

BIPOA

# ISLAND CURRENTS

Beaver Island Property Owners Association

Fall 2003

## 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

### Spring Newsletter - May 15<sup>th</sup>

Submission Deadline: April 15<sup>th</sup>

### 2004 Annual Meeting - July 26<sup>th</sup>

Annual Business Meeting  
Monday, July 26, 2004  
7:00 PM at the  
Peaine Township Hall

Christmas Cantata - Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>  
New Years Eve Dance - Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>  
BIPOA wishes everyone  
a Happy Holiday Season!

## BIPOA - Year in Review

BIPOA is now officially a 501 (c) (3) non profit organization. After reviewing years of our financial records, minutes, newsletters, and Articles of Incorporation with the State of Michigan, the IRS agreed that we merit this designation.

Contributions are fully tax-deductible to the amount allowed by law. The IRS doesn't require receipts for cash donations under \$250.00; however, persons should keep donation information on file. Cash contributions of \$250.00 and over require an acknowledgment that must be sent to the IRS with your tax return. To claim a deduction, you will need to fill out a 1040 Form, (available through the IRS) and itemize your deductions on Schedule A. The value of time or services given to BIPOA cannot be deducted, but individuals may be able to deduct some of the hard costs associated with volunteering. This designation will enable us to apply for grants for Beaver Island projects. We presently have one fund set up relating to the Recreation Resource Plan. A Donor Advised Fund is intended for individuals who wish to provide funding for specific activities such as the property owner's manuals or the recreation plan.

There are many reasons why in the past you have supported an organization like BIPOA. This is not an exhaustive list but only serves to show that for every dollar spent, you get a

committed hard-working group that collectively achieves results. But we need your help by maintaining your membership. Membership runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

Thank you for continuing your support.

**The Recreation Resource Plan being championed by Jack Kelly with the endorsement of both Township Boards is proceeding as planned:** Jack has been in constant contact with representatives of the state. Final printing of the initial overlay (identified sites) was completed and distributed on a limited basis (a copy can be viewed in the library.) Neither BIPOA nor our Townships could have afforded to pay for the expertise that was graciously donated by various people involved with this project. The *Beaver Beacon* and the *NorthernIslander* have been covering this unfolding story. Financing and funding will be pursued by our board to make the Resource Plan a reality. The objective is to open areas to recreation while preserving sensitive areas to more appropriate care.

**The ever-popular Nature Lecture Series which is a partnership with CMU was a tremendous success:** While visitors were in attendance, the lectures also provided scientific information to year round  
*Continued on Page 2*

## Current Efforts



Rural Health Center Planning  
Committee Chair: Joe Reed  
(231) 448-2247



Recreation Resources Committee  
Committee Chair: Jack Kelly  
(217) 352-3801



Master Plan for Peaine Twp.  
Committee Chair: Paul Glendon  
(231) 448-2772



Property Owner's Manual  
Committee Chair: Ron Stith  
(231) 448-2001 or (706) 268-2022



Island Clean-Up  
Committee Chair: Doris Larson  
(616) 243-1037 or (231) 448-2470



Trails Committee  
Committee Chair: Krys Lyle  
(231) 448-2149



Newsletter and Web Site  
Committee Chair: Pam Grassmick  
(248) 489-0784 or (231) 448-2314  
Co-chair: Doris Larson  
(616) 243-1037 or (231) 448-2470



Membership, Promotion & Education  
Committee Chair: Rod Nackerman  
(231) 448-2812 or (248) 693-9808  
Co-chair: Marty Maehr  
(734) 994-8904 or (231) 448-2926



Township Planning/Zoning Liaison:  
Krys Lyle (231) 448-2149



Chamber of Commerce Liaison:  
Rod Nackerman  
(231) 448-2812 or (248) 693-9808

### *Continued from the Cover*

residents. These lectures enhance our understanding of the Island's unique environment, habitat, and other resources while encouraging us all in proper stewardship roles. Dr. Jim Gillingham and his colleagues consistently provide much-needed expertise while the cookies and refreshments are donated by board volunteers. Everyone, young and old, who attends leaves with valuable information.

