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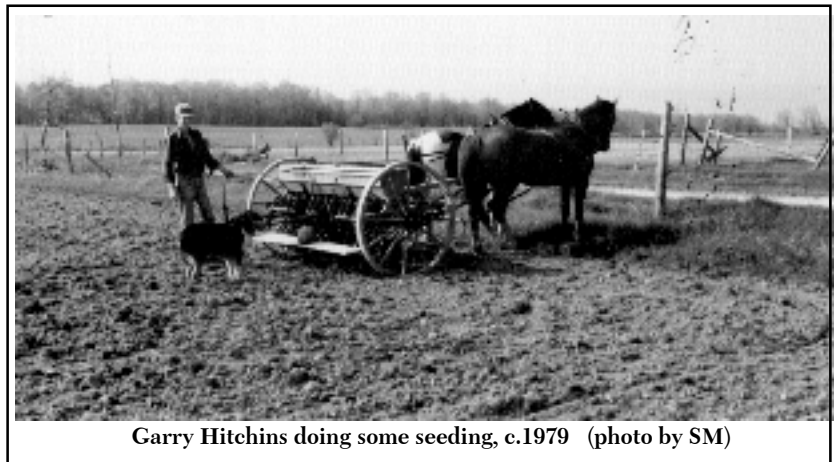
THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray

In this issue, as in most, there will be some genealogy information sometimes in family trees and sometimes in articles. Please, if you see any errors or omissions, let us know by phone, letter, fax, e-mail, or in person, so that the information can be made more

accurate. We would also like the opportunity to correct any other errors or omissions that appear in the Beacon.

The photos turned out quite well in the last Beacon. We can always use more. Photos should be clear and, for people, the closer up the better. We received several photos that had been copied onto a computer printer or scanned from an indistinct photo and e-mailed. While these photos look not too bad



Garry Hitchins doing some seeding, c.1979 (photo by SM)

held in the hand, they would not be clear enough to print in the Beacon even with Tom's skilful manipulations.

Our Beacon archives are missing the following Beacons from 1970: Issues 10, 11, 12 & 16. Ideally we'd like the originals if someone has extra, but if that's not possible we can make copies.

It is gratifying to see articles submitted by our local readers. The letters - turned into articles - from those who are looking at their Amherst Island roots are very much appreciated. The backbone of the Beacon continues to be the regular contributions from Lyn, Janet, Peter, Nancy, and others. And it's great to be getting material from A.I.P.S. The Beacon also welcomes articles pertaining to Island students attending other schools: separate, public, high schools, colleges and universities.

The unpaid position of Beacon reporter to Loyalist Township is still open to all qualified applicants.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

-Lyn Fleming

Condolences go out this month to Ray Duncan and family, following the passing of his wife Ethel. Condolences also to Lyle Jones and family following the death of his wife, Helen. Our sympathy to Maureen McGinn and family, whose father passed away in B.C. this month.

Get well wishes to Jackie Sylvester and Dave Heatt who are both mending broken bones. Also get well wishes to Lyn A'Court, Debbie Miller, Donna Willard, and Helen Trotter following stays or visits in hospital.

In our thoughts, Eldon Willard, Sally Bowen and Llew MacArthur.

The last month has been a busy one for 50th birthdays! Happy 50th to George Gavlas, Phil Silver, Bob Howard and Paul McCormick.

Congratulations to Freda Youell on the arrival of her new (& first) grandson. Eighteen month old Justin joined the family of Freda's son Peter and his wife Nora and big sister Emma.

Syke Fleming recently returned from a bus trip to

Branson, Missouri. Art Hitchins is driving a tour bus for Rita McNeil this month.

The annual Masquerade was an even greater success this year, thanks to the Island 4H clubs and leaders. Costumes on all ages from infants to senior citizens were amazing. It was a great night for young and old, participants and spectators!

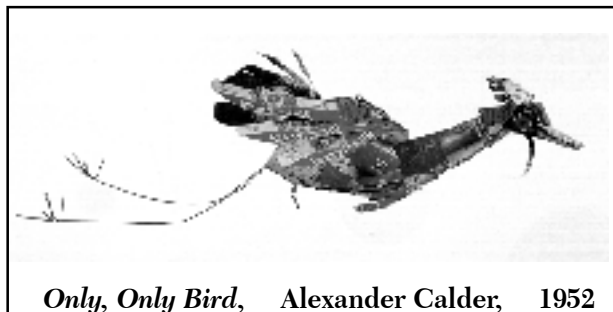
The community churches and the school all held Remembrance day services again this year and they seemed to be even better attended than usual.

November 24th was a busy day for Islanders. The PCW held their annual Tea and Sale. Lots of Christmas ideas were on sale and lots of goodies were sold at the baked goods table. Later in the evening the Amherst Island Recreation Association held their 2nd annual Community Bonfire. About 125 people came out for a visit and a cup of hot chocolate.

My favourite part of the bus route is on the south shore, where the scenery is never the same two days in a row or even from morning to afternoon! But now that the deer are coming out more, we are seeing them most days all over the Island and the last 3 weeks we have enjoyed watching the 7 tundra swans at the Foot.

