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THIS ISSUE



Ian Murray

The November Beacon is available on-line at www.amherstisland.on.ca.

The December Beacon should be up-loaded soon and, in time, back issues will be on the web site. The post mistress, Laurie Youell, has determined that a 6-page Beacon -12 sides- can be mailed without increasing the postage. Last month's issue could have gone to 2 more pages as we left out one article and there were very few photos.

This issue is a bit light on current articles - the holiday is a busy time- so we've included some material from L&A Museum's "Born on the Island" - a very interesting look at Amherst Island from 1878-1896. This publication contains information from the 1891 Census and Amherst Island births 1878-1896. Those interested in Island history will certainly enjoy this publication. The missing Beacon issues mentioned in the last Beacon are being supplied to us by Garnet McDonald.

Our copy of Issue # 17, August 1, 1979, appears to be missing at least one page. The copy we have has a title page, a page containing the first part of an article by A. Bruce Caughey and a second page with a snarky note on it. Please let me know if you have more than this. Is so, can we make a xerox of what is missing?

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Some new additions to Island families this month. Congratulations to Laurie LeBlue and Nick McGinn on the birth of their son earlier in December. A brother for Andrew and Dana. Congratulations to Bruce and Susan Caughey on the birth of their 2nd grand-daughter born to



Winter on the South Shore

SM photo

daughter Lori and her husband Ben, a sister for Abby. Congratulations also to Sheila and Peter Whiting who became grandparents in December.

Condolences to Caroline Yull and family, following the passing of Llew MacArthur.

Condolences to Peter Wittveen, who recently lost his last surviving sibling when his younger sister passed away in Holland.

Congratulations to Ray Koenders, who was recently recognized by the Catholic Church, in a special service at Amherstview, for the years of help and support he has given the church.

A.I.P.S. held a Christmas dinner for family and friends of the school. About 100 people sat down to a traditional turkey supper, prepared and served mainly by students and staff.

Well, since last month when I mentioned that there were 7 swans at the foot, their numbers had grown to 17 during the month of December. But I haven't seen any the last week or so.

I hope everyone has had a happy and safe holiday with family and friends. Best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

Ameriks Scholarship Fund in Memory of A.I.Reeve Frank Fleming: An amount of \$444.70 has been awarded to the following post-secondary students:

Jill Caughey, University of Guelph

Stephanie Fleming, St. Lawrence College

Jessica Gavlas, Brock University

Bonnie Marshall, York University

Scott Marshall, St. Lawrence College

Sara Pollock, University of Ottawa.

Budget 2000, Outstanding Items:

South Shore Road - New Alignment: Of the \$30,000 budgeted, only a small amount of surveying was completed during the 2001 year. This project was deferred mainly due to workload issues.

Stella Dock Improvement: Some initial detailed inspections were undertaken in late 2001. The actual design work was not completed in 2001 and will be re-budgeted for 2002. Costs to date are \$5000.

Budget 2001:

If anyone is interested in following Council's progress through the budgeting process on Island related matters, the job is definitely open.

Cemetery Committee:

During 2001: there were 8 burials and 2 graves sold in Glenwood Cemetery; there was one burial in Pentland Cemetery; the new computer program will allow for information on those interred to be available when required.

Bruce Caughey reported that the Work Fare Program has improved Glenwood and Pentland Cemeteries by cutting down trees. He is extremely happy about the purchase of the computer program. Information will be added for Glenwood, Union and Pentland Cemeteries.

Miscellaneous

The Weasel & Easel lease has been extended.

Councillor Ashley noted that there was a bonfire held last Saturday at the Amherst Island Fire Hall to celebrate having the Frontenac II as a permanent ferry.

Councillor Ashley advised that a certificate of appreciation was presented by the Ontario Field Ornithologists (aka Birdwatchers) to Loyalist Township Council in recognition for the maintenance of the habitat for wintering owls at the Owl Woods and allowing visitors access

to see the owls. He noted that a certificate of appreciation was also presented to the Ferry Crew for assisting birdwatchers to see the Ivory Gull during January 2001. Certificates were also presented to Rod Barr and Paul and Gwen Lauret, neighbouring property owners to the Owl Woods.

