The

Amherst Island BEACON

Newsstand \$2.00

Issue 347

www.amherstisland.on.ca

February 2007



AIPS Wins First Volleyball Match at NDSS Tournament!!



PHOTO BRIAN LITTLE

THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

The Beacon will try to tread gingerly around the current ferry rate controversy. We will, of course, report the outcome. However, I do want to comment on 2 sentences that appeared in the Whig editorial on January 20.

"Years ago, the province operated all the ferries in the Kingston area. Amherst Islanders wanted – and got – control of theirs so that they could hire local people."

I have talked to several people who have been around this Island quite a while and who were involved in local politics and nobody remembers that the province ever operated an Amherst Island ferry. Subsidized yes; operated no.

The second sentence is also wrong. To say "Amherst Islanders wanted" is to continue the mythology that this community was once (or maybe several times) offered a free ferry or that the province offered to operate the

ferry is just not true. Certainly no written record of such an offer or offers has ever been found. There may have been discussions between civil servants/provincial politicians and Amherst Island council members but nothing of that nature was, as far as I can learn, ever brought out in a public meeting or in a council meeting open to the public. And, even if the council of the day decided not to have a free ferry, it would not have had anything to do with the hiring of local people as few off-Islanders would want to work on our ferry; it would have been to reduce traffic on the ferry.

If anyone can prove me wrong on this, I'll print a retraction in this space as soon as proof is offered.

THIS ISSUE:

A.I. Christmas Bird Count Page 3. Interview: Ralph Morrow Page 8



The Amherst Island Beacon Issue 347

Issue 347 February 2007

Published monthly, the Beacon is wholly funded by paid subscriptions and by copies sold at the Amherst Island General Store.

Subscription Rates:

Canada \$30,yr USA \$35/yr Overseas: Contact Us! E-Mail \$20/yr

February Printing 250 Copies

Subscription & Editorial

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Deadline for all submissions:

25th of each Month

Printed By:

Burke's Printing, Napanee

Credits:

Word 2003 Microsoft Publisher 2003 Pagemaker 7.0 Acrobat 6.0 Family Tree Maker 9.0 Microsoft Clip Art

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to Harry Filson, Laura Street, Marion Glenn and Dave Hieatt.

Belated congratulations to Sharon English and David Pickering on their recent marriage.

I missed some travelers in last month's column! Darryl Miller visited China for a couple of weeks, and enjoyed it so much he is planning a return trip!

Dick and Ardis Shurtleff and family took a pre-Christmas cruise in the Caribbean.

Bonnie Caughey and Susan Filson escaped some of our winter weather with a trip to Florida to visit family and friends (including Islander Elke Herrington).

Stephanie Fleming spent a weekend in North Carolina visiting friends.

Amherst Island Recreation Association has begun the Community Euchres. While the group changes some every week, everyone enjoys a fun evening of cards, visiting with fellow Islanders and lots of laughs!

We say good-bye to Jason, Ange and Tia Fleming, who have sold their Island home

and are moving to Bath.

The biggest issue on Island minds in the New Year is the proposed ferry increases. A public meeting was held in late January. The township presented lots of information, but as someone said, if you want to confuse and defuse - throw a bunch of graphs and charts up! It was a lot to take in. I am sure the township will get a new wave of suggestions and hopefully will listen to input from the community. It would have been nice to have had an MTO representative present - one that could actually comment and address certain issues regarding the ferry, but they seem to lay pretty low when ferry issues come up, and prefer to let the local government take the heat



PHOTO BRIAN LITTLE

BARB MILLER DELIVERS PAPERS ON AMHERST ISLAND.

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

My apologies for last month as it swept by with one thing and another and I missed the Beacon deadline. Over the years Ian and his faithful crew have been lenient with me but sometimes I just can't make that date. Thanks everyone!

The Christmas bird count was held on December 29th here on Amherst Island and as you may have heard we had quite a day. Thanks to the 25 counters and watchers who helped make it such a special day and my heartfelt thanks to Bonnie Livingstone who shouldered a lot of the hosting duties with me away in Calgary.

About 54 species were seen in total and most of the Island was covered. The absolutely thrilling moment was the return of Gaye and Betsy Beckwith and Jay and Bea McMahan with the report of a Three-toed Woodpecker at the western end of the Front Road. This woodpecker has three toes instead of the usual four and this was seen easily with binoculars. It has a yellow cap instead of the red cap as seen in the Downy. In Ontario this bird is usually confined to our northern Boreal forests and is a rare winter visitor. This was a first sighting for Amherst Island and a first bird for me. I once drove to Ottawa with the Field Naturalists in 1983 to see the other three-toed called The Black-backed Woodpecker so as you can imagine I was excited. We were all able to drive to the laneway near Chris and Dianne's Orchard House and see this rarity for ourselves. It was busily tapping and hunting for food on a row of trees along the fence line. While we watched a Hairy Woodpecker moved in and harassed the stranger until it moved further along the tree line but we were then able to see how its size was slightly smaller than our Hairy Woodpecker. I quickly forwarded a photo to The Beacon so they could see what all the fuss was about. Credit for that marvelous photo in last month's Beacon goes to Kurt Hennige of Owl and Feather Birding Tours, 581 County Road 4 Bath, Odessa, Ontario K0H 2H0. It makes my job of proving we saw the bird so much easier.

