

The Amherst Island BEACON

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August 2004



TO OUR READERS

- Ian Murray, editor

The July issue set lateness records. Both Tom and I are pretty busy in the summer and its difficult to put volunteer work ahead of work that puts food in front of sheep - in my case - or food in front of his family - in Tom's case. When our material finally got to KwikKopy, there was an equipment failure that resulted in about a third of the copies being even later.

We hope this issue will get out quicker.

The Beacon is always hungry for more articles relating to our Island home. As Terry Culbert has proven, being a Beacon reporter gives one a chance to be more involved in Island activities.

Zander is doing a great job interviewing older Islanders (including some who have moved away but who have roots here).

It would also be interesting to have interviews with those who have moved here as adults. I enjoyed the brief autobiographies that used to appear in the AIMS report.

Peter Large is having an exhibition of his work at The Lodge on Stella Point-see notice elsewhere in this issue for more information. This is a good chance to see the originals of some of Peter's work that have appeared in the Beacon.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get Well this month to Clinton Kilpatrick, Harry Filson, Carol Morgan, Tessa Mayman and Freda Youell.

Our family has had a great loss this summer with the passing of Syke Fleming. Syke has been the core of our family and will be missed terribly by her children and grandchildren as well as neighbours, friends and family.



At the risk of increasing demand for the Beacon to levels heretofore not seen, we present Amherst Island Recycling Guru Keith Miller (AKA Dr. Love), here on a July day, both Hot ~and~ Tired. TC

Congratulations to this year's graduates. At A.I.P.S., moving up from Kindergarten to full time grade one are - Dylan Mayman, Ciara Richmond, Rachel Scott and Shyanne Shurtliffe. One of the biggest grade eight graduating classes in the last few years, was this year's, with a grand total of 6 graduates who received their diplomas at the Graduation and Awards ceremonies on June 22nd. Congratulations to Talia Fleming, Ashley McGinn, Caitlin McDonald and Torri Phillips, who are all off to NDSS in the Fall. Congrats also to Beth Albertan (off to E.S.S.) and Patrick deHaan (to Holy Cross). This lively group has been together since JK and will be missed at A.I.P.S. Congratulations to NDSS grads, Tabytha Trotter (off to St. Lawrence College) and Cory Hutchings. Graduating from St. Lawrence College's Behavioral Science and Technology program is Jessica McGinn and from St. Lawrence's Medical Office Administration program (with distinction) is Stephanie Fleming. I apologize if I have

missed anyone, but please let me know before the next Beacon and I will include them in the next month.

Congratulations to Bonnie Baker and Dale Willard who were married in an outdoor ceremony at their home on the Island in July. Family weddings were also held at the Whiting's home and Coralie Marshall's so far this summer.

Congratulations to Lloyd Wolfreys, who retired as Ferry Captain in July. Lloyd has worked more than 30 years on several different ferries that have served the Island over that time, and in all kinds of conditions. Enjoy your retirement!! Congratulations to David Fleming who has moved up to the Captain position to replace Lloyd.

Elsie Willard travelled to B.C. with Cathy Sylvester and her sister by car to visit friends. My nephew Kevin McDade from Orlando spent 2 weeks with us again this summer and is becoming a seasoned flyer (for an 8 year old), trav-



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elling alone again this year. My mom, Kay Wolfreys is also here for a couple of months again this summer from Orlando and is enjoying our cooler than usual summer.

The ladies (and I hear a couple of men as well) of the Women's Institute put in some time earlier this summer fixing part of the stone fence at Pentland Cemetery. Judging from the great job they did, they may be in demand for other stone fence repairs!

The Saturday morning Market is back in business again for the summer and is becoming a popular meeting spot as it grows a little each summer.

The Amherst Island Recreation Association's Canada Day celebrations went off without a hitch - despite the rain earlier in the day and threatening skies at the start of the parade. The parade was bigger and better than ever. Many enjoyed their free hot dog and drink, games for the kids and adults and the PCW's Strawberry Social with the evening being capped off by another amazing fireworks show by Canazon Fireworks.

The Primary Class at A.I.P.S., along with several parents and staff, spent a day at the Toronto Zoo to cap off the year. The Senior Class enjoyed 3 days of fun in Toronto for their year end trip. Activities included a day at SCTV, an evening at the Theatre (Mama Mia), a trip up the CN Tower, shopping at the Eaton's Centre and of course Wonderland. They also became quite adept at using the subway system and found their way around the downtown core on foot as well.

Well our summer hasn't warmed up as much as promised yet. The cooler, damper weather has been great for flower beds though, and the warm days and cool nights have been good for swimming and sleeping! I am sure there are more than a few "grass cutters" wishing for some relief from the constant lawn maintenance! Although my water hyacinths prefer some heat and humidity to bloom, I will suffer and just enjoy their bright green foliage!

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

As many Islanders are aware, during the summer, visitors from far and away come to visit Amherst Island. Just as our human visitors come to our beautiful and beloved island for a wee bit of rest and relaxation so do our feathered friends. Two such visitors this past month were the Whimbrel on July 10th and the White Pelican on July 28th.

It was interesting to watch a Whimbrel as it fed in the fields between Welbanks' farm and Sylvester's house on the South Shore. This bird is travelling between its breeding grounds on the coasts of Hudson Bay and James Bay

to its wintering grounds in South America in the Guianas. In Spring they fly over the islands of the West Indies and follow the coast of United States to about New Jersey and then fly northwest to the Hudson Bay Lowlands. In the fall they tend to fly more to the east which brings them over our part of Lake Ontario and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Sightings of Whimbrel on Amherst Island date back to 1919 when 65 birds were recorded on the gravel bar. As many as 130 were seen on Amherst Island in May of 1969. Fall records usually report only one or two birds.

The Whimbrel is a large shore bird about 17 inches or 45 cm. When you first spot this bird your visual memories bring a curlew to mind because of the shape. Closer inspection shows a down curved bill that is shorter than the Curlew's bill. The head is striped on the crown which is more easily seen with binoculars.

On July 28th an American White Pelican was spotted at the KFN property on the eastern end of Amherst Island. The Kingston Field Naturalists' records show the first Kingston sighting of a pelican was in August of 1959 and where? Why of course on the bar at Amherst Island! This gravel bar is an absolute treasure when it comes to transient bird sightings. In October of 1984 a Pelican was found injured on 401 near the Division Street exit. That particular bird was wearing a leg band which showed it had been banded in Minnesota in June while still a nestling. After being rehabilitated in Verona at The Avian Care Centre it was flown by the World Wildlife Fund to Florida and released. Quite an eventful life for a young bird! A few years ago our visiting Pelican stayed for several weeks so it could still be possible to see him at the foot. If you are birding on the KFN property try to watch out for the Wilson's Phalarope. Just like their name these birds are interesting. They were first reported on Amherst Island in 1923 and isolated sightings followed until in 1980 two nests were found and thus breeding here on Amherst Island was proved.

