



The Cliff Island Seagull

A Publication of the Cliff Island Association

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Cliff Island, Maine

Fall 2003

President's Report

I have to start this message with a huge and heart-felt *thank you* to Ruth Mistark. After untold number of years of service to the CIA, she has stepped down as an official member of the CIA Executive Board. Her efforts, both public and behind the scenes for the good of the organization and the island, were unending and nothing short of fantastic. At the same time, we welcome other new members to the board—Rick Marsh as Vice President and board members Jim Coull, Mac McKone and teen representative Cris-Hawk Farrin.

No family or neighborhood is ever without conflict—it's quite natural. The Deer Management Plan is one such conflict. There was a democratic process that produced a plan. However, two points that have been discussed before are important enough to repeat: (1) while each one of us might have wanted the plan changed a bit one way or another, a democratic process created the plan and we have to see that the will of the majority is carried out; and (2) the process produced friction between community members. We knew beforehand that in the end we would still all be living together on the island. Any hard feelings should now be put aside as we are still all neighbors.

The other conflict situation involves the potential barge-landing site. At the September CIA meeting, a group spoke in opposition to the proposal that the landing be built on property owned by Land Associates on the southwestern side of the island. The issue seems to be twofold—this group wants to further explore alternative sites for the landing as well as alternatives to barge use on the island. As a result, the CIA Executive Board au-



Who says cooking can't be fun? Carolyn Walker hosted a Pampered Chef show to a crowd of women and men (yes, a couple of men who love to cook!). Tricia McNamara shared fun, easy recipes, cooking tips and quality kitchen tools. An informative and enjoyable time was had by all.

(Photo submitted by Trish McNamara)

thorized the formation of a committee to explore these issues. Similar to the deer issue, we can guarantee that in the end not everyone will be happy about the decision, but we will all still be living together on this small rock in the middle of the ocean. We need to keep that in mind while this process works itself out.

On another note near and dear to us all: property taxes. The City of Portland has advised the Cliff Island Tax Committee that Cliff will be treated as its own neighborhood for the reevaluation process. This is good news, as it means we will not be compared to other islands or shorefront communities. This should result in more fair and accurate valuations.

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The city fathers came to the island for a meeting with the community late this summer. Of import from that meeting came the reminder that if you need emergency help, the best bet is to immediately call 911— island residents are not required to first call the constable. Additionally, due to a variety of problems, the city is suspending enforcement of the vehicle registration rules. Once things get straightened out, we'll pass on the word.

I hope that for all of you, the summer of 2003 was memorable and pleasant and that the upcoming winter is short and safe.

Steve Little



Maura Kasierski enjoys a time-honored tradition of leaping off the wharf. This foggy day was typical for much of this summer. (Photo submitted by Bob McNamara)

POST OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Fri	Lobby	8am - 5pm
	Window	8am - 1pm 2pm - 4:45pm
	Mail Dispatch	3:30pm
Saturday	Lobby	8:30am - 12:30
	Window	8:30am - 12:15
	Mail Dispatch	12 noon

Cliff Island in My Mind's Eye

Sandy roads for bicycling,
sky-blue sea, tree-green land.

Sailboats, seashells, skiffs and seagulls,
low, gray clouds.

Gently lapping waves on rocks,
slippery, shiny seaweed.

Ferries, whistles,
freight on landings.

Smiling, riding, laughing, singing,
Chester, Bob, Peggy.

Joan Marrin Smith

www.cliffisland.com

is the official Cliff Island website

E-mail bob@cliffisland.com if you wish to be on the list to receive important news and updates via email.

If your email address changes, let Bob know. He continually updates his list. (Thanks, Bob!!)

Postage Stamps

Remember to help our community by buying your postage stamps from the Cliff Island Post Office. If you can't be here in person, you can purchase them by mail. Contact Postmaster Anna at 766-2051 for the details or print out an order form from the Cliff Island website.

