

BIPOA

Island CURRENTS

Beaver Island Property Owners Association

Summer 2001

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

Fall Newsletter - November 15, 2001

Submission Deadline: October 15

School Election - June 11th

Museum Week - July 16th - 21st

Township Elections - July 17th

2001 Annual Meeting - July 30th

7:00 PM at the
Peaine Township Hall

Homecoming - August 10th - 12th

A Report from the Townships

While Beaver Island was quietly covered in a blanket of white snow, our elected township officers were engaged in numerous activities promoting the safety and quality of life for those individuals who live and visit our Island. The census for St. James Township is now at 307, up from the 1990 census of 276 which is an 11.2% increase. Peaine Township's 1990 census was 128 and the 2000 census is an impressive 244, or a whopping 90.6% increase. 38 new homes were built last year in Peaine Township alone. Overall, there was a 36.4% increase in the Beaver Island census.

In a recent interview with Peaine Township Supervisor John Works, he discussed the plans for the new fire station. After an extensive study with various county and Island agencies, the East Side Drive site across from the Bill Wagner Memorial Campground was chosen. The 5-acre area will include a live burn training area, water tanks for winter water access, a 30 x 60 foot storage area for equipment, and an area to house an ambulance and fire truck. Clearing of this location will take place this spring with hopes of starting the erection of a facility to house some of the fire equipment this summer. A new fire truck has been purchased specifically for the Peaine Township site. Mr. Works has made available a survey and the proposed building plan (see page 5)

In the 2001 budget, Peaine Township has made several increases

in the areas of road maintenance, a second deputy for a 6-month period, and increasing the salary of the Zoning Administrator. Peaine Township's tax and funds breakdown of mills information follows.

This spring, three Charlevoix County trucks plus a grader will be sent to the Island to begin another major road maintenance program. John Works also stated the increase in the road maintenance fund included a significant increase in the liquid chloride application. He is working with the Beaver Island Boat Company to provide a fair transportation fee for this very heavy liquid. Peaine Township residents can continue the practice of obtaining 3 bags every 2 weeks from the transfer station while supplies last.

Peaine Township has hired Marty Kuligowski for maintenance and handling of the stone-crushing plant. When residents have

Continued. See Townships, page 4.

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BIPOA Committees



Rural Health Center
Strategic Planning Task Force
Committee Chair: Maggie Bennett
(231) 448-2836



Trails Committee
Committee Chair: Sharon Vance
(231) 448-2842



Island Clean-Up
Committee Chair: Doug Hartle
(231) 448-2368 or (248) 585-4818



Island Roads
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

The Natural Beauty of Beaver Island

No one would deny that those six words describe the most important feature of this Island. That fact has been recognized by a State Law of 1994: The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act of 1994. It's just as direct as its title, and it leaves a great portion of the administration and enforcement of its purposes to City and Township Governments – the kind of law Beaver Islanders like best!

The NREPA law identifies the importance of our beautiful native trees, plants, grasses, and flowers to the Island beauty and the enjoyment of Islanders, their guests, and Island visitors, and provides methods, procedures, and legal recourse for the protection and preservation of these resources.

Specifically, a Township, Village, or City may, at the request of 25 or more of its citizens, petition their local government to designate a road or street as a Natural Beauty Road (or Street). A public hearing shall be called (following public notices and a local newspaper announcement) to discuss the request. If the sentiment of the citizens is in favor of the Natural Beauty designation, the local governing body (Township, in our case) shall vote on the request. If affirmative, the approval decision shall be filed with the Clerk to establish the subject property or properties as Natural Beauty Road(s).

Beaver Island already has one such designated Road: West Side Road, from the Township Airport to Iron Ore Bay. This beautiful roadway is a proper example of the purpose and legal protection of the NREPA Law. A short time ago, notice was given to Peaine Township of an apparent violation of the Law. Investigation revealed

that it was inadvertent, and not a serious violation. The property owner wrote the Township an apology, and praised the Law's protection, which settled the matter.

The main restriction that protects the natural growth of trees and plants is that trees and plants within specific distances from the roadway may not be disturbed by cutting, pruning, spraying, mowing, trenching, or other disturbances of natural growth, without specific permission from the Township Board after holding a public hearing on the matter.