This interesting shore bird has the male raising and caring for the chicks while the more brightly coloured female defends territory. The black stripe on face and neck will help you identify this bird which is abundant in our western provinces but rare here in the East.

Keep your eyes open! You never know what strange bird might show up on Amherst Island as they fly through or drop in. Good Birding

Note: Richard Tkachuck of the South Shore has kindly offered to keep a running record of the birds on Amherst Island so if you can remember a one time sighting or some special bird encounter let's keep him informed or in the know so a written history of



Amherst Island birding can be maintained.

[Staff: Until Richard and Cindy's home is finished and phone connected, leave a message for him at the store, at his trailer (at Bruce and Andrea's, 4615 South Shore Road) or at Janet's.]

Glenn Picnic at the Bluffs, Amherst Island, First Sunday, August 1942.



Back Row (L-R): John Morrow, Rob Glenn, Marshall Glenn, Kenneth Hill, Arthur Glenn, Harold McCaugherty, Olive Glenn (nee Henderson)

3rd Row (L-R): Carlton Morrow, Glenna Morrow, Hilda McCaugherty with baby Vivian McCaugherty, Thelma Glenn

2nd Row (L-R): Rose Hill (nee Glenn), Annie Morrow (nee Glenn), Jennie McCaugherty (nee Glenn), Louise Glenn (nee Charboneau), Myrtle McCaugherty, Elaine Glenn, Eva McCaugherty

Front Row (L-R): Edgar McCaugherty with Raymond McCaugherty, Janie McCaugherty (nee Brown), Gordon Glenn, Eva Glenn, Leslie Glenn, Gwendolyn Hill, Wilma Morrow.

And at the very front: Glendon McCaugherty

Arthur, Louise, Elaine and Leslie Glenn visiting from Gary Indiana

Photo from Gwen Robertson (nee Gwendolyn Hill, second from right in front row)

Interview: WILBERT AND GAYEL WILLARD

- Zander of DUNN INN

Wilbert Willard, the son of Joseph and Gertrude (Cork) Willard, was born on October 16, 1930 and raised on the sand beach on the Third Concession, in the second farm from the Emerald 40 Foot. His wife, Gayel, whose parents were Earl and Ruth Peters, was born on February 10, 1935 at home in Wilton. Although Gayel does not remember this, she knows from watching when her brother came into the world, that the family brought her parents' bed downstairs. Like him, she was "born in the parlour."

Wilbert attended No. 5 Public School on the Third Concession, where Paul and Carol Glenn live today. Mrs. Lulu Strain was Wilbert's first teacher. The Morricks, the Wemps, the Suddses, the Wolfreys, the Hendersons, the Flemings and the McCaughertys were his classmates in the one room school house which housed all eight grades. Approximately 28 to 30 students filled the school.

Although Wilbert enjoyed his studies and friends, he missed a year of school, about grade five because of tuberculosis, a disease which afflicted many Islanders at that time. After public school Wilbert attended high school for two years at the old red brick building (where the Back Kitchen stands today) and two years at the new Continuation School.

Wilbert was a good athlete and loved to play baseball. He often walked at least

five miles from the Sand Beach area, across the fields, to the Fair Ground in Stella where he played for the High School team. (And, of course, he had to walk the same distance home). There were four soft ball



ZD

teams on the island in those days. The High School team - considered "the brats" - involved two of the teachers, Dave Harwood and Joe Spector, and students like Colin Filson, Howard Cochrane and Jimmy Neilson. The Emerald team included such players as Leslie Wemp and members of the Gibson and McGinn families. The Village of Stella team boasted of Sterling and Les Glenn, Max Beaubien, Wallace Wemp, Harris Filson and Mike and Stewart Brown. The team from the Third Concession is largely forgotten by Wilbert, except for Earl Tugwell, their outstanding pitcher. Wilbert also won many ribbons for his other athletic endeavours in track and field.

Wilbert, at the age of 17 or 18, worked on the old wooden ferry on Fridays only when it made its trips to Kingston. He was also involved in several of the cattle

drives undertaken by the Tugwells. The cattle were loaded on the ferry in Stella, off-loaded in Millhaven and then herded to the Ernestown Railway Station. On one occasion a cow jumped over the side

of the ferry during a crossing. The ferry was turned around, the cow was lassoed and brought back to land where it was put back on the ferry again and kept tied up until they got to the mainland.

One winter when they were teenagers, Wilbert and Ted Wemp took a boat from the Foot, over thin ice and headed for the mainland. The ice began to move and break up so they were forced to pull the boat up onto the thicker ice. Concerned neighbours reported them missing so a search plane was sent out. They were observed closely as they made their way over broken ice, through open water and in rough winds to safety.

For grade 13 Wilbert went to Napanee High School. He stayed all week at the home of his uncle. It was at the Napanee High School that Wilbert and Gayel first met. She was only in grade nine at the time so nothing much developed from their meeting at that point - they were too young. But they kept in touch over the years. One year Wilbert sent Gayel a Valentine's Day card and that proved to be the catalyst that brought them together.

In 1953 Wilbert invited Gayel to Amherst Island to meet his people and

see his home. She thought somebody had stopped the world and dropped her off. People were still moving about in horse-drawn buggies, some homes had no electricity and several had no indoor plumbing.

Wilbert and Gayel were married on April 4, 1954 in the Camden East Anglican Church by The Rev. Maurice Oldham. The reception was held in the adjoining church hall. The honeymoon was spent in Ottawa. The last vestiges of their 50th Anniversary party, two balloons, waved gaily outside their house during my visit with them.

Gayel and Wilbert returned to live for a year with Gayel's parents before moving to the farm next door to her folks. Wilbert worked, not only on the farm but also at ALCAN in Kingston. When asked how he could do both jobs, Wilbert replied that he had started working for his uncle, Sam Reid, at the age of 11 for \$15 a month. At that age he was ploughing with a team of four horses and doing all the normal work of a farmer. He was used to getting up at 4:30 a.m. and going to bed at 9 p.m. He was able to handle the work.