- Fire Department Report -

It was a relatively quiet summer, with a typical fall in sight. The annual EMS Seminar in Rockland is approaching this November and I expect with Steve Little, Dale Dyer, and Ben Bernard receiving their First Responder certificates along with previous First Responder Bob Howard and EMTs Karen & James Griffin, there will be a need to have as many of these attend the conference as are willing. In order to keep their licenses current, each of them is required to take several classes during the three years until their certificates need to be renewed. I am fortunate enough to have the credits available during my work time in Portland. I would like to thank all of those volunteers who have given up their weekends to attend these seminars in the past, and for those who will do it this fall.

At the city's official tour of the islands, we were given a peek of what our new fire truck will look like—the first “new” fire truck for Cliff Island ever. In the past, it was not uncommon for Portland to replace a truck in the city and ship the older city truck to Peaks, the Peaks' truck to Long, the Long's truck to Cliff. The new administration in Portland realizes that the firefighting apparatus needed for the islands is very different from what is needed in the city. For the first time in history, we will have an engine that is designed for rural firefighting where a greater volume of water must be carried because of a lack of hydrants. We also do not need the trucks that are being retired in

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DEER MEAT AVAILABLE

Any Cliff Island resident who would like a whole deer (not butchered), should contact Earl MacVane at 766-5533 or Gary MacVane at 766-2669. Your name will be added to the request list and the whole deer will be delivered to your island address in the order that they are received in compliance with the Cliff Island Management Plan. All deer not claimed by island residents will be given to the “Hunters for the Hungry” program.

town that have places for 6 firefighters to sit in the cab because most times the trucks will go to the fire with only the driver. With volunteer departments it is common for each individual to respond with a separate piece of apparatus or a private vehicle and converge on the scene. I have to commend Chief LaMontange and Deputy Messerve for approaching this new vehicle with a perspective that will truly give us a vehicle that will serve the island well for many years.

Chief LaMontange has also agreed to update our vehicle radio system to ensure that during calls there will be a reliable backup system for communicating with the dispatcher. We have had a radio battery problem city wide that caused us problems here and on the mainland a year or so ago. That problem has been addressed with new 24-hour batteries for the portable radios that many of us carry. This would be a backup system to augment the already dependable system that we are using now.

Once again I would like to thank the many islanders and friends for their generous support. Those donations will enable training, such as at the EMS Conference in Rockland, to be completely funded by the department. Those donations make all of you an important part of this department—for that I am forever grateful.

Chief Crowley

images of god

the head of a striper
emptied eye socket
at low tide

the man's name
aidan
is a ghost lover

labored breathing
of a doctor
running down a dirt road

a charred totem
guarding a campsite
aboriginal

women's faces looking upward
in a wheeled mandala
legs and arms outstretched
fluttering
angel wings
on a sand beach

even in mongolia
outside a hide yurt
there is a generator
and old american music
fills the night

eskimos parking snowmachines

satellite dish spreading
like poison ivy on an
island... the world

we know

outer escapes
are leaving
us

only an inner inuvik
a slow turtle spiraling
a penetrating
into a void-dark mystery

where there are no longer words
speaking

only

a listening

Kat Farrin

- Mira Mendelsohn Gess, 81 -

Mira Mendelsohn Gess, 81, of Cliff Island and East India Row, Boston, Mass., died Tuesday, August 19th at her Cliff Island residence.

She was born in Berlin, Germany, daughter of Max and Rose Lewin Mendelsohn. She came to the United States from Germany in 1939 to reside in New York City with her mother and younger sister.

Mira was a graduate of Hunter College in New York City. She was a free-lance editor at Random House, and for various text books for several years.

She loved reading, doing crossword puzzles and spending time at her summer residence on Cliff Island.

She is predeceased by her husband, Karol Gess, in 1999 and her sister, Tatiana Mendelsohn, in 1918. She leaves a son, Nicholas M. Gess and a daughter, Julie Elizabeth Gess, both of Washington, D.C. and a sister, Lilly Urbach, of San Francisco, CA.

Memorials in her memory may be made to the Holocaust Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC 20024.



