

# *The* Amherst Island BEACON

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April 2007



PHOTO BRIAN LITTLE

*WAITING FOR SPRING. TWO CHAIRS SIT IN THE FOREGROUND AS IN THE BACKGROUND, THE ENGLISH RIVER, STUCK IN THE ICE NEAR THE McMULLEN HOUSE, WAITS FOR THE ICE BREAKER TO FREE IT.*

## THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

Apologies to Ida Gavlas (library hours change), Liz Harrison (WI meeting with Hank Blok), and Rosemary Richmond (CJAI news) for not including material that they submitted for the March issue.

I was asleep at the switch.

### To Our Readers:

As a special feature, the Beacon will be running Tales from the Past – stories of Amherst Island. This feature will include a series of short articles about specific items or events related to Amherst Island. These articles will also be recorded for play on CJAI. We hope that if you have stories, photos, or both related to any of the articles printed, that you will share them with us. We also look forward to your feedback on these articles.

Many thanks,

The Beacon Staff

## NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Condolences to Doris Henderson and her extended family. Doris lost her brother, Islander Garnet McDonald, in early March. Just a couple of weeks later, her son passed away in Alberta.

The school Spring Break was mid-March and some families took advantage of the time and did some traveling. Dick and Ardis Shurtleff and family were off on another Caribbean cruise. Dun-

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### **The Amherst Island Beacon**

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## **NEIGHBORHOOD**

can, Kim, Gavin and Megan Ashley traveled to Alabama to visit Duncan's parents. Jim and Ben Whitton spent most of the week in Myrtle Beach, S.C., - and a couple of days in the airport in Washington D.C. trying to get home when many flights were delayed or cancelled because of a late winter storm! Stephanie and I went to Florida to visit my mom and sister & family, stopping in Georgia and N.C. on the way home.

Kyle Murray spent a week in Hawaii with family friends before going on to New Zealand where he has a work visa good for one year.

The A.C.W. held their annual Beef dinner in late March and, as always, it was a great success.

Many members of the community attended the Heritage Fair at Amherst Island Public School prior to Spring Break. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 had their projects on display. Those who missed the fair had another opportunity to view them a few weeks later at the Neilson Store Museum. The Senior Class projects will go on to the Limestone District's Heritage Fair in Kingston later in the year.

Amherst Island Radio (CAI) celebrated its one year anniversary with the second annual AIRFEST. A variety of entertainment, for young and old - and everyone in between - performed throughout the afternoon at the Community Centre on March 31st.

A regular crowd continues to enjoy the Amherst Island Rec Association's weekly euchres, as they continue into April.

Spring seems to be on its way. Although the ice is gone from around each end of the Island, there was word of a cement ship stuck in the ice near the west end of the island a few days ago, so it still may be awhile before the ice is gone from the bay. As I write this, the Ice Breaker hasn't made its annual pass through the bay.

There are deer everywhere, at all times of the day or night, right now - which the kids on the bus have a great time counting. Up until last week there were 9 swans on the South Shore that the kids looked for everyday, but we haven't seen them the last few days. New calves have started and we look forward to the lambs coming soon.

## **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

- Joyce Reid

March 21st was an open meeting for all islanders. Those who attended were entertained and informed by Hank Blok, our public health inspector, on Healthy Housing. He greeted us in the ancient Tibetan fashion, hands up and open and tongue stuck out. He had our attention. Hank Blok has been in public health for 38 years.

Drinking water safety was covered with the recommendation to have our water tested three times a year, spring, summer and fall. He stated that 80% of food poisoning happens in the home. Septic systems, mould, west Nile, etc. were discussed with overheads in cartoon form. Refreshments followed prepared by Mary Kay Steel, Jackie Sylvester and Stella O'Byrne.

The regular meeting followed, with the reading of the minutes and standing reports. A new phone directory is well under way for the Island and will be available in early summer. Amherst Island members will be participating in the L&A Historical Society 100 year celebration at the Allen McPherson House May 19th, Diane Hieatt as representative.

The district annual meeting will be May 16 at Selby Hall with Leslie Gavlas, Jackie Sylvester and Joyce Haines representing Amherst Island branch. Our branch rated number 7 in the province for new members in 2006, with four additions.

Plastic bags in stores have been banned in some countries as an environment issue. Our challenge is to count how many bags enter your home in one month; try to cut that number in half over the next three months by using boxes or cloth bags; after three months, consider if you can stop using plastic bags entirely over the next year. One pollution solution.

We will be placing our Daniel Fowler Book and more recent catalogue in the Neilson Store Museum as reference material.

The district is holding a Rose event April 30, 7 pm at the Strathcona Banquet facility (part of new arena) in Napanea with a speaker on "Grandmothers to Grandmothers" with a bake table and other surprises. All funds are to the Stephen Lewis Foundation for Grandmothers in Africa raising their grandchildren who have lost their parents to Aids. This is a good opportunity to learn more about this important world problem. No admission charge.

The April annual meeting will be at the home of Coralie Marshall on April 18 at 7pm. Any women interested are welcome to attend. It is also a brown bag auction night.

Old pictures of the Island stone fences are requested, especially Hitchins on the Second Concession as we continue our restructuring project in 2007. Any community member interested in working with us this summer, please contact Joyce Haines 634-7894.

A.I.W.I. is continuing to sponsor the mailing for donations to the local Cancer Society. You will receive an envelope with a red dot so that you know the funds are going locally. Please be generous.

[Staff: the General Store is pleased to recycle clean plastic grocery bags.]



## COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

The agenda for the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of Council, March 12, contained 315 pages, with more items than usual of interest to Island residents.

By the way, a Council agenda consists of action taken by Council from the previous meeting (or meetings)- the Minutes - plus items to be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

The agenda for every Council meeting is available on the Loyalist web page on the Friday before the Monday meeting which gives Council members and others the weekend to read, think, and, possibly, make plans.

\*\*\*

The following motion was adopted at the March 5<sup>th</sup> Administration meeting:

"1. That Council authorizes the Treasurer and Director of Engineering Services to implement ferry charges, effective May 1, 2007 in the amount of \$8 for a single vehicle, \$16 for trucks and a bulk ticket rate of \$100 for 30 tickets.

2. That any budgetary shortfall be provided from the Amherst Island Ferry Reserve Fund...."

"A public meeting will be held in the Council Chambers ... on March 26 at 7 pm" to formally adopt the necessary by-law.

As near as I can tell there have been 11 letters sent to Council regarding the ferry rate issue. These may be seen on the Loyalist web page, in the agendas section. This includes 2 new ones in the current agenda package.

The Treasurer has revised the Administration Allocation to \$99,400. Her report "will be included in the April Administration Committee agenda for the final budget review."

\*\*\*

A delegation representing three Kingston hospitals - KGH, HDH and Providence Continuing Care Centre - stated that these facilities "serve more than 500,000 residents and work closely with the County of Lennox & Addington Hospital in Napanee". These hospitals need to be upgraded.

The HDH "needs to be reconfigured with more clinics and more elevators".

The KGH "requires an expansion of the Cancer Centre and a new mental health inpatient unit".

"The Providence Continuing Care Centre has no air conditioning in the building. They require a new hospital combining St. Mary's of the Lake and Mental Health Services in a location on King Street West.

"The provincial government is supporting all the above-noted plans. It will cost approximately \$300 million to implement these plans." Ten per cent of this amount must be raised locally before the province will put in any money.

The delegation requested \$50,000 per year for the next four years from Loyalist Township.

This request was "referred to budget deliberations for further discussion".

\*\*\*

Council agreed to "encourage County Council to move forward with the construction plans" for the roundabout at the inter-

section of former provincial highways 2 & 133.

The estimate to construct the roundabout is \$250,000.

\*\*\*

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority has acquired 700 acres of the Bayview Wetland. "Loyalist Township is putting \$150,000 towards the acquisition."