Wilbert remembers that when he left ALCAN in 1961 his pay cheque for his last month of work was \$297. He left ALCAN and the Wilton farm to move his family back to Amherst Island. They bought the Charlie McMullen farm and lived in the house where Dave and Diane Hieatt live today. The barn for that farm was located where Eric and Linda Welbanks now have their new house on the Front Road. As both Gayel and Wilbert remarked, land on the Island was much cheaper then than it is today. Gayel remembers how warmly she was welcomed by all the Islanders. The Island community seemed smaller and friendlier then.

Farming was more diversified in those days. There were many milk farmers on the Island but those farmers also raised pigs, sheep, chickens and grew their own vegetables. The Willards noted that now there are farms devoted exclusively to sheep, but nobody raises pigs on the Is-

land. Wilbert sometimes walked on the sand bar over to Nut Island. He recalls Royal Wemp bringing sheep off Nut Island, having left them there to pasture during the summer.

The Willards got involved in the community, of course. They enjoyed the card parties in the homes of friends. They remember fondly visiting neighbours for good conversation, often a card game and always good food. Wilbert served on the Amherst Island School Board for several years and spent many years driving the school bus. Gayel was, for many years, the 4H leader and got involved in leading Home-making clubs.

Both Wilbert and Gayel were active in St. Alban's Anglican Church. Wilbert served as a warden and was treasurer of the congregation for 10 years. Gayel remembers The Rev. Williston, the Rev. Rutter and the Rev. Dennis Powell, the last minister to live in the Rectory (which burned down last April) next to the church. Gayel was concerned because there was no Sunday School in the church. She got a Sunday School started. Then, in 1970 she, Cathy Glenn and Jean Tugwell got together and started the Community Sunday School. There were so many children involved, it had to be held in the Public School.

In the 1970's many "draft dodgers", fleeing the U.S. involvement in the Viet Nam war, flocked to the island for refuge. They seemed to find shelter in every vacant house and barn. Gayel drove the school bus in those years and once got stuck on the Front Road near where Ian Murray lives now. No fewer than 17 young people came out to help her get the bus out of the mire. She was both amazed and grateful.

Gayel hated crossing on the ice. No family member ever had a close call but she was always nervous when driving on the ice. It bothered her to send her children over the ice to high school in Napanee. She remembers that David drove a snow machine over the ice to get to high school. One day a terrible storm made it impossible to see anything on the ice. She searched nervously for a sign of David

coming home but never saw him. She was shocked when he came into the kitchen behind her. She had not heard or seen him in the storm.

There is one ice-crossing experience which caused Wilbert and Gayel great amusement. One winter, after being Island-bound for many weeks, Earle and Jean Tugwell decided to accompany the Willards to the Horsemen's Dance in Kingston. The Willards joined the Tugwells at the Stella dock. The men rode on a snow machine which pulled a little cutter in which the women sat. About half-way across to Millhaven, the snow machine and the cutter became separated. When the women realized they were sitting still in the dark, they yelled with all their might. The men, unable to hear the cries of the women over the noise of their machine, went on ahead unaware the women were stranded behind them on the ice. One of the men finally looked back and discovered the women were no longer attached to them. As Gayel observed, "They did come back for us. How we all laughed!"

When David was about six, Gayel arranged with her parents to pick up David off that day's last ferry to the mainland so they could take him to the Santa Claus parade in Kingston on the next day. Unfortunately they got the times mixed up and her parents were not there to meet David. When Gayel learned from her parents that they had not received David off the ferry she became frantic. What could she do? The ferry was in Stella for the night. Nobody knew where David was. Her parents patrolled the roads and finally found David walking back from Millhaven to go to the home of his aunt Gladys who lived not far away. Everybody heaved a sigh of relief.

The Willard children were all born in The Kingston General Hospital before they came to the Island.

The family farm prospered during the 17 years the Willards worked on it. In fact, the farm became so demanding they could not do all the work required. David was not interested in farming at that point in his life. The family realized they

would have to spend a considerable amount of money to handle the increase in the farm work or they would have to sell. The Willards chose to sell. They continued to live in their home for another year, however, while Wilbert worked as a correctional officer in Napanee. But travelling from the Island to the mainland was always difficult by ferry or over the ice. Wilbert, who could not stand to be late for work, moved his family to Harrowsmith where they lived for 10 good years on 50 acres of land.

They had to leave their home in Harrowsmith because Gayel took sick with breathing problems. The clincher came when both her lungs collapsed and they got her to the hospital just in the nick of time. The doctors recommended they move to a drier climate. Sudbury was recommended, and had it not been for an inept Real Estate agent, they might have moved there. Instead they went to live in Vennachar, near Denbigh. They liked it there. It was drier and Gayel was able to breathe better. During their 15 years there they benefited from winters spent in Florida and Arizona. And they became members of The Free Methodist Church, the only church in the area. They admired the Free Methodists and felt at home with the good people of that congregation.

When their son, David, had his farming accident on the Island in 1990 which rendered him wheel-chair bound, they often drove down to help him and his family with the farm work. Two years ago they returned to the island. They now live in the house at 4895 South Shore Road which used to be the Langevin summer home and sits right on the water's edge. While they have not yet sold their house in Vennachar they are here to stay. Gayel says, "I'm not moving again."

The Willards have noticed many changes on the Island. There are more and different people now. Many of the people they knew have disappeared. And all the new

houses going up! They contend there are two classes of people on the Island today - old Islanders and new Islanders. They are amused at so many of the new Islanders, who come to the Island to get away from the rat race and to enjoy the peace and quiet, then try to bring so much of their "busyness" and their non-Island ways to the Island.

Wilbert helps David on his sheep farm as much as he can. Wilbert and Gayel, who both love to garden, have set up a series of raised vegetable and flower beds on their own property which they tend carefully and which produce good and colourful items. Wilbert is back as a warden in St. Alban's Anglican Church. Gayel plays the organ for some services and is much involved in the Community Bible Study Group. She is also the pastoral care visitor for the congregation, having taken a course through the Kingston Diocese to prepare her for that role.

The Willards have three children, two of whom live nearby. David, their eldest, lives at 600 South Shore Road with his wife Laurie (McEwan). They have a new son, Ronan David, born on April 12, 2004. David's two other children by a previous marriage, Morgan, 17, and Becky, 15, live in Edmonton.

Diana lives in Brampton with her husband, George Sayad, who is a medical doctor. They have an aviary in which they raise and sell parrots - a bigger enterprise than you might expect. Their three chil-

dren are Lara, 20, Elyse, 17, and Richard, 15.

Sandra lives in Bath.

It is good to have the Willards back on the Island. They have always contributed to the good of the Island and are much involved in doing the same now!