Other great birds were the Red-bellied Woodpecker reported by David and Betty Wemp, and the Marsh Wren seen by Gordon Forbes. We were able to get five species of Owls with Snowy, Long-eared and Saw-whet seen on the day of count and Rachel and Rebecca's sighting of Short-eared Owls on the day after. Raymond Wemp spotted his Great-Horned Owl but only the male so we fear something has happened to our village Momma Owl. Twelve species of ducks were spotted as well as more summer-like birds such as Golden-crowned Kinglet, Redwinged Blackbird and Song Sparrow.

Thank-you to the kind, unidentified Islander who reported a Great-Blue Heron to the spotters working along the Third Conc. We can always use your help.

As you have probably noticed lately the numbers at your

feeders have greatly increased. My Mourning Dove numbers have gone from 8 regulars to about 30. Coralee Marshall reports three separate dead Mourning Doves at her house. They sit quietly for a day and then die. Have any other feeder watchers seen this happening? The Cardinals seem hungry and are risking daylight visits to the feeder even when the Starlings are there. The Blue Jays are desperate enough to feed along side the Downy Woodpecker. Hunger has dimmed the lines between the social groups. I'm filling my hopper twice a day.

I'm off to the woods again now that I see it's daylight.

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT,

AMHERST ISLAND

Friday, December 29, 2006

- 1. Common Loon
- 2. Canada Goose 1820
- 3. Great Blue Heron
- 4. Tundra Swans
- 5. American Black Duck
 - 6. Mallard 461
 - 7. Northern Pintail
- 8. Green Winged Teal 1
- 9. Hooded Merganser 3
- 10. Common Merganser 139
- 11. Red- Breasted Merganser 46
- 12. Golden eye 679
- 13. Bufflehead 62
- 14. Gadwall 45
- 15. American Wigeon 7
- 16. Long tailed Duck 4
- 17. Bald Eagle 6
- 18. Northern Harrier 22
- 19. Red-tailed Hawk 22
- 20. Rough-legged

Hawk 43

- 21. American Kestrel
- 22. Ring-necked Pheas-
- ant 1
- 23. Wild Turkey (still trying to confirm with a sighting)
- 24. Ring-billed Gull 24
- 25. Herring Gull 32
- 26. Great Black-backed

Gull 2

- 27. Rock Pigeon 26
- 28. Mourning Dove 32
- 29. Great Horned Owl 1
- 30. Snowy Owl 5
- 31. Long-eared Owl 25
- 32. Short-eared Owl 12
- 33. Saw-whet Owl 1
- 34. Red-bellied Woodpecker 1
- 35. Downy Woodpecker 6
- 36. Hairy Woodpecker 2
- 37. Three-toed Woodpecker 1
- 38. Northern Shrike 3
- 39. Blue Jav 38
- 40. American Crow 26
- 41. Horned Lark 30
- 42. Black-capped Chickadee 117
- 43. White-breasted Nuthatch 12
- 44. Golden-crowned Kinglet 2
- 45. European Star-
- ling 2408
- 46. American Tree Sparrow 44
- 47. Song Sparrow 1
- 48. Dark-eyed Junco 10
- 49. Snow Bunting 4
- 50. Northern Cardinal 5
- 51. Red-winged Black-
- bird 2
- 52. Common Grackle 2
- 53. House Finch 2
- 54. American Gold-
- finch 12
- 55. House Sparrow 94

ROBERT BURNS DAY

- Zander of DUNN INN

January 25 is the birthday of Robert Burns, the poet of Scotland. Burns is venerated by the Scots the world over. And not only by the Scots. In many countries where the Scots have gone (such as Ireland, Canada, The United States) and in many more where they have not gone, the "Immortal Memory" is celebrated. Indeed, there is among those who love Burns such a devotion that it comes close to being religious. On Burns' birthday and on many other occasions, Burns is quoted, praised, exalted (I've already used the words "venerated" and "celebrated.")

Burns, according to his own words and the evaluation of others, was not a perfect man. He imbibed too much alcohol. He fell in love with several women and had affairs with some of them. Those who consider drunkenness and sexual transgressions the worst of all sins would condemn Burns. But, let me note, before I go on, that many would argue it was an excess of love (not hatred) which drove Burns to his sexual exploits.

I thought about comparing Burns with The Christ. Now, Burns would be the first to say he was not the equal of Jesus and might even have trouble admitting he was a follower of our Lord. Those who revere Burns would say such humility makes him even more endearing to them. My purpose is not to say Burns was equal to Jesus but to consider where it was they were similar.

