December 10 and Tuesday December 13 the first groups of legislators came to visit Chebeague. They were taken around the Island to see its natural beauty and its local institutions and to meet some of the Islanders and have chowder. This chowder, created by Nancy Hill, was praised repeatedly and specifically lauded at the subsequent State and Local Committee hearing.

More legislators came in January and Karl Turner came by himself in February to meet with the five Representatives and discuss his opposition forthrightly.

When the negotiations with the Town and School district began the pressure of time hung over them. Bob Howe and Terry McKenney told the secession advocates that they would have to take their issue to the Legislature by February if it were to be considered at all. By February the deadline had been extended a bit to March 3. If the Town had really wanted to reduce the momentum of Chebeague's secession effort they could have simply drawn out their negotiations until the

deadline passed. But instead they chose to have a marathon bargaining session to push for an agreement within the legislative deadline. This, in turn put pressure on MSAD #51 to come to an agreement.

The time pressure worked the other way as well. The Town and School District negotiators knew that CICA wanted to go to Augusta for the special session. This would mean that their secession bill would not be taken up at the same time as one from Peaks Island which Portland legislators opposed. Consequently, the Town and MSAD #51 were in a strong position to hold on for larger financial settlements than Chebeague wanted to pay. The difference between Chebeague's initial estimate of \$272,400 in debt service and the post agreement figure of \$470,000 may be an indication of the effect of that pressure.



Governor Baldacci congratulates LD 1735 sponsor Representative Terry McKenney

In any case, on February 17, at a special meeting, the School Board voted to accept the agreement with Chebeague. The Town Council

held a hearing on the secession agreement on Thursday Feb 23 and on Mon Feb 27 voted to accept it. They had met the end of the month deadline for getting the approved agreements to the Legislature, though there were still details to be worked out such as Chebeague becoming a member town in Regional Waste Systems.

On January 26 and February 8 CICA held strategy meetings with Howe to go through how things worked in the Legislature and to plan their presentations for the March 3 committee hearing. The Maine Legislature has a large House (151 members) and a small Senate (35 members). The party split in the House was extremely close, with 74 Democrats, 73 Republicans, one member of the Green Party and 3 “unenrolled” independents. The Senate was not so closely divided, with 19 Democrats and 16 Republicans. But secession was not an issue that would divide people along party lines, so the close division was not a concern.

Much of the substantive work on bills is done by committees which are joint between both houses, with a chairperson from each house. Chebeague secession had been assigned to the Committee on State and Local Government. Its Senate Chair was Elizabeth Schneider (D. Penobscot), and its House Chair was Christopher Barstow (D. Gorham). Other members were Senators Mary Black Andrews (R. York), Margaret Rotundo (D. Lewiston) and Representatives George Bishop Jr. (R. Boothbay), Richard Blanchard (D. Old Town) Robert Crosthwaite (R. Ellsworth), Charles Harlow (D. Portland), Howard McFadden (R. Dennysville), Bradley Moulton (R. York), Roberta Muse (R. Fryeburg), Sonya Sampson (D. Auburn) and James Schatz (D. Blue Hill). They were required by the leadership to report the bill out by March 10. They could vote that it “ought to pass” or “ought not to pass” or they might make a divided recommendation. If bills were amended this commonly occurred in the committee, and in this case it was clear that the agreements with the Town and the SAD had to be incorporated into the bill, and that there would be other issues about things like how the transition to the new town would work.

The recommendation of the committee would be influential with other legislators, particularly if it was unanimous. Unanimity could make them advocates for a piece of legislation. But the House and Senate were not simply rubber stamps. All bills had to be reported to both houses, and though there were fast track processes to move

legislation along, any member could take a bill off the fast track, and there was always an opportunity for debate on any bill on which there was disagreement. So it was important for CICA to focus its lobbying on the committee members. But they had to be mindful of the need to convince other legislators of the legitimacy of Chebeague secession as well.

Stevens and Howe and his colleague Pam Cahill had lined up sponsors for the bill. Cumberland’s Terry McKenney had been on board from the beginning, but Senator Turner was not. Co-sponsors were Representatives Chris Barstow (D. Gorham), Leila Percy (D. Phippsburg), Hannah Pingree (D. North Haven), Jonathan McKane (R. Newcastle but also Monhegan) and Senators Dennis Damon (D. Hancock Co.), Dana Dow (R. Lincoln Co.), and Christine Savage (R. Knox Co.).

On February 22 and 26 CICA held Island-wide meetings focused on the Legislative hearing on the bill. At the hearing, the sponsors and cosponsors would speak first. Then it would be up to the citizens of Chebeague and their supporters to make their case, proponents, then opponents. Finally people who were neither for nor against would be asked to testify. In this category a representative of the Department of Education was expected to speak. Lots of advice was given to the assembled Chebeaguers about how to help the hearing go smoothly — no repetition of points, be brief and don’t be intimidated.

David Hill asked for volunteers to give the first Chebeague presentations at the hearing. The idea was to create a coherent presentation by 11 speakers. Many of the volunteers were members of the group of five Representatives or of CICA’s Board, but others were just supporters. David also gave advice, and handed out a set of topics and general guidelines to each speaker. People should be positive, they should not talk about “secession” but about “self-government,” they should focus on the education issues that were unique to Chebeague, not on high taxes which were a problem for people everywhere in the state.

There was clearly some reluctance among the members of the audience to commit to testifying. Carol White pointed out bluntly that this was the time when regular Chebeaguers had to stand up and say they wanted secession; without them, nothing would happen. Herb

and Dave Stevens reassured everyone that legislators were regular people after you got past the suits and microphones.

CICA was also arranging to have people from other islands, particularly those that were independent towns to testify for Chebeague. Long Island was an obvious choice, but they hoped to get people from some of the Down East islands as well.

There was little discussion of whether anyone would testify against. Howe said that there might be people among the 40 who had voted “no” in November who would. No one at the meeting volunteered that they were going to speak in opposition. But the Town of Cumberland and MSAD #51 would not.

At both meetings there was discussion about who on the Committee David Stevens had talked with or would talk with, and whether each legislators supported or opposed secession, or was on the fence and why. David was clearly enjoying the role of lobbyist and was going regularly to Augusta. Beverly and David described the legislators as interested and sympathetic, but it was clear that the Portland legislators were opposed or, at least, reserving judgement because of the likelihood that whatever decision they made on Chebeague secession might be interpreted to apply to Peaks and maybe Cliff Islands which might come up in the next session.

The general strategy for the hearing and the legislative consideration of the bill after the hearing was to have an intensive citizen lobbying effort. This was an obvious strategy, given that Chebeague’s strength lay in its grassroots organization rather than any statewide economic power, for example. Chebeague would make its presence felt through its people.

The conclusion of the discussion about the Legislature was that support for Chebeague secession was strong in the House but uncertain in the Senate

This was not surprising since the two houses differed in the ways they tended to approach legislation. The large House, whose members were elected from small districts, were typically more locally focused. Every representative had bills that were of interest to his or her particular constituency and it was normal for representatives to support each other’s local “cat and dog” bills. Chebeague secession was not just a local issue since it raised the general statewide question of increased governmental fragmentation versus consolidation. But the

Chebeague lobbyists were doing their best to try to distinguish Chebeague’s situation from that of any other jurisdiction — of which there were plenty — that might be interested in seceding from a town, county or school administrative district. In the House, though, there was a particular willingness to listen to local concerns especially if people at the local level were in agreement, as they were on Chebeague secession. Representative Robert Crosthwaite (R. Ellsworth) said “I think home rule needs to be upheld. The townsfolk have spoken and we need to listen” (*Portland Press Herald (PPH)* 2/27/2006).

The Senate, on the other hand, saw itself as taking a broader, county, regional or statewide view of issues. Senator Turner, for example, was a strong proponent of consolidating governmental functions and was unwilling to be inconsistent on this issue just to oblige his constituents on Chebeague. This smaller body, and particularly its leadership, also had a strong level of control over any bill that involved the expenditure of state money (except bills sponsored by the Governor). These bills were assigned to something called “the appropriations table.” It meant that a bill would not be acted on until the last day of the session. Then the Senate President would work one by one through all the bills on the table, letting through those on which some kind of funding deal had been made between the sponsors and the leadership, and indefinitely postponing or killing the rest.

When Senator Turner had spoken at the Cumberland hearing back in October about the difficulties Chebeague secession would face in the Legislature, one of the things he had mentioned was the state appropriation of \$600,000 that would be required to make up for the loss of Chebeague’s tax revenues to MSAD #51. That would have required a “fiscal note” and would have placed secession on the Senate appropriations table. This was still a possibility as late as the end of March, but in the end this proved not to be an issue. The more definitive estimate of the impact on North Yarmouth reduced the amount that would be lost, and by making the commitment to make a lump sum payment of \$1.7 million Chebeague had eliminated the loss to the District. If there was any cost to state education aid, it would be met by redistributing money among districts across the state. This last fact was the reason the effective date of secession would occur in 2007, rather than in 2006, when budgets had already been set and secession would generate an expense to the State.

One characteristic of the Maine Legislature might either help or hinder the secession advocates. In Maine there was a strong tradition of being responsive and accountable to local constituents. The legislative process was designed to be open and transparent. Public hearings were held on all bills. All had to be reported out of committee to both houses, so there was no killing bills by bottling them up in committee. There was no “Ways and Means Committee” to determine whether bills reached the floor and how they would be debated. Legislators did not even have offices or layers of staff to “mediate” between them and the people.

Moreover, much of the business of “lobbying” was simply a matter of making the substantive case for a piece of legislation. Of course, what was an argument in favor of a bill to one legislator might horrify another. So CICA needed to develop arguments about secession that would convince conservatives and liberals, legislators from Portland facing other possible secession threats, and people like Turner who were worried about the cost of excessive local government. Compromises might be necessary in order to meet the concerns of important legislators such as the members of the State and Local Government Committee.

Visits to a place affected by legislation, and “wining and dining” of legislators were not off limits, but by themselves would not be effective. The secession advocates made good use of these tactics, bringing legislators to Chebeague in the middle of winter, driving them around, and giving them corn chowder at Mabel and Sanford’s and at the Museum of Chebeague History. It didn’t fit the image of resort vacations and fancy restaurants, but it was effective in making personal contact with the legislators and giving them an idea of the nature of life on Chebeague. Christopher Barstow came away saying “I felt that in a way it was already a town” (*PPH 2/27/2006*).

By hiring lobbyists, CICA obviously did not expect to simply hand the lobbying over to them. But having lobbyists was a way to get information about who should be approached and “where they were coming from.” Lobbyists knew the legislators and could make access to them easier. They also knew how to shepherd a bill through a complex, sometimes confusing legislative process.

The Secession Report

At the February 26 Island meeting preparing for the legislative hearing, Herb also talked about the report to the Legislature which had been delivered by David Hill on the Friday before. It was distributed to all legislators and was available on the Chebeague website and at the Library.

The report was 30 pages long, with 9 appendices and was prepared by essentially the same committee that prepared the preceding Report to the Town of Cumberland.

It followed the guidelines in the secession law for showing why secession was necessary. It stated at the beginning that “secession is about preservation of an endangered community.” The first section on Attempts to Resolve Differences discussed the rocky relationship between Chebeague and Cumberland beginning in 1821. Plans for Provision of Educational Services summarized the education plan developed by CICA and Lyman. The Distribution of Assets section largely referred to appendices containing the agreements with Cumberland and MSAD #51. Description of the population, the physical character of the Island, its land use and transportation systems followed. This provided the background for describing the Present and Proposed Governmental Services and Environmental Stewardship and Pollution Prevention. Fiscal Data and a discussion of the Effect of Secession on the mainland were laid out and provided the basis for arguing the Ability of Municipal Government to Deliver Services to the Secession Territory. This section provided an opportunity to describe the various services already provided on Chebeague by Island non-profit organizations. A final section discussed Community Support on the Island and in the Portland metropolitan area. The tenor of the report, though largely factual, was somewhat more militant than the report to the Town had been. The section on conflicts with Cumberland, in particular, was somewhat reminiscent of the bill of grievances against Great Britain in the Declaration of Independence.

Opposition Surfaces

On Thursday, the day before the hearing, news went around the Island that the opponents of secession had decided to voice their opinions. Events were moving fast. In the small community of Chebeague the weight of the majority of secession supporters had the effect of suppressing the expression of opposition. But Islanders knew it was there and the legislative hearing would be the major public forum in which the opponents could get legislators to listen to their concerns and at least weaken the unified image of the secession movement. A petition in opposition had begun to circulate.

There were actually a variety of sources of discontent that were coming together. Some people had felt uneasy about secession since the beginning. They argued that CICA had always said that the process could be halted at any point. They thought that in November they had voted to “explore” secession and that before a bill was considered in the Legislature they would have an opportunity to vote again. Now, however, the legislative hearing was about to be held and they had never had that chance.

Others felt much more strongly that secession would be harmful to Chebeague. Patti Rich, who was not enthusiastic about any government interference in her life, was incensed by the idea that if Chebeague seceded it would be her neighbors who would be doing this. Kim Martin, on the other hand, argued that bringing government to Chebeague would change the whole culture of the Island. As part of Cumberland, Chebeaguers had generally approached the Town government on the other side of the water with a unified position. Now conflicts, some of which would be significant, would have to be worked out in Town Meeting on the Island. Factions might develop and the carefully nurtured sense of community that had been based in part on suppressing conflict could easily be destroyed. In addition, Chebeaguers had developed a pattern of providing Island services through non-profit organizations and volunteer work. People who supported the Rec Center or Chedemption, for example, were free to give money and time, while those who were not interested or were even opposed could simply remain uninvolved. But the new Town of Chebeague Island might easily become involved in these activities. They might even make some into municipal services, spending tax money on them that less affluent Islanders had hoped might be saved.