\*\*\*

The negotiations with OPSEU were carried out in closed session. Fortunately, 3 of the 6 Council members are not married to union members so there was a quorum. I'll try to remember to ask what happens if the next Council is made up of more than 3 members with union member spouses.

\*\*\*

Council is advertising for a Capital Asset Project Analyst.



PHOTO BRIAN LITTLE

*OVER 40 ISLANDERS SHOWED UP FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING REGARDING FERRY PRICES*

There is a list of qualifications that the successful candidate must have; the education, experience and skills required is impressive.

"Reporting to the Treasurer, this position is responsible for developing Loyalist Township's financial reporting framework so it includes complete and consistent information about all of Loyalist Township's fixed assets."

The province has mandated that a municipality's fixed assets must be accounted for perhaps so that elected officials can compare their municipality with others of similar size. This is, I believe, already being done for municipal services so that comparisons can be made such as how much it costs to maintain a kilometre of gravel road, how much is spent on emergency services per capita and so on.

It will be interesting to learn what the mud and gravel road in front of our house is worth and how this number is arrived at.

\*\*\*

New Entrance Culverts will now cost \$1700 for a 6-metre culvert and anything over the 6 metres will be charged at \$100/m.

\*\*\*

From Fire Chief Wayne Calver's "2006 Loyalist Township Emergency Services Report":

"In January 2006 the 1975 International Fire Pumper was re-

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

## COUNCIL GLEANINGS

placed on Amherst Island with a 1992 GMC Topkick 1050GPM Fire Pumper. The new truck has made a great improvement in pumping and training operations for Amherst Island fire station.

This year we upgraded the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) at the Bath and Amherst Island stations. All SCBA's have been standardized in the department thus making training and maintenance of SCBA's easier....

The installation of a Dry-Hydrant at the Amherst Island dock to allow drafting water for fire fighting purposes has been completed and training has been conducted."

\*\*\*

Emergency calls by station: Amherst Island, 35; Amherstview, 114; Bath, 68; and, Odessa, 128.

Medical calls accounted for 24% of total calls; a decrease from 31% in 2005. Non-emergency calls, including false alarms and other inappropriate callouts account for 30% of the total calls and 10% of wages.

The total reported fire loss for the year was \$950,500.

Two EFR scenario based trainings were conducted at the Amherst Island Station. All personnel from the Amherst Island Station attended the training facility twice for an extended evening training.

\*\*\*

Council received a number of letters from Grade 5 public school children, I assume as a classroom project.

This is my favourite:

"Dear Mr. McEwen,

My name is Madison and I'm a student at Amherstview Public School. I was wondering if you have thought about the W. J. Henderson arena. I have some things maybe you could think about. It would be nice if you made some adjustments to it.

Some things I thought about was that I know some skaters, figure skaters and I'm a figure skater too and we would like to know if you have thought about making a girls' change room. We think you should think about this because we don't like the smell of hockey players and we think hockey players only really need 5 change rooms. That is including change rooms for tournaments.

Everything else is great! If you maybe could make these adjustments to it we would thank you so much.

Thank you for reading this letter.

From

Madison."

\*\*\*

There were 2 letters to Council objecting to Lafarge's proposal to burn tires. Once again, those interested are invited to see these letters on the Loyalist web page.

\*\*\*

Anyone interested in the proposed severing of the property to the right of the ferry line-up area at the Stella dock is referred to pages 301 to 304 in the March 12 Loyalist agenda documents.

Severing a piece of property in a built up area can be a complicated and expensive process.

\*\*\*\*

The agenda for the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of Council, March 26, contained 193 pages.

The first agenda item is the confirmation of the minutes from the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of Council.

The next item is the Public Meeting for the adoption of the Miscellaneous Fees By-law which includes Amherst Island ferry user fees. There were 2 more letters from Island residents concerning the proposed ferry ticket increases. They can be seen on the Loyalist website.

Following 2 delegations on mainland matters, Council will consider reports from 5 departments: Engineering, Planning, Recreation, Treasury and Clerk's.

The Engineer's report contains a recommendation to Council that municipal vehicles pay the full fare "and that the fees be charged to the appropriate Township departments". This is in response to "the current public perception that the municipality is receiving a much better deal than the local residents and that the municipality is not paying their fair share for municipal vehicles when utilizing the Amherst Island Ferry service."

Had the 1428 municipal vehicle crossings last year been billed at \$6 per trip rather than the bulk ticket rate, "the additional revenue would have been approximately \$5000".

The Cemeteries Committee, a committee within the Recreation Department, has made the following recommendations to Council: that the grave purchase for a resident be increased from \$500 to \$600; that the grave purchase for a non-resident be increased from \$650 to \$800; and, that a burial for a casket be reduced from \$600 to \$550."

The Treasury Department reported the following remuneration and expenses for Council members in 2006: Reeve Clayton McEwen, \$25,576.79 remuneration, \$92.16 benefits, and \$10,452.28 expenses; Deputy Reeve Carl Bresee, \$15,620.87 remuneration, \$92.16 benefits, and \$3000.00 expenses; Councilor Duncan Ashley, \$13,825.58 remuneration, \$92.16 benefits, and \$3804.41 expenses. Figures for the rest of Council can be found on the Loyalist website.

Jackie Sylvester as a member of the Committee of Adjustment received \$350.00 remuneration and \$202.00 in expenses.

Judith Harrower as a member of the Cemeteries Committee received \$135.34 for expenses.

Ameena Jaffer of Amherstview sent a letter to Council (and the Whig Standard) regarding the closing of the Amherstview After Hours Clinic. This closing is certainly not a good thing for Island residents as many of us have used this clinic rather than go into the emergency wards in Napanee or Kingston. A petition objecting to this closing is also in the agenda documents.

Douglas Lamb sent Council a letter thanking whomever was responsible for putting a seat in the Millhaven shelter.

I am sure a letter like this is appreciated by both staff and politicians as they are far more likely to be blamed than thanked for their work.



## TALES FROM THE PAST -

### THE BLIZZARD OF '71

-Susan Frizzell

As we see winter coming to an end for yet another year, surely many Islanders remember the Blizzard of March 1971 when during a twelve-day period, Amherst Island saw several feet of snow which crippled virtually all Island activity. It was a combination of wind, snow, and mechanical upsets which left islanders with little to do but sit and wait.

It all began on Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, with the first heavy onslaught of snow. With the large (10ft) banks that already lined the roads, the snow just filled in the gap between them. The best snow removal machine, at the time was the grader, which unfortunately was stuck on the 3<sup>rd</sup> concession with a flat tire. While residents waited, and farmers scrambled to figure out ways of getting their milk to the mainland, the grader tire was taken to and from Kingston by snow machine.

On Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, after repairing the tire, it was discovered that the steering assembly was also out of commission. And then, to add insult to injury, the entire road crew resigned! This resignation was apparently related to wage negotiations from earlier in the week. In an emergency meeting of Council, called by Reeve Vince Aitken, Bert Glenn was appointed as temporary road superintendent. It was decided that the plow truck would be commissioned to do as much as possible. Two front-end tractor loaders came to assist, with hopes of clearing a path to the disabled grader, so that the steering assembly could be welded by Clinton Kilpatrick. Some farmers managed to use their own equipment to clear snow and get their milk picked up.

A new storm blasted the Island on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> and effectively put a halt to all road clearing activities, while the road

crew waited for parts for the grader to arrive. By Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, the grader had been repaired, but at this point, so much snow had fallen, that it quickly became clear that the grader was buried in far too much snow to be cleared by the loaders and plow truck.

Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, nine days after the initial onslaught of snow, a 3,500lb, \$6,500 snow blower arrived on the Island. Although the blower was in fine working order, it immediately became apparent that the tractor needed more weight on the back end before the blower could perform at full capacity. Clinton Kilpatrick took care of adding this weight to the tractor, and finally at 1:30p.m. on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, the blower had begun its long chore of clearing the roads. Unfortunately, due to the sun, and the rain that had begun to fall, the snow was heavy and clumpy, and very difficult to clear. By the time the blower had reached Bruce Caughey's farm, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> concession, the chain and alternator had given out, thus again putting a hold on snow clearing efforts. It was not until Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, that a light was seen at the end of the snow banks, as the grader was repaired and resumed its duties.