First, Burns loved his country. His poems, stories and songs about Scotland bring tears to the eyes of the Scots and to the eyes of many others. Scotland was to Burns a gift of God. He celebrated its beauty, its charm, its hold upon the people. For Jesus, Galilee was a gift of God. He

speaks about the flowers, the plants, the trees, the fields, the waters when he tells his famous parables. For both Burns and The Christ, God's concern and salvation was for more than people - it was for the whole creation.

Second, Burns loved the church enough to ridicule it. Burns is famous for the ways he revealed the small-mindedness, the meanness, the cruelty of the Scottish Presbyterian branches of The Church. Presbyterian leaders were often dour, strict, unloving. Some people figure Burns hated the church - and that's why he attacked it. I think Burns loved the church, and that's why he took the time to illustrate its failures. In the same way, Jesus loved Judaism, the religion he practiced devoutly. He refused to let his faith be ruled by hypocrites or nit-pickers and so he blasted the religious leaders of his day for their small-mindedness. It was unworthy of God. Burns and Jesus were both religious men.

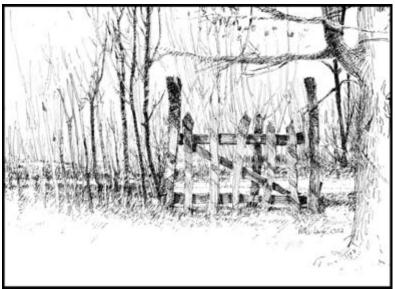
Third, Burns loved people. It was his love for people - especially women - that got him into trouble. Burns especially loved the little people, the maligned folk, and the marginalized in his society. His poetry is full of references to them. Jesus loved people at all levels too. But Jesus was, above all, concerned for the less fortunate in society. In his compassion for the lesser folk he ate and drank with sinners and outcasts. He spoke with, and forgave prostitutes. He reached out to the sick and demon-possessed and granted them new lives.

No wonder Burns is so highly regarded. Those who follow Jesus will find in Burns many of the same qualities of life and love they ascertain in their Saviour.



PHOTO GORD MILLER

ICE ON THE NORTH SHORE.



DRAWING BY PETER LARGE, SCA, OSA

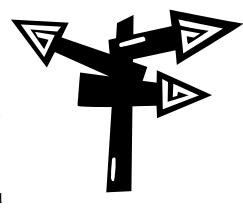
THIS GATE IS ALL THAT REMAINS OF A FENCE THAT ONCE SKIRTED A GARDEN AND FACED A ROAD BESIDE THE WATER'S EDGE.

HORSES TROTTED AND CHILDREN RAN HERE; THE SURVIVOR-GATE REMINDS US OF THAT TIME.

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

An article in the Whig stated that the Ontario Government has lifted the moratorium on school closings but there are strict rules regarding any closings.



Our Amherst Island

Public School is one of eight schools within the Limestone School District that are considered as 'prohibitive to repair".

The chair of the Limestone School Board says that all eight schools are safe and that the Board will continue to maintain them.

The Whig printed an article by Alena Schram just before Christmas entitled. "Exotic Yuletide Adventures". As usual, Alena writes with some humour about situations that must have been pretty stressful at the time. I hope that she continues to write about her family's many interesting experiences in places that I'd much rather read about than visit.

Canadian folk singer Bob Bossin's song "1800 and Froze to Death" got me curious enough to Google the title and here's the result.

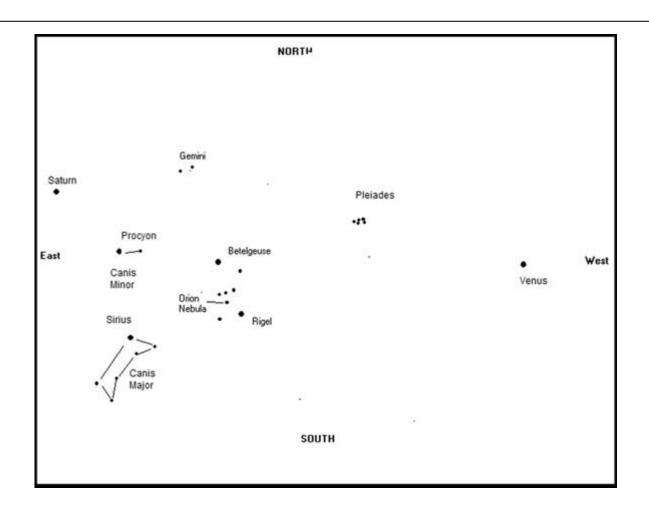
There were colder than usual summers in this part of the world and also in parts of Europe in 1811 through 1817 but 1816 was the coldest.

