

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Island beaches require our constant efforts

Saturday's annual Island Shoreline Cleanup can be summarized simply: They came. They saw. They picked up 20 cubic yards of litter — enough to fill a big dumpster.

Some 60 dedicated souls turned out on the beautiful morning to make a clean sweep of our island. They bagged nearly two tons of trash and our beaches certainly look much better for their efforts.

My wife and I spent about two and a half hours on Saturday helping fellow islanders collect trash at Sheffield Cove. We gathered enough refuse to fill the bed on my pickup truck twice. Our trash haul included giant pieces of Styrofoam, dock timbers, broken boat parts, and fish netting. That was the big stuff.

The little stuff that littered the marsh alongside the cove was mostly plastic trash. Plastic water bottles, plastic cups, plastic bags big and small, plastic junk food sacks, plastic drink containers, plastic detergent bottles, and plastic packaging. There was shredded plastic and bits of plastic. It would have taken 50 people several hours to collect all the plastic trash that litters the cove. We just got the big stuff. There's lots of smaller stuff still there. Feel free to pick up some of it when you have a spare moment.

Do you know that all that plastic we purchase is helping drive up the cost of oil? Yes, plastic is petroleum-based. In 2006, the U.S. produced nearly 15 billion gallons of bottled water. That required 900,000 tons of plastic which was manufactured with 17.6 million barrels of oil. That's enough oil to run 1.5 million cars on our roads for one year — just for plastic water bottles. Think about that the next time you buy something that comes in plastic. If you must buy plastic, at least make the effort to recycle. Be a smart, eco-wise consumer. Your planet and your pocketbook will thank you.

On Saturday, we found disappointment at Fort Getty. We drove through the park to collect trash that volunteers had bagged. On the concrete siding, where the boats are parked in the summer, we found a pile of kitchen cabinet doors and chopped sections of door frames. Obviously, someone had found it easier to dump their construction trash at Fort Getty rather than take it to the transfer station. That person should be sentenced to a month of picking up trash.

We were feeling pretty good about helping clean up our island when, on Sunday, we walked along the town beach at East Ferry. There had been a couple of tides since Saturday's cleanup. Already the beach was freshly littered with plastic bottles and plastic packaging that had washed ashore overnight.

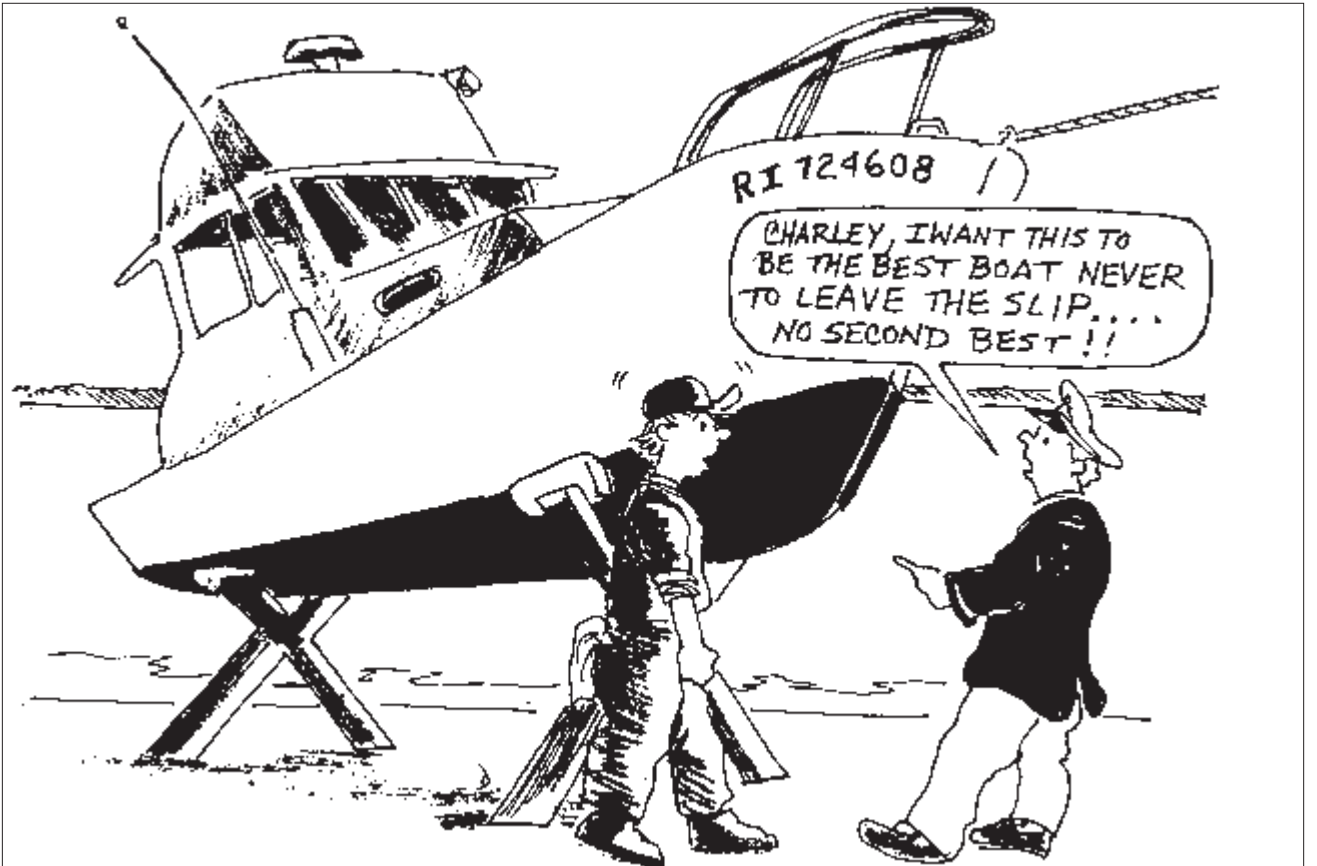
It's clear that we must be vigilant to keep our beaches clean. Picking up the trash is a year-round requirement. You can make the job easier by making sure your trash is put where it belongs.

