

Amherst Island BEACON



Newsstand
\$1.00 / Issue

ISSUE 275

DECEMBER 2000

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Canada \$19/yr
USA \$21/yr
Overseas .. \$24/yr

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Leslie Gavlus
General Delivery
Stella, Ont K0H 2S0
(613) 384-2807

PRODUCTION

Headlands Co-op
14775 Front Rd
Stella, Ont K0H 2S0
Voice (613) 389-3802
fax (613) 389-3802
e-mail

topsifarms@
on.aibn.com
and

Caroline Ackerman
General Delivery
Stella, Ont K0H 2S0

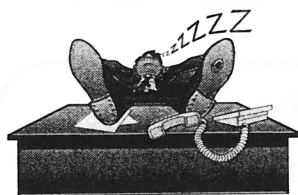
PRINTED AT

KR Copy
Cat Town Centre

CREDITS

Corel WP Suite 8 &
ArcSoft Imaging
Suite

PRODUCTION
For December
275 Copies



BEACON NOTES

Sure is an old fashioned January... bright, cold with lots of snow. How was your Xmas and New Year's? Funny, I don't remember them... oh - its still December. Well that gives us time to offer up...

We now have some filler for those thin issues. I've been going through the back issues of the first Beacon (1970-71) and have found a lot of good stuff. Considering that most of the present Island population wasn't here at that time, these early Beacons now form a historical record. This brief period of time saw several major changes in Island life. Among them were the coming of dial telephones and the switch-over to bulk milk because of the coming of the Milk Marketing Board, plus the bubble system. And there was the winter of '70-71 which was one to remember.

Season's Greetings

**FROM All of us
TO All of YOU**



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

- DON TUBB -

November 27, 2000

This was the last regular meeting of the old Council. All members were present as were the usual staff members. It's my remembrance that last council meetings have little content but you wouldn't know that from this one which dealt with a full agenda.

In order to conserve space (because there are two other meetings to talk about), this will be one of those point form reports.

FROM THE NOVEMBER 6TH MINUTES:

- the Intensive Farming Operations Committee passed the following resolution.... *'that the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in its examination of the Minimum Distance Separation formulae consider an exemption for farmers who are upgrading their manure storage system where the storage capacity is not being increased'* which would go a long way towards rationalizing the current regulations which prevent a farmer from improving their manure storage systems.
- the Youell's thanked Council for its support in their problems with Bell Canada and they reported that Bell Canada has withdrawn its threat to remove the pay phone at The General Store.
- Council okayed a contribution of \$20,000 towards the purchase of the Owl Woods by the Cataraqui Conservation Authority which will be funded from future Parkland Reserve contributions [Staff: *these, we think, are moneys given to the Township when a property is severed*]. Further... the Township has an agreement with the CRCA to have first option to purchase the property.

FROM THE NOVEMBER 9TH MEETING OF THE RECREATION & PROPERTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

- the Neilson Store Committee continues to work towards

upgrading the building so both the store and apartment can be rented but beyond basic repairs, it seems that things are on hold until its Heritage status is determined.

- the following current members of the Recreation & Property Advisory Committee have expressed an interest in continuing to sit on it when it is re-formed by the new Council... Lynn Fleming, Shirley Wartman, John Posadowski, Councillor Bill Lowry, Rick Bedford, Ron Andress and Keith Collins.

FROM THE CEMETERIES COMMITTEE REPORT:

- the Committee is looking at a computer program that would record information about the various Township cemeteries (about \$1,000).
- the following people on the present Committee have expressed an interest in continuing on the new Committee... Earl Hagerman, Doris Wemp, Dorothy McGinn and W. Bruce Caughey.

FROM THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE NOVEMBER 14TH MEETING:

- it looks as if the Amherst Island inventory report is still being worked on.

FROM THE REPORT ON THE AMHERST ISLAND WASTE DISPOSAL SITE:

- the Ministry of Environment inspected our site on September 26th and had no major concerns but better control of litter will be done, a container to put old paint cans will be set up and the actual filling area will be better defined with telephone poles.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6TH:

- a Sign By-law is being worked on which seems to be regulating advertising... signs that will be regulated are bill board, A-Frame, mobile, election, subdivision marketing and home occupation signs.

- Council has authorized the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority to do the necessary aerial photography of Amherst Island to prepare a flood assessment map... the cost is estimated to be \$5,000 of which the Township pays half. The ortho-image mapping is to be delayed until it can be considered in the 2001 budget.