CTC was an example of this possibility. Since its formation it had been a somewhat polarizing presence on the Island. Discussion that CTC had a particular interest in pressing for secession had been an undercurrent throughout the effort. Though virtually every household on the Island owned stock, it was said that a few stockholders had enough shares to control votes within the company. It looked as if the Board was preparing a case that the company was in a financial crisis and that would provide a reason to seek help from the new Town. If residents were afraid of losing their transportation to the mainland, town voters might be stampeded into bailing out CTC.

On the eve of the hearing, with so little time left to organize on either side, all the Islanders could do was to wait to see what would happen.

The State and Local Government Committee Hearing

On March 3 the 6:40 a.m. ferry to the mainland was full of people going to the hearing. On the other side, part of the crowd boarded one of CTC's blue buses and others loaded into cars for the drive to Augusta. Beverly had made large adhesive “buttons” with a photo from the air of a very green Chebeague sitting in a very blue sea. They read: “Self-government for Chebeague Island.” This design is reprinted on the cover of this annual publication. CICA had arranged for snacks to be served all day in the Capitol's central Hall of Flags, and as residents arrived they gathered there, their voices echoing from the marble walls and floor.

The hearing itself on LD 1735 was held in the Cross Office Building behind the Capitol, so just before 9:00 everyone trooped across. The hearing room had a large semicircular desk at the front for the legislators and staff, a podium in front for the speakers and behind the speaker and about four long rows of chairs for spectators. Since a large crowd was expected for the Chebeague hearing, a second, similar room was also available next door into which the proceedings would be broadcast. All told about 140 people came, filling both rooms. The presentations lasted well into the afternoon, with a break for lunch. Legislators came and went as other commitments came up, but there were always at least four to five there to listen to the speakers.

Rep. Terry McKenney (R. Cumberland) opened the statements of the proponents, thanking the Committee for having its hearing so late

in the session to allow the negotiations between the Island and the mainland to take place and be included in the legislation. He was followed by other sponsors: Senator Dennis Damon (D. Hancock Co.), a very enthusiastic Rep. Hannah Pingree (D. North Haven) representing four unconnected and two connected islands, Jonathan McKane (R. Newcastle), representing Monhegan Island, who admitted his grandfather had been born on Chebeague, and, in the “greatest bait and switch” ploy of the day, Rep. Leila Percy (D. Phippsburg) who was represented by Rep. James Schatz, provoking considerable joking among the legislators.

Then the organized presentations by CICA began. Herb Maine, David Stevens, Carol White and Mark Dyer spoke. After each speaker the legislators often had comments and questions, some light (How do you pronounce “Chebeague”?); some substantive (How would secession prevent the conversion of the Island to a resort community?). In addition Chairwoman Schneider called regularly for people who needed to testify and leave.

Patti Rich and Kim Martin spoke in the middle of the CICA presentation. Patti said that taxes were an important issue to people in the secession movement. She did not have a high opinion of Chebeague’s ability to manage itself. She feared it would run in the red like the CTC. Her greatest fear was that the Island would become divided over secession and people would move away. Kim spoke briefly, particularly about how difficult it was to have to face division within her family. Neither presented a petition in opposition. An email from Priscilla and Poochie Ross was read expressing their feeling that secession from the Town would not be useful, though they certainly did not want the school to close. They, too, worried about division on the Island.

CICA picked up the thread again. David Hill, Glenn Kersteen, Beverly Johnson, Mabel Doughty and Jeff Putnam spoke. Mainland supporters were scattered through the rest of the testimony: Bob Vail from Cumberland, Phil Conkling of the Island Institute, Mark Greene, Nancy Jordan and Dickie Clarke of Long Island, Roger Berle of Cliff Island and Andrew Anderson of Islesboro.

Bill Stiles, Chair of the Cumberland Council, introduced Steve Moriarty a fellow Council member who said that he was sad but not surprised about Chebeague’s secession. The agreement with the Town

was fair and secession, a good idea. Chebeague should manage its own affairs. Betts Gorsky spoke coolly for the Board of MSAD #51 saying that they were neither in favor nor opposed. After the November referendum they had established a set of criteria to judge the negotiations with Chebeague. They had reached an agreement that met those criteria and would not oppose secession if the agreement was included in the bill. She also noted that the Board had never expressed the intent to close the Island School.

Islanders filled out the rest of the day: Jen Belesca, who brought her children, Chris Rich, Sam Birkett, Joan Robinson, Beth Howe, Leila Bisharat, May Hall, Nancy Hill, Linda Ewing, Beth Dyer, John Maxon, Ernie Burgess and Mike Robinson all spoke of their own reasons for supporting secession. Donna Damon gave some of the history of Chebeague’s relationship with the mainland. Jerry Wiles expressed sentiments from Gerry Ross, Victoria Smith, Shirley Burgess, Barbara Gwillim, Eleanor Morse and Bertha Gray. Sarah McKinnon read a letter from her grandfather Ken Hamilton. Island schoolchildren Julia Maine, Cassidy Jeffreys and Tracy Calder all spoke for themselves. Influential summer resident, Betts Mayer, supported the Islanders as did Elaine Clark, director of the State Bureau of General Services, also a summer resident.

Over the course of the day, the hearing gradually built up an image of Maine’s unconnected islands in general and Chebeague in particular. They were portrayed as rich in natural resources and people. They were beautiful and desirable for lifelong residents and newcomers alike. Islands have strong communities because they are isolated by water and the vagaries and harshness of the weather. They carry on the long tradition of fishing. Islanders were characterized as having a web of strong family ties to each other over many generations. They were independent, strong, able to work with others and used to taking care of their own through volunteer efforts. Like other islands, Chebeague’s residents would be active in Town Meeting. Without an elementary school Chebeague would become only the husk of its present vibrant self.

It was an impressive performance. The Chebeaguers themselves probably didn’t realize beforehand how unique, attractive and competent their community would look to these legislators. Many

concerns and hesitations about this particular case of secession were allayed.

In the middle of the next week on March 8, the Committee held its “markup” session on the bill. It was an open meeting in which the committee members could discuss the bill with each other, ask clarifying questions of their staff or proponents of the bill. The public could be present but was not to participate unless asked. Chebeague secession was the second item on the agenda for that morning.

A smaller group of Chebeaguers, perhaps 30, went to this session. Committee staffer Dr. Anna Broome summarized the key issues brought out in the hearing. She mentioned the differences between Chebeague and Cumberland, the issues of the LNG plant, the school and taxes. She also noted that there was some division on the Island over secession. She and members of the committee had a long discussion about whether a fiscal note was needed and whether secession would expand any state “mandates” on either Cumberland or Chebeague. A state mandate to Cumberland to spend money even on small things like redrawing maps and dividing up records meant that bill had to have 2/3 rather than a simple majority

During the initial hearing, Rep. George Bishop (R. Boothbay) had asked Glenn Kersteen a question about what interest rate would make Chebeague’s debt impossible for the Islanders to accept. Feeling his way, Kersteen said that since the tax rate would be set by the Chebeague Town Meeting, he could not speak for what kind of increase they would find impossible to accept. He indicated that a half a percent increase in the interest rate would increase Chebeague’s debt by \$15-16,000 per year, so if the rate increased 3 percent over 18 months to 4.5 percent this would increase the budget by \$98,000.

Senator Schneider referred to a letter from Boopie Doughty raising her concern about the tax impacts of the debt on low income Chebeaguers and asked Kersteen how the Islanders would “work together to help people keep their homes.” Kersteen compared Chebeague’s projected 5 percent tax increase to Cumberland’s 8.9 percent. He said it was impossible to promise residents that taxes would only increase at the rate of inflation, but if a town of “350 people can’t control its budget, no one can.” Schnieder said she agreed.

As the questions were asked and answered the legislators shifted to making statements about their positions on the bill. George Bishop,

said he had been wary of the heavy financial responsibilities that Chebeague would take on, but he had been convinced that most Islanders were willing. It would be important to deal constructively with the honest disagreement that did remain on this issue. He supported secession. Howard McFadden from far Down East Dennysville was convinced to favor secession by the school situation. Senator Schnieder commended the Islanders for doing a superior job in making their case. She was convinced that supporting Chebeague secession would not set a precedent for other secession efforts, since Chebeague was so unique. Charles Harlow who had been mayor of Portland at the time Long Island seceded said that secession had been entirely about taxes. However, he and Richard Blanchard of Old Town were impressed that Chebeaguers wanted to take on the challenge of being an independent town and were willing to support secession. Christopher Barstow said that intergovernmental cooperation was an issue of great concern to him, and that David Stevens testimony that Chebeague planned to cooperate with Long Island and Cumberland had won his support. He thought that it was important for the state to carry on the heritage of its year-round islands. Bradley Moulton of Cape Neddick said he would feel a real sense of loss when the Chebeague residents, after three months of constant attendance in Augusta, went home. There had never been any real question of his vote; he thought the Islanders knew themselves and how they will govern themselves.

So a motion was made to recommend to the Legislature that Chebeague secession “ought to pass.” Ultimately when the vote of Senator Margaret Rotundo (D. Lewiston) was registered later in the day, the vote was unanimous, as good a recommendation as any bill could get. Hesitantly, because they thought it might be improper, the Chebeaguers began to applaud. The session dissolved into Chebeaguers and legislators milling around, hugging each other, shaking hands and expressing heartfelt thanks and good wishes. Representative Barstow was quoted after the meeting as expecting that the bill would pass in the Legislature, though probably not unanimously.

It was indicative of the open nature of the legislature and the fluidity of opinion that before the committee hearing Glenn Cummings of Portland, House Majority Leader, said he thought that lawmakers

were divided on secession and that “there will be a relatively close vote . . . There will be a lot of mixed feelings.” However, several weeks after the legislative hearing, Bob Howe reported to the CICA Board that in the House the secession bill might “go under the gavel,” a form of unanimous consent, and that in the Senate they expected yes vote from 20 out of the 35 (CICA Board minutes 3/21/2006). The Chebeaguers had converted their sponsors and the committee members into an effective lobbying force. So it did not look as if the required 2/3 majority was an impossible obstacle.

For the moment, however, no action was expected for several weeks because drafting the final version of the bill would take time. Not only was Chebeague’s dual secession something that had not been done before, but they also had a backlog of other bills waiting for redrafting before they could go to the floor for debate.

Dealing with Divisions

A handful of the 30 or so opponents of secession had made their concerns public in the course of the hearing. The legislators on the State and Local Government Committee were aware that there were divisions on the Island and urged the secession proponents to deal directly with it. The central issue was that the opponents were clearly a minority of the Chebeague voters. Despite CICA’s efforts to get residents to speak out about their concerns so that they could be dealt with, the Island’s dynamic of unanimity was too strong. As the secession effort progressed, Opponents felt themselves to be stigmatized and excluded. Members of some families disagreed with each other, and personal relationships were strained. Now something had to be done to try to restore community harmony. The conflict was hurting the new town before it was established.

So over the weekend of March 18 a number of the outspoken opponents met with Herb Maine and Pastor Glen Coombs to talk about their concerns. Wink Houghton, Patti Rich and John Martin went to the March 21 regular CICA meeting where there was more discussion. They decided to have a public meeting at the Parish House on March 28 for a more formal airing of the issues.

When people came to the Parish House on Tuesday evening the atmosphere was tense, with both the fear and the anticipation of a confrontation. Glen Coombs moderated and spelled out the ground

rules. People could raise their own issues or they could write them on slips of paper to be brought up anonymously. He kept a list of people who wanted to be recognized to speak so that people wouldn’t give up if the discussion didn’t get to them right away.

Patti’s first question was why there had not been a second vote after November and Michael Porter asked whether the referendum question had asked about “exploring” secession. Herb explained that under the state statute only one referendum was called for and that it had asked whether the voter “favored” secession. Beverly said that someone had asked her about a month ago to have another vote. She had thought it was a good idea, but most people had said there was no need. Donna Damon said that some people had suggested a second vote to her but that she had thought it would only be necessary if as many as 80 to 100 people were opposed. She thought that the November vote of 246 to 41 had been quite decisive, and it was time to move ahead.

The first few minutes framed the content of the rest of the meeting. Opponents and people who sympathized with them argued for some kind of vote now to see how many people supported secession. It would provide a formal expression of community opinion and, as even the opponents acknowledged, show that secession was still widely supported. CICA and its sympathizers defended their actions throughout the process. They thought they had been as open as it was possible to. And now they did not want to jeopardize the passage of secession at this late date.

The issue of a possible CTC bailout or takeover was brought up. The CICA Board members insisted that they had never had any discussion or vote as a board about CTC. Any action on town assistance would be up to the Town of Chebeague Island in Town Meeting. But there was also some pretty frank discussion about CTC’s problems and ideas for dealing with them.

In the end, no conclusions were reached about another referendum. But there was some feeling of relief that at least that and a number of other, related issues had been discussed fairly calmly. Some of the discussion had been angry; some had been very blunt; but no one had come to blows. It was agreed to continue the discussion at the same time and place a week later.

The next week, on April 4, the meeting was less tense but ranged more widely over the substantive issues involved in or raised by secession. Would it have worked better for the students to send them to the mainland schools at a younger age? Would the Town of Chebeague support its school even if the number of children became very small? What kind of state education aid would Chebeague get? Was there any alternative to secession? How would the Island's population change over the years and what would that do to taxes and support for the school? What if there are fewer families and more retirees? Is this inevitable? What would be needed to make Chebeague more attractive for young families? Would be providing affordable housing be practical or useful? How would the Island's road work be done after secession?

The advantages and disadvantages of various courses of action were not debated in theory. People talked about their own experience and what was being actively considered. In the face of skepticism about what would happen after secession, the CICA people stuck to the argument that Islanders themselves would care more about these issues than the school district or town on the mainland. In the end, the opponents were not convinced, but the people at the meeting were talking about the real issues that an independent Chebeague would have to deal with.

