

# BAYSIDE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## ANNUAL REPORT AND NEWSLETTER

WINTER, 2007



Photo by Marty Malvoso



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

How often have you heard it said, "it was a very good year" (or "the state of the union is strong") and still been skeptical? Not so for the Bayside Historical Preservation Society! Believe it, 2006 was a good year. Many of you witnessed and contributed to that.

We began the season with a Silent Movie program, which attracted an appreciative audience of about 60 persons. Then we sponsored a raffle for a doll-house crafted by Dick Brockway, which was a great success (thanks in part to Jane Philips, who chaired it), earning nearly \$1,000 to be used for our museum and other programs.

Later in the summer, on an idea from Harry Rosenblum, BHPS arranged a "100-year photo" of villagers posed on and in front of the hotel (now condominiums). Two photos, "then and now," were printed as posters and postcards and were sold, and will continue to be sold in 2007, to benefit BHPS and the Garden Club in equal shares. BHPS also contributed monetary support, as it has in past years, for the Lincolnville Band concert over the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

Later in the summer, again thanks to Dick Brockway's idea and construction, a number of signs were displayed around the village giving directions to and descriptions of some historical points of interest. A prototype sign, with several informational pictures and texts, was used to see how they would "weather." Some "refinements" needed to be made, which Dick has been doing over the winter. The NVC Overseers have given BHPS permission to erect up to a dozen signs throughout the village during the coming summer. (See the column on "Informational Signs" in this Newsletter.) The signs will be coordinated with another BHPS project, a "Self-Guided Tour" of the village. (Harold Hede writes about this in this issue.)

Many persons helped with these activities, some of who already have been mentioned. In addition, BHPS thanks Blair and Beanie Einstein, who displayed the doll-house and sold the "100-year photo" in their store. Many others supported BHPS in numerous ways. The Museum grounds were weeded and cleaned, some painting was done on the Museum, and our Curator (and Vice President), Joe Reilly, purchased and otherwise secured some new furnishings and artifacts for the Museum. (See his report in this Newsletter.) Those who pay memberships and make contributions also help BHPS in necessary and important ways.

Looking ahead, what is in store for the 2007 season? First, mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting and program, which will be on Saturday, July 14. Though the topic is not completely settled yet, we are planning an interesting program. We also are thinking about having another silent movie night, this time perhaps with Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin. Talks about some of the environs of Bayside and Northport, a post-card slide show, and an art exhibit of images (in whatever media) of Bayside cottages are other possible programs. What events, and times for the events, have not been settled yet, but when we know for certain, they will be advertised on the bulletin boards and in other ways throughout the village, so please keep a sharp eye for specifics. Also, the Museum will continue to be open every Sunday from 3-5 p.m., and by appointment, for casual visitors and those who want to do research.

Finally, this Newsletter is being sent to all NVC residents and property owners, in addition to BHPS members, to let you know what we do and to solicit your help and membership (a form for that purpose is on the back page of the Newsletter). Thank you for your interest, and help, and support.

Robert R. Sherman



# NVC's FIRE ENGINE

I know that many of you have noticed the hand drawn fire apparatus that is on display in the hallway of the basement of the Community Hall. Perhaps some of you have even taken an interest in it, asking "What kind of a fire engine is this, what did it do, and how did it work?"

## WHAT IS IT?

The item on display is a hand drawn chemical fire engine, model 11, manufactured by the American Lafrance Company. It was built prior to 1920.

The specification for this fire engine lists:

Two 35 gallon tanks

Spare nozzles

Tool box with wrenches

100 feet of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch hose

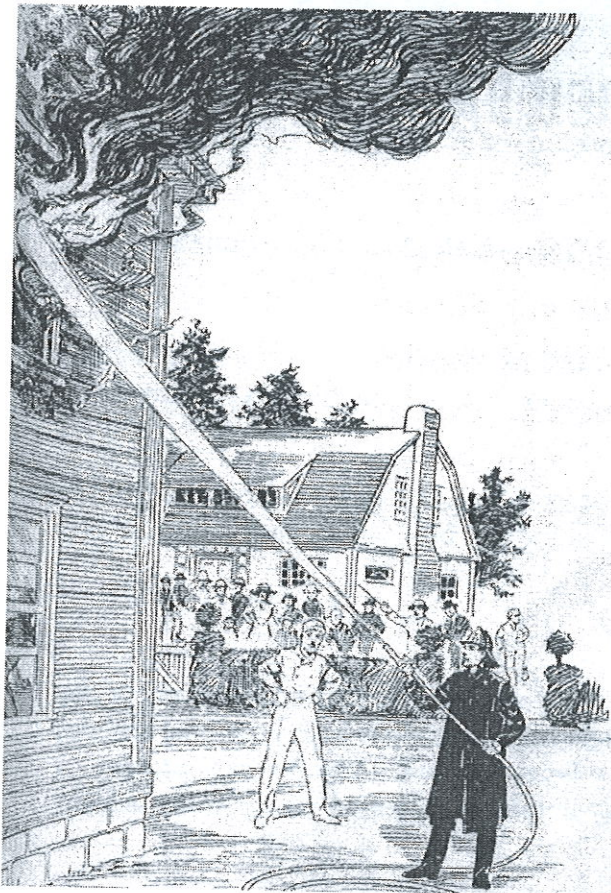
Brass fittings, valves, and gages

Fifty foot drag rope

Purchase price \$1000

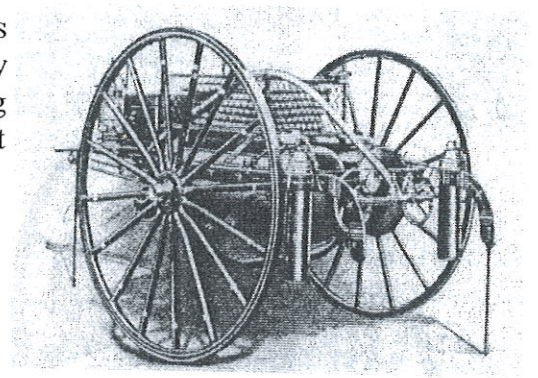
Chemical fire engines were very popular with fire officials from about 1880 through the 1920's. Over 10,000 chemical fire engines in a variety of sizes and configurations were manufactured by dozens of different companies. The popularity for these types of fire engines grew out of two factors: the ease of operation and the speed at which water could be applied to the fire.

## WHAT DID IT DO?

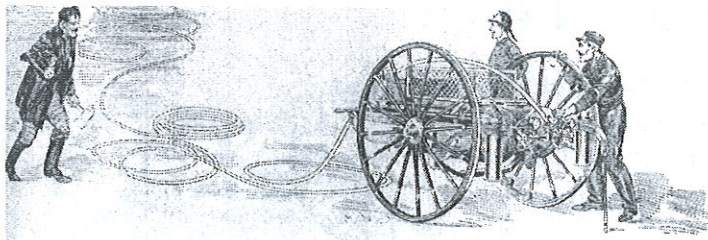


Fundamentally, the chemical fire engine supplied water, under pressure, that could be directed onto a fire. The name—chemical fire engine—can possibly be confusing; leading one to believe that some sort of special fire fighting chemical was delivered by this equipment. That was not the case. The chemical engine used a chemical reaction to produce the pressure that propelled the stream of water.

Yet the myth persisted—perhaps spread by the manufacturers of chemical engines—that the water supplied by the chemical engine was up to 40 times more effective than that supplied by hand pumps or other fire equipment. But that is what it was, myth.