JANET'S JOTTINGS

December



Only, Only Bird, Alexander Calder, 1952

Many people on the Island and among my wider circle of friends often leave phone messages about bird sightings that allow me to see a rare bird or an especially awesome sight or perhaps just to ask about a bird they've seen recently. I appreciate these calls as now that I don't get out and about as much I might otherwise miss that special bird. Thanks for thinking about me.

One of these calls initiated the following message, timely, for this blessed season of Christmas and I wanted to share it with you. I picked up my messages to hear Lyn singing to me about "Seven swans a-swimming" so of course what could I do but rewrite one more parody to that old Christmas Favourite Please sing along with me

The Twelve Birds of Winter

On a winter's day on Amherst you might likely see:

- Twelve Long-eareds lifting,
- Eleven short-eareds flapping,
- Ten Blue Jays calling,
- Nine mallards dipping,
- Eight Geese a-flying,
- Seven Swans a-swimming,
- Six Saw-whets sitting,
- Five Crossbills eating,

Four Rough-leggeds hovering,
Three Ring-necked Pheasants,
Two Mourning Doves
And
A
Snowy on a telephone pole !!!!

All of the above birds and more can be seen on a winter's day on our beloved Island. Thanks to Lyn and I hope many more got to see those "Magnificent Seven" Tundra Swans that sailed so proudly the waters off the North-east corner of Amherst Island. "The earliest record of the Tundra Swan in our region dates from the travels of Samuel de Champlain, who noted them near Loughborough Lake in 1615 Oct 28(Grant 1907). Bent (1951) documented the slaughter of this majestic species on its breeding grounds between 1853-1877, during which time at least 17,671 swan skins were sold by the Hudson's Bay Company for their breast feathers. It is not surprising that no more were noted in our region until six were found on Lower Rock Lake in 1932 Nov 27." (Birds of the Kingston Region by Ron D. Weir) Peter and Eleanor are faithful to alert me when the swans are in their bay.

Once I got to witness the spectacular flight of a huge flock of these birds in the Lake Erie area at Long Point and watched them glowing against a setting sun. One of those lifetime pictures you store away for another "Memory Moment".

Thanks to Shirley Miller I got to see a new bird for me. Shirley alerted me to the visit of some White-winged Crossbills at her feeder on the Third. It was a chilly Sunday so I dressed for bird-watching (I usually need several layers and toque and mittens) as I expected to be watching from a distance for awhile in hopes of seeing this highly nomadic bird at a brief stop on Amherst Island. Come on in says Shirley as you all know and there in the warmth of her kitchen with homemade soup, as well, I got my first sighting of this fascinating bird. It's fine beak tips are crossed and like scissors it neatly nips the sunflower seeds apart. The birds were no more than 15 feet away and there were three as I watched although Shirley and Keith had seen a redder one earlier.

Hawk watching and Owl watching is good as the vole population remains high and nothing tastes better than gourmet vole a la Amherst. Don't forget your sunflower seeds for the Attack Chickadees in the Owl Woods and enjoy those Winter Visitors at your feeders.

IMPORTANT BIRDING NOTE

January 5, 2002 will be the annual Christmas Bird Count for Amherst Island.. If you would like to help please call me at 389-4608. This is a morning of counting species and approximate numbers in a given area of Amherst Island and I can sure use the help and extra eyes. If you're at home that day please count the birds at your feeder and call in your numbers and location. If you are a new birder, don't worry you'll be teamed with an experienced birder and it's a great learning experience. Thanks everyone.



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

NOVEMBER MEETING - Nancy Dunn

Thirteen members and one visitor were treated to a fascinating presentation on the flora and fauna of our Island home by Tom Sylvester at the regular meeting of the Women's Institute held on Wed. Nov. 21st at 7 p.m. Tom told us about past and present types of trees, plants and animals and why there have been some changes. Rocky shores and old foundations encourage half a dozen types of snakes and as for those pesky voles, one of the reasons they thrive is that the raptors (hawks and owls) can't reproduce fast enough to keep up with them. Several members provided whimsical recipes for voles including one for "Vole au vent".

After delicious refreshments, some ingredients of which were grown in hostess Nancy Henshaw's garden, unmolested by rabbits or voles, Nancy presided over the business meeting. Reports were received from the treasurer and conveners of committees and final plans were made for the Seniors' Christmas dinner on Dec. 2nd at 3:45 p.m.. Two members had attended the 50th anniversary of the Grandview W.I. at Selby on Nov. 14th and gave a brief outline of the event...

Tom Richmond has offered to set up the addendum planned for the Island Directory which it is hoped will be published before Christmas.

The Christmas party will be held at St. Paul's Church hall on Wed. Dec. 12th at 6 p.m. The first meeting of the new year is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on January 16th, 2002 at the Ferry Office Hall. This is a change of venue from the printed brochure. The program will be on volunteering.
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ROYAL WINTER FAIR - Ian Murray

Topsy Farms had a booth at the Royal selling its sheepy products: 10 days, 116 hours. It was certainly a big learning experience for Leah and I and we hope to return next year.

