

# Amherst Island BEACON



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## THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray

Tom Richmond and Jan Sneepe have been asked if they can figure out how to get the Beacon on to the Amherst Island web site, <http://www.amherstisland.on.ca>. The idea is that Beacons will be uploaded a month after publication and stay there permanently. It will be a chance to see the colourful masthead and what the photos look like in colour.

The paper now being used by the Beacon is heavier than before so now we can only use 5 pages without upping the postage required for mailed Beacons. We now have an inventory of articles from old Beacons so we should be able to fill 10 pages each month. E-mailed articles certainly make my life easier. If possible, please don't use hard returns at the end of each line Tom or I have to remove them. The less formatting the better: none is great. If you don't have e-mail, Don can usually scan into the computer clearly typed material and that also saves time and effort.

The photos in the last issue turned out very well. Tom would like more photos. Old photos of the Island are often the most interesting.

**Many thanks to Shirley Miller, whose photographs added greatly to this issue of the Beacon!**

## A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM BULCH

- David Willard

Shakespeare once wrote, "the evil that men do lives after them, the good is off' interred with their bones." The good should not be forgotten when heroic people leave us. Because time propels us



all rapidly forward, it is fitting that we pause and remember the sacrifice and service in the long and varied life of Billy Bulch.

Did our beautiful Island ever have a better Ambassador? Since the 1960s many will remember

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Billy most fondly as the Mate on the Amherst Islander whose cheerful disposition and crusty voice always greeted you by name, and if you were a “newcomer” he'd stick his head in your window and find out who you were and remember you. And on the pragmatic side Bill set the standard by which all future Mates were measured, especially in the waning years of the Amherst Islander's service when she could no longer cope with the heavy and unpredictable traffic loads.

“Load for a load every time” was his motto as Bill would run out to the line-up himself and and-pick the order of loading to ensure leaving as few behind as possible.

Bill was born to Joe and Alice Bulch and grew up on the family farm on the Second Concession, working the land and milking cows like many Island kids in that era and taking the milk to the factory in Emerald. He had an older brother named Clarence and a sister, Florence, who died as a child. Bill attended school at #3 on the Front Road not far from the present day dump. If life was in any way idyllic during those years, it was short-lived because Hitler's forces were on the move in Europe and soon many of the Island's young men would sail across the Atlantic to face this new menace.

Billy joined the Canadian Navy and learned about the horrors of war at sea firsthand. He was serving on the **Bayfield**, a British minesweeper in the English Channel when they fell prey to a Nazi U-boat. Bill described the experience, “I had just come on watch. ..I heard a thud and then two clicks.. .the next thing I knew, I was in the water.” There were six Canadians serving on the **Bayfield** when she was blown apart and all six survived despite the explosion, the icy water, swallowing salt water and fuel, raging fire and confusion and the sickening spray of machine gunfire. All six kept in touch for many years after.

Bill served on several ships during the battle for the Atlantic, both British and Canadian. He had married Helen Kay during the war and when their first child, Charles, was



born, Bill's ship, the **H.M.S. Glasgow** (above) wired flowers home to the new mother and baby. After the war, Bill returned to Helen and resumed life on the Island assuming the mortgage from his parents on the family farm. In the years that would follow, they would welcome many more children into the world but face a number of sorrows, as well. Near the end of the war, Bill's oldest brother Clarence

was transporting coal on a truck on the ice out off Fairfield Park near Amherstview when it went through. The other two men, Jack Instant and Hugh Perry, survived but Clarence was sitting in the middle and did not. Some years later their barn burned to the ground, probably as a result of arson. They lost their youngest son, Bruce not long after that. In more recent years their son, Dick was killed in an accident.

Billy survived it all and could always be counted on as he lived out the chapters of his life, many of which were in a world far different than the safe and sterile one most of us have grown up in.

In the 1950s when a neighbour died in a hunting accident, he was waked at home as many were then. During the wake, a change of shirt became necessary, so Billy sat the man up in his coffin and changed his shirt. That's the kind of man Bill was and that's the kind of man Amherst Island has lost.



The family farm was sold in the late 60s and Billy moved through the ranks of the Amherst Islander finishing his career as Captain - quite appropriate for a naval vet and a true seaman. Confined to the “wheel house”, Captain Bulch probably missed the interaction down on the deck but even there his animated character would still manifest itself occasionally. Once in the mid-seventies when freezing weather had the ferry slowed to a crawl in the ice, I parked my car at Millhaven, choosing to run across the ice on foot rather than endure the long wait. When I passed the ferry in the middle of the channel, Captain Bulch blew the ferry horn and gave me a big wave and smile. Bill eventually retired from the ferry and quietly lived out his days in the village enjoying his family and grandchildren and coping with a number of health problems.

Bill had true character and was an outstanding Canadian citizen. He served both his County and his Island so very well.

Thank you Bill.

(Special thanks to Ida Gavlas, Aunt Emily Tugwell & Garnet McDonald.)



