

## Allures of Bonnet Shores are many

From 1-A

boats are moored in the summer. To the north side of Bonnet is the Bonnet Shores Community Center, where many a family has gathered for summer camp activities or a summer celebration.

But, more important than the sights is the type of people who make up Bonnet. "It used to be a colony, now it's a neighborhood," said Marcel Fortin, who moved to Bonnet about four years ago and has since become a historian on the area.

Fortin explained that when he first moved in, he found himself stranded at Newport Hospital and had to call one of his new neighbors for a ride home. "I knew about seven or eight names of people who I felt comfortable enough to call," Fortin said. "That's the kind of place this is."

Fortin, who often walks the paths and roads in Bonnet as a member of their walking club or on nightly walks with his wife, Carol, finds that

years. "We claim that we were one of the first people to buy a one-story cottage and [later] take the roof off and add a second floor," he said.

Hall said he was drawn to the area because of the beach and the people. "It's a good community made up of good people and there is a lot of camaraderie."

There is also a sense of continuity in life. Hall runs into people he knew as teenagers, who introduce their own teenagers to him.

Because of their love for Bonnet Shores, Hall, Fortin and Listro and other residents formed a historical committee in 1995. Through their research many new and interesting facts about Bonnet Shores have been learned and Fortin is sharing that information and other community news in a regular village column in the Independent.

The committee has gathered documents that show that after the stock market crash in 1929, Bodwell sought financial backing from Fred-



PHOTO: DANIEL G. DUNN

**Alexandra Primavera, 7, walks her poodle "Sunny" in her yard on Col. John Gardner Road Tuesday. The waters of Narragansett Bay are never far in Bonnet Shores.**