**This summer the Property Owners Manual Project has taken on new life:** BIPOA has long discussed the need to provide new land owners an easy manual in an attempt to help individuals know where to start in developing their dream of home ownership on the Island. This relates not only to obtaining permits but also care of their property. With the support of Larry Sullivan from the Charlevoix County Planning Commission, the Beaver Island Township Supervisors, and the B.I. Community Partnership Project, the manual has started to take shape. It was recommended that three separate manuals be created. One, for visitors, will locate areas for recreational activities, explain how to use the Transfer Station, and inform concerning natural assets which may need to be identified for their protection. The second manual will be specifically for homeowners. This manual is intended to be informational in nature and center on areas such as "how to maintain a healthy septic tank and well system" and "how to start the building process." The manual will include information pertaining to county permits and contact numbers for questions. The third would be a joint venture with Island, county and

an organization called the Conservation Resource Alliance. A Beaver Island Environmental Stewardship Manual would be printed and made widely available. Many meetings have occurred over the summer with the goal of compiling and developing format for the manuals. Securing funding for printing will be our wintertime goal.

BIPOA is continually grateful to the people who step forward and support our organization. It was with deep regrets that we accepted the resignation of Jan Gerson and Frank Blatt. Jan has worked tirelessly for this organization. Her organizational skills and untiring devotion to Island projects will be missed by BIPOA, but her talents will not go unused. Jan has acknowledged there may be other years for her participation in BIPOA. Frank, although a short-term member, gave important insight into township activities. Thank you both – we wish you many long and happy days on Beaver Island.

We wish to thank Ron Stith and Rod Nackerman for stepping up to the plate as our newest board members. Rod was born and raised here on Beaver Island. You may remember that Rod served on BIPOA's board years ago, and we are happy that he has agreed to return. Rod will be chairing our membership committee. Ron Stith can be found many mornings walking Charm and Hy (family dogs) down the East Side. Ron's background is in education and he is also on the Historical Society Board. He has been busy this past summer collecting and meeting with various people to pull together our Property Owner's Manuals. Contact numbers for both Rod Nackerman and Ron Stith can be found on page 7.

## Principle Residence Exemption (Homestead Exemption)

The Michigan Homestead Exemption is also known as Public Act 105 and came into existence as one of the provisions in the 1994 Proposal A school tax change approved by Michigan voters. In reviewing addresses, there are very few states not represented in our membership. As taxpayers on Beaver Island, you may or may not qualify for this exemption. We hope that by providing this information, individual property owners will be better informed in making that determination.

A recent report suggested that as many as 23,000 homeowners in Michigan may be in violation of this exemption. Although this is estimated to be about \$20 million in tax revenue, with interest, the state speculates that it may be as high as \$60 million. An amnesty period is scheduled to expire on November 1, 2003. The annual interest penalty is 15%. To qualify for the home-

stead tax exemption in 2004 and thereafter, the property must be owner occupied and declared as a homestead by December 31, 2003. The change in the date may affect individuals who have built a new home or transferred property. State law allows for an exemption from up to 18 mills to be levied by the school district for operating purposes; the funds will remain on Beaver Island. Abuse by improper declarations hurts our Island's curriculum and ultimately the students who live here.

Persons who do not qualify include those who:

- Claim another homestead tax exemption in another state.
- File an income tax return in another state as a resident or file a joint income tax return and claim a homestead exemption on two or more properties.
- File a Michigan income tax return as a non-resident.

The State is looking at using databases of driver's licenses, voter registration, and income tax filings to cross check exemptions. Six hundred letters have been sent out in Charlevoix County alone asking for further clarification. A change in the law allows the township or county to keep up to 70 % of fines for those found to have improperly filed. That type of incentive makes Charlevoix County actively look for violators.

In the event that you may find you no longer meet the qualifications, a "Request to Rescind / Withdraw Homestead Exemption" form can be obtained from the County Treasurer, Joan Balch, at (231) 547-7202. The Equalization Director is Tom Wolf, and he can be reached at (231) 547-7230. According to Tina Morgan, Peaine Township Treasurer, they have received changes this fall concerning the exemption.

## Speed Control

Many questions are asked about speed control on Beaver Island. All of the roads on Beaver Island are Charlevoix County Roads with the exception of some private roads. It is important to note that speed limits are *not* established on unpaved roads.

To establish a speed limit, the Township must petition the Charlevoix County Road Commission, which, in turn, request a traffic study by the Michigan

State Police. Until July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2003 local Townships had no input in the speed limit process. Since the passage of Public Acts 64 and 65 of 2003, Townships are now allowed to participate in the process. All three entities (Township, County, and State) are required to agree before a speed limit can be established or changed.

Perhaps this clarifies and answers some of the questions about speed limits on Beaver Island.