Grain Silo in Emerald, c. 1979

Photo by Shirley Miller

## NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get well wishes to several Islanders this month. Get well to Eldon Willard and Alison McDonald who both spent time in hospital; to Wayne Fleming as he recovers from knee surgery and to Ryan McGinn and Stephanie Fleming who have both had dental surgery.

Condolences to the family and friends of Nellie Neilson, who passed away earlier this month. Nellie and her husband Fred operated Neilson's store on the Island for many years. Her son, Jim, was a long time dairy farmer on the Island as well.

Sympathy to Helen Bulch and Ida Gavlas and families, following the passing of their husband and father, William "Billy" Bulch. Billy was another "old" Islander with lots of stories of earlier days on the ferry. With the passing of our older, lifetime and sometime multi-generation Islanders, goes so much of our history and stories that were never written down.

This month a memorial service was held for Art Wolfreys at St. Alban's.

Megan Ashley, (daughter of Duncan and Kim), was baptized at St. Alban's in October and Rebecca Scott, (daughter of Alex and Debbie), was baptized at St. Paul's. My mom, Kay Wolfreys, (Orlando) spent a couple of weeks here on the Island visiting with family and friends.

It seems people with Island ties can find each other anywhere. Shortly after the September 11 tragedy, Ralph Morrow was on a seniors bus tour to NYC. In visiting with other Canadians on various tours, he met a bus driver who was an Islander! Art Hitchins had driven another tour to NYC.

Jeff Pearce, former Island resident and member of the music group MOIST, is touring with MOIST's lead singer David Usher who has just released his second solo album. They played at AJ's Hangar October 17 to a sold out audience. Another former Islander (and Topsy Farm employee), Graeme MacDonald is tour manager.

Amherst Island Public School is getting a much needed face-lift, with long over due repairs and a fresh paint job to the exterior of the building. The Science school at A.I.P.S. is off to a great start, with several schools from the mainland already having visited the Island and many more booked.

## AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - OCTOBER MEETING

- Nancy Dunn

An open meeting of the Amherst Island W.I. was held on Thurs. October 18th at St. Paul's Church Hall at 7 p.m. Including 15 members, there were over 30 in attendance. The guest speaker was Dr. T. Anastassiades of Queen's University who gave us an informative overview of Osteoporosis, a disease of the bones which affects both men and women. His pleasant, unassuming manner and use of slides, including graphs and charts, resulted in a talk that was readily understood by the "non-medical" major part of the audience. Unfortunately he was able to stay only until the 8 p.m. ferry so that the question period was not as long as we would have liked.

After a lunch enjoyed by all, the Institute constituted its regular meeting with Nancy Henshaw presiding. Nancy reported that several women had attended the Tamworth W.I. anniversary on Sept. 24th and the district annual meeting in Glenburnie on Oct. 16th. On the latter excursion, informed that the ferry was still out of commission when the gathering adjourned (that was the day of the body at the dock) they extended their stay by "living it up" in Kingston for a couple of hours.

At that meeting one of our members, Freda Youell, received recognition for her recent volunteer award from the L.&A. organization for seniors (SOS).



Joyce Haines reported that twelve 4-H plaques have been ordered at a very reasonable price. Seven are needed immediately and we will have five in reserve. Members were encouraged to attend the 4-H-sponsored Halloween Party at the community centre on Oct. 27.

Further plans were made for the Seniors' Christmas dinner on Dec. 2nd.

The next regular meeting will be at the home of Nancy Henshaw on Wed. Nov. 21st at 7 p.m. Tom Sylvester will tell us some interesting things about creatures and their environment on Amherst Island. Guests and prospective new members are welcome.



- Peter Trueman

The Amherst Island Men's Society held its regular monthly breakfast meeting at 8 a.m. on Sat., Oct. 20, in the St. Paul's Church Hall. A number of developments were discussed, including the status of a government grant for renovation of the Neilson Store/Museum, an Island Farmer's Market, and a Help People fund.

Ken Albertain was this month's Chair, and Peter Trueman

acted as the meeting's secretary. Paul Henshaw is the AIMS Treasurer. After committee reports, John Munro thanked the AIMS membership for digging into their own pockets in support of the 18-hour tandem swim he made with his wife, Vicki Keith, from the U.S. side of Lake Ontario to Kingston on August 25. When they began, he said, the water was like a millpond, and the temperature was 78 degrees F. But they hit rough water at the mouth of the St Lawrence and John began to feel the effects of an undigested lump of power bar in the pit of his stomach. From then on, he said, it was a bit like swimming with the flu. Told they had three miles left to go, John was dismayed an hour later to learn that they were still three miles from their goal. But he did

manage to finish. Thanks to the swim and the funds it raised, The Variety Village Flames now have young disabled swimmers training in Kingston. In closing, John presented AIMS with a certificate of appreciation.

For the second time, two members of AIMS were asked to share something of their life stories, and to tell the meeting how they happened to be on Amherst Island. The previous month, the group had heard an interesting account of John Kuti's life as a writer, shop-owner and restaurateur, and something about Hugh Jenney's varied career in business and as a teacher.