Among the people we met at the fair: Wayne and Karen Fleming; Garry Hitchins; Caroline Ackerman and Peter MacKinnon; Ralph Morrow; the couple who bought the lot

west of Nick McGinn's; the son (and significant other) of the people who bought the French property on the Front Road; a young man from Napanee who works with Mike Strain; a cousin of Susie Caughey's; and, a WW2 veteran and his wife who knew Les Glenn from the war - this couple said that Les had introduced them and that they had visited Les and Irene on the Island.

There was such a variety of people passing by: many shapes, sizes, ages, and races. There were rural folks dressed for the city and rural folks dressed to tend their show animals. There were city folks dressed for a country event. There were the evening horse show folks in tuxedos and fancy dresses. There were kids running, wheel chairs rolling, and elderly people moving slowly.

The fair was not a land of milk and honey for many vendors: not much wonder when each day's headlines shouted out some bad news or other: loony hits record lows; thousands laid off; bombs being dropped; and, anthrax scares everywhere. Someone also pointed out that by the time a couple got through the door after paying for parking and tickets there was not much left from \$40.

Leah and I were both impressed by the friendliness and helpfulness of many of the other vendors. Their cheerfulness and interesting stories certainly helped pass the time when there were few people coming by the booths.

WATERSIDE SUMMER SERIES SEEKS HIGH QUALITY ENTERTAINMENT

-Inka Brockhausen

The Waterside Summer Series (WSS) organizing committee is already eagerly planning for the 2002 season. The music program for the summer of 2001 was considered another success, thanks in large part to the tremendous support of Amherst Islanders, their friends and visitors, and of 19 generous sponsors. As chairperson, I am grateful for a hard-working committee. This was the first year the WSS has been run as an all-Island event, with performers and audiences benefiting from two wonderful concert

locations, at St. Alban's and St. Paul's.

The WSS committee has redefined its goals this year. We strive to provide high quality music and entertainment for the entire community of Amherst Island, and to provide stimulating



"Stella Point"

an

AMHERST ISLAND

IN LAKE ONTARIO

AND BAY OF QUINTE

12 Miles West of Kingston

This resort will be open for fishing and vacation parties June 1st, 1945.

Lodge, Cottage or Cabin accommodation is offered.

Comfortable beds — all spring mattresses.

Good dining room.

Four to six roomed cottages.

Spacious grounds.

This district is noted for the best Black Bass fishing to be found anywhere.

Guides and baits available.

Good harbor.

Regular ferry service to mainland.

Rates \$5.00 to \$8.00 per person per day.

Write:

THE NEILSON STORE

PHONE No. 8

STELLA P.O., ONTARIO

and enjoyable events in a friendly and personal atmosphere. The variety of entertainment this year – classical organ music, traditional chamber music, swing jazz, Ceili music and a combination of comedy and music- was enjoyed by a wide audience of all ages, including families and those seeking excitement and challenges.

Another goal of the committee is to ensure quality performances at a reasonable cost. Any surplus fund, after all expenses are met, will be dedicated to attracting higher quality entertainment in the future.

I wish to give special thanks to the WSS committee members: Kirsten Bennick (publicity), Bruce Burnett and Andrea Cross (organization), Beth Forester (organization), Janet Grace (organization), Dave and Diane Heiatt (secretaries), John Schutzbach (treasurer), Bobbi and Michael Shaw (marketing), Dick Shurtleff (organization) and Jan Sneep (tickets). We look forward to welcoming several new islanders to the committee for 2002.

Also, many thanks to the support of Bernice Gould and Neil for delicious food in the intermissions, Alan Glenn for lending his trailer to ship the piano back and forth, and for organizing parking, to Mary-Liz Best for food and thought, to Hans Krauklis for walking flyers in Kingston, and to Peter Trueman, Stanley Burke and Peggy Coulter for much support and improvement of the obligatory Amherst Island Anthem. We are also grateful to Rev. Andrew Chisholm and Carol Finlay for supporting concerts in St. Alban's and Rev. Zander and Nancy Dunn for inviting the WSS for the first time to St. Paul's, and for a charming reception. Thanks also to Eric Friesen and Dr. Harley Smythe for interesting and humorous introductions, and to Jackie and Tom Sylvester for support and great parties!

Hope to see you all in 2002! Anyone wishing to share musical talent, please contact me at 389 3525 or Inka. JSBach@sympatico.ca.

AMHERST ISLAND NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

December 31, 2001

At the Community Centre.

Proceeds for The Neilson Store Restoration

Doors Opening @ 6:00 p.m.

Beef Dinner @ 7:00 p.m.

Dance Beginning @ 8:00 p.m.