Neilson Store Fundraiser

Council is putting \$2000 into the Neilson Store account to be used as start-up funds for the 2001 New Year's Eve Dance.

Frontenac II Backup Vessel- from a Jim Guest memo

"MTO has dedicated the Quinte/Loyalist as our backup boat and has designed and started construction of modifications to this boat in order to adapt it for the Amherst Island route.

The Quinte/Loyalist is currently at dry dock in Hamilton for work including the addition of a side-loading ramp, installation of new, more powerful engines, aqua masters [the toggles that steer the ferry], some hull work, and a wheelhouse modification.

The Quinte/Loyalist is approximately the same size as the Amherst Islander. At present, there are no adequate crew quarters on this boat and there is very little passenger shelter. The use of this replacement ferry will require the Township to place certain restrictions on large vehicles, including tandem trucks and full sized school buses."

Emergency Plan 2002

Each year the Township's Emergency Plan is reviewed and revised as necessary. This appears to be a very comprehensive document and includes a new section Terrorism Overview. Most of the Plan lays out who is responsible for what in an emergency. Annex "C" is a Vital Services Directory which is a very comprehensive listing of all those who could help in an emergency within Loyalist Township. Reflecting our complex society, there is an astonishing range of services available should an emergency develop. Among the services are: Canadian Forces; ambulance; chemical spills information; OPP diving; Mutual Aid from neighbouring fire departments; heavy equipment suppliers; Canadian Coast Guard; news media; bus companies; and so on.



- Lyn Fleming

The students and staff served a turkey dinner to our family and friends at the school in December. There were about 100 people. The students baked cookies, made the decorations and helped serve. Following the meal, the students entertained their guests with some Christmas songs that they had been rehearsing for weeks. The senior class also played their recorders.

We would like to thank and recognize the community groups and businesses that helped in many ways to make our dinner a success. Thanks to Ernestown Secondary School, A.I. Women's Institute, St. Alban's ACW, Bath Food Town, A.I. Rec Association, and Napanee A&P.



Barn at the
corner of the
Second Concession
& the Emerald
Fourty Foot

SM Photo

Congratulations to the following students who received December Recognition Awards.

Intermediate Academic- David Albertan

Junior Academic- Brittany Sneep

Primary Academic- Chelsea Sneep

Kindergarten Academic- Brandon Reid

Citizenship Awards went to:

Senior Class- William Reed

Justin Hutchings

Primary Class- Fae MacArthur

Kindergarten- Shelby Neville

Congratulations all. The students and staff at A.I.P.S. would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone Happy Holidays.

COOK'S CORNER

- Dianne Marshall

I recently came across a wonderful web site named www.epicurious.com. This site contains thousands of recipes from a variety of places such as Gourmet magazine. There are also comments and of course ways in which the recipe was varied by those who tried it. The recipes are also rated as to whether the cooks would make the recipe again.

The following recipe for Mincemeat Muffins would have been made again by 100% of the cooks who tried it. I would have to agree.

MINCEMEAT MUFFINS

- 1/2 cup pecans
 - 1 apple
 - 1 large egg
 - 3/4 cup apple juice
 - 1/3 cup vegetable oil
 - 1 1/3 cups bottled mincemeat
 - 2 cups all-purpose flour
 - 1 tablespoon baking powder
 - 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 - 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- For glaze:
- 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar

1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

3 to 4 teaspoons apple juice

Preheat oven to 400°F and grease twelve 1/2 cup muffin cups.

Finely chop pecans. Peel apple and cut into 1/4 inch dice. In a bowl whisk together egg, juice, and oil and stir in mincemeat and apple. Into a large bowl sift together flour, baking powder, and cinnamon and whisk in sugar. Add mincemeat mixture and pecans and stir batter until just combined. Divide batter among muffin cups and bake in middle of oven 20 minutes, or until a tester comes out clean. Turn muffins out onto a rack and cool 5 minutes.

