

## OBITUARIES

### Roberta 'Bertha' Green

Mackinac Island's oldest resident, Roberta "Bertha" Cecilia Green, 93, of Harrisonville, died early Wednesday morning, June 10, 2009, at Northern Michigan Regional Hospital in Petoskey.

She was born June 2, 1916, to Levi Paul and Agatha (nee Bazinaw) St. Germain on Mackinac Island.

She married expert gardener James "Jay" D. Green on Mackinac Island August 21, 1931 and the couple had 15 children, two of whom died in infancy.

Mrs. Green worked for eight years at the Governor's Summer Residence on Mackinac Island and was a member of St. Anne's Catholic Church and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She was known for her great passion for the Island, her strength, and her braided rugs.

"She was absolutely amazing," said Mackinac Island Mayor Margaret Doud. "She was a great lady. She made the most beautiful hand-braided rugs."

Mrs. Green often donated her rugs to the Island's Christmas Bazaar, which raises funds for the Mackinac Island Medical Center, Little Stone Church, St. Anne's Church, Trinity Church, and Mackinac Island Bible Church.

In later years, she would walk about three miles from her home into town every day and would then take a taxi home. In fact, said Mayor Doud, she used to walk all over the Island.

She loved the Christmas Bazaar and attended all three days of the

annual event.

"That was the highlight of her Christmas season, the Christmas Bazaar," Mayor Doud said.

Mrs. Green was creative in selecting affordable fabric for the rugs, seeking material that had the right texture, pattern, and colors.

"She used to go to yard sales in St. Ignace in a taxi cab to find material," said Gwen Bagbey.

The rugs, agreed Island resident Jeannette Doud, were beautiful and in demand.

"Every bit [of a rug] was done by hand," she said with admiration.

"She was one of my friends," said Mrs. Doud, "and I always greeted her with a happy hello."

Mrs. Green also loved Tuesday nights when the community gathers to play bingo at Community Hall.

Deb Carley said family and friends called Mrs. Green Becka-Boon and her husband, Jay, was Jay-Boon, although how the nicknames originated is a mystery.

"She was a strong person, very strong," said Armand "Smi" Horn. "She was just a self-supporting soul."

Mrs. Green's love for the Island and her strong will was evident the first time Karen Lennard met her.

About nine years ago, she said, she and her husband, Gary, were riding in a taxi up the Cadotte Avenue hill with Mrs. Green and a few other passengers.

"One summer worker was complaining, saying 'I can't wait to get off this Island,'" recalled Mrs.

Lennard. "Bertha turned to her and said, 'There is a boat down in the harbor, why don't you turn around and go get on it?' I knew then, don't ever cross Bertha, and never say anything bad about Mackinac Island. She was a great old lady."

Mrs. Green is survived by three sons, Stanley of Mackinac Island, Robert of St. Ignace, and Russell Steve of Wyandotte; four daughters and their families, Loretta "Peg" Cowell of Mackinac Island, Kathleen Cowell of Wyandotte, Lorna "Pudge" Livernois of Globe, Arizona, and Judi and Rick Hespeneide of Palmeto, Florida.

Also surviving are some 200 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren.

Her husband, Jay, passed way April 22, 1989. She was also preceded in death by a son, Raymond, and a baby girl, who died in infancy, and by sons James, Alan, and Gerald and daughters Mary Wuest, Patricia Gallagher, and Stella Bodwin.

Visitation was at the Green home on Cadotte Avenue Friday, June 12, with prayers led by Father Rey Garcia.

Her funeral was Saturday, June 13, at 1 p.m. at St. Anne's Catholic Church with Fr. Garcia officiating.

Burial was in St. Anne's Cemetery beside her sons. Eight grandchildren served as pallbearers.

Dodson Funeral Home is assisted the family with arrangements.

### Evart Powers

Evart Widmer Powers, 83, of Alpena, passed away Thursday, June 11, 2009, at Back Home Adult Foster Care Home in Lachine.

He was born April 8, 1926, in Rogers City to Evart and Mildred (nee Caldwell) Powers of St. Ignace.

Mr. Powers married Sharon Goudreau February 3, 1951.

He was a Second Engineer in the Merchant Marines and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

He was employed as an account executive with Honeywell in Dayton, Ohio, retiring after 32 years.

Mr. Powers was Commodore for Kiser Lake Sailing Association, and volunteered for the Jesse Besser Museum in Alpena, Relay for Life, and Meals on Wheels. An avid painter, Mr. Powers was recognized in the North Eastern Juried Art Show.