Dates and details obtained from The Amherst Island Beacon, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1971, 25<sup>th</sup> Edition, Amherst Island. G.F.Sheil.

Do you remember this snowstorm? Do you have pictures? Would you like to share your experiences? Both The Beacon, and the Neilson Store Museum would love any information, stories, pictures or memories that you have of this snow storm. Please e-mail [aibeacon@sympatico.ca](mailto:aibeacon@sympatico.ca) or call Susan Frizzell at 613-384-2478 (please leave a message).



PHOTO BRIAN LITTLE

## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH AT THE

### NEILSON STORE MUSEUM:

#### BACKROOM TALK

- Andrea & Bruce

The Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre is having another Backroom Talk on Friday, April 13, 2007 at 7 PM. Pam Buell, Parks Canada Communications Manager for Eastern Ontario, will be presenting a brief history of the Rideau Canal. 2007 is the 175th anniversary of the Rideau Canal, which has been proposed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Pam is the "Rideau 175" team leader and worked on the World Heritage nomination dossier.

She is a great speaker and very knowledgeable about the canal. As usual, there is no charge for the presentation, but donations to cover museum costs will be welcomed.

Light Refreshments will be available.

*PATRONS VIEWING A.I.P.S. HERITAGE PROJECTS AT NEILSON STORE MUSEUM. THE SHOW WAS A HUGE SUCCESS. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ATTENDED.*

## WHITE SWANS ON THE SOUTH SHORE



PHOTOS BY BRIAN LITTLE

### JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

A raft of at least a thousand ducks could be seen off the south shore in March, whenever the ice pushed them together in a small area. What a chance to study and compare a variety of duck species. There were still a lot of Goldeneye, a black and white duck showing a round white spot on each side of the head. These ducks were locally known as Whistlers due to the whistling sound they make as the flock takes off. Their courtship display consists of the male throwing his head tightly back against his back in a position that would make a chiropractor cringe. Mrs. Goldeneye flattens herself as close to the surface as possible. She has a dark red head. She will nest later in a tree cavity near water.

About March the tenth Redheads joined this flock. They have round red heads and not ski slope heads like the Canvasbacks. Their colouring is a more shaded version of the Canvasback without that distinctive light back. Both Canvasback and Red-head ducks are bay ducks so their diet is more animal content than the dabblers who prefer vegetation. Both species eat mollusks, small fish and insects.

All winter long the tiny Buffleheads, sometimes called Butterballs, could be seen bobbing along near shore with their dark heads and white patches from eye to crown. The female shows a small cheek patch on her dark head and a dark back. This duck takes off without running along the surface.

To confuse you another duck with a white patch has joined this flock with a crest that lifts up and opens to show more white and a narrow outer band of black. It is a Hooded Merganser. The female has a bushy crest and dark back with a white wing patch. Like all mergansers they are fish eaters.

There are Common Mergansers in our mixed flock too. The males have smooth green heads, reddish-orange beaks and very white fronts. The females have reddish, crested heads with a sharp contrast between head and throat which is white.

Anytime now as I write the Red-breasted Mergansers will arrive and you'll be trying to distinguish the females. The Red-breasted females do not show that distinct line between head and

neck but a more blended colouring and they also have more crest.

There are quite a few Scaup in the flock and the brown female looks like she's wearing spectacles over her nose. The male is another duck that appears black and white in the group.

Are you confused yet?

If you are standing outside at night along the South Shore you may hear a lot of muttering and squawking going on. The Long-tailed Ducks are gathering to fly north and like our migrating geese flocks need to communicate at night so as to keep the floating flock together. To me it sounds like the kids are saying "Is it time to go yet?" and the parents are trying to settle them down for another night. When the northern lakes thaw they will go. Our local Canada Geese are already out in the fields, paired up and ready to nest. We should see goslings by May 1st.

While their diving cousins are out a bit from shore and forming these large rafts of ducks, the dabbler ducks are puttering along the shore tipping their bottoms in the air while they search for vegetation under the water.

We are familiar with the Mallard with its green head and blue wing flashes and its subdued female in camouflage brown but with them may be some Black Ducks. The females are slightly darker shades of brown than the Mallard and the male is black with a darker head cap. With them are Gadwall which are brown and gray ducks with a distinctive black stern. The Gadwall females again look much like the Mallards and Blacks but show white in the wing when swimming. The Mallards are moving into every field puddle and flooded ditch, soon to be joined by Shovelers, Pintails and Teal so keep those Field Guides and binoculars handy.

If you think ducks 10 inches to 15 inches are difficult to distinguish then hang on for next month when you'll be seeing and trying to identify warblers 4 to 6 inches in size!

Good Birding!



## AIMS, MARCH 10

- Terry Culbert

Eighteen members and three guests enjoyed the culinary skills of Eva and Brian Little's delicious breakfast at our monthly meeting held in St. Paul's Presbyterian Hall.

Business arising from the February minutes:

**SWINGS:** Still an ongoing issue. Chairman Little is waiting for a response from Loyalist Township.

**FERRY MEETING UPDATE:** A lengthy discussion took place. Should AIMS as a group become involved? Should the Island residents call for a referendum? Should every household on the Island write individual letters to the Ministry of Transportation? Dayle Gowan moved that we wait to hear what MTO is going to do with the fuel costs, because this is the real issue. Seconded by Doug Martin. Carried.

New Business:

**HANGING BASKETS:** The membership gave a round of applause to Dayle Gowan and Ross Haines for their hard work last summer maintaining the hanging baskets located throughout the village of Stella. A cost proposal for additional baskets will be obtained and brought to our April meeting.

**RECYCLING:** Brian Grace would like to collect bottles from the AIMS members and from our Island landfill to be used as a fund raiser. Wine and spirit bottles are now worth 20 cents each. Chairman Little will seek permission from the Loyalist Township office for the retrieval of bottles at the Island dump.

**WILL'S RIDE:** Will Adam lives and works on Amherst Island. For the past twelve years, a loved family member has suffered from multiple sclerosis. Will wants to help bring awareness of this devastating disease to the people of Canada. He is going to ride solo across Canada beginning in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, ending his journey in Bear Cove, British Columbia, a total of over 9,000 km. Will plans to average 100 km per day pulling a light weight trailer behind him that may have solar panel enabling him to charge batteries for a used lap top and camera equipment to document his trip. Sally Bowen is his Island support team and will be in touch daily. Will came to the AIMS breakfast meeting with his friend Jacob Murray seeking support. He got it!

Zander Dunn moved that AIMS donate \$500. to the MS Society and another \$500. to help support his trek across Canada. Seconded by Chris Laffin. Carried.

Guest speaker: With St. Patrick's Day a week away, Terrence Patrick Culbert, with the technical help of Chairman Little, presented a half hour television feature Terry shot and produced for Global Television. AIMS members watched stories gathered by Terry and his late friend Bob McAdorey as they toured the north and south of Ireland 13 years ago.

RIGHT: PHOTO DONNA WILLARD



PHOTO DAVE YOEELL

## WILL'S RIDE

- Sally Bowen and Will Adam

Plans are progressing for Will's Canada-wide bicycle trip to raise money for the MS Society.

Will wishes to thank:

AIMS, Dave Youell and family, Brian Little and family, Zander Dunn and Coralie Marshall and the congregation of St. Paul's church, John Munroe and Vicky Keith, Mary-Liz Best and her son at Green Door Vitamins, and Sylvia Saunders (of the Morgan Horse Assn.). Thanks also to Canadian Tire, Cataraque.