While muffins are cooling, make glaze:

In a small bowl whisk together confectioners' sugar, cinnamon, and 3 teaspoons juice until smooth, adding enough of remaining teaspoon if necessary to make a spreadable glaze.

Spread glaze over tops of warm muffins. Serve muffins warm or at room temperature. Muffins may be made 3 days ahead and kept in an airtight container at room temperature.

Makes 12 muffins.

The second recipe is from the Canadian Living Magazine. It is an excellent make ahead dish which can be popped in the oven for about 50 minutes in order to heat through and crisp the topping.

SWEET POTATO AND CARROT CRISP

This recipe can be made ahead (up to 2 days) or frozen for two weeks. Add topping just before baking.

- 5 large sweet potatoes (about 2 1/2 lb)
- 12 carrots (about 2lb)
- 3/4 cup orange juice
- 2 TBSP each liquid honey and butter
- 1 teasp cinnamon
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp salt

TOPPING:

- 1 1/2 cups fresh breadcrumbs
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1/3 cup melted butter

Peel and cut potatoes and carrots into large chunks. In large

pot of boiling water, cook potatoes and carrots for 20 minutes or until tender, drain. I then whipped them with my electric mixer.

Add orange juice, honey, butter, cinnamon, garlic and salt; blend well. Spoon into greased 13 X 9 glass baking dish. Topping _ Mix bread crumbs, pecans, and butter; sprinkle over potato

mixture. Cover with foil; bake in 350 oven for 20 minutes. Uncover; bake for 30 minutes or until heated through. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

A VENUE For SOCIALIZATION

At a recent meeting of the Amherst Island Men's Society a phrase from Brian Grace's proposal for a Farmers' Market struck me. He said one of the purposes of the Farmers' Market would be "to provide a venue for socialization (in addition to Church, the ferry and the Island dump)."

In ordinary terms that means the proposed Farmers' Market in the Township Park in Stella would be a good place for people to meet and mingle. That is a good idea. The more opportunities we have to get to know one another, the better we will be. I may be accused of special pleading when I contend the best place to socialize (of the three Brian Grace cited) is the Church. All three places have much in common, of course. Each has a "chief" or "head" or "leader" or "moderator" who oversees things. On the ferry it's the captain - Warren Kilpatrick, Lloyd Wolfreys, Earle Willard or Doug Shurtliffe; at the recycling plant it's Keith Miller; at the church it's Andy Chisholm, John Grainger or Zander Dunn.

At each place several other people are involved -people traveling, people dumping, people worshipping. In each place those people have a chance to visit, chat, share. On the ferry a couple of people guide us into position and then two or three people (sometimes more) gather to sit and ride together. At the Recycling Centre each one of us gets words of advice or admonition, a joke or a bit of news from Keith who greets us and tells us where to go with our contributions. At the church there are people who welcome us and get us seated before the minister or priest tells us something about God and where he thinks we'll be going. At all three places there is socialization. But the church has one extra advantage. Food.

Some churches serve food and drink in the fellowship hall following worship. Most figure that's the best part of going to church because they sit down with others at a table and break bread together. But whether St. Paul's, St. Alban's or St. Bartholemew's serves food following services or not, they all serve food during the service. The sacrament of Holy Communion brings together at God's table all people. There are no divisions at the Lord's table. All are welcome. You don't have to be baptized or even a Christian. You're welcome because

the Christ who ate and drank with tax collectors, prostitutes and sinners, invites you to join him at his table. Talk about a venue for socialization! The Church is surely it.

If the proposed Farmers' Market can be another place to get to know one another that would be great too. Yours for more venues for socialization!

Zander of DUNN INN.



DEATHS

GRAEME DONALD McDONALD

- from the Whig Standard, December 11

Graeme Donald McDonald, a pioneering academic who changed the way history is taught at RMC, has died. Mr. McDonald passed away Saturday after a long struggle with leukemia. While at RMC in the 1970s, Mr. McDonald introduced the study of Chinese, Japanese and Asian history to the institution. Mr. McDonald also had a stellar career in business, the arts and as a diplomat. From 1975 to 1977 he served as sinologist and first secretary of cultural and scientific affairs at the Canadian Embassy in Beijing. A former managing director of Nortel, Mr. McDonald was most recently the president of the Banff Center of the Arts. In November 2000, Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson presented him with the Order of Canada.