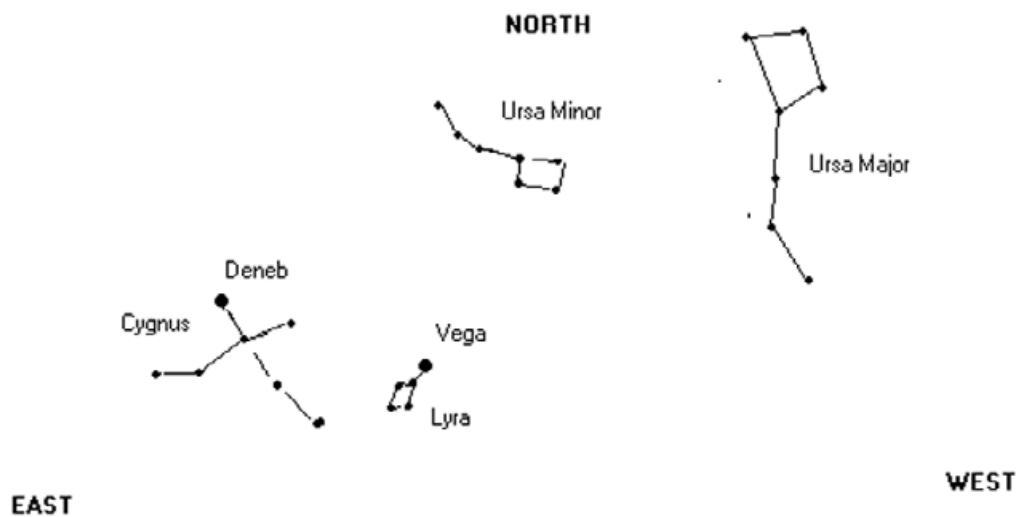
AUGUST SKIES

- Alan Kidd

Well, July was a bit of a bust for stargazing. Those nights which weren't cloudy, were too hazy to allow one to see more than the brightest stars. Let's hope for a drier and brighter August.

At midnight, on August 15th, the constellation Cygnus, or the Northern Cross, is overhead. It is right next to Vega, the brightest star of the summer skies, which we discussed last week. Now that we are getting closer to fall, there are more clear nights and the Milky Way should be more visible.

Following the Milky Way south, we come to the constellation of Sagittarius, sometimes called the teapot. Sagittarius



is right next to Scorpius, another constellation we talked about last month. Sagittarius is always near the southern horizon and is best seen in these parts in August and September. Sagittarius marks the centre of the Milky Way and is a fine sight. There are a half dozen star clusters and nebulae grouped around the top of the Sagittarius teapot. All can be seen easily with a pair of binoculars. The chart shows the location of Cygnus, Vega and Sagittarius, along with the Big Dipper for reference.

The evening planets are not particularly notable in the skies this month. Jupiter, Mars and Mercury are all low in the West at twilight. After the first 10 days of the month they will all be lost in the Sun's glow.

Venus is a spectacular morning object for early risers. Saturn can also be seen in the first light of dawn for sharp eyed observers. Late in the month Venus and Saturn form a close pair. On the morning of the 31st they are only 2° apart (about a finger's width at arm's length).

One major event this month is the Perseid meteor shower. This will occur in the early morning hours of August 12th this year. Since there is no moon that night, the viewing should be good if the sky is clear. Expect to see about one meteor every minute at the peak of the shower.

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

There was a laudatory article on Dick Dodds in the July 19th Whig written by Jack Chiang. Jack included a large photo of Dick on a golf cart. Dick has certainly had an interesting career in education.

It was the summer of 1971 that those farmers who decided to ship milk to the mainland had to improve their operations by adding silos, new milk houses, barn cleaners, milk tanks and so on. The ferry always seemed to be crowded with concrete trucks, loads of cement staves for the silos, lots of building material,

and pick-up trucks full of the workers to use the aforementioned items. It was an unusually busy time for this quiet Island.

My impression is that this summer is even busier than 1971: many construction projects; lots of car traffic; and, swarms of cyclists.

There were 2 heavy rain days in the last week of July including one on Garden Party Saturday. In between rain showers, the Garden Party proceeded more or less as scheduled.

RESTORER OF ISLAND STONE WALLS

- Terrence Patrick Culbert



Stonemason-teacher Bill Hedges instructs the volunteers at Pentland Cemetery. TC

Amherst Island Women's Institute, the fourth oldest chapter in the world, applied for and received a grant to help rebuild the Island's deteriorating Irish dry-stone walls. The four thousand dollar grant came

from the Greater Kingston Community Foundation and helped pay for work gloves, cold drinks and for the volunteers' incredibly talented teacher, stone mason Bill Hedges.

William Ralph Hedges calls himself a recovering American from the mid-western suburbs of Kansas City. Attending Oberlin College in northern Ohio, Bill majored in biology and minored in geology. "During the Viet Nam War conflict," claims Bill, "I got kicked out of school for attempting to take over the university's administration building. At the time, our main concern was the fact that the American government actively recruited for the war on campus. We felt strongly that this was in contradiction to the principals of our university."

Moving to Cleveland, Ohio, Hedges shared a house with other anti-war activists. "I did some volunteer work for the Black Panthers and published some left-leaning news letters," he said. "Eventually I was picked up by the FBI for dodging the draft and spent three days in jail. In April of 1970, I fled to Canada as a conscientious objector. I was twenty-three at the time and became one of thousands who were opposed to the Vietnam War and had slipped into Canada. Within two years I received my landed immigrant papers and in 1972, I moved to Amherst Island."

For the next four years Bill worked in the construction industry on the mainland. He became a member of the labourers' union while working at the cement and hydro plants. In 1976 looking for a new challenge, he decided to go into business for himself. "In my youth, I spent a lot of time outdoors: canoeing, hiking, camping and collecting insects. With my interest in geology, the life of a stone mason had great appeal to me. While living in a teepee, as part of a hippie community at the head of Amherst Island, I started thinking of constructing a 12-sided stone house. All my skills were self-taught. I studied many books and learned from working alongside other tradesmen. It took me two years to build the stone house. However, after another



Volunteers Joyce Haines, Judith Harrower and Allan Kidd rebuild the west wall of the Pentland Cemetery. TC

year and a half, the isolation on Second Concession Road forced us to sell and move off-Island to Bath. There we purchased an 1856 house in dire need of repairs. That experience taught me to appreciate restoration of older homes. Currently, that is the bulk of my work in addition to the stone masonry.”

