

# ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

The Conservation Land Trust of  
Deer Isle and Stonington, Maine,  
and Surrounding Islands

NEWSLETTER VOLUME III, NO. 3, OCTOBER 1993

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A year ago the Board of Trustees stated:

"The mission of Island Heritage Trust is to conserve significant open space, scenic areas, wildlife habitats, natural resources, and historic and cultural features that offer public benefit and are essential to the character of the Deer Isle area."

The Board also identified three key mission-supporting activities: (1) to provide services to landowners and work cooperatively with other organizations sharing its goals; (2) to build a foundation of public understanding of and support for the value of land conservation and environmental protection; and (3) to develop and maintain a viable management system and sound financial organization.

Emphasis in 1993 has been to carry out the land conservation program, and to strengthen management and fundraising.

With the help of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, negotiation of conservation easements remains at an all-time high as reported below by Stan Myers, co-chair of the Land and Stewardship Committees.

To date the IHT has responded to requests for help only when asked by families wishing to protect their land. At the trustees' retreat in September this passive role was revised in favor of a more active approach. This approach might involve (for example) seeking protection of land contiguous with a conserved property, or working with a group of neighbors in a joint effort to conserve a cove, a point of land, or a walking trail.

The value of a conservation easement may not be fully recognized for a generation or two. For it is only when the land it protects stands in contrast to the densely settled subdivision, or the view of the undeveloped shoreline disappears, that the true value of a conservation easement is comprehended. In consequence much of the work the Trust has accomplished may not gain full recognition for some time to come. Because of this fact the trustees would like to balance

the Trust's activities with a land conserving project providing a more immediately tangible community benefit. Such a project might include assuring continued public access to land presently held in private ownership (and unlikely to continue under future ownership), or perhaps access to a boat launching site that present private ownership does not allow. These are exciting projects with no assured prospect of success. But, on the other hand, unless we do some dreaming now, Deer Isle's natural resource heritage in the future may not be as rich as it ought to be.

Thanks to the increasing financial support of our members and the work of our new Development Committee, chaired by Roger Steinharter (whose report follows), we are making significant strides toward financial stability. Our Budget and Finance Committee, chaired by our new treasurer, Charles Hance, is providing general guidance and oversight.

Managerially we have been strengthened by the wide experience of our current talented Board of Trustees (see biographies in enclosed supplement). Our new half-time Executive Director, Abbie McMillen (see biography), brings to the Trust extensive managerial and administrative experience. This background will help our rapidly growing programs and provide needed relief for our volunteer officers and trustees. Because of Abbie's help I have agreed to stay on for another year as president.

The Board is now ready to turn its attention to the other important priority that we have had to put aside for a year. With the help of its new Communications Committee, which produced this newsletter as its first assignment, IHT will be explaining the value of land conservation to the community through a slide show, revised fact sheets and brochures, public meetings and news stories.

We have come a long way since 1987. Our accomplishments in terms of protected land are just beginning to show. They will increase greatly during this decade, but must be reinforced by public recognition of the economic value to the whole area of such protection. Achieving that recognition will be one of our major challenges in the coming year.

*Rowan Wakefield*

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993 (Est.)
Expenses	\$7,799	\$21,275	\$26,674	\$26,298	\$31,283	\$37,500
Membership	100	200	250	300	500	600
Easements Signed (cumulative)	0	0	1	1	4	5
Easements (in negotiation)						11
Shore Line Miles (protected, total)	0	0	.1	.1	2.3	2.66
Shore Line Miles (in negotiation)						7.4
Volunteers	6	15	20	25	50	70
Paid Staff (FTE)	0	.5	.5	.5	1.25	.5

*In just six years Island Heritage Trust has made major accomplishments as shown in this table. All of this has been primarily through the work of volunteers, a minimum of paid staff, and with generous financial support of its members. This year marks important progress in the Trust's management and program development. Not shown in the table is the market value of the transferred development rights, currently totaling approximately \$1.35 million.*

## REPORT OF THE LAND AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEES

In the past four years, five families have weighed all the issues, pro and con, and decided that conserving their land was the right decision for them. They have given conservation easements to the Island Heritage Trust to monitor and protect in perpetuity. For the Deer Isle community this means more than two miles of shoreline and 145 acres will retain its relatively open and undeveloped appearance for our enjoyment today and that of generations to come.