[Graeme Donald McDonald is the father of Graeme McDonald, former Island resident and husband of Tracey Filson. His daughter Sara McDonald attended A.I.P.S.. Mr. McDonald's sons Graeme and Perry have both worked at Topsy Farms.]

JOHN LLEWELLYN MacARTHUR

October 8 1937 _ December 12, 2001

- from the Whig Standard, December 15

Llew is survived by his loving partner Caroline Yull, his two children, John and Fae, grandson Dylan, stepchildren Jake, Jesse and Helen, siblings Kay, Donnie, Millie, Billie, Lloyd and Faye. Many brothers- and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews. Courageous and strong Llew fought a hard battle and kept his sense of humour to the end. He will be sadly missed. Cremation to be followed by a memorial service on January 6, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. in the Millhaven Legion Branch 623. Those wishing may donate to the VON or the Kingston Regional Cancer Clinic in Llew's name, or go out to the south shore and pour out a little black rum into the water.

LETTER To The BEACON, December 5, 2001

- Grant Filson

A few weeks ago on television, I watched the Canadian ships leaving Halifax for duty in the Arabian Sea. The send-off by Haligonians was tremendous. My mind went back to July 19, 1941, at my own departure, on the Empress of Canada. The send-off then, as now, was emotional and very heart-warming. Flags and bunting were waving, car horns blowing, and people waving and shouting words of encouragement. "God speed and safe journey," they shouted. I can speak only for myself, although I am sure many of the men and women on that ship thought that we might never see this wonderful country again.

As far as I can recall, the late Fred Hitchins, was the only other person from Amherst Island on the Empress of Canada, on our voyage overseas.

As wonderful as that send-off was in 1941, the home-coming was even better. There were large buildings filled with tables of delicious food and bands playing cheerful music. There were also lots of charming ladies with hand shakes and hugs, as we disembarked from the Nieuw Amsterdam. God bless Haligonians and Nova Scotians. This is a different kind of war but I am confident that the brave men and women of our armed forces will return triumphantly with their heads held high, knowing that they did their best for the land they love. I wish to end by paraphrase the last two lines of the hymn, "O Valiant Hearts". "All they hope for, all they have, they'll give, to save mankind, themselves they'll spurn to save."

LETTER To The BEACON

- Keith Miller
Disappointed!

I was surprised and disappointed to learn that someone had made off with Harold and Erna's gate. I only hope whoever had this temporary lack of good judgement will return the gate and restore my faith in this community.

LETTER HOME

-Christopher Kennedy

So we did get a white Christmas after all. Up until Christmas Eve it had been mild and wet, but in the four days since then we have had about two feet of snow. This is apparently all "lake effect" squalls, as most of Ontario, except in the lea of the Great Lakes, has very little. The snow-ploughs

have been very busy, and we had to hook up the snow blower to the old loader today. We walked back from a dinner party last night when the moon was up and the light was lovely, with all the trees laden with fresh snow. This morning, however, we had to fight through the snow to feed the sheep. The ground had not frozen before it snowed, so there is mud and slop to contend with as well. The sheep seem quite happy, but we didn't get chores finished until after 3.00 pm. Such a contrast to last year, when we never had more than a few inches all winter. The Road crew have the roads all tidied up now, but there is more forecast for tomorrow.

It has been so mild that the lake is still a long way from freezing. Environment Canada recorded the water temperature as still being 6 degrees, so we may have a very late freeze-up. Nobody can remember a year, though, when the lake never did freeze. The mild weather should help with the winter heating bills.