It is now believed that this cold weather was caused by several active volcanoes at this time putting dust into the atmosphere. The Tambura, Indonesia, eruption in the spring of 1815 may have been the most violent in the past few thousand years. It is estimated to have spewed about 8 times as much material into the air as the famous Krakatau eruption of 1883 and a great deal more than Mount St. Helene's did recently.

There were numerous cold fronts during the growing season which destroyed most of the crops planted that year. Food was scarce and prices high and there was much hunger and there were more deaths than usual due in part to malnourishment.

Congratulations to local resident Geoff Mathews who recently received the Winged Lion Award for supporting the Usury Free Community Currency Movement. Mr. Mathews is the editor and publisher of the Kingston Eye Opener.

Allen Caughey says that back when the cheese factories in Emerald and Stella were operating his father could name 110 farms that supplied milk for the cheese makers. With the Eves family selling their milk cows, there are now just 2 farms milking cows. There are getting to be a lot of empty dairy barns in Eastern Ontario.



FEBRUARY SKIES

- Alan Kidd

One benefit of winter is that its skies bring the brightest stars of the year. Orion is the most notable of the winter constellations, but Canis Major (just southeast of Orion) has the brightest star, Sirius, and the constellation of Taurus (just northwest of Orion) contains the Pleiades star cluster.

The Pleiades are almost directly overhead in the early evening. They are located on the other side of Orion from Sirius. They make a fine sight when observed with binoculars. The Pleiades cluster's five brightest stars form what appears to be the big dipper in miniature. Looking at the cluster with even modest sized binoculars will reveal many more stars scattered around this "little dipper", including a spectacular double star inside the dipper's bowl.

The other binocular highlight in the February sky is Orion's sword. The main attraction is the Orion nebula, M42, which with binoculars appears as a nebular mist surrounding three small stars. One of these points of light is actually a four star cluster called the Trapezium. The Trapezium is in effect a stellar nursery, with some stars within it only 10,000 years old.

After almost disappearing from the evening sky in December and January, several planets have now reappeared.

The most noticeable (especially in a small telescope) of these is Saturn. It is now in opposition, which means that it

rises at sunset and sets at sunrise. It is located near the star Regulus, in the constellation of Leo. On February 2nd the Moon shines just below Saturn.

Venus and Mercury can now be seen in the evening twilight. Venus is extremely bright and stays up nearly two hours after sunset. Mercury will be fairly prominent (although much dimmer than Venus) during the first

half of February. Mercury is at its greatest elongation (apparent distance from the Sun) on the 7th of the month, and doesn't set until an hour and a half after the Sun. The best time to look for Mercury is between 30 to 45 minutes after sunset.

Jupiter rises about two hours before dawn and so is quite prominent in the sky at dawn. Mars is just emerging from the morning twilight and is difficult to see this month.

On the chart I've added Canis Major and the Pleiades, as well as the positions of Mars and Saturn. The group of Orion and Canis Major can be found in the south, about one third of the way from the horizon to directly overhead, in the early evening (about 8 PM). The Pleiades are almost

VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

TO THE ISLAND

- Ian Murray



In a recent letter to Council, Judith Harrower listed the contributions of Amherst Island volunteers:

- Raised money to restore Neilson Store into a Cultural Centre and Museum
- Annual clean up of Island roads and public areas
- Assisting senior citizens, those in poor health getting to appointments
- Spearheading the hanging bas-

kets project

- Assisting seniors or others with home/garden maintenance
- Initiating the start of the Farmers' Market
- Purchased for the Community Centre:
 - public health approved dishwasher sound system
 - movie screen
 - kitchen equipment
 - trolley for moving tables/chairs
- Improved Township owned properties:
 - Centennial Park.
 - Stella Dock.
 - Glenwood and Pentland Cemeteries
- Major restoration of Irish stone fences surrounding Pentland Cemetery on three sides which would have cost, based on estimates, \$13,000
- Raising funds for restoration of headstones, \$14,500
- Donating land to Township for protecting stone fences
- Establishing organizations for Youth 4H, judo, Brownies/Guides
- Providing funds through Americks scholarships
- Funding school projects, hot lunches, trips, and to individual youths for registrations, fees, trips
- Providing access and maintaining paths for the Limestone School Board with their science trips for mainland schools
- Providing long term home assistance for elderly and invalids.
- Arts/Culture/Local pottery, artwork in multi-mediums with exhibitions, photography, reading clubs cooking classes, and initiating a renowned concert series Waterside Concerts, hosting numerous concerts for all aspects for music appreciation.
- Publications writers for plays, novels, local newspaper, local telephone directory.
- Establishing outlet for local artists to sell their work –

Weasel & Easel.

- Providing funds for Light Up the Season.
- Establishing a radio station run and operated by volunteers
- Initiating and running a variety of local fund raisers for all organizations including Youth, Religious Organizations, Women's groups, Men's groups, and school oriented projects.

To this list I would add the following:

Raised funds to build the Community Centre Raised funds for the playground equipment at the

Raised funds for the playground equipment at the school and did the installation.

