Marina Officials Say 2005 Success Will Continue Next Summer

By Ryan Schlehuber

The St. Ignace Marina will enjoy a strong 2006 season, predicts administrator Eugene Elmer, who notes that the summer of 2005 was the marina's best. The marina took in $57,000 more in revenue than it had in expenses this year, he noted, and he expects 2006 to mirror that success, based on scheduled events and the popularity of the marina.

The marina was expanded from 22 slips to 136 slips two years ago. To help pay for its share of the upgrade, the City of St. Ignace sold $1 million in revenue bonds and is redeeming them over a 20-year period. It now pays $80,000 a year, although that yearly bill will gradually be decreased as the city gets closer to paying off the bonds.

"We were a payment-and-a-half behind in the 2003-04 year because we didn't make any revenue," Mr. Elmer said. "Going into 2005, we had a debt of $90,000, but now, thanks to a good summer, we made up $60,000 of that debt."

The city will also be reimbursed another $10,000 from the Michigan Waterways Commission for a $26,000 electrical upgrade it finished this summer to accommodate the Great Lakes Cruising Club that visited in June.

The remaining $20,000 debt will be paid by transferring funds raised for the city's lighthouse erection project at the railroad dock, said Mr. Elmer, which will be reimbursed as promised grants and donations come in by next spring.

The Great Lakes Cruising Club and Grand Banks rendezvous in 2004 were a real boost to profits, Mr. Elmer told the St. Ignace Harbor Authority Thursday, December 22. Those two groups, which bring 35 and 60 boats to the marina, respectively, are expected to return soon. They are booked at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and St. Clair Shores Marina for next summer.

Fuel revenue was up $10,000 in 2005, said Mr. Elmer, and he commended this year's marina staff, headed by Jeff Davenport. Returning staff members are expected to receive a 25¢ raise next summer.

Seasonal moorage rates will increase 2.5 percent next year, although the Waterways Commission will permit a raise up to 5.0 percent.

Rates for 2006 seasonal moorage are as follows: 30-foot slip, $1,374; 38-foot slip, $1,935; 45-foot slip, $2,673; 60-foot slip, $3,659.

The marina is equipped with two 100-foot slips for transient boaters only. The marina has 100 slips reserved for transient boaters and 36 slips reserved for seasonal moorage.

Mr. Elmer is talking with Bay Breeze Yacht Charters in Traverse City, which expressed interest in offering up to three 30-foot to 50-foot rental sailboats for visitors at the St. Ignace Marina, since, he said, there is a demand for sailing in the North Channel.

To work around the Waterways regulations, which normally do not allow private businesses to occupy slips in a state-funded marina, Mr. Elmer is proposing construction of an additional 110 feet of dockage at the north end of the marina for just those three rental sailboats.

"That way, we're not using any existing slips," he said. "I'm hoping the Traverse City company can make a prepayment for the cost of constructing the addition, which may appease Waterways even more, but I need to find out how much it will cost. Right now, the idea is in its preliminary stages."

Harbor Authority member Louis Leveille said the idea would help the marina a lot, especially with the state's new marina in Mackinaw City, which is expected to open soon.

"That will definitely be competition," he said. "It will hurt us."

Mr. Elmer said the bubbling system at the marina, which prevents ice damage, is working properly, although maintenance is needed to keep snow and ice off the floating piers, which weighs them down, which jeopardizes the electrical connections and pipes to the fuel tanks.

Sand will be placed at the beachfront near the Mackinac Grille restaurant to allow people to enjoy the area more, said Mr. Elmer, as part of the Downtown Development Authority's railroad dock enhancement project, expected to begin in the spring.

"Where there is a lot of rock now will be sand to allow people to enjoy the beach area better, to walk around, bathe, or just lay out," said Mr. Elmer.

Joe Kelly Takes 8-Point Buck

Joe Kelly of Pickford holds up the 8-point buck his son, Joe Kelly of Sault Ste. Marie, shot while hunting with his father Friday, November 26. The two men were hunting near Stalwart, about 300 yards from each other, and both shot deer. The elder Mr. Kelly shot a spike-horn, which he had already processed before the photograph was taken. The younger Mr. Kelly killed his 8-point with one shot, his father said, noting that he had seen the buck earlier in the season.