Presently, eleven other families are actively working on conservation easements that when completed will protect an additional 300 acres and five miles of shoreline, including four islands! Crafting an easement is a slow process because the decisions are so personal. They test our most fundamental values. To whom does this land and view *really* belong? Are we giving away our children's inheritance or are we preserving our grandchildren's heritage? Despite the difficulty in answering such questions, families with increasing frequency are asking the IHT to help them learn about conservation easements.

It is the task of the Land Committee to answer questions about conservation easements and the tax and legal implications associated with them. It does not give advice on these matters. It advises land owners to consult their own attorney. However, it is able to help individuals understand the process of writing a conservation easement and the issues they should be considering when contemplating some form of land protection. It is also the task of the Land Committee to evaluate every potential conservation easement to assure its consistency with the IHT's mission and its priorities before recommending its acceptance to the Trustees.

The Stewardship Committee became active this year as it initiated a policy of meeting annually with land owners who have given conservation easements to the IHT. Its task is to assure that the land is being maintained in a manner consistent with the easement's provisions. The Committee's activities will continue to expand as new easements are accepted. Presently, it is staffed entirely with volunteers.

*Stan Myers*



*On June 30th, the Island Heritage Trust signed its fifth conservation easement, protecting 24 acres with 1381 feet of shore on Hatch Cove and bringing more than a mile of shore under protection by IHT easements in Oceanville. Shown at the signing are easement donors, Arie van Everdingen and Donald B. McKenzie, left and right, and Stephanie Mackay Levy and Rowan Wakefield for the Trust.*



**ABBIE McMULLEN**  
Executive Director

Abbie spent her early childhood in Bangor, where she learned to love the state and its people. After graduate school in molecular biology, she co-founded two environmental groups: the Lafayette (Indiana) Environmental Action Federation and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. She worked as Director of Public Participation in the Maine Coastal Zone Management Program and was the Director of the Office of Energy Resources, a cabinet position under Governor James B. Longley. After 15 years as an environmental consultant in Massachusetts, she and her husband, Michael, moved back to Maine and built a home across the Reach at Harborside. She was recently appointed by the governor to the Facility Siting Board. Abbie likes to garden and paint landscapes.

## AUCTION RAISES \$13,300

The third annual Silent Auction continued to be the highlight of the IHT's summer activities. Thanks to the hands-on efforts of our volunteers plus the creativity of designer Don Reiman and the upbeat music provided by Bob Haskell, Marshall Stalley and Change of Pace, Auction Day was festive and fun. Attendees were greeted by the whimsical dinosaur built by Terri Lee Jones for the Fourth of July parade, and walked through hallways transformed by floral displays arranged by Jutta Graf. Continuous food service, prepared and donated by Emily Mitchell, added to the party atmosphere.

Silent auctions are labor intensive. To avoid volunteer burn out and spread out the workload, nine committees were organized with chairpersons responsible for recruiting additional volunteers to carry out specific tasks. Early planning began in January under the leadership of Harriet Steinharter (Donations), Don Reiman (Catalog), Susan Mills (Finance), and Rowan Wakefield (Promotion). As summer approached, other committees were formed by Ginger Reiman and Liz Westin (Set-up), Nancy Seltz and Barbara Heppe (Resource Preparation), Jane Quesada (Publicity), Emily Mitchell (Refreshments), and Joanne Greiwe (Entertainment).

In total, 65 volunteers were involved in this major fundraising event that raised over 25% of the Trust's annual budget. Hats off to you all and many thanks from the IHT.

*Nancy Seltz*

## FUNDRAISING

The Island Heritage Trust is very much alive and well, and poised for even greater help to area residents in the important sphere of land preservation and environmental protection. IHT in the past four years has blossomed under the tireless guidance of Rowan Wakefield into one of the most active and successful of the 73 present land preservation trusts in Maine.

While the Trust's activities to date have been focused entirely on the consultation, negotiation, acceptance and monitoring of conservation easements, we look forward to the time when IHT will also be in a position to actually purchase land.

We have some 450 annual contributors, to whom we are forever grateful, and we look forward to a dramatic increase in this

number. We have also received grants from the Maine Community Foundation, Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, The Island Foundation, and the Foundation for the National Capital Region, and we are indebted to all for their generosity. This kind of financial support is critical if we are to continue our efforts to preserve the unspoiled beauty of Deer Isle and the surrounding islands.