Raised funds and built the rink at the school.

Raised funds for the defibrillator used by the First Response Team.

Individuals have, on a volunteer basis, taught at the school.

Individuals have also served on various Township committees as volunteers.

And there are Vicky Keith and John Munro who have raised a lot of money for disabled children.

Please contact the Beacon to add to this list as I'm sure it is still incomplete.

It should also be noted that many of the above accomplishments were assisted by funds from Loyalist Township, the Province of Ontario and, I believe, charitable organizations. There has also been considerable cooperation



INTERVIEW: RALPH MORROW

-Zander of DUNN INN

I discovered, with the help of Sally Bowen, Ralph Morrow, a native of Amherst Island who had left us many years ago. He lives today in Kingston near where Sally lived, and was her right hand man in many ways. He visited her, sterilized her feeding equipment and ran errands for her. His good works are not limited to Sally. He also helps an incapacitated gentlemen gain exercise and get around the city. Sally had already heard many of Ralph's stories and she wanted to get them down for posterity. As I listened and wrote, Sally urged Ralph to recount his stories again. Although he, in modesty, thought they were unimportant, both Sally and I figured his tales were good in themselves and well worth recording.

Ralph Morrow, was born on October 22, 1928. His parents, John Morrow and Annie Glenn were Amherst Islanders. His grandmother, Margaret Wemp, was married

...They put a can of gas under the car and lit it. It warmed up the car to the point that they were able to get the engine to start.

to Alexander (Sandy) Glenn, the first one buried in Glenwood cemetery, and after whom the cemetery was named. After Sandy's death, Margaret Glenn then married Sam Morrow. They lived at the west end of the Third Concession Road where Peter and Eleanor Trueman live today.

Ralph attended No. 5 School on the Third Concession where Paul and Carol Glenn now live. From there he went on to the Continuation School (since burned down) which was housed in the brick building in Stella, located where the Back Kitchen stands today.

When pressed to remember some of his school mates Ralph rhymed off the following names: Madlyn Kilpatrick, Dorothy McMaster, Hugh, Grace and Nina Wemp, Ken Reid, Jimmy Neilson, Anna Hitchens, and Shirley Fleming.

Among the teachers who came to mind were Nanetta Strain and Clarence Hogeboom. His aunts were teachers but, according to the rules of the day, were not allowed to teach in their home township. Many of the Public School teachers were fresh out of Normal School.

Special days brought back special memories. Before Christmas there was always a big Christmas concert at Victoria Hall at which every school put on a play. Songs, recitations and skits completed the program.

At Hallowe'en the boys always tried to move some machinery. One Hallowe'en night they took a cultivator and ran it down the road to Paddy Bill Fleming's house which stood on top of the hill near Marshall and Marian Glenn's farm - approximately where Darrel Miller built a house at 1605 on the Third Concession. The house had burned down and they dumped the cultivator on the old founda-

tion where it perched precariously. The danger of the situation scared the boys and they ran away.

Ralph has many stories about crossing the ice. Ralph's father had taken the family of four children over the ice in good weather to visit an aunt in Selby. Coming home it was blowing a gale. The old '28 Essex was unable to steer toward Stella because there was too much water on the ice. John Morrow headed for Fish Point where he managed to get the car up and over the bank. He had to drive toward the Roman Catholic Church where he had to break a couple of fence posts, and then drive over the wire to get to Front Road. A year later, when he visited the home of Willy and Freddy McCormick, John asked them if they

remembered seeing a car come over that hill. The McCormicks, who had never been able to figure out whose car had driven through their back fields, asked, "Was that you?"

Ralph remembers walking and skating over the ice to the mainland and back, many times. One year on the last trip of the ferry before freeze-up, he took the car over to the mainland. Ralph and his brother Carl later walked over the ice to Millhaven to drive it to work on the mainland. Later, when the ice became thick

Once, when the car wouldn't start because of sitting for a few weeks in the cold, they put a can of gas under the car and lit it. It warmed up the car to the point that they were able to get the engine to start.

enough, they drove the car on the ice.



PHOTO COURTESY MORROW FAMILY

JOHN, GLENNA AND ANNIE WITH THEIR MODEL T FORD.

In the late 1930's some stranded fishermen came ashore at night near where Donald and Sherry Miller live and tied their boat up across the dip in the road. Ralph's father drove his 1926 Model T Ford right into the rope breaking the rope and startling the driver.

Ralph's uncle, Wilfred Morrow, gave Ralph and Carl a '23 Chev he bought at an auction for \$12. They needed

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

horses to pull it home. They worked on that car until they got it in running order. It served them well for four or five years. During the war it ran on tractor gas because gasoline for cars was rationed.

