

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Here we go again

Jamestown is yet again facing a potential water crisis. The low water level in the North Pond reservoir has town officials expressing concern. Months of below-average rainfall have led to "moderate drought conditions."

The town is currently pumping water from the South Pond reservoir to North Pond. Town officials estimate that, without significant rain in the near future, we have about a three-month supply of water on hand.

If the island's water supply becomes critically low, the town could purchase water from North Kingstown and transport it to the island through an emergency flexible pipeline that is now in storage.

Conservation continues to be the key to stretching our island's water resources. However, Jamestowners are doing a good job in that department. Islanders use an average of 37 gallons per person, compared to 70 gallons per individual statewide.

Outside water usage is already banned. Those on the municipal water system are prohibited from watering their lawns or washing their houses, cars and boats.

Water shortages are not new to Jamestown. Limited rainfall has been blamed for low reservoir levels at various times during the past two centuries.

Most recently, the town turned to the National Guard in 1993 to truck water to the island. The water trucks began dumping water in the North Pond in September 1993 and continued into December of that year when an emergency water pipeline across the old Jamestown Bridge was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The pipeline was dismantled when the old bridge was demolished.

So keep conserving water. Hope for rain.

— Jeff McDonough



Growing up on 'the rock'

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to Rebekah Rosen-Gomez's letter to the editor in last week's Press regarding her perception of Jamestown as a "difficult place to raise a family." I, in no way, can relate to having children and planning their extra-curricular activities, but I can say, first hand, Jamestown was an amazing place to grow up. Too often do I read these articles about people complaining about Jamestown.

Fifteen years ago, I wrote an ever-so-demanding letter to the Press about how I would really like it if our street could possibly be paved, so I could use my new rollerblades with my friends. That was my biggest concern in my 23

• LETTERS •

Town elections letters policy

During the campaign season, which ends with the Nov. 6 elections, the Jamestown Press will not print letters in support of, or in opposition to candidates running for town offices.

years in Jamestown; I did not want rocks to get stuck in my wheels on Davit Avenue! Whatever happened to making forts and riding your bike all over the island, coming back when it was dark? Jamestown is a place where you create your own activities and family traditions. I understand having an outlined schedule of activities is probably helpful for busy families, but on the contrary, that is what being part of a family is all about. The best part about James-

town is not necessarily the amount of activities that are offered, it is everyone that is a part of them. Yes the baseball fields are horrendous, and the school gym is old and dusty, but the relationships that you make with everyone while playing at the old and grungy places are what really matter.

Noel O'Dwyer coached U-12 girls soccer in that dusty gym; 25 percent of us ended up getting scholarships to college for soccer, and all of us are all still best

friends to this day. I do not think a nicer gym could have created a better situation.

Mary Wright directed many plays at the rec center, and still to this day is making a huge impact on children in Jamestown. We still continued to perform beautifully even if we only had a 10-by-10-foot backstage area to change and prepare for the next scene.

Lack of appreciation is what I really think is the problem in Jamestown. Appreciate the fact that your kids can go outside without you worrying about them. Appreciate that the children can ride their bikes around the North End, and can sit at House of Pizza with Freddy, eating pizza, by themselves. I know I am not delving into many of the issues that do

Letters continued on page 8

Write to us

LETTERS: Send your letters to: Editor, The Jamestown Press, 42 Narragansett Ave., Jamestown RI 02835. Our fax number is (401) 423-1661.

Our e-mail address is news@jamestownpress.com. Please include your name, address, and a daytime telephone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication. All letters must be limited to 700 words or less.

The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 100 years ago came from the collection of the Newport Historical Society.

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, October 17, 1907

The firemen are making arrangements for an oyster supper on the night of their annual meeting, which occurs the last of the month.

From the Newport Daily News, October 19, 1907

The small boys of the public school are forming a football team. They hope to play with some of the juvenile Newport teams.

Yesterday a large number of outing parties from Newport visited Beavertail and the Dumplings and on the two last trips from the island to Newport the ferry was crowded with teams. Some were left on the dock on the 4 o'clock trip but all were taken over on the 5 o'clock and it was not necessary to make an extra trip.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, October 15, 1932

An interesting bi-centennial tree planting exercise took place at the Thomas H. Clarke school Friday morning. Mrs. Chauncey Shackford, chairman of the tree planting committee of the Jamestown Garden Club, presented to the school in behalf of the club a beautiful sparrow eye maple. ... The tree was then placed in position, each grade placing a trowel of earth at its base. ... The singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" closed the exercises.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, October 15, 1957

A hearing on a petition for a preliminary injunction to prevent Commerce Oil Refining Corp. from erecting a loading dock 900 feet off the east shore of Jamestown neared an end in Superior Court this morning as both



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden
Week of October 18

sides gave closing arguments. ... The offshore unloading and loading facility will run 1,300 feet parallel to the shore and be connected to land by pipelines.

(At the town council meeting) John L. Smith, chairman (of the Tercentenary Committee), submitted an itemized account of receipts (\$5,311.19) and expenditures (\$5,141.80).

From the Newport Daily News, October 19, 1957

The Newport School Committee last night warned county towns that Rogers High School is overcrowded and that by 1960 the doors might start to swing shut against tuition pupils. ... Jamestown, which sends 40 pupils to Rogers and 14 to Thompson Junior High, was not invited to the meeting.

Traffic over the Jamestown Bridge increased 6.3 per cent during September, compared to the same period last year. ... The annual report covering a 10-month period showed 395,717 vehicles crossed the bridge, an increase of 29,138 over last year. ... (Charles L.) Hull also submitted a report which showed guards at the Beavertail area, maintained by the commission, counted 1,340 out-of-town cars and 1,931 local vehicles or a total of 3,171 frequenting Jamestown's favorite fishing spot during the month of September.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, October 19, 1982

W. Edward Wood, director of the Department of Trans-

portation, said Monday night that he will appoint a committee to fix the site and design of the new Jamestown Bridge access road.

The Jamestown Shores Association has urged its members to attend the rights of way hearing sponsored by state Coastal Resources Management Council subcommittee Oct. 28 at 7:30 at Jamestown School. CRMC will receive new evidence concerning rights of ways in Jamestown. Eight of the nine to be considered are in the Jamestown Shores.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, October 15, 1992

State officials this week continued to fine tune plans for the public "walk across" celebration on the new Jamestown Bridge set for Saturday.

A special limited-edition commemorative bronze coin has been struck to mark the opening of the new Jamestown-Verrazzano Bridge. The coin will be available for sale on the bridge during the public celebration planned for Saturday, Oct. 17.

Beautiful Columbus Day October weather Monday attracted 96 riders to the annual round-the-island bicycle race sponsored by the Jamestown Rotary Club. This year marked the 17th time the local organization has staged the event to raise money for Jamestown charities.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, October 16, 1997

The town-owned golf course has brought in \$116,700 of income so far, and town officials anticipate seeing another \$10,000 in revenue by the end of the season.

Jamestown's pedaled into their 22nd annual Rotary Club Around the Island Bicycle Race Monday, as over 180 participants donned their helmets to ride the 18-mile course.