

Great Cranberry Island Historical Society Annual Meeting, August 25, 2010

President Phil Whitney called the meeting to order at 7:35.

Minutes. Kitty Pierson distributed the minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting; the minutes were approved as written.

President's Report. Phil Whitney reminded the attendees that increasing membership was a major interest. We have a broad-based membership of 103 including the 14 members on the Board of Trustees. There is good participation in the 5 Committees:

- Financial – in charge of planning ways to increase income and find ways to save. This year Karin Whitney will analyze and report on the café revenue at the end of the season.
- Operations – upkeep and improvement of building and grounds, museum and store
- Events – provided activities of all sort, refreshments for meetings, and the very successful House and Garden Tour
- Publications – the Newsletter 3 times a year, Vol. 1 of House History, preparation for Volume 2 next year, advertising notes in newspapers, brochures and rack cards, and providing for all a local schedules of summer activities, as well as a daily sign announcing on the day's GCIHS activities
- Archives – met all winter; a recent additional gift of Hamer photographs will be archived this coming winter.

For the future: The philosophy of the last 3 years has been “something for everybody.” Phil is proud that the GCIHS has succeeded so well: he would like to make it a “destination” that draws people to the island, as for example, when the Bass Harbor Yacht came specifically to see the museum. He expects that all activities will continue to be carried out in as professional a way as possible, and that the building and ground maintenance be continued at a high level. In the near future, the Hitty Café revenue will be analyzed to see if any changes need to be made.

Developments of the past year.

A legacy gift of \$100,000 by Louise Marr; donations of \$5,600 for the front garden by the Hartley family, and of \$30,000 dedicated to south side garden, for the creation and continued upkeep, by Clay Taylor

The selection of Laura Bolten as an Island Institute Fellow, beginning in September, with an option for another year..This summer she was hired as a general helper for GCIHS; as a fellow she will work 2 days a week in the Islesford library and one in the Longfellow library, and the rest mostly archiving our material. During the summer she will return to full time at the GCIHS.

Phil developed connections with Unity College, which this year sent 11 students to improve the trail and fill in where needed, such as Café helpers and docents in the house and garden tour. The students all said that they would like to come back..

O.P Jackson, who owns 70 acres (and allowed our trail to cross his land) has offered to give the Sanford cottage to GCIHS. It could either stay there, or be moved, presumably to the GCIHS grounds. He is considering giving GCIHS a second, non-historical house when it becomes vacant.

Challenges:

- As the next year's budget is \$25,000, we need to generate more income.
- Repairing, or better, replacing the roof is an expected major cost, requiring more fund raising.
- Expansion of the deck for the Café is another fund raising need.
- Long range, we need a plan to replace the founders when they retire.

There has been a 'whirlwind' of activity, many successes; for all these Phil thanked: Wini (Smart) and Fred Quackenbush for the murals, the House History Book. Morrie and Johanna Newell for organizing the House and Garden Tour; Vicki Johnston for her work chairing the Events Committee, and Chris for

help with more complicated repairs; Kitty Pierson for her secretarial work; Charlotte Harlan for her kids crafts class, and the owners of the houses and gardens of the tour and other volunteers for the day – Morrie put 60 miles on his 'taxi.' And above and beyond, Bruce Komusin who can do anything with electronics and most other jobs without ever showing the stress of last minute demands on his time and expertise.

Treasurer's Report: The balance as of August 25 was \$72,684. \$30,000 of that is reserved (by grant stipulation) for the Clay Taylor garden expenses Expenses to date are \$56,168. That leaves \$11,496 as a reserve for the year 2011, less than half the \$25,000 budget. The major sources of income for 2010 are Memberships and donations, \$14,136; the House and Garden Tour, \$6,247; the Museum, \$2,795; classes, \$1084. There was a loss for concerts. The Café at this date shows a loss to the GCIHS of \$64, not including a share of property taxes, license, phone and electric expense, as well as a replacement refrigerator. The café financial report will allow working out possible changes in rent and shared of costs.