Recognizing the long-term need for IHT, we will have to rely even more on the generosity of individuals and private foundations to meet our annual budget and fund special projects that periodically arise. Our goal is to establish an endowment that would be funded by gifts from foundations and individual donations and bequests. In addition to providing financial assistance for our annual budget and special projects, an endowment would enable IHT to consider future land acquisitions.

Our financial needs have increased as our environmental protection work has expanded. Accordingly, IHT now has a dedicated Development Committee with six enthusiastic members from varying backgrounds. The Development Committee has the individual experience and expertise to accomplish our optimistic objectives, but only with your continuing support. It's crucial that we continue the work we've begun.

The Island Heritage Trust is an exciting organization with a compelling mission. Thanks again to all of you whose contributions have made its success possible -- and to those of you who plan to contribute by using the donation envelope enclosed with this mailing. We need your help; it will benefit us all!

Roger Steinharter

#### GRANTS RECEIVED

The Trust has just received a \$5,000 unrestricted grant from the Island Foundation of Marion, MA, in recognition of our good work. In 1991 the Foundation had supported the publication by the Trust of *Preserving Family Lands on Deer Isle*.

As we went to press, IHT received word that we have just been awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Foundation for the National Capital Region. This grant was made possible through the generosity of the Joan and David Maxwell Advised Fund. Joan and David are members and staunch supporters as well as valued advisors to the IHT, with a deep commitment to the traditional values of the Island. Thank you so much!

#### NEWS AND NOTES

##### Summer Interns

We were fortunate this summer to have two student interns for the month of July: Sarah Fuller, who will be a sophomore at Bennington College, and Jennifer Sheldon, a high school student from Pepperell, MA. Their families are Island summer residents. Both helped greatly with the Silent Auction preparations, including sprucing up a sailing dingy donated to the auction. Sarah also served as assistant to the president for public relations. For information on 1994 summer internship possibilities, write to Abbie McMillen at the Trust.

#### New Trustees and Officers

Five new trustees have been elected to the Board: Peter Graf, Dan Hotaling and Don Reiman of Deer Isle, and Sandy Maier and John Peterson of Stonington. See attached supplement for brief biographies on them. Corporate officers for the coming year are: Rowan Wakefield, president; Nancy Seltz, vice-president; Charles Hance, treasurer; and Jean Welch, secretary.

#### Slide Show

The Communications Committee is resuming work started more than a year ago on the production of a slide show focusing on the value of land conservation to the community and the role of the Island Heritage Trust. The Committee is being guided by the returns from a questionnaire sent to all trustees.

#### Winter Quarters

Through the kindness of members, Andy and Abby Fuller, we have relocated the office to winter quarters above the Sunset Post Office. The building is warm, very attractive, and the drier atmosphere should permit the copy machine to operate properly. We have a telephone number at the office (348-5274) and a new address: P.O. Box 55, Sunset, Maine 04683. We will continue to pick up mail at the Stonington address, and we plan to open the familiar Stonington office space next spring as a walk-in reception and sales area. Anyone interested in being on a committee to redecorate the Stonington reception area, please call.

#### Farewell, Leslie

Leslie Jones, who was IHT's director of Administrative Services, now has a full-time job at Acadia National Park. We will miss Leslie, but we are comforted by the fact that she continues to use her skills to help preserve this beautiful part of the planet. Best wishes, Leslie! Come and visit us!

#### IHT Committees

IHT has a refurbished, dynamic committee structure with energetic leadership. The standing committees are: Executive (runs the organization between trustee meetings), Land (negotiates new easements), Stewardship (watches our existing easements), Communications (tells our story to many audiences), Budget and Finance (manages money), and Development (raises money). An ad hoc Special Projects Committee investigates unique opportunities for land conservation. For more information on the work of the committees or to volunteer to serve, please call Abbie at the office.