At the most recent meeting, the speakers had similar stories to tell about the terrors of childhood in wartime Europe, much, much worse than what happened in New York on September 11. Hans Krauklis came to Canada in the 1950s and was introduced to the Island by a real estate ad, after a 25 year career in the civil service. He met his wife Erika Montreal. Gian Frontini was born in Italy and was posted to Kingston by Alcan in the 1960s. He and his wife Pat bought a cottage from the late George Mygind in 1969 and later bought George's farm. Both couples love the island and live here now in very active retirement.

Under new business, Keith Miller suggested a Help People Fund, to fund AIMS services to people asking for assistance. Keith has been picking up beer cans and bottles at the dump and turning them in. To start off the fund, he turned over the \$32 he has so far collected to Treasurer Paul Henshaw. Paul Lauret suggested that the membership also save beer bottles and beer cans, and put the money in the Help People Fund. He agreed to bring his truck to the next AIMS meeting and take all the cans and bottles into town for recycling.

Brian Grace reported that the location for the proposed

farmers' market was no longer a problem. The Township has amended a by-law to allow organizations to use the Memorial Park. The market could begin mid-April when plants and baking could be sold. The school children

could be invited to sell any seedlings left over when their subscribers have been supplied. An Island mailing on the market is under consideration.

Hugh Jenney, chair of the AIMS Museum Committee, and David Brady, who has undertaken an inquiry into the possibility of government grants, reported on the status of the Neilson Store/Museum/Gallery project. The building was surveyed by Court Noxon, a Prince Edward County architect who specializes in older

buildings. Mr. Noxon had a variety of suggestions, and was very encouraging about the building's potential. David Brady reported on a further visit to the old building by Patricia Howorth, a Kingston-based program officer for Heritage Canada, in

connection with a possible grant application under Cultural Spaces Canada, a three-year \$80 million program for the entire country. David pointed out that a number of steps needed to be taken if AIMS were to qualify under terms of that program. For example, the Museum Committee, or some other governing body, would have to incorporate. A feasibility study would have to be completed etc etc. Under the Cultural Spaces program claims could be made for up to 30 percent of the cost of construction/renovation, and up to 50 percent of the cost of specialized equipment and a feasibility study.

Heritage Canada is concerned that any facility receiving a grant has a well thought out business plan, and that it has been demonstrated that it will attract large numbers of visitors. If the Museum is not a year-round operation that would detract from the likelihood of getting a grant. The participation of the Weasel and Easel, a commercial operation, would however be considered a plus. David pointed out that our chances of receiving a grant would be improved if we could line up strong political support. Our case would be enhanced in bureaucratic eyes if AIMS could demonstrate that several groups and organizations would be likely to use the refurbished building. The broader the "cultural partnership" that might be established, the better the case that could be made. With this in mind, Dick Dodds suggested using part of the building (upstairs, for example) as "a century classroom", a re-creation of what a classroom in one of the Island's schools might have looked like 100



Gate in Emerald

photo by Shirley Miller

years ago. Peter Trueman suggested that a refurbished kitchen area in the upstairs might be used as a lunchroom for visiting school children on natural history tours of the Island.

AIMS meets the second Saturday of every month at 8 a.m. at St Paul's Church Hall. Breakfast is served and the charge is \$5. All Island men are welcome. The next meeting is Nov 10.



**Lifeboat on the Third** photo by Shirley Miller

## **NEWS From AMHERST ISLAND P.S.**

- School Staff

Penpals - The Primary and Senior classes have received the first set of penpal letters from students in Denbigh Public School. A.I.P.S. grade 8 students are corresponding with grade 8 students in Norwood.

Upcoming...

Remembrance Day Program - November 9 at 11:00 a.m.

Jingle Bell Run - November 30.

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## **CROSS COUNTRY RUN**

- William Reed

On October 9, 2001, 4 students from A.I.P.S. participated in the cross country run on Fort Henry Hill. Those students were Brittany Sneep, Laurel Brady, Justin Hutchings and William

Reed. The distance we had to run was 2.5. km, up and down hills! At the end of the day, Sharon Donnelly, a well known Canadian athlete, gave out all the awards. Our group did really well after all of our hard practice.

## **REMEMBERING**

- Ida Gavlas

"Remembering" is the new book published under the auspices of the Lennox and Addington Historical Society for the Veterans of Lennox & Addington County for World War II and the Korean Conflict. The book is wonderful and has many letters written home and stories of conditions and people at a terrible phase of their lives. Remembrance day is here again, and I do like to keep the memory of the selfless men and women who gave so much for us. Appreciating the years and suffering they went through during and after the wars is something we can not forget.

I have watched movies and old news reels of the wars. Dad and I watched one particular movie where a ship sank and the oil in the water was on fire with men in it. He said to me "you can't imagine what it was really like". On this Remembrance Day lets all pray to whoever we hold most high that the wars will end and that Remembrance Day will be what it should be, a day to remember lest we forget. Remember all our past and present family and friends involved in these conflicts.

