

# BIPOA NEWSLETTER

Beaver Island Property Owners Association

Spring 2000

## Mission Statement

The mission of BIPOA is to:

1. Represent the combined interests of our membership on issues of mutual concern that may affect the fundamental character of Beaver Island.
2. Support the preservation of the natural resources and beauty of Beaver Island and appropriate environmental conservation policies and/or methods.
3. Work with local government units in support of property owners' shared perspectives, concerns and investments.
4. Foster and support economic growth that is consistent with the preservation of the natural beauty of Beaver Island and the quality of life which is the reason for our original and continuing attraction to Beaver Island.

## Important Dates

The Annual Meeting

**Thursday, July 27, 2000**

**7:00 PM**

**Peaine Township Hall**

*Mark your calendar!*

Summer Newsletter

**June 15**

Submission Deadline: May 15

Other Island Dates

Museum Week - July 17-22

Homecoming - August 11-13

## New Members

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cole  
Walter and Vicki Lach  
Craig Schrottenboer  
Allen Hunting, Jr.  
Donald and Barbara Fix

## A New Beginning

Coming to Beaver Island for the beginning of the 21st Century will be a real improvement in electrical service at a more favorable cost. At least that is the promise of a tentative settlement reached in January 2000 between the Michigan Attorney General's office and Great Lakes Energy (GLE).

Last February (1999) the electric cable servicing Beaver Island failed leaving the Islanders solely dependent upon locally generated power. The Beaver Island generators operated by Wolverine Power were able to meet the spring demand but were unlikely to handle the summer load.

With the Island growing it was obvious that the cable needed to be repaired or replaced. An upgrade to the Island generator plant would also be desirable. There was an urgency to fix the uncertainty of having adequate electrical service.

GLE came forth with several proposals to upgrade and enhance its service after three separate meetings between the utility and the two Beaver Island Township Boards, which were open to the public for comment. The boards jointly passed a resolution approving a proposal by GLE to:

- Install, operate, and maintain a new three phase cable from the mainland.
- Fix, operate, and maintain the old cable from the mainland.
- Purchase, install, and operate two new 1000 KW three phase diesel generator units at another site on the Island owned by Great Lakes Energy.

- Relocate an 800 KW diesel generator from the current generating station to the new site where the two new generators were to be located, thus providing three generators with a total capacity of approximately 3000 KW.
- Each customer shall pay a monthly surcharge "not to exceed" \$12.75 per month for 30 years.

This resolution, unanimously approved by both Townships, stipulated that it was subject to review and approval by the Michigan Public Services Commission (MPSC).

In the case of normal business, the MPSC would review a utility cost increase to its customers. However, it was unwilling to undertake a review relative to GLE's Beaver Island proposal. MPSC's position was reported to be that "because the Beaver Island Townships have unanimously approved the GLE proposal, that's what they want; therefore we will not get involved." They ignored or did not read the stipulation contained in the Township's resolutions.

*Cont. on p 4. See GLE RESOLUTION*

## In this Issue:

BIRHC Update .....	2
An Island Planning Consultant .....	3
A Report from St. James .....	3
The January 3rd Power Outage .....	5
Protecting Your Groundwater .....	6
Upcoming PABI Events .....	7
2000 Membership Application (which you could also give to your neighbors) ...	6

## BIPOA Committees



### Rural Health Center Strategic Planning Task Force

Committee Chair: Maggie Bennett  
(231) 448-2836



### Keubler Trail

Committee Chair: Sharon Vance  
(231) 448-2842



### Island Electrical Service

Committee Chair: Paul Niehaus  
(231) 448-2367 or (248) 438-6374



### Newsletter and Website

Committee Chair: Pam Grassmick  
(248) 489-0784 or (231) 448-2314



### Membership and Promotion

Committee Chair: Marty Maehr  
(734) 994-8904 or (231) 448-2926



### Work with Townships' Planner Committee Chairs

E.B. Lange (231) 448-2568  
& Rod Nackerman  
(248) 693-9808 or (231) 448-2812

If you are interested in helping on one of our committees, or if you would like to suggest important areas of focus which we have not already addressed, please do contact us.

## BIRHC Strategic Planning

The Task Force is near the completion stage for gathering information from the community that is being used to forecast health care needs and preferences for the Beaver Island patient population in the future. This process was begun in April, 1999, and is expected to be completed in June, 2000.

The Community Forum held in August, 1999, at the Peaine Township Hall, gave people a chance to learn of current options on the Island and a chance to voice opinions on health care issues.