- The Committee system is being re-vamped with the Planning Advisory Committee, the Community Safety,

New Year's Eve Dance

December 31, 2000
at The Community Centre

Sponsored By & Proceeds for
THE NEILSON STORE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

Doors Opening @ 6:00p.m.
Beef Dinner @ 7:00p.m.
Dancing Beginning @ 8:00p.m.

Live Band

Dress Code Enforced
(Business Suits & Evening Wear Attire Only)

Tickets Available Soon

Contacts: Dorothy McGinn 389-2947
Karen Miller & Ted Welbanks 389-1080
Bruce Caughey 389-2012

Zones and Traffic Committee, and the Fire Committee all being disbanded. The Intensive Farming and the Groundwater Management Committees will continue for now plus the Police Services Board and Loyalist Bath Canada Day Committee will continue through the next term of Council. So, this leaves the following standing committees: Committee of the Whole which takes care of budget, Administration, Economic Development, Ferry Services and Property Standards; the Committee of Adjustment; the Recreation and Property Advisory Committee; the Heritage Committee; the Cemeteries Committee; and the Emergency Planning Committee. Council will be advertising for people to sit on committees plus the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority.

- The Ameriks Scholarship Committee reported on November 14th that the following people had each received \$126.75: Jill S. Caughey, Stephanie K. A. Fleming, Douglas Gavlas, Jessica Gavlas and Scott Marshall.

FROM THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 19TH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT STUDY: (is that a mouthful or what!)

- This Committee continues to be hard at work looking at Amherst Island groundwater (or lack thereof). In the minutes it was noted that there is bacteria in 50% of the wells sampled, and 45% have e-coli with only 20% of the wells having bacteria treatment systems.

In addition, there was a long report from Diane Pearce and Murray Beckel on their recent attendance at the Pelee Island Wave of the Future Economic Conference (November 28th and 29th). It makes for interesting reading but, due to space limitations, I will not get into specifics. If anyone wants to read it, my copy will be available for a while (until it finds its way into the recycling box). I didn't see any mention of my pet project for the Island... an enormous (in fact, a gigantic) incinerator which would burn Toronto's and anyone else's garbage. I was originally thinking that barges could be used but not year-round, so a bridge would have to be built to handle the hundreds of tandem dump trucks every day. What's another 100 million dollars or so in Toronto's garbage budget. The fact of there being an incinerator on the Island would have the secondary

consequence of keeping residential development down... now how about that for having your cake and eating it too... a bridge with only a very limited potential for more houses cluttering up the Island. *[Just in case anyone mistakes this for a serious proposal... just kidding! You can't be too careful these days...]*

Many other items were dealt with by Council including comments by various members of Council on the election and closing words by the Reeve on his long involvement with Loyalist and Ernestown councils. He did say that he would not be dropping entirely from sight so we will see where he pops up.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

- DON TUBB -

December 4th, 2000 11:00 a.m.

The Inaugural meeting of Council was held before the full house of council member's families and interested Township residents.

After the Call To Order and the Invocation, Reverend Claudia Kitson gave the Declaration of Office and the Oaths

of Allegiance to:

Reeve Clayton McEwen
Deputy Reeve Carl Bresee
Councillor Duncan Ashley
Councillor Richard Bresee
Councillor John Ibey
Councillor William Lowry
Councillor Kathy Storms

Past Reeve Paul Gilmore presented the Chain Of Office to Reeve McEwen. Just before this came the Reeve's presentation of flowers to his wife. He made a few comments and ended up by informing all those present that he wasn't a softy. Then came the Reeve's Inaugural Address which is reprinted below:



Effective January 1, 2001 the hours of operation for the ferry office will be changed to:

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday . 9:00am - 12 pm
. 1:00pm - 4 pm
Closed for Lunch Noon - 1 pm**

**In the case where a statutory holiday falls on a Monday, the office will be closed on the holiday Monday and open on the Tuesday, for that week only.
In the case where a statutory holiday falls on a Friday, the office will be open the preceding Thursday and closed on Friday, for that week only.**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I take the liberty of speaking for my colleagues and myself when I say it is with a sense of pride, and accomplishment that we are before you here today.

The pride is in knowing we have earned your confidence. We thank you for that and for allowing us to serve you for the next three years.

