

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### Welcome to Hollywood East

It is not all that odd these days to see someone making a movie in Jamestown. But this week was a bit unusual because there were two different movies being created here on the island at the same time.

You can't miss the big budget Disney/Touchstone movie entourage. There are lots of signs pointing the way to "DIRL," which is short for "Dan in Real Life." The filming is taking place down the street from the Melrose Avenue School. A temporary trailer park has been created for the cast and crew in the parking lot of the Portuguese American Citizens Club.

Meanwhile, a shoestring budget documentary film crew had earlier this week taken over Ft. Getty. They were using the historic replica sloop Providence for shooting "American General." Actors in period colonial uniforms could be seen lounging on the wooden pier alongside the tall sailing ship. The anachronism in the scene was the hazy line of the Jamestown Bridge in the distance.

Yes, we've become somewhat immune to the movie cameras in Jamestown. This past summer Ft. Wetherill was the setting used by an independent movie maker. We all remember not all that long ago when the Farrelly brothers took over Narragansett Avenue and the village for "Me, Myself and Irene." They crashed a police car into the front of what is now the Conanicut Marine Ship's Store. East Ferry became a park with a fountain, and the kids went wild over actor Jim Carrey.

Before that Jamestown hosted dueling twelve-meter sailboats in the Dumplings for the movie "Wind." A film crew transformed a waterfront home with movie magic.

That same location, it is rumored, features the dock and blinking light made famous in the movie "The Great Gatsby."

Scenes for the recent television show "Providence" were filmed in Jamestown. Production crews for PBS and the History Channel have been here a few times. And over the years there have been other movie-makers and documentary crews that have filmed here.

There's no doubt that the Jamestown business community benefits from the local movie-making economics. And the Hollywood types certainly add zest to our sedate island life. Locals get hired as extras and you may occasionally recognize an actor or an actress at a local coffee shop.

Jamestown has become a regular Hollywood East. Maybe the Town Council should establish a Jamestown Film Commission to promote, assist and keep tabs on the movie making here.

### Lights, camera, action

Crew members on the set of "Dan in Real Life" make adjustments to a light Monday morning. The movie is currently being shot at Riven Rock, a waterfront home on Melrose Avenue. The film, a romantic comedy, stars Steve Carrell, Juliette Binoche and Dane Cook.

Photo by Jeff McDonough



## • LETTERS •

### Washouts happen

In reference to the closure of Beavertail Road last week due to the storm and, with all due respect to Dr. Robin "Shades of New Orleans," in the Nov. 2 edition of the Press, this is not a new thing. As far back as 1938, it is well documented that this road occasionally washes out. It is or should be a known fact to anyone familiar with Beavertail.

When I moved here in 1992 and began house hunting, I was aware of it and for that reason made the choice not to buy a house on Beavertail. Is it not our responsibility to know what 'issues' go along with our decisions? At what point is it up to us to be responsible or at least

aware? This is Mother Nature at work and I, for one, would like to see less interference by the human race. Remember the old butter commercial that said something like 'don't mess with Mother Nature?' Yet we continue to think we can build something bigger or better to 'fix' our problem. First of all it is only a temporary problem and happens very occasionally. I can remember this being the third time since I've lived here. That is hardly a catastrophe.

Actually, as I look at the beach this morning, it looks like the grasses held up reasonably well. I know the buffer I put in along my property several years ago held beautifully, and other than a minimal amount of rearrangement of boulders and the addi-

tion of someone's dock debris and Zodiac, all is in good shape.

This storm reinforced my resolve that, in a hurricane, I'll be prudent and leave.

Sydney Waller,  
Jamestown

### Spooktacular thanks to all

The third annual Pumpkin Spooktacular was well attended last Friday evening, drawing over 300 viewers. Although it has rained the last two years, the show still went on. This past Saturday's weather was extreme, and our concern for the safety of the volunteers and the viewers caused us to cancel Saturday's show.