## We want to hear from you

The goal of the BIPOA newsletter and web site is to promote greater communication between all Island property owners. We welcome all opinions, interest stories, informative articles, or issues that you feel would be of general interest. The Deadline for the Spring Newsletter is April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004, but the earlier we receive articles and stories to include, the better.

Please submit all articles or comments to: Pam Grassmick either via fax number (248) 489-1263 or from our web site: [beaverisland.net/bipoa](http://beaverisland.net/bipoa)

## BIPOA Annual Meeting 7-28-2003 Minutes

President Pam Grassmick welcomed members and convened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Board members were introduced.

Connie Wojan, president of the Rural Health Center Board, reported on the status of the new Medical Center. It is hoped that the building can be occupied by December 2003. Connie complimented board member, Don Spenser, who is overseeing the building project. Funds for the building were secured through a 1.5 million dollar grant from the state. The loss of operating funds from the state has caused the board to make difficult decisions. One of these was the decision not to renew Susan Meis' contract. The board hired Arlene Brennan, transition manager, with grant monies. Arlene is working to improve operations. Connie expressed pride in the performance of board members and assured those present that she was eager to receive phone calls from anyone having questions about the medical center board and its actions.

Jack Kelly distributed sample copies which demonstrate a portion of what the recreation project report will look like. There were limited copies so they were circulated during the meeting.

The minutes of the annual meeting in 2002 were distributed and approved.

Annette Dashiell distributed the income statement for the fiscal year 7/1/02 through 6/30/03. There was a question about whether revenue

and expenses would be more even in a year when we were not saddled with so many outside expenses. There was also an inquiry about whether notices are sent to members who have not paid dues. It was noted that net income should be indicated in parentheses. The report was accepted.

Jack Kelly reported on the Recreation Resource Project. The focus of the report is on public land tracts on Lake Michigan, which represent an incredible resource. The project is designed to develop a plan, which will: a) set priorities for use and protection of public land; and b) present a plan for preserving this public land. The project is being funded by a grant from the Great Lakes Aquatic Foundation. CMU staff have contributed greatly to the project and have refused any payment. Jack hopes to present a draft report this summer, which will be put out for comment, especially to township government officials, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Department of Natural Resources. At some point in this process there will be a public meeting. After comments and suggestions, a final report will be presented. It is hoped that the report will become a part of the Master Plan for the Island. It is also hoped that grant monies will be available for development and maintenance of trails and public access areas. The Michigan Council for Environmental Quality has expressed an interest in supporting a land use study for Beaver Island.

If approval for such a study were received, we would probably enter into a 3-year study, which would give us some excellent scientific data about the Island.

There was a question about how current Master Plan development relates to a long-range study. Jack explained that the Master Plan is a document which is revised on a regular basis. By the time a land use study is completed, the Master Plan would be ready for revision. Ideally, the Master Plan and the land use report would be in agreement.

There was also a question about the National Nature Conservancy as a resource for the Island. Jack's response: that agency is often involved in securing lands for conservancy. We already have a wealth of public land on which we would like to concentrate. It is also difficult to maintain control on the Island when governmental agencies are involved. Of course, the state is already involved. The relationship of the Department of Natural Resources has been spotty and uneven over the years. The current project is working to involve the DNR constructively. A motion was passed that BIPOA support the investigation of a land use study.

It was reported that BIPOA is now a 501(c)(3) organization. Pam Grassmick was complimented on all her work in order to secure this status for our organization. The importance of this status is that we can now apply for grants.

An update about the Master

Plan for Peaine Township was given. Many neighborhood meetings of property owners were held last summer. As a result of input from those meetings, a survey was developed. The survey has been studied and revised several times and will be sent to all property owners late this summer. (As of this newsletter, it is now expected to be released by the first of the year.) Property owners are urged to respond promptly to the survey.

Since Jan Gerson is leaving the BIPOA board after years of diligent service, Frank Blatt has resigned, and Pam Grassmick is at the end of her first term of office, nominations were made for the board of directors. Rod Nackerman, Ron Stith and Pam Grassmick were nominated to fill vacancies on the board. A unanimous voice vote was held and Rod, Ron, and Pam were elected.

Marty Maehr gave an update about the Property Owner's Manual. The committee has determined that there should be two documents: a homeowner's manual and a visitor's manual. The Homeowner's Manual would include such things as: a checklist of people and agencies to contact prior to building; laws and ordinances; transfer station use; vehicle regulations; enforcement procedures; policies to initiate changes; neighborhood association information; and web sites for governmental agencies. The Visitor's Manual would be published in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and would include information particularly

important to visitors: disposal of trash; vehicle use; fire permits, consideration for neighbors, etc.

