

# Population growing in tight-knit Bonnet Shores

By **Laura E. Kelly**

Associate Editor

**NARRAGANSETT** — Everywhere you look in Bonnet Shores, there is evidence that this is a community that knows where it has come from and where it is headed.

A spit of land that extends from the North End of Narragansett to cliffs overlooking Narragansett Bay, the Bonnet Shores of the past was treeless farmland developed into a summer colony. The Bonnet Shores of today is almost fully developed, with more than 2,000 residents, the majority of whom live here year round.

From the time the community first was envisioned by State Sen. Harry T. Bodwell in 1928, to the present day, a sense of community has prevailed in this neighborhood by the sea. "Because more owners



occupy their homes year round, there is even more of a community spirit," said Lee Listro, who began coming to Bonnet Shores in 1947. "I think everybody has a special place in their heart for Bonnet Shores. It's a quiet place off the beaten track.

"I always had a sense of freedom here," she added, explaining how safe and alive the community is.

As any visitor will soon discover, there is only one road in and out of Bonnet Shores, yet hours could be spent traversing the small side roads and seeing the special sights and views of the houses and the ocean. A favorite spot is a crescent-shaped cove and beach located on the southern end of Bonnet. Here residents, members of the Bonnet Shores Beach Club and residents of Wesquage, which overlooks that cove, can swim and sun on warm days. There is also Bonnet Point, where for years teens have held a rite of passage – diving into the water off the large rocks.

A large part of Bonnet Shores is comprised of Wesquage Pond, which can be traversed by a man-made causeway. On the eastern side are views of Jamestown from Little Beach, where more than 60

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PHOTO: DANIEL G. DUNN

**Bob Ryan rakes clippings from his yard Tuesday afternoon on Bonnet Point Road. Ryan is one of the old guard – he's lived on the road since 1953 and remembers water coming up to his driveway during Hurricane Carol in 1954.**