The Island this year seems to have had a particularly fine display of Christmas lights. Coming home on the Front Road after dark there has been one dazzling display after another, and the village has excelled itself this year as well. The star on the top of Jimmy Neilson's old silo is there again to guide the ferry home. We are looking forward to the New Year's Eve Gala at the school, which is raising funds for the restoration of Neilson's Store. The meal is sure to be good, and, if the band is not too loud, it's a great chance to visit as well as take a turn or two around the dance floor. We wish everyone best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

from **BORN On The ISLAND: The Turn of the Century Generation, Amherst Island, 1878-1896** Jennifer Bunting, Editor [Available from L&A Museum]

Introduction:

The children who were born between 1878 and 1896 formed the core of the generation which saw what they called, "The Turn of The Century" (January 1, 1900). Those born in 1878 had just attained their majority - the age of 21. Those born in 1896 were

just becoming aware enough to remember.

The last two decades of the 19th century were a wonderful time to be young. These were prosperous years for Ontario. Probably no period was as prosperous until the post-war period of the 1950's. Ontario agriculture had discovered new markets for produce, in particular, cheese, which was sold to the United Kingdom and elsewhere. Lands in the Canadian



Stone Fence at the corner of the Second & Emerald fourty ft
SM Photo

West, first Manitoba, and then Alberta and Saskatchewan, were beginning to draw immigration and immigration needed provisioning. In addition, the American West offered infinite possibilities and American cities on the edge of the Great Lakes needed workers, and could be easily reached via the lake steamers. It was a time of great optimism and excitement.

Young Amherst Islanders experienced the excitement of the completion of the C.P.R., the Riel Rebellion (1885), the news of the gold strikes in the Klondike, and the lure of the Trails of '98. The century closed with the far away and exotic Boer War in South Africa (1899). Young men could join the army and serve in South Africa, or go down the St. Lawrence and work their way to California or the Orient on the ocean freighters. Or they could go up the lakes and ride the railways west. It was a time of high adventure.

Although they did not yet have the freedom they would enjoy later, young women shared in the excitement. More than ever before they could read and write, and were able to share the news via newspapers and letters. Moreover, some women did have work outside the home, at least up until marriage.

To the 21st century reader, it would seem that life was shorter and more hazardous in the 1890's, but it did not seem so to the turn-of-the-century generation. They felt that medicine had made great advances and that their chances were better than those of previous generations, and they had no premonitions then of World War One, which would end so many hopeful young lives.

1891 Census, Amherst Island, Lennox & Addington County - Residents of the Island, April, 1891 (Taken from the census)

We tend to think of "old timers" when we think of the waning years of the 19th century, but in fact, Amherst Island then was a very hopeful, young community. In 1891, 62% of the population of the Island was under 30 years of age.

318 of the 938 residents were children under the age of 16 (33.9% of the population).

Children became "adults" and left school to find work at age 16 then, unless sent to model schools (to become teachers) or to college. So, most Islanders aged 16-18 were working. 267 residents were energetic "young adults", aged 16-29 years (28.5%). These "young adults" formed the core of the support for the many social functions enjoyed by residents. They were also very likely to leave the Island for visits to friends, or to try their luck elsewhere.

303 of the Island residents were adults aged 30-65 (32.3%). These people would have married and settled down, and no doubt expected to end their life on the Island.

Only 50 residents of the Island in 1891 had attained an age over 65 (5.3%).

Religion: In 1891, the Island population was 87% Protestant. The 120 Roman Catholics accounted for only 12.8% of the people. The most significant denomination was Presbyterian, 429 of 938 people, or 45.7% Church of England (Anglican) accounted for 306 or 32.6% Few persons said that they were Methodist, only 83 of 938 or 8.9%, despite the active presence of a Methodist pastor on the Island.

Social Structure: 21 of the 180 households reported that they had a domestic servant actually living with them. In addition, 15 persons said that they were employed as servants, but did not live with their employer. Thus, there were a total of 36 persons on the Island employed as domestic servants. This is probably low, compared to other areas, but probably

seems natural given that the Island was a farming/fishing community with plenty of help available from family members. In addition, however, there were 19 persons described variously as "domestics, labourers, servants" who are quite obviously young emigrants from the British Isles, or "home children ". If they are included, the number of persons employed as domestic help rises to 55, about 6% of the population.