Mr. Powers is survived by a son and his family, Michael and Kathleen Powers; two daughters and their families, Annette Powers and Dan Kilburn, Kristin and Thomas Tilton; seven grandchildren, Christy, Kyle, Danielle, Cody, Cedar, Taryn, Tory; one great-grandson, Cooper; two sisters and their families, Phyllis and Joel Brown, and Marilou and Joe

Sayles, formerly of St. Ignace; and a brother and his family, Neil and Carol Powers.

He was preceded in death by his wife January 19, 2009; two brothers, Ronald and Clinton Powers, and two sisters, Ardis Pearson and Barbara Beaudoin of St. Ignace.

Family and friends may call Wednesday, June 17, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Bannan Funeral Home in Alpena. A service will be Thursday, June 18, at 1 p.m. with the Reverend Stephen Euper officiating.

Memorials may be directed to the Jesse Besser Museum.

### Florence Blank

Florence Blank, 77, of Portage Township, died Monday evening, June 8, 2009, at her home, surrounded by her family. She was in the care of North Woods Hospice.

Born June 16, 1931, in Grand Rapids, she was the daughter of John and Hedwig Bakun.

She was a 1948 graduate of Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School.

She married John Blank in 1953 and they made Rockford their home.

In 1975, she moved to the Curtis area. In addition to being a devoted homemaker, she enjoyed bowling, gardening, hunting, fish-

ing, and spending time with her family.

Mrs. Blank is survived by six children and their families, Chris Blank of Christmas, Tim Blank of Grand Rapids, Kevin and Ronda Blank of Germfask, Mitch and Tammy Blank of Germfask, Rich and Joni Blank of Curtis, and Gerald Blank of Germfask; 10 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren, and six siblings and their families, Johnny Bakun of Grand Rapids, Carol Nemic and Joanne Gardner, both of Rockford, Mary Wrona and Josephine Decker, both of Grand Rapids, and Jenny Stocz of Warren, Ohio.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Blank was preceded in death by her husband, John, in 1997, and a sister, Fran.

Friends called at St. Timothy's Catholic Church in Curtis Saturday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the church at 11 a.m. with Father Tim Hruska officiating. Rite of Committal followed at Woodlawn Cemetery in Curtis.

Memorials may be directed to North Woods Hospice.

Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry assisted the family with arrangements.

## LSSU Scientists Give Blastomycosis Presentation

By Jonathan Eppley

The fungus that causes the disease blastomycosis in humans and dogs will be the focus of a program next week in Cedarville. Researchers have found a relatively high incidence of the fungus-born illness, commonly known as "blasto," in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, and particularly Drummond Island.

A team of Lake Superior State University scientists will give an informational presentation about the dimorphic fungus Blastomyces dermatitidis, at the Clark Township Community Center Thursday, June 25, at 7 p.m. The presentation is organized by the Les Cheneaux Lions Club.

Dr. Derek Wright, professor of chemistry and environmental science at the university, will present information about the fungus and disease, which is mainly contracted by inhaling the fungal spores. The disease can also be contracted through physical contact in open wounds.

"We're going to basically give people the best information we have," he said. "Most of our information comes from Drummond Island, but we do get some information from the Les Cheneaux Islands."

The disease is relatively rare, he said. About 13 cases are reported in Michigan each year, with more than one-third coming from the Upper

Peninsula. The fungus that causes the disease is commonly found in moist soil enriched with decomposing organic debris, and is typically found in the Midwest, south central, and southeastern parts of the country.

The Les Cheneaux Islands, Drummond Island, and areas along the shores are considered "hot spots" to contract the disease in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, Dr. Wright said. Six human cases were reported on Drummond Island in the last 10 years alone, and he estimates an average of three dogs a year contract the disease there, also.

Dogs, particularly hunting dogs, are more susceptible to the disease because they run and dig in dirt, swampy grounds, and streams, which harbor a lot of organic material and rotting wood. The disease is not known to pass from animals to humans.

Symptoms of blasto are similar to that of pneumonia, including coughing, fever, chills, fast heartbeat, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Other symptoms may include wounds that will not heal, soreness in the eyes, and lack of appetite. The disease takes on a yeast-like form once inhaled and causes inflammation of the lungs, Dr. Wright said.

It may take three to 15 weeks after initial contact with the fungus for any symptoms of the disease to appear.

"That's the one thing that makes the disease complicated" to diagnose, he said. "It takes a while to grow in your body to make you sick."

Untreated infections can lead to serious health complications, even death. Recovery from the disease in humans typically takes two to nine months, Dr. Wright said.

Several anti-fungal drugs, which can only be prescribed by a doctor, are used to treat the disease. Mild to moderate infections, detected early enough, are treatable with an anti-fungal pill called Sporanox. Dr. Wright said this pill has a 95% success rate.

