

The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave



Section Two

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U.P. Walkers Want To Raise Awareness About Sulfide Mining

Group Expected in St. Ignace Before Bridge Walk

By Paul Gingras
Seeking to raise awareness about the potential dangers of sulfide and uranium mining on communities and watersheds in the Upper Peninsula, a group began to walk across the U.P. Monday, August 18, holding rallies along the way. One hundred walkers are expected to arrive in St. Ignace on the last leg of their march, hold a rally in St. Ignace Sunday, August 31, then march across the Mackinac Bridge on Labor Day, where they plan to meet with members of Governor Jennifer Granholm's staff.

Reacting to a proposed metallic sulfide mine near Marquette, the

walkers include members of more than 30 organizations, including the National Wildlife Federation, who contend that sulfide and uranium mining will harm the environment and economy.

Metallic sulfide mining has been banned in Wisconsin because of toxic discharges.

Marquette resident Margaret Comfort is leading the walk.

"The U.P. is really special to me," she said, and sulfide and uranium mining produce many problems. "We have to put our feet down, right now."

The theme of the walk is "One Step at a Time."

The term recognizes that oppos-

ing projects proposed by multinational corporations will take many movements and efforts by a variety of people, she said.

"Our focus is on Great Lakes protection," said Kristi Mills, director of Save the Wild U.P., one of the walk's sponsors.

Sulfide and uranium mining present serious health hazards, Ms. Mills said, citing detrimental effects from similar mines in Canada.

The center of the controversy has been a project proposed by Kennecott Minerals Corporation, which is preparing to mine near Big Bay in Marquette County. It is the first mine of its kind proposed in Michigan.

Unlike standard mines that

extract lumps of raw ore, the process proposed by Kennecott and others seeks metal that is dissolved within sulfide rock. When exposed to oxygen, it produces

sulfuric acid that the walkers fear will contaminate watersheds.

As they cross the Upper Peninsula, the walkers will discuss potential water pollution. Tech-

nology may not be able to contain the proposed mine's acid discharge, Ms. Mills said.

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About 300 Cars Expected for Mackinaw City Show

Corvettes To Be Displayed Saturday



Patrick Dolan, emcee of the awards ceremony at the Corvette Crossroads Show in Mackinaw City, poses Sunday, August 17, at his home in Laingsburg with his daughters, Jennifer (left) and Sarah. Jennifer is standing next to a 2004 Group Five Corvette. Sarah is standing next to a 2008 Group Six Corvette. Both cars are customized. (Photograph by Cynthia Dolan)

By Paul Gingras
"It's kind of hard to find someone who doesn't have a love affair with a Corvette," said Patrick Dolan of Laingsburg, whose attention was caught by the sleek vehicles early in the mid-'60s. He got his hands on his first Corvette in 1967.

"And I have owned one ever since," he said.

With five in the garage, two belonging to his daughters, Jennifer and Sarah, driving in style is a family affair, and the Dolans will bring one of their newest cars to the 19th annual Corvette Crossroads Show in Mackinaw City Saturday, August 23, where hundreds of Corvettes will be displayed at 10 a.m. at the parking lot at Mackinaw Crossings Mall.

Working with the Mackinaw Area Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Dolan has been an organizer and emcee for the car show awards ceremony for 17 years.

The show tends to draw 250 to 300 Corvettes, which represent stylistic and mechanical changes over the years. It includes stock, modified, and vintage vehicles, many of which will be driven at 7 p.m. Saturday in the "Corvettes on Parade" cruise through Mackinaw City and across the Mackinac Bridge.

"There are some really pretty ones out there, especially the modified cars," said Kelly Vieau of the

chamber, who has been involved with the show for 16 years. "People love driving them across the bridge."

Mr. Dolan provides technical commentary and a personal flourish at the awards ceremony. A member of the National Council of Corvette Clubs, he participates in a local branch called the Royal Corvettes of Western Michigan.

It is one of more than 200 clubs, which have about 19,000 members in the United States. In Michigan, there are about 15 clubs. The goal of Corvette clubs is to celebrate their favorite cars and to have fun driving them together.

Club members like to provide their stylish cars for parades, homecomings, and many caravan together, he said. They conduct races, economy runs, in which drivers compete to get the best gas mileage from one point to another, and fall color tours. They also play driving games, such as road rallies, in which drivers are given clues to find their way to a Corvette club gathering. Upon arrival, drivers are quizzed and scored to see how well they followed the route.

The Mackinaw City show draws Corvette enthusiasts from all over. Plates from Iowa, Ohio, Canada, and the Great Lakes region appear in the lineup.

They come because Mackinaw City is a nice place to go, and the

show offers chance to bump elbows with other Corvette enthusiasts, Mr. Dolan said. The car owners are a knowledgeable group of people who like to talk about their cars, he added.