On October 26th, an "Issues on Aging" panel discussion was held at the St. James Township Hall. Panel members included Sue Bergman RN, Charlevoix Commission on Aging, Shirley Roloff, Charlevoix County Commissioner, Nancy Bottomly, RN, MSN, Emmet County Friendship Centers, Jim Tuinstra, Executive Director, Hope Network and Greg Piaskowski, Executive Director, Region Ten, Area Agency on Aging. Joseph Latoff was Panel Moderator. Attendees participated in the informational session by direct comment and an informal survey tool.

Distribution of a carefully designed survey instrument will be channeled by direct mail and by inserts in the March issue of the Beaver Beacon. Thanks for cooperation on this effort go to Charlevoix Area Hospital, BIRHC Auxillary, and the Beacon. A special thanks to BIPOA for permitting the Survey Committee of the Task Force to cross reference the organization's mailing list with the Peaine and St. James Township tax rolls. Community spiritedness can accomplish great things!

Tallied survey data will be one of numerous items on the agenda when the Task Force reports to the community in June, 2000.

## 21st Century Education

The Beaver Island Commission on Education for the 21st Century is looking for input from the community regarding:

- Student learning and character outcomes.
- Whether or not the community members and parents support the values developed by the Commission.
- The reaction to the vision relating to the new approaches in learning and learning styles in the information age.
- And finally, they are also interested in community input concerning key strategies for improving current levels of achievement.

The Commission is looking for year-round and summer residents to complete personal surveys via e-mail, telephone, or traditional mail. Small group discussions will take place on the Island. This Commission hopes to have a completed report ready for the publisher by mid-April. If you are interested and have not yet been contacted, please contact Julie Soulliere to arrange an appointment or the Beaver Island Community School at 231-448-2744.

## BIHS Volunteers

The Beaver Island Historical Winter 2000 Newsletter was filled with many interesting articles, from a grant being awarded by the Charlevoix County Community Foundation for needed structural work to the Print Shop Museum to Ancient Bones Unearthed at the South End. A general overview of Beaver Island's rich and colorful history makes a great concise summary for week-end visitors interested in our history. Many exciting projects are in the works and volunteers are at the heart of staffing the Museums. If you have 3 hours or more for a week or two that you can donate your time, please contact the Museum or John McNeil for further information at (231) 448-2254

## The Need for an Island Planning Consultant

Beaver Island is under enormous growth pressure. A good planner can help balance the economic / business / development / conservation / tourist interests when it comes to planning decisions and provisions for the zoning ordinance. Beaver Island is a precious resource. Over the next few decades, it may lose its uniqueness if careful planning is not done. For example, there are many approaches which can be used in a zoning ordinance to protect the rural character of a community. All approaches may be legal. However, the selection of the best approach for a particular community is a planning question and not a legal question. In summary, a planner should be able to recommend various planning approaches to deal with community needs. A planning commission cannot be expected to know of these approaches.

When a zoning ordinance amendment is needed, a planner should meet with the Planning Commission to determine what the Planning Commission wants done; the planner should prepare a draft amendment for Planning Commission approval; a copy should be sent to the Township Attorney to be sure that the amendment does not violate court decisions and has language which is unambiguous; and then the normal zoning amendment process can be followed to actually adopt the amendment. A Planning Commission, alone, cannot do this as fast or as accurately as can a professional planner. Moreover, a zoning ordinance amendment must be carefully drafted to be sure that it will not create unintended conflicts with other sections of the zoning ordinance. A planner is best able to do this.

A zoning ordinance must be based on an accurate, current master plan. The failure to have a good master plan will result in the township losing lawsuits and having land uses which it does not want forced on it. It could also result in liability for damages which are not covered by insurance. A planner is crucial to a good master plan.

A planner, who knows the Island and your zoning ordinance, can be a valuable expert witness when township zoning decisions are challenged.

A planner can assist the Zoning Administrator, Planning Commissions, Zoning Boards of Appeals, and Township Boards in interpreting the zoning ordinance and in processing special use permits, planned unit developments, and rezoning requests. The planner in conjunction with our office can dramatically increase the probability that the township decisions on controversial projects will be upheld if challenged in court. I assure you that court challenges will increase as undeveloped land on the Island becomes scarce, land values increase, and wealthier people try to "impose their will" on the Townships and the existing residents.

The Townships should consider joining with a few other townships in the area to negotiate a reduced rate with a planner.

The planner can assist in identifying sections in the zoning ordinance which need updating and can assist in preparing the proper zoning ordinance amendments much faster and more accurately than the planning commission could accomplish.

The Zoning Administrator, Planning Commissions, Township Attorneys, and planner should work as a team so that zoning work can be done cost effectively and accurately. In the long run the use of a planner will save money.