The idea to rebuild the Irish stone walls of Amherst Island came out of a project he did for Laurie Kilpatrick and her husband John Moolenbeek two years ago. Laurie and John hired Bill to construct a stone fireplace facing in their new home on South Shore Road. As they chatted about the Island, the old stone fences came up, which peaked Hedges’ interest.

“I was thrilled when Laurie sent me an email stating the Amherst Island Women’s Institute was interested in the wall restoration,” he said. “I was introduced to Joyce Haines, the president. Joyce and I had a couple of meetings to iron out safety and volunteer issues, as well as determining the locations of wall restorations.”

“We started with the Pentland Cemetery, rebuilding 400 feet of the west wall,” explained Joyce Haines, now past president of the Amherst Island Women’s Institute. “This involved taking down the wall stone by stone, then rebuilding it. After exhausting all the available stone on the site, the group moved to Gary and Anne-Marie Hitchins’ farm. “I feel that the

Hitchins’ property at the corner of Emerald 40 Foot and the Second Concession Road exhibits the most beautiful stone wall on the Island,” Joyce went on to say. “We’ve been fortunate to have an average of seventeen dedicated volunteers on each of the two projects who are all novices and eager to learn.”

“I’ve worked with stone before,” claims volunteer Laura Gartner, “building a front step and some walkways on my farmhouse property. Other than that, I’ve not had much experience with stonework. Bill, our teacher, has been extremely patient and is forever giving us encouragement.”

“The history of the Amherst Island stone walls dates back to the 1860’s.” Hedges said. “The migration of the Irish during the earlier potato famine played a significant role in bringing people to the Island who had the skill, the knowledge and the heritage to build the walls. The bedrock was relatively shallow and farmers were constantly removing rocks as they ploughed the soil. Those early pioneers did what they knew best with their abundance of rocks, they built wonderful stone walls.”



Wearing a Mexican sombrero to protect himself from the sun, stonemason Bill Hedges works on the magnificent Irish dry-stone wall at the farm of Gary and Anne-Marie Hitchins. TC

The City of Kingston is an urban time capsule of the early 1800's and Amherst Island in many ways is the rural equivalent. The landscape of the Island speaks of rural people, their lives and how they defined their own social conditions. "To work with the newcomers and the older Islanders rebuilding the stone walls is not only a fantastic opportunity, but a privilege," Hedges went on to say. "We're replanting the seeds of community! We're working with a mixture of old and new and it's a great venue for those two forces to come together."

STEWARDSHIP RANGERS CLEANUP NATURE RESERVE

- Terrence Patrick Culbert

On the drizzly morning of July 28th, four grade eleven students from Kingston and Napanee boarded the ferry to Amherst Island. They had come to clean up the nature reserve shoreline at the Foot of the Island. The Kingston Field Naturalists purchased the 191-acre reserve in 1986. The reserve is internationally recognized as a valuable breeding and migration stopover habitat for many species of grassland birds, shorebirds and waterfowl.

Sarah Murray, Josh Matassa, Stewart



Stewardship Ranger Sarah Murray, collects a rusty iron bar from the shoreline of the Amherst Island Nature Reserve.

TC

Themens and Krista Potter are Stewardship Rangers, employed for the summer by The Lennox & Addington Stewardship Council. Accompanying the seventeen year olds was Doctor Jay McMahan of the Kingston Field Naturalists, Chris Grooms of Ontario Nature (Federation of Ontario Naturalists) and Kevin Hansen, Ontario Stewardship Ranger Lead. Under the guid-

ance of the three men, the Rangers collected garbage and debris washed up on the shoreline of Lake Ontario. They also gathered fence wire and metal posts, a potential risk to wildlife.

"It's a great experience for these students," said Kevin Hansen. "A lot of them are planning to enter university or college in the environmental field. It's an eight week contract and they're paid student minimum wage."

Stewart Themens of LaSalle Secondary in Kingston said: "I'm planning to take Outdoor Recreation at Lakehead University. The Stewardship Rangers program is a great opportunity for me to see what my options are and to learn more about the environment."

"The Amherst Island cleanup," said Chris Grooms, "is one of many conservation projects coordinated by Ontario Nature and its province-wide network. Ontario Nature has set a goal of completing 240 conservation projects by 2006."

As I walked with the group through the long, wet grass, we came across an incredible sighting of an American White Pelican. Popular on the Canadian prairies,



Chris Grooms of Ontario Nature, speaks to four Stewardship Rangers and their Lead before the shoreline cleanup began.

TC

the American White Pelican is extremely rare in these parts with less than 20 being spotted in the Kingston area over the past forty years. This particular bird was last documented in the Presqu'île area near Brighton. With the use of a high power telescope provided by two biologists that were on the reserve that morning, we were all able to watch the pelican swim and make its way onto the shoreline near Garry and Susan Filsons' property. Biologists Kurt Hennige and Annette Jones of the Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery were in the midst of a study when the large pelican flew into the area. A pair of Osprey nesting on a man-made nesting pole was sighted as well as was a small flock of Wilson's Phalarope whirling in tight circles above the marsh in search of aquatic insects. Amherst Island is one of only a handful of locations to see the rare, colourful shorebird. What a privilege it was to walk the grounds of the nature reserve that morning.

AIMS

- John Kuti

The Chairman welcomed visitor Frank Bailey and his son Scott to the meeting.

Peter Large spoke about the success of the Festival of the Arts on July the third. He reported that he had called almost all participants and the overwhelming consensus was that it was a significant success. Local village businesses reported the best income in years. There was feed-



Biologists Kurt Hennige and Annette Jones of the Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery, spot a rare American White Pelican on Amherst Island. Less than 20 pelicans have been seen in the Kingston area over the past forty years. Unfortunately Terry Culbert has a limited telephoto on his digital camera, but it really was there folks! TC

back from those people doing the tour who expressed their pleasure and satisfaction at the talent on the Island. As to expenses, with the publicity costs, the event turned out to do a little better than break even with the sale of food and beverages at St. Paul's Church. Ross Haine's signs were outstanding and very helpful, and members thanked him for his work.

There was then some discussion about whether to do the event again, and it was almost unanimously agreed that it would be a good idea. There was some further discussion about whether the event should grow in size, and members discussed various problems and benefits with increased promotion and attendance. Decisions were left for another meeting. Terry Culbert asked if there might be some space made available to store signs. This problem was resolved by a member volunteering space for

it.

The standing committee reports required no reporting in the minutes except that the organization had a significant financial reserve, and the market stall was this year's main source of income. There was some discussion about how there was no longer any good inventory, with the result that the last Saturday's income was only eight dollars. Members were encouraged to make whatever donations they could.

