

# Judge Gibson: New Accountability Program Is Working

## Island Offenders Must Pay Fines in 2 Weeks

By Karen Gould

"We've had a 100-percent success rate; it's worked out very well," said 92nd District Court Judge Beth Gibson regarding a new program she initiated in May on the Island. Her program required all those who were appearing before the court to pay their fines within two weeks or she would issue a bench warrant for their arrest. The program was

designed to address the growing number of probation violations on Mackinac Island. In fact, it has been so successful, she is considering setting up something similar in other areas of the district to try to improve fine collections.

"We only had to give an extension to one person for their fine requirement," She noted, and even a repeat offender paid up.

Earlier this year, Judge Gibson discovered the Island had open court cases dating to 1994. The cases filled 10 pages and she calculated 365 probation violations and 404 counts of alleged infractions of the law. That's when she knew something had to be done.

She set up a program designed to reduce non-compliance and to get transient Island workers to pay before they left the Island at the end of the season. If they did not

pay within the two-week period, Judge Gibson planned to initiate contempt of court proceedings.

She said there will always be people who leave the Island and don't pay their fines, but if they ever want to come back, they will need to make those payments. She said one past Island worker who had left while owing money tried to get a work visa this year, and could not. The woman decided to pay her past fine and then

she was able to get the visa and return.

Another part of her program was to help employers with workload scheduling by notifying them of court sessions at which their employees were scheduled. Judge Gibson said she had a law student intern working for the court this summer who did contact Island employers with employee court dates. If the program proved helpful this year, she may continue it, she said.

During the winter, court is held at the County Building in St. Ignace. Most of the Island cases in the winter involve people operating a snowmobile without a license.

"Most people don't realize they need a valid driver license to operate a snowmobile." She noted most of those cases are tourists.

The last court session being held on the Island this year will be Friday, September 16, at Community Hall on Market Street at 9:30 a.m.

## Wawashkamo Offers New Junior Golf Program

Wawashkamo may be one of the oldest, unchanged golf courses in Michigan, but that hardly means that there's nothing new at the historic course. This year, Wawashkamo offered a six-week junior program.

Golf pro Fred "Fritz" George began the program at the suggestion of several members. Such a program is difficult to implement on Mackinac because there is no driving range, so Mr. George needed to come up with several innovative ways to teach the youth and keep everyone engaged. One way he

achieved this was through having an assistant teach putting and chipping while he worked with youth at the driving net.

The program for this year included golf times, lessons, a tournament, and a cookout. The final tournament, titled the junior club championship, was held Saturday, August 13.

Mr. George hopes to expand the program next year.

"The PGA has a nice junior program to look at," said Mr. George. "Also, we'll be able to make more time for the juniors. We need that with the program, because these kids

will be the club's future members."

Next year the club is also planning to allot more time for junior golfers and for lessons. In addition, there is a possibility of having a junior club membership. Though times for junior members would be limited, it would still provide a good deal of practice time.

Bill and Sue Chambers especially have been working to help improve the program for the coming year.

"We're going to work on it this fall and over the winter to make things work continual-

ly," said Mr. George.

The highlight of the program for youth was, of course, the tournament. In the girls division, the club champion was Christine Stingel with a score of 38 for five holes played. Kit Chambers was the runner-up with a score of 45, and the low net winner was Rae Schueller.

The boys division was divided by age group. Winning the eight-to 11-year age group was Mike Swain with a score of 36. The low net champion was Will Barnwell with a score of 26. Henry Gembis led the 12 to 15 year age group for the boys, who played nine holes, with a score of 49, followed closely by Jack Schueller with a score of 53. Mal Gembis was the low net champion with a score of 39.

## Wawashkamo Golfers Record Mixed Scores

Winners in the August 24 Wawashkamo members mixed tournament, with a score of 33, were Bob Andress, Doug Dietrick, Sue Chambers, and Rena Callewaert. In second place, with a score of 34 and winning the chip off, were Rusty Preston, Ron Dufina, Kay Berke, and Pam Natter. Third place, also with a score of 34, were Mike Compton, Bill Chambers, Lin Sheppard, and Tony Spata.

Whiner bucks for the most points went to Larry Berke, Mark Timmons, Debra Orr, and Mary Jane Barnwell. Closest to the pin for the women was Debra Orr on hole 13. Mike Compton was closest for the men on the same hole.

Closest to the pin in three shots were Justni Lents, Jeff Dupre, Cynthia Cawthorne, and Nancy Marsteller on the 10th green.

The 44 members competing in the tournament also enjoyed a steak cookout.

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