As a Portland city worker was trimming the sides of the roads, he happened upon this Mourning Dove dutifully sitting on her eggs just feet from the road. Unfortunately, her nest was destroyed shortly after. (Photo submitted by Kat Farrin)

Hear and There



Hailey and Lillian Frager proudly announce the birth of their new sister, **Laini Tusha**. She was born August 23rd at 10:45 a.m., weighing 7 lb, 15 oz, and was 20" long. Parents **Paul and Farrah Pitkin Frager** are equally excited by the newest addition to their family. (See photo above.)

Amanda Green, granddaughter of Sandra and Charlie Green, visited Hawaii in March, representing her school, Phillips Andover Academy, as a member of the Cantata Choir. She also traveled to Australia for 3 weeks in July as a "Good Will Ambassador" from the school. Grandson **Dustin Bays** received a scholarship to Furman University to further his musical studies.

Congratulations to **Gary and Kelly (O'Reilly) Profenno**, who celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary on September 11, 2003.

Libra and Jeff are proud to announce that their son, **Taylor Cusack**, was accepted into the 8th grade class at Pine Tree Academy in Freeport, ME. Taylor has adjusted very well to boarding away from home, but his parents miss him!

PLEASE CURB YOUR DOG

As more and more dogs arrive on the island each summer, it becomes even more important to remember to curb your dog. It goes without saying that any "jobs" along the sides of the roads should be picked up, but please also show the same consideration in places where you may think "no one treks or cares." Someone does! (Just ask the person with the stuff on the bottom on his shoes after walking there.)

Pick-up bags are located outside Cafe Cliff for all to use. Please do!

TICKS: Be sure that your animals are de-ticked before coming to the island. Though Lymes' ticks have finally found their way to Cliff this past year, we surely don't want any more. THANKS!!!!

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Cliff Island, ME 04019

email: JML11349@aol.com
Joanne La Pomarda 207-766-5172

Fall Hours:

Mon: 1 - 4:30 p.m.
Wed: 1 - 4:30 p.m.
Thurs: 1 - 4:30 p.m.
Sat: 1 - 4:30 p.m.

The business will move into the Candlelight House (Louise O'Reilly's home) by November 1st. You may also call me at 766-5172 to make an appointment to shop. Holiday mail orders must be made by December 1st. Thank you!

- PTC Report -

The summer is coming to a close here on Cliff Island. I can't say that we miss the hot and humid air, but we miss a lot of you. The streets are quiet and the leaves are slowly changing. Griffin's Cove is empty, but the school is full of young and eager children.

We want to welcome our new student, Allannah O'Reilly, to the Cliff Island School. She will be a great addition. We also want to thank our teacher, Judy MacVane, for staying on another year. She has done great things for the school and students. We look forward to another year with her at the helm.

The PTC wants to thank everyone who donated their bottles and cans to the Cliff Island School. We also want to thank everyone who helped box and bag the returns to ship to town. It was not the most enjoyable thing to be doing on a beautiful summer morning, which made your help all the more appreciated.

We want to thank the CIA, and more specifically, Anne and Reese Fullerton, for donating the New Mexican Dinner proceeds to the PTC fund. We also want to thank the CIA for picking up the tab for swimming lessons at the YWCA. Thanks to ACE for their continuing financial support and finally we want to thank everyone who purchased a Cliff Island blanket, sweatshirt, magnet or key chain.

The Cliff Island children are looking forward to fall activities – swimming lessons, apple picking, pumpkin carving, Halloween, etc.

We hope you all have a great fall and look forward to seeing you next summer.

Karen Griffin

- Tennis Report -

Despite the rain, there still managed to be many tennis games this summer. I'm sorry for those of you renters who had one of the bad weeks and never saw any court time. Bob Cook of Public Works has reassured me he will fix the drainage issue so that we will not waste so much time drying out the court after a soaking rain.

There was no round robin this year, but we have some competent, impressive young players in the ranks, and perhaps next year we could have a young players' tournament??

Leo Carter deserves an award for his continued commitment to teaching. I know he would like to see someone else come forward and take over the wonderful program he and Alice initiated. Perhaps two people could share the job. I will be putting out an appeal in the spring.