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## **ROOFING**

- Ian Murray

Industrial built up roofing - the flat roofs on factories and other large buildings - is a major source of employment for Island men. Only the ferry service employs more Island workers. Industrial roofing is very demanding work: it requires physical strength and endurance; the worker must endure the heat of summer and the cold of winter - only rain, high winds and extremely hot or cold weather interrupts roof work; the work is technically challenging as new products and methods are introduced; and, there is the ever present danger of falling or being burnt by the asphalt. It is a very competitive field and each company's reputation depends on work of high quality; many corporations have a list of acceptable roofing companies and to be dropped from that list because of a leaking roof is serious business.

Amherst Roofing and Covertite each currently employ about 8 Island residents with one Islander working for another company. Eric McGinn told me that Amherst Roofing has about 35 employees with 3/4 being either Island residents or relatives by blood or marriage. Eric says that Amherst Roofing is very busy right now and it is a challenge to work around the recent wet weather. This company currently has jobs in Cornwall, Maitland (DuPont), Warkworth (jail), and Calabogie. It also has the roofing contract for the new casino in Gananoque.

I know from talking to roofers over the years how much pride they take in their trade. Farming is considered to be challenging work but I think that roofing is in a higher league. I do not envy my roofing neighbours on the 6 a.m. ferry and getting home 12, 13 or 14 hours later.

## TALKING PEACE

- Lyn Fleming

About 45-50 people attended "Talking Peace" at St. Alban's, hosted by Rev. Andrew Chisolm and featuring Dave Brady and Stanley Burke. Stanley and Dave both gave brief talks about their experiences and thoughts regarding the Arab/Muslim world. The floor was then opened up to the audience for questions and discussion. While the evening was informative in a lot of ways and gave a little insight into another way of life, I still left with many questions. As I understood it, the idea of "Talking Peace" is to create dialogue with the Muslim people to find out what they want and need from us. While I believe dialogue between ALL cultures and races would be beneficial in many world problems, I don't believe it alone is the answer to current events.

A website has been created to encourage dialogue and can be found at [www.talkingpeace.net](http://www.talkingpeace.net).

## FERRY SERVICE SUSPENDED

- Ian Murray

As the ferry was approaching the Millhaven dock October 16, at about 9:15 a.m., Captain Doug Shurtliffe spotted what looked like a body floating in the water. The OPP ordered the ferry to return to Amherst Island and not to operate again until a body was found or it was determined that no body was to be found. The Whig Standard reported that "the body of an adult male was pulled from the water around 4:30 p.m." This was an unfortunate incident for all concerned.

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## LITTLE KITTEN CREATES BIG MOVE

- Bill Harris

In June last year Bev and Bill Harris were spending two weeks at Ted Wellbanks' farm house on the South Shore Road. On their first day, while walking along Stella Road, they were surprised by the MEOW MEOW of a little ginger kitten climbing out of the bulrushes. Delighted, Bev called "come to Mama!" A few hundred dollars of vet bills later, they decided to keep the kitten, naming him Moses. At the end of their two week stay they took him home to Oakville to join their cats Benny and Susie. They also took back an Amherst Island Directory with the names of thirty people checked off that they had met.

Having sold their Nonsuch sailboat (which they kept at Collins Bay Marina) that year, Bev and Bill were looking for a summer cottage, and Amherst island seemed the perfect