Legislative Action

While the people on Chebeague were struggling to deal with their conflicts, the Legislature was grinding on toward the end of the secession. Once a bill got out of committee, its progress was subject to the press of all the other legislative issues — when would staff get to LD 1735's amendments and what other things had to be scheduled for floor action in each house. Chebeaguers went from day to day, not knowing whether there would be any action or not. David Stevens had been going to the State House every day since the hearing, customarily stationed in the third floor hallway leading to both chambers. Now he was joined by a shifting group of other Islanders — Ruth Slagle, Tad and Tina Runge, Peter Rice, David Hill, Mabel Doughty, Bev Johnson and anyone else who cared to come and could afford to spend a day in Augusta. The general strategy was to buttonhole legislators as they came in or left the chambers. By this time everyone was used to the

presence of the people from Chebeague and there was light banter between legislators and Islanders as well as some serious discussion.

The bill would initially be reported by the Committee to the House, where it had been introduced at the beginning of the session. It would then have two “readings.” Debate could occur at either of these stages and each required a vote. If it passed initially it would be passed “to be engrossed” meaning that the original bill and any amendments would then be sent to the Senate. The Senate would go through a similar process. If additional amendments were made and the bill passed, then it would be sent back to the House “in concurrence.” The House could either concur with the Senate version or insist on its original one. Sometimes a committee of conference would be appointed to work out the differences, but bills had been known to simply die between the two houses at the end of a session. If agreement was reached between the two houses, then the final “engrossed” bill would go back to each for final “enactment.” If it was enacted, it would be sent to the Governor for his signature. CICA had already been told that Governor Baldacci was willing to sign LD 1735.

Sometimes when legislative action did occur, however, it was difficult to tell what, if anything had actually happened. Legislative action is a complex mix of elaborate ritual and rapid fire decisions. The large amount of business that has to be transacted — the acceptance of reports from committees, the readings of each bill, votes on motions, orders and bills recorded on electronic scoreboards visible to everyone — took a lot of time. So many of the procedures were simplified or shortened into a kind of legislative shorthand.

On March 31, as a crisp fall morning warmed into a mild but still early spring day outside, the House opened its session with the invocation of a minister from Brunswick, the singing of the Star Spangled Banner by a day care provider from Greene, the Pledge of Allegiance and the naming of the doctor for the day and the announcement of the young people from various parts of the state who would be serving as legislative pages for that day. Then the Journal for the previous day was read, meaning that the Clerk read the first few sentences while the Speaker announced the reading and slammed down his gavel. Then they got down to business, accepting bills sent from the Senate, voting on Orders and accepting the “Special Sentiment Calendar” recognizing individuals and groups around the state for

notable achievements and rites of passage. Committees made their reports: “Ought to Pass,” “Ought to Pass as Amended,” or “Ought Not to Pass.” Bills on which there was agreement were placed on the Consent Calendar and passed in a group, a kind of “fast track” through the process. Bills in the Second Reading were voted on in quick succession with motions made and adopted and votes, called. The legislative language was highly stylized and the action rapid.

That day LD 1735 “An Act to Authorize Chebeague Island to Secede from the Town of Cumberland reported by the State and Local Government Committee as ought to pass as amended by Committee Amendment ‘A’” was on the Consent Calendar. The five or so Chebeaguers sitting in the balcony hardly realized till it was over that it had passed. There was no debate because none was needed.

Meanwhile CICA kept up a stream of information about secession going to all members of the Legislature — copies of the Working Waterfront with an article in it about Chebeague secession. Later that same day copies of the *2005 Chebeague Island Annual Newsletter* were passed out to everyone in both houses as giving a snapshot of “Chebeague in action.”

On Wednesday April 5 the bill was expected to come up in the Senate. It was a sunny spring day. Fifteen Islanders went up to lobby and watch. The tide was running with secession. In the morning the bill was passed to be engrossed in the Senate and returned to the House for enactment. The House voted 133 to 1 to enact the amended bill and sent it back to the Senate. Only Patricia Blanchette (D. Bangor) opposed the measure, for reasons that remain unknown.

In the Senate Chebeague’s own senator, Karl Turner, was still opposed so there was certain to be a debate. However, even he had softened enough toward the Islanders that he made the motion to enact. In the short debate late in the morning he said that he thought that independence would only hasten the transformation of the Island into a “property tax haven for the wealthy.” On the other hand, Senator John Martin (D. Eagle Lake), who had previously said he would not support any secession effort that was primarily motivated by tax concerns, said that in this case he had changed his mind. “The motive here seems a little different. It’s a community that wants to keep its small school” (PPH 5/6/2006). State and Local Government Chair Elizabeth Schneider also spoke in favor. So the Senate voted to

enact the bill 31 to 3. Majority Leader Michael Brennan (D. Portland) also voted against because of the precedent for the secession of Peaks Island. Senator Richard Nass (R. Acton) also opposed the bill.



Governor Baldacci greets Chebeague’s future leaders

Herb Maine said, “It was amazing to see all those green lights come on. Some started out red but quickly switched to green and before it was over they were almost all green. It was unbelievable.”

The Chebeaguers who were there were overjoyed. It had only been a few weeks before that they had thought that the bill might go down to defeat in the Senate if Turner were able to convince his colleagues to vote against it. In the end even Turner had been impressed by Chebeague’s effectiveness and persistence. Clearly the Islanders had been able to convince most legislators that Chebeague was a unique case; that it was not trying to leave Cumberland because of tax issues but because independence to control the school was essential to the survival of the Island community. They had come to the Legislature with an agreement and even somewhat sad support from the Town, and an agreement with MSAD #51. The members of the State and

Local Government Committee understood that there was some disagreement over secession on Chebeague, but they had heard enough testimony at the hearing to be convinced that the Island met their test for having a “united front.” Indeed, as legislators, their tolerance for disagreement was probably higher than that of Chebeaguers who were unhappy to find friends or members of their families at odds.

In a body the Islanders went out for a celebratory lunch. TV cameras and reporters followed and interviewed them for the evening news. When most of them got back to Chebeague on the 4:00 boat, a light, wet snow was falling. The news of the bill’s passage spread rapidly around the Island, but there was no noisy celebration because of the divisions that the effort had stirred up.

On April 24 a group of Chebeague residents went to the Cumberland Town Council’s regular meeting to thank them for supporting the passage of LD 1735. In June they gave a thank you party for all the legislators that had been involved in the effort.

The press and TV reported on April 5 that Governor Baldacci had signed the bill the afternoon it was passed. This surprised the Islanders who had envisioned a formal, ceremonial signing. But it was true. However, on May 4 in the Capitol’s Hall of Flags, surrounded by about 30 Chebeaguers ranging from students to elders, the Governor held a second, ceremonial signing, giving the multiple pens to be distributed among the secession activists. Mabel Doughty, as the senior member of Territorial Representatives was asked to say a few words. Senator Turner, for his part, gave the Island the flags that had flown over the State House the day the bill had been passed.

The Future

And so Chebeague Island would become an independent town on July 1, 2007. There were a lot of preparations that would have to be made before that happened, but the die had been cast.

— Beth Howe

Editors’ Note: Documents associated with the secession movement and referenced in this article may be viewed at www.chebeague.org/town



Car Cleanup

How often have you noticed an old junked car back in the woods or moldering behind someone's house and thought "wouldn't it be a good idea to somehow send that old thing over to the mainland"? But who did it belong to? Probably someone long gone. How much would it cost to barge it? Hundreds of dollars? Maybe the owner didn't have that kind of money? How would you get it to the wharf since it obviously hadn't run in 20 years? And who would you get to take it on the other side? A good "civic" thought but the logistics left it "for another day."



The "Crusher"

If you have n't given any thought to junked cars, it is worth knowing that if the oil, gas and antifreeze are left in them and get spilled on the ground, they can get into the

Chebeague groundwater. The cleanup for something like this can cost from \$50,000 to \$250,000. But, more important, who would ever know that the stuff had leaked out on the ground anyway? So the chances are that it does run into the aquifer.

However, in the spring of 2005 Wayne Dyer and Kim Boehm decided to do something about this problem. Wayne had been taking junked cars over in ones and twos for several years as he took his flatbed truck back and forth to the mainland with supplies for septic

tanks and other projects. But you had to pay, and quite a backlog developed. Kim had been noticing old cars as he walked through the woods and one day he saw an ad in Uncle Henry's for a man who had a portable car crusher. Kim called him and was told that, given the cost of the barging, it would probably take about 100 cars to break even. Not only were the crushed cars worth money, but the batteries, tires and antifreeze could be recycled. So they decided to try it, charging people who could pay, and taking cars that either had no owners or whose owners couldn't pay for free.

Kim paid for barging out the crusher. He and Wayne put up notices and put out the word that people should bring old cars to Wayne's gravel pit. What resulted was a flood not only of old cars but of snowmobiles, washers, dryers, lawnmowers and other defunct machines. If it was metal, it could be put in the cars and crushed with them. At least one car that had sunk into the ground up to its axles in the woods was dug up enough to attach a chain, pulled out in sections, dragged to the road and then loaded onto a flatbed truck with Sky Yenco's front end loader. State law, written with the mainland in mind, of course, requires that any vehicle towing another use a towing bar and, if the vehicle is unregistered, get a permit from the state. But Rich Brewer never seemed to be around when cars were being dragged in like something the cat brought home. The oldest were the carcasses of two 1942 trucks. Five whole cars were given to new owners and taken to the mainland as "vintage" vehicles. Mysterious ownerless cars sometimes appeared at the gravel pit during the night.

By mid-July the area next to Wayne's gravel pit was stacked at least six deep with cars. Parts to be recycled lay in heaps. A large sign on a piece of plywood appeared at the entrance, explaining the project and warning people warning people not to climb on the pile. People who saw the sign or heard about the project brought in more cars. Some people without cars to contribute contributed money instead.

When the crushing began Dick, the owner of the crusher, had two full time people on the Island to run the machine. They were put up at a low rate at the Orchard Inn B & B. The cars were hauled off by the crushing company in a series of 13 round trips by a crew of three regular drivers. Everyone got fed in traditional Chebeague fashion.

Purely by luck it turned out that Dick ran an environmentally responsible operation, collecting and separating all the fluids in the cars

and keeping them off the ground. Maine DEP, sent someone out to monitor the operation. Since they have been trying to improve the environmental performance of the crushers, they even sent someone out to videotape the operation for training other crushing companies.

In the end over 200 cars or about 835,000 pounds of metal was removed. Even more important, 600 gallons of gasoline, 200 gallons of motor oil and 50 gallons of antifreeze were drained out of the carcasses before crushing — 850 gallons of powerful pollutants that were kept out of Chebeague’s groundwater supply. The oil went to people on the Island who have used oil burners. The gas was left to settle and then used. Kim took over a 3900 pound load of 130 lead-acid batteries. About 800 tires were also collected. Those that were useable were sold all winter at the gravel pit with the proceeds going to charity. The rest were sent in for recycling. All told, about a million pounds of stuff was collected.

In the end Kim and Wayne did a bit better than break even, unless you count the time they spent. They had help from a variety of sources. Some people paid to have their cars taken. The Town put in \$2500 and gave permission to collect the cars at the gravel pit. Island residents and businesses contributed the rest.

Afterwards Carol White, always thinking about Chebeague’s groundwater, sent in an application about the project to the Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence. And, low and behold, on November 4 Wayne was in Augusta having lunch with Governor Baldacci and being presented



with a handsome plaque. Kim was back on Chebeague doing electrical work for someone with an emergency. It seems that the plaque is waiting to be hung in the new Town of Chebeague Island Town Hall — when we get one. At the November 6 CICA meeting on the eve of the secession referendum, Wayne announced that he and Kim wanted it to be “put in a place for everyone to enjoy, since everyone helped win it.” And that from a couple of people whose hard work and organization enabled the rest of us to act on our well meant but ineffectual “civic” thoughts.

Of course, nearly a year later there are already probably 30 more vehicles that have died and need to be removed. The practice of retiring our old cars to the Island is picturesque and saves individuals money. But it is worth thinking about the cost that the whole Island has to bear, both in terms of potential groundwater pollution, and for periodic removal projects like Kim and Wayne’s.

— Beth Howe



Casco Bay Island Development Association

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

The Casco Bay Island Development Association's 2005 Annual Meeting featured an illustrated talk by Capt. Larry Legere on the history of the Casco Bay Lines. CBIDA, it may be remembered, was a leader in the formation of the Casco Bay Island Transit District.



At the November meeting of the Steering Committee, Gene Taylor (Peaks Island) introduced Kelly Hasson, principal of the Peaks and Cliff Island schools, who described the efforts to arrange transportation for Cliff Island students to visit Peaks Island School twice a month for gym and music instruction and to experience some time in a larger school. The two schools share gym and music teachers. On the remaining two weeks the teachers travel to both Cliff and Peaks. The joint program has been dropped during the past two years because of budget cuts, and the cost of safe and efficient transportation for the entire school year was not a sure thing. The visits to Peaks enable the Cliff children to take part in speech and language clinics and to work with special teachers in more privacy than is possible in Cliff's one room school. The Steering Committee voted unanimously to provide up to \$3500 for transportation with the understanding that the money was to be used only after city funds had been exhausted and that the commitment was only for the current year.

Those who have tried "island hopping" know that there is more to it than sometimes meets the eye. Every other Tuesday, weather and "no emergencies" permitting, the Portland rescue boat docks at Cliff Island to pick up the children, their teacher and the school's educational technician (teachers' aides to those not familiar with "educationese")

for the trip to Peaks Island. At 2:20 pm the rescue boat picks up the group and takes them to the Casco Bay ferry terminal, also home to the rescue boat, for the 2:45 trip home on the regular down-bay run of the Casco Bay Lines.

CBIDA is also presenting the annual update of the Boaters' Pamphlet. This pamphlet describes the services available on the various islands to inform boaters unfamiliar with the area and to protect island residents from unexpected requests for a bathroom.