The Law also provides for specific conditions of maintenance of designated roadways by both the Townships and individual property owners on such roadways, and specific penalties and punishments are provided for violation of the NREPA Law's provisions. Petitions signed by five or more freeholders of a Township, or freeholders representing 10% or more of the frontage of a designated road or street, may file a petition with local authorities to seek an injunction against violators of the NREPA Law's guidelines or procedures, and civil fines of up to \$400 may be leveled against violators.

Beaver Island has many other roads and sections of roads deserving the protection of this Law. The first step is for 25 citizens to request a hearing to get Township designations for such roads. If the sentiment of the petitioners' neighbors is earned, the Township Board can add them to those already protected. The more the better! And affected property-owners may even find that such designation increases the value of their property, as well as increasing the beauty of the Island.

-Submitted by Peaine Township

The Tale of Two Propane Services

Last winter while the rest of the country was dealing with high natural gas prices, the talk around the Island was the high propane prices. After the boat had stopped and the propane had been stock-piled for the winter, a price hike went into effect. Great Lakes residential customers saw the largest hike with propane reaching \$1.99/gallon while Island Energies Corp. customers saw \$1.39/gallon.

Great Lakes Energy Gas Services and Island Energies Corp. both provide propane service to Beaver Island and both were asked to provide policy statements concerning when Island residents would be notified regarding price increases. The following is a reply from Randy W. Camp, General Manager:

Great Lakes Gas Services has offered propane service to residents and property owners on Beaver Island for almost two years now. Great Lakes Energy Gas Services is not a utility and as such is not regulated by the Michigan Public Services Commission. Great Lakes Energy Gas Services is a for profit company. Therefore, what we charge for our products and services is dictated by our cost of providing those products and services. Without the ability of generating a profit, we could not exist.

The prices that are charged on Beaver Island are higher than the prices we charge other customers that are not. This is due to the increased cost of getting the product to Beaver Island and the additional cost of doing business there. As you probably realize, Great Lakes Energy Gas Services does not provide what many might call typical propane service. We provide propane service through

meters, which allow our customers to only pay for what they use, and not have money tied up in propane inventory. We also use volume pricing for all our customers. This bases the price of the product to the customer on the amount that the customer consumes. People who use more pay less.

One thing that we could have done this past year and will plan on doing in the future is to give the residents and property owners on Beaver Island the price ceiling that we have always set for the past four years. Even this year on Beaver Island we did not exceed the ceiling, even though we had not publicized it to you. During the 2000-2001 heating season, the average residential propane consumer on the mainland was paying prices at or above the \$2.00 mark. This average (as posted by the Michigan Public Service Commission) does not include propane sold on Beaver Island, but as you can see, our price to our customers this past heating season was very competitive in comparison to the MPSC's posted average.

--Randy W. Camp,
General Manager

Mr. Camp also said that their customers will see a change in their billing and will no longer be billed through their electric department.

Island Energies Corporation customers are billed for their propane at the time of delivery, eliminating meter reading. Island Energies' Christy Albin stated that their policy is to set the price before the winter heating season in November and that they would not increase the price again until March 21st. Customers would be notified at these times. She noted that Spring and Fall were restock times

with the demand and the price being lower. They do not use volume pricing for their customers but instead have a set price which they feel more evenly spreads the price to everyone.

Any further questions concerning Great Lakes Energy Gas Services can be sent to Mr. Randy W. Camp at 1-888-485-2537 ext. 8222 or his e-mail address is randyc@glenergy.com.