## HOW DID IT WORK?

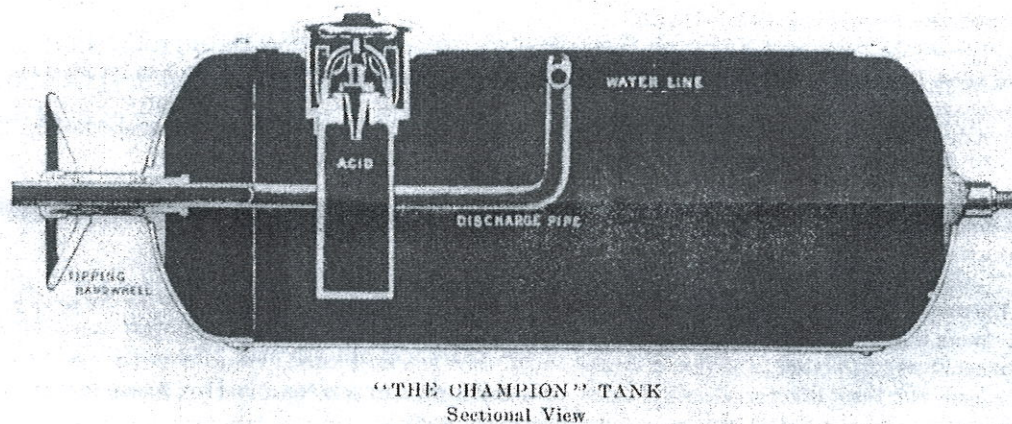
The principle of operation of the chemical fire engine is found in basic high school chemistry. When you add a strong acid (sulfuric) to bicarbonate of soda, a large volume of carbon dioxide gas is generated.



(I am reminded of the limerick: Bob Skye took a drink, but he will drink no more. For what he thought was  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , was  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ ).

If the mixing of the acid and soda takes place in a closed tank, a gas pressure of up to 200 psi will be generated. This is sufficient pressure to produce a stream of water nearly 100 feet high. In operation the chemical fire engine is identical to the wall hung soda/acid fire extinguishers that were so common years ago

The chemical fire engine is charged by mixing the soda with water, and filling the tank. The acid is stored in a lead "bottle" and closed with a weighted stopper. The "bottle" is then placed [carefully, I presume] into a holder inside the tank, and the tank is closed. As long as the acid does not mix with the soda, the engine can be stored for up to a year and, when needed, transported to a fire location; where it is immediately available for use.



**The acid bottle with stoppers is installed in the tank. To operate the tank is rotated.**

*From Conway*

When pressure is desired, the tank is revolved, using the steering wheel like handles. This inverts the bottle of acid, allowing the stopper to fall out, and permitting the acid and soda to mix; creating the pressure needed to spray the water on the fire.

Once the first tank is emptied the second tank can be activated, if needed. The first tank can be recharged while the second tank is being discharged. Extra bags of soda are carried in the tool box, and extra "bottles" of acid are carried in the two holders on the rear of the chassis.

## CONDITION

The fire engine is in amazing condition for a device that is nearly 100 years old. There is no rot in any of the wood, no rust or corrosion, and the condition of the paint is excellent (although it has been repainted and the original gold striping no longer shows). Although the lanterns have been replaced, all hardware is present except for the four lead "bottles" (one in each tank, two in reserve) and their stoppers. This is a true museum piece.

# OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, & ELECTION

The following are Officers and Directors of the Bayside Historical Preservation Society:

President: Robert R. Sherman

Vice-President: Joe Reilly

Co-Secretaries: Beverly Crofoot

Joy Sherman

Treasurer: Bill Cressey

Directors: Angela Cassidy

Harold Hede

Amos Kimball

Janae Novotny

George Scholhammer

Pam Williams

Officers are elected yearly; Directors have two-year terms. With the exception of Janae Novotny, who was elected last year, all positions for Officers and Directors are open for election in 2007. The By-Laws require that there be no less than five and no more than nine Directors.

The election for 2007-2008 shall take place at the annual meeting on Saturday, June 14. If you wish to nominate yourself or other persons to serve as an Officer or Director of the Society, you may do so by sending an e-mail or otherwise contacting Ed Williams, the chair of the Nominating Committee for this year. His e-mail address is: [etwilliams@msn.com](mailto:etwilliams@msn.com).



# Greenlaw the Mapmaker

By Beverly Crofoot

Doing research for the new history of Bayside has led me down some curious paths--some more relevant than others. The following article, transcribed from the Republican Journal, gives a face to and story about the man responsible for the 1912 Greenlaw map that is used for so much plotting of property in and historical research about Bayside.

## Memories of the Greenlaw House

By Isabel Morse Maresh

The old house is gone, but the memories will long live on to the local people. The old house at Greenlaw Corner probably had more pictures taken of it than any other structure. In 1977, a picture of the house appeared in National Geographic magazine. A bank in Illinois reportedly used the house in a home improvement brochure. The Republican Journal and The Waldo Independent printed pictures of the house over the years, and a California Company put out a poster of the house, simply entitled "An American Farm."