Ralph's great uncle, William Morrow, was married to Elizabeth (Lizzie) who came straight from Ireland and she liked to throw parties. William Morrow had inherited the stone house, at the head of the Island where the Finlays live today, from his father who had shown him the original deed which had been written by hand on a piece of birch bark. In that big house one Christmas The Rev. Secker, the Anglican priest, and Mr. McCrae sent the kids to play at one end of the house. The kids were later called in to the



PHOTO COURTESY MORROW FAMILY

GLENNA, CARLTON, RALPH, WILMA (MIDDLE)

other end of the house to see Santa Claus (Mr. McCrae) who emerged from the fireplace all covered with soot, as if he had just come down the chimney to call on them.

In the frame house (where John Mayman's house is now) beside the Morrow House (now the Finlay house) lived George Howard, a bachelor. Ralph and Carl undertook to move George down to the McGinn place using a horse-drawn hay wagon. George's frying pan hung on a nail beside the stove, on the wainscoting. He never bothered to dump the grease before hanging it up, so there was a big stalactite with a pool of grease on part of the floor. The movers had to sit on the stove, which, because of their weight, broke a leg in the process. The last thing loaded was the chamber pot carried out at the end of a long stick, and hung on the back of the wagon. When Kate Drumgoole (who lived at the McMullen house) saw this sight going past her door she laughingly asked, "What's that?" pointing to the pot and Carl said, "That's the taillight."

George Howard owned a Chrysler car which Ralph remembers seemed to be taller than it was long. (*To be continued in the March issue*)

BIKE RIDE FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Hello

My name is Will Adam. Some people on the Island have already met me through my work with Turvy General Contracting. I live at Topsy Farms and have been a friend of Jacob and Kyle Murray for about 10 years.

My momma has multiple sclerosis. She was diagnosed 12 years ago.

I've wanted to help her and also other families in our position.

I hope to travel by bicycle, alone, across Canada this summer, to help raise funds. I will leave from Meat Cove Bay, N.S. (the eastern tip) and will travel west, aiming for north of Vancouver.

For people interested in helping, details on where to send donations will be published in next month's issue of the Beacon, as well as some further information about the ride

It would help families with a similar struggle.

Thank you.



A LETTERS

My name is Glenn Sheil and I have fond memories of "The Island" having been principal for seven years at the school and my family living for some time in the Anglican Church Manse!

The creation of "The Beacon" and the many volunteers and contributors will always be a landmark in my personal history! I am delighted to find it up and going.

Congratulations! "You've come a long way "Baby"!!

[Glenn started the Beacon in 1970 when he was principal of the school and a member of council.]

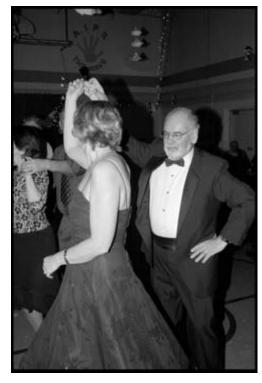
New Year's Eve in Amherst Island Fashion



DANCING THE GAY GORDON



Andrea Cross and Bruce Barnett



LAURIE KILPATRICK AND JOHN MOOLEN-BEEK



VICKI KEITH AND JOHN MUNROE



JOYCE AND ROSS HAINES



JUDI GOULD



BARB HOEGENAUER AND TERRY CULBERT

ALL PHOTOS BRIAN LITTLE

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

Council has decided to eliminate the annual spring cleanup and replace it with nine large item disposal days. There was a recorded vote of 4 to 3.



A bench will be installed this spring in the passenger shelter at Millhaven as requested by Island resident Doug Lamb.

The budget is such a large and complicated subject – the focus of much Council and staff time – that I am unwilling to put the time and effort into: (a) studying it; and, (b) explaining it here in a meaningful way. This job remains open for a willing and capable volunteer. All budget meetings are open to the public.

"Councillor Ashley congratulated Edgar & Marg Mooney on their 50th anniversary which was August 25th."

Ducks Unlimited has agreed to contribute \$5000 to the \$29,500 acquisition costs of the 9.2 acres purchased from William Brown on the 3rd Concession.



PHOTO BRIAN LITTLE

MARATHON SWIMMER JENNA LAM-BERT SINGS AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH



PHOTO BRIAN LITTLE

KEITH MILLER AND HIS CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE DUMP

BOOK REVIEW

- Hugh Jenney

Have you read any good books lately? I just finished Dr. James Lovelock's, "The Revenge of Gaia". A small book, simply written, but with a heavy message. Gaia is the Greek goddess who personifies Mother Earth. Gaia is sick and getting sicker and we all know why.

It is an interesting hypothesis which is slowly becoming an accepted theory. The hundred miles of atmosphere and the flora and fauna it sustains interacts as a living organism. Much like our own bodies which fight off viruses with fevers and cool us down with perspiration, Gaia is trying to keep our world regulated so that we may all flourish.

This is a tough balancing act considering the fact that our sun is getting hotter-25% hotter than 55 million years ago. Throw in six billion people who are doing their best to destroy Gaia's ability to continue and we have a recipe for cooking us all.