Financial Committee An advisory group to the trustees, plans efforts to obtain legacy and endowment gifts; and generates ideas for events, such as the House and Garden Tour, art exhibits, sales of art on the web site, and planned a fund raising brochure. A failure was the attempt to charge a museum admission fee – it turned people away. This was rescinded, and the museum and museum store benefitted by donations and sales.

Operations Bruce commenced by thanking Donna Sunday, Rodney Weimer and Blair Colby for their labor –and equipment - in clearing the winter blowdowns, and their continued volunteering tending lawn and gardens. A long list of repairs and actions in summary include:

- Preparation and printing an island-wide schedule of summer events
- Continued maintenance of all equipment; fixed sagging shelves, sticky doors etc.
- In the Museum, helped mount "History of the Cranberry Isles;" worked on the "wall of fame;" rearranged the museum store layout and presentation.
- In the basement, built new shelves that allowed rearrangement of equipment. A second projector and screen was installed for basement movies and archiving,
- Constructed and maintained gardens and plaques; improved trails, adding new bog bridges, a bench, and marked the trail; turned a hole into a frog pond
- Increased the quality and number of signs, (including adding the Gifford ice cream logo)
- Winterized the building and café, and then re-opened them
- Oversaw the testing of the water and the lift and acquired the state licenses for them.
- Signed a contract with Karin to operate the Café; improved the café facilities.
- Bought and installed a new phone/intercom/answering machine system as well as installing a new new heating system for the Arts Center; a backdrop curtain, and safety treads on the stairs.
- Managed the movies – the rental and the projection, recorded the Wilfred Bunker event
- Set up and removed chairs and equipment - almost daily - for different activities.
- Wrote a manual of building maintenance and procedures as an ongoing and future resource.

Archives met three days a week during the winter to archive documents into the museum database; and scanned a score of old photos related to the W. Bunker event. An expanded genealogical database from Sheldon Goldthwait was also placed in the database. Newly received were items from John and Sadie Hamor given by their great granddaughter, Cathy Ingham

Events a very full schedule, almost every day and twice on some days: 2-4 movies a week, 2 concerts, several lectures by various neighbors, from intermittent windshield wipers to taking us from Antarctica to the turmoil of Pakistan and Afghanistan, and Vietnam, as well as history of Baker's Island and the living history of Wilfred Bunker and memories of Charlene Bunker; classes on watercolor and basketry for adults; and several for children, several art shows. For some of the events, the committee provided

refreshments. The year's highlight was the highly successful House and Garden Tour which attracted about four hundred people to the island and the museum. Meticulous planning and perfect weather and lots of willing volunteers all contributed to the satisfaction of the visitors.

Publications: to handle the advertising for the House and Garden Tour; a postcard was created by Wini; about 500 were sent or handed out; these were recreated as 'rack' cards for information centers, ferries and some inns; posters were printed and posted in strategic places on MDI. The House History Volume I was completed; Wini urged notifying her if there are any corrections, and requested that those home owners not included send in pictures and history of their homes.

Museum Two major projects, the mural History of Cranberry Isles and the display case of the History of Native Americans we completed. Planning a new version of The Wall of Fame includes buying new frames and sizing the pictures so all will be similarly framed; the store was enhanced, publicized and placed in an easily visible space.

Cranberry House Café When the season is over Karen will present a report on the inflow and outflow. She noted that the best day took in \$1,105 in 4 hours. Abigail Singerling, Kelly McGrath, Laura Bolten were a tremendous help, as also Bruce who volunteered when necessary. Karin reports that the day trippers and the islanders were pleased. In particular, Sesame Street's Big Bird, Carroll Spinney, presented her a framed cartoon of Big Bird (of Sesame Street). Karin and helpers were even able to handle all the members of the Bass Harbor Yacht Club who came out for the day.

Nominations Phil Whitney will continue as President, Bruce as Vice President, Wini as Treasurer, and Vicky Johnston will take over the Secretarial duties. Board members re-elected for next year are Mickey Macfarlan, Leslie Watson, Owen Roberts, Kitty Pierson, and newly-elected member, James Bradley.

Adjournment Vicky Johnston moved for adjournment, excepted by acclamations at 9:05. After a brief pause for refreshment, Phil gave a slide show of some of Cranberry Isles in 1969.