The house was built by carpenter Wilbert P. Greenlaw, who was born about 1870, the son of William J. and Clara J. (Prescott) Greenlaw, in Waldo. He married Abbie E. Clark in 1892. She was born in Searsmont, the daughter of George H. and Manilla (Lamb) Clark. They were the parents of four children. The first child died in infancy, and the others were Eulelia, Verna and Harold.

In 1986, Hazel Porter, then aged 81 years and a grandniece of Wilbert, told of her memories of visiting the house. She told that the sitting room had a fireplace built of fancy stones from many states, with an elaborate mantel. They were hardwood. My father told of inlaid parquet floors, starting with a small hardwood square in the center of the room, with hardwood strips around. The tower had a parlor on the first floor and a bedroom on the second floor.

The entryway led to a sitting room hall and kitchen. A door to the cellar was in the kitchen. The kitchen had running water. The master bedroom was on the back of the house. A wood stove heated the living room, and a cook stove sat in the kitchen.

The fancy cut shingles were painted different colors. A barn belonging to Irvin Hills in the neighborhood had the same type of colored shingles, perhaps done by carpenter Wilbert Greenlaw.

It is said that Wilbert died at about age 50. His wife and children moved to Belfast. Vera Greenlaw, Wilbert's niece, reportedly purchased the property for back taxes. For a brief time she rented the house to a minister. It seems that the house was unoccupied as long as 55 years.

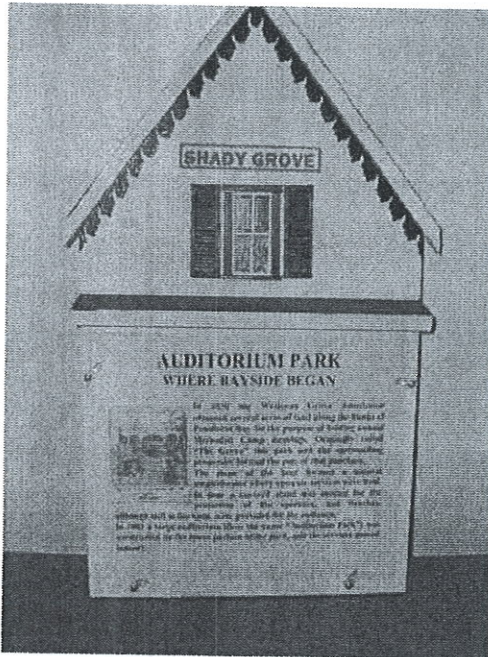
My father told me that many years ago; Vera had pigs in the house. A clothesline in the kitchen still had the remnants of clothing hanging from it, and ragged curtains flapped in the windows. There was some furniture remaining.

In 1986, The Republican Journal headline read "Most Photographed Landmark sold." The next month the headline read, "Proposed Burning Sparks Petition." It was learned that the old house was to be burned, a petition to save the house was circulated and signs in front of the house read "SAVE THIS HOUSE" and "Please Don't BURN," as well as letters to the editor from many, including schoolchildren.

In August of 1986, the Northport Fire Department burned the house, and all that remained was a pile of ashes, stones and the copper top of the tower.



## INFORMATIONAL SIGNS



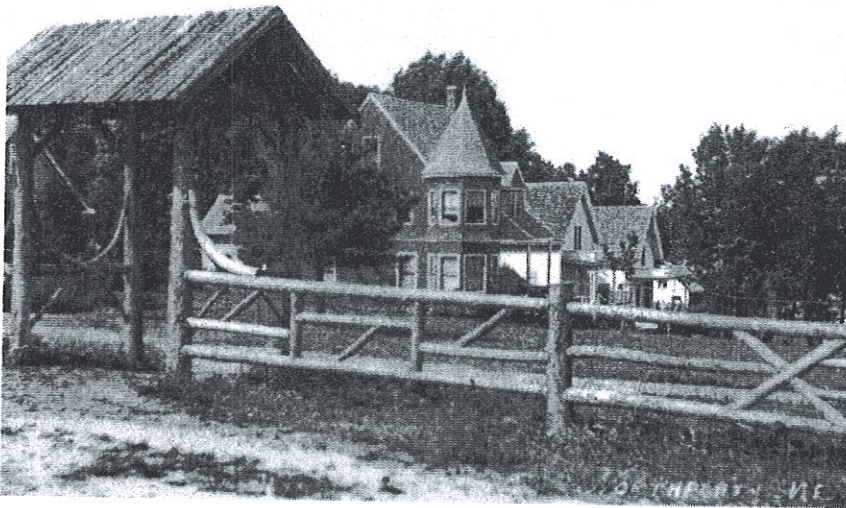
This past fall the BHPS was given permission by the Village Overseers to erect up to a total of twelve signs depicting historical details of the village. These signs are to supplement the Bayside Walking Tour guide being edited by Harold Hede.