Live Band

Dress Code Enforced

(Business Suits & Evening Wear Attire Only)

Tickets Now Available **\$50.00/Couple**

Contacts: Dorothy McGinn 389-2947

Ted Welbanks 389-1080

Bruce Caughey 389-2012

Janet Grace 384-0912

[Reprinted from BEACON issue #5 June 11th, 1970]

THE MILK STAND -Jean Tugwell

Our community is suddenly becoming dotted with shining new milk houses of various materials, steel, plywood and cement blocks. We wish these milk producers well in their stretching day into night to complete a big task. Their work is made lighter only by their anticipation of the bulk tank truck turning into the gateways and so eliminating endless can washing and a bumpy trip to the factory, minus breakfast. The present transportation rate is \$.27 per cwt, however the producer receives an additional \$.10 per cwt for his product. There are at present nine bulk shippers on the Island and several other milk houses almost completed. And so we are witnessing a new era in the milk industry!

DEATHS

ETHEL DUNCAN

- Janet Duncan

Ethel Duncan died on November 2, 2001, after a brief illness. Dear wife of Ray Duncan, mother of David Duncan (Karen), Cathy Woodworth (Bob), both from Nova Scotia, and Dr. Janet Duncan (Bob), of Syracuse New York. Grandchildren Scott, Brett, Amy and Evan will always remember their "Nanny".

A private memorial service will be held in Nova Scotia at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Lennox & Addington Hospital in her memory. The family wishes to thank Dr. Valli Hota of Napanee for her gracious and loving care. The nursing staff are exemplary models of service for us all.

Ethel will be remembered for her smile, wit, and love for birds and animals, and kindness toward others.

HELEN MARGARET JONES (nee Bilkey)

January 29, 1916 - October 21, 2001

- Dale Clement Jones

Mom came to the Island in 1925 when the fishermen from Main Duck Island bought land on Long Point. Her mother and father, Mary and George Bilkey, fished alongside the Welbanks, the Wemps, and, who could forget, Bob Smith. She attended school on the Island the part of the year when her family wasn't wintering in Picton. She made a life-long friend of Helen Caughey.

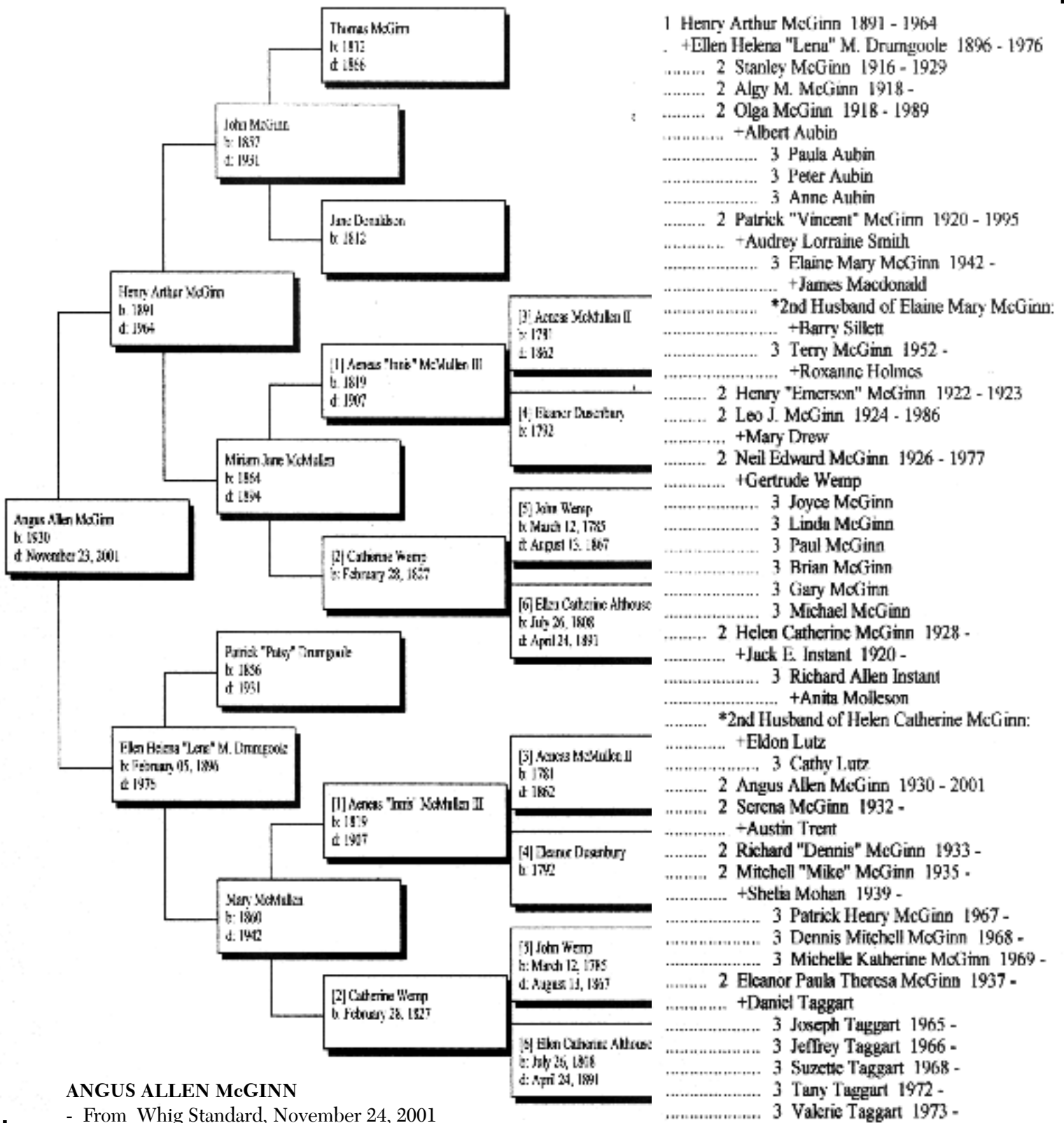
The family was joyful at the Islanders who came to her wake on October 24, enlivening it with the music she loved: Helen, Susan, Bruce, Allen and Bonnie Caughey, Dale Filson and Noreen Welbanks. Our thanks to Everett and Karen Doxtator for their fiddle music and guitar expertise.