– James G. Young  
Township Attorney

We appreciate the help of Jean Palmer in obtaining permission to have this letter published in this Newsletter. If you wish to comment further on the issue of a planner, please contact either Mr. Don Vyse (231) 448-2834 or Mr. John Works (231) 448-2294, supervisors of our Townships.

## A Report from St. James

While many of us are away from the Island, our township officers continue to work toward making Beaver Island the place that we have come to love. Occasionally, we wonder what has gone on in our absence. On behalf of the board and board and BIPOA's members, we would like to thank Don Vyse for providing us with this 1999 update of St. James Township's activity:

We have started a program of improving the appearance of St. James Township, especially the harbor area. To date, this consists of a range of projects:

- More trash cans placed around town, painted, and labeled.
- Purchasing of a power operated sidewalk sweeper.
- Improving lighting and fixtures in the public rest rooms.
- Began placing signs to assist Island visitors.
- With a group of volunteers, began developing "Paradise Bay Park" adjacent to the Beaver Island Ferry Dock.
- Placed and painted more benches around town.

Along with Peaine Township, we have worked to obtain extra Sheriff Department coverage on summer weekends.

The joint township Waste Management Committee has purchased a new waste compaction and transportation system for the Beaver Island Transfer Station that improves capacity and provides a cleaner, less costly process.

We have completed, along with Peaine Township, the insulation and re-siding of the DNR/Sheriff Offices.

Along with Peaine Township, the Community School, and PABI, we have organized a Youth Consortium, hired a director for the Youth

*Continued on page 5. See ST. JAMES*

**GLE RESOLUTION** from page 1.

When the MPSC sat on its hands, one could find few Beaver Island electric customers that were satisfied with GLE's explanation or justification for the increased cost they were to suffer. The Township's resolution, if it were realized without change, would cause each Beaver Island electric customer's availability charge of \$6.00/month to increase by \$12.75 to \$18.75 for thirty years.

Could it be the Township Boards had acted hastily? Many thought so; some took on the task of challenging those proposed costs. At least a dozen individuals that I am aware of, and many that are unknown to me, made phone calls, wrote letters, talked to anyone who would listen (everyone listened), and visited with those considered influential.

The targets were our State Representatives, State Senators, MPSC members, the Michigan Attorney General's Office, Television Channel 9&10, and newspapers.

The preponderance of those activities probably resulted in putting some pressure on GLE and caused the Attorney General's office to challenge GLE's proposal. Hearings were held and testimony taken. Some of you attended these hearings. Others provided information, clarification of the necessity for the Island to have generators on site, and video tapes of a big public joint Township meeting with GLE to the Attorney General's office.

The net result was an agreement reached in January 2000 between the attorney General and GLE. This agreement was not, as of two weeks ago, completed in written form. When I last spoke with the Attorney General's office, about February 1st, no obstacles were anticipated in obtaining a written document.

The framework for the agreement as reported to me by the Attorney General's office includes:

- The new three-phase cable, with one megawatt capacity
- Repair and operation of the old cable if possible. It was damaged by the contractor after it was fixed.

If the cable is not repairable, GLE will ask the contractor for an insurance settlement, and proceeds would be returned to the Beaver Island electric customers, probably as reduced availability charges.

- A new, relocated diesel generation station with two new 1000 KW units in addition to the 800 KW unit currently on the Island would be located there.
- Should GLE service the Island demand from the Island generator station due to excessive mainland demand, any cost savings to GLE will be credited to the Island customers.
- Each customer will pay an additional \$10.25 monthly surcharge for 30 years due to the decrease in finance costs from GLE lender, the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utility Services. This is a 20 percent reduction over the original proposal.
- Work on the generation station would begin as soon as possible.
- The two new diesel generators are supposed to be on order now.

The new cable capacity should meet Island demands for the foreseeable future. Approximately 3000 KW of generator capacity should be adequate as standby power for five years or possibly more according to GLE. The maximum demand for Beaver Island was 1690 KW in 1998.

As for the cost, surely everyone wants it to be less. I have confidence that the Attorney General's lawyers are competent, were supplied with the right information and used it, fully understood Beaver Island electric customer concerns and desires, were strongly motivated to reach the best outcome possible for Beaver Island, and accordingly achieved the best result possible.

Many thanks to all of you who helped to make this settlement happen.

Think Spring and with the settlement a New Beginning.

-Don Spencer  
Commentator from Beaver Island

**Customer Questions**

**Customer Questions:** Why does your article dated on 12/6/99 suggest that the Island will be without power if the new generating plant is not built? I understood that the three new cables had the capacity to carry the Island – what are people missing? One person commented that during peak demands, GLE would cut the Island off, making it provide its own power at whatever the cost of generating the power would be. Transportation of fuel has always been costly even with the new boat.

