

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Warning drumbeat of a warming world

This week researchers released yet another report forecasting the dire consequences of our continued use of carbon-based fuels. The ice across the Arctic is melting so quickly, they advised, that by the year 2040 the North Pole will be an open sea. At the current pace, the ice will be gone quicker than they originally thought, the researchers said.

Given the season, the first quip that comes to mind is "what will Santa do?" This is serious stuff, though. The Northwest Passage would finally be open and ships could sail across the top of the world. At the same time, the massive ice loss will doom a number of species. Goodbye polar bears.

Whether or not the world's sea levels will rise more than 28 feet will depend upon how much ice melts around Greenland, the researchers said.

The NASA-funded report is the latest gloomy forecast concerning our warming world. Just recently, researchers predicted that in another 20 or so years the "bread basket" of the United States, responsible for much of our nation's food supply, will have moved north into Canada.

If we believe the scientists, change is coming at an ever-growing pace. Only 100 years ago, winters were so cold here in Jamestown that the islanders cut ice blocks from the ponds to store for use in the summer. The ice on West Passage was reported to be so thick that a horse and wagon team was driven from West Ferry to Saundertown.

Today we're seeing plants, animals, and insects move into new territories to the north due to the warmer climate. Those species native to these once cold areas are disappearing.

Climatologists say the warming trend will also result in more drastic, destructive weather conditions.

Next week, we'll welcome the first day of winter, and we're wondering if winter will ever arrive. The ski resorts in northern New England are bemoaning the lack of snow, as are their fellow destinations in the Alps.

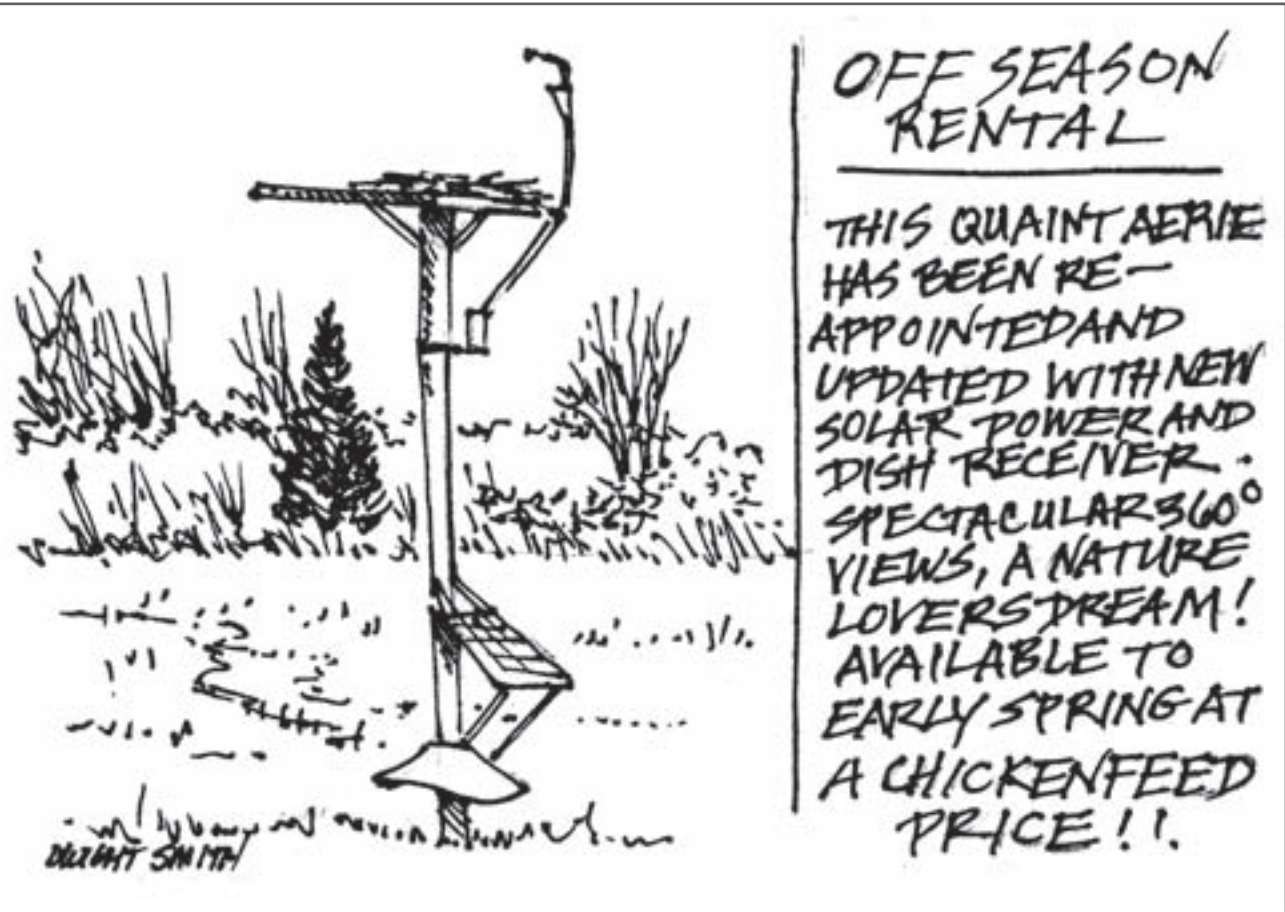
There are those who argue that this is normal. The world may be warming, but it's part of a natural cycle that has nothing to do with our increasing pollution of the environment, they claim.

Should we wait and see? Is it too late to slow or halt the trend?