Donations to the cause can be made to the Kingston Chapter of the MS Society:

1080 Gardiners Rd, Unit 3

Kingston, ON

K7P 1R7

N.B. Please mark your cheques "re Will's Ride"

We are hoping someone on the island might contribute: a down sleeping bag, a one person tent (easy to assemble), a cell phone, and/or Gift Certificates for Tim Hortons or Subway. Any of these items would be gratefully received.

Anyone wanting to give Will a personal boost is encouraged to put Canadian Tire money, or perhaps enough cash to buy him a meal, in the container at the General Store.

Does anyone know of a van traveling to the Maritimes in late April? We'd need space for bike, folded trailer and his gear. (We are hoping to save the bus fare.)

Thanks for your interest, Islanders.





## INTERVIEW WITH RALPH MORROW

- Zander of DUNN INN

(Continued from the February & March issues.)

Life was not as comfortable in "the good old days". In the early years, Ralph Morrow and his family lived in a log house. His mother had four children in five years. She didn't even have a hand pump. The family members had to carry water in buckets from the lake. All the laundry was done by hand. Ralph helped his mother plant the strawberry beds which were 500 feet long - a source of income. Money was earned from raspberries and potatoes, turkeys and chickens. Ralph remembers the big turkey fair in Napanee each year. The trouble was the turkeys and chickens all had to be plucked. That was a big job when you consider that his family sold over 200 chickens and 70 turkeys. They also raised and sold sheep for meat and wool.

Many Islanders remember Veer Howard and his touring car. Near the west end of the island the car went through the ice with Veer and his mother in it. He escaped through the back window but his mother went down with the automobile. The next day a tripod was set up to raise the vehicle. Those who were working on the project could raise it only part of the way. Then Ralph's uncle, Harold McCaugherty, with John Morrow's help, hooked his horses onto the car and pulled it up on the ice.

And there was Arnold Smith (whose father was Bobby Smith) who lived in a house bigger than his barn just past where Kaye and Dorothy McGinn now reside. He and his dad winched his boat ashore. But they were so busy talking that Arnold stuck his finger through the chain, while looking for a tool to hold it. Bobby kept winching and Arnold hollered, "Dad, Dad," as his finger was pinched. It was a close call.

When ration cards were issued during WW11, Arnold and Bobby had not applied for them. Without them they could not get the basics. When they could not buy sugar they purchased a bag of humbugs instead, to sweeten their tea.

Later, Arnold got a job as caretaker at the Hunt Club on the South Shore. He lived not far away on the Wemp farm all by himself. One day he went for water and when he threw his pail down he slipped on the ice and fell into the lake. He then did something few would think of doing. He filled his pail with stones, threw it up onto the top of the bank where it caught in the rocks and brambles and then pulled himself up. Having saved himself from a death by freezing, he phoned his friend, Clinton Baker (who lived beside where the Truemans live) who came to be with him to calm him down because he continued to be shaken by his ordeal.

Once, after Ralph had plowed a field, it started to rain. It was such a wet Spring that when he returned to his tractor he found a robin had built a nest on the drive wheel. When he started up the machine the noise scared the birds away - but they were ready to leave the nest anyway.

Ralph Morrow left the Island in 1948 at the age of 19. Before that, he worked cutting wood on the mainland with a crosscut saw (there were no chain saws in those days). He had also worked for John Kilpatrick (Clinton's father). Ralph and Carl also sheared some sheep for farmers on the Island.

When the Epsteins built a summer home Ralph and Carl worked on that project. When the new school was being built they worked on the foundation, but left that to return to the Epstein cottage.

In 1954 Ralph began driving buses between Toronto and

Montreal on the old Highway #2. In 1957 he began driving transports and did not retire from that job until 1989. He figures he has driven over four million miles without a chargeable accident.

Ralph Morrow was married in 1950 to Irene Grant. She passed away in 1997. They had three children.

Greg Morrow is an accountant in Ottawa.

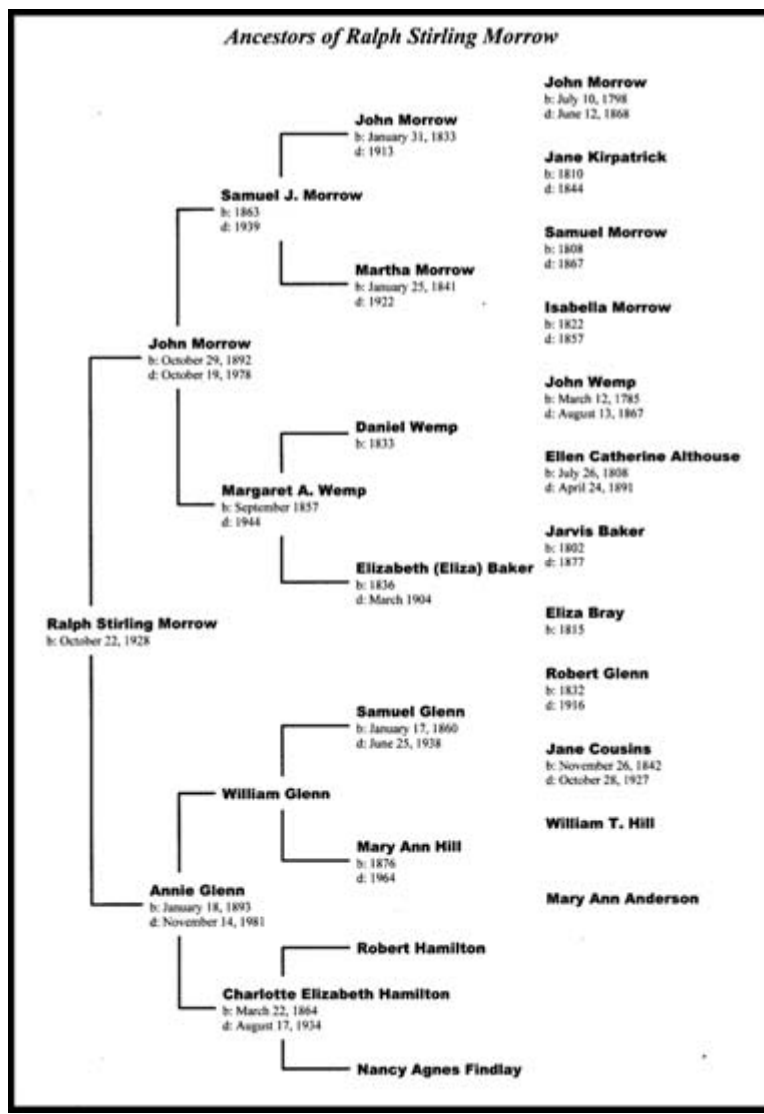
Nancy, married to Ron Watson, lives in Golden B.C. where they raise horses and run a tack store. She also does computer work in the schools around Golden.

Linda, a fourth class engineer with Imperial Oil, is married to John Ricker, an electrician. They live in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, with their son, Riley – Ralph's only grandchild.

Carl, Ralph's older brother, is married to Pat Murphy who is a granddaughter of Sam Miller. Carl worked on the DEW line then returned to the Kingston area and worked in construction on such buildings as KGH, the Post Office, and the penitentiaries. Carl and Pat have one daughter, Carlene Lott, married to Garnet. They have one daughter, Chantal. Carlene is a medical technologist.

Carl and Ralph's eldest sister, Glenna Leduc, and Jack had 4

(Continued on page 9)





## GARNET EDWIN McDONALD

Born December 4, 1918 to Florence (nee Detlor) and Edwin McDonald in Erinsville. They returned to the Island 8 weeks later where he would live as a 5<sup>th</sup> generation McDonald farmer; first dairy, then beef. His talent for gardening was appreciated by many.

He sold his cattle in 2005 but thoroughly enjoyed seeing Garry's cows running in his fields.

In October 1941, Garnet married Gene McMaster and eventually had Carol (Herman Langwald) who gave them 2 grandchildren – Joe (Sabrina) and Tammie (Wally Stanton). His great-grandchildren Mika (whom he had just met), Emma, Damien, Lillian and Molly were a source of great joy and amusement.