A bay wide civic association, CBIDA welcomes members from all the Casco Bay islands. Dues are \$7.00 a person, \$10.00 a couple. The Steering Committee meets at the Ferry Terminal Conference Room at 9:30 am on the first Saturday of each month with adjustments as needed for New Years and the Fourth of July. Everyone is welcome.

For more information contact me at 6 Western Landing Road, Chebeague Island (846-4188), or Treasurer Gene Taylor, 77 Torrington Ave., Peaks Island 04108 (766-2811).

— Jean Dyer



Chebeague Island School visits Eagle Island

Chebeague Island Community Association

The Chebeague Island Community Association's first year of existence was dominated by a single issue: self-governance — secession from the Town of Cumberland. But the events leading up to the formation of this organization didn't necessarily predict that.

A number of events set the stage for the community reaction that occurred in February 2005. Tough talk from MSAD #51's School Board during discussions about pending legislation referred to as the Palesky proposal made Islanders nervous. At that time the School Board said that the Island school would be at risk if the legislation passed. It didn't but Islanders could see clearly that what may be good for the MSAD #51 community as a whole may not be good for the Island. They got the message that the mainland community may not be as committed to the school as Islanders.

Not long after, the Town Council sent a similar message to the Island when a proposal for a Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) facility was discussed with little input from Islanders (please see the cover article of the *2004 Chebeague Annual Newsletter*). On the heels of a tremendous community effort to prevent an LNG terminal on Chebeague's doorstep came yet another surprise proposal from the school board to reduce the size of the Island school by two grades and one teacher.

The community responded as they had for the LNG by rallying people to go over to the mainland and try to impress on the local government how important these issues were for the Island. But this time Islanders wanted to go further. They wanted to take action that would secure some of the important things, like the school. How do you do that? The answer has brought us to where we are today.

The discussion of threats to the survival of the year-round community quickly went beyond the education of our children to the protection of the local fishing industry, viable shore and transportation access, the need for affordable housing, and the support of economic development on the Island. It was very clear that these issues were part of what made Chebeague unique and were significantly more important to the Island community than to the mainland community. In response to the fact that there was no existing structure in the municipal

government or Island-based community organizations to research issues and advise the governing bodies and the community, CICA was formed.



Chandler's Cove

Although this first year has been busy and productive it has not solved any issues that relate to our mission: “to ensure the survival and long-term viability of Great Chebeague Island as a year-round community.” What the Association's activities have done is to help the

community acquire an important tool that can help them to effectively address the important issues. That tool, of course, is its own government dedicating 100% of its attention to the needs of the Island community.

Self-governance, like most significant changes comes with benefits and risks, excitement and fears and gains and losses.

The most important benefit is the direct connection between the community and its government. The local community applies its own sense of values and priorities and, working through contrary opinions, arrives at a workable solution. This direct connection encourages creative solutions and fosters pride in the results. The new town will begin its life under the time-tested town meeting form of government. The town meeting has been referred to as “Real Democracy” and is well suited to small communities. Local control means that the community will shape the form and function of its local government — rather than the reverse.

There were many concerns raised during the course of the year about self-governance. They included a concern that bringing politics onto the Island would tear the community apart and ruin the sense of community that we value here. Some feel that the structure and

authority local government brings will restrict the freedoms we feel we can exercise on the Island.

Other concerns focus on finding people to do the work or maintaining fiscal stability in a small community. There are also concerns that we have traded the stability of the upper grade school children for the stability of the Island school.

Responsible, thoughtful community members have voiced each of these concerns. We should all share them because the only guarantee we have that they will not become reality is the trust we have in each other as friends and neighbors - the trust that makes a group of people a community.

The Association will continue its mission primarily through research and education. The Association has three standing committees comprised of volunteers who research various issues and carry out activities at the direction of the Board of Directors: 1) the Government Research Committee, 2) the Events Committee and 3) the Communications Committee. The Government Research Committee investigates specific issues at the request of the Board of Directors and monitors local, state or federal governmental bodies for identified areas of interest. The Events and Communications Committees help to disseminate the findings.

The Association Board hopes to establish a support role to the new government by taking on a lot of the leg work involved in researching issues with State and Local agencies, local communities and the Island community. The Association has plenty of room for people to work on committees and participate in the research and education activities. If you are interested come to a meeting or contact any Board member.

The Association's first board of directors and officers 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

The last year has seen a lot of change on Chebeague Island to say the least. The Council is also looking at changing some of what it does as well.

We are changing the day, the time and the look of the Annual Meeting. The Council membership voted to move the meeting to evening of the Third Wednesday of August. We are going to have a potluck dinner and an awards ceremony where we honor a Chebeaguer for their contribution to the Island. We hope all will attend.



All know and cherish our monthly newsletter, the Calendar, ably edited by Barbara Hamilton and mailed out the first of every month to every Chebeague household and to Council members. This year, the Executive Committee took a hard look at the Calendar - what we take in for ads and what it costs to publish. Not surprising, it costs more to publish the Calendar than we take in from ads. As a result, this year we will be asking you for more. We are proposing to increase the dues,

which hasn't been done in more than 10 years. We have already raised what we have to charge for postage on the Calendar, to cover what the Post Office now charges us. We also raised the First Class mailing surcharge a dollar, from \$14 to \$15.

As much as some things change, others stay the same. The Island Medical Clinic at the Community Center is going strong. Ginny Ballard, is still our highly qualified and licensed Physician's Assistant, with many regular as well as irregular hours. Ginny also serves some of the medical needs of people at the Island Commons, the assisted living facility on the Island.

Last fall the Council again sponsored an annual flu clinic. Last spring the Council also sponsored a medical screening in cooperation with the University of Southern Maine School of Nursing. We want to remind people of the medical equipment loan program that makes crutches, wheelchairs, hospital beds and other equipment available to people who need them, without charge.

The Council sponsors and maintains the Samaritan Fund, a fund designed to help those who need medical necessities pay for them. The Samaritan Fund pays for prescriptions, Medical Alert Emergency Response devices and it has paid for non-slip pads for rugs. If you have unmet medical needs, please see Ginny; all inquiries are confidential. Please send Samaritan Fund contributions directly to Gail Miller, the Council's Treasurer.

This year, the Council, along with the Church, created a fund to help pay for heating costs for those who found it difficult to pay those costs, again on a confidential basis. Luckily, this past winter was



Daizey the pot-bellied pig pays a visit to Calder's Clam Shack and avoids being on the menu

relatively warm. We may not be so lucky next year so we are maintaining the fund. Again, contributions are always welcome.

The Council will be sponsoring the Fourth of July Parade that starts at the Inn and ends at Chandlers Cove, as it does every year. A picnic will follow. The theme for this year's parade is Island Occupations.

We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting for some potluck and to honor a Chebeaguer. We will also be electing new officers.

Peter Rice, President
Louise Doughty,
Vice President
Mac Passano, Secretary
Gail Miller, Treasurer
Deborah Bowman
Ester Knight
Charles Hall
Kelly Rich

Carol Lynn Davis
Gina Ross
Ginny Ballard
Barbara Hamilton
Beth Dyer
Judy Graves
(resigned January, 2006)
Kim Martin
(resigned February, 2006)

— Peter Rice



Chebeague Island Fire Department

Once again we had no serious fires here on Chebeague. We responded to several calls involving trees on electrical lines, helping the Rescue with lifting and residential fire alarms, but happily, nothing serious .

We continue to be very active in our training, covering many aspects of firefighting. Most of our training is done on Monday nights but we do drill on other nights, thus enabling those unable to make the normal drills to get in their training time.



Sascha directs the firefighters testing the hoses

One very exciting event this year for us this year will be the arrival of a brand new fire truck, the first new engine for us since 1972, when it cost \$19,000 (\$91,590 in 2006 dollars). It was built in Canada and driven home by Dick Calder and Lindy Smith. The much fancier new 2006 engine will cost approximately \$260,000 in 2006 dollars and will be delivered to us by the manufacturer from the Midwest. We are

certainly looking forward to its arrival. Be sure to come to our open house in August to check it out.

We continue with our mutual aid with Long Island, and the firefighters from Long and Cliff Islands are our closest helping neighbors, but it still takes them about 25 minutes to get here. And for Cumberland who are always willing to help out, it takes 45 minutes to get personnel here; we are still in need of firefighters from Chebeague especially for our daytime coverage which can be very thin as many of our crew work in town or on the water.

Our thanks go to everyone for being careful with fires. Always obtain burning permits and tend brush burning carefully. Remember, the permit process is governed by the State, not by us or the Town. I would like also to remind homeowners living down a long driveway to keep the bushes cut back to make the road quickly passable for our equipment. Every minute is vital in an emergency.

A great deal of thanks to the Chebeague volunteer firefighters, the small stipend that they receive while on active duty at a fire does not compensate them for all the training time that they donate to their community!

— Tom Calder, Fire Chief



“Only you can prevent fires on Chebeague!”

Chebeague Island Grange #576



This year seven members of this Grange who have been members for 50 years were presented with a special membership card and a Golden Sheaf Certificate issued by the National Grange. These members no longer need to pay

their annual dues, which is a nice bonus for them.

Our thanks to Carol White and a church group of young people who provided the sprays for decorating the veterans' graves in our cemetery last year. Jerry Wiles was the speaker for this year's service. Many thanks, Jerry.

Doris Feeney ran the Thrift Shop for many years with Tink Lessing as her right hand man; Tink took over when Doris died. Now Tink is retiring after many years of devotion to "our cause".and we owe her a very sincere vote of thanks. Sarah (Swann) Van Fleet is taking on the job this summer, with some help from Tink, Pommy Hatfield, another log time volunteer there, and Pat St. Cyr. The Thrift Shop will open on July 11th from 9:30 am to 12 noon and 7 to 8 pm. If you have things to donate please eliminate any clothing that is ripped or stained. Sorting and discarding things that we cannot sell is very time consuming; have pity on us. Also, please do not bring in small appliances that do not work. Large items that we used to take for the Fair auction should go to the Island Commons Yard Sale .

Watch for those special sales days, and thanks for your patronage.

— Martha O. Hamilton

Chebeague Island Hall Community Center

The CIHCC building had some major renovations done. Like most renovations some can be seen and some will never be seen unless you like to crawl into tight spaces. Mr. James Copp and family repaired most of the insulation under the hall building. Along with the underneath being insulated the base of the building was also done as far back as the kitchen. While under the building Mr Copp found that the corner pillar of the building was no longer supporting the building; he repaired this so that we are safe once again. Groups that have used the hall through the winter have noted how much warmer it is in there now. We have a new step and landing to enter the building, facing the Island Market. The back step on the same side was made more stable and comfortable to use.

One of the more important jobs was done inside. We should not have any more dishes crashing down in the kitchen, as new shelving was built to hold all the dishes (but not the glasses or other kitchen paraphernalia). The CIHCC Board is very pleased with the efficiency and speed shown by Mr. Copp in completing these jobs.



The Board decided that after many years of using heavy diner-style dishes to upgrade to Correlleware . The plates are white with blue. Our hungry public approves whole heartily as the plates are easier to handle and they hold more food when you belly up to the food line.

Judy Graves crafted some fine new drapes for the windows. It sure is nice to see drapes that are crisp looking.

Two Arts & Crafts fairs were held, one in August and the other Thanksgiving weekend. The money collected from raffles and cookies was donated to the Hall.

The Board made a decision to leave the extension of the stage up year-round, allowing more room for the groups that perform on stage, the Whalers, dance bands, etc..

It has been a busy year for the Hall. It is a wonderful place to put on plays, Halloween parties, wedding receptions, anniversaries, dances and any other type of celebration that you can think of. Please call Martha Hamilton to have your name in the book of rentals. We thank Cindy Riddle for her special janitorial service to the Hall through the year.



Jane Abrahamson, Dianne Brewer and Cheryl Buxbaum working to "raise the roof"

On May 8th a very successful brunch was put on in the Hall. We served approximately 80 people. With many thanks to the generosity of our guests, we made about \$800.00 to serve to kick start the new roof fund. We look forward to working with the Library and the

Council to putting a new roof on the building. We are also looking forward to the Fishermen's County Fair in September, and hope that you will participate.

If the Island experiences a prolonged power outage, remember that the Hall now has an emergency power generator and will be open for all who need it.

Thank you to all Board members and other volunteers who help make the Hall a real community center.

— Cheryl R. Buxbaum & Tad Runge, Co-Presidents

Chebeague Island Historical Society

The Chebeague Island Historical Society has had an exciting and fulfilling year. We have over 450 members, and we are trying to expand even on this large membership for such a small place. We appreciate everyone's support and confidence.

Last year brought us our first summer intern, Sarah Brown. Sarah's grandmother, Mary Gomez, lives on the Island and Sarah spent much of her own childhood here, She is currently a



high school student and will be returning to us again this summer. This internship position was made possible by the creation of a special fund by a generous Chebeaguer.

The Island Institute also provided us with assistance in the person of an Island Fellow, Carly Knight. Carly is a recent Bowdoin graduate and came to

us primarily to help with our new collections software, but she has proved to be a Jill of all trades.

This spring the Historical Society had a retreat at Sunset House to better plan for our future. The acquisition of our museum home is a great blessing to us all, but it also presents us with some challenges. We acquired new shelving and cabinets thanks to the efforts of Ken Hamilton and his able assistant Jim Millinger. And thanks to the efforts of Dick Bowen we have tried to solve the summer overheating by getting UV-blocking shades.

Our exhibit for the 2005 summer season celebrated the 150th anniversary of the building of the United Methodist Church. Our thanks go to all who loaned us pictures and artifacts and to everyone who helped in whatever capacity. We also want to thank all of the volunteer Docents who showed the many visitors around the Museum.



Andy Grannell, Donna Damon and Jerry Wiles

The summer of 2005 saw our first Chebeague Antiques Road Show. With Tad Runge's, Al Whitaker's and Kelly Wright's help, many Islanders discovered the value of their precious and semi-precious possessions. Another outstanding program was presented by Gordon

Corbett on the sinking of the "unsinkable" Titanic on her maiden voyage in 1912, with great loss of life including many rich and famous passengers.