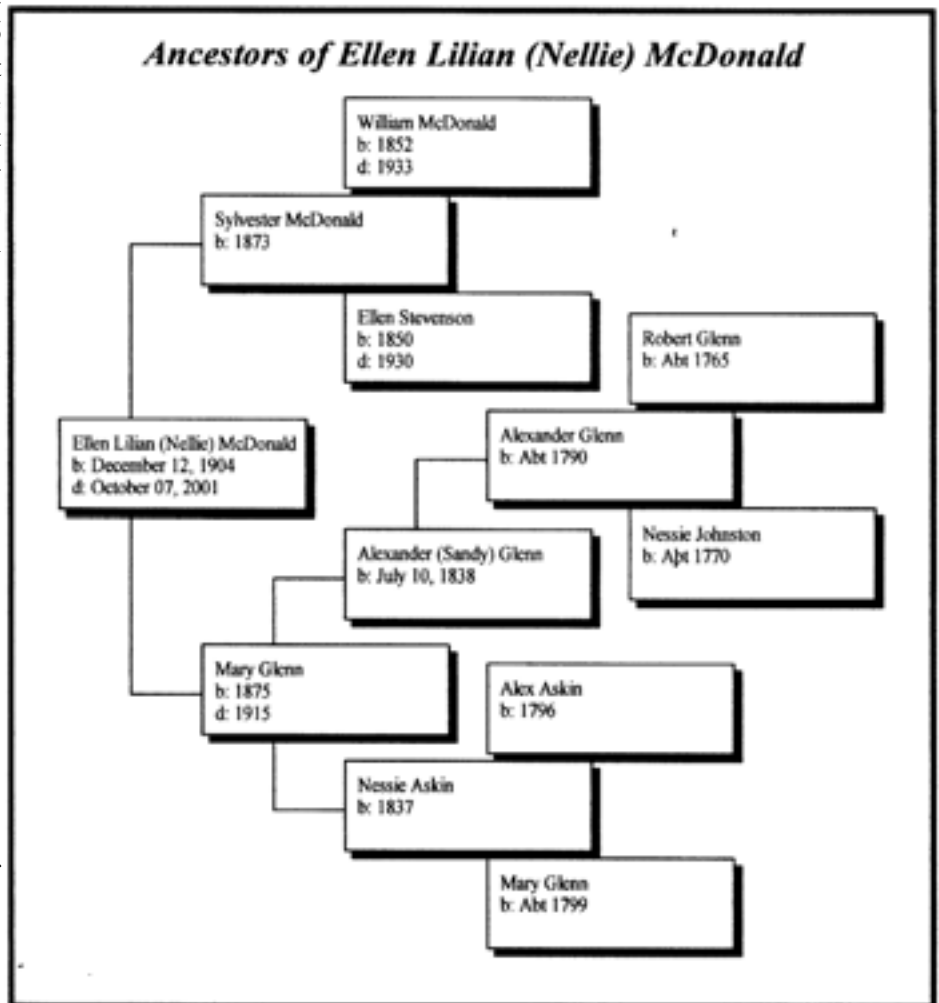
place. But before the year was out, it was a year round house they were building at 4 Front Rd, east of Harry and Barb Filson's house. Bill had retired as President of Ciba Agriculture, and Bev thought this a perfect time to also retire from over thirty years as a piano teacher. John Maas with the help of Noel McCormick built the house during six months this summer and Moses moved back to Amherst Island in August. As Bev drove off the ferry and down Stella Road, Moses became agitated and jumped with great excitement. Was it the new home or the voles he was excited by? We can only guess.

[Staff: This is a good way for new Island residents to introduce themselves. Welcome. Some years ago Caroline Yull did a few articles on people moving here. Is anyone interested in doing this?]

## ELLEN LILIAN "NELLIE" NEILSON

-Jean Tugwell

Nellie Neilson was born on Amherst Island and passed away at Trillium Ridge Retirement Home, Sunday October 7th, 2001 in her 97th year. Her parents were Sylvester and



Mary Glenn Macdonald. She was predeceased by her husband Frederick Neilson, and her sister Nessie Corerie. Sadly missed by her son James S. Neilson and his wife Mary of Kingston, and daughter Kaye Moeller and her husband

Fred of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan; her many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, and also many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her daughter Mary Eleanor Neilson in 1998 and by her granddaughter Patricia Joanne Neilson in 1996.

After graduating from Normal School in Peterborough, Aunt Nellie taught on Amherst Island in #2 school and boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Eddy Fleming. Aunt Nellie was truly a lady, a wonderful mother and homemaker - her buns, cakes and pies were "the best". While Uncle Fred was busy as part owner of The Neilson Store - open from 7 a.m. for milk wagon traffic until the last customer left at 9 p.m. or after - followed by Reeveship duties, school board meetings, or St. Alban Church warden duties, Aunt Nellie managed her volunteer work. Aunt Nellie became a Life Member of the Amherst Island Women's Institute. I remember well watching her knitting needles fly as she made many socks, and helped pack boxes for the boys overseas in World War II. Aunt Nellie attended St. Alban's Church faithfully where her pretty singing voice added to our services. She was a long time member of the Women's Auxiliary and served as President of the Women's Auxiliary at the Diocesan level.

Uncle Fred, Aunt Nellie and family all cheerfully shared their home with me for two years when I was attending Continuation School on the Island - I have valued those years and love each and every one of the family as they continue to show me their love and kindnesses.

The funeral of Nellie Neilson was held at St. Alban's, Amherst Island October 11, 2001. Rev. Andrew Chisholm officiating. Interment Glenwood Cemetery

**[Staff notes:**

- 1) School # 1 was at Gertrude Maude's on the North Shore Road; # 2 was at Michael and Bobbi Shaw's on the South Shore Road; # 3 was at Johnny & June McGinn's on the Front Road; #4 was on the Emerald 40', now a storage shed between Emerald and Hitchins; and, #5 was on the 3rd Concession where Paul & Carol Glenn now live.
- 2) When a female teacher, such as Nellie, married she was no longer allowed to teach. Does anyone know why?
- 3) Mr. & Mrs. Eddy Fleming lived on the South Shore where Francis & Nessie Welbanks resided until recently.
- 4) The Continuation School was where The Back Kitchen is now.
- 5) The Stella children went to #1.]

## COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

I could only find 3 items concerning Amherst Island in the realms of Council material over the past month.

1) Landfill site: It will cost \$12,600 for consultants to prepare the annual report, monitor surface and ground water, and repair one of the monitoring wells.

2) Miller Municipal Drain: There will be a public meeting to review the results of the drain inspection: Ferry Office, November 6, 7 p.m.