The commemorative chair in Mait Blank's name was showing serious wear. His family tried to rehab it with great effort, but by the end of August it became obvious it was on its last leg. Adam and Anne Fullerton graciously took it back to Bean's who, at no charge, replaced it. We have a sturdier and better chair with the old plaque newly attached. A thank you to Adam and Seth for assembling it!

The idea of a new fence has had mixed reviews but it is not a dead issue. If anyone has strong feelings either way as to its replacement, please email me.

I wish to commend the players for following the procedures carefully this year, which allows the court use to be maximized and fair. Thank you to everyone who contributed financially or in deed to keep our tennis alive. The crew out here will take down the court only when our hands freeze on the rackets!

Happy Winter, Kris Saunders

- Historical Society Report -

I am happy to report that we moved forward this summer with great success, great interest, and lots of fun. After a couple of meetings in the late spring and early summer, we started off the summer with a big bang! We held a wine and cheese party generously hosted by Bob Belknap and Cynthia Whittaker. Cynthia presented two books and a video tape on Russian history to the Cliff Island Club, of which we are an adjunct. The party also served as a grand opening of our Museum and Gift Shop next to the post office (formerly the old fire barn). About 80 people attended.

Our second big event was a wonderful arrangement of Cliff Island history via music through the decades. Many talented islanders and summer folk did a fantastic job! Everyone loved it. Alice Carter created and organized this very successful fundraiser.

Lastly, Maura Chadbourne organized and put on a great auction with a lot of assistance from Norman Seagrave, the auctioneer, and his two daughters, Anne and Martha. It was a different type of auction – offering services, dinners, sailing trips, etc., to bid on instead of just material items.

Along with a beautiful rug from Bahrain (donated by Steve and Diane Little) to raffle off, we raised a lot of money this summer. We would like to thank all of the many people who so generously donated funds to help the Historical Society get off to a great start. Incidentally, Julie Gess won the rug!

Many thanks go to Cynthia Whittaker, Bob Belknap, Alice Carter, Maura Chadbourne, and Steve and Diane Little for making these events possible. Also, thanks to all the other volunteers who so generously gave of their time this summer.

Some other things to note: 1) Danielle Hall, our Island Institute Fellow, will be helping us this winter as well as assisting the school and the library. 2) We connected with the school last spring through my teaching a unit called, "A Cliff Island Treasure Hunt." The students were directed to go

about the island and find and record where different historical events took place. They had fun doing it, learned a lot about the island's history, and were presented with "treasures" at the end-of-the-year program and graduation. Next spring we plan to do a unit on the history of the Cliff Island fishing industry, which will tie in nicely with our exhibit on fishing that we plan to offer next summer. It's so important to involve the children in our history projects. After all, they are our future, and we hope they will want to keep this organization going in the years to come. 3) On June 15th, we all spent the day with Ned Allen, curator at the new Harbor Museum in South Portland, who gave us wonderful tips and valuable information that have helped us set some good goals and have given us our vision for the coming years. This was made possible due to a grant from MAM (Maine Archives and Museums). 4) Bob Howard is chairman of our "new space" (Museum Room) and with a lot of help from many people, especially Steve Little and Mac McKone, he has transformed a grungy looking old fire barn into a very presentable new Museum Room. Thanks, Bob! It has served us very well this summer as a museum store, a place to display our memorabilia, and a place for a slide show shown on our new state-of-the-art computer, made possible from another grant from MBNA. Incidentally, other organizations and the community are welcome to come in and use this new equipment. Just see Bob Howard, Alice Carter, Danielle Hall, or Pam Anderson for the key and to coordinate.

(Continued on page 9)
(Historical Society Report cont. from page 7)

Can you guess the identity of this handsome young man? This photo was taken in the 1950's.
(Photo submitted by Joe McNamara)



- Tax Committee Report -

My interest in this ad hoc committee originated by dismay at watching property taxes escalating around the state and wondering what would be the fate of our beloved island. I think this is one of the biggest threats to our island as we know it. To have long standing families forced to sell their properties, to have incoming young families unable to afford to come here or stay here or to lose our diversity would change what we love about the Cliff Island.

