



Restrictions Near Airport Condemn 3 Residential Lots

By Karen Gould

Three residential lots at the end of the Mackinac Island Airport have been condemned as state and city administrators evaluate federal aviation safety regulations there. In the mean-

time, Mackinac Island residents continue to speculate that homes may need to be torn down and that ongoing tree and brush removal at the airport is being done to accommodate larger and more aircraft. While

Mackinac Island State Park authorities deny these accusations, they do say that aviation regulations are affecting private land development in the western approach to the airport runway. The state park operates the

airport on Mackinac Island.

Anxiety is intensified because regulations in a park file were unheeded for four years while private property at the end of the runway was sold and developed.

The matter has been brewing much of the summer and led to a heated discussion at a meeting of the Mackinac Island

State Park Commission Friday, September 22, but the determination that three lots below the bluff at the end of the runway cannot be developed came at a meeting of city and state officials on October 2, attended by Park Director Phil Porter and his director of marketing, Greg Hokans, Mackinac Island City
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Island Loses Historic Building



Bunker Construction began pre-demolition work on a collapsing Mackinac Island downtown building Wednesday, September 20. Demolition work was handled by Belonga Plumbing and Heating of St. Ignace and began the following day.

By Karen Gould

A 120-year-old downtown Mackinac Island building was demolished September 20 after building experts said it was about to collapse. The surprise tear-down process began about 6 p.m. Tenants living in adjoining buildings were evacuated and businesses on each side closed while it was leveled the following day.

Structural faults were discovered when, in preparation for remodeling the store into a coffee house, building owner Victor Callewaert removed first-floor wall coverings to allow his architect to determine requirements for the project. As the drywall and boards were removed, it became apparent they were all that was supporting the building's second story.

"I was flabbergasted," Mr. Callewaert said. "When we saw what was going on, we stopped right there."

There was no prior evidence of the problem, he said. When he saw that the wall studs were all but gone, he immediately

called Mackinac Island Mayor Margaret Doud and his architect, who was to prepare the remodeling plans.

The Main Street building, which once housed The Silver Mine gift shop, was considered a contributing structure to the Island's National Landmark status. It was built sometime around 1895 or as early as 1870, estimates Steve Brisson, chief curator at Mackinac State Historic Parks.

The building was approximately 20 feet wide and was built on the north side of Main Street between May's Candy Shop and Patrick Sinclair's Irish Pub. Inspectors noted the west side of the building, which is next to May's Candy Shop, showed the most structural damage.

To control the demolition of the building, Bunker Construction of St. Ignace was called in to shore up the inside walls before Belonga Excavating of St. Ignace could begin the demolition work.

"The building was in such

bad condition, we couldn't start to tear it down until they shored it up," said Larry Belonga. The pre-demolition work was necessary before the building could be taken down, to prevent the walls from falling down all at one time.

"The walls were just hanging on the second floor," he said.

The structure was built with cedar posts, common construction for buildings in the late 1800s, and in some locations, Mr. Belonga said, the studs were rotted up to four feet off the ground and there was no foundation under the old building.

"It was a dangerous building to try to rebuild," he said. "It would be dangerous for a construction crew to work in there because it was so bad."

"It's amazing how it stood up," said Mr. Callewaert, who has owned the Main Street structure for approximately four years. The store was leased to owners of The Silver

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Major Building Projects Proposed on Main Street

By Karen Gould

Major construction projects sit on the horizon that will change the face of Mackinac Island's Main Street. A new three-story downtown building that will house a Starbucks coffee shop received zoning approval pending architectural review. An employee dormitory will be remodeled inside and out, and plans for a 56-suite hotel will undergo architectural review before zoning is grant-

ed. The Mackinac Island Planning Commission moved forward on these and other projects Tuesday, October 3, during one of its longest meetings this year.

Victor Callewaert, whose two-story building between May's Candy Shop and Patrick Sinclair's Irish Pub was condemned and demolished September 21, will build a three-story building in its place.
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Just in Time for Halloween...

New Book, Research Group Seek Island's Urban Legends

Mackinac Island is a place with many sites of supernatural wonder - a hot topic as Halloween approaches. It is no better time, in fact, to find out what is true and what is not.

Grimestone, Incorporated, a nonprofit "paranormal research group" from Ann Arbor, plans to visit the Island next spring to study legends, first-hand

accounts, and hearsays of hauntings throughout the Island. It will be hosted by Mackinac State Historic Parks.

The group of specialists will visit such land marks as Skull Cave and Arch Rock but a bigger interest will be bed and breakfast homes.

"B and B's are interesting

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Mdme. LaFramboise Remembered



Father Rey Garcia of St. Anne's Church spreads tobacco over the tomb of Madame Magdelaine LaFramboise during a Native American ceremony in honor of the former fur trade businesswoman during the Festival of Falling Leaves Moon Sunday, September 24. To Native Americans, tobacco is the unifying thread of communication between humans and the spiritual powers. See story on page 15.