3) Road Salt: This material is in the process of being designated as a toxic material by the federal government. The township will have to prepare a master plan and train staff so as to properly manage road salt and to have a paper trail accounting for all salt usage.

## FARM & FISHING REPORT

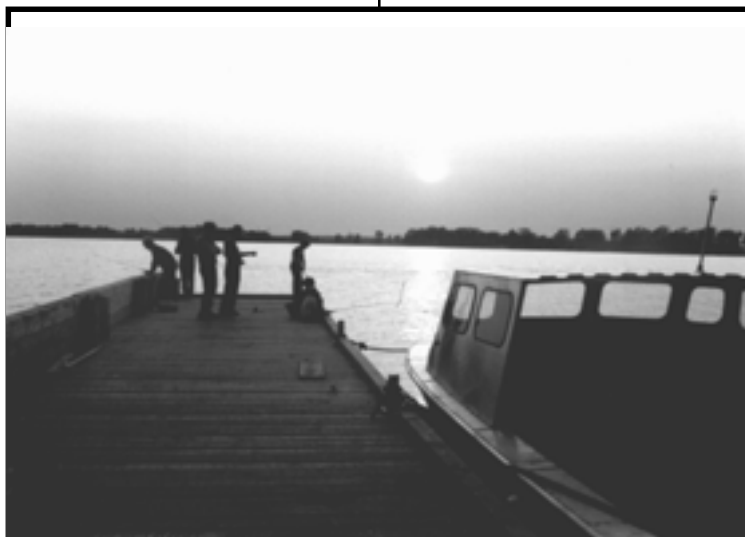
- Ian Murray

Adam Miller says that he harvested less than half a normal corn silage crop. He expects to finish plowing fairly soon and there has been enough moisture to make the going pretty good. He mentioned that according to the October Dairy Farmers Report that 431 Ontario dairy farmers have contributed 44,000 litres of milk to 80 food banks in this province. These food banks feed about 200,000 people, about 40% children. The shippers and processors also donate their services. A very real contribution to the general welfare.

Vince Eves said their grain and soybeans came off better than they had expected given how dry the summer was. The grain corn was of excellent quality and yielding about 70% of normal: weighing in at 58#/bushel with 56#/bushel considered standard. The soybean crop overall was a little better than half normal and of quite good quality: 59#/bushel with 60#/bushel as standard. Eves, because

of the drier soil, have been able to work their land so far with discs. However, they will have to use a plough where there is sod. Vince is very pleased with the net wrap on their big round bales: no more tarping.

Chris Kennedy estimates that about half of the fall pasture has been taken by voles. This has been another great year for the Island rodents with meadow voles, mice and rabbits in abundance. It should be a banner year for bird watchers as the raptors



Long Point Dock

Photo by Shirley Miller

come to the Island rodent buffet. All the sheep are now eating pasture and not appearing to miss the hay.

Hugh Filson is readying his boat for the white fish season. On a very windy day last week, Leah, Don and I watched in amazement as a commercial fishing boat headed back to Prince Edward County. I doubt if those guys would be impressed by any roller coaster ride.

Its great to see the cattle and sheep eating green pasture again.

## A LETTER HOME

- Chris Kennedy

Last week we had a wild few days of wind and rain, as the gales of November came early. The wind was often up to Force 9 on the Beaufort scale at our end of the Island. That translates to 90 kilometres an hour, or a Strong Gale. It was quite enough to make the ferry tie up for a time on Thursday evening, and some rough crossings on Friday. If we choose to live on an Island we had better expect these things once in a while. There was some heavy rain as well, so many of the trees are now bare. Finally some of the ponds are starting to fill up again, after the dry summer. There has been enough rain too to bring on the wild mushrooms, for those who know where to look and what to look for.

The deer season is starting, so now we have deer and deer hunters on the roads at all hours of the day and night. Dianne had a deer walk into the side of her car the other night, so perhaps their minds are taken up with matters reproductive. There are certainly enough around, so a little thinning of numbers might not be a bad idea, and venison can be very good eating.

The ewes are all out on pasture again, starting on their last grazing round the farm. Some fresh grass will help get them ready for the winter and the breeding season. The rams in the barnyard are getting keen, with a lot more pushing and shoving and fighting. I like to see them with some spirit for their work.

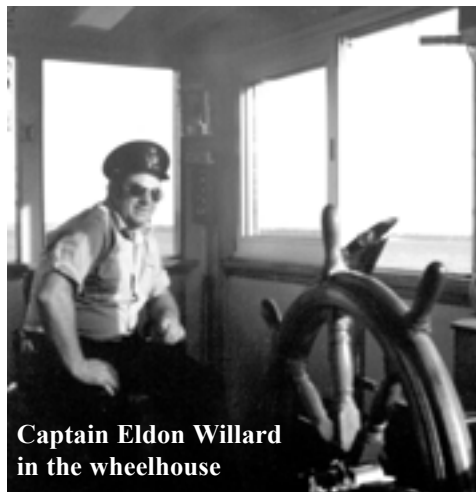
Ian and Leah are off to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto for ten days. They will be selling our blankets and yarn, we hope, to the tens of thousands of people who visit the Fair each year. This year is very much a trial run, to see how it goes.