**Company Response:** The new underwater cables will be able to supply Islanders with ample power at any time of the year for many years. The problem is that an Island outage totally unrelated to the new cables can still occur, as was the case with the recent power failure caused by a fault in an underground primary electric line in St. James. Each outage could easily last at least four hours, which is the minimum amount of time required for us to just locate the source of the problem. In general, bad storms with high winds and lightning cause more widespread outages on our entire system than any other cause. These storms typically occur during the summer months. The proposed backup generation was offered at the Islanders' request. In an effort to offset generation expenses to the Islanders, Great Lakes Energy had planned to use the generation station during peak use times to reduce power costs to all Great Lakes Energy customers. Please check the Great lakes Energy web site for further updates and other information: [www.gtlakes.com](http://www.gtlakes.com)

-Dave Guzniczak,  
Communications Director  
Great Lakes Energy

## January 3, 2000 Island Power Outage

An estimated 950 GLE customers on Beaver Island were without power following an outage that occurred at 9:42 a.m. on January 3, 2000. According to Dan Nelson, VP for Engineering and Planning for GLE, most of the Island was restored to power within 6 hours but one section of approximately 170 residents did not have power for 8 hours. Time was spent isolating the problem, assessing whether there had been damage to the cable, and re-energizing it. The fault was found on Beaver Island. The failure, according to GLE, was due to an older underground cable in St. James and not the fault of the underwater power cables. It was repaired the following day.

BIPOA has received numerous E-mailings from members concerning this and we have further information supplied by Great Lakes Energy to report.

What happened to the old generator in the Harbor of St. James? According to Mr. Nelson, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality would not give an air quality permit if there were two generators on Beaver Island. A decision to dismantle the old generator was made by Wolverine Power (which is now part of GLE). A new generating plant is expected to be placed at the Four Corners area. However, due to rate-fee-related questions, the Attorney General's office has filed questions with the Public Utilities Commission. In September, GLE decided to halt work on building the generating plant. The Public Utilities Commission is expected to make a ruling sometime in 2000. Mr. John Works, supervisor of Peaine Township, said both townships have written the Attorney General requesting information and a date as to when they can expect to receive an answer on the generating plant. They have not had a reply as

of January 8, 2000. While meetings continue in Lansing, we would like our members to know that Paul Neihaus has agreed to sit in on all meetings related to securing dependable, affordable electric power on Beaver Island and keep us updated.

A question was also raised concerning cruise ships snagging the cable again. Fifteen years ago in November, a tug with a barge was caught in a storm and dropped several anchors to try to secure itself. The anchors snagged and pulled on the cable, and finally the cable snapped. The new cable is approximately 100 feet from the old cable and is found on nautical maps. According to Great Lakes Energy, the first choice was to put three separate cables down but the cost was too prohibitive. By running the three lines together, the capacity of the current is also increased. Could all three cables be caught again? Yes, according to Mr. Nelson. Until the regulatory hurdles are over, Mr. Nelson commented that the old generating plant on Beaver Island would take approximately 2 days to return to operable status in the event of an absolute power crisis. GLE will be updating their customers after a ruling has been made by the Public Utilities Commission.

On a similar note, the Beaver Island Rural Health Center has already installed their own generator in the event of power failure. Customers of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative donated \$8,000 to the Beaver Island Rural Health Center to help purchase and install a backup emergency generator through a People Fund Grant Award.

Mr. Dave Guzniczak is in charge of news and information for Great Lakes Energy and has supplied us with a website- [www.gtlakes.com](http://www.gtlakes.com) - for further information. His phone number is (231) 487-1316.

### *ST JAMES from page 3*

Consortium, and now have youth programs underway.

We have been awarded a \$5,000 grant by the DNR to improve the usage of the Gull Harbor Natural Area. Planning is underway for the work.

Work in progress:

- We are awaiting the final approval for a 10 year historical lease for the Beaver Harbor Lighthouse.
- We are still working on obtaining funding for resurfacing of Main/Michigan Avenue.
- The DNR has agreed to fund repairs to the Yacht Dock next year with further improvements to be done over the next several years.

## Tree trimming

Phone calls and mailings have been sent to Great Lakes Energy customers concerning tree trimming and clearing of right-of-way areas beginning June 1, 2000. All electric customers' service areas will be evaluated. If you have trees that you wish to discuss saving, you need to contact:

Robbie Steward  
888-485-2537 ext. 1295

or

Steve Ryder  
888-485-2537 ext. 1293

If you have not been contacted, please direct your questions to the above.

