

STREET SCENE

Inside **S**

On the run

Michael Webster can be called a running man. Then again, he could be called a man on the go. Why? He's caught up in the physically taxing sport of triathlons. Find out what makes Michael run... swim... ride on Page 6D.

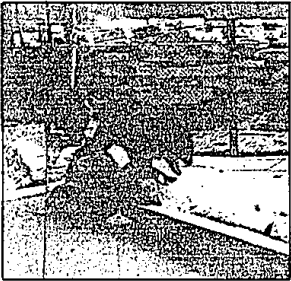
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DRUMMOND ISLAND

Nature's northwoods gem



Close to Domino's Lodge, visitors can now watch the antics of Chip, Champ and Crusty, the three wild black bear cubs Tom Monaghan adopted after a poacher killed their mother near Grayling.

By Man Chestney
staff writer

DRUMMOND ISLANDERS are smack in the middle of an identity crisis, a crisis that began in 1935 when megamillionaire Tom Monaghan bought a rundown estate on Potagannising Bay and began rebuilding it into a 1,800-acre corporate retreat.

The retreat occupies only a tiny part of the 72,000-acre island in Lake Huron; it sits well beyond the string of resorts lining Tourist Road and the bay.

But in the notoriety that followed Monaghan's island extravaganza — from a lavish weekend party for the well-heeled to a controversial 168-schooner called the Domino Effect to the building of special cabins for some of Michigan's top sports figures — it began to sound like he owned the Detroit Tigers had taken over the whole island as well.

"We're Drummond Island, not Domino Island," is the new cry of beleaguered islanders who fear they are losing their 175-year-old identity to a pizza king.

Yet how do the islanders, who depend on the dollars tourists bring, fight the misinformation and misconceptions that flow in Monaghan's wake?

For example, how can they correct a story printed in June in a national publication that said Monaghan's holdings include Drummond Island, a 72,000-acre private island off Michigan's Upper Peninsula?

Monaghan neither owns the island, nor is it private. In fact, more than half of Drummond Island is spruce and cedar forest owned by the state.

And what can they say to those sportsmen who think Monaghan has changed the face of the island so much he has ruined it for hunting and fishing?

THE CURRENT flap about Monaghan's plan to

redge 10,000 cubic yards from a bay popular for its perch fishing and spawning doesn't help the islanders' cause at all.

The Drummond Island Chamber of Commerce now works overtime to soft pedal the Monaghan hype.

"The notoriety that the island has suddenly gained because of Monaghan's influence should not be misinterpreted," said chamber president Charles Krahank. "Mr. Monaghan has no great desire to change the atmosphere, nor could he undo what nature has done."

Most islanders agree that what nature has done on Drummond Island is not for everyone.

"People either hate it or love it," said Steve Gilbert, who runs Four Seasons Resort and also works as director of wildlife, land management and operations for Domino's Lodge, Monaghan's retreat. "You can walk 50 yards into the woods and get lost."

Visitors who expect the manicured styliness of Mackinaw Island won't like it. With its abundance of road signs (4 miles to Josie's place) and its rustic, rural setting, the view does get tacky at times from the car window.

Those who like their Saturday nights wild won't like it. Bill Burton, owner of Streamline Sporting Goods, said that "bear watching at the dump at dusk" is popular any night of the week, including Saturday.

Folks who like to bounce from one tourist attraction to another won't like it. In fact, with the coming of Monaghan, the island now has its first bona fide, Irish Hills-type tourist attraction — a small zoo where Monaghan keeps the three wild black bear cubs he adopted after a poacher killed their mother near Grayling.

CLOSE TO DOMINO'S Lodge, visitors can now watch the antics of no-longer-cub-size Chip, Champ and Crusty from behind the safety of a high chain link fence.

Folks who like their activities planned and programmed won't like Drummond Island.

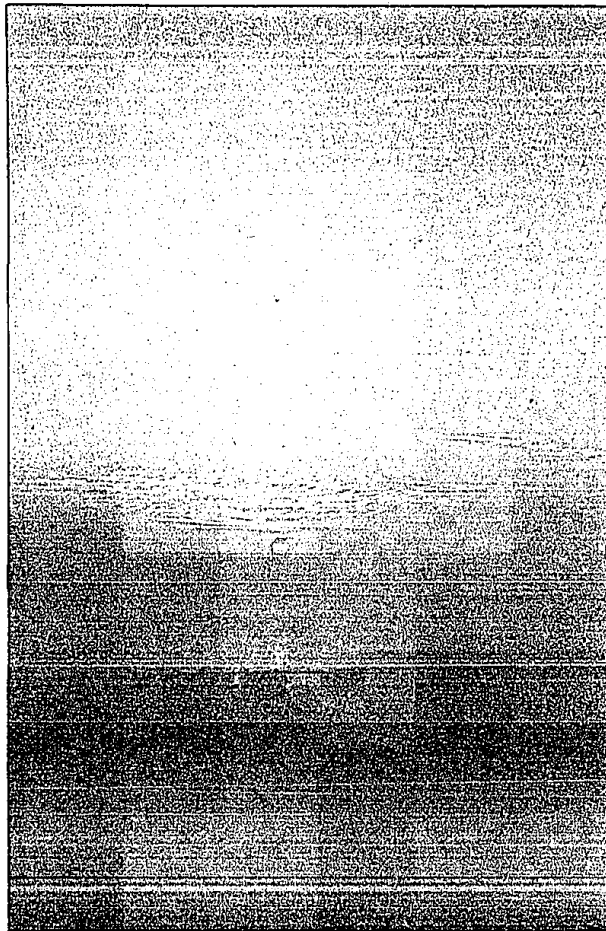
"This is a great place to come if you're into something quiet," Burton said. "People who want constant excitement would get bored here. But there's always something to do, if you like to do the things they do here."