Finally in a festive Christmas party at the Museum, arranged by Leila and Suhail Bisharat, the Board, their spouses and friends finished off 2005 with a flourish, looking forward to the new year.

— Jane Frizzell



Henry Bowen is reincarnated in a life-size cardboard cutout

Chebeague Island Library

The Library is the place to be. It is the best feeling in the world when I come to work and there are people waiting to be let inside. Thinking back over the last year, what brought you to the Library?

If you had a laptop, you might have come with it to access the Internet through our wireless network. With the network on 24 hours a day, some of you came and parked outside and picked up the signal from your car. Inside, we counted 2,769 computer users, which was about a 49% increase over users counted last year.

Maybe you heard music in the Library. For several weeks, we had a CD player going to show off our upgrade to the music department. With help from some community members and a grant from MBNA, the music department has grown from hand-me-downs to be quite representative of genre, artists and tastes.



*A familiar sight on Saturday mornings,
Peter Rice and Deb Bowman*

Did you by chance bring your sleeping bag to the Library? If you didn't, then you missed a fun time. The Maine family orchestrated a sleep over to celebrate the publication of the latest Harry Potter book. There were pillows and blankets in through the stacks, the window seats and on the floor. A Harry Potter movie was shown, a trivia game played, and midnight reading of the new book. On Saturday morning, attenders were treated to a Hogwarts breakfast in the Hall. Simply smashing!

Were you one of the 13,380 clicked in who came to see artwork by local artists? You would remember works by Bruce Kaminsky, B. J.

Abrahamson, Jane Hahn, Kim Rich and Sandra Rice. Alison Manion donated one of her prints, the Doors of Chebeague, and you might have looked for your own door.

Of the 16,047 items checked out of the Library, maybe you checked something out. It might have been the latest fiction or nonfiction book, a recent magazine or movie, or picture books to read to your children or grandchildren. You might have even suggested that we get something for the collection. We are thankful for your involvement because after all, this is your Library.

I bet you lent something to our display and came to see that. We are always making use of our community's wide and varied interests and try to show it off in our table displays. This year, children and adults alike were amazed with Melanie Riddle's life-size holiday nutcrackers, David Hill's Titanic model, and the Summa's extensive dinosaur collection. You might have come to see if we had set the table properly or needed another photo for Chebeague weddings. Cathy MacNeill was still snapping pet photos during her display, of pets whose parents felt left out of her exhibit.

You might have come for a program. You could have been one of the 212 who came to a Groovy Movie on Friday nights! Did you Fold a Book for Peace with Lee Orme? Hear Jerry Wiles speak about Benjamin Franklin? Or hear J. J. Moller, or Roberta Ricker? Participate in book group?



Were you one of our volunteers who contributed over 600 hours of time to the Library? You might have worked the desk, served on the Board or a committee, weeded the garden, changed a light bulb or baked scones for breakfast, worked at Chedemption or cooked hamburgers on the 4th of July.

You might have just come in to say hello or to read quietly. You may have needed some poster paper for a school project. You might have bought a raffle ticket or phone book or bumper sticker. You might have made a copy or sent a fax or leafed through the old photographs on a rainy afternoon. You might even have taken a nap.

It really doesn't matter why you came in. We are honored that you did and that you continue to do so. Each one of you is unique and important and part of our community. We are doing our best to make sure you come back again and again.

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



Chebeague Island Rescue

People are taking better care of themselves consequently we only had thirty-nine rescues this year. Our patients were transferred to one of the two Portland hospitals by way of Cumberland Rescue.

Chebeague Rescue now has its own office located on the side of the Public Safety building.

We have five members of the Rescue this year. Congratulations to Jill Malony who has been made a Captain on the Cumberland/Chebeague Rescue.

Thank you to Ginny Ballard, PA, who has been an invaluable help to the Rescue. We are lucky to have her presence on the Island.

Thank you for the donations to the Rescue by those we serve as well as family members who have lost their loved ones. Your support is appreciated.

Thank you to the CTC for not charging for transports and the captains and crew for always being there. They have never missed a rescue in my thirty-one years of service.

— Marlene Bowen, Deputy Chief
Rescue 2, Chebeague Island

p.s. For those that have them, don't forget to keep you epi-pen updated



Health Clinic Screening

Chebeague Island School

Chebeague Island School got a new principal at the beginning of the '05-'06 school year. David Galin, the Curriculum Director for MSAD #51, did a fabulous job in his role as our principal. He arranged many special field trips for the children and worked hard to improve communication between administration and parents. David held evening "Parent Advisory Committee" (PAC) meetings on the Island about once per month to enable working parents and community members to attend and become more involved in the activities of the school. David is looking forward to serving as the Chebeague Island School principal again next year.



Genevieve Dyer presents her middle east report

various times throughout the year.

We also harvested a few vegetables from the school and community garden at the Island Commons. Bob Earnest planted the garden with the children the spring before and did a great job helping to organize and supervise the harvesting activities.

Ms. Rohrbach's 3-5 class is currently studying the Middle East. Highlights include: countries of the Middle East, history, religion, language and other contributions from the Arab world. Students recently enjoyed an afternoon of Egyptian music and a field trip to Boston, where they visited The Semitic Museum at Harvard University

The whole school started out the fall by picking beans in The Bisharat's garden. The beans were brought back to school. Some were prepared immediately by Ann Long, our cook and custodian as part of school lunch, while others were frozen and cooked at

and The Museum of Fine Arts. The unit will culminate with a Middle East Feast, where students will present individual projects about a focused area of study. Barbara Porter and other numerous volunteers have ensured the success of this unit!



Karim Nagi, Egyptian drummer passes knowledge on to the school children

Other units studied this year include: United States Geography, Rocks and Minerals and Westward Expansion. In Literacy, students have had a combination of different strategy lessons, met in Literature Circles and have worked on a variety of independent book projects. Math and both creative and expository writing have also kept us very busy. We've had a fantastic year of learning!

The K-2 class had a busy school year. We started off with a whole school visit to Peaks Island to meet Joanna Cole, author of "The Magic School Bus" children's books that are mainly about various scientific concepts in fiction form. We were accompanied by students from Long and Cliff Islands as well.

We put on two plays for parents. One was The Three Little Pigs and the other was called Run! Run! Run! and was based on the story of

The Gingerbread Man . The children helped make the necessary props and costumes. Everyone worked hard to learn their parts and did a wonderful job performing.



Chebeague Island students dance the Egyptian Debka to Subail Bisbarat's drumming at the Middle Eastern Banquet

In March, we took a trip to Sabattus to visit the Jillson Family Farm where we learned about the process of making maple syrup. The Jillsons have a variety of farm animals and greenhouses which we were able to tour as part of our trip. We had a maple ice cream cone at day's end ... a yummy treat that was enjoyed by all!

In the spring, we planted a variety of flowers and vegetables in the classroom from seed. The children loved coming in each day to check on their plant's growth and watering needs. Some of the plants were sent home for Mothers' Day in a clay pot decorated by the children. Others were potted and given to residents of the Island Commons.



Karim Nagi teaching Egyptian Dancing

Bob Earnest built four raised beds for the school garden in the spring with grant money. We were also able to purchase two compost bins at a reasonable cost through the Town of Cumberland. Bob came in to talk to the students in both classes about composting. He provided us with a large bucket for our compostable food scraps to keep in the kitchen. The children were responsible for putting the scraps appropriate for the compost from their trays into the bucket each day. The two classes took turns emptying the bucket into the outside a couple of times per week. Bob arranged and supervised all the planting of the raised beds as well.

We attended a play at the Lewiston Public Theater called The Masque of Beauty and the Beast. The show was fabulous and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We had lunch on the way home. A few weary travelers had some much needed quiet time on the bus heading back before their ferry ride back across the bay to Chebeague.

The '05-'06 school year marks the end of my time as the K-2 teacher at C.I.S. It has been a wonderful four years and I will miss everyone. I will be returning to the mainland in Cumberland to teach third grade at the Drowne Road School. My replacement is a veteran teacher employed by M.S.A.D. #51. Ruth White brings 30 years of experience to the school, much of which has been in a multi-age classroom setting. Ruth has also been part of a program called Leadership for Tomorrow's Schools and holds a Masters degree in administration in addition to her teaching credentials. Ruth is very excited about her new position as the K-2 teacher for the '06-'07 school year.

— Susan Beaulé, MA K-2 Teacher



At the Widener Library, Harvard University

Back row: Bradley Putnam, Lee Robinson, David Galin (principal), Kristin Robrbach (teacher)

Middle row: Tracy Calder, Benjamin Hillicoss, Cassidy Jeffers, Brenna Martin, Genevieve Dyer, Julia Stefanilo, Chloe Dyer, Tyler Campbell, David Hamilton, Evan Boisvert

*Front Row: Natalie Murphy, Anna Hamilton
Seated: Barbara Porter, Tim Calder*

Chebeague Island Community Sailing School



In 2005 we enrolled 46 students, up from 37 in 2004. Our addition of new boats, combined with a solid crew of both returning and new instructors, allowed us to successfully take on such large numbers. Good weather helped as well! Our goals of students becoming comfortable on the water in small boats, and skilled in sailing and boat safety, will continue to inform our program in the summers ahead. And we want the students to have

fun!

Our instructors for 2005 included Toby Lunt, Jay Cox-Chapman, Isaac Julien, and Kyra Freeman. Students and instructors could often be found on the waters off Roses Point during and after class hours, and on the weekends. We also increased our efforts to get the small boats and the students racing



in the Saturday afternoon CIYC events — good experience for the students and the instructors. Thanks to the 2005 instructors for a job well done. And, thanks to the Lunt family and the Cox-Chapman family, each of whom hosted an informal get-together for sailing school parents; it was a good way for all to get to know each other.

A special thanks to Dianne and Hartley Brewer for all the years that the Chebeague Boatyard has allowed us to use their space; we hope we didn't cause too much trouble! Hartley and Dianne were always ready to help with a much needed shackle or piece of line, and we appreciate their years of support.

For 2006 we will have Jay, Isaac, and Kyra returning as instructors; and, they will be joined by Taryn McGovern and Bobby Marsee. It should be a great year! To learn more about the Chebeague Island Community Sailing School, please visit the Chebeague web page and click on the Sailing School link.

— Bob Earnest



6:39 a.m. at the Stone Wharf

Chebeague Needleworkers

As usual, we had a sociable year, working on lots of different kinds of projects, eating good meals and discussing secession, water quality, national politics, illnesses, new babies and whatever else was going on Chebeague. Summer members came and went in too short a time. Most year-round members went away to warmer climes sometime during the winter — some for a week and some for months. Some people are always contrary, however. Peggie Jones, as usual, went to Alaska in the winter to visit her daughter's family, while Beth Howe went to Norway and Iceland for the same purpose.

Lola Armstrong and Beth Howe have been the only people to stick to quilting exclusively. Lola has been testing her already considerable skills by making a tumbling blocks quilt, a pattern not only difficult to piece but one whose shifting visual geometry makes your head spin. In a more peaceful vein she has also been making baby quilts for her new grandson Kai. Beth didn't strike out into new territory. Instead she finished a spring colors baby quilt, in process for at least two years and began a lap quilt for her daughter-in-law Lise made out of log cabin squares left over from a large quilt made some years ago.

Peggie Jones finished her "mystery quilt" from Nancy Raymond's class two years ago, and worked some more on the yellow hunter's star quilt begun at a quilt course last year. At Christmas she was diverted into a major project of a different sort by promising her granddaughter Cate to make an outfit each month for the coming year — more or less -- for Cate and her "my twin" doll. When "outfit" exhaustion set in this spring, she took a break by making a baby quilt for Beverly Perkins' grandson Makoto.

Audrey Collins rejoined us this spring bringing with her from Florida about half of the squares of a brilliantly colored variation on the traditional nine patch pattern of square blocks. Only this one has a nine patch square within a square within another square, producing a series of enfolding triangles. The colors include black and white, orange and red, purple and yellow.

Joan Robinson and Beverly Dyer have pretty much stuck to their knitting — mittens, hats, scarves, sweaters. Joan, of course has less time with us because of working with Ginny at the Health Clinic on

Tuesdays. Mimi Moulton joins them when she can, making elegant and elaborate miniature clothes for her grandchildren in Holland..

Joyce Soucek is the most productive maker of hooked rugs — for the last several months she has been working on a large piece with flowers. At the beginning, with only an uncolored drawing, it took quite a while to guess what kind of flowers they were, and some pretty outrageous color suggestions were made that would have surprised any gardener.

Martha Hamilton has mostly been doing exceedingly delicate scherenschnitte cut paper designs. If you keep your eyes open around the Island, you will see some of them in public spots. Susie Stavropoulos meticulous embroidery and applique work that she designs herself. Barbara Hamilton and Suzanne Jackson have also been embroidering, though Sue is equally at home quilting, hooking and knitting.

Jane Harrington and Jane Abrahamson have been involved in several collective projects. Initially they continued working on applique, “stained glass” wall hangings of flowers and birds, begun last year. This spring they went on to making display straw hats with braided ribbons and flowers.

Jeanette Hamilton, Louise Doughty, Nancy Adams, Bev Dyer and Tina Runge all came regularly but the year was so quiet that no record remains in the mind of this writer of the work they did. So if you can do any kind of handwork, and want to have a companionable day and delicious dinner every two weeks or so, come and join us on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

— Beth Howe

Chebeague Parents’ Association

The 2005-2006 school year is coming to an end but the Chebeague Parents Association is going to continue our fundraising efforts right on through the summer and into the next school year - no summer break this year.

Our current officers are: Jen Belesca — President, Vicki Todd — Vice President, Beth Dyer — Treasurer, and Althea Dugliss —Secretary. Officers are elected at the first meeting of the new school year in September. We meet the first Tuesday of every month and strongly encourage parent participation.