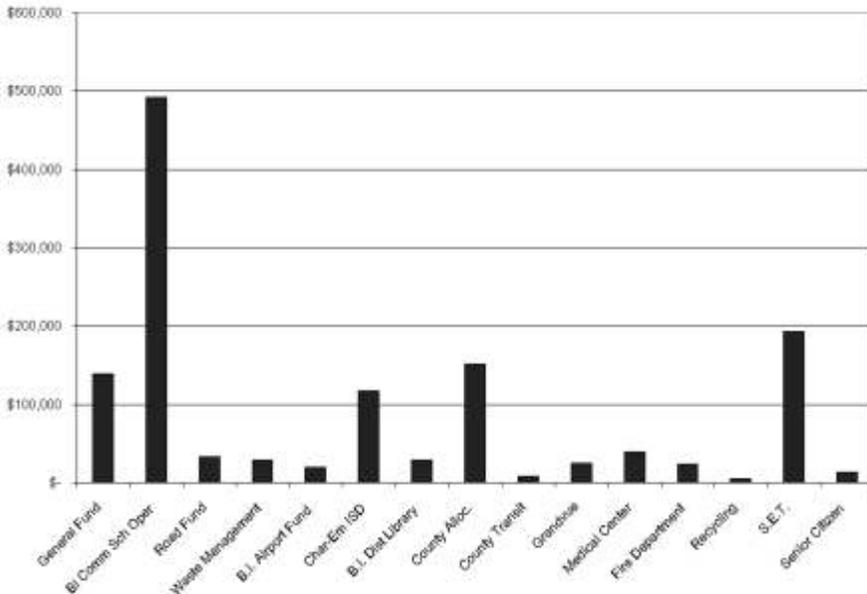
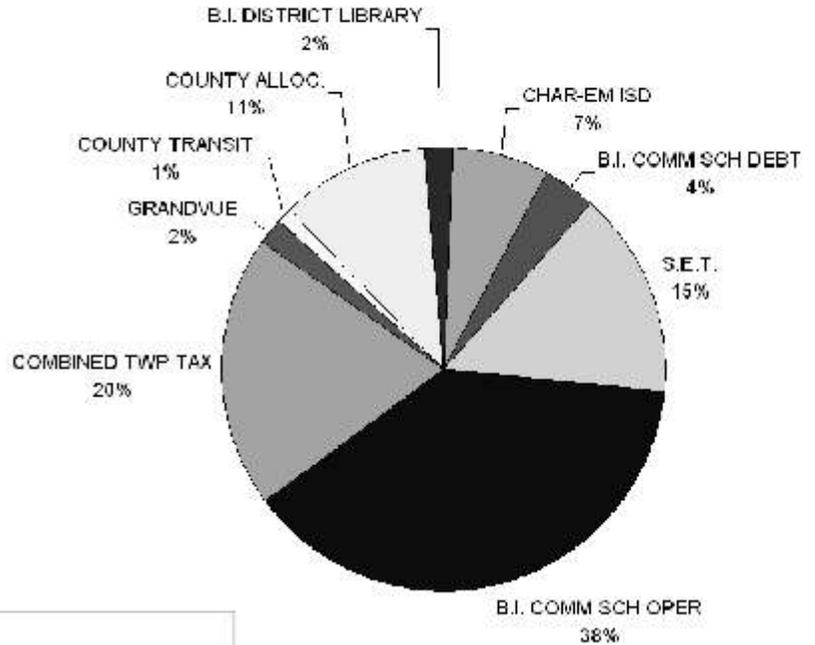
Any further questions concerning Island Energies Corp. can be directed to Christy or Keith Albin at (231) 448-2007

Charlevoix Round Lake Project

Those of us who travel via the Beaver Island Boat Company always enjoy the sound of the whistle and the opening of the bridge. With the completion of the Charlevoix Airport improvement, the city council will turn their attention to Round Lake. The city of Charlevoix is in the process of developing additional boat slips and improving the shoreside facilities. The potential to develop another commercial docking site for cruise ships in Round Lake is also being discussed. Mr. Michael Wiesner, City Manager, stated that the city of Charlevoix is presently seeking a planner/consultant to help in all areas of developing Round Lake and the use of land in the 2 block area of Clinton and Antrim streets. Although they have a preliminary marine layout, they plan to study the impact of vehicle traffic through the city. A fall public input meeting is scheduled with all interested parties. BIPOA will be notified of the exact date. Mr. Wiesner expects the project to begin in the fall of 2003.

