

The SOCIETY PAGES

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by: Bernardo Licata (pseudo reporter)

Ice jams the St. Clair River and the US and Canadian Coast Guard sent five Cutters into the North Channel in an effort to move ice down from the river through the North Channel into Anchor Bay and Lake St. Clair. Their actions were protested by a group of vocal Islanders who oppose the Coast Guard destroying the 'ice bridge' in the North Channel that allows the ferry to provide service throughout the winter months.

The protesters were out in force on Saturday January 25 and Sunday morning the 26th as the Coast Guard moved into the North Channel.

Protesters waving signs at Orchid and North Channel Road and at the Ferry Dock were video recorded and will be provided to the Museum to document this 'item of historical interest'.

The protesters opinions were many and varied. Opinions and points of view were also expressed and posted on the Next-door Harsens Island website.

The Ferry was working in the North Channel in the past few hours attempting to clear a path to the mainland, so they may resume operations; and, that is the status for the historic record, this 27th day of January 2015.

#



Ferry Closure Notice



Islanders lined up to park a car on the Mainland or depart.

Lecture Series

Tony Gramer – March 14



Roger LeLievre – April 25



Leading the Protest – Susan Bryson

The Society Pages

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From the President

Dear Society Members,

It is a beautiful and bright sunny Tuesday morning here on Harsens Island...but the temperature only registers 9 degrees on the Fahrenheit scale and Islanders who have not escaped to warmer climes are under 'Island Arrest'. (That's like house arrest for the entire Island.) Ferry service has been curtailed by the US and Canadian Coast Guard since 10:00 AM Sunday 1/25 to break ice in the North Channel. The purpose is to relieve the ice bridge formed upstream somewhere between Marine City and St. Clair. For you 'snowbirds' we are not certain when the ice bridge at the ferry will re-form and ferry service resume.

Throughout this activity your president, acting as 'news reporter, documented the protest that was staged to curtail the Coast Guards actions in the North Channel. Photos and video recordings of the protest have been captured and will be offered to The Society Museum as another 'Item of historical interest'. Shipping traffic on the South Channel resumed today Tuesday 01/27. Champion Ferry advised on its recorded message this morning, that it "...does not expect to run for at least a couple days".

UPDATE: Thursday January 29. TV's, Channel 4, Paula Tutman visited the Island, early this morning, with her videographer Jamal to report on the ferry closure. Barbara Persyn hosted her visit. The Coast Guard sector commander also visited and was among those interviewed. Champion Ferry resumed operations today from Noon to 8PM and will continue operations tomorrow, if conditions allow.

So what else happened in January?

The Lecture Series launched early this year. The presentation by Page Ligon Products brought 45 people to the Schoolhouse to hear about 'Haybale Gardening'. Our expectation was that it might attract 10 to 15 people. The interest was so high and the information so well received, many of the attendees requested a return engagement. We will do our best to schedule this presentation in May when the snowbirds and part-timers can avail themselves of this method of gardening. This method is purported to produce great crops and if done properly will allow two plantings in a single season; and, the best part is, it is purported to be 'weed-free'. We'll let you know when Page & Ligon will return. In the interim, for those interested you can read more in the Pamphlet on Page 3.

Please remember to also mark your calendars for March 14 and April 25 and the return of Tony Gramer, world famous diver and Roger LeLievre publisher of Know Your Ships. Make your reservations early.

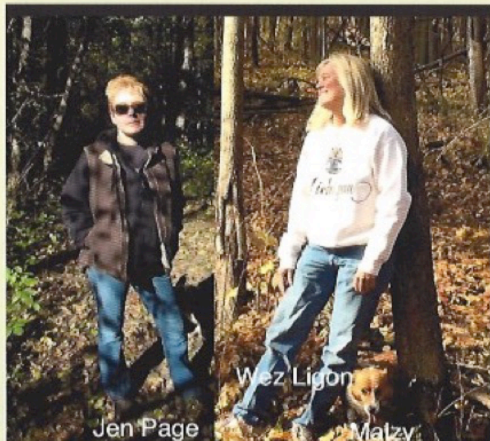
The planning meeting for Tashmoo Days is being held January 31. While the meeting has not happened as of this writing, we can report that good progress is being made. Kate Hart has committed to organize and manage the musical entertainment. Denne Osgood is lining up the lectures for the Tashmoo Days event, we have lots of folks stepping-up to help plan and volunteer to support the program. ...And, we are getting good feedback on the 'Prohibition Bash/Banquet' for Friday evening July 17. The Prohibition Bash will feature live music, entertainment, food, dancing and other fun activities. PERIOD DRESS IS ENCOURAGED. The Friday Prohibition Bash will augment the special "Prohibition Exhibit" scheduled to open at the Museum this spring.

As always, let us know if you have any questions or would like to become more active, we always have lots of things to do.

Warm regards,
Bernardo Licata

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YOUR
HAY BALE SOURCE
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Hay Bale Gardening Pamphlet By Jen Page & Wez Ligon



Getting Started & Location

5 things you must have:

1. Water source
2. 8 hours of sunlight per day
3. Hay Bales
4. Fertilizer
5. Seed or plants

Helpful things:

1. Trellis system
2. Automatic water system
3. Small spade

NO TOOLS or MACHINERY NEEDED!

LOCATION:

The basic rules:

1. Garden should be close to a water source
2. Garden needs 8 hours of sunlight per day

PLACING YOUR HAY BALES

1. Strings should NOT be in contact with ground.
2. Cut side of bale should be up (pokey side)
3. Face a north-south direction
4. Place bales no more than three bales wide

CONDITIONING YOUR HAY BALES

1. Start conditioning at least 2 weeks prior to planting
2. Follow conditioning chart
3. Too much water is better than not enough water

Conditioning & Planting

Day	Fertilizer	Organic	Water
1	½ cup N	3 cup N	Soak
2	Skip	Skip	Soak
3	½ cup N	3 cup N	Soak
4	Skip	Skip	Soak
5	½ cup N	3 cup N	Soak
6	Skip	Skip	Soak
7	¼ cup N	1 ½ cup N	Soak
8	¼ cup N	1 ½ cup N	Soak
9	¼ cup N	1 ½ cup N	Soak
10	1 cup 10-10-10	3 cup P & K	Soak
11	Skip	Skip	Soak
12	*Plant Today	Wait 5 more days	Soak

*** Only if bales have heated and cooled**

PLANTING SEEDS

1. Spread potting mix (not potting soil) 1-2 inches deep on top of bale for a seed bed and tamp down.
2. Place the seed just like you normally would at depth and spacing printed on seed package.
3. Water in.

TRANSPLANTING PLANTS

1. Resist the temptation to put too many plants in the bale. The following is a guide: 2 large tomato plants per bale; 3 pepper plants per bale; 2 pumpkin plants per bale; 30-40 onions per bale; 30-40 peas per bale; 20-25 leaf lettuce per bale.
2. Make slit in the top of the bale with your hands or a small trowel.
3. Remove plant from the pot and place plant in the slit. Can put some potting mix in slit for support.

Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society 2015 Calendar of Events

subject to change

Members are welcome to attend any Board / Membership Meeting to keep apprised of Society activities and to bring issues before the Board.

Museum Hours

June through September – Saturdays – 10 AM – 3 PM and Sundays – Noon – 4 PM

Winter Hours– By Appointment: Phone a Board Member

February

No Activities or Events Scheduled

March

14th: 3:00PM at the Schoolhouse Grille, Lecture by: Tony Gramer, World Traveled Diver.
Tony will present: “Doomed for Disaster”, Loss of the schooner William Young.