The U.S. has been the lead polluter of the world. We are about to be eclipsed by China, where the economy is

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growing by more than 10 percent annually.



• LETTERS •

Sixth farming year a success

This year completes six years at the Jamestown Community Farm. Once again, we had a very successful year with both excellent vegetables and excellent volunteers. Since we began the farm in 2000, we have grown and distributed over 72,000 pounds, 36 tons, of fresh vegetables to people in need. This could not have happened without the generous contributions of time and labor from so many volunteers.

We are averaging over 150 volunteers a year from the age of 5 to the age of

grandpas and grandmas. Local business owners in town have also contributed and helped us out on several occasions. Also the landowners Peter and Jean Ceppi have donated the use of the land for all six years. People help us out with their labor and sometimes donations of money. We appreciate all donations and all donations go to the production of fresh food. We pay no salaries or labor costs. At the very top of the donation list is farm volunteer Davis Archer, who during the last four years with the help of his fellow students at St. George's has donated almost \$4,000 to the farm. Others have made significant contributions and

all are appreciated. For anyone wishing to work at the farm, we will be ready to go again in May 2007, and we look forward to seeing you.

Thank you and happy holidays

Bob Sutton,
farm manager

Right tree, right place

"The right tree for the right place" was the mantra inculcated into every student who took the Rhode Island Tree Council's Tree Steward Course. During the 13 years that I worked for the tree council we labored diligently to re-plant the cities and towns of the state with

lovely trees, always emphasizing "the right tree for the right place."

When planting trees there are always trade offs. Does the tree grow too tall under wires, will it block an intersection, will its roots pull up the sidewalk, and in Jamestown particularly, will it block a water view?

When my husband and I moved to Jamestown 30 years ago we developed our property into a tree farm, planting over 6000 seedlings through the years. At the same time we selectively cut trees to improve our water view.

Jamestown citizens Mr. and Mrs. Antine have the Letters continued on page 25

The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 25, 50, 75, and 100 years ago from the Newport Daily News comes from the collection of the Newport Historical Society.

100 years ago

The young men of the town are getting several ice boats in commission in anticipation of a freeze sufficient for the sport.

From the Newport Daily News, December 14, 1906

A special town meeting was held yesterday afternoon to take action on the appropriation of money for a new ferry boat for the Jamestown & Newport Ferry Company. Over 50 of the 171 qualified voters were present at the opening of the meeting, although no interest in the question was evident previous to the meeting. Manager Cottrell of the ferry company mentioned several propositions which had been considered by the directors, but offered no resolution. After about an hour and a half taken up by various speakers for and against involving the town deeper financially in the company, the meeting adjourned without further action than the passing of a resolution stating the willingness of the taxpayers to stand a yearly assessment of not over \$5,000, if necessary, to maintain and support the ferry.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, December 12, 1931

A happy get-together party of members of the Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department and their wives and the members of the town council was held in the new engine house on Narragansett avenue Thursday evening when the officers of the department gave a turkey dinner to the assembled company. Following the dinner speeches were made by several members.

From the Newport Daily News, December 14, 1931

Walter Bollons has re-opened his blacksmith shop on West street.



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden
Week of December 14

From the Newport Daily News, December 16, 1931

A girls' basket ball team will be formed shortly. Plans are being made for organizing a league of four teams.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, December 11, 1956

The possibility of converting the Thomas H. Clarke School into a building for the town offices was brought up by the Jamestown Town Council at its meeting last night. The Council voted to ask the Planning Board to study the matter. . . . The Clarke School was offered for sale at a public auction by the town on Saturday, but no bid was received. The Council had set \$15,000 as a minimum bid. The old Carr School likewise was offered at a minimum bid of \$10,000, but there were no takers.

A check for \$252 was received (by the Council) from the Jamestown Bridge Commission as its contribution to the wages of the town watchman in the Beavertail area from Oct. 1 to Nov. 30. The commission noted that keeping the area available to fishermen greatly increased bridge revenue and in view of that the commission will advertise the fishing possibilities in the Beavertail area to a greater extent.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, December 10, 1981

The town dog pound will be closed until the spring, in accordance with the state veterinarian's recommendation. The pound has no heat.

From the Newport Daily News, December 11, 1981

Conanicut Grange 21 is considering selling the grange hall, unless the membership drive is successful. . . . On Dec. 2, the majority of the membership voted to have the building appraised. If the grange decides to sell, the money realized will go the State Grange where it will be held in trust for seven years.

From the Newport Daily News, December 12, 1981

An exhibit of photos taken during the Indian burial ground excavation during the 1966-1967 dig are on display at the Jamestown Philomenian Library this month.

From the Newport Daily News, December 14, 1981

Hundreds of people attended Jamestown Appreciation Day Sunday to hear former Town Clerk Rosamond A. Tefft and Town Clerk Lucy Carr Jenkins, who will retire this month. A reception was held at Holy Ghost Hall. Another 100 people attended a dinner later in the day for the retirees at the Bay Voyage Inn.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, December 12, 1991

Jamestown's proposed \$3.6 million general budget for 1992-93 is up 4.6 percent from last year. . . . The biggest increase is in the town's debt service, which jumped from \$365,850 to \$454,722, up \$88,872 from last year. The bulk of that increase, \$79,932, comes from the new police station.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, December 12, 1996

The current manager of the town-owned golf course, Joseph Mistowski, will continue to operate the links, but he will be paying a lot more rent.

Town officials have agreed to look into the possibility of using the golf course irrigation ponds as a community skating rink.