Our sense of accomplishment comes from knowing that just three short years ago, Amherst Island, Bath and Ernestown joined together as one, creating Loyalist Township. We realize what strides we have made in meeting our commitments to you, our residents, while knowing there is still much to do.

I welcome and congratulate Deputy-Reeve Carl Bresee, and Councillors Kathy Storms, Duncan Ashley, Bill Lowry, Richard Bresee and John Ibey, for your success during the recent Municipal election, and for your obvious commitment to your community. As colleagues and friends, the mutual respect we have earned for each other will make the hard realities of politics easier to accept.

To our former Reeve Paul Gilmore, your dedication and leadership throughout the last fifteen years will be greatly missed. We wish you and Rina well in all your future endeavours.

I believe I have learned much from you, and say thanks from the bottom of my heart. I hope I can live up to the high expectations that you, and the residents of Loyalist Township have for me.

We have, as former Reeve Gilmore said in his last inaugural address, made every effort to keep our Municipality in good financial shape. We have also done our utmost to maintain the quality of life and sense of caring we all treasured in our former Municipalities. No one could have ever anticipated the many changes and obstacles we encountered during the first historic term as Loyalist Township.

It will not be my style to continually berate the Provincial Government for the shifting responsibilities and associated costs to the Municipalities, but it is impossible to speak of change and obstacles without touching on the added burden that you, our residents, are facing. Changes such as paying for our policing costs, putting roads previously the responsibility of the Province in

the hands of the Municipalities, and tax capping in the Commercial, Industrial and Multi-residential sectors, are some examples.

We have met those challenges, and new responsibilities, head on. We have either maintained, or improved municipal services that you, the taxpayer want and have become accustomed to receiving, while keeping any tax increases at a fair, yet responsible level.

The much anticipated Fairfield Water Treatment Plant is now in operation. (under budget)

We have built a new Municipal Roads Garage, housing nearly two million dollars in equipment; equipment required to keep our roads and sidewalks to the standards you have come to expect. (on budget)

We have activated the Odessa Trunk Watermain along County Road 6, the Booster Station, and the Coronation/Amherst Drive Watermain connection.

We have the Frontenac II, transporting passengers to and from Amherst Island, a feat many felt could not be accomplished in light of recent happenings surrounding ferry operations around the Province. This will encourage growth and will certainly improve the quality of life for our Island Community.

We have completed major repairs to the Bath Water Treatment Plant (at no cost).

In Bath, work has been completed on both Queen and Fairfield Streets, and resurfacing Main Street (complete with bicycle paths) adds to the beauty of the picturesque Village of Bath.

Ever mindful of our residents' concerns, we have negotiated and signed our first contract with the O.P.P., bringing stability to the policing situation in Loyalist Township.

We have completed the Master Fire Plan, replaced one of our custom pumpers, and replaced a 1700 imperial gallon fire tanker at the Bath Fire Station. We have also been active in preparing for the new Bath Fire Station, which we have scheduled for the year 2001.

The Loyalist Township Official Plan has been complete, while work on the new comprehensive Zoning By-law is well

AMHERST ISLAND PHONE DIRECTORIES

on sale at the General Store

Have you got yours yet?

Need a second copy?

Great Christmas gift!

Only \$6.00 each!

A.I.W.I.

WANTED

Egg cartons, any size.

**The Food Bank urgently needs egg
cartons. Can you help?**

**If you can, please drop them off in my
porch. (345 Stella 40 ft).**

Freda Youell - 384-4135

underway.

History, a major interest for Paul, was not forgotten, as a heritage inventory of Amherst Island was completed, and three designated buildings - Bath Masonic Lodge, St. John's Anglican Church, and the Wilton Women's Institute, received grants for building repairs.

It has been, and will continue to be, your Council's commitment to do what must be done, while determining and addressing our long term needs in the areas of Planning and Development, Recreation, Roads and Transportation, and equally important, preserving our History.

We are actively involved in studies, often ahead of other Municipalities, to address the concerns of residents in regard to the quality of our soil, water, and the air we breathe.

The list goes on, and so does our commitment to you. A commitment to work on behalf of ALL of Loyalist Township.

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY.

None of this could have been accomplished without a dedicated workforce, active volunteers and YOU.

We, your Council remain optimistic that we can, and will, overcome any obstacles that come before us.

