



# Town Crier 75¢

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Mackinac Island, Michigan

June 9 to June 15, 2007

## 58th Annual Lilac Festival Celebrates Island's Victorian Era

By Eric Fish

The 58th annual Mackinac Island Lilac Festival features 10 days of activities from June 8 to 17. What originally began as a single day of celebration in 1949 has grown into a week-and-a-half event that welcomes an estimated 15,000 participants each year.

From beer and wine tasting, entertainers in the streets and downtown venues, and numerous boat cruises, Island tours, and fundraisers, the Lilac Festival offers activities to keep visitors occupied and amused.

The theme for this year's festival is Victorian-era literature, ranging from fairy tales like *The Wizard of Oz* to *Cinderella* and *Peter Pan*.

A complete schedule of events is available at the Tourism Bureau on Main Street or online at [mackinacisland.org](http://mackinacisland.org). Some highlights follow:

### Coronation of Lilac Festival Queen: June 8

With the Grand Hotel

Orchestra playing in Marquette Park, Mackinac Island Mayor Margaret Doud and Miss Teen of Michigan Nicole Hinchman will kick off the 58th annual Lilac Festival by crowning the festival queen at 5:30 p.m.

The queen is selected from the student body at the Mackinac Island Public School. Last year's queen was Melissa Bunker. Queen duties include participating in the Taste of Mackinac and opening Fort Mackinac each season in addition to off-Island representation.

Following the crowning of the queen, a special reception will be held at Patrick Sinclair's Irish Pub.

### Lilac Festival 10K, Lil Lilac Run/Walk: June 9

The annual Lilac Festival 10K will begin at Windermere Point, extend through downtown into the center of the Island and end at the Mackinac Island Public School. The event will begin at 9:30 a.m.

A children's event beginning at 11 a.m. will also take place

the same day and will cover 1/4 of a mile. Registration is available by going to [www.runmackinac.com](http://www.runmackinac.com) (<http://www.runmackinac.com>).

The running events will be followed by a book sale at the Mackinac Island Public Library from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Hiking/Bike Tours with Randall "Doc" Crain: Periodically throughout the festival

Doc Crain takes tourists on hiking trails from Marquette Park to Island sights like Arch Rock, while stopping along the way for questions, stories, and observation. The bike tour takes visitors around the island and is meant only for multi-gear bicycles. All tours are free.

### Walk and Talk with Lilacs: Periodically throughout the festival

At various locations throughout the 10-day festival, walk and talk with lilac tours are offered to visitors. Tours will include the settings of Ste.

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Eighteen-month-old Cole Freiss touched Mackinac Island lilacs for the first time Wednesday, June 6. "Nice," he told his mother, Cindy. From Elgin, Illinois, the pair vacationed on the Island for two days with Cole's grandmother, aunts, and cousins.

## Sale of Rowe Condo Unit 2 Approved by City Council

By Eric Fish

After a tedious wait-and-see process between the City of Mackinac Island and potential buyers, City Council approved the sale of Rowe Condominium Unit 2 for \$275,000 at its meeting Wednesday, June 6. The approval was recommended by the Finance Committee at a Tuesday, June 5, meeting.

The two units of Rowe condominiums, which are behind Harbor View Inn near St. Anne's Church, were originally up for bid about a year ago in a package deal with a minimum bid of \$800,000. After no bids were received, the Unit 2 was listed with Mackinac Island Realty for \$329,000, while Unit 1 is listed for \$359,000.

Nearly three weeks ago, a potential buyer put an offer on Unit 2 for \$255,000. At a May 23 meeting, Council voted to counter with an asking price of \$292,000, but accepted the sale for \$275,000 Monday night. In addition, the City will pay a 5% brokerage fee to the real estate agency.

The city won't release the name of the potential buyer until the purchase is made. An occupancy date of September 1 has been negotiated.

"It's been a long wait for some serious offer, the guy has halved our counter, we have our occupancy," said Alderman Mike Hart, who argued for the sale to get rid of mounting expenses at the June 5 Finance Committee meeting. "I think we're serving the public well enough on that. Holding onto it is just a continuous expense."

Revenue from the condominium sale will help renovate the old medical center building for police housing. Police now

occupy the two condominiums.

To preserve Mackinac Island's historical landmark status, Mayor Margaret Doud announced a Historical Preservation Committee comprised of representatives from City Council, the Mackinac Island State Park, and the Mackinac Island Community Foundation.

"This would be an exploratory committee to see what we can do along those lines," Mayor Doud said.

City representatives will be Aldermen Mike Hart and Dan Wightman, the State Park representative will be Director Phil Porter, and Foundation representatives will be Mike Young, Wes Maurer, and Chris Straus. The committee will work with Mayor Doud and Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Blowski.

"Maybe if we work together, we can do some positive things," Mayor Doud said.

Council adopted an amendment to its 2007-08 Wage and Salary Ordinance, which includes the newly created position of Stuart House Museum Attendant, at \$7.50 per hour, and corrects the restroom attendant wage to a new range, from \$8.52 to \$10.80 per hour.

Council also approved the application for a Bank of America credit card for City use. Mayor Doud and Mr. Hart will be the authorized users, and City Clerk Karen Lennard was authorized to pay the statement each month.

The American Red Cross was granted permission to host its third annual blood drive August 15 at Community Hall.

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## Alan Sibinic Is Island's New Veterinarian

By Karen Gould

Dr. Alan Sibinic is bringing 32 years of veterinary experience to Mackinac Island, where he will offer medical care to cats, dogs, horses, and other animals in an office in the Mackinac Island Carriage Tours barn on the corner of Market Street and Cadotte Avenue.

He appreciates the small town charm and style of life of the Island, he says, and taking a cue from decades past, he will make house calls.

"You can bike almost anywhere on the Island in about five minutes," he said, adding

he always carries a backpack of supplies with him for emergencies.

Dr. Sibinic will remain on the Island until October.

While he's been here before, taking care of emergencies and helping 50-year veterinarian Dr. Bill Chambers taking care of horses for Mackinac Island Carriage Tours, Dr. Sibinic calls this year a test.

"This is the beginning," he said. "If it works out for all of us, it might be a good way for me to finish my career."

He hopes to be back again next May.

"I've been trying to get him

here for four or five years," said Dr. Chambers, president of Mackinac Island Carriage Tours, "and I finally got him. To have a man of his caliber is a real plus for Mackinac."

Up until two weeks ago when the new veterinarian arrived, Dr. Chambers had been caring for the company's more than 350 horses.

"I still could do it, if I had to," said Dr. Chambers, who now prefers to step back from that part of his job.

In addition to contracting with Mackinac Island Carriage

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Mackinac Island's new veterinarian, Alan Sibinic (left), performs a heart and lung check on Bell, a 13-year-old mare. The Hackney is used for special occasions, like pulling wedding carriages for Mackinac Island Carriage Tours, said Dan Mitchell (right) of the company.