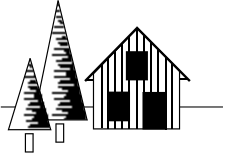
## Name the Newsletter

BIPOA is still looking for the perfect name for the growing BIPOA Newsletter. If you have a suggestion for a permanent name, we would love to hear it. Please contact Pam Grassmick with your ideas:

**Pam Grassmick**  
28629 Kendallwood Drive  
Farmington Hills, MI

**Fax: 248-489-1263**  
**[mcgrass@msn.com](mailto:mcgrass@msn.com)**

Fax Or, you can submit your suggestions online, anytime, through our website: <http://beaverisland.net/bipoa>



# B I P O A

## Membership Application

Beaver Island Property Owners Association

New Member     Renewal     Update Address

\* 2000-2001 Dues: \$20.00 \*

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Island Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Address Line 2): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mailing Address (if different than above)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Island Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Address Line 2): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- I would be interested in serving on a committee.
- I would be interested in helping with the annual meeting.
- I would be interested in helping with special projects:
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Please Mail with your Membership Dues of \$20.00 to:

**Mr. Rod Nackerman**  
 Summer: 27245 Darkeytown Road  
 Beaver Island, MI 49782  
 Winter: 2514 Cole Road  
 Lake Orion, MI 48362

## Protecting Groundwater

Did you know that the Island is in the process of developing the Beaver Island Environmental Information Center as a permanent, year round activity which would be located at the CMU Biological Station? Joe Latoff, President of the Island's Rural Health Center, has spearheaded this endeavor with various Island, county and state members. Their focus will be on water quality and public awareness. Various monitoring activities are being planned along with the development of a summer and winter Beaver Island Well-Testing Day.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation has made available to the Charlevoix County Health Department a one page flyer stating "Ten Steps to Protecting our Drinking Water." Several are worth mentioning in order to protect our water supply. With the development of interior lakes and our Lake Michigan shoreline, property owners should be proactive when it comes to our drinking water supplies.

1.) If you would like your well tested, contact your Community Health Agency. The parameters used in the two most common water analyses available from the state laboratory are coliform bacteria and partial chemical analyses. These are useful in identifying contamination from sewage, surface water, or plumbing deficiencies.

2.) Plug abandoned wells on your property. In Charlevoix County, a home site is only allowed one well for use and all others are to be plugged.

3.) Maintenance of your Septic System is important to water quality.

4.) If you have an underground tank on your property have it checked for leaks. Federal law requires that abandoned underground tanks be removed from the ground and that leaking tanks be replaced.

5.) Avoid over-application of fertilizers and read all labels prior to using pesticides since some may cause problems within an area well or lake.

6.) Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Remember, what goes into our garbage goes into our ground, and what goes



into our ground goes into our groundwater. Take your used motor oil, old paint cans, and other materials to the Recycling Center.

Articles on water testing and caring for our water can be obtained from:

**Joe Latoff, Pres., Board of Directors**

B.I. Rural Health Center  
Beaver Island, MI 49782  
(231) 448-2315

**Larry Levingood**

Northwest Michigan Community Health Agency  
220 W. Garfield  
Charleovix, MI 49720  
(231) 547-6523

**Doug Fuller**

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council  
P.O. Box 300  
Conway, MI 49722  
(231) 347-1181

**Septic System Management**

Although this is not an issue that we like to think about, all our households have a septic system which consists of a septic tank and a soil absorption field or drainfield. Septic systems, if not properly maintained, can result in: property damage, surface and groundwater pollution, disease potential, and costly repairs. Management is the key.

Conditions that can contribute to higher levels of pollutants include soil type, depth of ground water, use of the system, frequency of maintenance pumping, and the location, design, and age of the system.

Signs of potential problems are:

- Wet areas, lush grass, or foul odors around the drainfield.
- In shoreline areas, a distinctly colored patch of bottom sediment or noticeable weed or algae growth in the general vicinity of the drainfield.
- Plumbing or septic tank backups may indicate that drainfield soils are becoming saturated.
- Gurgling sounds in the system.

If you notice any of these signs or you suspect problems with your septic tank system, contact your local health agency or one of the Island contractors for assistance. It is suggested that septic

tanks be pumped out every three to five years depending on tank size, number of people in the household, and usage.