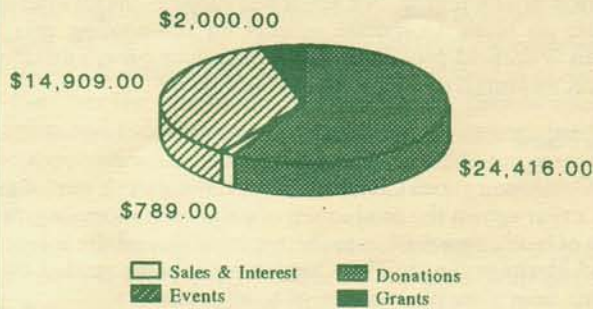
#### IHT Receives Pro-Bono Legal Assistance from Major Boston Law Firm

Michael Sinclair, Esq., a member of the law firm of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, and Popeo, P.C., in Boston and a property owner in Harborside with a great view of Pumpkin Lighthouse, has generously agreed to donate legal services to IHT. The work he will perform initially will include review and revision of the bylaws, coordinating with Trustee Rich Howe.

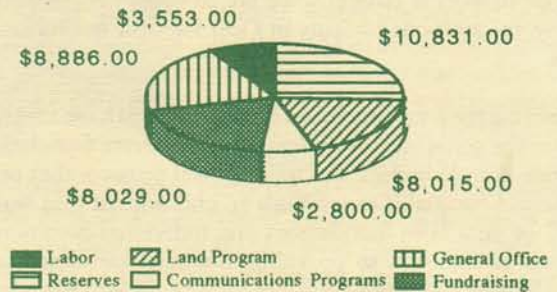
#### Wedding Brings Gifts to IHT

IHT was very pleased to be the beneficiary this summer of numerous donations made in honor and celebration of the marriage of Elizabeth Compton and Harvey Peterson. Through their uniquely generous request to family and friends, these two longstanding IHT members were able to raise over \$1,000 for conservation of this land they both love.

## Income, 1992



## Expenses, 1992



The charts above are based on 1992 data taken from IHT's first formal audit. For 1993 income is projected at about \$46,000 to cover our increasing land conservation work, improved management, support for our growing number of volunteers, and our Communications Committee's work aimed at improving community appreciation of the value of land conservation and environmental protection.

### WISH LIST

- HP desk-jet or laser-jet printer, so that we can produce more professional-looking correspondence, minutes, proposals etc.
- Data-base software, compatible with DBASE-3 files, for our mailing list and other recordkeeping (Foxpro has been recommended).
- A portable screen to accompany our slide projectors.
- A coffee-and-tea maker for the Stonington reception area.
- We need writers to help with newsletters, our brochures, and news items and feature stories for the press. Call Abbie McMillen.

### Thanks for Slide Projectors and Computers

The following three people responded to our wish list request for a slide projector. We believe we can use them for the multiple-projector slide show we are planning. Our thanks to:

Josephine Smith of Palm Beach Garden, FL (daughter of the late Capt. Fred Morey of Deer Isle).  
Mitchell and Yves Lifton of Little Deer Isle and Washington, DC.  
Tom Halpin of Stonington and Rochester, NY.

Our thanks to the following for computer donations:  
Carol Richards of Stonington and Santa Monica, CA, who gave the Trust a Turbo PC computer and monitor, and Fred and Eleanor Kilgour of Chapel Hill, NC, longtime summer visitors to Deer Isle, who donated an Amdek 8088 computer and monitor with Okidata ML-380 printer and other related items.

Both computers will be used, along with our existing computer, by our new executive director and by volunteers doing research and writing for us.

### TRIBUTE TO SUSAN MILLS

Susan Mills, a member of the Board and treasurer for the past three years, resigned in July to devote more time to personal matters and her husband's business. She and her husband, David, continue their help as members of the IHT Advisory Board.

The Trust pays grateful tribute to Susan for her many valuable contributions to the Trust, not only as treasurer, but also for her dedicated, invaluable work as a key member of the Silent Auction Committee. We will miss her ever-willing and cheerful participation at this important period in the Trust's development.

### NEW TREE GROWTH AND OPEN SPACE LEGISLATION

The state legislature has made significant changes in the state's tree growth and open space legislation affecting property taxes. Property in tree growth under 100 acres must now have approved commercial harvesting plans. Alternatively, the landowner may change, without penalty, to the new open space formula passed by the legislature and gain up to 95% tax reduction with public access.

Copies of the legislation and literature explaining it are available at the IHT office in Sunset, or by calling or writing Abbie McMillen.



Volunteers are the most important reason for IHT's success! Here, Tim Emerson gives our Stonington office a much-needed face-lift.

### Newsletter Committee

Ruth Dayton  
Kathy Drew  
Tim Emerson

Abbie McMillen  
Harriet Steinharter  
Rowan Wakefield