Our main fundraising efforts are directed toward subsidizing the preschool program. This past year we completed a major overhaul of the preschool program and spent many hours cleaning out the preschool room and updating materials. Lisa (Webber) Schumacher took the position and began teaching preschool Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9 to 11:30. She had a very busy class of six. The students had a wonderful year and covered many fun and interesting topics. Mrs. “L” consistently sent home a weekly newsletter letting parents know just what the children had been doing for that week. Mrs. “L” will be back next year. Mrs. “L” will be taking a workshop this summer to broaden her already expansive curriculum. We are excited that she plans on participating and we will fund this opportunity. We are thrilled to have her as the preschool teacher.

We also hosted the annual community Halloween party as well as the annual community Christmas party. Both were huge successes. Once again the Hall was transformed into a ghoulish event with many activities and games for the kids as well as the “Creepy Café” for the non-cakewalkers to sit and enjoy the controlled mayhem. Even though there were some pretty scary helpers that the event organizers had not planned on, (would you ever expect your mothers to come dressed as the Big Bad Wolf and a Swamp Monster to a “children’s” party?) a good time was had by all!

The Christmas party was a combined effort with the school held at the church. The kids put on a wonderful concert of singing and violin playing and then, of course, there was a visit from Santa!

Chebeague Island Post Office



The Chebeague Island Post Office has taken up temporary residence in a trailer located near the Boat Yard. All services will continue as in the past. Plans for a more permanent location for the post office have yet to be determined.



Some of the other things we have funded and/or supported for the 2005-2006 school year are: The Giving Tree, which helps a needy Portland family have a better Christmas, the violin program for the 3-5 graders, Education Appreciation and Spring Concert Night, Healthy Lunches program, library books dedicated to new Island babies, an Egyptian drummer concert for the Middle East Unit, Chebeague Island School field trips and the School Wellness Program.

With all this going on, the CPA relies heavily on fundraising. Our new cookbook is out as well as note card sets. Both feature artwork by the school kids and make wonderful gifts. We are selling Sally Foster wrapping paper again. This 4th of July we will be selling lobster rolls and ice cream at the community picnic. We will also be selling raffle tickets to our September Fund Raising Calendar.



Lisa (Webber) Schumacher, Elias Rich, Aaron Belesca, Laura Hamilton, Isabelle Boisvert, Tiffany Calder, (Braeden Rich was absent)

We appreciate all your support whether it be monetarily or by volunteering your time and efforts. It is all done for the Island children and with your help, we will continue to try to secure a better future for them.

Thank you,
— Jen Belesca,
President

Chebeague Recreation Center

The CRC opened its doors on February 28, 1998 and we now enter our ninth summer of operation. We said goodbye to Virginia Tatakis-Calder as she left to open Calder's Clam Shack after five years of excellent service as Recreation Director. We were thrilled to welcome Sarah McKinnon as her replacement, and created a new



part-time position called Youth Director to assist Sarah, with emphasis on Teen Center programming and staffing. May Hall, after five years of service as a Teen Center supervisor, accepted that position. Beth Dyer is in her ninth year as Administrative

Director and Pam Pulsifer continues to keep the CRC sparkling in her third year as Custodian. Our dedicated Pool Director Gail Miller is back for another summer. All total, we had 35 employees in 2005; 23 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 2005 Volunteer of the Year Award went to Bill Whetham for his years of donated lawn mowing services around the pool and building ever since we opened. Thanks Bill!

The pool was open 89 days last summer with an average daily attendance of 34 people, not including the day campers and kids in swim lessons, adding about 50 more swimmers per day. 18 adult lap swimmers kept track of their mileage and together swam about 220

miles! Gail's water aerobics classes were again popular and well-attended, and four people participated in the lifeguard training course. Three of them joined the Collins Pool staff. Once again, the "North Shore Selkies" synchronized swim team came to the Island to begin their training season, and they actually stayed at the CRC for a weekend in August, performing a demonstration for the community on Sunday afternoon before they left.



Carol White and friends

C a m p
C h e b e a g u e
celebrated its sixth year with many children enjoying the program, and Play Soccer! camp had another successful summer as well. And, of course Lobster Camp with Carol Maine and Bob Putnam was hugely popular once again. An average of

11 teens per night visited the Teen Center. We were entertained by the hugely popular and well-done theater productions of L'il Abner by the Chebeague Players under the direction of Stacyann Stewart, and Peter Pan by the Chebeague Children's Theater directed by Rachel Damon. The Recompense Foundation once again funded the Youth Outdoor Adventure Program, which sent 10 kids and their chaperones hiking to Zealand Falls where they spent the night at the AMC hut. The teens had an exciting white water rafting experience on the Penobscot River.

The winter was mild and for the first time in many years, Sanford's Pond did not freeze until March, resulting in a mere four skating days. Island Institute Fellow Carly Knight ran a very popular hockey program for the kids all winter, which was supposed to be a combination of floor hockey and ice hockey, but due to the lack of ice, was all done in the gym. Nevertheless, the kids had a blast. Other winter activities



included the Wednesday early-release program and the Ski Lost Valley program, which had six skiers this year. Spring running drew 8 kids who enjoyed practicing on the Island and running in meets on the mainland under the

tutelage of Sarah McKinnon and Nancy Earnest. Adults continued to enjoy the facility for walking, working out, rug hooking, and many other activities. Circuit Training and Pilates continued to be popular, as well as a new Polarity Yoga program. The Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) program has many dedicated followers who meet weekly at the Rec. Center. More and more people are taking advantage of the Fitness Room, and at this writing we eagerly anticipate the addition of a top-of-the-line commercial Cybex arc trainer donated by a CRC supporter.



Many Chebeaguers and friends of Chebeague supported the Recreation Center all year long, by donating time, expertise, material goods, and money. The major fundraiser this year was the holiday fundraising letter in

December which brought over 82 donations and the CRC is thankful to all who replied to that appeal. The Winter Carnival, the Teen

Center's biggest annual fundraiser, was held in February this year with many brave plungers. Eight Chebeaguers and several Hyde School kids made the plunge in air temperatures of 19 degrees with a wind chill of 10 and a water temperature of 41 degrees! In the Annual Chili, Chowder and Soup Challenge the top winners were: Paula Libby, chili; Andrew Todd, chowder; and Beth Howe, soup.



"Invigorating!"



The cast of "L'il Abner"

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 Hello, Dolly! and the Chebeague Children's Theater production of Into The Woods. This summer's fundraiser will be another golf tournament and dinner party coordinated by Kim Bogle in August. Watch for posters about how to join the fun. Once again, we will be asking for hole and tee sponsors, golfers, and dinner attendees to support the CRC.

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, Robert Libby Treasurer, Deborah Bowman Secretary, Zach Doughty Teen Rep., Thomas Adams, Kim Bogle, Pamela Brewer, Glenn Coombs, Linda Ewing, Ginger Hobart, David Keyes, Leah McDonald, Gail Miller, Stephanie Miskell.

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

— Beth Dyer and Sarah McKinnon



Chedemption

Chedemption collected \$6,960 during 2005 and paid out \$550 to each of the 12 Island non-profits — The Chebeague Island Council, the Hall and Community Center, the Historical Society, the Library, the Sailing School, the Chebeague Parents Association, the Recreation Center including Sanford's Skating Pond, the Chebeague United Methodist Church, the Cumberland Mainland and Islands Trust, the Island Commons Resource Center and the Stephen Ross Scholarship Fund.

This would never have happened without the help of volunteers for those organizations who spent hot days at the Transfer Station explaining how the redemption process worked to puzzled summer visitors, packing bottles into banana boxes and hefting bags of bottles and cans sometimes with guidance from Frankie. We would like to thank those who we know about. If you volunteered but are not on the list (we know there are some of you out there), we apologize for overlooking you.

Sally Ballard
 Ann Belesca
 Jen Belesca
 Christy Belvin
 Deb Bowman
 Marianne Brenton
 The Brown/Hilly/Miskell clan
 Wanda Buczinski
 Sue Burgess
 Dianne Calder
 Peter Carleton
 Lesley Clark
 Glen Coombs
 Mary Cushman
 Frank Durgin
 Marianne Durgin
 Beth Dyer
 Jane Frizzell
 Melanie Gustafson

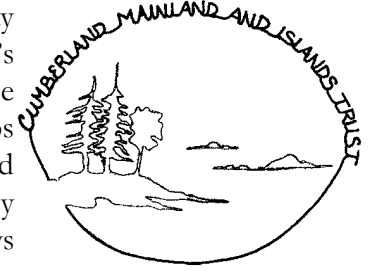
Jeanette Hamilton
 Jen Hamilton
 Karen Hamilton
 Ken Hamilton
 Martha Hamilton
 Steve Harris
 Pommy Hatfield
 John Howard
 Beth Howe
 Suzanne Hurwitz
 Anne Isenberg
 Beverly Johnson
 Peggie Jones
 Theresa Kaufman
 Alec Kessler
 David Keyes
 Diane Lukac
 Barbara Marks
 Gail Miller

John Miller
 Lauren Miller
 Rodney MacCormack
 Jim Millinger
 Marilyn Squires Nicklas
 Mac Passano
 Gisele Phipps
 Barbara Porter
 Michael Porter
 Bob Putnam
 Sheila Putnam
 Malcolm Rice
 Peter Rice

Joan Robinson
 Lee Robinson
 Betsey Ross
 Susan Shattuck
 Steve Sillin
 Susie Stavropoulos
 Ann Thaxter
 Vicki Todd
 Nick Wessell
 Jerry Wiles
 Debbie Williams

Cumberland Mainland and Island Trust

This year CMIT will celebrate twenty years land conservation in Cumberland's mainland and island communities. Since 1986 we have crafted model partnerships with our host communities—mainland Cumberland and Chebeague Island—by helping interested landowners find ways to preserve their land and assisting communities acquire land for public benefit.



This summer, in response to Chebeague's successful effort to form its own town, we will ask our members at the 2006 CMIT annual meeting to revise the trust's bylaws so we can continue serving Chebeague and the other islands that will be part of the new town when it is incorporated in July 2007. We will of course also be choosing a new name for our organization that fits our new charge: to serve the Towns of Chebeague and Cumberland.

CMIT was originally founded to help secure the remarkable conservation values of Rose's Point on Chebeague Island in response to the inevitable impacts of a proposed development. The Trust has grown considerably both in the lands it holds and oversees and in its community presence. CMIT now holds easements on, or owns, fifteen properties that together total over 550 acres. Five of these preserves—Rose's Point, Deer Point, Indian Point, the Belvin Property, and the Curit Property—are located on Chebeague Island. The Trust also owns and oversees the conservation management of Basket Island and Stockman Island. As protected properties, these special places will forever remain undeveloped and continue to be appreciated as cornerstones of Chebeague's and Cumberland's natural history and landscape.

Your land trust looks forward to the many new opportunities for land conservation by serving the two towns springing from the community we serve. We welcome the many new opportunities to preserve and protect the natural resources in the towns of Chebeague and Cumberland and look forward very much to continuing to grow with our host communities.

We also want to thank the Chebeague Inn for donating their returnables, and the Casco Bay Lines for taking the boxes and bags of redeemables into Portland free of charge. Without East End Redemption, of course, the whole project would collapse.

If you would like to be part of this effort this summer, just contact whichever organization you want to volunteer on behalf of, or contact us: 168 South Road; 846-7829 or mpassano@earthlink.net.

— Mac Passano and Beth Howe



Deb Bowman is actually much busier than she looks

2005 Fourth of July Road Race

1.4 mile FUN RUN The first boy was Will Poell, age 11, who finished in 8:42, and won the Fun Run for the second consecutive year. Zoe Johnston, age 11, was the first girl to finish. Her time was 9:57



Start of the Fun Run



David Lynch is congratulated by Mike Grunko on his victory, while Beth (in background wearing stylish hat) looks on

Another important effort this year that we are very pleased to report is a successful effort with the Falmouth and Oceanside land trusts to develop a shared office with a full time staff member to assist all three trusts. As our trust and the Falmouth and Oceanside trusts have grown, our needs for continuous managing our ongoing conservation lands and administration have also grown. In a joint application with our colleague trusts, we were successful in securing a \$40,000 grant from the Davis Foundation to support the effort. We are confident that the effort will allow us to better serve our respective host communities and the Casco Bay region.

Finally, when Islanders come to the mainland, be sure to wander through our latest forest easement acquisition, the Rines Forest on Range Road. You will not be disappointed. The 220 acre forest includes many mature stands of evergreen and mixed forests and several magnificent waterfalls and cascades on the many streams coursing the property. The forest will remain intact under the permanent conservation easement we helped form with the Town and will be managed by a special committee charged to continue the Rines family legacy of a wisely managed forest providing many resources and passive recreation opportunities.

— Robert J. Crawford, President



4.6 mile ROAD RACE

Women: 1st Dina Porter - 30:58, 2nd Jeanne Hackett - 30:59, 3rd Kate Emery - 31:42

Men: 1st: Paul Toohey - 31:15, 2nd Dave Lynch - 31:27, 3rd Gordon Murphy - 31:42

Boys 14 and under: Terrence Tyler - 36:31;

Girls 14 and under: Kathleen Ragan 36:59

Under 40: Men: David Lynch - 31:27; Women - Kate Emery - 31:42

40 and over: Men: Paul Toohey - 31:15; Women - Dina Porter - 30:58 50 and over: Men: Dennis Kearney - 53:00. 60 and over: Men: Michael Beaudoin - 33:37.



“OK, who said they needed directions to the Island Market?”

We want to thank Mike and Beth Grunko who have been running (administering) the 4th of July Road Races for the past years! They have been wonderful and have kept the race tradition going.

— Beverly Johnson

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library is a Standing Committee of the Chebeague Island Library which is devoted to fundraising to support the operation of the Library. This past year, through our annual donation campaign, sales of library bags and T-shirts, summer walk-a-thon and publication of the 2006 Chebeague Island Directory (out this July), we have been able to raise more than \$20,000 to support Library operations.