A picture of one of the signs is at the left, and samples of these signs were posted on the side of the museum building at the open house. The signs are designed to permit easy change-out of the subject matter; and so far, about six topic sheets have been designed featuring locations in and about Auditorium Park.

If anyone wishes to contribute material for a sign they are welcome to submit it to the BHPS. No special format is necessary. Feel free to include pictures, pictures and text, or text alone. The only requirement is that it is printed on 8 ½ by 11 paper in the landscape format. (color or B&W) Chances are that if you find it interesting, others will as well.

## WALKING TOUR GUIDE

By Harold Hede



Have you seen anyone wandering around Bayside, wondering what it is all about? Maybe a B&B in Camden sent them to see a little Victorian Village. Well, this summer we hope to have a Bayside Walking Tour Guide called "Then and Now" available. The guide will have a thumbnail history and a number of locations of historic interest, with a brief description and a photo. There will be informational boards at many of these locations. For a nominal cost for the Guide, many can gain an appreciation of our heritage and maybe a few supporters of our Historical Society.

Bayview Park from David Leaming's Collection

## Summary Treasurer's Report for Calendar Year 2006

A complete financial report including comparison balance sheets and an opportunity to examine the detailed financial records of the Society are presented each year at the Annual Meeting.

The raffle of the dollhouse did very well. Thanks to Dick Brockway and Jane Phillips. Although the photos project shows a negative balance in 2006, we have photos on hand and can expect this project to show a net income to the Society in the future.

Thanks to all Bayside residents for your contributions of money, time, and enthusiasm to the work of the BHPS.

Bill Cressey

## 1. Income and expenses

### INCOME

Dues and Donations.....	\$2,798.00
Raffle.....	980.00
Misc. Other Donations.....	146.00
Sales: Photos.....	471.55
Postcards and calendars.....	229.75
Unidentified sales.....	<u>100.00</u>
 Total Income:	 \$4,725.30

### EXPENSES

Event Sponsorship.....	\$1,379.85
Asset Maintenance.....	34.80
Fund raising Costs.....	110.69
Insurance.....	500.00
Maine Corp Filing Fee.....	35.00
Newsletter.....	473.35
Photos.....	743.00
PO Box rental.....	212.00
Utilities.....	370.39
Misc.....	<u>9.20</u>
 Total expenses:	 \$3,868.28
<u>NET INCOME</u>	<u>\$857.02</u>

## 2. Balance sheet

### ASSETS

Camden National Checking .....	\$7,742.43
Camden National Savings.....	10,711.07
Cash.....	<u>25.30</u>
 Total Assets:	 \$18,478.80

### LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Cottage restoration fund.....	7,027.17
General Fund.....	11,451.63
 Total Liabilities and Fund balances.	 \$18,478.80



# The Year of the Book

By Beverly Chatham Crofoot.

Sixty years ago, George Henry Reed (1881-1958) published Bayside, Maine a Thumbnail History. This year 2007 the Bayside Historical Preservation Society will publish a new history of Bayside, If These Cottages Could Talk. During the summer of 1999 a group of Baysiders met on the Crofoot porch to talk about this project. The idea was not new; others had talked about it, written a bit, taken notes, etc. What was different was the group resolved to see the project to completion. Everyone agreed that the book should contain lots and lot of photos. Janet Pattee loaned her collection of glass plate negatives from the Eastern Publishing Co. for archival printing by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. The Maine Humanities Counsel granted funds to BHPS for publication of new postcards. The postcard project continued for five years, culminating in the reproduction of five Eastern Publishing cards and five stereo views. Grant monies from MBNA made possible digital scanning of memorabilia from the collections of several Baysiders, notably Joe Reilly, Harry Rosenblum and Bill Cressey. To further document Bayside at the turn of this century, Margot Balboni and I photographed both the exteriors and interiors of many cottages. Their architectural appreciation was enhanced by Susan Myers, then chief architect of the city of Boston, who was visiting me that summer.