The Property Owner's Manual sub-committee is studying materials published by other communities. Elaine West expressed support for the practical use of these documents, particularly for folks renting property here who have little experience of a fragile Island environment. Rod Nackerman supported the listing of services available on the Island: i.e. contractors, plumbers, electricians, repairmen, etc. Rich Warren recommended that BIPOA establish an opportunity for property owners to comment online about the quality of work done by those providing service. Jim Haveman suggested that there might be a need for a third property owner's document relative to stewardship of the land. Such a document would include information about what a responsible landowner does to preserve and protect land. It is possible that grants could be secured to produce such a document. Marty asked for input from those present. Please contact him by phone or email: [mlmaehr@umich.edu](mailto:mlmaehr@umich.edu)

Pam Grassmick reminded members of the BIPOA Newsletter. Members are encouraged to submit information and articles.

Krys Lyle reported on the work of the Trails committee. An ad hoc committee under the directorship of Don Cole has been working since last summer. They are locating all public access sites on the island and

posting signs. The committee is making all the signs, routing and painting them. A map locating all the sites is available online through Charlevoix Co. website. There is a Peaine Township link, which includes the Beaver Island recreational map. The committee is working on making the map more complete.

The Peaine Township Planning Commission is working with St. James Township on a new combined ordinance. The ordinance is now in its 6<sup>th</sup> draft. There is one more meeting of the joint township committees and then copies of the ordinance will be available at the public library and in the township offices.

Doris Larson complimented property owners on their diligence in cleaning up roadside trash. She also taught a song to the captive audience. Two members present requested that the song be published in the newsletter. (Really!)

Pam urged members to attend the Community Health Fair.

Rod Nackerman announced the annual meeting of the BI Historical Society on Thursday, August 21st.

Rich Warren reminded members that since we are now a 501(c)(3) organization, donations are tax deductible.

Pam directed members to information available for pickup, including a copy of the Beaver Island Partnership Project goals.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

– Respectfully submitted,  
Doris Larson, Secretary



# BIPOA

## Membership Application

Beaver Island Property Owners Association

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Update Address

\* 2004 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

☐ I would be interested in serving on a committee.

☐ I would like to help with the annual meeting.

☐ I would like to help with special projects:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

**Beaver Island Property Owners Association**

Box 390

Beaver Island, MI 49782

## Charlevoix Downtown Marina

A meeting was held on October 27, 2003 in Charlevoix to review plans for the expansion of the Charlevoix Downtown Marina. There is at present only a preliminary schedule of the project and it has not gone to the DNR for review. We will keep you posted as developments come in. The concerns regarding traffic congestion and moving through the town to make boat reservations will be addressed. BIPOA has been assured that a representative of the Boat Company will be in attendance to have traveler voices heard.

## New Information Resources

Communication and access to various county and local government officials are vital in bridging understanding and due consideration between seasonal and year-round property owners. To provide quick and easy access to sites directly related to Beaver Island, we have added these links to our website. We suggest you place our BIPOA website on your "Favorites" list. We strongly encourage property owners to stay informed of the local activities by subscribing to any or all the wonderful media available. The following are newly added links:

Little Traverse Nature Conservancy:

**[www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org)**

Peaine Township:

**[www.peaine.org](http://www.peaine.org)** – This new site is excellent and easy to navigate.

St. James Township: can be accessed through Charlevoix County's web site:

**[www.charlevoixcounty.org](http://www.charlevoixcounty.org)** – Click on "Government Information" on the left.

Joint St. James and Peaine Township proposed ordinances can be viewed online at either site. We have included a sample from [www.peaine.org](http://www.peaine.org) of the township's proposed budget in this newsletter. We realize that not all of our members are Internet connected.

Charlevoix County (including Building Departments and Road Commission):

**[www.charlevoixcounty.org](http://www.charlevoixcounty.org)** – This site allows you to access all departments affiliated with Beaver Island. Census data is also available on this site but is difficult to download.