Committee members include Beth Howe, Wanda Buczynski, Amy Rich and Lesley Clark. This year, because of the huge effort (over 200 volunteer hours) necessary to be able to publish the Directory in digital form (eliminating the need to cut and paste for layout), we would especially like to thank others including Sheila Putnam, Deb Bowman, Tina Runge and Jen Hamilton who assisted in ad solicitation and preparation, white pages updating and publication. Special thanks go to Beth Howe who had solely undertaken this major effort for the Friends for over the past 6 years, and is now passing the baton.”

Respectfully submitted,

— Wanda Buczynski, Chair, Friends of the Library



Great Chebeague Golf Club

Once again in 2005, the Golf Club had a great season. The increase of new members in 2004 has allowed the Great Chebeague Golf Club to improve its fiscal health and has helped us continue to maintain and improve our course and Clubhouse. For those of you who have not seen the new ceiling in the main room of the Clubhouse, it is a beautiful 'vintage' beamed ceiling, in keeping with the historic character of our organization.

Despite the deluge washing out our Frost Tournament (but not the party!) on Columbus Day weekend, overall we had a successful season in 2005. Most of our tournaments were well contested with Barbara Marshall winning our Women's Championship (Brown Cup) and John Merchant won the Men's Championship (Spalding Cup). In the Handicap division, the Women's (McCall Cup) was won by Sandra Rice and the Men's (Zaugg Cup), by Jim Sharples. Tina and David Murphy did a great job running our Lobster Bake last July and Jim and Anne Gallagher ran our Family Scramble Barbeque beautifully.

Chuck Hilly did a great job as Tournament Chairman last summer, a job that will be handled by Bob Buxbaum this coming summer. Jean Knowlton chaired our Women's Committee to be succeeded by Ann Trower for the 2006 season. Bob Libby is continuing as our Course Superintendent with Bob Jones serving as our Equipment Manager. Barbara Hamilton will be returning this year as our Clubhouse Manager.

Opening Day 2006 is May 20th. We plan on holding the traditional lineup of events and are thinking of some new ideas. Jim and Anne Gallagher will run the Barbeque again this season (August 12th) and David and Sandy Whiston have graciously agreed to run the Lobster Bake on Saturday, July 15th.

As always, the Officers and Directors of the Club encourage anyone who is not yet a member to join the GCGC. Golf is a great game with lots of tradition and honor that one can play at almost every stage of life. Those who might be interested in the game, or interested in learning the game of golf, or even those who are interested in taking part in our convivial, social activities should consider joining.

— John Layng, President

Great Chebeague Tennis Club

The nets were up and the lines were down on the tennis courts in time to start playing Memorial Day weekend. We had an active year.

As usual, Men's round robin was held every Monday morning and Ladies round robin was held every Thursday morning. In addition we had four mixed doubles tournaments and two mixed doubles round robin events. Allison and Harry Bond won the Perkins Cup. Molly and David O'Donnell won the Brown cup. 2005 was the inaugural year for the Lessing Cup (participants must be at least 55 years of age) and Molly and David O'Donnell also won this new event.

Our annual meeting for 2005 was held in August. The outgoing president, David O'Donnell, thanked all the board members and especially Scott Phillips, who was our court keeper and junior tennis instructor, for all their diligent work. New club officers were elected: Hobe Hinchman, President; David O'Donnell, VP for activities; Earl Phillips, VP for facilities; Tom Rothchild, Treasurer; Jeff Hahn, Secretary. Five provisional members were accepted as full members and six other people were accepted as provisional members to become full members in 2006.

The club continues to operate following the guidelines of the original board of directors:

- 1) To ensure the top flight quality of the courts,
 - 2) To do so while maintaining financial integrity,
 - 3) To insist that proper court etiquette is followed,
- and we welcome those who wish to play tennis and join in the fun — contact a current member for membership information.

— Hobe Hinchman, President

<http://www.chebeague.org>

I would like to thank the Chebeague Island Library and computer “geek” David Hill for hosting the website on their server. It has made it possible to continue to add more photos of better quality and even bring back some of the information which had to be deleted because of space considerations.

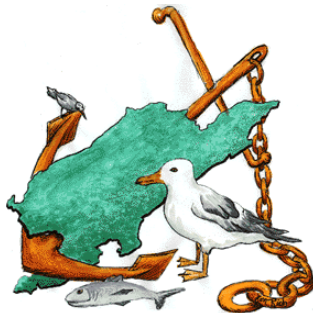
I have been maintaining the “blog” since 1996 as a means to keep people informed on the activities of the Island. (*Editor’s note: “Blog” was not even a word in 1996!*) Every day I receive appreciative e-mails, especially from people who are unable to be here on Chebeague. They love feeling the connection to their roots and family. Summer Islanders love to know what is happening in the winter and to see photos of snow, ice and people swimming at Bennetts Cove in February.

I have started a rental page and for a \$25 donation to the teen center I will include a listing and a link if you have one. I am also starting a business page for actual on-Island businesses as part of a Recompense grant.

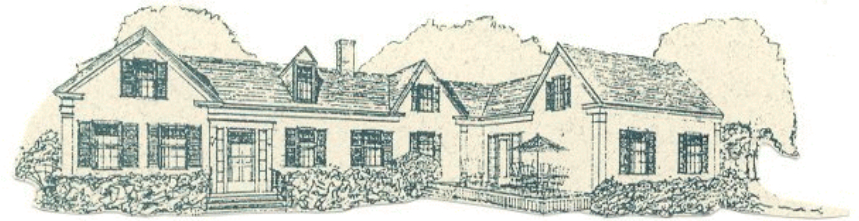
Thank you also to John Holt who has taken over the tedious job of maintaining the e-mail page, so please contact him when your e-mail address changes.

I love getting information to report and will include births, deaths, illnesses, etc. when I receive them from the families and/or after they are published in the newspaper. So please contact me if you have an item to add. It helps when it is in the same format that I use and any links are wonderful.

— Beverly Johnson, Webmaster



Island Commons Resource Center



“A PLACE TO CALL HOME”

We have been as busy as ever with a full house of wonderful residents, devoted staff, loyal family, and friends that keep the house feeling like a home. Gladys is usually sitting in her chair greeting visitors while Minnie gives you a smile and never misses a stitch with her crocheting.



Bertha Gray, Eleanor Morse, Virginia Kane, Nikki Wheldon and Barbara Gwillim engage in heated debate

The community support is phenomenal. We are continually amazed by the amount of people who participate in the Yard Sale, show up and donate to our Community Suppers, volunteer their time with residents, and help with our Spring Cleaning Days, Senior Luncheons, and Fundraising Events. The Island School kids even helped out in the vegetable garden that kept the residents in fresh produce all summer long. We are also greatly supported by many Island Businesses who help us out with services and gifts. The Chebeague Island Inn hosted another memorable Wine Tasting & Silent Auction Benefit that has proven to be a leading fundraising event.

ICRC is fortunate to have an active Board of Directors who cares deeply for the organization. Pommy Hatfield has been the President and leading force behind this group of volunteers who meet monthly. They also attend trainings, help with fundraising, and roll up their sleeves whether its cooking for a supper, raking leaves, sitting on committees, or spending time with residents. We hosted our first Appreciation Evening for Board, Staff & Volunteers in November. It was at this time that Pommy officially handed over the Presidency to Suzanne Hurwitz. Suzie has a tough act to follow, but is leading the Board with ease and confidence.

December brought a great deal of hustle and bustle as we celebrated three birthdays; Bertha turned 100, Eleanor 90 and Sue 87! If that wasn't enough partying, we hosted a Holiday Gathering as well. It is the hard work and devotion by the Staff that make events like these so enjoyable and make Island Commons the unique assisted living home that it is. Our Administrator, Kelley Rich, has been instrumental in providing training and leadership to this highly qualified staff. They not only give excellent care to the residents, but they are also found stopping by to say hello as well as volunteering with yard clean-up and other gatherings that promote Island Commons. We are lucky to have such a devoted group of women taking care of our residents.

The past year has been full of changes and growth for Island Commons. We have successfully launched a three year Endowment Campaign that has already raised half of our fund goal. We have had amazing donor support and appreciate all of the contributions, however, we still have a ways to go before we reach our goal of \$950,000 and need your continued support.

Since May, 2005 the following individuals have been recognized:

In honor of: Bill Marshall, Alan Erickson, Roy Jackson, David Burgess, Pommy Hatfield, Gladys Bennett, the residents of Island Commons, Lisa Tellefson, the Summa Family, Bill Whetham, Virginia Schroeder, Eleanor Morse's 90th birthday, the good workers of Island Commons, Cynnne Sheketoff, Arlene Dyer, Judy Doughty, Eleanor Morse, Elie Hill, Bertha Gray, Minnie MacNiell, Laura Horton, and Charlie Kuntz.

In memory of: Joanne Perkins, Ross Martindale Jr., Samuel Gaston, Monty MacNeill, Edward Harris, Beverly Hamilton, A.J. & Pete Rodman, Mildred Bennett, Mary Hayden, Ruth Regele, Rita Bowen, Steve Ross, Kathy & Steve Capps, Nancy Martindale, Helen & Tom Bennett, Cora Strout, Dick Freeman, Jim Kennedy, M. Frances Otey, Ann Hatfield Rothschild, June Scammon, Charlotte Doughty, Ellen Hamilton, Mr. & Mrs. OE Hanscom, Richard MacCormack, Mary Doughty, Jeanne & Gardner Layng, Leland Hamilton, Rory & Mable Campbell, John Holt, Priscilla Boyden Plat, Nettie, James & James, Jr. Rich, Archie Ross, Ginna Ensign, Jim, Etta & Emery Ross, Lewis Sawyer, Bill & Dorothea Lunt, John H. Calder, Ruth Slowik, Florence Wiles, Ethyl Ross, Jean & Nancy Webb, Marian S. Wessell, Everett & Pearl Ross, Elizabeth Leonard, Eleanor & Sherman Johnson, and Jim Leonard.

— Vicki L. Todd, Director of Development



Ladies Aid

We make two trips, or outings a year. In the spring we are delighted to accept member Nancy Chamberlin's invitation to visit her and Woody in Brunswick and after the summer fair we celebrate with luncheon, usually on the mainland though last year we dined at the Chebeague Island Inn for a change and enjoyed a good meal there. This



*John Wilson, Suzanne Jackson,
Judy Graves and Jane Harrington*

year we will have a third "outing" late in May by reviving an old custom and having picnic lunch at Kit Johnston's to celebrate what would have been Kitty Mayer's 100th birthday. When Kitty was an active member we used to gather at her house in the spring. Some years it was very chilly and pictures

show all of us well wrapped up for the occasion.

The summer Fair is our main activity, followed by a Christmas Fair around Thanksgiving. Orders for our Christmas wreaths bring out a lot of extra volunteers for wreath making day, followed by Bertha



Louise Doughty displays her wares

Gray's birthday party which we are pleased to say is an annual event on our calendar. Last year being her 100th she had several parties but we got ours in before the snow storm. She still attends meetings quite regularly and takes over the kitchen chores that day. Barbara Gwillim is another Aid member who comes from the Commons quite often.

Proceeds from the Fairs help us maintain the parsonage as needed, and make donations to other organizations as well as the Church. Plans are still being considered to put an addition on the Parish House for better storage of our supplies and the Parish House chairs and tables.

We are always looking for knitters, crocheters and handcraft people. Bring a sandwich to the Parish House about 11 am on Thursday and join us, or if you can knit, etc., at home, we can provide yarn. Please get in touch.

— Martha Hamilton, Secretary



Christmas joy with Sylvia Ross and Mabel Doughty

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; Jon Rich, Director; Jen Belesca, Director. During 2005, the Foundation supported the following charitable activities. Contribution of \$250 was made to the Chebeague Island Community Association for mailing costs; \$250 to the Community Garden project; \$1,000 for the Schooner Bowdoin Scholarship program; \$750 for the Chebeague Beautification program; \$1,000 to Chebeague Car Resources; \$500 to the Chebeague Library; \$2,000 to the Chebeague Recreation Center; \$500 for the Mountain Adventures program. The Foundation also supported the Chebeague web site and installed a plaque at Deer Point.

The Board would appreciate all applications for awards to be submitted by August 15, 2006. 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, 2005

Cash	\$ 4,069
Other investments	114,616
Total assets	\$ 118,685
Foundation equity	\$ 118,685

Statement of Revenues and Expenses

Year Ended December 31, 2005

Investment income	\$ 445
Total income	445
Administrative costs	365
Taxes and fees	42
Charitable contributions	8,390
Total expenses	8,797
Realized gains and losses-	9,711
Excess of expenses over revenues	\$ 1,359

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

The Board of Save Casco Bay is very glad that we haven't had to be active this past year. But we are still here with money in the bank, and are monitoring what is or is not happening with LNG in Casco Bay.

This past winter we sent Cliff Goudy of MIT, a knowledgeable and helpful friend, to an industry conference on "LNG in the Northeast." He reported that the shortages caused by Hurricane Katrina had only intensified interest in LNG. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission which reviews the proposals for LNG facilities does not see its role as permitting "just enough" terminals to meet expected demand. So a race is on, which will play out this year and next, among oil companies to get through the regulatory process as fast as possible, even if the result is a considerable oversupply of gas. Large companies that can finance their own terminals internally have an advantage in this race over smaller ones that have to show capital markets that they have contracts for delivering gas and an approved site before they can get financing.

Most important from our point of view, Cliff reported that he had heard of no new ideas for LNG in Casco Bay. Proposals are active in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New Brunswick. The Washington County/Passamaquoddy proposal is also still in the running. It is late in getting to FERC — Quoddy Bay LLC filed its pre-application in December 2005. They are one of the smaller companies that would need external financing. Access to the site is also difficult and involves going through Canadian waters which has created some controversy. These factors all place it at some disadvantage, but it may become more viable if some of the other proposals fail.