Helen is survived by her husband of over sixty years, Lyle; her son Dale and his wife Sylvia and his daughter, Samantha; her son Blake and his wife Nona and their children, Lyle, Stuart and Sheila; her daughter Marilee and her husband Stefan and their children Daniel and Keegan.

My Mother loved the Island and passed this love on faithfully. My father's mother, Alice (Jones) Clement was born on the Island. 'Jane' is buried in Glennwood (her mother's grandmother?)

Ancestors of Angus Allen McGinn

Decendants of Henry Arthur McGinn



ANGUS ALLEN McGINN

- From Whig Standard, November 24, 2001

Passed away on November 23, 2001, at the Kingston General Hospital after a lengthy battle with cancer, in his 72nd year. Beloved son of the late Henry and Helena McGinn. Survived by: his sisters, Helen Lutz (Eldon), Serena Trent (the late Austin), Eleanor Taggart (Danny); and his brothers, Denis and Mitchell (Sheila).... Predeceased by his sister Olga Aubin, and brothers Stanley, Emerson, Vincent, Leo, and Neil.

FALL COLOURS - Zander of DUNN INN

Now that Autumn is over much of the colour has left The Island. But the Islanders are doing their best to bring the colours back. Nancy and I walk almost daily along the Front Road and the Stella Forty Foot and are pleased to report the exciting colours we see.

The beautiful brown of the Tim Horton's Paper Cups, the bright blue of the Pepsi cans, the rich red of the Coca Cola tins, the yellows, oranges and greens of the chocolate bar wrappings, the vivid violet of packing papers, the snow-like white of the Styrofoam cups and containers, the clear plastic of the water bottles (which reflect wonderfully the sun's rays) - all these colours brighten our days. Broken beer and rum bottles add a touch of danger to the colours they emit and thus make our walks into adventures.

How thoughtful of The Islanders to throw their colourful items out of their cars and trucks so they can land in the ditches along our roads and give colour to our Island at this drab time of the year. Throwing refuse into the ditches is so much better for The Island than putting it into garbage cans.

We are told that members of the Amherst Island Men's Society are going along the roads to take these colours away from us. Let's keep on discarding our colourful waste onto the landscape to give A.I.M.S. something to do.

On the mainland littering leads to a fine. On The Island let's show we're different by giving a prize to those to distribute the most colourful bits and pieces.

I would give the prize to the One who threw into a ditch a clear plastic bag full of all the colours mentioned above. The sun made that bag into a beacon reflecting all the colours of the rainbow. It was such a joy to keep seeing it day after day - until one of those A.I.M.S. guys took it away!

Yours for a more colourful Island

THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS WERE THE HARDEST!

- Jill Schatz

On November 3, 2001, Betty and Ray Feraday celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary surrounded by their extended family and close friends at the Bluffers Pack Yacht Club in Scarborough. As many of you know, Betty and Ray have been the happy owners since the 1950's of a farmhouse and acreage on the Second Concession. Betty has spent every summer at the farm for countless years as does Ray since he retired from his career as a Metropolitan Toronto police officer almost 10



Photo by Dick Dodds

years ago. In fact because of their deep and abiding love on the Island in recent years they have stretched their time each year on the Island far into the spring and fall months. Were their farmhouse better suited to face the winter months they would doubtless be up during the entire year.

Betty and Ray also reared their eight children: Raymond, Michael, Daniel, Marie, Stephen, David, Cathy and John, to have a lifelong love and commitment to the Island life where the children felt privileged to summer during their formative years. They were free to roam and explore the Island and its beaches by foot and bicycle each summer before returning to the rather less spacious confines of their house in downtown Toronto for the school months. As soon as school let out in June, the entire clan would be crowded into the family station wagon (in the years before seatbelt laws) for the long trip to the Island (Highway 2 in the years before Highway 401) not to return until September's shorter days and cooler nights fell.