John Munro then spoke to members and gave an update of his work with his wife Vicki Keith about the swimming program for disabled children of the YMCA. He told the touching story of one of the children with cerebral palsy who was told she would be in a wheelchair forever and had a long list of needs just to go to school. After she joined the swim team John told how it had given purpose to this child's life and hope to her family so that within one year she was using only half of what she needed in assistance the year before. Not only had her physical condition improved but her spirit had soared. Assigned to hand out ribbons during the school track meet she protested and was allowed to run the 1500 meters event. As the long race continued and able-bodied children retired from the race, her determination led her to finish fourth.

John pointed out that his Y-knot marathon swim had so far raised more than \$100,000. He also pointed out that the program had sent four swimmers to the provincial competition.

John thanked David Brady for the video he produced about the program.

John then reported that the program might actually expand to all the different YMCAs in Ontario and eventually go across the country.

He pointed out that such a program had already improved the emotional stability of families, given children the chance to excel where they once believed they would have no possible chance of success, and ultimately have





South wind... rain coming.

Peter Large, SCA

the potential to change many lives in very profound ways.

Members then thanked John for his report, and gave him a well-deserved ovation.

The meeting was then adjourned.



THANK YOU NOTES

The Amherst Island Recreation Association would like to thank all who participated or came out and enjoyed our annual Canada Day Celebrations.

The floats were amazing and the kids get more imaginative with their bike decorating every year. Special thanks to the Amherst Island Emergency Services for again being on stand by during the fireworks and to Shannon Youell for taking

care of the kids judging and prizes and for organizing games for the kids and adults and finally to Canazon Fireworks for another spectacular display!

We couldn't do it with out you all!

"Frogs are a sign of dry weather coming soon."

w.f.



*The Stone Mason trainees and their teacher: Linda Welbanks, Vicki Keith, Bill Hedges, Joyce Haines, Laura Gartner, Judith Harrower, Stella O'Byrne
Photograph by Anne Marie Hitchins*

We would like to thank our friends, neighbours and relatives for their kind words, cards, food, help and most especially their memories of Syke, following the loss of our mother and grandmother. She was a wonderful lady who was always there for her kids and grandkids and she will be missed terribly.

Larry, Lyn, Stephanie, Jason and Ange

WEDDING

The shores of Kerr Bay will set the scene for the upcoming marriage of Alanna Slate and Neil DeHaan. Neil has been a lifelong resident of Amherst Island and the couple spend much of their spare time enjoying its beauty.

Family and friends are confident that Mother Nature will co-operate for Alanna and Neil's big day. The wedding will take place on September 4 with the Rev. Oscar Bravo officiating.

ACW TURKEY SUPPER & SALE

Saturday October 2 At Community Centre

5:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Adults \$10.00, Children (5-12) \$5.00, Preschool Children Free

Advance Tickets Only

Please Phone: 389-4327, 389-0482, 389-6939, 389-4874, 389-5328 Or 389-7907

An Invitation to all Friends and Family of JEFF FORESTER and SUSAN COLEMAN

What? "Jack and Jill"

"Stag and Doe"

Who? For Jeff Forester and Susan Coleman

Hosted by the groomsmen and bridesmaids

When? Saturday, August 21, 2004, 8:00 pm to 12:30 am

Where? Amherst Island Community Centre

Why? To gather friends and family together to dance, party and celebrate Jeff and Susan's upcoming wedding.

How? Purchase tickets in advance for \$10 per person. This includes a DJ



How deep we dug!

AMH

dance, 11pm lunch buffet and a cash bar. Door prizes will be awarded, there will be raffles, euchre tables, as well as some "interesting" games. For advance tickets, contact Hughie Filson (384.7736) or Beth and Jack Forester (389-5582). Tickets will also be available at the door. Questions? Contact Julie (659-2616), Chad (377-6113) or Hughie (384-7736)

FOR SALE: Little Tykes Childrens Climber, and Childrens Castle. Swing Set, As Is. All for \$300 389-4484

FOR SALE: 40' Aluminum Extension Ladder - \$75.00 ; 8' Aluminum Step Ladder - \$25.00; 8' Wooden Step Ladder - \$15.00;. 3 Sections TV Antenna Tower - \$10.00;. 1 Top Section Antenna Tower - \$10.00; 1 Roll of Aluminum Screen (bright), 48"x approx. 60' - \$25.00.

Richard Thompson, 634-1417

PURCHASE OR TRADE

Kingston woman looking to purchase or trade her beautiful 3 bedroom home for a waterfront home on the Island.

If interested please contact me at 453-0365 or 544-1042. My home is in a nice residential area of downtown Kingston and would make a lovely retirement home.

AMHERST ISLAND PHONE DIRECTORY ADDENDUM

An addendum to the Phone Directory 2004 will be printed and distributed in the early fall.

If you know of any additions/corrections /omissions(including spelling, phone numbers or addresses), please call: Nancy Henshaw, 384-0799; Jackie Sylvester, 389-1320; Kirsten Bennick, 389-0636 .

"ABOUT THE ISLAND": An exhibition of drawings by Peter Large., presented by The Lodge on Amherst Island, located on Stella Point.

This show is about the Island. Signs of the Island's heritage, its antiquity, its farm culture, are everywhere and it is these that his exhibition tries to celebrate. Most of the work is of actual Island "things" - real flowers, old and new houses, aging machinery settling gracefully into the grass, a beached row boat propping up a wagon wheel.

The Lodge will be open, to view these works, on weekends from noon to 4pm, or at other times by appointment. To arrange a time, please call: Peter Large, 384-7925; Molly Stroyman, 634-1388; Rosemary Richmond, 634-1855.



Finished wall at Gary and Anne Marie Hitchins farm at the corner of the Second Concession and the Emerald Forty Foot.

Anne-Marie Hitchins

Photo

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING : AMHERST ISLAND SHORE ROAD ASSESSMENT AUGUST 25TH, 7:30pm

A public information centre was held August 4, 2004. A common concern of those in attendance was the lack of a formal presentation and an opportunity for discussion. Accordingly, we are scheduling a public meeting for August 25, 2004 at 7:30PM. The meeting will commence with a presentation by the consulting engineers followed by a question and answer period. Representatives of the Townships as well as the consulting engineers will be available to answer questions.

It is noted that the Technical Steering Committee has not met since August 4, 2004. The information to be presented on August 25, 2004 is the same information that was on display at the August 4, 2004 public information centre.

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS AND FERRY SERVICE USERS:

The M.V. Frontenac II will be out of service between October 1, 2004 and approximately November 15, 2004.

