

# Benton Beach Beacon



July 2003

## 42nd Annual Benton Family Picnic

**Date:** Saturday, August 2nd (raindate Sunday, Aug 3rd)

**Time:** 1pm

**High Tide:** 3pm

Summer is upon us and it is once again time to turn our attention to the highlight of the summer social season- the annual family party at Benton Beach. This year, we have decided to return to the tried and true- a potluck picnic. We are asking each family to bring 2 food items to share. Choose from the following categories:

- appetizer,
- entree,
- salad, or
- dessert.

You may also bring other items to cook on the grill, there will be one available. Please bring beverages for your own family. Plates, napkins, cups and utensils will be provided. If you do bring a food item that requires a larger serving utensil, could you bring that, and put your name on it.

High tide is at 3pm, so there will be plenty of time for a swim. Come and enjoy the beach at its summer finest! Any questions, call Ellen at 401-783-2429.

## Troops Turn Out for Work Day

by Joel Helander

Twenty-two family members, plus Pumpkin Helander, turned out for the annual work day, Saturday, May 17, 2003. The Rhode Island contingency arrived at 8:30 a.m. and in the chilly air set up an inviting table with coffee, donuts, and hot chocolate. As the morning wore on, it warmed up beautifully with a light breeze. Unlike other years, when people typically arrive in waves over the two-day weekend, there seemed to be a concentrated effort on one day, Saturday, almost eliminating the need for day no. 2 on Sunday.

The only exception was the pre-work weekend staged by the Ott team, David and Peter, who delivered 20 tons of 3/4 inch traprock for a dressing on the Beach Road, May 7. They were assisted by Malcolm Hill. This was a noble boost because the Beach Road has had no traprock maintenance since 1992.

Through brute strength, Forrest and Eliot laid the doctops. One section, which had been washed away in a winter storm, was later replaced by J. Helander, using the new ACQ lumber (non-arsenic), which is now used for beach projects. The carpentry crew of Kathryn, Eliot, and Forrest skillfully fabricated the extension of the handrail for the re-built dock, plus an elegant bench on the eastern "T" of the dock.

Eight yards of rich loam were spread and seeded by Tim, Donna, Wendy, Juan-Victor,, Andrew, Sandra, Ellen, et al. Ellen and daughter Kate installed the shade canopy, which has been mended and reinforced. Sharon patiently

prepped and stained two picnic tables. Daniel raked and prepared the fire pit. Heather and Andrew raked the beach. Joel cleared brush along the stonewall in the parking area. Lynne dutifully vacuumed the beach house. Roger's green thumb arranged the geranium flowerbox and flower beds.

In early afternoon, we were treated to the rare and resplendent sight of the three-masted Barque Eagle, sailing westward. Kate and Andrew made the pizza run, supplying a stack of hot pies for hungry troops, generously provided by E.B.F., in addition to Sandra's famous punch and the Fales' gourmet cookies.

Omissions or errors in citing individual contributions need to be excused, as the foregoing exercise is practically dangerous, but necessary to acknowledge the blend of teamwork. Thank you, one and all, for your valuable and various contributions to Benton Beach. We are all very proud of the way our little paradise has been groomed and improved for the season upon us. Hooray for the summer of '03!

## Beach Security

by Joel Helander

Acting on concerns by our neighbors on Beauty Mountain, plus other reports of comings & goings at the beach at odd hours of the day, the Board of BBC is taking remedial steps to effect better security. This is not a new issue, nor is it out-of-control, but simply needs to be monitored.

Kayak landing parties have been one of the newest security issues. Kayakers have created a genuine problem on the Thimble Islands, year round, reportedly with breaking and entering of buildings. The old issue of Indian Cove residents using the Beach Road on a regular basis will be addressed with new signage along the road. A new cedar pole gate with a clip cable will be installed a little south of the old gate, to be instituted in the off-season. Please don't hesitate to report suspicious activity or to inquire discreetly about unknown beach users. Since a number of non-family members have beach rights, we need to exercise care and courtesy in making inquiries, but ultimately we protect our interests by doing so.

## Cattle Return to the Pasture

by Joel Helander

Long Lot Pasture is again a sweet and serene pastoral scene with the arrival of three oxen on May 25. Their names are "Rock", "Speck", and "Red" and belong to our farm tenants, Barbara and John Hammurland. The pasture gate off the beach Road is locked for security purposes, but may be accessed by calling a board member. Visiting family members are welcome to take a scoop or two of oats and molasses from the cornhouse (behind the Benton Farmhouse) to feed the oxen at the barway. Rock is probably the most personable of the three animals, having spent his early life around children and in a yoked pair. Mr. Hammurland hopes to break one of the other oxen into a yoke for pulling a cart on Fair Day.

## Notes

### Calendar of Events:

Please call Donna Chemacki (203-245-2998), Benton Beach Corp. secretary, for scheduling a special beach event. This is not necessary for small, spontaneous gatherings.

### Content Submission

Please submit any articles or family updates to Tim Chemacki for incorporation into the next issue (*preferably by email*).

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