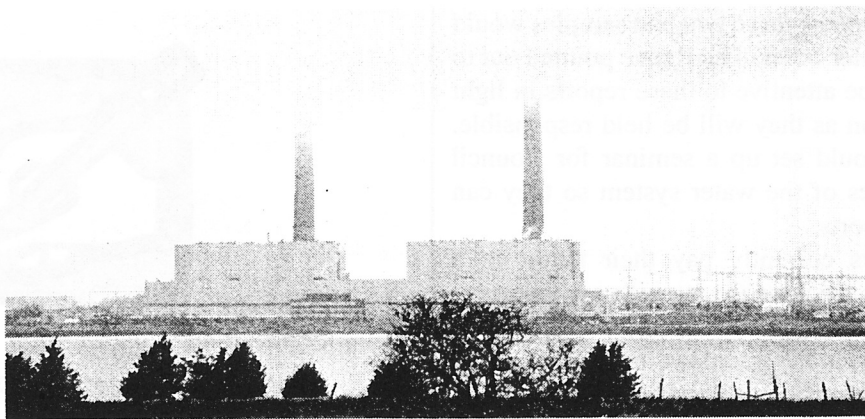
Whether it be further shifting of responsibilities, or working to address any outstanding issues and concerns still existing following amalgamation, we can IF WE WANT, replace them with a strong bond of accomplishment and a new sense of History. This is a commitment each one of us should make to our future.

We have only to remember the unprecedented coming together and desire to care for our neighbours, that came during the ice storm of 1998, to believe that united there is absolutely nothing that we cannot accomplish.

There is an old saying, 'THE HARD TASKS TAKE A WHILE, THE IMPOSSIBLE JUST A LITTLE LONGER'.

That can, and should be our commitment to each other. Thank you

Clayton McEwen
Reeve



Has Ontario Hydro's restructuring gone too far when they start selling off the tops of the plant's towers.

To Council Members:

We, at the Beacon, welcome the new and the returning members to this the latest Township council. The jobs and responsibilities have been shifted but with five returning members, this council is less of an unknown. The rookies will, in time, find their place.

Over the last 30 years or so, Ian, Chris and me (Don) have

photo by DT

watched eleven councils prior to this one (at least that's our guess - you know memories grow dim over time).

Over this time we have come to recognize that Council members are public spirited, amateur politicians doing the best they can for the Township. Our job is simply to report Island related items to our readers along with anything else that sparks our interest.

When Loyalist Township was formed, we ran a letter like this one. In it we said Islanders cared about three things: the ferry, the roads and the school. The order can vary depending on what is being threatened. This is probably still true today.

So, we'll be seeing you all twice a month.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

- DON TUBB -

First Session - December 4th, 2000 1:00 p.m.

All members of Council were present as were the usual staff members. There were only a few interested spectators in the audience.

Two short Public Meetings began the session to deal with three re-zonings. No objectors were present so the meeting moved on to reports.

First up was a report from the Fire Department. It recommended to Council that tenders should be called for the architectural design of the new Bath Fire Station. This was approved in the hope that the building can be completed before the end of next year.

The first of the now required quarterly reports on the Bath and Fairfield water works were released. Reeve McEwen asked about the two samples that had coliform in them (which turned out to be a problem with the test location not the water in the system). The engineer, Dave Thompson, said

that under the new regulations, these two bad samples would have resulted in a boil water order. The Reeve pointed out to all Council members to be attentive to these reports in light of the Walkerton situation as they will be held responsible. The engineer said he would set up a seminar for Council members about the basics of the water system so they can better interpret future reports.

About 700 ratepayers currently pay their taxes on a monthly installment plan. Because the tax bills are unknown at the start of each year, the bills are based on the previous years bills plus 5%. This year the actual tax increase was only 1.1% so the overpayment will be refunded as a lower last payment or as a reduction in the next year's payment. It was not clear from the report which alternative will be used.

Council received and supported a resolution from the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward. It requests the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to provide third party review of nutrient management plans. The resolution notes that Prince Edward does not have the expertise to assess these plans plus if OMAFRA does the job, it would be done consistently over the whole province.

A new Procedural By-law was passed. It can be stated in two simple rules:

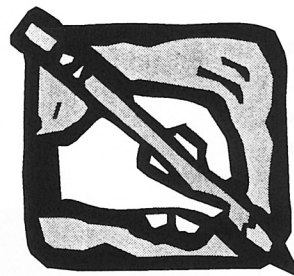
- 1- *The Reeve is always right;*
and,
- 2- *When the Reeve is wrong,*
proceed to Rule #1.