Dianne has been heartened by the enthusiastic response to her article in the Beacon on The Wave. Some visitors to the Island may have been a little startled about how friendly a place this is. Remember though that a stranger is just a friend you haven't met yet, or a neighbour with a new car.

Time now to get out the long johns and the winter wool sweaters.

Going down the road to check the stock on the ATV has been a little brisk the last few mornings. If it's clear and bright, with the last of the fall colours and the geese flying overhead there are many worse places to live.

## THANK YOU NOTES



**Captain Eldon Willard  
in the wheelhouse**

Words cannot begin to express our gratitude and appreciation to our family, neighbours and friends near and far who have remembered us in so many ways with cards, phone calls, gifts, food, visits, driving to appointments but most of all your prayers.

A "special" thanks to Andrew Chisolm, Carol Finlay, and Dr. Harley Smyth who always seemed to be there when we needed them most. Thank-you to everyone who sent cards and remembered us in August when we experienced the untimely death of my brother Stratton Reid. When your world gets turned upside down, not once but twice within a short time, the love and support of such a caring community is more than we could ever begin to express in words or thoughts. God Bless each and every one of you!

Eldon & Elsie Willard

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We can't begin to tell you how thankful we are that so many people remembered Dad and helped us through such a heartbreaking experience. The First Response Team are a wonderful, dedicated group who give their all to us for every call and we are truly thankful beyond words for their care and compassion when they answered our call. Thank you to those who donated in Dad's memory to the First Response Team. Hopefully the contributions will help toward a much needed piece of equipment to help someone else some day.

Thank you to Dr. Brian Grace for "being glad to be able to do something for Captain Billy." Your presence alone was a blessing then and when you helped us with Douglas the next day and followed up with another visit showing the true compassion of a man who practices the profession with compassion and skill. Thank you to all the people who helped Douglas on the way to the ferry. Sorry, but I don't have your names with all the confusion of that week.

Thank you all for the baking: Marion and Elsie with the coconut cream pie, Susie with hot muffins, Grace for the sandwiches and cookies for the reception, Lyn for the lasagne and the anyone else I can't list the number of kindnesses shown. The cards have been wonderful and the follow up chats to help me for my personal loss have been the greatest therapy.

(continued >)



Thank you Mom for looking after Dad all those years, through thick and thin and a large family. Thank you Amherst Island for being who and what you are.

Diane Ida, George, Douglas and Jessica Gavlas

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My family and I wish to express our appreciation and thanks to Amherst Isle First Response Team, Dr. Brian Grace and the Ambulance Service. We than the ferry crew for the many times they waited and brought the ambulance over for Bill, Rev. Andrew Chisolm for the fine service he conducted, Beth Forester who donated her service as organist in memory of a family friend, Anglican Woman's Guild for the delicious lunch and St. Paul's Presbyterian Church for the hall. We thank neighbours, friends and relatives for visitations, floral tributes and charitable donations in Bill's memory. Thanks for the many cards of sympathy, visits, offers of help and gifts of delicious food. Thanks to our loving Grandsons for acting as pallbearers and James Reid Funeral Home and Staff. We are grateful to the Navy Veterans for their participation in the service.

Helen Bulch, Chuck, Dave, Dot, Diane, Pauli, their spouses and families.

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I would like to thank all my many family and friends, along with Reverend Andrew Chisholm and Beth Forester, for making Art's Memorial Service so special. Special thanks also to Betty Wemp and the A.C.W. for the lovely meal following the service.

Kay Wolfreys and family.

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Wedding Bells on the South Shore:

On August 3, Laurie McEwen and Dave Willard joined their lives together on the front lawn under a beautiful arbour provided by Baloney's Flowers. Painted sap buckets adorned with Queen Anne's Lace and Purple Loosestrife marked the pathway to the arbour where Reverend Zander Dunn was waiting to greet the bride and groom. The maid of honour was Laurie's sister Shelley McEwen who was accompanied by her daughter Sky McEwen and Dave's daughter, Becky. The best man was Peter Hamilton - Dave's former strength training partner and long time owner of Sunshine Natural Foods. Peter was accompanied by Laurie's nephew, Lake Khera and Dave's son, Morgan. The signing was done on an antique washstand refinished by Dave's mom, Gayel. Susie Caughey provided a wonderful reception dinner at Poplar Dell with dessert served down on her dock in Preston Cove. It was truly an enchanting day.

Thank you to all those who attended the bridal shower for Laurie. Special thanks to Aunt Dorothy McGinn and Karen Miller who hosted the bridal shower. Congratulations to Aunt Emily Tugwell and her decorating team, as the winners of the wedding dress design contest.

Dave Willard

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**Thanks to AIMS** for providing some driving help. Special thanks to John and Sherrill Wright and to Jim Whitton. And also to Ralph Woods for making the arrangements.