The real work needs to come from a substantial overhaul in our tax structure and school funding process which has to be done in the legislature. Being part of the Island Institute coalition is a place to wield some influence in the legislature as a unified voice with more clout.

The tax committee met this summer and determined that our best effort at this point regarding the Reevaluation Process was to be involved with the City Assessor. We requested that he come to the island and meet with us to discuss our concerns and answer our questions. While it was difficult for them to take the time to meet out here in this busy process, Rick Blackburn, Tax Assessor; Steve Besio from Cole-Layer-Trumble Co., the firm contracted to do the re evaluation and Tom Fortier, island liaison, spent the morning with us on September 4th at the hall. Many of the tax committee had left the island for the summer or others were working, but in attendance were Joanne Lapomarda, Diane Little, Mary McNitt, Steve Little, Kris Saunders and Larry Sharp.

We were given much background information regarding the entire process. Portland is mandated by the State to do this reevaluation as current property values have risen and thus the assessments on our tax bills have fallen below 70% of actual fair market value. (Surrounding communities have been doing the same.) It is not an option for Portland *not* to do this.

The assessment process is a very complex process with sophisticated data analysis. In a highly simplified synopsis this is the process: 1) Delineate

municipalities into "neighborhoods" (similar houses selling similarly); 2) group according to house styles (ranches, colonials etc.); 3) rate property characteristics (lot size, age, condition etc.). Then the program analyzes all this data to give you a model. To determine values you run comparable sales of 3 to 5 homes in the last 6 months within 1/2 mile radius. This has a complicated system of points and scoring, throwing out variables.

The key point here for Cliff is the comparables. We do not have these kinds of sales from which to draw data. If we are put in the "neighborhood" of all the islands to broaden the data base, we are at a serious disadvantage being compared to islands with more services and closer to Portland which have much higher property values. We were reassured that they are very sympathetic to this inequity, and we felt they were giving us fair treatment. Cliff will be treated in its own right.

We asked many questions about how they determined such things as waterview, status of buildings, what to do if one house sells very high skewing the sales, etc. It was an instructive meeting.

We can expect sometime in February to receive an "impact notice" which will show you your old value under last year's budget and your comparative new value. Your new tax bill reflecting the change will be next spring. We can expect a significant increase as values have risen, but we can hope that we will not be as slammed as Chebeague. Portland proper homes have risen markedly also which will help offset waterfront properties being so out of line. You can go online to check tax valuations through <http://www.portlandassessors.com>. Type in the Parcel ID which is in your tax bill and it will show you the information. All properties are listed; this is public information.

As an informed group, the Committee members are trying to be watchdogs on the process to make sure we are being treated fairly, but we cannot prevent what will most likely be a significantly

(Continued on next page)

Ellen Struble replaced Julie Gess as treasurer for this coming year. Ellen also did a terrific job this summer heading up the gift shop and finding some great volunteers to keep it open three days a week. Mary Ryan will perform this service next summer. Julie Gess is a new trustee and we thank her for doing a great job as treasurer during our first year.

This entire endeavor has been a lot of work for many people. I am so pleased at the number of volunteers and the willingness of so many people to help out. This makes it all possible. It is a wonderful thing for the island and all who love it here, to keep precious memories alive. One of my renters said to me what a wonderful thing the Historical Society is. It will keep the island special and unique and not just another summer place.

Pam Anderson
CIHS President

* * * * *

Please Return Questionnaires

As the first step in building a database of items for possible exhibit, loan, and/or collection, the CIHS in August mailed out over 300 questionnaires to the Cliff Island community. Those who have not yet returned their questionnaires are urged to do so as soon as possible. While there is no deadline for returns, the Collection Committee is eager to begin following up on the questionnaires and compiling information for the database. If any reader did not receive the questionnaire, s/he is encouraged to write to John Bernard, chair of the Committee, c/o CIHS, Box 82, Cliff Island. If you have email, be sure to include an email address so that the questionnaire can be mailed as an attachment. The Committee is pleased to thank those who have already returned their questionnaires.