More serious cases are treated with a combination of drugs called Amphotericin B and Itraconazole. These treatments are often painful, he said, because the patient is actually injected with small amounts of the drug.

"The treatment can make you as sick as the disease," he said. "You only use that one if you're really bad."

Medications used to treat blastomycosis are based on type, extent, and severity of the disease as well as the patient's status and the toxicity of the drug.

"It's rare enough in most areas that doctors don't often recognize it," he said. "If a doctor catches it quickly, it's fairly treatable."

## CITY OF ST. IGNACE 2008 Water Quality Report

### Is My Water Safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The City of St. Ignace vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and we are proud to report that our system has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

### Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of St. Ignace supplies water from Lake Huron. The water is pumped to the City's water treatment plant. A chemical called Alum is added to the water to help clump together particles that make the supply water cloudy or turbid. The water then passes through filters to remove these clumps. Fluoride is added to the water daily to prevent tooth decay and cavities. Soda Ash is added to control corrosion. Corrosive water can cause lead and copper to leach out of pipes. Chlorine is added at various phases in the treatment process to kill harmful bacteria.

### Why Are There Contaminants In My Drinking Water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

1. *Microbial Contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewer treatment plants, septic systems, farming operations, swimmers, and wildlife.

2. *Inorganic Contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas products, or farming.

3. *Pesticides and Herbicides*, which may come from a

variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential users.

4. *Organic Chemical Contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

5. *Radioactive Contaminants*, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

6. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. St. Ignace Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 1/2 to 2 min. before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may have your water tested. Contact your local water department with questions.

### Do I Need To Take Special Precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## 2008 Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than one year old.

### Terms and Abbreviations Used:

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

### Unit Descriptions:

ppm: parts per million

ppb: parts per billion

nd: not detected

na: not applicable

NTU: Nephelometric turbidity unit

pCi/l: pico curies per liter

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your RANGE		Sample Date	Violations	Typical Source
			Water	Low High			
<b>Organic Contaminants (ppb)</b>							
Chlorodibromomethane		80	1.2	1 3	2008	no	By-product of chlorination
Bromodichloromethane		80	5.9	5 7	2008	no	By-product of chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes*		80	40	20 44	2008	no	By-product of chlorination
Chloroform		80	12	10 30	2008	no	By-product of chlorination
<b>Radiological (pCi/l)</b>							
Alpha			<3		2003	no	
Ra-226			1.17		2003	no	
Ra-228			<1		2003	no	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants (ppm)</b>							
Fluoride	4	4	1.18	0.00 1.68	2008	no	Add to promote strong teeth
<b>Unregulated Contaminants (ppm)</b>							
Sulfates	na	na	20	18 20	2008	no	Naturally present/erosion
Nitrates	10	10	nd	na	2008	no	Naturally present/erosion
<b>Microbiological Contaminants (ppm)</b>							
Total Coliform	0	1	0	nd	2008	no	Soil runoff
Turbidity	0.05	5	0.06	0.03 0.08	2008	no	Soil runoff
<b>Lead and Copper Monitoring</b>				<b>No. of Sites Out of 10, Over AL</b>			
Lead (ppb)		AL 15	Your Water 2	0	2008	no	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper (ppb)		1300	130	0	2008	no	

The "Source Water Assessment Report" for the City of St. Ignace was completed in October of 2003 and is on file at the Water Treatment Plant or City Hall.

For more information-contact-

Les Therrian  
St. Ignace Water Department,  
999 Church Street, St. Ignace  
Phone (906) 643-9670

## Paquin Fills Paraprofessional Position at Gros Cap

The Moran Township Board of Education welcomed Christopher Paquin of St. Ignace as the new Gros Cap School classroom paraprofessional during its meeting Monday, June 15. He will be the replacement for Monica Ellis.

Mr. Paquin attended Gros Cap School and has been a substitute teacher for Gros Cap, as well.

"We're extremely excited to have him," Superintendent William Peltier said.

In other school board business, repairs to the central area of the school were considered, with the project to begin next summer. Windows around the cafeteria, the gymnasium floor, and the roof were as cited as in need of improvement.

Mr. Peltier said if the board began now to create plans and solicit bids, the soonest construction could begin would be September 1. Since this would occur during class, he suggested, and the board concurred, that the board wait until January 1 to seek bids for the construction work. Construction would then take place next summer.

Cost estimates and funding are not yet known, he said, but the sinking fund, money devoted to school improvement projects, will

be larger by January. He said the fund should have more than \$300,000 by then, which should cover the project.

## Denture Clinic

Dr. Robert Darnell  
Cheboygan Dental Associates

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UAW Copay - \$156 UAW Copay - \$0

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