Betty and Ray are now enjoying the fruits of their labours and are the devoted grandparents of fifteen (Christine, Maximilian, Kevin, Christopher, David, Michael, Danielle, Mark, Matthew, Lindsay, Alexander, Robyn, Melanie, Rebecca and James) with a sixteenth on the way in the New Year. The grandchildren all look forward to spending time on the Island each summer to revel in the outdoor life, to frolic with their many cousins and spend cherished time with their grandparents, affectionately referred to by all as "ma and pa".

Congratulations to Betty and Ray and we all wish you many more summers of peace and joy on Amherst Island!

With loving best wishes from the Feraday/Schatz Clan.

DIRECTIONS HOME,

My Roots on Amherst Island - Lee Dennie-Riggio



Diverging laneways off the Third... SM Photo

My roots begin with Antoine Denee Sr and Catherine Asselstine-Denee, their oldest son Thomas Denee and Jane McMullin-Denee and Alexander McMullin and Jane Houston-McMullin, my great, great, great and great, great grandparents respectively. About two years ago I had no idea who these people were or where they came from. I contacted Thomas Sylvester the author of the book "The McMullins of Amherst Island" got a copy of his book and found just about every Denee I'd been looking for. Since then I've wanted to go to Amherst Island to see for myself what their homeland was like. I contacted Thomas once again and I got more than just directions. He and his wife Jackie opened their home to my

husband and I and gave us the grand tour of the Island. We would have missed a lot if we had gone alone.

When we arrived at the ferry to Amherst Island in Millhaven and I saw the island for the first time from the mainland I felt a rush of excitement come over me and I was a little scared at the same time. I knew no one there. I felt as if we were invading someone's privacy. I had no idea what was ahead. We docked on Amherst Island and went to the General Store for our final directions. As we drove down the dirt and cinder road I could see the women of the early 1800's walking this road to the General Store in their long dresses, horse drawn wagons and children playing in a field of dandelions. I could feel the children stop and look up as we passed. It was a calming feeling and a welcoming feeling.

Our tour of Amherst Island took over four hours and I was wishing it would never end. We were taken to the "fishing village" on the Island's west end first. On the way we passed the Bailey home. I was wondering if this could have been the home my great, great grandmother Ann Jane McMann-Bailey lived in before she married John Robinson, my great, great grandfather. Ann Jane was married to Robert Bailey. Robert died in passage from Ireland and was buried at sea. They had two daughter's Mary Jane and Catherine Bailey. Mary Jane married my great, great, great uncle John Denee, the son of Antoine Denee and Catherine Asselstine-Denee. John and Ann Jane Robinson's daughter had been Agnes Robinson who married Thomas Denee, the son of Thomas and Jane McMullin-Denee. Thomas Denee had been a fisherman on the Island and when he moved to Cape Vincent, N.Y. around 1870 he continued that trade. Jane McMullin-Denee had died on October 20, 1852 after giving birth to their son Thomas Denee, my great grandfather. Thomas Denee then remarried to Mary Gault-McMillen, the widow of Robert McMillen. Thomas and Jane Denee's son Thomas was also a fisherman in Cape Vincent. I could picture the fishing boats on the lake heading home from a day of fishing with their catch and them hanging their nets to dry. There was Grape Island where Thomas Denee, the son of John Denee settled for a while. We also passed the one room schoolhouse where the Denee children attended school.

On our way back from the fishing colony we were shown the spot where Thomas Jackson had been brutally murdered with an axe. He had been a wealthy landowner and a "close friend" of my great, great, great grandmother Catherine Asselstine-Denee. Thomas said no one was ever charged with this murder. I wonder if any one from my family could have done such a horrible task. I guess I'll never know the answer to that.

We stopped at St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church and down farther to the home of the McMullin family. Thomas told us this house was built in 1843 and is still in the McMullin family today.

Further along we turned to the right and went onto to the former property of Antoine Denee, my great, great, great grandfather. There stood another beautiful stone house. I was surprised and very impressed when I saw it. It sits looking out over the lake through a row of trees toward Prince Edward

County. This house was built in 1843 shortly after the McMullin's home was finished. Antoine Denee lived in this beautiful house with his second wife Rosanna McMullin and their children. It was a large home but considering Antoine and Rosanna had 13 children I was wondering where they could fit that many children into this house. Even with its size it must have been rather cramped. I was also thinking how much I would like to be able to buy this house and bring it back to our family. I don't see that being done unless I win the lottery.

As we ended our tour and headed back towards Stella we passed the Robinson home, the home of John Robinson and Ann Jane McMann Bailey-Robinson. There was no time to stop, as we were all heading to the mainland shortly and I was out of film. I'm from a long line of Thomas Denee's, and today the Denee (Dennee/Dennie) family lives in Oswego, New York. On this trip there was no time for research or stops at the cemeteries, but I did take back home with me my very own piece of Amherst Island, a canister filled with island soil. For now that will keep me happy until my next trip home.