Recommendations by the Northwest Michigan Community Health Agency and MSU to prolong the life of your system and minimize maintenance costs include:

- Limit water entering your tank: use water-saving fixtures, prevent basement sump pump connection to tank, avoid frequent half loads of laundry, prevent roof or foundation drainage from entering tank or drainfield, minimize amount of water used for bathing and dishwashing, and fix all faucet and toilet float valve leaks.
- Keep soil over your system slightly mounded to help with water run off.
- Landscape your system properly. Dense grass cover and other shallow-rooted plants are beneficial over a drainfield.
- Keep automobiles and other heavy objects off the drainfield.
- Pump the tank if:
  - a) the top of the sludge deposit is within 12 inches of the outlet;
  - b) the bottom of the floating scum mat is within 3 inches of the bottom of the outlet baffle;
  - c) the top of the floating scum mat is more than 10-12 inches thick.

Suggestions to avoid damage:

- Many products that claim to improve septic tank performance or reduce the need for pumping have not been found to make a significant difference. Some can even cause solids to be carried into the drainfield, causing early clogging and repair. Some contain organic solvents which contribute to groundwater pollution. Don't use chemicals to clean your system except on the advice of your local health department.
- Don't overuse a garbage disposal unit. Heavy use adds large quantities of solids and shortens the time between pumping. Proper composting is advisable.
- Avoid putting harmful materials in the tank such as fats, oils, disinfectants, coffee grounds, paper towels, disposal diapers, and tampons.

tants, coffee grounds, paper towels, disposal diapers, and tampons.

- Don't place impermeable materials over your drainfield. Materials such as concrete or plastic reduce evaporation and the supply of oxygen to the soil for proper effluent treatment.
- Don't fertilize above the drainfield.
- Don't stockpile snow or soil on your drainfield.
- Don't allow downspouts to drain onto or into your drainfield.
- Of course never enter a dosing chamber or septic tank.

## PABI Update

The Preservation Association has made tremendous progress, as detailed in our upcoming spring newsletter. There is still much to do and for this, *we need your help*. There are approximately 1500 property owners, and 333 of you are currently members of PABI. Our goal is 100% participation by Beaver Island property owners. Won't you help?

This year, we are offering two special lifetime memberships:

**Millennium II Membership**

\$2,000 donation

**Millennium I Membership**

\$1,000 donation

All lifetime members will receive permanent name recognition in the Beaver Island Community House. We are also offering annual memberships – Sponsor-\$100, Patron-\$75, Business-\$50, Family-\$25, and Individual-\$15.

**Planned PABI Events 2000**

March 22 - 3rd Annual Italian Dinner  
Peaine Township Hall  
April 20 - Brunch  
May 27 - "Garage Sale"  
June 24 - Dinner and Silent Auction  
July 14 - Tenor Derek Smith - Recital  
August 13 - Raffle drawing - New York trip and Broadway opening night tickets for Dr. Seussical. Airfare for two, hotel, and \$500 cash. Tickets are \$20 each or 4 for \$75, available now. Contact PABI at (231) 448-2022 or on the web at [www.beaverisland.net/pabi](http://www.beaverisland.net/pabi)

## A Case for Giving

To the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, our Island is a vital part of the region, whose residents and resources are deserving attention. Since it began in 1992, the Community Foundation has had a significant impact on Beaver Island, helping support school programs, health care services, environmental projects, historical preservation, and other initiatives. What's more, a number of special funds designed exclusively for Beaver Island needs have been established within the Foundation; many Island residents and resorters contribute to the organization; and two Islanders sit on the organization's board of trustees.

"The enthusiasm Beaver Islanders have shown has been most gratifying," says Joe Reed, who along with Island resident Judy Lanier, serves as a trustee of the Community Foundation. "It's been really exciting to see the Foundation grow, and to discover, first hand, how much good it can do to improve life on our wonderful Island."

Over the course of eight years, Community Foundation grants totaling more than \$55,000 have aided a variety of Island-based programs—many of them vital to Island life.

Beaver Island Community School has received almost \$16,000 for summer recreation, sports, substance abuse, science labs, and art projects. A \$2,200 grant to the Historical Society is helping with restoration of the Mormon Print Shop Museum, while grants of more than \$28,000 have enabled the Rural Health Center to purchase equipment and tackle repairs from top to bottom—replacing both roof and floor. The recent purchase of Little Sand Bay was made possible, in part, because of a Community Foundation grant to Little Traverse Bay Conservancy. Our Island's new tennis courts got a lift from the Foundation. And the Community House has received \$6,000+ for planning and renovations.

But as important as this funding is to the Island's well-being today, the Community Foundation's steadily

growing endowment holds even greater promise for Island initiatives to come.