Every year, participants can enter a raffle offered by the club for a new Corvette. The raffle benefits the National Kidney Foundation. The ticket drawn in Mackinaw City automatically wins someone a new set of tires, and then it is entered in the national Corvette contest.

The winner will be drawn in August 2009 at the club's national convention. As director of charity for the national club, the raffle is an important part of the event for Mr. Dolan. Last year, the raffle generated \$86,000 for the Kidney Foundation. The national club also provides scholarships.

Not long after the chamber organized the event at Mackinaw City, its members realized it needed someone who knew a lot about Corvettes to help group the cars and run the awards ceremony, which includes categories ranging from 1953 models to 2008 models, and a separate set of awards for modified and full-modified vehicles. Mr. Dolan helps add a flourish to the ceremony by pointing out details of the vehicles.

There are no professional judges;

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Station St. Ignace Welcomes Four to Crew

By Karen Gould
Coast Guard Operations Petty Officer Matt Reisinger has returned to Station St. Ignace following a year of volunteer service in the Middle East, and the local station also has three new crew members who will serve in search and rescue missions and aids to navigation. Seaman Apprentice David Tam, Seaman Apprentice Thomas Goatley, and Fireman Machinery Technician Alexander Gabriel are the new members.

In 2007, Petty Officer Reisinger left St. Ignace and headed to Iraq to serve on board the 110-foot Coast Guard Cutter *Wrangell*, which was protecting the two main oil terminals off the coast of Iraq. This is not the first time the father of two has volunteered to help others.

"As I'm coming up at the end of my career," he said, "to be able to say that within the 20 years that I served, I was able to serve my country at a time of war, at a place of war, that was one of those things that was important to me."

He describes his time in Iraq as exciting, tense, and adventurous, but with temperatures reaching 154 degrees. Now back from Iraq, he appreciates the cooler temperatures of the north.

Work there involved training Iraqi Marines and sailors to take over patrol operations. Interpreters are used to bridge the languages.

"For me, I had a lot of fun working with them," he said, "training them, helping them out."

Those who return from war zones are given priority in their choice of stations, and he selected Sault Ste. Marie, where his family lives and where he has a small wood craft business, or nearby St. Ignace.

His family includes his wife, Janet, and their two children, Catherine, 16, and Gustavo, 14.

With 17 years in the Coast Guard, he plans to retire from the St. Ignace station within the next four years.

At Station St. Ignace, Petty Officer Reisinger will drive the 47-foot motor life boat. He also is a liaison with local agencies and schedules station duties for events like

fireworks. In 2005, he was one of four from Station St. Ignace to go to New Orleans to conduct search and rescue operations following Hurricane Katrina.

New to the Coast Guard, St. Ignace, and northern living is Seaman Apprentice David Tam, 23, of Clearwater, Florida.

"I've heard the winters are brutal," he said. "I'm already looking for a snowboard."

He is stationed in St. Ignace on his first assignment since being graduated from Cape May, New

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New Coast Guard Station St. Ignace crew members are getting settled in the community. Pictured (from left) Fireman Machinery Technician Alexander Gabriel, Seaman Apprentice Thomas Goatley, Seaman Apprentice David Tam, and Operations Petty Officer Matt Reisinger.

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Mackinac Island School District Hires Waite as Science Teacher

By Caitlyn Kienitz
Mackinac Island Town Crier

The Mackinac Island Public School board of education voted unanimously at a special meeting Thursday, July 31, to hire Richard Waite of Cheboygan as the new high school science teacher.

Mr. Waite, formerly a teacher in Mackinaw City, holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Michigan and received his master's degree in education from Northern Illinois University in December 2000.

Superintendent Roger Schrock said Mr. Waite was one of about 23 viable candidates who applied for the job, and added that he met all necessary qualifications and credentials.

The personnel committee reinterviewed Mr. Waite Tuesday, July 29, before recommending him to the board at the special meeting.

Board member Terry Andress, who spoke on behalf of the committee, said she believed Mr. Waite

is an excellent candidate for the job.

"Through the talks we had, I think he'll be a great asset to the school," she said.

Personnel committee member Sara Chambers agreed, and said after the meeting that she hoped Mr. Waite would help bring continuity to the children's science education.

"This gentleman does great lab work and hands-on learning," she said, adding that she hopes he'll fit well into the community.

The special meeting was called after the board decided to delay the decision during its July 24 meeting, when some members of the board expressed concern that former Mackinac Island teacher Jack Dehring had not been given due consideration for the position and wanted the committee to reconsider him as a candidate.

After the board approached Mr. Dehring about an interview, he withdrew his candidacy.