4-H NEWS

- Caitlin McDonald (with an addition by Susie Caughey)

The Junior 4-H Club has just completed a Photography Club. We called ourselves the "4-H Exposures". The members of the club were Candace Youell, David Albertan, Brendan Brady, Will Reed, Laurel Brady, Ashely McGinn, Talia Fleming, Beth Albertan and Caitlin McDonald. We enjoyed learning about cameras and photography. Peter Trueman was a guest speaker at one of our first meeting. He showed us some of his photographs. Mr. Trueman kindly agreed to judge our club members's photographs. We photographed various places on the Island including Owl Woods, the Ferry Dock, the Village, and the Back Beach. On behalf of the 4-H Exposures I would like to thank Mr. Trueman for helping us. A special thank you to our Club's leaders, Freda, Dave and Shannon Youell.

This year's Masquerade was a great success. The junior and senior 4-H Clubs thank all who attended this enjoyable event. Our judges (Laurie Willard, Bette Kelley & Wayne Gulden) had a difficult task, and they deserve our heartfelt thanks! Jim Whitton was on hand to defend his apple peeling skills in the mens competition, and Elsie Willard took top honours in the womens division. There were great pumpkin carvings & entries in the colouring contest. A very large donation of food& money was taken to the Food Bank from the admission & canteen proceeds. The 4-H sincerely thanks Laurie & Dave Youell for providing music, delivering to the Food Bank, & for their generous donation to our canteen from the AI General Store. Thanks to all from AI 4-H Members & Leaders.

FARMING & FISHING - Ian Murray

The fall field work is done on the Island. Seldom has there been such a dry fall. The first few inches of soil are moist but its pretty dry below that level. It will take a lot of rain to get the ground water up to its usual autumn height. Keith Miller says that he's never seen their creek so dry this late in the year.

Fortunately there has been enough rain, sunlight and heat for there to be enough fall pasture to ease the pressure on hay supplies. There are so many voles in the pasture and hay fields that it looks as if tiny rototillers have been at work

Despite the almost balmy weather that we've been having, it has been windy enough to cause problems with net setting and lifting for the local fishermen going after white fish. In this part of Lake Ontario, white fish are off limits until November when the weather is usually challenging and the price is not as good as it is earlier in the year. The amount of paper work required by government fishing regulations continues to grow and takes up a fair amount of time for each day of fishing.

AIMS

- Peter Trueman

The Amherst Island Men's Society (AIMS) held its regular monthly breakfast meeting at 8 a.m. November 10, in the St. Paul's Church Hall, where members heard the latest developments in the creation of a combination Museum, Gallery and Cultural Centre at the old Neilson Store.

Hugh Jenney, the Museum Committee chair, had good news and bad. The bad news was that the Township has turned down his request for a key to the store, on the grounds that AIMS won't be taking possession formally until next year. Hugh wanted to hire an animal control operator to get rid of the squirrels. The good news was that the Township would take care of the squirrels on its own, and repair roof leaks too.

David Brady, in charge of AIMS applications for government grants, found it encouraging that of the \$80 million available under the 3 year federal Cultural Spaces program, only \$1.2 million has been allocated in the first 6 months.

Don Pepper has prepared a detailed renovation program, and David estimates it will take \$128,000 to repair and set the building up the way we envisage. He says work could be undertaken in stages. Our focus, he said, should be to get the ground floor back to the original store format, so that the combined Museum space and Weasel and Easel gallery could be opened as soon as possible.

Up to 30 percent of renovation costs would be available if our Cultural Spaces application is approved, and up to 50 percent of the cost of fixtures, like original store counters and display cases. David believes we need to raise \$10,000 to \$15,000 for the basics, like re-painting the building and restoring the wooden floors.

So far, in addition to the museum and gallery, it has been suggested that the restored building might contain a re-created "heritage classroom" on the upper floor, and provide modest facilities for an Amherst Island natural history centre. It has been made clear to AIMS by Heritage Canada that the more that appropriate Island organizations can be persuaded to use the building, the better the chance of getting a Cultural Spaces grant.

Two AIMS members continued the tradition of telling the meeting something of their life stories and how they came to

be on the Island. Rev. Zander Dunn has been associated with St Paul's Presbyterian Church since he was a student at Queens, where he met Nancy, his wife to be. He told of his childhood in Guyana, and life in Canada as the son of a Presbyterian minister and RCAF chaplain. Zander also spoke of his association with the Island after he was ordained, when he was minister for both St Paul's and Trinity Presbyterian Church in Amherstview. This meant driving or walking the ice in winter, and Zander recalled his old car going through the ice on one occasion. Art Drumgoole pulled it out, and Clinton Kilpatrick got it running again. The Dunns have been back on the Island, in what was Don and Chris Gregg's house, for more than two years.

The second speaker, Bob Thompson, was born in Winnipeg and first got to know the Kingston area as an air force officer in training at RMC. He met his future wife, a Wolfe Islander named Corrinne, at that time. His flying career in multi-engined aircraft took him all over the Canadian North and to Europe and the Middle East. During the Suez Crisis in 1956, Bob was aircrew in "the flying boxcars" that flew supplies to Italy and then on to the Gaza strip. Bob left the air force to teach engineering at Seneca College in Toronto, and might have retired there if Laurene Kilpatrick, Corrinne's niece, hadn't phoned them about a shore property for sale on Amherst Island. In 1993, Anniversary House - named in honour of the Thompson's 40th wedding anniversary - was the result.