Like its counterparts around the country, the Charlevoix County Community Foundation is all about building for the future. A grassroots charitable organization, the Foundation holds a collection of funds for the public good. Some of the funds are designated for scholarships; some are targeted to benefit certain geographic areas; others were created to support specific interests of their donors (health care, children's issues, or the environment, for example), and a general fund remains unrestricted to allow the Foundation grantmaking flexibility.

Established by individuals, families, organizations, and businesses, all the funds—regardless of their purpose—share one common feature: they are *permanent* endowments whose assets are invested so they grow in value and continue to yield income. Thus, as needs and concerns may change over time, the Foundation will serve as a source of charitable capital for generations to come.

To distribute its charitable capital, the Community Foundation twice a year invites grant requests from non-profit organizations, civic groups, and schools throughout the county. Board members and other community volunteers meet to evaluate the merits of each application before deciding which programs to fund. Grants can range in size from just a few hundred dollars to several thousand.

Bob Tambellini, president of the Foundation, says that's one of the most rewarding aspects of grantmaking. "In communities of our size, even small grants can make a big difference in the lives of citizens." Emphasizing the Foundation's responsiveness, Tambellini continues, "Because we're local, we understand our area's strengths and needs. We're governed and guided by people who live here and care a great deal about making their community the best it can be."

The Community Foundation involves Beaver Island's young people

too. A special endowment within the Foundation called the Charlevoix County Youth Fund now has assets of \$1.3 million, supplying grantmaking dollars for programs that benefit kids. Three Island teens—Abbey Adams, Kellie Gillespie, and Nathan McDonough—serve on the Youth Advisory Committee, a group made up of high school students from throughout Charlevoix County. Members of the YAC meet regularly to learn about community resources, promote philanthropy and community service among their peers, and conduct a student-needs survey. Most importantly, they review grant requests and help distribute grants from the Youth Fund—to the tune of nearly \$70,000 each year.

"We've learned a lot about how to get involved, and what it takes to get things done," says Abbey Adams, "and the YAC gives us an opportunity to share ideas and work cooperatively with other students from around the county." Island projects often receive a "thumbs-up" from the YAC. In fact, many of the grants to Beaver Island Community School came from the Youth Fund—including money that helped produce the school's first yearbook, transport students to the art museum in Petoskey, provide student scholarships for a statewide leadership training program, and support intramural sports.

Skip McDonough, a 45-year resident of the Island and founding trustee of the Community Foundation, sees the organization as an important link between Beaver Island and the mainland; between those who make their home on the Isle and vacationers who enjoy its special charm; between charitable ideals and real-world needs; between today's generation and those who will follow. A few months ago, she made a generous gift to the Beaver Island Enrichment Fund—a legacy she hopes will benefit lots of different projects serving young and old alike, and inspire others to donate too.

As the McDonough clan of nearly 40 kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids recently gathered at her



Beaver Island home, Skip summed up her beliefs this way: "I hope my love of the Island and this spirit of giving will rub off on the next generation." Judging from the example she and other altruistic Beaver Islanders have set, there's a very good chance of that happening.

### **Charlevoix County Community Foundation Facts**

#### ***Established***

1992 by a group of local citizens, including Beaver Island residents.

#### ***Purpose***

Build a permeant endowment of charitable funds that can be used to enrich and enhance life in Charlevoix County now and for generations to come.

#### ***Governance***

A board of Trustees, composed of representatives from throughout Charlevoix County.

#### ***Assets***

\$6.8 million: 104 charitable funds.

#### ***Grants***

\$2 million since 1993

#### ***What the Foundation Supports***

Programs that serve Charlevoix County, including those which focus on the arts and culture, civic improvement, economic development, educational enrichment, environmental preservation, health and wellness, human services, and young people.

#### ***Who can apply for a grant***

Nonprofit organizations, schools, cities, townships, and other governmental entities.

#### ***Beaver Island representation***

*Founding Trustees:* Skip McDonough, Kitty McNamara

*Current Trustees:* Judy Lanier, Joe Reed

*Current YAK Members:* Abbey Adams, Kellie Gillespie, Nathan McDonough

*Former YAK Members:* Chad Crandall, Christina Heller, Erin McDonough, Darryl Mooney, Jennifer Wojan, Kendra Wojan.

### **How to Get Involved**

The Community foundation accepts donations of all sizes and for many purposes, offering donors a way to give something back and make a lasting impact on this beautiful Island we love. Whatever your financial circumstances, your gift to the Foundation will join with others to maximize its funding power—and realize tax advantages for you as well. In addition to a standard federal income tax deduction, donations to the Community Foundation qualify for a Michigan Income Tax Credit, reducing the cost of a \$200 gift to only \$44, after taxes. Other planned giving options (transferring appreciated stock or other assets to the Foundation, for example) can reduce capital gains tax. Some donors create a Charitable Gift Annuity that allows a generous tax deduction while providing income for life. Foundation staff regularly work with attorneys or tax advisors to help donors accomplish their charitable ideals, while reaping the greatest tax rewards.