Work: The main occupation on Amherst Island was farming. 110 out of 180 "heads of households" were primarily engaged in farming. The secondary occupation was either fisherman or sailor. 14 out of 180 "heads of households" were fishermen and 8 were sailors. The remaining 48 "heads of households" included white collar workers (such as clergy, shopkeepers), specialized trades (such as blacksmiths, shoemakers), wage labourers, and retired folk who gave no occupation. It is likely that the opportunity to work as a fisherman or sailor provided a way for some young Islanders to stay close to home, whereas, had they lived away

from the lake, they would have left the homestead to make a living in an urban centre. Comparisons would have to be made with the behaviour of young adults in nearby land-locked areas, to see if this hypothesis proves true.

As could be expected in the late 19th century, very few of the Island women had occupations, although no doubt most of them worked very hard, the demands of domestic management being what they were. The few working women included domestic servants, teachers, a music teacher and a cook. Noteworthy, however, are the widows. Widows were usually listed as "heads of the household" while their sons were young. Most Amherst Island widows, however, described themselves as "head of the household" even after their sons were grown, and, while some said that they had no occupation, many described themselves as "farmers". Without a doubt, these women felt that they were making a significant contribution to the family economy.

Invisible on the Amherst Island census of 1891, of course, are the many family members who had left the Island for work or adventure in other parts. Their stories will be found elsewhere.



From The Napanee Beaver, January 24, 1896

STELLA

The council elect for this year took their seats on Monday and amongst other business elected the township officers to the satisfaction of everyone.

W.H. Moutray, who has been absent in Ireland on business during the past three months, is expected home about 1st Feb.

Rev. J. Cumberland has returned, after a month's absence in the east.

The extended telephone connection, which we have made lately, is much appreciated.

Our enterprising carriage dealer, Mr. Pringle, has had a very successful season. He has placed more cutters this year than ever before. Some of them are very handsome.

No weddings to report, but it is hoped that leap year will not pass without having some effect.

The young people are enjoying themselves with social gatherings.

The bachelor's ball at Stella on New Years eve was very successful, as was also the quadrille party of Emerald on the 15th inst. Quite a number from Stella attended.

It is expected that the Chosen Friends will give a social dance in the near future.

The young ladies of the Island intend giving a "leap year party" in Stella at an early date. Dancing will be the order of the evening. Prof. Beaubien's string band is furnishing the music for all the entertainment this season.

SPEERS FAMILY

- Paul Speers

I have read the May Issue of the Amherst Beacon. A very good production. In that issue you spoke of the Morrow family. That is the surname of my cousin Joy Inkster's Mother.

My father, Isaac Nelson Speers, was born on Amherst Island Sept. 23, 1881. A son of Samuel and Margaret Hannah Speers. Their farm was on Lot 7 on the North Shore Concession. I believe the present address is 4180 Front Road. (I have note of address 4750, on my map, I do not remember which house it connects to.) Alex Speers also had a farm on Lot 85, Third Concession.

The family moved onto the mainland (Kingston) in 1884. My cousin Joy (Mrs Inkster), was born in the old stone house, 4583 Bath Road (Highway 33) Kingston. Daughter of Alexander W. Speers and Ellen Josephine Morrow. The Morrows lived on Lot 1 First Concession on the Island.

The old stone house [4583 Bath Road], as Joy calls it, was the Speers farm, until the deaths of the last two Speers men. The area is now a subdivision. There is a street on Bath Road,

called Speers Blvd, out near Amherstview. Joy now lives in Scarborough, Toronto. My cousin and I were out to the Island in June 2001, and I took a picture of the Speers farmhouse. Two young men were plastering and working inside the house at the time. I took a picture of the farmhouse and the silo. The one of the silo did not turn out.

At the above noted time, we visited with Ralph Woods. He lives at 3710 South Shore. He said his farm joined the Speers farm. Back to back I suppose.

Several years ago, Joy (Mrs Inkster) and I visited Bruce Caughey at his farm house. I took my tape recorder and I recorded an hour or so of his memory of the Speers and Morrow families, and the activities on the Island. I recently sent Bruce's daughter a copy of that tape.