Garnet was extremely independent –quick to offer help but reluctant to accept it. He has been described as an “unofficial historian”; he liked nothing better than to relate past events especially during frequent card games.

Fishing on Sundays with Carol and later Herman was his way of relaxing. In later years he took up bow hunting with his nephew Richard and friends. The hunters often remarked that Garnet enjoyed visiting while waiting in the truck as much as, if not more so, than the hunting.



GARNET, ?, MARSHALL GLENN. (DO YOU KNOW THE MIDDLE PERSON IN THIS PHOTO? PLEASE CONTACT THE BEACON.

PHOTOS OF GARNET McDONALD COURTESY OF CAROL LANGWALD

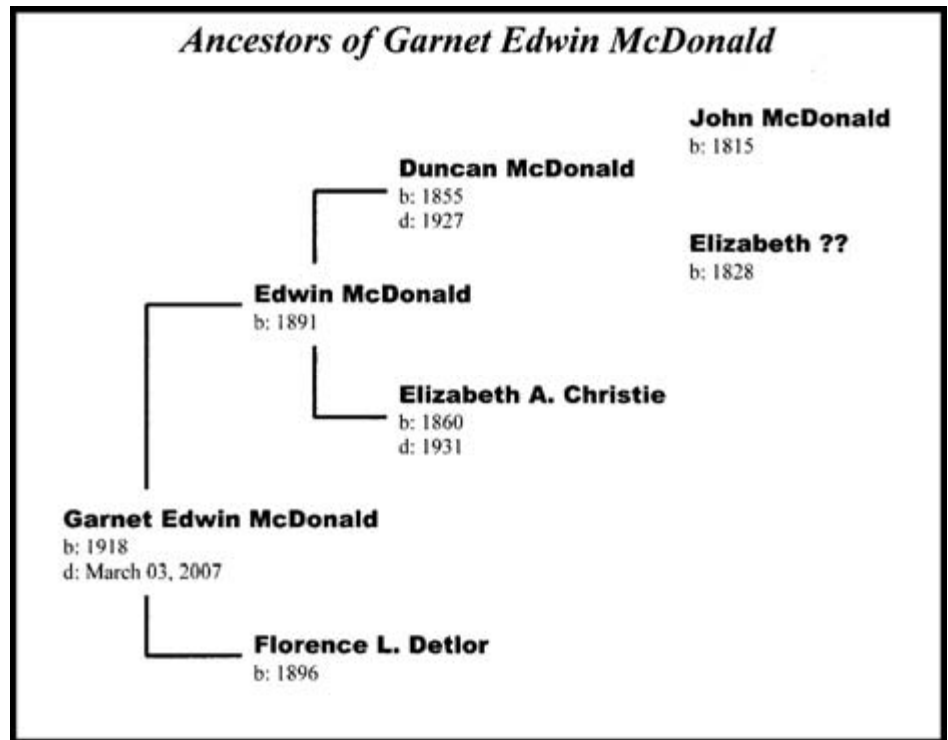
(Continued from page 8)

## RALPH MORROW

children: Glen, Allen, Brian and Elaine.

Their younger sister, Wilma Redmond, and Cliff had 3 children: Paul, Judy and Jeff.

Thank God for Ralph's good memory.



He is going to be missed as a fair and patient father and grandfather and as a loyal friend to many.

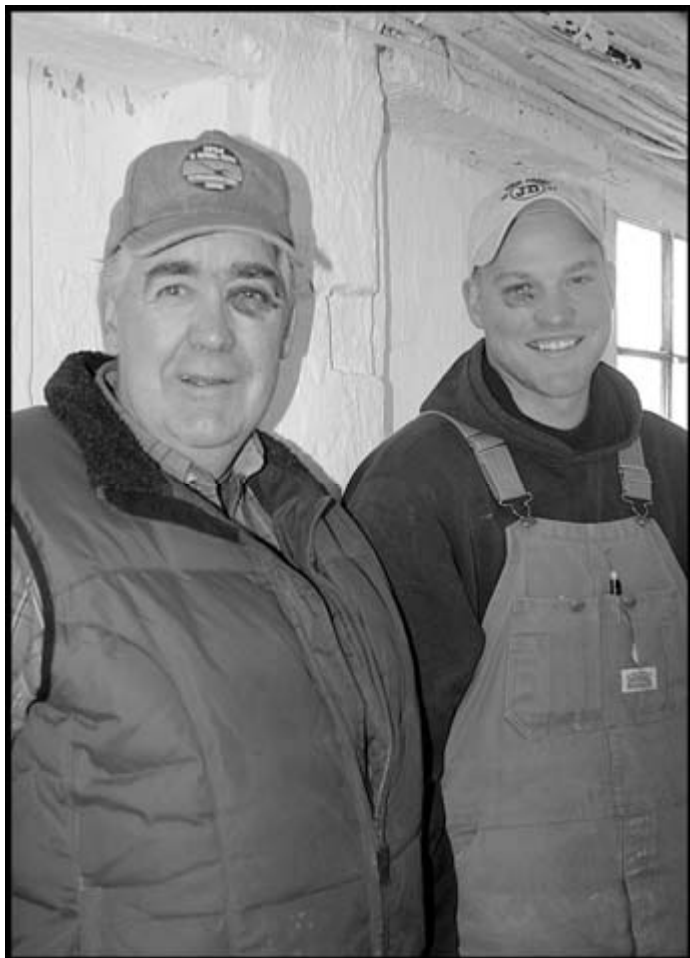
Garnet is also survived by his sister Doris Henderson and his brother Roger McDonald.



FLORENCE DETLOR AND GARNET McDONALD ON THEIR WEDDING DAY.

# LENNOX AND ADDINGTON HOLSTEIN CLUB MEETS ON AMHERST ISLAND

PHOTOS BY BRIAN LITTLE



*MIKE WALHOUT WITH HIS FATHER, PAUL.*



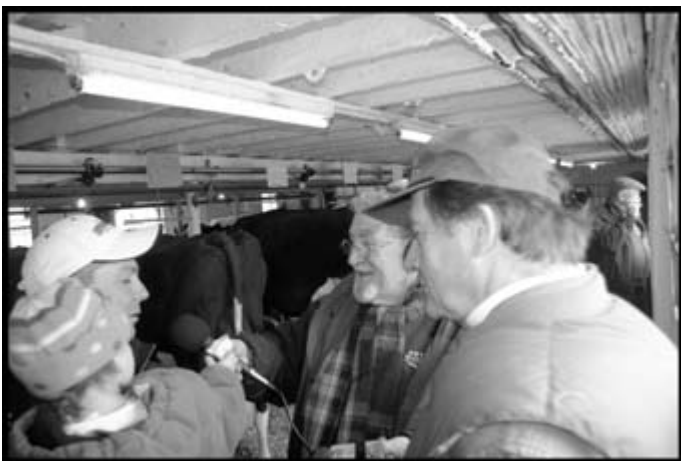
*TERRY CULBERT INTERVIEWS BRUCE CAUGHEY.*

*BELOW: CAUGHEY COWS—THE BUSINESS END!*





*BRUCE CAUGHEY AND RALPH HUDGINS  
BELOW LEFT AND RIGHT: TERRY CUL-  
BERT INTERVIEWS KEN MACLEAN &  
DAUGHTER.*



# AIRFEST 2007 - CIAI'S FIRST BIRTHDAY

By Terry Culbert

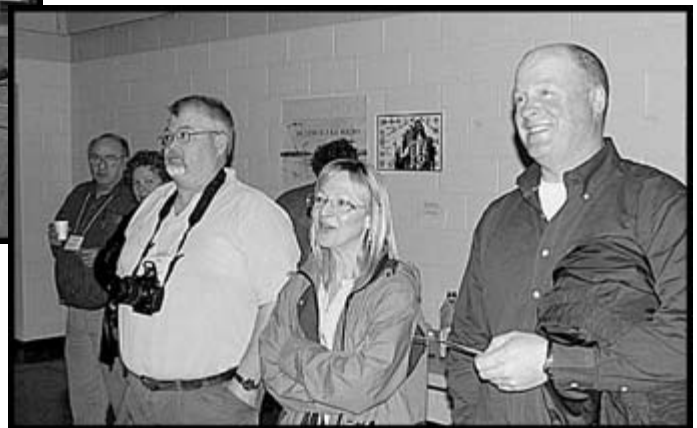
CJAI, 93.7 FM, Canada's smallest radio station, celebrated its first birthday on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007. The station has been on-air twenty-four hours a day for the past 365 days.