Just Google "James Lovelock" for more info.

AIMS

- Hugh Jenney

Thanks to our calling committee members, Allan Glenn, Peter Moes and Ralph Woods, 29 men sat down to a delicious breakfast prepared by Saskia Wagemans.

Ralph Woods brought a friend from his new condo building, Maynard Slack. Others are encouraged to do likewise. The guest does not pay. We hope he will join next time.

Business arising from the minutes: Brian Little reported that the Dickens Reading was so successful that we were able to donate over four hundred dollars to ISLE.

John Munro reported that the New Year's Dinner & Dance was a huge success party wise and that AIMS netted close to one thousand dollars. Congratulations to all who helped. A special thank you went out to Andrea Cross and our No. 1 draw ticket seller, Paul Lauret.

A discussion followed about raising the price, but it was decided that \$50/couple would maintain the affordability for all Islanders and loosen the purse strings for raffle tickets, etc.

Allen Caughey brought up the swings issue. Brian Lit-



tle wrote Pat Beyer about the matter. Pat has agreed to take it up with his committee. We have agreed to move the horseshoe pit if that is what it takes to get the swings relocated.

It was agreed that AIMS support a Sock Hop fundraiser for the AI Radio Station.

Brian Little volunteered to show Al Gore's documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" at the end of March in the AI Recreation Centre. We all agreed that we

would like to see it then.

AIMS received a \$500 receipt from the Y and Jenna Lambert sent a note thanking us for supporting her cross lake swim.

Guest Speaker, Judith Harrower talked about the AI Ferry deficit and the resulting increase in our fees and taxes.

The breakfast was late so Judith was invited to partake and she was thanked for all her hard work.

I leave you with Keith Miller's famous quote, "I've never yet seen a mouse kill a man."



PHOTO BRIAN LITTLE

AIMS DICKENS READING BACK ROW: DEB KIMMETT, VICKI KEITH, FRONT\ ROW: J.C. KENNEY, LARRY HAY, AND PETER TRUEMAN

WINTER IMAGES FROM AROUND THE ISLAND PAST & PRESENT



PHOTO HOWARD COCHRANE

ABOVE: TUG ASHTABULA COMING IN DISTANCE. PHOTO TAKEN LOOKING NORTH EAST FROM EAST SHORELINE OF DOCK—STERN OF AMHERST ISLANDER ON LEFT



PHOTO HOWARD COCHRANE

ABOVE: CLOSE UP OF TUG AS IT NEARS AMHERST ISLAND



PHOTO HOWARD COCHRANE

TUG SECURING LINES ON BOW OF AMHERST IS-LANDER FOR TRIP TO KINGSTON.

A NOTE ABOUT THE PHOTOS OF THE AMHERST ISLANDER: THESE ARE ACTUAL PHOTOS OF THE EVENT DESCRIBED IN ARTICLE PRINTED IN JANUARY 2007 BEACON TITLED: "FIGHT TO CLEAR FERRY—MAURICE HOGEBOOM". THESE PHOTOS WERE TAKEN IN THE EARLY 1950'S. THANK YOU TO HOWARD COCHRANE FOR PROVIDING THESE PHOTOS.

[Howard is the son of Billy Cochrane who was the ferry captain when Eldon Willard started on the ferry.]



PHOTO BRIAN LITTLE



ABOVE: PHOTO GORD MILLER



PHOTO BRIAN LITTLE

Sometimes even the snowplows get in a little too deep!



ABOVE: PHOTO GORD MILLER



PHOTO BRIAN LITTLE



CONNIE AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FIRST RESPONSE TEAM FOR COMING SO QUICKLY FOR OUR MOM WHEN SHE NEEDED YOUR HELP SO MUCH.

WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE PEOPLE THAT ARE TRAINED TO HELP IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SAY A SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO EARL WILLARD AND CREW FOR MAKING A SPECIAL FERRY RUN DURING THE NIGHT TO ALLOW THE FAMILY TO GET TO THE HOSPITAL. THE FAMILY APPRECIATES THAT VERY MUCH.

THANK YOU

TESSA MAYMAN & CONNIE FREE

THE SENIORS WOULD LIKE TO THANK AIMS AND THEIR HELPERS FOR THEIR WARM WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR'S DINNER AND DANCE. THE RED ROSES PRESENTED TO THEM WERE GORGEOUS; THE DINNER WAS DELICIOUS, AND THE MUSIC WAS GREAT!

What a lovely way to begin 2007 holding the hands of our families and friends as we sang "Auld Lang Syne"!

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FIRST RESPONSE TEAM FOR COMING TO HARRY'S AID SO QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY; ALSO, THE AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS.

MANY THANKS TO OUR NEIGHBOURS FOR BEING SO CARING, AND OUR FAMILY FOR ALWAYS BEING THERE FOR US.

AGAIN THANK YOU.