Beaver Islanders may wish to contribute to one of several existing funds that benefit the Emerald Isle, or establish their own fund to support a specific area of interest. For example: *Donor Advised Funds* allow you to participate in funding decisions and help direct money to the programs and projects you want to support; *Field of Interest Funds* let you identify and support a cause you care about—such as education or environmental concerns—while Foundation trustees choose grant recipients; *Designated Funds* give you the ability to support a specific Beaver Island program or organization. Funds that benefit Beaver Island include:

- **Beaver Island Rural Health Center Fund** To support operations and meet needs at the Health Center.
- **E. Darrell Dinwiddle Memorial Scholarship Fund** Provides scholarships that allow Island students to participate in leadership training programs.

- **John & Laurene Adams Fund** Provides unrestricted grants to support a variety of Beaver Island projects.
- **Beaver Island Historical Society Fund** Helps supply revenue to meet future needs of the society.
- **Helen Hoffman Collar Memorial Fund** Supports programs of the Historical Society.
- **Beaver Island Enrichment Fund** Provides unrestricted support for a variety of Beaver Island projects.
- **Ross Henderson Lanier Memorial Fund** Supports educational, benevolent, and civic programs on the Island.

To learn more, please call or write:  
**Charlevoix County Community Foundation**

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The Beaver Island Property Owners Association wish to thank Bob Tambellini for his assistance with the article regarding the wonderful benefits of participating with the Charlevoix County Community Foundation. We all appreciate the tremendous work that goes into *helping achieve community dreams on Beaver Island.*

### **An Apology**

Please accept our apology for a couple of typos that appeared in the last Newsletter. Mr. Fred Haubold, as many of you know, is the past president of BIPOA and active on many of the committees around Beaver Island that benefit us all. I apologize for the misspelling of your name under the opening article concerning the Kuebler Trail Committee, and will attempt in the future to proof read closer.

- Pam Grassmick

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## Long-term Junk Car Removal Proposal

It is in the nature of islands that articles are collected and then retained after their usefulness for the reason that there is no easy alternative to paying for removal. That is what happened in the case of junk automobiles on Beaver Island, and is what will happen again unless there is an aggressive program to remove them when discarded.

In 1996 and 1997 Mr. Mogford, a scrap metal dealer, crushed and removed over a thousand such cars from the Island without cost to the community, and he returned in 1999 for more, but this time at a cost to the two townships of \$5,100. The Island is now fairly clean of such scrap, and should be kept that way.

Although not well known, the Boat Company has agreed to remove unwanted vehicles without charge when brought to them, and meeting specified conditions. Few have been taken off under this plan.

There is a better way. It has been suggested and considered before, but thus far believed inadvisable for the reason that there has been no expressed public or township interest. A proper solution is to charge round-trip fare for all registered vehicles

brought to the Island, and to transport all vehicles from the Island without charge. The merit of the procedure is its simplicity. There is no paperwork.

And everyone wins. Residents and commercial interests, including the Boat Company stockholders, recognize that the future of Beaver Island will be defined by the Island's ability to retain its natural beauty and charm, providing a recreational retreat from the pace of the mainland. Elimination of unsightly areas is important.

The Boat Company primarily, as well as Waste Management, are the keys to this proposal. The plan is profitable to the Boat Company for the reason that through Island population growth, each season for an indefinite future more cars will be brought to the Island than are removed; and, additionally, there is an obvious seasonal cash "float" that becomes available either for use in the business or for investment. It is an interest free loan, at slight cost to those providing it.

Waste Management needs to participate by accepting—even collecting—unwanted vehicles, preparing and arranging for their transport, and

arranging for their disposal in Charlevoix. Sale value there should provide the townships with some payment for this effort.

The inventory of vehicles already on the Island for which round trip fare has not been paid provides a mental block for some when considering this proposal, but there really is no problem. When one of these cars is taken off free, the owner will pay the round trip rate when returning with the same or another vehicle, and the Island inventory is the same as before he left. The only difference is that whereas most of us will pay when we come, he will pay when he returns.

This is a subject that deserves serious consideration by the planning committees, the township boards, and by the Boat Company. It is appropriate also that BIPOA should have the vision to endorse the plan, and do whatever can be done to promote its acceptance. Adoption would enhance the aura of uniqueness which the Island already has, and provide evidence that property and business owners alike are caring for the Island's future.

— Dale K. Boyles



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