The success of Amherst Island Public Radio is due to the hard work of 93.7 FM's founder Tom Richmond, Acting Station Manager, Rosemary Richmond and the dedicated volunteers, both on air and behind the scenes. A huge thank you also goes to our landlords, Dayle and Elois Gowan, who generously provided us with a very unique facility for the past year.

Airfest 2007 commenced with two hours of live on-air, hosted by the Friday morning crew Brian Little and Terry Culbert. Islanders baked, donated prizes and gave of their time to make Airfest the success it was. At 1pm the talent hit the stage and went non-stop for the next four hours. Splash 'n' Boots, well-known and award-winning children's entertainers had everyone joining in. The show continued with Crooked Wood, a trio of folk musicians from Inverary, Chuckwagon Express, a comedic one-man show, The Lady Racers, a talented trio from Kingston, The Family Trio, singing gospel and country music, with the final act by vocalist, piano and guitar playing Jane Gowan of Toronto.

As each group completed their performance, the recorded disc was rushed to the radio station and immediately went to air.

A heartfelt thanks from CJAI to all performers who so graciously donated their time and talent. The show will be broadcast in its entirety on April 28<sup>th</sup>.



ABOVE: CROOKED WOOD: (LEFT TO RIGHT) JON MCLURG, CHRIS MURPHY AND STEVE KENNEDY

TOP RIGHT: BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND, CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINERS SPLASH 'N' BOOTS

RIGHT: LOYALIST TOWNSHIP COUNCILLOR DUNCAN ASHLEY WITH KAREN FLEMING AND RADIO HOST BRIAN LITTLE

ALL PHOTOS BY TERRY CULBERT



*LEFT: THE FAMILY TRIO IS MADE UP OF GORD STRUTHERS ON THE RIGHT, HIS DAUGHTER SHERRY STRUTHERS, AND STEP-SON DWAYNE MAILLE.*

*RIGHT: ACTING STATION MANAGER ROSEMARY RICHMOND CHATS WITH CROOKED WOOD PERFORMERS CHRIS MURPHY AND STEVE KENNEDY.*



*ROSS HAINES, HOST OF SATURDAY BIG BAND SWING WITH (LEFT TO RIGHT) AIRFEST VOLUNTEERS BARB HOEGENAUER AND JUDI GOULD.*



ABOVE: SOUND TECHNICIAN EXTRAORDINAIRE—  
JACOB MURRAY  
BELOW: CHUCKWAGON EXPRESS—CHUCK D'AOUST  
PORTRAYS WILLY NELSON COMPLETE WITH PIGTAILS.

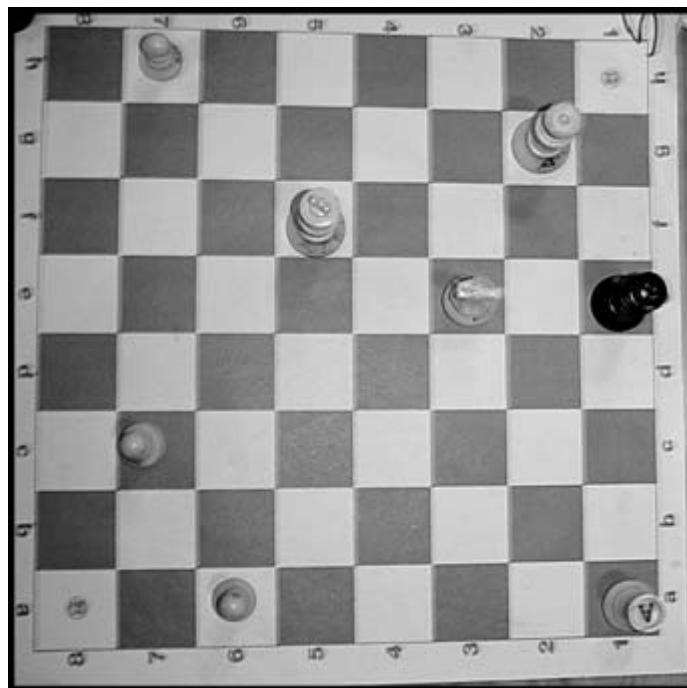


ABOVE: JANE GOWAN, A TORONTO SONGSTER  
WHO HAS BEEN LEAH MURRAY'S GUEST ON  
CJA1'S FRIDAY AFTERNOON LIVE PROGRAM.

BELOW: LADY RACERS (LEFT TO RIGHT) LEAH,  
CHRISTINE AND ANNA ARE A LOCAL KINGSTON  
BAND.







PHOTOS BY BRIAN LITTLE

*JACK AND ANGUS LITTLE PLAY CHESS IN THE DISTRICT CHESS TOURNAMENT. 14 KIDS FROM A.I.P.S. COMPETED. DANIEL LITTLE AND REILLY LAMBERT ARE MOVING ON TO THE EASTERN PROVINCIAL FINALS..*

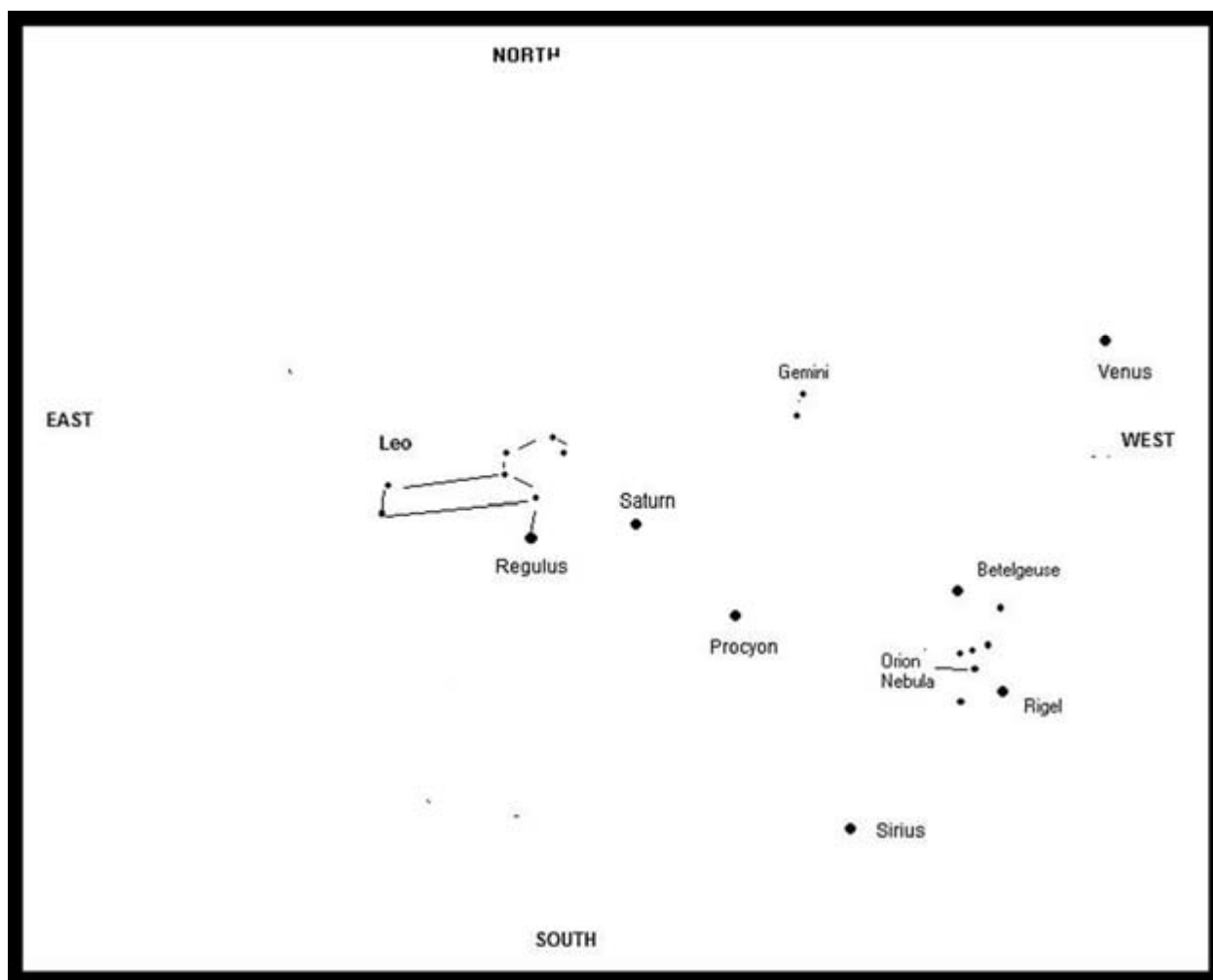
## TOPSY FARMS DOGS TAKE THEIR JOBS VERY SERIOUSLY