BARB AND HARRY FILSON

ACW BEEF DINNER

Saturday March 24th, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Community Centre. Adults-\$12.00, Children ages 6-12-\$6.00 and Children under age 6-Free. Advance Tickets only will be sold. For tickets call 389-4874 or 389-4327

NOTICES

UPCOMING CONCERTS

THE LODGE ON AMHERST ISLAND IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ITS WINTER/ SPRING CONCERT SERIES FOR 2007. CON-SISTING OF FOUR CONCERTS, THE SERIES WILL FEATURE GREG HOBBS (APPEARING AS A PART OF A TRIO) ON FEBRUARY 17TH; DAVID MYLES ON MARCH 17TH; SAHRA FEATHERSTONE AND JASON FOWLER ON APRIL 28TH. THE FOURTH CONCERT OF THE SERIES IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 16TH WITH DEVON SPROULE. EACH CONCERT BEGINS AT 7PM WITH AN OPENING ACT, AND THE HEADLINER APPEARING AT 7:30PM. SIN-GLE CONCERT TICKETS ARE \$15 IN AD-VANCE, OR \$20 AT THE DOOR. TICKETS FOR THE ENTIRE CONCERT SERIES CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE SPECIAL PRICE OF \$50. FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO PUR-CHASE TICKETS, PLEASE CALL (613) 634-1855, OR TOLL-FREE (866) 552-3535. YOU CAN ALSO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.AMHERSTISLAND.ON.CA/THELODGE.

THE LODGE HAS MADE A COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING EMERGING MUSICIANS, SO EACH OF OUR CONCERTS WILL FEATURE A YOUNG ONTARIO ARTIST AS AN OPENING ACT.

*Greg Hobbs - February 17th "He has played gigs with Fred Eaglesmith, Victoria based country-diva Carolyn Mark, Blue Rodeo's Bob Egan, and True North artist Joel Kroeker...It's the true sign of a good lyricist when he makes you want to quote him in your own conversation." Opening for Greg Hobbs is Meredith Luce.

*David Myles - March 17th "Costumed in the gladrags of blues, roots and folk, 2006 Canadian Folk Music Award's Best New/Emerging Artist nominee David Myles' songs are infectiously hummable. His latest album "Things Have Changed" combines soul inspired horns, skilled finger-picking, and rich vocals." Opening for David Myles is Carmen Elle.

*Sahra Featherstone & Jason Fowler - April 28TH "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 find." Opening for Sahra and Jason is Ariana Gillis. June 16TH - Devon Sproule

NOTICES

UPS

NOW DELIVERING AND PICKING UP ON THE ISLAND: MONDAY – FRIDAY, EXCEPT FOR MAJOR HOLIDAYS.

CONTACT SUPERVISOR, SEAN LE, OR DELIVERY PERSON, TODD DOUGALL, AT (613) 549-7872.

PLEASE CALL 1-800-742-5877 FOR RATES. ALSO A CALL AHEAD OF TIME TO SEAN OR TODD WOULD BE APPRECIATED.



- LYN FLEMING

The Senior class at A.I.P.S. Would like to invite you to come to our Heritage Fair. It will be held on February 15th. The students will present their Heritage projects in the gym at 1:00 p.m., and everyone is welcome to come see the presentations and ask questions. Primary students will have their heritage work on display as well. The projects will be judged and certificates and prizes awarded at 2:30 p.m.

HEART MONTH

FEBRUARY IS HEART MONTH, AND THE AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE IS AGAIN SPONSORING A MAIL-OUT TO ISLAND HOMES FOR THE LOCAL BRANCH OF THE HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO. THIS IS THE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR THE KINGSTON, FRONTENAC AND LENNOX AND ADDINGTON AREAS.

YOU WILL RECOGNIZE THE REQUEST FOR THIS LOCAL CAUSE BY THE RED DOT ON THE ENVELOPE.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS TO MARY KAY STEEL, SECRETARY, WI, (613) 634-9772.

~ 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, KOH 2S0 (613) 384- 7830. OR CONTACT ANY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEMBER. ALSO CONTACT US ABOUT DANIEL FOWLER (ISLAND ARTIST) NOTE CARDS.

THESE CALENDARS MAKE WONDERFUL GIFTS. THEY ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE AMHERST ISLAND GENERAL STORE AND THE VICTORIA HALL CRAFT AND TEA ROOM.

LOT FOR SALE ON AMHERST ISLAND

WATER VIEW AND WATER ACCESS APPROVED FOR BUILDING AND SEPTIC WELL AND DRIVEWAY INSTALLED CALL: 613 389 4143



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, FRIDAY 1-3PM.

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Do you recognize anyone in this photo?



This photo was found in the old McCormick house on front road (where terry and lily horner have now built). The Beacon Staff are curious if anyone knows anything about this photo, or can identify anyone who is in it. Please e-mail aibeacon@sympatico.ca or call 613-389-3802 if you have any information.