

1 Island Buildings and Resources

The island supports several public buildings. Funds are allocated in the Bustins Island Village Corporation (BIVC) budget for their maintenance, which is managed by the Superintendent. With the exception of the Post Office, activities and resources which occur in the buildings are handled by volunteer organizations on the island. For locations of the buildings see the foldout map provided as Appendix A.

- ë Islanders and their guests should be aware that consumption of alcohol is not permitted in any public buildings or other island-owned property without permission of the Board of Overseers, and is never permitted on the public roads.

The Store

The building referred to as the Store (because it once was a store) is located on the main road, Bustins Island Road, near the turnoff to the Public Dock. Originally serving as a general store adjoining the old Ships Inn Restaurant, the two buildings now house the Post Office, Adult Library, Nature Center, Ships Inn Museum, First Aid Room, and BIVC Office. The front of the Store is usually covered with public notices, island news, and event reminders.



Post Office

The Post Office is located in the Store to the right as you enter the building. It provides seasonal mail service to islanders. Here you can purchase stamps, pick up daily mail and send outgoing mail, including packages and special deliveries. Island families can be assigned a mail box, and incoming mail is sorted by name.

The Bustins Post Office is open mornings, Monday through Saturday. Exact hours are posted on the Store porch wall and may vary from year to year.

The proper address to give to those sending mail to you on the island is:

Your Name
General Delivery
Bustins Island, ME 04013-9999

For off-season BIVC business mail or to mail donations (see Chapter 11) to any of the island organizations at any time, address mail to:

Name of Organization
Bustins Island
P.O. Box 22
South Freeport, ME 04078

This mail is collected regularly all year.

- ë Please plan to buy all your stamps for the year while on the island; the added income helps justify our need to the USPS for this seasonal service.

Libraries

There are two libraries on the island, one for adults and one for children. Both libraries are supported by a small budget; donations are always welcome (see Chapter 11).

Adult Library

As you enter the Store, the Adult Library is located straight ahead. The library has an excellent selection of fiction and nonfiction, including books of special interest to Bustins families. It is also a place to sit and quietly chat, or to work on a jigsaw puzzle if so inclined.

The library uses a small budget to purchase books each year, but also relies heavily on donations of new (unused) books from islanders. Books are lent out for one week at a time. The library makes paperback books available for islanders to swap, and there is also a book exchange in the lobby just in front of the library. You can take books and leave books there for others to enjoy.

The *Bustins Island Directory* (see Chapter 9) is available for purchase at the library, as are postcards and occasionally other items or event tickets. Children like to come to the Adult Library to purchase candy bars, which are usually available.

Library hours vary from season to season and are posted on the Store porch wall.

Children and Youth Library

The Children and Youth Library serves young islanders from the age of two through 15 and is located in the Community House in the center of the island. The collection is kept within the shelves of the Community House and is quite extensive, ranging from picture books to young readers books to youth books. There are separate shelves for classics, science fiction, nature books, Maine/ocean books, and new books.

In recent years the library has sponsored family game nights (their collection includes many games and puzzles), readings by Maine authors, and family/old time movie and cartoon nights.

Library hours vary from season to season and are posted on the Store porch wall.

Nature Center

The Nature Center is located in the Store directly across from the Post Office. Organized and managed by islander Sue Spalding, the Nature Center's goal is to archive all of the flora and fauna of Bustins and display it for islanders' education and enjoyment. Along with displays (some interactive), it houses a natural history reference library, microscope, and other materials for specimen identification. All islanders are invited to add to the collection of Bustins' nature specimens and photos.

The Nature Center is usually open on Saturdays from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm and on other days as possible. It is funded by donations.



Ships Inn Museum

The Bustins Island Historical Society (BIHS) maintains a museum, the Ships Inn Museum, which is located just to the right of the Store, accessible by a short ramp. Once serving as the dining room of the Ships Inn Restaurant, the room now houses a seasonal display of artifacts depicting Bustins history.

Each summer the BIHS selects a different theme and displays items reflecting that theme. Islanders are often asked to contribute to the display, which may also tap resources from South Freeport and the local area. Examples of past themes are “Music on Bustins,” “Casco Castle,” “Bustins Weddings,” “Fun ’n Games on Bustins,” and “Artists of Bustins,” to name a few.

In early July, the BIHS hosts an open house at the museum, serving refreshments and inviting all islanders to come view the current exhibit.

The museum is usually open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10:30 am to noon. Volunteer docents are always needed to open the museum and greet guests during those times; a sign-up sheet is located on the Store porch wall. Donations are always welcome (see Chapter 11).



First Aid Room

The First Aid Room is located below the Ships Inn Museum. This first aid and public safety resource is open to islanders 24 hours a day. See Chapter 4 for a complete description of the room and its contents.

BIVC Office

The BIVC Office is located below the Ships Inn Museum to the right of the First Aid Room; the door is on the back side of the building. The office serves the BIVC Clerk and is used to store BIVC records. Contact the BIVC Clerk for access.

Community House

The Community House is located on the main road headed toward the center of the island and is the focal point for many island activities.



During the summer season, events are scheduled weekly at the Community House. Islanders gather here on Saturday nights for square dances, bingo, bean suppers, karaoke, and other entertainment. Typically, the annual Fourth of July parade ends here, capped by a hot dog lunch. Public Safety demonstrations are sometimes held at the Community House, and annual meetings take place here every August. Occasionally a memorial service or wedding occurs here.

Islanders may arrange to schedule an event at the Community House. All Community House events must be accessible to the public, although you are not required to include public participation in your event. Contact the Cottagers’ Association of Bustins Island (CABI) for more information. To reserve the Community House for a meeting, use the sign-up sheet that is located on the building.

Island Schoolhouse

The island's Schoolhouse is located to the right of the Community House.

In 1887 teacher John Hackett had eleven pupils on Bustins and in 1888 a school house was built. This building is now being cared for by the Bustins Island Historical Society (BIHS) and renovations have been started. The generators and other items once stored there have been relocated and a new roof affixed. The next project will be installing new underpinnings, which the BIHS hopes will be a volunteer endeavor and for which it is accepting donations.

When the restoration of the Schoolhouse is complete, this Greek revival building will be a "living history" setting for schoolchildren and for historical and cultural events.

Fire Barn

The Fire Barn is located just beyond the Community House. It houses two of the island's four fire trucks, the island tractor, and utility trailers. It also provides a maintenance area for the Superintendent and is the location of one of the island fire alarms.



Brewer Cottage

Once belonging to island caretakers Ralph and Lilly Brewer, the Brewer Cottage now serves as a central meeting place for island committees. It is located beyond the Fire Barn as you walk further into the center of the island.

The ground floor of the cottage has been opened into a single large room, which can be heated by a propane stove when necessary, and offers space for committee members to sit around a table, with a small audience to the side.

To reserve the cottage for a meeting, use the sign-up sheet that is posted on the cottage.