PHOTOS BRIAN LITTLE

*ZOE, ONE OF TOPSY FARMS GUARD DOGS TAKES PATROLLING THE PERIMETER TO A NEW LEVEL AS SHE STROLLS ALONG ON TOP OF THE STONE FENCE AT DRUMGOOLE'S.*





## APRIL SKIES

- Alan Kidd

We are on daylight savings time this month, and that, in addition to the lengthening days, means our observing times will be getting later. The chart will be for a time around 10 PM, at mid-month.

This month, the constellation that is almost directly overhead during the first part of the night is Leo, the Lion. The first star that draws your eye in this part of the sky is Regulus, which is the brightest Star in the Constellation of Leo. As the drawing shows, Regulus is the front paw of the Lion. Coming up from Regulus is a group of stars, which together form the Lion's mane and face. This group is also known as The Sickle. Regulus forms the base of the handle. Another way of looking at the sub-constellation is as a backward question mark with Regulus as the dot.

The hindquarters of the Leo are marked by a triangle of stars a considerable distance (the width of a fist held at arm's length) from the sickle. The brightest of these, Beta Leonis, is the tip of the lion's tail. Saturn is presently located just to the West of the Sickle and quite near Regulus. Actually Saturn has been near



Leo for some time now, since this planet moves very slowly along the zodiac, taking almost 30 years to go around the Sun. [Note: You are only as old as the Planet you use for counting. Your writer is now only two in terms of Saturn years.] On the evening of April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Moon is close to Saturn, and the next day it just grazes Regulus.

Venus is extremely bright this month, hanging in the Western skies more than three hours after sunset. The crescent moon and Venus will form a nice pairing on the evening of April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Jupiter rises just after midnight at the beginning of April and well before midnight at the end of the month. It is also bright, but is still low in the southeast, near Antares.

The Lyrid meteor show occurs during the predawn hours of April 23<sup>rd</sup> (St. George's Day!). Once the crescent moon sets around 2 AM, the sky will be quite dark and conditions will be good for meteor watching. However, you can only expect to see about a dozen Lyrids per hour.

The attached chart shows the positions of Saturn relative to the constellation of Leo. This chart will also work for our readers in the Southern Hemisphere as well.

## HEARING GOD SPEAK

- Zander of DUNN INN

Have you ever heard God speak?

That question is enough to scare most people. They would never claim to have heard God speak to them. They don't want to be known as people who hear voices or imagine they are closer to God than are other people. So, of course, most of us would vehemently declare we've never heard God speak.

I've never heard voices nor have I heard a voice claiming it came from God telling me to do something or other. I've never had the experience Bill Cosby tells us about in his riotous story about God speaking to Noah and telling him to build an ark.

According to Bill Cosby's humorous account, Noah is going about his business when he hears a voice call his name. When he asks who is calling him, the voice declares "It's the Lord, Noah." Of course Noah, not believing any of it, asks, "What do you want?" And then The Lord tells Noah to build an ark. Noah asks, "What's an ark?" before The Lord goes on to specify the dimensions and the types of wood to be used.

We all laugh at the ridiculous idea of The Lord speaking directly to a man and telling him in detail to build a big ship in which to carry all the animals of the world.

I laugh at Bill Cosby's skit and I laugh at the idea of the voice of the Lord speaking to me directly to do specific things in detail.

But I don't laugh at the idea of God speaking to me ... or to you. I believe God is speaking to us all the time. If we don't hear God speaking, it's because we're not listening.

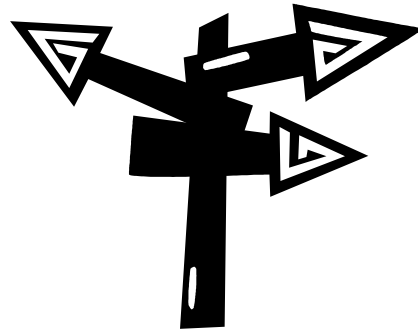
How does God speak to us? There are many ways, of course, far too numerous to list. But consider these ways:

God speaks to us through children. We all know "kids say the darndest things". Some of those things are profound. Their observations are insightful and their questions raise deep issues. If we listen carefully to our children we'll hear God speaking to us.

God speaks to us through our friends and loved ones. Often we miss what God is saying to us because we're too close to those whom we love and respect. We don't recognize their concerns for us and for others who express the care God has for us and for others. Our friends and loved ones would never claim to be the voice of God but if we're honest we know God's love is often channeled through them.

God speaks to us through news events and social issues. If you can't recognize God trying to catch your ear through the horrors of Darfur or the articles in the newspapers about Global Warming then you've turned off your hearing aids. Those issues are full of God calling us to care about our neighbours in this global village we call our planet.

In other words God speaks to us through people - people in trouble, people trying to do good, people raising issues to challenge us to do better. Those people, speaking in various events, may not consider themselves God's media, but we know better and we'd better listen to what God is saying to us through them.



## HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

Garnet McDonald had one of the last mixed farms – perhaps the last – on Amherst Island. When I first came to the Island, Garnet was still milking cows and taking the milk to the cheese factory. Farmers had to decide in the early '70s whether to make large investments in buildings and equipment in order to meet the new requirements for milk production or to quit milking cows. Garnet was one of those who sold his dairy cows and started a beef herd. He and Gene also had hens, ducks, sheep, and a very good garden.

I moved to the Head in 1972 and have gone by Garnet's place thousands of times. For many years, one could go by at dusk or dawn and, as likely as not, see Garnet working away at something or other. In recent years, one could often see him cutting grass or moving hay or working on a fence or harvesting his famous rhubarb.

Over the years, I did some building repair work and some hay-ing for Garnet and got to know him somewhat. I came to appreciate his quiet humour and his self-deprecating cheerfulness.

He was a good neighbour and he'll be missed by those who knew him.

\*\*\*

The English River, after spending some time stuck in the ice at the Head – just out from the McMullen house – was broken out by an icebreaker on the night of March 26/27. The fog horn blasts from one or both boats during the night caused some disrupted sleeps.

\*\*\*

Its mud time again – that period between frozen and too dry.

Rain, as predicted, arrived for the 2 days of our first shearing. More will be expected for the next shearing in mid-April.