All of the above may be of interest to you or to the historians of Amherst Island. Although I have only been there a few times with my cousin, I hold the Island in greatest respect. I can almost sense the times my father had there and in Kingston, while he grew up. If it is possible, I would like to obtain a current map of Amherst, indicating the house numbers as they are now, and the party living there.

Any verification of the above will be greatly appreciated~ [Paul Speers' address is 2652 E. Barbey Dr., Salt Lake City, Utah 84109]

-NOTICES-

NEWS From The GENERAL STORE

We would like to thank everyone for the wonderful goodies and beautiful cards for Christmas. We thoroughly enjoyed everything.

Now that all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is over, why not take some time for yourself and relax with a good movie. Here's what we have available as of Dec. 21: Rush Hour 2 - Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker
The Princess Diaries - Julie Andrews
Jurassic Park 3
Beethoven's 4th - Judge Reinhold
Chocolate - Johnny Depp
Pearl Harbor - Ben Affleck
Planet of the Apes
The Score - Robert DeNiro, Edward Norton
and many more to choose from.

THANK YOU NOTES

I will be forever grateful to the First Response Team for saving my life by getting me to hospital safely when I had a burst aneurysm in my brain on October 31. I am also so



very grateful for the prayers and well wishes from so many Islanders, which I know, joined those of my off-Island friends and family to create the powerful healing force which pulled me through the early dark days and continues to sustain me on this path to recovery. After one month at KGH I can now walk again and I am looking forward to a full recovery following further rehabilitation at St. Mary's of the Lake.

Lynn A'Court

From FIRST EDITION of BEACON

Thursday, April 16, 1970

Municipal Affairs / Council Corner:

Council meets in the school through the kind permission of the Board of Education of Lennox & Addington.

A new building by-law is in effect for Amherst Island. This by-law is to regulate the erection of buildings, and the installation of plumbing; for charging fees for the inspection and approval of plans of buildings and plumbing; for fixing the amount of such fees; and for the issuing of building and plumbing permits certifying to such approval, and for authorizing the refusal of a permit for any building or structure that if constructed would be contrary to the provisions of any by-law of the municipality. Keith Miller is chairman of the Twp. Building Committee and Bruce Robinson is building inspector. With some of the island properties now under subdivision, this firm by-law of building regulations will be of much help to all property.

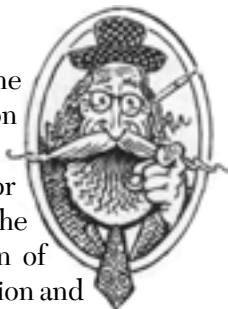
Plans for some adequate fire protection for the township are going ahead under the leadership of Glenn Sheil. A tank truck has been bid on and this bid hopefully will be accepted, and money set aside to remodel the township hall to house it and other equipment. Glenn will also be forming a volunteer fire department. Your co-operation in this effort will be expected.

Clinton Kilpatrick is chairman of the Road Committee. The crew, under Stuart Miller's direction, are making progress with repairing the damage to the roads that the long winter made. It is hoped to have the 40-foot road ready for paving this year.

Ralph Wemp, chairman of township parks and the maintenance of the dump and opening township roads that have been closed in the past years, reports work on these assignments progressing. When the dump is pushed back, your co-operation in keeping it reasonably orderly would be appreciated.

Council was sorry to accept the resignations of two who have served the Island well- Tina Filson, who kept the road books and Albert Mulders, who is leaving the ferry captain's job to farm. Both are wished well in the future.

Reeve Vince Aitken has contacted the Bell Telephone, re: the poor service, many times through the winter, with disappointing results. Council recently sent them a letter



requesting that they send each subscriber on the island, a newsletter, re: their plans for correcting the complaints and re: their future plans here for better service, It is hoped this letter will receive their immediate attention.

...Marj. Aitken.