Actually, the rules followed are Bourinot's Rules of Order which is what the Feds use. The Procedure By-law lays out, in simple clarity, just how meetings are to be run plus the makeup of the standing committees.

And last but not least were two information items on the purchase of the Owl Woods. Council contributed \$20,000 towards this and has 'first right of refusal' if the land is sold by the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority. The other participant in the purchase was the Kingston Field Naturalists (\$10,000 which goes along with the CRCA's \$10,000).

[Staff: Someone wrote in to us asking where the Owl Wood's is located. It is south of the Front Road and east of the Marshall 40' more or less across from the Pentland Cemetery.]

So wrapped up the first Council meeting under Reeve McEwen. It started on time, ran like clockwork and had a familiar feel to it. The Reeve seems to be continuing past-Reeve Gilmore's style.



The Neighbourhood

- Lyn Fleming -

Congratulations to Bill and Helen Bulch, who celebrated their 57th anniversary recently.

Get well wishes this month to Duncan Marshall, Bill Bulch, and Barbara Reid.

Ray and Zelma Koenders spent a month visiting and traveling with family in Mexico and the American southwest, then traveling up the west coast to British Columbia to visit more family before flying home. Duncan, Kim and Gavin Ashley spent time visiting Duncan's parents in Alabama.

The A. I. Rec Ass. held a bonfire to celebrate the Frontenac II being assigned to Amherst Island. More than 100 residents, Loyalist Townshir staff, and well wishers from the mainland enjoyed an evening around the roaring bonfire. Hot

chocolate and donuts were served in the fire hall, where local students' renderings of the Old Amherst Islander were on display and impromptu tours of the fire hall and equipment were given. As if on cue, big, fluffy snow flakes started falling part way through the evening.

The PCW held their annual Christmas Tea and Sale, which was as usual a great success. Tea and homemade treats were served throughout the afternoon and more than a few Christmas gifts were bought.

The A.I.P.S Christmas concert was held on December 14. Congratulations to the teachers and students on a great night of skits and music.

The Amherst Island Community Sunday School held their annual Nativity

play Sunday December 17. More hard work by teachers and students. We certainly have some talented and hard working kids here on the Island.

As I write this, we are experiencing our first big

**Need a caretaker
while you are away?
Call Betty at 389-7907**

"GETAWAY HOME"
Year around cottage rental by the week or week-end.
North Shore, Amherst Island.
A beautiful winter/spring/summer/fall getaway!
For details phone Susie at 389-2012.

"blizzard" of the season. We saw three snowy owls on the bus run yesterday afternoon. We can add them to our list of various hawks, deer, fox and pheasants etc. Seasonal parties, travel and of course shopping forays into town are in full swing. Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy Holiday season.



More news:

Shortly after his latest business trip to Guangzhou, China Dick Dodds was "on the road again". Dick and Wilma were guests of their

friend, Canadian astronaut Marc Garneau, at his latest launch into space from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. Dick described the experience as "awesome" and one that ranks with their experience in 1972, when they attended the Russia-Canada hockey series in Moscow.

Juno, our youngest guard dog, leads a flock of ewes home to be sorted for breeding.

photo by DT

Still more news:

We note from the Whig that Graeme McDonald received Canada's highest civilian honour by being inducted into the Order of Canada in November. He was a brief resident on the Island but his son, Graeme, worked on Topsy Farms for many years.



Amherst Island Women's Institute

- Anna Hitchins -

The regular monthly meeting of the Women's Institute was held at the home of Bobbi Shaw on Wed, Nov 15 at 7 pm.

The President conducted the meeting. Final plans were made concerning the Senior's Christmas Party to be held on

December 3rd at the Community Centre. A video on Seniors resources by Helen Lamb was enjoyed. A new member Kirsten Bennick was welcomed into the membership.

The December Christmas (Pot Luck) party will be held on December 7th at 6 pm at St. Paul's Church Hall. The meeting closed with the singing of the Queen.

On Sunday December 3rd at 3:45 pm the Seniors of the Community met at the

Community Centre where they enjoyed the music and songs by Earle Smith and his associates. A delicious turkey supper followed - much enjoyed by all!

Brownies, Girl Guides and Pathfinders

- Janet Scott and Valerie Wolfreys -

At a recent enrolment held at The Amherst Island Community Centre there were several girls who were enrolled.