\*\*\*

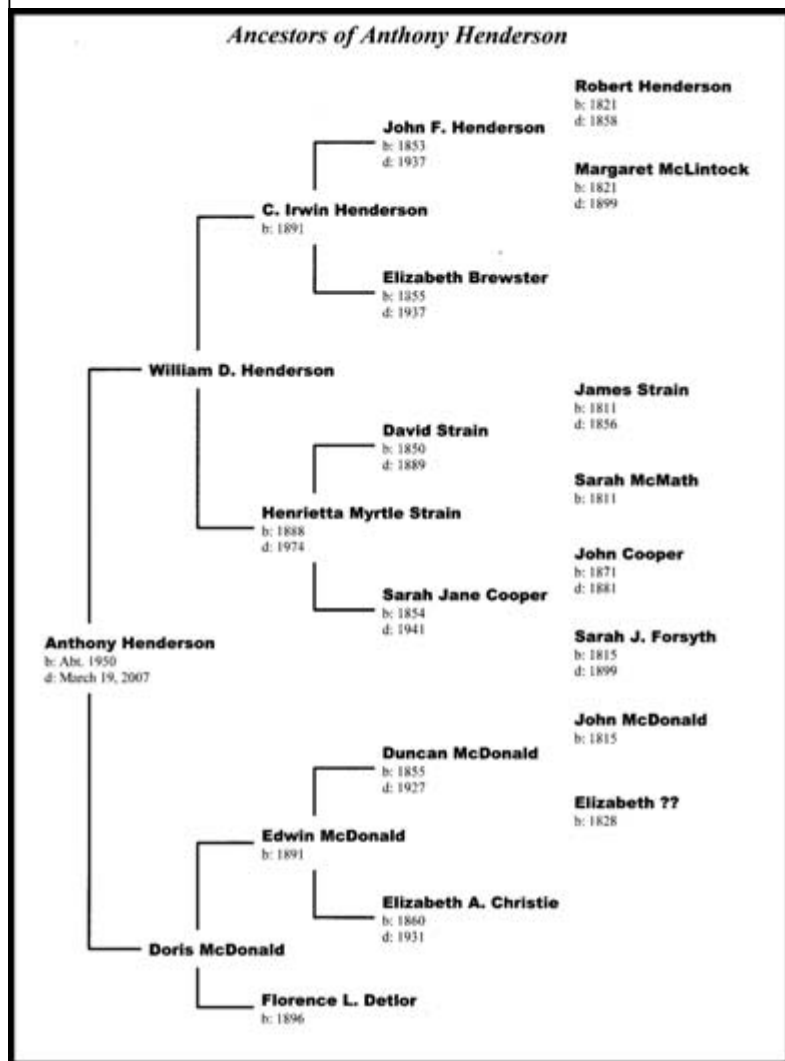
From 2006 Census Information:

- Population of Loyalist Township: 2001, 14,590; 2006, 15,062.
- Population of Amherst Island: 2001, 406; 2006, 450.
- Dwellings on Amherst Island: 2001, 264; 2006, 279.

## ANTHONY DAVID HENDERSON

Died March 19 in Grande Prairie, Alberta. Tony is the son of Doris (nee McDonald) and the late William Henderson.

He is survived by his mother Doris, his brother Richard and children Kerri and Ryan.



## CANADA'S NORTH

By Amy Caughey

The spring snow whips in the wind past the window of the women's shelter in Iqaluit. There is a blizzard brewing outside, but inside the coffee is warm and the couches are soft. Women sit in the living room watching their babies play together on the worn floor, talking among themselves in Inuktitut and occasionally checking the unwelcoming weather outside. For these women, the storms of life are not new.

Many of the women who come to the shelter in Nunavut's capital travel from smaller, fly-in only communities on Baffin Island and surrounding area. They often arrive with a cardboard box of essentials under their arm - and their babies on their back - to escape situations of family violence. The shelter has 21 beds to offer these women and their children. Most nights, all of the beds are full.

Napatchie McRae is the Executive Director of the Baffin Regional Agvvik Society, which operates the women's shelter. Recently, the Society lost funding and was faced with having to close the shelter; however, quick action by Society members and numerous donations of food and funds have allowed the shelter to remain open.

"We have enough money to operate now, but we didn't have money for anything extra for women and their children", says Napatchie. Funds donated to the Society (including funds raised by members of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church and community members of Amherst Island) will be used to buy the things that are considered extras: underwear and socks for women who arrive with nothing, toys and books for their children.

Napatchie is grateful for the generous donations. She also wants to use these funds to start a sewing program so women can make their own parkas and various crafts, which they can hopefully sell to earn some money.

Napatchie describes the women's shelter as a "place to be safe, and a place to move forward." She says it is where women can concentrate on "betterment of their life and the life for their children, and get back self esteem". The shelter also offers counseling services. Women can stay at the shelter as a transition to a place of their own, or simply be in a safe place for a while, before they return to their community.

Back in the living room, the women gather their children and move together to the communal kitchen for supper. Tonight, caribou is on the menu. A poster on the dining room wall reads in English and Inuktitut "Abuse is wrong in any language". For women staying in this shelter, the day has been filled with talking and tears, with laughter and with storms.

The blizzard outside starts to fade as night falls on the frozen tundra. Tomorrow, the forecast is for sunny skies.

(see photos next page)

PHOTOS BY AMY CAUGHEY



*BOATS—TAKEN IN MARCH.*



*HOCKEY—TAKEN IN SEPTEMBER.*

## DAVID MYLES AT THE LODGE



PHOTO BY BRIAN LITTLE

## NOTICES

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### UPCOMING CONCERTS AT THE LODGE ON AMHERST ISLAND

\*SAHRA FEATHERSTONE & JASON FOWLER - APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> "SAHRA IS ONE OF THOSE RARE MUSICIANS THAT BELONGS IN THE TRADITION, YET SOUNDS VERY FRESH AT THE SAME TIME. HER MUSIC IS EFFORTLESS, NATURAL AND IS IMBUED WITH HER LOVELY SPIRIT. JASON IS A GUITARIST WITH FLASHES OF BRILLIANCE ON A PAR WITH ROY COODER, DOC WATSON AND TONY RICE. A GREAT



I WANT TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO EXPRESSED THEIR CONDOLENCES THROUGH THEIR PRESENCE AND/OR CARDS RECEIVED AT THE TIME OF DAD'S PASSING.

HE TRULY HAD GOOD FRIENDS AND GREAT NEIGHBOURS.  
CAROL LANWALD



PHOTO BY BRIAN LITTLE

*STILL ACCEPTING MAIL—DR. LOVE!!!*

# ~ CLASSIFIEDS ~

## FOR SALE

### WI 2007 CALENDAR - HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

THIS YEAR'S CALENDAR FEATURES HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF OUR ISLAND. JOIN IN THE FUN OF RECOGNIZING OUR HERITAGE. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO COMMUNITY PROJECTS OF THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. CALENDARS ARE \$10.00 EACH. ENVELOPES @ \$1.00 EACH. POSTAGE @ \$2.00 EACH (IN CANADA). CHEQUES PAYABLE TO AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. SEND TO 2007 CALENDAR, 14005 FRONT ROAD STELLA, ON, K0H 2S0 (613) 384- 7830. OR CONTACT ANY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEMBER. ALSO CONTACT US ABOUT DANIEL FOWLER (ISLAND ARTIST) NOTE CARDS.

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### LANDFILL SITE HOURS

WED 11-2; SAT 10-NOON; SUN 2-4.

### FERRY OFFICE HOURS

MON, WED, FRI: 9-NOON & 1-4

FERRY FUEL-UP DAYS ARE TUESDAY AND FRIDAY (BE PREPARED FOR A DELAY).

### LIBRARY HOURS

TUESDAY 7-9PM, WED 10-NOON,  
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# ~ CLASSIFIEDS ~

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PHOTO BRIAN LITTLE

*ONE OF THE GUARD DOGS AT TOPSY FARMS PAUSES FOR A QUICK YAWN.*

The



Foot