## Master Plan Survey

According to Peaine Township Supervisor, John Works, a land use survey is an excellent way to get some public input, but governmental, budgetary, and operational decisions are the obligation of the elected Township Officials. He is actively addressing the concerns with the proposed survey in an attempt to move the process forward. He views the Master Plan's basic purpose to be, as stated in the MTA Guide to Planning Commission document, to:

- Promote the public health, safety, and welfare;
- Encourage the use of the township's natural resources according to their character and adaptability;
- Avoid overcrowding land with buildings or people;
- Lessen congestion on public roads and streets; and
- Facilitate systems to provide transportation, sewage, safe water supply, recreation, other public improvements, and consider the townships character and judge its stability for particular uses based on factors such as land use, trends, and population.

Peaine Township still hopes to have the survey out this winter. The survey will be mailed to all individuals paying taxes in that township. It appears that Peaine will begin the survey process and enter into an agreement to finish the Master Plan with the help of Gosling and Zubac. St. James is developing their vision of the process which we hope to be able to report on in depth in the spring newsletter.

## Fire Safety

The recent forest fires in California bring to mind just how fragile our homes are. We are grateful to all the volunteers who keep our Island homes safe. On a recent national news program, a new home defense system was described as being very effective. Our only interest is to pass this information on for your personal review. A fire study found that saturated disposable diapers were left intact despite the intense burning that destroyed other materials. It was attributed to the tiny collecting gel beads found in the diapers. Researchers came up with a system to apply this gel coating by using a hose/water source. The Barricade System can be used to coat any flammable areas of the home, LP tanks, automobiles, shrubbery, boats, and other outdoor storage areas. It is available in gallon containers. More information can be obtained at <http://barricadegel.com>

## Your B I P O A Board of Directors

### Pam Grassmick – President

28629 Kendallwood Drive 30710 East Side Drive  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334 Beaver Island, MI 49782  
(248) 489-0784 (231) 448-2314  
*e-mail mcgrass@ameritech.net*

### Rod Nackerman – Vice President

26135 Main Street 2514 Cole Rd.  
Beaver Island, MI 49782 Lake Orion, MI 48362  
(231) 448-2812 (248) 693-9808

### Doris Larson – Secretary

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(616) 243-1037 (231) 448-2470  
*e-mail sanctuary@illinoisalumni.org*

### Annette Dashiell – Treasurer

2343 North Oak St. 30225 Green's Bay Dr.  
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### Ron Stith

30970 Eastside Dr. P.O. Box 11105  
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Fax (231) 448-2350

### Jack Kelly

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*e-mail jr-kelly@uiuc.edu*

### Krys Lyle

28385 Eagle Hill Road  
Beaver Island, MI 49782  
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### Martin Maehr

15 Haverhill Court 29210 South End Road  
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Office (734) 647-0627 (231) 448-2926  
Fax (734) 615-2164  
*e-mail mlmaehr@umich.edu*

### Rick Andrew – Past President

3004 Buffalo Run Road 37785 Kings Highway  
Bellefonte, PA 16823 Beaver Island, MI 49782  
(814) 355-3756 (231) 448-2668  
Fax (814) 863-4257 *e-mail wpa@psu.edu*

## Friendly Lights

*"There are two kinds of light - the glow that illuminates, and the glare that obscures"* – James Thurber

We love to walk to McCauley's Point at dusk. From there we can see the homes on Donegal Bay softly lit from inside. Later, we sit on the beach and watch the stars come out. Something about the majesty of the night sky causes us all, young and old, to ponder the very basic questions.

For the majority of the residents of Michigan it is not possible to see much of the night sky. Beaver Islanders are fortunate indeed to be able to see thousands of stars. We can protect the Island so that we can always have this beauty.

Good outdoor lighting improves visibility and safety while preserv-

ing the quality of our nighttime environment.

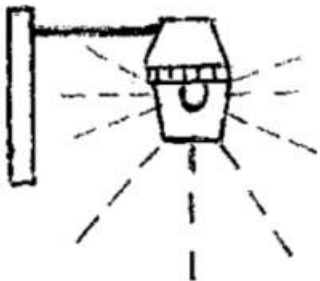
What can we do?

- Aim lights down. Light the ground – not the sky and the surrounding environment.
- Apply proper shielding to existing fixtures to direct light downward.
- Place fixtures only where light is needed.
- Use time controls to automatically turn off lights when not needed.
- Use bulbs with appropriate wattage.

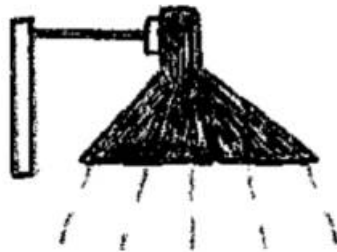
How do I know if I am a good neighbor? Walk along your property line. If you can see the source of light, your light is trespassing onto your neighbor's property. Put a shade on the light so that the bulb or source itself cannot be seen from your neighbor's land. (Most neighbors will tolerate strong stray light for a short time. Ask your neighbors' permission.)