Brooke Reid, Chelsea Sneep, and Danielle Wolfreys made their Promise and were enrolled as Brownies. Destiny Freeman, Melinda Laing, Marley LaPierre, and Brittany Sneep were enrolled as Girl Guides.

The girls were also presented with numerous badges that they've worked on and are looking forward to an Overnight, which is planned in January.

The District Commissioner sent her regrets as it was such a bad night and her driver did not feel safe in coming to the Island but in spite of the snow many faithful friends and family showed up and we thank you so very much for your support. Refreshments followed, supplied by some of the parents and everyone had a great time.

In October our girls went to Welborne school to learn about bats from Matt Saunders and they each made a Bat House which should make the bats of Amherst Island excited about an increase in affordable housing.

Our Pathfinder has been busy on several service projects and recently joined with the 79th, Henderson Pathfinders for a Mosaic Glass craft night.

We have been very fortunate to have the assistance of

Alison McDonald and Tabytha Trotter as Junior Leaders at our meetings. Val and I thank you for your volunteer time.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you Amherst Island for supporting our Cookie Sales so well. We're sold out but watch for our regular cookies in the last week of April.

Memorial Service for Edward A. Filson

On Sunday, November 5, 2000 at 11.00 am, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Amherst Island a very touching Remembrance Day Service honoured an Island man, Edward A. Filson. Cpl EA Filson died 100 years ago during the Boer War.

The service was organized by the Royal Canadian Dragoons Association Kingston and Region Centre. Some 25 members of this group planned the morning church service. During the service Fred Watson read the official account of the battle of Lilliefontaine as recorded in the Dragoons archives. It was this memorable action the resulted in Cpl EA Filson's death. George Knight, #523 Bath and Tom Miller, Amherst Island laid a wreath in the church in his honour.

Following the church service the members of the Dragoons contingent lined up in front of the church and marched to Edward Filson's memorial where they formed up in two lines forming an aisle. At the foot of this aisle A. Bruce Caughey was wheeled. Bruce spoke of his uncle, Edward Filson, (Bruce was born some years after his uncle died). He also spoke of the history of the Filson family. Helen Caughey, representing her husband, then laid a wreath at the foot of the monument. The Bugler played the "Last Post", and a 2 minutes silence was observed. The piper played a lament, and the "Reveille" sounded. After the service the Dragoons formed up again and marched back to the church where they were dismissed.

In usual Amherst Island tradition all present were treated to a wonderful luncheon by the women of the Island.



OBITUARY

WEMP, Thelma Kathleen
(nee Allison)

In her sleep in Kingston, on November 11, 2000. Born in 1906 in Brandon, Manitoba, raised in Lethbridge. One of four daughters of Robert and Maude Allison. Beloved wife for 71 years of Grant E. Wemp, son of Henry and Laura Wemp of

Bath and Kingston. She will be sadly missed by her surviving sister, Evelyn Wilson of Calgary, and son Ross Wemp of Toronto. Much loved by her granddaughters Carolyn Jackson of Tottenham, Ontario, Jennifer Hyslop and Paula Wemp of Toronto; great grandchildren Lauren, Bailey and Kyle Jackson of Tottenham; nieces and nephews Marion Anderson of Vancouver, Ken and Terry Stowell of Calgary, Dit Holt of Barrie, Sherry Hendry of Waterloo, and Sheelah Lund of Colorado Springs. She was pre-deceased by her daughter Margot and daughter-in-law Elizabeth Wemp.

[from the Whig-Standard]



Thank You Notes

Warmest thanks to the Amherst Island Fire Association. The gift of wine to Ian and flowers to Sally - and the love and support and concern along with them - sure help us keep up our courage as Sally slowly heals.

Thanks folks

The Amherst Island Recreation Association would like to thank everyone who came out to celebrate the Frontenac II being assigned to the Island, at the bonfire in November. We would especially like to thank the Loyalist Emergency Services - Amherst Island division - for all their work and support and Amherst Island General Store for their continued donations and support. Special thanks to Dave and Shannon Youell, Alex Scott, Gary McDonald, the Island Roads department, judges Cathy Storms, Duncan Ashley and Stephanie Fleming, Diane Pearce and the Loyalist Council and staff who all worked so hard to get the Frontenac II. Finally, we would like to thank all of the kids who took time to draw, paint, etc. their pictures of the Amherst Islander for the contest. ALL of the pictures were great, and I know the judges had a hard time picking the winners.