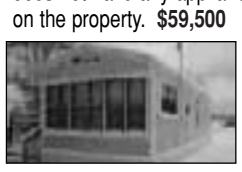
Mackinac Real Estate

#337-05-0029 - ENGADINE - 3 bdr, 1-3/4 bath home in a real nice setting on Birch Hill overlooking Lake Millecoquin on the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club with immediate occupancy. Home has had some remodeling. 150 x 120 lot size. Prior membership approval required. **$169,900**

#337-05-0035 - NAUBINWAY - Very nice 2 bdr, 2-1/2 bath home on the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club with 185' of Lake Michigan Frontage. Big rooms with a nice kitchen & very roomy Living room with gas fireplace. The last home on a dead-end road. Excellent condition, you can move right in. Lots of privacy. 4 memberships. Prior membership approval required. **$279,000**

#337-05-0038 - REXTON - Nice 20 acre parcel in a great hunting area, close to the Fibron Quarry. Loaded with hardwoods, never been cut. State Land kitty corner to the property. **$46,900**

#337-05-0048 - NAUBINWAY - 3 bdr, 2 bath manufactured home with full basement that would make a great starter home or use as a rental. Could use some TLC & does not have any appliances. There is room for a garage on the property. **$59,500**



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Twp. Clerks To Play New Role in Elections, Security

By Paul Gingras

Local governments may soon have to train election inspectors instead of having a state employee do the job, according to the Secretary of State.

This is part of the reorganization of the election commission of the state of Michigan, said Moran Township Clerk Kris Vallier. Township clerks like herself could opt out of the responsibility, in which case it would pass to the county clerk, she said.

"This could be a good thing," she added. "Some are in favor of this because each clerk would be aware of how well trained election inspectors would be in the area."

Mrs. Vallier said she is in favor of this aspect of the new bill, but she is unsure whether she would support all aspects of election reform.

Township clerks have been notified, she said, that they must now pay much closer attention to social security numbers, also.

According to the state, social security numbers must not be accessible to the public.

"Business owners are responsible for maintaining confidential records," she said. "In my township, I am the only one who has access to them, due to my role in creating payroll checks. I assume it is the same in other townships.

"We were always careful with people's privacy, but now townships must pass a formal resolution concerning the protection of social security numbers."

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This unit can be seen by appointment by calling DDA Director, Deb Evashevski at 906-643-8252.

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Council To Meet Tues., January 3

St. Ignace City Council has rescheduled its first meeting of 2006 for 8 p.m. Tuesday, January 3, owing to the New Year's holiday. Council normally meets on Mondays, but city offices will be closed Monday, January 2, for the holiday.

'Integrity' Sought

**Continued from page 2*

enough about its significance to look it up. But it's sobering, he adds, that they need to look up integrity in the first place.

Top 10 most looked-up words of 2005

1. integrity n. firm adherence to a code, especially moral or artistic values; incorruptibility.
2. refugee n. one that flees; especially a person who flees to a foreign country or power to escape danger or persecution.
3. contempt n. willful disobedience to or open disrespect of a court, judge or legislative body.
4. filibuster n. the use of extreme dilatory tactics in an attempt to delay or prevent action, especially in a legislative assembly.
5. insipid adj. lacking in qualities that interest, stimulate or challenge; dull, flat.
6. tsunami n. a great sea wave produced especially by submarine earth movement or volcanic eruption.
7. pandemic n. occurring over a wide geographic area and affecting an exceptionally high proportion of the population.
8. conclave n. a private meeting or secret assembly, especially a meeting of Roman Catholic cardinals secluded continuously while choosing a pope.
9. levee n. an embankment for preventing flooding; a continuous dike or ridge (as of earth) for confining the irrigation areas of land to be flooded.
10: inept n. generally incompetent; bungling.

Source: www.m-w.com

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