Many of the lighting fixtures sold today cause glare, sky glow, and light trespass onto much more area than that needed for the purpose. Following these examples will make a difference for all who enjoy the Island and the night.

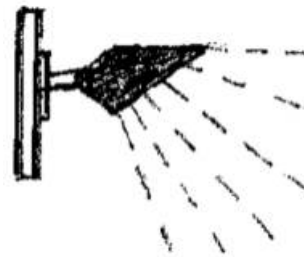
**BAD -**  
typical yard light



**GOOD -**  
lamp



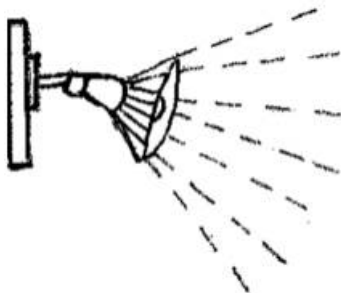
**Change This**



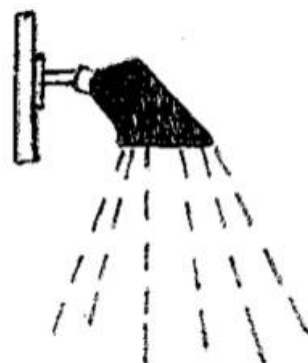
**To This**



**BAD -**  
area flood light



**GOOD -**  
flood light with hood



**Change This**



**To This**



Thanks very much to John and Sandy Gerrish for this information on better lighting practices.



## St. James Township Parks and Open Spaces

The development of Parks and Open Spaces is one of the responsibilities of the St James Township Board. Generally, the objectives are stated in the Township Master Plan and the Township Recreation Plan. Over the past few years we have made significant progress in working toward the goal of adequate parks, recreation sites, and open spaces. Available for use and public enjoyment in St. James Township:

- The Ernie Romine Picnic Area (located at the end of the bicycle path);
- Gull Harbor Natural Area;



- Public Tennis Courts;
- Downtown Beach and Playground;
- Paradise Bay Park;
- Township Campgrounds; and
- Donegal Bay Bike Trail.

Presently, we are working to acquire the St. James Harbor Light Tower and Grounds, to double the size of the Downtown Beach & Playground area, to acquire a land lease for Arranmore Park, to acquire approximately 15 acres off Lake Street (which could be used as a quiet park with a beach), and to extend the Donegal Bay Bike Trail.

Adequate, useful land for parks and open spaces is limited in St James Township. The cost of acquiring and developing must be considered because of the limited resources that are available, along with the fact that each land parcel that goes into public or non-profit use is removed from the Township tax rolls. Even with these challenges, we feel with the help and of the public through gifts, donations, and grants, and, with the support of the taxpayers, we can continue to work toward the Township's goals and realize the future development of parks and open spaces for the public to enjoy.

## Donegal Bay Bicycle Path Ordinance

The Donegal Bay Walking Trail and Bicycle Path has been completed and since the July 4 Official Opening it has been extensively used by both visitors and residents. In order to meet the State of Michigan (who partially funded the path) requirements, and to ensure enjoyment by all, a use ordinance has been passed by the St. James Township Board. The Ordinance states:

**NO PERSON SHALL DO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ON THE BICYCLE PATH:**

- Operate a motor vehicle or snowmobile, except as authorized.
- Cause or create any obstruction, hindrance, or impediment in the normal movement on, or use of, the bicycle path.
- Construct or maintain any fence, wire, or other barrier that obstructs, hinders, or impedes movement on the bicycle path.
- Cause littering on the bicycle path or on adjoining property.

(e) Permit or engage in activities that result in trespassing on adjoining property.

(f) Unreasonably interfere with the use and enjoyment of the bicycle path by other persons,

(g) Create, permit, or engage in any activity that results in the temporary or permanent defacing or damage to the surface of a bicycle path including, but not limited to, any writing, graffiti, or other defacement of the bicycle path surface.

(h) Walk, ride, or to bring a horse upon the bicycle path

(i) Permit a dog on the bicycle path, unless the dog is on a leash no more than six (6) feet in length and the dog is at all times under the immediate control of the person bringing the dog onto the bicycle path. The person bringing the dog onto the bicycle path shall also be responsible for removing from the bicycle path, and properly disposing of all dog

feces deposited by his or her dog.

