

## **2008 CIRT Town Report**

2008 was a year of extensive capacity building within the Cranberry Isles Realty Trust. Several opportunities arose that challenged our board and demanded quick action. This adversity helped crystallize the focus of our organization and prompted the development of program elements and details that were greatly needed. Another significant action was the late November hiring of Alyson Mayo, with the help of a technical assistance grant from the Genesis Community Loan Fund, to assist the board with program development and implementation among many other tasks. Her relationships and years of experience with affordable housing organizations throughout Maine and on Maine islands, as well as other New England states, are incredible assets as we move forward in 2009. A final capacity building step taken by CIRT was the development of a website to better communicate our mission and programs, and act as a resource to the community. Please visit us at [www.cirtrust.org](http://www.cirtrust.org)

As CIRT continues to develop and mature however, home and land prices continue to exceed the means of many prospective community members. Affordable and available year-round rentals are therefore an absolute necessity in enabling new community members to become established. A year-round rental provided by CIRT allowed the Krasnow family to do just that. As a result of this opportunity and their own tremendous effort, they were able to begin building a home on Islesford in 2008. We congratulate them on their achievement and welcome them as permanent members of our community!

The bottom line is that despite our successes, housing in the Cranberry Isles remains not only unaffordable, but inaccessible to a vast majority of those with a desire to live here as part of the year-round community. We all need to do more to change the status quo. We ask for your support in doing so as we push on in 2009!

Thank You,

Eric Dyer, President  
Cranberry Isles Realty Trust