John Bernard
Chair Collections Committee

(Tax Committee Report cont. from previous page)

increased bill next spring. Get informed, write your legislator, and vote at the polls for responsible reform. There are opportunities for hearings in the spring if you personally feel that your tax bill is unfair, but the fact is that the value of waterfront property in Maine has gone sky-high and we are not alone out here on Cliff with this issue.

Good luck to us all!

Kris Saunders



The Richardsons (sons Connor and Evan pictured above enjoying Kennedy Beach) rented on Cliff for the first time this past summer. No strangers to Casco Bay, they rented on Peaks Island for years and desired a change. They found Miekle's cottage on the Cliff Island web site and thoroughly enjoyed their time here.

(Photo submitted by Mary Richardson)

**ALL use of the Hall
MUST be scheduled**

And if your usage will extend for more than one day, each of the days (and time of day) it will be used must be scheduled and approved. This helps us keep tabs on the condition of the Hall as well as avoid double bookings. Thanks.

Please call Ruth Mistark (766-2618) for scheduling.

- ACE: The Summer of 2003 -

In our recounting, ACE 2003 was a summer to remember, and to value.

Perhaps the Jim Colt Memorial Ceremony was the highlight. How can you beat a baseball moment like that one—a standing-room-only crowd occupying one of the most beautiful ball field settings on earth. A throwback glove, designed and created by our own artist (and ACE Trustee), Eric Anderson, was bronzed for the ages. Hot dogs, Crackerjack, and root beer were ballpark fare. And how we rooted for Jim’s contributions to ACE and to island ball over the past few decades. Jim’s faithful wife, Helen, was here on the island to soak up our adulation and appreciation for all Jim meant to us. There was even forgiveness for Jim’s having once been a member of the New York Yankee organization! An historical perspective was highlighted on a century or more of Cliff Island ball playing and groundskeeping. And, just at the end of the ceremony, a softball game broke out among the next generation of island ball players. Wow! This ball field is where ACE started in 1977. Twenty-six years later, on a rain-threatened August Sunday afternoon, we were out in force as testimony to having carried out our original mission. It feels good. Thank you, Jim, for your key role in this winning streak.

The Summer Program felt good, as well. Danielle Hall came to us through the Island Institute and led us through two months of activities and experiences, both traditional and innovative. The field trips seemed to stand out, but there were many more lower profile initiatives, which were the glue for the summer season’s fun. Danielle will now stay on until at least next June as she turns her thoughtful and capable energies to the needs of the Cliff Island School, the Library, and the Historical Society. She has obviously become a valued member of our community. Perhaps she’ll be able to stay here a great deal longer. [The Board voted unanimously to continue the Summer Program in 2004.]

The Olympics were, once again, a grand success; the weather, the food and drink, the games and

activities, and the visiting were all as much fun as ever. Great thanks to all who organized, worked, contributed, and enjoyed this wonderful day.

Monday Evenings were fun, as well. We danced up a storm to the Red Lite Review and to Face Plant; we responded with standing ovations to the energetic and sophisticated jazz offerings of Myanna and the Brad Terry Quartet; and we were entranced by the artistry of our Peaks Island friends, Julie Goell (Carmen: First Night), and her husband, Avner the Eccentric (Clown Extraordinaire). Attendance was huge and the reward was there for all.

The season culminated with a most successful breakfast at the CIA Hall. Over 160 Cliff Islanders were fed from a mouth-watering menu!

On the facilities front, we created a new entrance to our Griffins’ Cove property, which seemed to enjoy more use than ever.

Finally, we bid an appreciative good bye to Owen McKone, who has served ACE well for many years. And we welcome to the Board, Marcia Sharp, whose dad, Reamer Kline, was a Founding Trustee back in 1977.

Those were just the high points. Much more goes on behind the scene—and will continue to happen as we move toward our 27th year in 2004.