We would like to thank our local business sponsors for their donations

to help the Boy Scouts of Troop 1 Jamestown: Ace's Pizza, Baker's Pharmacy, J.H. Breakell & Company, Central Garage, A.S. Clarke Excavating, Conanicut Marine Services, Lila Delman Real Estate, Del Nero Cleaners, East Ferry Deli, Dr. C. Matthew Forster, DMD, Focus Real Estate Group, Grapes & Gourmet, House of Pizza, Island Realty, Jack's Electric, Jamestown Animal Clinic, Jamestown Boat Yard, Jamestown Early Learning, Jamestown True Value Hardware, Livingston Marine Assoc., Morneau & Murphy, Ocean State Scuba, and Video Showcase. These local businesses always help to support Troop 1 and their generosity is truly appreciated. Thanks to Mr. K and Mrs. Sweet, and Mr. Letters continued on page 8

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

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 7, 1906:

The pleasant weather and interest in the (liquor) license question brought out a fairly good vote Tuesday, 189 of the possible 248 voters casting their ballots, while others arrived just too late, the polls closing at 6:30. The vote on the license, the first to be counted, which took only a few minutes, was defeated by a large margin, showing that the voters are overwhelmingly against the saloon.

#### 75 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News November 7, 1931:

The quarterly meeting of the Jamestown fire department was held at Fire Station No. 1 with the chief Jesse C. Tefft, in the chair. The minutes of the last and regular and special meetings were read. . . . The special committee on buying a hook and ladder truck reported having purchased the same, which is due to arrive in Jamestown in two weeks. The entertaining committee is planning for a turkey supper in the near future, complimentary to firemen and their wives.

A large number of tickets have been sold for the Armistice ball in Holy Ghost hall next Tuesday evening. "The Narragansett Serenaders" orchestra of six pieces of Narragansett Pier will furnish music.

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 9, 1931:

The football game between the Jamestown and Newport teams at Head's field yesterday resulted in a victory of 20-0 for the Jamestown boys.

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 12, 1931:

The American Legion, Jamestown Post, had its full day



## This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden  
Week of November 9

share of activities in the Armistice Day celebration. All were carried out with precision and the dance, parade and exercises at the town hall were conceded to be the best ever conducted by the local post.

Everything lent itself to making Armistice day in Jamestown all that could be desired. The weather was ideal and promptly at 10 o'clock all organizations which were to participate in the parade were gathered on the shore road, in front of Shoreby Hill and at 10:30, the time appointed, the parade, with the Girl Scouts leading, followed by the bugle and drum corps and school children started the line of march to Narragansett avenue and the town hall. Here all stood silent in silence while the bell on St. Matthew's Church tolled.

#### 50 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 7, 1956:

Democratic candidates for the General Assembly in Jamestown won slight leads in yesterday's election that a total of 175 outstanding absentee, shut-in and war ballots could upset. President Eisenhower won a smashing 875-366 over Stevenson.

#### 25 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 6, 1981:

Twenty-four building permits were issued by Building Inspector Charles J. Dowling between Sept. 30 and Oct. 28.

#### From the Newport Daily News, November 10, 1981:

The Town Council enacted an emergency ordinance last night to conserve the island's dwindling water supply in the town's reservoir. The ordinance makes it illegal for anyone to use town water to wash automobiles, trucks, motorcycles or any other motor vehicle. It is also illegal for anyone to use municipal water for swimming pools and other outdoor uses, including watering lawns, gardens, trees and shrubs. . . . As of Nov. 2, the water in the North reservoir was 13 feet, 11 inches below the spillway.

#### 15 years ago

##### From the Jamestown Press, November 7, 1991:

It wasn't a hurricane, but many said it acted like one last week when a northeaster with winds gusting up to 74 mph pummeled Jamestown.

Jamestown will be one step closer to having a state-mandated comprehensive plan after last night's meeting of the Planning Commission. . . . one of the main tasks the commission faced Wednesday was to come up with a main statement or preface that provided an overview of the plan.

#### 10 years ago

##### From the Jamestown Press, November 7, 1996:

Don't plan on fixing dinner next Tuesday because there will be more than enough food for everyone on the island at the second annual "Taste of Jamestown." Organizers say that just about everything is ready for the big event planned for this Tuesday, Nov. 12, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Holy Ghost Hall (PAC Club) on Narragansett Avenue.

Town officials will hold a public workshop on the proposed reconstruction and extension of East Ferry's steel pier next Wednesday.