Please note that the M.V. Quinte-Loyalist will be used on the Amherst Island service to serve the residents of Amherst Island for the above period. This notice is to advise you of the change and the service limitations during the use of the Quinte-Loyalist.

The Quinte-Loyalist was modified to a side loading ferry with a capacity of between 15 & 22 cars and one single axle truck with a length not to exceed twenty-eight feet (28') (normal roadway weight restrictions will apply).

School buses will also be restricted to a maximum length of 28'. School buses, as per normal practice, will not be given priority on commuter trips. However, during the trips when school children would normally cross at 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. and the return trips of 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. there will be a shelter on the ferry to provide students safe passage.

MTO has commissioned the construction of a shelter with seating to be utilized on the M.V. Quinte-Loyalist for use on the Amherst Island crossing.

The Quinte-Loyalist has a smaller capacity than the Frontenac II so delivery and trucking companies are requested to schedule deliveries during non-peak hours. The ferry capacity will vary depending on vehicle size and Loyalist Ferry Service Staff will make every effort to accommodate the needs of the ferry users. There are no public washrooms and the size of the passenger lounge is limited on this ferry.

Loyalist Township regrets any inconvenience this reduction in service level will cause, but proper maintenance of the Ministry's vessels must be carried out to provide dependable service. If you have questions please direct them to Ida Gavlas – Ferry Office, at 389-3393 or e-mail ferry@loyalist-township.on.ca.

Gabe Gagnier, C.E.T., Transportation and Solid Waste Manager

CLOSURE OF COUNTY ROAD NO. 4

In the interest of public safety and to expedite road repairs, County Road No. 4 from Hwy. No. 33 to County Road No. 23 (Taylor-Kidd Boulevard) in Loyalist Township will be temporarily closed to through traffic during the period:

---Starting on or about August 16, 2004 & Ending on or about October 15, 2004

A detour route via Hwy. No. 33, County Road No. 26 (Jim Snow Drive) and County Road No. 23 (Taylor-Kidd Boulevard) will also be provided.

NEWS From the GENERAL STORE

We are now open 9am-8pm, Fri. and Sat.

The lazy hazy days of summer have finally arrived so why not kick back and enjoy one of these great New Releases:

50 First Dates - Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore

Something's Gotta Give - Jack Nicholson, Diane Keaton

Along Came Polly - Ben Stiller, Jennifer Aniston

Love Actually - Hugh Grant

Cold Mountain - Nicole Kidman, Jude Law

Calendar Girls - Helen Mirren

The Butterfly Effect - Ashton Kutcher

Secret Window - Johnny Depp

Mystic River - Sean Penn, Kevin Bacon

The Cooler - Alec Baldwin

21 Grams - Sean Penn

Matrix Revolutions - Keanu Reeves

Miracle - Kurt Russell

Scary Movie 3 - Leslie Nielsen

Bad Santa - Billy Bob Thornton

Paycheck - Ben Affleck

The Silver Stallion - Russell Crowe

Big Fish - Albert Finney, Ewan McGregor

Canada Post Hours:

Mon.-Fri. - 9 to 11:30 a.m., 2:30 to 5 p.m.

Sat. - 9 a.m. to noon Sun. - closed.

NEED GARDENING HELP?

Hoping to work in more Island gardens. Island references available.

Call Leslie at 388-2552.

**VICTORIA HALL
CRAFTS & TEA ROOM**

-Hours for lunch, afternoon teas and early dinners:

Noon to Six, Wednesdays to Sunday.

-New and improved menu includes Godden Pork and Willard Lamb Sausages on homemade garlic and Parmesan cheese buns.

-Hot specials include homemade soups, lasagna, and smoked ham & cheesy macaroni.

-Hall available for private functions.

Gift Suggestions:

- Tea Room Gift Certificates

- John Munro Y-Knot T-Shirts @ \$5.00 each & Commemorative Swim buttons @ \$2.00 each

- Shirley Miller cards and

paintings

- Tole painted Island sap buckets

- Topsy Farm's wool products

- Quilts and throws by local quilters

- Local Authored Books

Tom Sylvester's Loyalist Roots Cycling Tours @ \$8.00

John Kuti's Archtypes of Self Esteem @ \$25.00

Nicole Florent's Walk, Hike or Jog Kingston @ \$20.00

Hans Krauklis' Amherst Island Video @ \$16.95

For reservations call Bernice or Neil @ 389-5389

AMHERST ISLAND T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS

are available for sale from Beth Forester 389-5582 or Nancy Henshaw 384-0799.

Babysitter available

-After school and weekends.

-Responsible.

-Red Cross Certified

-Call Whitney Fleming 389-9869

Babysitting

Red Cross Certified Babysitter. Available early evenings & weekends. Torri Phillips:

389-0512

Babysitter

- Red Cross Babysitting & CPR certified - available after school, early evenings & weekends. Beth Albertan: 389-2662

Seasonal Winter Storage for Boats, etc. in beautiful Downtown Stella! Indoor, reasonable rates. Dayle Gowan, 634-3815

The Lodge on Amherst Island

Lodging rooms and Rental available for special occasions.

Call: (866) 552-3535

www.amherstisland.on.ca/thelodge

2 & 1 BEDROOM COTTAGES

on Stella Point: By the week or weekend, April-October. (Phone numbers above.)

NORTH SHORE COTTAGE

for rent. Private with good swimming. By the week or weekend, May-October.

HOUSE FOR RENT: year-round, by the week or weekend- North Shore. Call Cherry 634-1212

VILLAGE COTTAGE FOR RENT IN STELLA. Walk to the ferry. By the week weekend, month or season, year round. Call Jan at 519-451-1197.

SOUTH SHORE COTTAGE

for rent on private, secluded peninsula. Over 2000ft of limestone shoreline. \$650 weekly. Call (613) 389-5536 for further information.

LAKESHORE RUBBER STAMP

I can provide business and art stamps, daters, signature and similar products. All stamps are custom made on the premises and can be ready in 24 hours. Please call 389-8441 or fax 389-9770.

Email: selc.welbanks@sympatico.ca

This is a home-based business and available most days. Linda Welbanks

WATER WELLS & WATER TREATMENT

John Jeffery Phone 561-7867.