Dale and Roger



Kids and adults alike enjoy the “tippy raft” in Griffins’ Cove. The Cove is a favorite gathering place to enjoy the sun and surf—and friends. (Photo submitted by Karen Griffin)

- Cliff Island Stone Library -

Our library is an island gem—a special place that provides books and books on tape, videos, and DVDs for every taste. We have an outstanding juvenile collection for infants through teens. The upstairs teen room is perhaps our best kept secret! We offer reprints of original island art on cards and postcards, current phone lists and a free magazine exchange. We also have books for sale. We are always looking for donations of books and magazines and Faith is hoping for a donated or loaned golf cart to transport donated materials, move books for sales and supplies for fund raising events and kids' programs, and to provide a book-mobile for people not able to visit the library.

For most of our hundred years of service to all the residents of Cliff Island, the Stone Library has provided a state-of-the-art institution. Recently the library has been left behind by technology and demographic changes in our population. Thanks to the Island Institute, MBNA and most importantly, a forward thinking, all-volunteer Board of Trustees, our precious resource has the opportunity to update its procedures and systems of material acquisition, housing and cataloging. For three years now, their vision and generosity have provided a large number books, including many large print books, and both documentary and popular videos and DVDs.

Two years ago, MBNA funded the technology for a new computer catalog system for both Stone Library and the school library and now they are poised to provide stipend money to finish the retro-conversion of the card catalog. The Island Institute has provided an Island Fellow, Danielle Hall, who will assist Faith in this process. Just two weeks ago, MBNA approved a grant to purchase and install a monitor system which will keep the library comfortable all winter! Bob Howard will be installing it in October. We are also writing mini grants for additional juvenile reference materials and a book repair workshop for library and historical society staff and volunteers.

All in all, things are hoppin' at the library. Come for a visit soon and check out the new books,

videos and DVDs. Come volunteer to help with the cataloging and join our substitute list. Come and peruse the wonderful collection of older and out-of-print books and the Maine Shelf. And don't forget to spread the word about the cozy upstairs teen room.

New Winter Hours!

Yes, we have heat! Come. Browse. Sit and read!

Tues. and Thurs.: 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Wed.: 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Phone: 766-5188. Look for the flag for unscheduled hours.

The Island Readers

Dedicated readers meet for an enjoyable discussion of a wide variety of books. Multiple copies are available at the library thanks to the Board of Trustees. They meet one evening a month at Alice and Leo Carter's home for lively conversations and yummy goodies. All are welcome, even if you didn't get a chance to finish the book!

Oct. 23: "The Weight of Water" by Anita Shreve

Nov. 20: "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel

Jan.: "Sea Biscuit" by Laura Hillenbrand

March: "Lydia Cassatt—Reading the Morning Paper" by Harriet Scott

April: "Come Spring" by Ben Ames Williams

Book Repair Workshop

Anastasia Weigle will run a book repair workshop on December 1st at the library—morning and afternoon sessions. Times will be posted. Pre-registration is required by November 1st. Call Faith at home: 766-2961 or the library: 766-5188. Donations are welcome to defray the cost of materials and lunch.

Call for Volunteers

Many grateful thanks to all who volunteer for the library: the busy Board of Trustees--Nancy Lux,

President, substitutes who fill in for Faith and Danielle, the book coverers and shelvees and catalog consultants, and all those cheer leaders who provide moral support. Thanks to all who donate books, books on tape and magazines. Thanks to all the faithful members whose dues provide annual budgetary support. Thanks to Rodney Quinn for the Island History, Henning Pontoppidan for donating Yonna's postcards and Polly Pitkin for the color notecards. A special thank you to those who donate funds and provide great, free advertising! And thank you, Bob Howard, for installation and maintenance of technology and heat.

The Stone Library was created and nurtured by volunteers here on Cliff. We would not have a library at all without them. We always need volunteers. I would like to put out a call for winter volunteers, especially to help with the cataloging project. Many hands make the work light – it is possible that the computer could be ready to process books by next summer! Please, come and see what's old and what's new and find out where your skills and talents can be put to use. If you are interested in serving as a Trustee or as an advisor to the Board, please call Faith or Nancy.