Bruce Burnett reported the AIMS roadside clean-up project had gone well. Each AIMS member took responsibility for certain sections of road, and only three sections were still unserviced at the time of the last meeting.

AIMS provides transportation, home repair, yard work services and care-givers relief for people who are too ill or elderly to manage on their own. For transportation services, call Ralph Woods (389-7235); for manual labour, call Allan Glenn (389-0214; or for care/company, call Peter Trueman (389-3548).

All Island men are welcome to join AIMS, or to look us over at a breakfast meeting. The cost of breakfast is \$5.00. The next meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on December 8, at St Paul's Church Hall. Allan Glenn will be the chair, & Gary McDonald, Don Pepper & Ralph Woods will be doing the cooking.

ROOFING - Ian Murray

In speaking with Reg Hitchins, I learned that Covertite has had a very busy season and expects to stay busy until real winter weather arrives. They currently have 3 large jobs going on at Cataraqui Town Centre; Dupont; and, Homestead Condos by Elevator Bay, and there is also work at CFC Kingston. Covertite now employs 8 Islanders riding in 3 vehicles each workday.

THANK YOU NOTES

A thank you to **Danny Taggart**, his brothers-in-law, **Denis and Mike McGinn**, and his nephew, **Peter Aubin**, for the great work done on the Catholic Cemetery fence. Danny, a retired dairy farmer from Wolfe Island decided that the cemetery where his wife's family was buried should have a new fence and he made it happen. The fence looks great and should keep livestock out of the cemetery for many years. -Topsy Farms

Amherst Island Women's Institute thanks everyone for their support over the past year and sends best wishes for a Merry Christmas and happy holiday season!

The Amherst Island Recreation Association would like to thank everyone who came out to the Community Bonfire. We had a better turnout than last year, and hope to have a better one next year. We would like to thank the Roads department for building and moving the "woodpile". Special thanks to **Alex Scott** and **Gary McDonald** and the Amherst Island Fire Dept., for all of the extra help they gave preparing and hosting the Bonfire, and for the use of the fire hall. Also to Gary & Alex who stayed late to douse the remains of the fire.



News From The General Store

Our movies prices have increased: for new releases the fee is \$3.50 & older movies are now \$1.49. We have in right now: SHREK - with the voices of Mike Meyers and Eddie Murphy
ENEMY AT THE GATES - Joseph Fiennes, Ed Harris
DR. DOOLITTLE 2 - Eddie Murphy
CATS AND DOGS.

We have many more to choose from.

Dec. 15 is customer appreciation day at the store and we would like to thank you all for your patronage and support though out the year. So drop in and join us for coffee and goodies.

Christmas is approaching us very quickly once again. Our hours will be as follows:

Mon, Dec. 24: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Tues, Dec, 25: Closed Merry Christmas:

Wed, Dec. 26, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Dec 27-Dec 30: Regular hours

Dec. 31: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Jan. 1, 2002: Closed, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!

The Pathfinders of Amherst Island have been invited by the Pathfinders of 79th. Reddendale to accompany them to England in the summer of 2003 . If we are to go this will require some rather aggressive fund-raising on our part . Already they have begun as you may have seen the girls out and about in the community doing odd jobs . If you can use the help of some of our girls please contact Val Wolfreys 389-8513 or Janet Scott 389-4608.

As part of our fund-raising the girls have planned a child care day at the Community Centre on December 8 . Many of our girls have taken the Red Cross Babysitting course and are capable and energetic . Do you need shopping, wrapping or baking time ? Maybe you need time for yourself.

Happy Anniversary Kitten

37 Years To Go

Love Bob

Missing Gate

The metal gate to our property at 2200 Front Road has gone missing sometime around the period October 31st to November 10th. I would greatly appreciate any help in getting the gate returned — no questions asked. Harold Redekopp, 389-5283.

Tether Balls At The School

Last spring the students at A.I.P.S. put on the musical "Clowns". With the money they made from donations at the door, a variety of new balls for the school were purchased. All three tether ball posts have had tether balls since the start of the school year. These are a favourite of students at all grade levels and are used every recess and lunch hour- until this last week. Over the weekend someone, cut all three tether balls down. They didn't want the balls, just to destroy property that wasn't theirs. The people that did this were not children. It's time the community stopped sitting idly by while vandals continue to destroy township and school buildings and property. It is hoped that a reward can be posted shortly for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the people responsible. It's time to take notice and report any suspicious vehicle or people to police, the township or the school. You can call Crime Stoppers anytime and report any crime anonymously.

I am collecting used stamps - any kind for the guide dogs, clean used clothing and books for the "Cats Meow". Used towels - cleaning products - A&P tapes and 12"x 12" knitted squares for the Napanee Animal shelter. Donations may be left in my front porch or call for a pick-up. Freda Youell - 384-4135 The animals really need our help.

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PHONE BOOK UPDATE

Please contact Jackie Sylvester at 389-1320 to add new names & / or numbers to the AI Phone Book