Sally Bowen

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## NOTICES

### NEWS From The GENERAL STORE

We are now operating on Fall and Winter hours once again:

Mon - Sat: 9am - 6pm

Sunday: 10am - 6pm.

This is the newest list of movie rentals we have in right now:

The Mexican - Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts

Blow - Johnny Depp

Along Came a Spider - Morgan Freeman

Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles - Paul Hogan

Crouching Tiger - Hidden Dragon - Chow Yun Fat

The Pledge - Jack Nicholson

Spy Kids - Antonio Banderras

Driven - Sylvester Stalone

The Mummy Returns - Brendan Fraser

Down to Earth - Chris Rock

Many others to choose from.

Thank you all for your continued patronage and support.

### A.I.W.I. Update of Island Phone Book

Please contact Diane Hieatt

at 389-7074 or <dhieatt@kingston.net>

to add new names &/or numbers

## ATTENTION SENIORS

If you have reached that magic age of 65 and think that you might not be on our list to receive your personal invitation to The Amherst Island Women's Institute Seniors' Christmas Dinner Sunday December 2, Please call Kirsten Bennick 389-0636 or Claire Jenney 384-7830.

## THE FERRY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

on November 21, 2001. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Thank you. Ida Gavlas, Ferry Clerk

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## PCW Annual Christmas Tea and Sale

Saturday November 24 1-3 pm

Amherst Island Community Centre

Christmas gifts and crafts

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## Public Meeting at Ferry Office

7 p.m. on November 6

Miller Municipal Drain Maintenance Report.

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## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This Christmas, you can share joy and hope with a needy child in a troubled country like Cambodia, Serbia, Bolivia or Sierra Leone by taking part in Operation Christmas Child, a missions project of Samaritan's Purse. Everyone can participate by filling a shoe box with gifts and dropping it at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church or at Karen J. Fleming's, 2050 Stella 40 FT Road on or before **NOVEMBER 11, 2001.**

If you would like to spread joy and peace to hurting children by participating in this special Christmas project, please call Karen at 389-9869 for a brochure, shoe box or details.

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[From Beacon Issue #6

**Thursday, June 25, 1970]**  
**MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS**

- Marj Aitken

At a special session on June 1st, Council had as its guest, Mr Irvin Anderson, of the Department of Municipal Affairs. Mr Anderson explained many of the aspects of the Planning Act and gave advice, re:passing a bylaw to control subdivisions. The following night Council met for their regular meeting and discussed, at great length, the pros and cons of such a step. After much serious consideration, a motion was carried to pass a bylaw establishing subdivision control over the entire municipality of Amherst Island. This seem a rather extreme measure but there have been so many examples of poor development of lands where such control was not instituted that Council felt obligated to do so.

But it would seem that the choice was not to be Council's for long at any rate. The following appeared in Monday's Globe and Mail and is a direct quote of the article, under the heading ..For Ordered Development ... `Uncontrolled development of land is chaos. Land use plans are designated to avoid that chaos. But in vast areas of Ontario where municipalities have no such plans, extraordinary measures are needed. These measures were taken in the Legislature last week when Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough introduced amendments to the Planning Act. Under the new law, all Ontario municipalities that have no land use plans will have to apply to Queen's Park before they will be allowed to create subdivisions. By putting subdivision controls on all land not protected by bylaws or plans, McKeough has, in effect, frozen development until the municipality passes an Official Plan. And the plan must meet the standards set down by the Department of Municipal Affairs. Most of the areas affected are in Eastern Ontario. The Minister had no choice. Without

**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.

**Fresh fruits and Vegetables, in season**  
**Barbara Reid**  
**10850 Front Road**  
**389-0675**

**WOOLLEN PRODUCTS**  
**From TOPSY FARMS**  
Blankets, Wraps, Yarn, Sheepskins  
389-3444 or at  
The Weasel and Easel & Bath Village Gallery

**SUMMIT INTERNATIONAL CANADA**  
Carpet Manufacturer and Distributor  
Gord Forbes, Sales Agent .... 389-8516

**Thomas A. Richmond**  
***Certified Electrician***  
Home, Farm, Commercial work,  
right here on the island. 634-1855

the protection of adequate zoning and planning controls, land could be hacked into smaller pieces and dished out to developers without regard to the need for roads, sewers, schools, electricity or water supply.' ...end of quote.

Monday evening another guest addressed Council. This time the visitor was Mr Clyde Pope, of the Fire Marshall's Office in Belleville. He looked over the Town Hall and recommendations for its conversion into a proper Fire Hall. He was very pleased with it's possibilities. Mr Pope instructed Council on a **proposed voluntary fire department** as to the numbers of personnel required, equipment needed, and modifications necessary to the Town Hall to properly fit it to the needs of a Fire Hall...i.e. a wall up along the stage line, to make a room for training meetings in the rear of the building, new wiring necessary, etc. Glenn Sheil is Council's chairman of this committee which will oversee this new group and a list of candidates for Fire Chief and brigade members is being considered. Glenn will contact these people personally and your support will be appreciated.