BURNETTS PLUMBING of Napanee

- Renovations & New, Submersible & Jet pumps, Water Softeners & Purification, Sales, Service & Rentals. Fully Licensed & Insured. Many satisfied Island customers (613) 354-9223

Archangelo Construction

Certified tradesmen in all construction disciplines: Carpentry, masonry, drywall, finishing. Complete services & ISLAND REFERENCES. Walter Saccon 561-5922

GODDEN'S WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE

Godden's Whole Hog Sausage is available in four distinct flavours - Salt & Pepper; Honey Garlic; Tomato Oregano; Hot Italian - using ALL natural ingredients (no MSG, preservatives, colouring).

New! Breakfast Sausages - Salt & Pepper or Maple Flavour! Our frozen sausages are available in 5 and 10 lb. boxes at Poplar Dell B&B, 389-2012.

RAWLEIGH PRODUCTS

To place your order call Marie Ward at 389-5767 or E-Mail: bmward@ihorizons.net

Picnic Tables & Weather Vanes For Sale

Keith Miller 389-2588

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
Tel # 389-9371

Topsy Farms:

Looking for a wedding present? Want an interesting outing for visitors?

Come visit our Wool Shed at 14775 Front Road. We offer lambskins and sheepskins; yarn and hats; slippers; mitts; blankets; lap robes and wraps. Prices from \$3.25 to \$105. We'll mail orders anywhere. CALL TO MAKE SURE WE ARE HOME: (613) 389-3802 www.topsyfarms.com

Ted Gow Painting, wallpapering, tiling, home maintenance and repairs. Free estimates. Island references. 634-5404

Thomas A. Richmond, Certified Electrician. Home, Farm & Commercial wiring and repairs, right here on the Island. Ontario Electrical Safety Authority Authorized Contractor Program. 634-1855

HAY BALES FOR SALE on the Island: 40-45lb bales.

Wayne Fleming 389-9869

Bookkeeping

Property Oversight & Management Services Rosemary Richmond. Home, Farm, Cottage, Small Business. Island references. 634-1855

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

Mindfulness Meditation Workshop

Developing calmness, understanding, and richness of the present moment.

Complementary Health

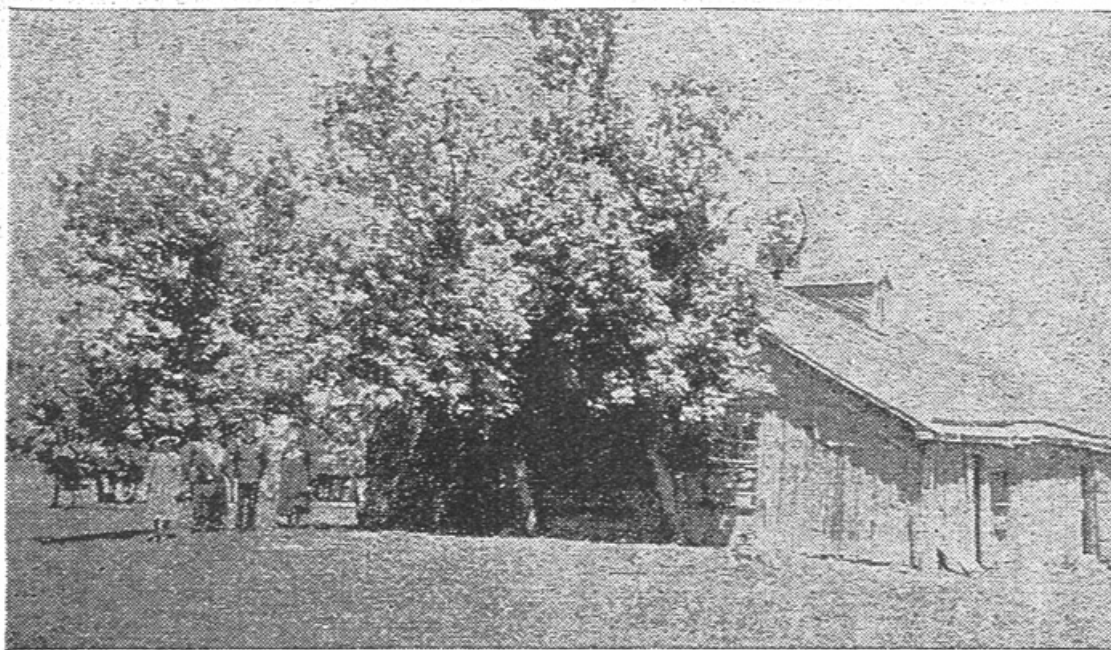
Jocelyne Leyton, RPP, has a Cranial Osteopathic practice, a manual therapy to restore health and balance to improve the overall structure of the body. For information/appointment Jocelyne Leyton, 9060C Front Road. 384-6488

Frozen Meals Designed for Seniors

offered by Lennox and Addington Senior Outreach Services. Restricted and special diets can also be accommodated. Contact: Freda Youell at 384-4135 for menus, meal descriptions and prices.

Amherst's Famous Mud House.

Architecturally Beautiful, Naturally Insulated, Skillfully Constructed is This Historic Dwelling.



Quinte View is One of the Historic Landmarks of Amherst Island, and the Old Mud House Has Many Visitors.

VISIT Amherst Island and you will soon hear talk of the famous Mud House. Imagination may see a primitive hut of some kind, but when curiosity seeks enlightenment we find that this is just one more fine example of the sort of dwelling in which millions of families have lived in many parts of the world since man began to build permanent habitations. Mud in this story means clay soil, wet for ease in handling. The adobe house of the southwest and the cottages of Ireland and many other traditional houses, including those of brick, all are built of clay.

In 1820 William Scott came from Scotland to Canada, settled on Amherst Island and wanted to build a good house. So he sent to Ireland for skilled builders—his wife being Irish and accustomed to the well-built houses of her own land. The men made the long journey, built the house, and returned to Ireland, leaving a fine house standing on a knoll overlooking the North Channel. At that time this was called Quinte Bay and the house was

named Quinte View. It is still owned by William A. Scott, son of the first William, and the fine farm is managed by the third William. A new house has been built, in 1929, and the old mud house is used for storage, but still is in good condition and looks with dignity on a changing world.

Skill was needed to build such a house, and this was done by experts. Wet clay was mixed with straw; saplings were used for forms and are seen in a crumbling bit of back wall. When the clay hardened the structure might be compared to adobe or cement. Walls and partitions were two to two-and-one-half feet thick, giving perfect insulation the year round. That means deep, deep, windows and door frames between rooms as well as in the outer walls. Built in a cottage style best suited to the location, as well as to the material, the lines have dignity and the French windows lend a note of elegance. And for a century the house was a centre of hospitality and one hears many tales of the parties, the good times, the pleasant way of life, and the industry of this pioneer family.

Submitted by Gwen Robertson