At the Federal level, the 2005 energy bill set a time limit of one year and six months for LNG proposals to be considered. The law weakened the role of states and local governments in challenging proposed sites — they have to be consulted, but they have no veto and probably not much influence. However, FERC was not given the power of eminent domain to locate LNG plants. Cliff also learned that the Coast Guard has no authority to say "no" to an application. All it can do is to specify the resources needed to counter whatever risks the terminal may pose — however great those risks may be.

These latter developments are discouraging for local groups like ours. On the other hand, since the race among the oil companies to get FERC approval for this first round of terminals is well under way without any proposed facilities in Casco Bay, we may not see any more proposals soon. We can hope that this first round fills or exceeds the demand for LNG in New England at least for a while.

Beverly Johnson, President
Jim Phipps, Vice President
Tom Cushman, Treasure

Board Members: Tom Allen and Chris Duval of Harpswell, Diane Lukac of Freeport, Roger Berle of Cliff Island, Elliott Thomas of Yarmouth, Mark Greene of Long Island, Marjorie Phyfe and Lynne Richard of Peaks Island. Frank Soule, Jr. of Falmouth and Chebeaguers Leila Bisharat, Ernie Burgess, Beth Howe and Claire Ross.

— Beth Howe



The community rallies to save Barry and Melanie Riddle's boat, the victim of a midnight hit-and-runner (never apprehended)

Stephen Ross Scholarship Fund

On behalf of the members of the Stephen L. Ross Scholarship Committee, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all who contributed to the Scholarship last year. To review the origin of this fund, we must go back to the tragic death of Lewis and Geraldine Ross's son, Steve, in an automobile accident here on Chebeague. Money in memory of Steve was given and turned over to the Methodist Church where a Committee was formed to decide how the money should be used. The decision was to start a Scholarship in Steve's name. That memorial of \$1400.00 has been handled to the best of our ability and is now valued at \$80,480.00. It was decided that only the interest should be used for scholarships; so if you can please contribute to this fund, your gift will forever keep on giving to Chebeague seniors and first year students who are attending college.

We were able to give \$4400.00 this year. The Scholarships went to first year students, Tom Damon and Jon Miller. No seniors applied this year. This was made possible by the 10, 20 or 50 and more contributions received each year from some very caring people. We also participate in, and receive from, Chedemption .

To give some idea as to the nature of the contributions received, I give you the following:

Less than \$100	5	contributors
\$100 to \$200	3	“
\$200 to \$300	1	“
\$500 to \$600	2	“
\$1000 and over	1	“

The committee is happy with the money we have received, but when we look at the potential here on Chebeague we could do much better. We hope to remind everyone again in the November Chebeague Island Calendar. Gifts should be sent to: Maine Community Foundation, 245 Main Street, Ellsworth, ME 04605.

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's work this year was definitely overshadowed by the secession movement. Several of our members are on the board of CICA and others were involved in the issue on both sides. But we kept working, mostly on affordable housing.

When Chebeague becomes an independent town next July, the Islands Committee, which is appointed by the Cumberland Town Council, will cease to exist. Till then we will still be available to provide information and advice to the Council on any Chebeague issues they may refer to us.

Related to secession, the Committee is preparing several memos on its recent work for the Town of Chebeague Island Transition Committee. One is on zoning. A second is a status report on the 2002 Chebeague Comprehensive Plan. We hope that once the Town of Chebeague Island is up and running it will undertake a general revision of the Plan. An updated Plan could be useful for deciding where the Town should focus its energies.

We have spent most of the past year working on the issue of affordable housing on the Island. Last summer when the Newsletter came out we were just starting on a study of the demand for such housing funded with a community development block grant from the state. You were all being asked to fill out questionnaires on your own housing needs on the Island. The response rate was 36 percent and provided good information on Chebeague's housing needs. During the fall the survey data was analyzed by our consultants Bruce Mayberry and Helen Hemminger. They also collected other relevant data including information on how other Maine islands have addressed the need for affordable housing. Bruce and Helen met with the Committee as they worked on various elements of the study. They submitted the full report in November.

They presented their findings to an Island-wide meeting on November 17. In brief, the report showed that, at a median price over \$250,000, houses selling now on Chebeague are far more expensive than the \$123,000 to \$167,000 that a three-person family with Chebeague's median income could afford. The survey data indicated that there is a demand for owner-occupied housing for families with incomes between 80 and 120 percent of the Portland area median

family income (between \$36,050 and \$77,250 depending on family size). The median family income of non-elderly families interested in alternative housing on Chebeague was about \$50,000. People with lower incomes (\$22,550 to \$38,640 depending on household size) would need year-round rental housing which is in very short supply on Chebeague. This could serve the elderly and young people in particular.

Because the housing market on the Island is small, the consultants recommended that any housing created be flexible in terms of eligible incomes and type of housing. Options include making lots available with road access, septic systems and wells; building small houses and/or duplexes, or renovating existing houses either for sale or for rent. We are also interested in exploring whether we can encourage owners of existing houses used only in the summer to rent them to people looking for year-round housing. The challenge is to create attractive, good quality housing, to raise enough money so that the cost can be reduced enough so that ordinary people can afford to live in it, and to keep it affordable over the long term.

Not many people came to the presentation of the report in November because this was right after the Town referendum on secession, so everyone's attention was focused on that issue. However the need to be ready to respond to opportunities for providing affordable housing was emphasized in December when we learned that a house on the Island might be available for donation if it could be moved to another site. While this possibility didn't materialize, it made us realize that we were ready to form some kind of formal organization that could raise and accept money and property and "do development."

So we spent meetings through the spring exploring organizational options. The usual organizational arrangement for a new project like affordable housing on Chebeague would be to create a new nonprofit for that purpose. But several other possible arrangements were also available but entangled with the secession issue. A number of board members of the Chebeague Island Community Association were interested in having CICA work on affordable housing once the secession issue was settled. In addition, the new Town of Chebeague might play some role in affordable housing. Several members of the committee also went to an Island Institute conference on affordable housing to learn more about how other Maine islands organize for and fund affordable housing efforts.

We are having another presentation of the housing study on June 28 after this Newsletter goes to press. We hope to create a housing organization this summer and be ready to begin planning for a specific housing effort in the fall.

2005-6 Islands Committee members:

Nancy Adams, Sam Ballard, Tom Calder, Donna Damon, Mabel Doughty, Jean Dyer, Jane Frizzell, Beth Howe, chair, Beverly Johnson, Ester Knight, Marjorie Munroe, Bruce Riddle.

The Chebeague Island Housing Study (December 2005) is available in the Chebeague Library and on the Chebeague website (www.chebeague.org).

— Beth Howe, Chair



United Methodist Church Our 150th Year!

2005 marked a milestone for the Chebeague United Methodist Church. During the course of the year we celebrated our 150th anniversary of ministry to the Island and its people. What began as a small Methodist society in 1855 grew to become the very church we have today. In 2005 we celebrated its history, its legacy and its continued presence as a house of worship grounded in God's love and the love of each other.

Our 150th year was also a transformational year for the church. The church made great advancements in its physical plant with upgrades and remodeling. Much effort continued to compete a vast list of projects designed to secure the real estate for the future. But the most important transformation that our church experienced in 2005 was a return to the basic purpose of the church: a spiritual institution dedicated and committed to being in mission to Chebeague Island.



*Pastor Glenn leads a lemonade stand
for tsunami relief*

During 2005, our church took an active and aggressive role in supporting local missions. Our efforts contributed to the Island Commons, the Health Center and the fuel assistance program of the Samaritan Fund of the Chebeague Island Council. We increased the budget of the Pastor's

Discretionary Fund, a program to help out local families and individuals in times of need. Even though our main focus was on local missions, we didn't forget our global work. The Share the Road Walkathon raised over \$3000 for the American Cancer Society and our annual children's

Labor Day Lemon-AID Crusade raised over \$2700 to help victims of the 2005 hurricane season.

The mission of worship continued to grow as well during 2005. Our church saw another year of increased attendance in worship and proudly received four new members into the community of faith. Only 12% of the 550 United Methodist churches in New England experienced increases in membership and attendance and I am proud to say that we were part of that 12%. We continue in the philosophy that even though it says "United Methodist" on the door we are first and foremost, the Church on Chebeague, a house of worship for this Island and its people. Our church is proud to be the spiritual home for our brothers and sisters of the Roman Catholic faith who celebrate Mass on Saturday nights during July and August.

2005 proved to be a great year for our church. We eagerly look forward to the years ahead and all the gifts and challenges they will bring. But most of all, we look forward to walking those journeys with our friends ... All the people of Chebeague Island.

In the service of Christ,

— Glenn Coombs, Resident Pastor



Trustees Tom Calder, Doug Ross, Joan Robinson, John Ash, Mabel Doughty, Ken Hamilton, John Maxon, and Glenn Coombs (Kim Boehm, absent)

Whalers

The past year had its pluses and minuses for the Whalers. We did not have a Spring Concert but the Victorian Christmas Concert made up for it. We plan to present a concert with music by George Gershwin and Cole Porter on June 24th, and will report on this next year.



In the fall of 2005 we began gathering furniture and making appropriate Christmas ornaments to create the atmosphere of a Victorian parlor. Thanks to Don and Joyce Soucek, Jane Abrahamson, Cathy MacNeill and Susie Stavropoulos a charming setting evolved as the background for a concert that included carols from the Victorian era, some humorous family songs such as "Miss Houligan's Christmas Cake," and a traditional Christmas pantomime. Gisele Phipps was our narrator and special guests Natalie and Ryan Murphy, Evan and Noah Boisvert were imps and fairies, while Barbara Gwillim stole the show as Bo-peep with her lamb and spy glass.

Thanks went to Mark McGee, Steve Todd and the Library for sound equipment, to Doug Ross for handling the lighting and to Judy

Doughty and Pat StCyr for hosting the intermission refreshments for us. John Howard is our Director and Tom Adams and Linda Ewing accompanied us for some numbers.

Whalers and friends are: Jane Frizzell, Cathy MacNeill, Susie Stavropoulos, Tina Runge, Martha Hamilton, Sally Ballard, Khaki Habig, Cheryl Hillicoss, Dianne Calder, Joan Robinson, Ruth Houghton, Leila Bisharat, Malcolm Rice, John Ash and Doug Clark. We sorely missed Dick Freeman who started rehearsing with us. The concert was dedicated in loving memory to him.

— Martha O. Hamilton



Chebeague Census and Vital Records

A quick census of Chebeague was done in January 2006. There were approximately 343 people on the Island at that time.

WEDDINGS...

Scott Belesca to Kristina Calhoun
Jon Rich to Amy Quattrucci
Heidi Godin to Dave Pomerleau
Nancy Barton to James Vachon
Lindsey Hamilton to Nathan Barba
Holly Earnest to Jeffrey Bowling
Benjamin Sawyer to Norma Morahan

ENGAGEMENTS...

Beth L.Dyer to Jeffery W. Putnam
Heather Buxbaum to Jesse Brand
Jaedra Emery to Brandon Rideout
Danielle Rich to Shawn Rideout
Elizabeth C. Hill to Tom R. Schutte

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Dianne and Richard (Dick) Calder
Marjorie and Wilbert (Bill) Munroe
Priscilla and Richard (Poochie) Ross
Sylvia and James (Brother) Ross
Mary Ellen and Harland (Chirp) Webber
...all for being married for 50 years.

BIRTHS...

Zachary Everett, to Lynne (Parker) and David Cary
Mackenzie Helen, to Pamela and Rich (Lydet) Brewer
Mary Regina, to Regina and Edward Leonard
Grace Katharine, to Jennifer (Vintinner) and David Horner
Ellie Elizabeth, to Brooke (West) and John Williams
Morgan LeeAnn, to Ashley (Sidor) and Kai Adams
Caleb Stephen, to Vicki (Riddle) and Stephen Todd
Bradyn Michael, to Rebecca Towle and Michael Benson
John Martin, to Mikhele (Kuntz) and John Gaudet
Addison Grace, to Mika and Nate Lentz
Makoto David, to Patricia (Perkins) and Bob Watanabe
Lucia Gray, to Caterina and John Jordan
Aaron Michael, to Christina (Freeman) and Michael Feinberg
Riley Joseph, to Meredith (Lestan) and Jean-Louis Beaupre
William Kai, to Pearl and Curtis Armstrong
Piper Lorraine, to Ellen (Burns) and Chris York
Luke Robert, to Tracey and Robert Burns

DEATHS...

Doris Evelyn Bryan Croudes
Edgar J. R. Schenck
James Kennedy
Mary Healy Hayden
Angela Marie (Angel) Douglass
Ross Martindale Jr.
Robert B. Weld
Mildred Bennett
Ronald Lee Doughty
Bertwell Hamilton Jr.
Nathan Edward Stewart
Katharine Rose Capps
Alnah Colleen Doughty
Marjorie Sprague Richardson
Neil G. Doughty

Richard Lee Freeman
Judith White
Kay Evelyn Bailey Donovan
Nancy Barton Hackenberger
Alfred A. "Fonnie" Doughty
James Morse
Tracy Walker Howell
Evelyn Blaisdell Varney Stover
Grace Bennett Hamilton
Doris LeClaire Allen
Madeline Goldthwaite Craven
Robert C. Train
Theresa (Jane) Powers Sawyer
Clayton Helbig
Robert Morin
Roland Ivan Webber

CONDOLENCES TO...

Victoria Smith on the loss of her sister-in-law Carolyn Smith
Miller
Clinton Jones, who lost his father Joseph
Stephanie Miskell, who lost her father Terry
Judith and Richard Graves on the loss of her mother Mildred
Allen
Malcolm Rice on the loss of his sister
Mark McGee and Betsey McGee Wemesfelder on the death of
their grandmother Mary McGee Morton

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