Peaine Township Tax Breakdown

	Tax
General Fund	\$ 138,613
BI Comm Sch Oper	\$ 491,920
Road Fund	\$ 32,924
Waste Management	\$ 28,712
B.I. Airport Fund	\$ 19,664
Char-Em ISD	\$ 117,571
B.I. Dist Library	\$ 29,554
County Alloc.	\$ 151,504
County Transit	\$ 8,298
Grandvue	\$ 25,332
Medical Center	\$ 39,494
Fire Department	\$ 23,398
Recycling	\$ 5,210
S.E.T.	\$ 193,422
Senior Citizen	\$ 13,905
	\$ 1,319,521



Taxing Unit	Mills
S.E.T.	6.0000
B.I. Comm Sch Oper	15.6190
B.I. Comm Sch Debt	1.5494
Char-Em ISD	2.8260
B.I. Dist Library	0.8500
County Alloc.	4.3565
County Transit	0.2432
Grandvue	0.7420
Combined Twp Tax	8.1410
	40.3271

Townships, continued from cover township maintenance concerns, Mr. Works suggests that they contact him (John Works). He will establish a priority list of jobs every Friday.

A joint township \$2.9 million dollar airport improvement project will also begin this summer. Please refer to information provided by St. James Township's Supervisor, Don Vyse, for a more detailed explanation (see page 5). Both Townships are also very involved in working with the

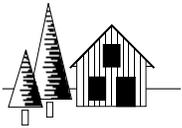
planner who will help develop the objectives in the needs assessment report as determined by both boards.

John Works would like to remind all Peaine Township residents that he is available for your thoughts concerning all aspects of the Township and can be reached by e-mail at jworks@beaverisland.k12.mi.us, by phone at (231) 448-2389, by FAX at (231) 448-2692, or by stopping at the Peaine Township Hall on Fridays from 1:00 to 5:00

p.m. Monthly Peaine Township meetings are scheduled the 2nd Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.

St. James Township Supervisor, Don Vyse, is available in the St. James Township Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. Monthly St. James Township meetings are scheduled the 1st Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.

The BIPOA Board wishes to thank our supervisors and the township officials for their exemplary hard work on all our behalf.



B I P O A

Membership Application

Beaver Island Property Owners Association

New Member Renewal Update Address

* 2001-2002 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:

Mr. Rod Nackerman
 Summer: 27245 Darkeytown Road
 Beaver Island, MI 49782

Winter: 2514 Cole Road
 Lake Orion, MI 48362

Natural notes

March Madness

(from an entomological perspective)

If there was a referendum today to designate the ladybug as the State Insect I am afraid it would fail miserably. For the last several weeks, all across the Great Lakes Region, ladybugs hibernating in wall voids, attics, crawl spaces and attached garages have been waking up and finding their way into houses and apartments. The sheer numbers and wide geographical distribution of this phenomena is pretty impressive from an entomological perspective. The problem with that, however, is that there are only about 46 people in Michigan who view life from an entomological perspective!

Where did they all come from? There are several species of ladybugs (or ladybird beetles) in Michigan. All of them sleep away the winter months in cool, dry places. Some of them converge in autumn and hibernate en masse. However, it has just been the last couple of winters that we have observed large numbers massing in the friendly confines of manmade cavities. By and large the vast majority of these ladybugs are a species that was introduced in the southern U.S. by the U.S.D.A. It is called the Asian lady bug or the multicolored Asian ladybird beetle. It was introduced from Japan to help manage aphid, scale, greenbugs, and other soft-bodied phytophagous insect pests. This ladybug comes in many shades of orange (thus it's name) and has a variable number of spots or no spots at all on its wing covers. It can be identified most easily by a black mark resembling an "M" on the upper (dorsal) side of its thorax (body region between its abdomen and head).

Why so many? The summer of 2000 in Michigan was the year of the aphid in Michigan. Weather conditions were perfect for their reproduction and survival throughout the entire summer in most corners of the state. As a result, aphid populations went berserk. The aphid is the prey of choice for any self-respecting ladybug, regardless of what it says on their passport. When you have lots of food, you make lots of babies and the rest, as the saying goes, is history.