Amherst Islander

There was a good skimming of ice on the bay when 1970 dawned cold and cloudy, a typical winter day, and we were quite sure that no tug service was being provided for us so we hoped for the kind of weather that makes good ice. When the secondary school students were ready for school on January 5th the ice wasn't safe yet for travel so they took along their bags and stayed in Napanee. The weather stayed cold and as the ice thickened, ski-doo's began crossing and the ferry trips became fewer and slower. January 13th was really cold and the road supervisor took his men out to measure the depth of ice and they decided it was safe enough for ski-doo's so they put in the familiar cedar trees marking a road across to Ellismere and wisely placing a sign on the first tree out from Stella, stating the road was for ski-doo's only and those who



The Engine Room of the Amherst Islander, c.1979 with Engineer Tom Miller SM Photo

(Note: According to an article in The Heritage Weekly, the old boat is presently being stripped and will be sold off by MTO in the near future).

traveled otherwise did so at their own risk, a similar sign was placed on the shore of the mainland.

The weather was ideal for making ice, temperatures stayed below zero and in a day or two a few folk began crossing with old cars. On January 15 the ferry made only three trips and on the 16th she tied up at Stella. Cold weather continued for nine weeks and we had a perfect highway. But around the third week in March the temperature began to rise and we began to scan the horizon for the "Simcoe", but it didn't appear, much to our dislike. But on the 26th of March the Monarch was



seen coming up along the shore of the mainland as far as the C.I.L. plant and then turned back to Kingston. Another attempt was made on March 30 but she was called back to clear a path for the Wolfe Islander.

On the morning of March 31 she returned around 10:30 and slowly but surely broke her way through the ice to the ferry dock, reaching here around 7:00 p.m., thence to Millhaven to break out the old ferry track. At 9:30 p.m. the Amherst Islander loosed her moorings and set out on her first trip of the new season, but ill fortune awaited her for she had only sailed a few hundred yards when a gasket blew on the water pump. She returned to port and in the morning, took the early morning commuters and remained at Millhaven until repairs were completed by the repair men from Dept. of Highways. Regular trips

resumed by mid-afternoon. The next few days were really busy. Feed trucks, oil trucks, gas trucks, cream trucks, cheese, repair men, soft-drink trucks, hydro trucks, real estate agents, income tax consultants, students, teachers, drovers, preachers, all hurrying to come and go, and we Islanders are happy to once more be able to come and go in safety. Large fields of ice are still drifting around but a few warm days and a good breeze will take it downstream.

Spring has come again - it surely must be Spring for today I saw three robins and two meadow larks and the geese have flown north.

...Genevieve Fleming.

[Issue #6] June 25, 1970

FIRST FIRE DRILL

On Wednesday evening, June 17th, the Amherst Fire Truck had its initial trial run prior to the setting-up of the volunteer fire department. Allan Glenn, Lloyd Strain, Clinton Kilpatrick and Glenn Sheil put the truck through its paces. All were optimistic of the capabilities of the truck.

The thousand gallon capacity of the truck was tested during a 15 minute pumping operation. The truck was then refilled from the bay. A number of interested spectators were on hand to shout words of encouragement and banter. It should be noted that this was not a full scale drill but a preliminary to familiarize at least a few with the operation of the truck, so as to be prepared for emergencies.

[Issue #4 May 28th, 1970]

BRUCE CAUGHEY REPRESENTS COUNTY

Bruce Caughey was among the ninety representatives from Ontario attending the Canadian School Trustee's Association Annual Convention on May 31, June 1st and June 2nd, held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, celebrating its centennial, was host to the approximately five hundred delegates. Among the highlights was an address by Saul Miller, Minister of Education for Manitoba, at a banquet held at the Marlborough Hotel.

After the Canadian conference, Bruce's busy schedule as Chairman of the Lennox and Addington Board of Education saw him attending the Provincial Conference at Queen's University June 7, June 8 and June 9th. Guest speaker at the closing banquet was Ontario Education Minister William Davis.

Bruce reports that both conferences were very interesting and that, with the exception of a taxi accident, en route from the Winnipeg airport, all went well.

BABY SITTER AVAILABLE

-After school and weekends

- Responsible

- Red Cross Babysitting Certificate

Call Whitney Fleming at 389-9869



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