SECTION (a) is a Misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00 and 90 days in jail. The rest of the violations carry a fine of \$100.00 for the first offense, \$250.00 for the second and \$500.00 for the third offense.

It is the hope of the St James Township Board that we can all be respectful of the public property and that the path can be used and enjoyed by all.

BIPOA wishes to thank Don Vyse and John Works for the joint township information provided in this issue.



## Peaine Township Proposed Budget 2003

### What determines the property taxes in Peaine Township?

Property taxes in Peaine Township are set to provide:

Tax Name	expected revenue
S.E.T.	\$263,545
BI School operation	551,202
BI School:	
debt sinking fund	109,808
Charlevoix-Emmett ISD	119,899
BI District Library	39,525
County Allocation	192,876
Transit Allocation	10,595
Recycle Allocation	6,348
Senior Citizen Allocation	16,956
Grandvue Allocation	23,712
Combined Township Expenses*	389,213
Township Administration	17,306
Interest	575
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,772,451</b>

### \* the Combined Township Expenses includes these subtotals:

Allocated	42,835
Voted Operations	113,879
Voted Roads	43,924
Voted Waste Management	39,848
Voted Airport	25,217
Voted Fire Department	29,802
Voted Rural Health	86,593

### The proposed budgets for Roads, Airport, and Waste Management are as follows:

#### Road Fund:

##### Revenues

Prior Year balance (3-1-03)	-186
Property tax (2002)	44,089
Savings Account	30,000
Savings interest	1,000
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>74,903</b>

#### Road Fund:

##### Expenses

Dust control	20,000
Rock crusher fund	10,000
Road maintenance	10,000
Road Development (not earmarked)	30,000
Contingency	4,903
<b>Total expense</b>	<b>74,903</b>

#### Airport Fund:

##### Revenues

Prior Year balance (3-31-03)	6,000
Property tax (Peaine)	25,000
Property tax (St. James)	25,000
Bank interest	200
Parking fees	1,200
Aviation gas sales	8,000
Joint Twp. General Fund	2,500
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>67,900</b>

#### Airport Fund:

##### Expenses

Manager's Wage	5,100
Pension/Tax	800
Manager's expense	150
Attorney	500
Equipment maintenance/Fuel	5,700
Airfield maintenance	8,500
Building maintenance	3,000
Utilities	10,000
License & Fees	150
Insurance	3,500
AWS Operation	4,000
Loan payments	12,358
Development Fund	9,142
Contingency	5,000
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>67,900</b>

#### Waste Management Fund:

##### Revenues

Prior Year balance	17,000
Property tax (Peaine)	39,500
Property tax (St. James)	39,500
Tipping fees/bags	94,000

Savings interest	200
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>174,000</b>

#### Waste Management Fund:

##### Expenses

Wages	69,000
Pensions/Employer taxes	6,000
Health insurance	4,000
Office expenses	1,200
Operating & building costs	3,500
Green bags	2,500
Equipment maintenance	2,000
Brush maintenance	1,000
Utilities	7,750
Refuse Disposal	24,000
Boat freight	15,500
Recyclable Disposal	500
Insurances	3,750
Equipment Purchases	16,000
Contingency	1,800
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>174,000</b>

### What is the budget for the operation of Peaine Township?

The proposed budget for **April 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004** postulates revenues and expenses of **\$241,000**:

#### Revenues:

Prior Year balance (3-31-03)	\$14,000
Property Tax (2002)	189,000
Swamp Tax	8,000
Zoning permits	3,500
Campground fees	2,000
State revenue sharing	16,000
Tower Leases	3,500
Savings Account interest	1,000
State SET fee	4,000
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$241,000</b>

#### Expenses:

##### Salaries:

Supervisor	\$13,500
Clerk	12,500

Treasurer	12,752	Education/Travel	4,000
Trustees	8,962	MTA dues	800
Supervisor's Secretary	2,800	Resale Shop Rent	600
Deputy Clerk	2,500	Township Hall Expansion	20,000
Deputy Treasurer	2,500	(savings account)	
Assessor	13,068	Maintenance Man	3,000
(matched by St. James)		Township Hangar	3,000
Zoning Administrator	4,918	Contingency	3,297
(matched by St. James)		Total expenses	<b>\$241,000</b>