What nature did on Drummond Island was create a northwoods and water paradise for hunting, fishing, boating, sailing, rockhounding, birdwatching, hiking, canoeing and water skiing, as well as cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in the wintertime.

The islanders have added the extras — tennis courts, bike rentals, golf, historical museum, airport, marinas, churches, medical facilities, restaurants, stores and a library.

Visitors generally rent a cabin at any one of the 20 or so small resorts that line Tourist Road and overlook Potagannising or Sturgeon bays. A typical rate for a two-bedroom cabin or cottage for four is \$240 a week. Fishing boats can be rented for an extra \$50 a week. There also are campgrounds for campers.

Visitors can spend their time exploring the land and waters of an island once called "Potagannising" by the Indians, "High Island" by the British and now called "Gem of the Huron" by those who love its forests, inlets, lakes and island-studded bays.



Visitors who generally rent cabins at any of the small resorts that line Tourist Road and overlook Potagannising or Sturgeon bays are treated to spectacular summer sunsets.

TUCKED BETWEEN Canada's North Channel, the mouth of the St. Mary's River and the waters of Lake Huron, Drummond Island also sits in the middle of one of the busiest waterways in the world, with ships coming to and from Lake Superior.

Its high limestone cliffs, its sky blue bays, its primeval forests and the bounty of its woods and waters are so stunning that some who visit America's largest freshwater island on vacation come back to stay.

Twenty years ago, that's what happened to Tom and Ellen Mossing, who then lived in Livonia.

"Tom was exhausted, working overtime as a commercial artist," Mossing said. "We came here on vacations and loved the area. Finally, we had our fill of the

hubbub of city life and moved here when our kids were 2 and 3."

The Mossings run a nine-cottage resort on Tourist Road.

"The scenery is beautiful. We have some of the most gorgeous sunsets in the world," Mossing said. Karen Kemppainen returned to her family's roots when she moved from Southfield to Drummond Island in 1969. Both sets of her grandparents had once lived on the island.

"My mother hated it and left," she said. "But those were hard times, when this was not a resort area, but

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Warp Factor

Karlos Barney



"Actually, the company is not upset because you're a holistic health nut — it's because you insist on using the document shredder to make copies."



MICKY JONES

Videopolis East looks like the inside of a spacecraft, with the latest music videos and two cameras shooting images of the dancers onto some of the screens.

Pleasure Island: Pleasure to visit

By Iris Sanderson Jones
contributing travel editor

Q: Three of us are going to Walt Disney World in August. My girlfriend and I graduated from college this year, and my brother graduated from high school, so we're all celebrating. We've all been to the Magic Kingdom and EPCOT as kids, so we know our way around. We've heard about the new MGM Studio park. But what do we do at night. And how do we avoid the summer crush of kids?

J.S.
Westland

A: Two new attractions opened at the World this summer. Pleasure Island has seven nightclubs plus street parties, restaurants, shops and lots of music but very few young kids. There are families at Typhoon Lagoon, but not nearly as many as in the Magic Kingdom.

Both the Island and the Lagoon were open, but not finished, when I saw them this spring. They're both booming now. I filled in the gap by interviewing Chris Carradine,

vice president of design development for Walt Disney Imagineering and the guy who helped design Pleasure Island. (Yes, he's the son of the famous John Carradine and the brother of the infamous Keith Carradine.)

For overall tips on the best times to go where in Walt Disney World (WDW), buy Stephen Birnbaum's official guide (under \$10) at a bookstore or borrow it from a library. Hard to believe but Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday are the busiest days at WDW. Saturdays are fairly busy. Sundays, Thursdays and Fridays least busy. Hit the theme parks early, take a midday break and go back early evening when the kids are fewer.

The main tips are: Reserve for on-property meals early in the day, and tour in the opposite direction from the main crowds. For example, morning hordes get off the monorail in EPCOT and stand in line at nearby Future World pavilions. You should walk around the lagoon to World Showcase and go back to Future World in the afternoon.

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