Other images were sought and found in the archives in Augusta, thanks to Earle Shettleworth; the Bangor Historical Society; the Belfast Historical Society, thanks to Megan Pinette; the Penobscot Marine Museum, thanks to John Arrison; and from many individuals.

Many authors used the Belfast Free Library for their research and we are grateful for the skill and patience of Betsy Paradis, Reference and Special Collections librarian. Bill Cressey was the first to finish his chapter, White Rock Cottage, Bay View Square. He then attacked the question of land ownership in Bayside and brought humor to the detailed and dry nature of that topic.

All authors have found that their chapters have been edited. Since there were so many different authors, much was written in duplication and in such detail that to print it all would have created a book too large. However all is archived and available to those who want more. The transcriptions from the microfiche of the local newspapers (1849-1900) were greatly edited, but that material too will be available. Gina Cressey and I felt that not everyone would want to read a weekly list of who arrived on the campground. You can if you wish find it in the archives although not in the book. Other Northport news was also deleted, to keep book length manageable.

John Woolsey tackled two areas with great skill and generosity. First he wrote about the cottage architecture. Secondly he agreed to design and format the book. All of us associated with the book are amateurs, full of enthusiasm but not professional writers. However, John designs books professionally and we thank him for donating his time and skill.

Come celebrate this noteworthy occasion - a NEW HISTORY OF BAYSIDE. We plan to display proof sheets of the book - including text and illustrations. You are encouraged to pre-buy your copy of the history at this time. Time and place in August to be announced.



## Bayside Historical Society Cottage, Shady Grove



Photo by Joy Sherman

We had a very good summer in the Bayside Historical Society Cottage, Shady Grove. Thanks to the work of many members, we have successfully maintained the cottage and the grounds around it to a very high standard. Although only open for one afternoon a week, we continue to be visited by old and young members of the community and their visitors. Members of the society act as tour guides on Sunday afternoons. Thank you to all who make our museum work!

Our collection of items related to Northport, the Wesleyan Grove Campground and the Northport Hotel and surrounding cottages continues to grow. Most are on permanent display in the museum. This summer, I would like to highlight/honor the Northrop collections of members of our community with display case space. I am looking for people who would be willing to share their collections by putting them on display in the museum for about a week. We would post the weekly collection and its owner on the bulletin board by Blair's store. No collection is too small. Last summer, we displayed the extensive Northport china collection of Harry Rosenblum, with excellent feedback. Collections need not be antiques. The museum is locked and only opened when a member of the society is present. Please contact Joe Reilly or Rob Sherman if you are interested in participating in this opportunity.

Lastly, members of our society have been busy working and writing chapters for a soon to be published history of our beloved area. Thanks to the tireless editorial/ motivational work of Beverly Crofoot, this Northport Campground history is just about complete. I look forward to having a thorough volume like this available to visitors of the museum in the near future.

Watch the bulletin board by Blair's store for announcements about our museum and please stop in for a visit this summer!

Joe Reilly, Vice-President



BAYSIDE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Membership Application / Payment of Annual Dues

2007 -- 2008

Please fill out if the information on the sticker on the back of this form is inaccurate, if information is missing, or if there is no sticker.

Please mail with your check to: BHPS, Box 304, Belfast, Maine 04915

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues and donations - All dues and donations are tax deductible.

First member of Household	\$10.
Other household members	\$ 5. Each
Children under 18	free

Please list other household members:

Total Membership Dues	_____
Donation	_____
TOTAL	_____

Please make check payable to B. H. P. S. and mail with this form to:

Bayside Historical Preservation Society, Box 304, Belfast, Maine 04915.

Please indicate any area of interest you have or ideas for the directors and officers to consider. How would you like to participate in BHPS?