#### *Related expenses*

Assessor's Project	4,000
(matched by St. James)	
Supervisor's expenses	1,500
Clerk's expenses	1,000
Treasurer's expenses	2,000
Assessor's office rent	6,000
& expenses (includes new computer and software)	
Pension/Employer Taxes	7,000

#### *Other*

Planning and zoning	13,000
Professional Planner	5,000
(matched by St. James)	
Insurances	8,000
Attorney fees	3,000
Township Hall Maintenance	8,000
& supplies	
Hall utilities	7,000
Board of Review	800
Elections	500
BI EMS	21,301
(matched by St. James)	
Historical Society	7,702
(matching St. James)	
BI Cemetery Fund	2,000
(matched by St. James)	
Fireworks	2,000
(matched by St. James)	
Trails & Parks	14,000
Youth Consortium	4,000
(matched by St. James)	
Computer Supplies	4,000
Second Deputy	11,000
(matched by St. James)	

## **Historical Society sums up its Season**

The Beaver Island Historical Society wants to thank its 378 members, many of whom contributed helpful input, for what it feels was a successful year. The museums were kept open, Museum Week was a success, and its involvement with the Leadership Conference and Partnership Project was rewarding.

The Oral History project obtained some interesting interviews. Trips to Grand Rapids, Detroit, and Chicago yielded footage of seven nuns who taught in the Island schools, the "Rushin' Girls," who put out a newsletter for 3 ½ years during WW II, and Allie McDonough, a 99-year-old artist still practicing, and practicing well, his craft. This project has also documented some current events, and will have material ready for a contemporary history room in the expanded Print Shop Museum.

More artifacts were obtained for Heritage Park—they'll be placed as soon as an updated site plan is prepared. The difficult permits required for building a roof over the *Bob S* have almost been completed, so it looks like construction for it and the Marine Museum revetment will take place in the spring.

## **Beaver Island Lighthouse School**

Congratulations to the Beaver Island Lighthouse School in its 19<sup>th</sup> year of operation. This unique residential alternative school has much to celebrate. If you are able to pick up a copy of "The Navigator," the Youth Service Newsletter, you will be able to see the many accomplishments made by their students recently in the area of literature. Six scholarships from the University of Michigan-Bear River Division were awarded to Lighthouse School Students. Students have been recognized for their accomplishments in areas of photography and writing by the Crooked Tree Arts Council. You may have heard or read discussion that the lease is expected to be up in 2005. Presently there are students coming from a 10-county area who are at risk of not completing high school. With success stories from this year alone, it boggles the mind to think that such a successful program would be in jeopardy. The restoration grants awarded since 2000 also need to be considered. To date, \$440,000 has been spent from funds such as the National Park Service, Department of Environmental Quality, and the State of Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program. Let's all stay vigilant and support good efforts where we find them.

## **A Thank You**

Thanks to all who attended, helped with, and made the 2003 Beaver Island Health Fair a great success. The Health Fair provides an opportunity to access screening and information, to promote safety, wellness, and a happy life style.

## Medical News

Beaver Island EMS and Island Airways are closer to resolving the air ambulance issue since Island Airways has secured insurance for their medical flights. Northflight and the Coast Guard have been covering the service since the FAA ruled to stop all such flights until Island Airways met certain criteria.

The new Beaver Island Rural Health Center is 70% complete, and funding continues to be an ongoing

challenge. Many new board policies and procedures have been instituted. Three new board members have been added, Angela LeFevre, Brad Grassmick, and Eula Thomas. They each bring new insights and expertise to a determined board.

Sue Solle is the newest addition to the health service.

A new search is in progress to fill Chris VanLooy's position. Chris

and her mother are moving to Georgia to be near family. We appreciate all the great care she provided through the years and look forward to her return visits to Beaver Island.

We wish the new board members all the best and look forward to the resolution of many of the problems, both actual and perceived, that haunted the Medical Center Board last summer.

## Moving? Please Keep Us Updated

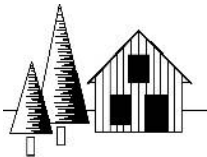
Anytime that you do not receive your BIPOA newsletter, there is a reason. The most common are that either you moved and did not notify us, or that your dues were not paid and we had to remove your name

from the mailing list.

We have received several newsletters back over the past year with no forwarding address. If you would clip off your name from the address area and return it to us when

you are moving, we will attempt to get the newsletter off to you promptly.

You may also e-mail us via the BIPOA web site:  
[www.beaverisland.net/bipoa](http://www.beaverisland.net/bipoa)



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