Why did the DNR release them? As I stated two paragraphs prior, the Asian ladybug was introduced by the U.S.D.A. not by the MDNR and

not in Michigan. I mention this because there is another phenomena, part of “they say” lore, that requires comment. It seems that whenever there is a population explosion of an unfamiliar animal, there is a certain portion of the population (“they”) that are convinced that the sudden burst of numbers can only be the result of a mass release of this animal by our MDNR. In the early 90’s it was the government flies, followed by government frogs in the mid 90’s. My all-time favorite was a caller trying to verify that the DNR released turkey vultures to eat white tail deer road kills so the department wouldn’t have to clean them up themselves.

Well, my biologist colleagues at the DNR are now getting credit for introducing these new lady bugs “to eat gypsy moth caterpillars.”

What can a homeowner do to get rid of them? Dealing with ladybugs has been an emotional conundrum for many people. Ladybugs are one of the few bugs folks grew up with that they actually liked. However, for many, the little bugs have worn out their welcome. This has created a love/hate relationship where, after a time, hate wins out.

Household insecticides will kill ladybugs, but there is a problem. If you are spraying these bugs as they enter your home, you will likely be doing this on a daily basis because the ladybugs don’t wake up all at once. So, I don’t think that is a good option. Why? You will be spraying insecticide often, on walls, windows, and countertops. Especially when the house is still closed up in the spring, residual insecticide will

likely continue to re-circulate throughout the house or apartment. And you know what? You will still have to police up the bodies and dispose of them.

Finding where they are massed is not practical in most instances. If you have large numbers getting into the house, I would suggest that you have some pretty obvious cracks or crevices where they are getting into the house. This problem can be remedied and will go a long way towards reducing the number of unwanted visitors in your home. Once warm weather arrives, the entire ladybug clan will wake up and leave. At that time you should consider inspecting the outside of the house for obvious points of entry. Asian ladybugs seem to prefer light colored houses over dark and they pick on sunlit exposures, especially those that are on the south and west side of the house.

Are they harmful? Ladybugs are predators, which means they eat other animals. So they cause no harm to the house’s structure, plants, or foodstuff in the cupboards. The Asian ladybugs may take a nip of your finger while handling them. If you get nipped by one it would probably be a good idea to put a dab of topical antibiotic on the bite mark.

How many will there be next winter? Predator populations usually go down faster than they build up. The Asian ladybird beetle populations have been on the increase for the last 3-4 years. The large populations of, among other prey species, aphids last year put them over the top. Aphid populations respond to rainfall and warm temperatures over the course of a growing season. Throughout

much of our state we had well-timed rains, and aphids responded positively. If you talk to a plant pathologist about the summer of 2000, they will tell you that it was a plant pathologist’s dream year. Why? Plant diseases responded to the well-timed rains.

So if you want to get a handle on how many lady bugs will be looking to spend the winter of 2001-2002 at your address, just keep an eye on the weather this summer.

Tom Ellis
Dept. of Entomology
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

Your Thoughts

The goal of the BIPOA newsletter and website 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. Please submit all articles or comments to: Pam Grassmick either via fax number (248) 489-1263 or at our website: beaverisland.net/bipoa

Letters to Editor:

It is with a grateful heart that I acknowledge and thank all who invested in the Community House project during my tenure with the Preservation Association of Beaver Island prior to September 2001.

-Marilyn Clark
Beaver Island, MI

New Members

We wish to welcome our newest members:

Taffy Raphael and Jim Gavelek
Don Wardlow
Mark and Loraine Dawkins
Steve and Trish Scott
Susan Wiseheart
Paul Neumann

Upcoming Elections

Annual School Election
June 11, 2001

Proposal 1
Operating Millage, to approve
restoration of 15.7908 mills

Proposal 2
Renewal of Vocational Technical
Education millage .75 mills

St. James Township Special Election
July 17, 2001

- Transfer Station 1 mill
- Fire Department 1 mill
- Roads 1 mill
- Medical Center 2 mills

Peaine Township Renewals
July 17, 2001

- Library .85 mill
- Medical Center 2 mill

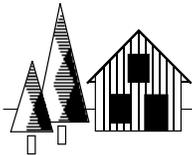
Moving? Please Keep Us Updated

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 website - www.beaverisland.net/bipoa.

Remember the BIPOA Annual Meeting on July 30th at 7:00 P.M.



B I P O A

Beaver Island Property Owners Association
30330 East Side Drive
Beaver Island, MI 49782