

# Mackinac-to-Manitoulin: In This Race, Island Is the Starting



Boats participating in the 2006 Mackinac-to-Manitoulin yacht race begin the journey outside Mackinac Island's east breakwall. The 2007 event will begin July 26. (Photograph courtesy of Don Gray, Dennis Centis, and the Little Current Yacht Club)

## By Eric Fish

Mackinac Island represents the finish line for annual summer events like the Chicago Yacht Club's Race to Mackinac and the Bayview Yacht Club's Port Huron to Mackinac race. But the Island will also be serving as the starting line for the fourth annual Mackinac-to-Manitoulin yacht race, set to begin Thursday, July 26.

The race is much smaller than the other major yacht races and normally engages around 20 entries, but it is also unique in how it's raced. The course consists of two legs,

the first up the North Channel to Gore Bay at Manitoulin Island in Canada, the second ending at Little Current, Ontario. Racers spend the night at Gore Bay.

Sailors have the option of racing in the first leg, the second leg, or both legs of the race. The total race distance is about 130 nautical miles.

Fourteen sailors have raced every year.

"Some of the guys are pretty serious about the Chicago and Port Huron races," event co-chairman Dennis Centis said. "We're a little less serious. We try to soften it up a lit-

tle bit."

The race was originally created to promote Manitoulin Island and sailing in the North Channel and to draw attention to the Little Current Yacht Club in Ontario, which opened in 2003.

"I honestly think we start off on one of the most beautiful islands in the Great Lakes, and we end up at another one of the most beautiful islands in the Great Lakes," Mr. Centis said. "It's much more of a near-shore race; you get to see something besides water."

Brent Murphy, who is the skipper aboard *Killarney*, has

made it an annual event. Originally from Flint, Mr. Murphy now spends his winters in Savannah, Georgia. He keeps his boat in the Straits and sails annually in the Around-the-Island Fourth of July Regatta and the Mackinac-to-Manitoulin yacht race.

"I like the ease with which you can go from place to place and not be tied down to one particular home," Mr. Murphy said about his love for sailing. "With a boat, you can pull up anchor and you can visit as many places as you see fit."

Mr. Murphy enjoys the company of the other sailors.

"We get to know more about each other each year," he said. "[There is] a lot of camaraderie, a lot of laughing and telling stories of our particular experiences on the

race."

Like most yacht races, there is plenty to do while in port. The Manitoulin event features a reception at the Mackinac Island Yacht Club and several parties and planned dinners along the way.

A longtime sailor and veteran of the Manitoulin race is 83-year-old Bill Hibbard. A sailor for about 70 years, he is the oldest skipper in the fleet and sails *Tack-Too*. His crew is typically made up of family members and, this year, he will sail with his daughter, Jennifer.

"When I get out on my boat, I just forget about everything else," said Mr. Hibbard, who celebrated his 80th birthday by sailing across the Atlantic Ocean. "I forget about the work there is to be done at home and everything else."

## Island Electric

Island Resident  
Electrician



Commercial &  
Residential

847-6422  
cell - 231-881-6299

**Belongia**  
PLUMBING & HEATING

LICENSED

▪ Plumbing  
▪ Heating

▪ Cooling Contractor

115 Elliot Street  
St. Ignace

More than 60 years  
combined experience

(906) 643-9595

COMMERCIAL - RESIDENTIAL

Monday - Friday 8 to 5

Master Plumber  
License #6378

## Park Commission Posts Filled

# Cawthorne, Goodman Appointed

Dennis O. Cawthorne was reappointed to the Mackinac Island State Park Commission for a fourth term by Governor Jennifer Granholm July 16, and Barry J. Goodman of Southfield was appointed for a first term to replace Joan L. Porteous of Reed City, whose term expired in April.

A partner in Kelley Cawthorne, a Lansing-based legal and government relations practice, Mr. Cawthorne, of Mackinac Island and Lansing, has served as chairman of the commission since he was originally appointed by Governor John Engler in 1991. He is a former member of the Michigan House of Representatives, where he served as House Republican Leader for four years. He is a graduate of Albion College (with Phi Beta Kappa honors) and Harvard Law School.

Mr. Goodman is an attorney and senior partner with Goodman Acker, P.C. of Southfield. He has a Juris Doctorate from Stetson

\*Please turn to page 22



AT THE CHIPPEWA HOTEL

Join us for  
**HAPPY HOUR**  
4-6 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.

JULY 20 - JULY 27

Fri.	Myk Rise
Sat.	Myk Rise
Sun.	Myk Rise Brevin - On the Patio
Mon.	Myk Rise Brevin - On the Patio
Tues.	Myk Rise Brevin - On the Patio
Wed.	Myk Rise
Thurs.	Incognito
Fri.	Incognito

Pink Pony Patio Bar & Grill *Voted #1 Outdoor  
Patio in Michigan by the Detroit News 2007!*

**Chippewa Hotel**  
*Waterfront*

Lunch  
Served:

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Dinner  
Served:

5 p.m. - 9 p.m.



*Only Waterside Patio Bar & Grill on Mackinac Island.  
Always "Yachts and Yachts of Fun"!!*

For Reservations or Information Call

1-800-241-3341

or (906) 847-3341

www.chippewahotel.com

FAMOUS  
RUM  
RUNNER

Beautiful Views  
of the Marina  
and Straits.

Visit our Sunrise Café for Breakfast with  
Breathtaking Views on the Upper Deck  
From 8-11 a.m.

For Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Mackinac Island, Michigan