Name the Teen Room Contest

We are running a contest to name the upstairs teen room. The books cater to the 12- to 18-year-olds. Some current entries are "The 'Tween Room," "Next Gen Room," "New Wave," "The Second Decade," and "Up And Coming." Send your entries to: The Cliff Island Stone Library, c/o the Librarian, 3 Island Avenue, Cliff Island, ME 04019. Phone: 207-766-5188 or call Faith at home: 207-766-2961. The prize will be announced in the winter edition of the Seagull. Deadline: May 1st, so we can have a sign made and have an unveiling ceremony. Thanks to you all and good luck!

Wish List

All donations are tax deductible depending on your tax situation. Please ask for an official acknowledgment and our 501(c)3 number. Thank

you!

- 2 doormats (one for inside and one for outside)
- 2 or more comfortable reading chairs
- Bean bag chairs for the soon-to-be-named teen room
- A sign for the new name
- A golf cart (donated or loaned)

Thank yourself, your neighbors and your friends for making this little library a place to brag about!

Finestkind

Thanks to all who worked so hard this 2003 summer:

Adam
Anne
Annie
Charlie
Gary
Jamie
Josh
Justin
Karen
Katrinka
Loie
Mark
Matt
Nick
Seth
Tori

As well as those who asked for our services:

You, the Cliff Islanders, who are our Reason to be...

... yes, Finestkind!

Please let us know what we can do for you for the 2004 season! 766-2827

- A Word on Fire Safety -

There is nothing cozier than a warm, bright fire on a crisp autumn or winter night. Unfortunately, every year at least 12,000 people are killed in residential fires in the United States, according to statistics provided by the National Fire Protection Association. Fireplaces and woodburning stoves cause some of these deaths. The death of a Maine man the week of December 7, 2002 has been attributed to an improper woodstove installation and the chimney not having a liner in it. Understanding and practicing the following safety tips will help keep those hearth fires glowing in a safe, controlled manner.

To have a safe fire it all starts with the wood used. Burn seasoned wood that is at least 12 to 18 months old. Remember that slow burning fires create creosote and soot problems. Small hot fires are more efficient. Excessive smoky smell, eye irritation or headaches may indicate improper, dangerous drafts and should be checked immediately. It would be wise to have a smoke detector as well as a Carbon Monoxide detector placed in the same room as that of your heating appliance to protect against Carbon Monoxide poisoning, as well as early detection of a fire. A weekly cleaning of ashes from your stove during the heating season is recommended, as well as a monthly inspection of pipes and connections, and checking for creosote and soot build up. Dispose of ashes safely — that is, you want to put your ashes in a metal container with a lid on it outside of the home and away from combustibles.

Have your chimney cleaned on a regular basis during the heating season. A major cause of fires in older homes is an older chimney that does not have a clay liner or sleeve. Old mortar in the chimney can crack and leave areas exposed in the chimney that allows fire to get into the walls of your home. A liner can prevent this from happening.

Warning signs of chimney problems are:

- 1 Creosote build up, dripping from the base of the chimney or staining of the outer chimney shell.

- 2 Sluggish draft, smoke spilling out when the appliance door is opened.
- 3 Corrosion of the outer shell of a factory built chimney.
- 4 Deterioration of the brickwork of a masonry chimney.

Please check your stove and chimney before you start a fire either for the heating season or just for the comfort that a fire can bring for an evening.

Yours in Life Safety,
John Beatty
Fire and Life Safety Educator III
Portland Fire Department
(This article was submitted by Kris Saunders)



ACE sponsored a sand castle building contest this past summer. Over 10 teams entered and built everything from dolphins to sand castle resorts. The participants were rewarded with ice cream cones and sundaes for their extraordinary efforts.

(Photo submitted by Diane Little)

Winter Library Hours

Tues & Thurs: 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Wed: 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Phone: 766-5188

Yes, the Library will be heated!