Downeast Dispatch
*Eastport for Pride*

**Quarterly Newsletter Winter 2004**

Quarterly Highlights

December 6, 2003: Eastport for Pride held an Open House to celebrate its new office at 93 Water Street. Jimmy Stuart won the drawing for David Orrell's painting, "Monday Morning."

February, 2004: Valentine's Day brought the 3rd annual "I Love Eastport" supper, attended by some 125 people. This year's theme was "Honouring Volunteers," and 40 area citizens were recognized for outstanding community service.

February 15, 2004: the EFP website is up and running, thanks to Neil and Susan Teachout of Amity Computer. Check us out at www.eastportforpride.org

March 6, 2004: Design Series workshop "Downtown Renovation: Partnerships, Mixed Use and Design," at the Senior Center from 11:00 to 1:00, sponsored by the EFP Design Committee. A light luncheon will be served. Speakers will be Bob and Suzanne Kelly, House Revivers and Kelly Realty Management, Bangor.

April 3, 2004: the date for "A Palette of Glorious Colors," a workshop on exterior color schemes and the downtown historic district, co-sponsored by The Commons and EFP. 6:30-8:30, at the Crohn Family Conference Center in Perry.

EFP Sets Up Community Calendar

In line with one of the recommendations of the Resource Team that recently visited Eastport, we are setting up a community calendar. This will help groups and individuals publicize their events, and also prevent conflicts and overlapping.

Whether a regular meeting, or a once-only event, contact Eastport for Pride (853-2400) to add your information to the community calendar. Calendars will be on display in the EFP office and on the EFP website. The calendar will be printed for distribution around the community. "Try to notify us early, so that you'll know about any conflicts well in advance," says Lora Whelan.

Water Street Renovates

You couldn't walk through downtown this past summer or fall without noticing all the building renovations: hammering on one side of Water Street, sawing on the other, piles of bricks and lumber everywhere, scaffolding and dumpsters of all sizes.

Extensive foundation work began in September on the Mincton Building, 51 Water St., purchased in August by The Commons, a group of eight area women. Most of the interior has been gutted, and is being replaced with new materials. The job is now about 85% complete. The Commons plans on opening May 1st with a public celebration in Bank Square.

Across the street, Chris Brown is the sixth generation of his family to operate S.L. Wadsworth & Son, now at 42 Water St. Chris has undertaken complete masonry repairs there and at his neighboring building, 44 Water St., currently vacant. His ambitious "double project" includes preserving historic design elements to retain architectural integrity – and also custom-carved signage to be hung with historically appropriate hardware.

Next door, work is underway on two buildings at 48 and 50 Water St., once known as The Two Sisters, but now called The Little Gems. Structural rehabilitation is first on the list, and owners Martha Howbert and Garfield Arthur are proceeding slowly but surely, doing all the work themselves, to restore these buildings.

At the north end, Beth and Paul Bush have completed rehabilitation and restoration of their building at 82 Water St. That project included repairing and reconstructing historic, architectural details – and, during the course of work, they discovered a second doorway with a transom window, covered by siding. "That was a great surprise," Beth says, noting that the original door and window were salvaged and restored.

Work is also complete on two adjacent buildings at 74 and 76 Water St., owned by Deborah Block, Those buildings now display a four-color paint scheme in tangerine, blue, raspberry and white, reminiscent of the Victorian era of Eastport's downtown.

Meet The Moose

The Promotions Committee is looking for your very best version of a moose. Flat or 3-D, painted or drawn, stuffed or carved, all shapes and sizes will be accepted.

To make it even easier, we're holding craft classes. Classes will start the week of February 24 and end in early May. Choose your medium: crochet, clay, or printing. Come and try your hand, whether pro or beginner. We welcome your own creation too.

Proud of your moose? Share it with us! EFP will collect and label your moose until May 14. Moose will be displayed in Eastport's downtown from May 22 to May 29. Follow the moose map and vote for your favorite categories. Even more events are planned around this theme, so stay tuned.

**Crochet a moose**, contact Kathy Lewis (853-2961)
Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m., Leisures (Bring yarn and crochet hook.)

**Model a clay moose**, contact Janet Toth (853-4098)

Sundays, 1:30 p.m., Leisures (Dress for mess.)
SBAR modeling clay available at Craftbarn in Ellsworth

**Make a moose print**, contact Kristin McKinlay (853-4047)
Saturday, March 20, 1:00 p.m., Tides Institute, Bank Square
Materials fee $15; class limited to 8 participants

**Learn about moose**
The TOTS program, Peavey Memorial Library. Readings of moose books, and a craft project based on readings. Contact Dana Chevalier (853-4021).
Wednesday, March 3, 10:30 a.m.

Iowa Main Street Director Visits Eastport with State Officials

Mid-January is normally not a time when travelers come Downeast, but Eastport was humming with activity from the 12th to 15th when five Main Street officials visited for a firsthand look at our downtown revitalization program.

”You have a wonderful heritage here, a brick main street that is largely intact. Not many towns have as much original architecture to work with as Eastport does,” said Thom Guzman, director of Iowa’s Main Street Program, and a member of the visiting Resource Team. Other team members were: Jayne Palmer, Main Street Bath, Maine; Darcy Rollins, Maine Downtown Center, Augusta; Nancy Barba and Andrea Strassner, Barba Architecture and Preservation, Portland.

Greeted by sub-zero temperatures and daunting winds, this intrepid team walked and drove around to see what was happening. They met with city officials and members of civic groups, looked at construction sites, listened to stories of how it used to be, dined in local restaurants, and generally tried to get a composite picture of our island city.

“One night, I thought the roof was going to blow off,” Rollins said. “I’ve never experienced winds like that.” By the morning of the 15th, when some 35 people met at the Eastport for Pride office to hear team reports, anticipation was high.

In summary, the team cited Eastport’s strengths as: its historic downtown; a population that works hard, cares about the city and is committed to bringing it back from the brink; a wealth of natural, artistic and cultural resources; and good zoning that protects access to the waterfront for professional fishermen as well as recreational use.

The team also observed challenges facing Eastport’s Main Street Program and, in that regard, recommended: cooperation and coordination among organizations, creation of a centralized community calendar of events; emphasis on the creative economy and eco-tourism, and a realization that it’s everybody’s downtown.

EFP Volunteer Profile

Bob Chaffey has always been a booster of Eastport. He was born here, graduated from Shead HS in 1964, and today is actively involved in many aspects of Eastport life. He is employed at Wadsworth's hardware store as well as in the G.P. warehouses at Estes Head and in Woodland. In 2003, he joined Eastport for Pride and Director Lora Whelan asked him to be on the Design Committee, where he works "to make Eastport look nice."

Bob served on the City Council in the '80s, practicing his belief that "money is important, but emotional ties are even more important." As a young man, he and several friends bought an old punt and fixed it up with help from Charlie Trott, traversing the Bay for fun and fishing. Later he bought a weir dinghy. His favorite place on Moose Island? His own home in the South End.

So we salute Bob Chaffey, one of many volunteers who are working with Eastport for Pride to make our city into a better, more vibrant place.