— Jeff McDonough



These Jamestown youngsters and their canine friend bagged their share of trash Saturday during the annual Island Shoreline Cleanup. Pictured are Caellum Kerr, Colin Moffet, Alli Moffet, and Emma Kerr.

Photo by Vic Richardson



Disregard the spin, prohibit methoprene use

I was somewhat appalled that someone would write last week to imply that the issue pertaining to lobster mortality was somehow rooted in "superstition and innuendo." Then I reached the bottom of the letter. It figures. Unfortunately, the only mis-information being floated was in Mr. Conlon's letter.

The fact is, there have been clear correlations of lobster mortality to methoprene use in many states going back to the 1990s, and known effects

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on crustaceans were shown back in the 1970s. It also doesn't take a genius to do a little simple research and find out that there are multiple studies that show that methoprene, in concentrations as low as five parts per billion, interfere with the metabolism, hormones and molting cycles in various-stage larval and juvenile lobsters:

"Methoprene is a pesticide that acts as a juvenile hormone analog in insects (Restifo & Wilson 1998). It also mimics the action of

methyl farnesoate (MF), the crustacean analog of juvenile hormone (Laufer et al. 1987). Although developed initially against insects, it has since been shown in a number of investigations to have toxic effects on larval and adult forms of various crustaceans (Christensen et al. 1977, Payton & Costlow 1977, Templeton & Laufer 1983, Ahl & Brown 1990, 1991, Horst & Walker 1999)."

It shouldn't take a whole lot of extra, wasted years to come to the logical conclu-

sion that insects and lobsters are evolutionarily related, for better or worse. After all, we haven't been calling them "bugs" all these years for nothing

Mr. Conlon is correct that Maine has not banned methoprene use. The individual coastal towns that knew the truth and faced the threat took the action. Which is exactly what the rest of our communities should do. Waiting for the industry, the state, or EPA for that matter, is a waste of time. We owe it to our fishermen who break their backs every day in the elements, to take action. In

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This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of May 1

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, April 29, 1908

(At the town council meeting) the stable on North Main road was hired from J. H. Tefft for the sum of \$36 per year, and one on Greene lane from J. J. Watson for \$40. ... George B. Wales was instructed to prepare the saltwater pump at the East ferry for its summer work. Councilman Barber was appointed a committee to advertise for bids for watering the streets outside the compact part of the town. ... William A. Barber was appointed a committee to obtain permission to have the church bell rung in case of fire in the schoolhouse or houses. The petition of P. H. Horgan to have a barn moved from the corner of Southwest and Windsor street to Walcott avenue was granted.

From the Newport Daily News, May 4, 1908

A baseball team from Newport defeated a local team yesterday on the new field on the Bay View plat.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, May 4, 1933

A meeting of the Board of Trade was held Wednesday evening at the office of Meredith & Clarke. ...

The board went on record as in favor of better and safer walks in Jamestown. ... Suggestions that stop signs be placed on streets entering a main thoroughfare were made. The matter was referred to the town council for advisement and action.

From the Newport Daily News, May 6, 1933

The American Legion bugle and drum corps will lead the street parade this evening, forming at the town hall, marching to the east ferry to the west ferry and returning to the town hall where they will disband.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, May 2, 1958

Newport harbor fog will "melt" for skippers of the two big new ferries, Newport and Jamestown, which were purchased from the state of Virginia complete with radar.

From the Newport Daily News, May 3, 1958

Jamestown Democrats have made their support of the proposed \$55,000,000 Commerce Oil refinery in that town the principal plank in their platform for the town election next Wednesday.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, May 2, 1983

The town has asked the state Department of Environmental Management for an extension of the April 30 deadline for use of the landfill on North Road. The DEM has set Saturday as the deadline for the town to submit a plan for an alternate to the near-capacity landfill.

From the Newport Daily News, May 3, 1983

The Jamestown Business Association would like the Town Council to ease the parking problems in the business area. Nick Robertson, the president of the association, proposed three solutions to the Council

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