It was a great night!

Congratulations to the contest winners:

<u>12-13 year old</u>	Geoffrey McDonald	- 1st place
	David Albertan	- 2nd place
<u>10 - 11 year old</u>	Justin Hutchings	- 1st place
	Patrick deHaan	- 2nd place
<u>7 - 9 year old</u>	Brittany Sneep	- 1st place
	Danielle Wolfreys	- 2nd place

Janet's Jottings

December 2000

"...birds are far more than robins, thrushes, and finches to brighten the suburban garden, or ducks and grouse to fill the sportsman's bag, or rare waders or warblers to be ticked off on a bird watcher's checklist. They are indicators of the environment - a sort of environmental litmus-paper."

Roger Tory Peterson

Our readers may wonder at the Birder's desire to go out and count birds during the Christmas season and not stay home where it's warm and hospitable but for 100 years this has been the time of the Christmas Bird Count inspired by Frank Chapman of the American Museum of Natural History in 1900. This is a time of year that bird populations are not migrating and by everyone counting in their area at about the same time we can presume the approximate numbers are indicators of the populations of those species. This year marks the tenth of the Amherst Island Christmas Count so if you will watch your feeders and count numbers of each species on December 28th, and if you're out and about please report any sightings and locations.

Exciting birds to report this month are numerous owls. One birder reported 26 owls on one day in late November. On December 4th, he found a Boreal Owl in one of the White Cedar rings at Stuart Miller's woods about halfway between the two sets of beeches. This is the famous owl that brings Birders from around the world to visit "The Owls Woods". It is larger than a Saw-whet Owl and more chocolate brown in colour than the little butterscotch Saw-whet. You have probably seen the middle-sized owl that flops like a moth as it flies across the fields in the daytime. That's a Short-eared Owl. The Snowies are setting up regular viewing areas and by the white droppings in the woods we have a fair number of Long-eared Owls as well.

Thank-you Keith for your early warning about vole populations but you forgot to tell me that they don't eat Oil Pastels but love Watercolours. The senior class can testify to that! Watch out for colourful droppings???

A Northern Shrike put on an excellent demonstration at The Amherst Island Public School last Wednesday, December 6th, as it perched on the very tip of one of Sally's Spruce trees wagging its tail and then dove in Shrike fashion after a mouse and then returned to a vantage point on the basketball net before flying to a branch closer to the school window so that his black mask and patterning could be seen. What a wonderful sighting and a learning experience for our Senior class! This is an uncommon winter visitor. Happy birding everyone and remember those feeders.

Merry Christmas and the best in 2001

Janet Scott

Garden Calendar - December

- Protect rose bushes with soil or plastic cones just before the ground freezes.
- Mulch tender perennials when ground starts to freeze.
- Loosely wrap burlap around pyramidal evergreens, rhododendrons and other shrubs and trees that need protection.
- Set up outdoor lighting units before heavy snowfalls.
- Check that house humidifier is maintaining humidity over 40% to benefit houseplants.
- Order seed catalogues.

A Reminder

submitted by Freda Youell

Door to door salespersons offering cheaper hydro rates.

The public should be aware that there are salespersons attending door to door trying to sign people up for a new company offering cheaper hydro rates.

These persons are working for a legitimate company, however, the police are reminding the public that any contracts signed are binding, so please exercise caution as you would before signing any new contract.

1-877-632-2727 is a toll free number for Ontario Hydro Energy, and they will supply answers to any questions regarding this matter.

Blankets Yarn Sheepskins

Available at

**Topsy Farms
and**

The Bath Village Gallery

TOPSY FARM'S LAMB

**will be available
again this fall.**

Call Sally at 389-3444

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL STORE

Once again the Christmas season is upon us, and everyone is as busy as a Christmas elf. Too much to do, too little time or so it seems. All of us at the General Store would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and all the best for Good Health, Much Happiness and Good Fortune.

Take time to relax over the busy holiday season with a good movie. We've got a great selection to choose from. Such as:

The Replacements - Keanu Reeves and Gene Hackman

The Klumps - starring Eddie Murphy - very funny

Chicken Run -with the voice of Mel Gibson

Gladiator - Russell Crowe

The Perfect Storm - George Clooney

X Men

For the kids we have:

Pokemon 2000

Toy Story 2

Plus lots and lots more.

We also have a few more Christmas trees left @ \$18.00 each.

Til next year.....



A Letter Home

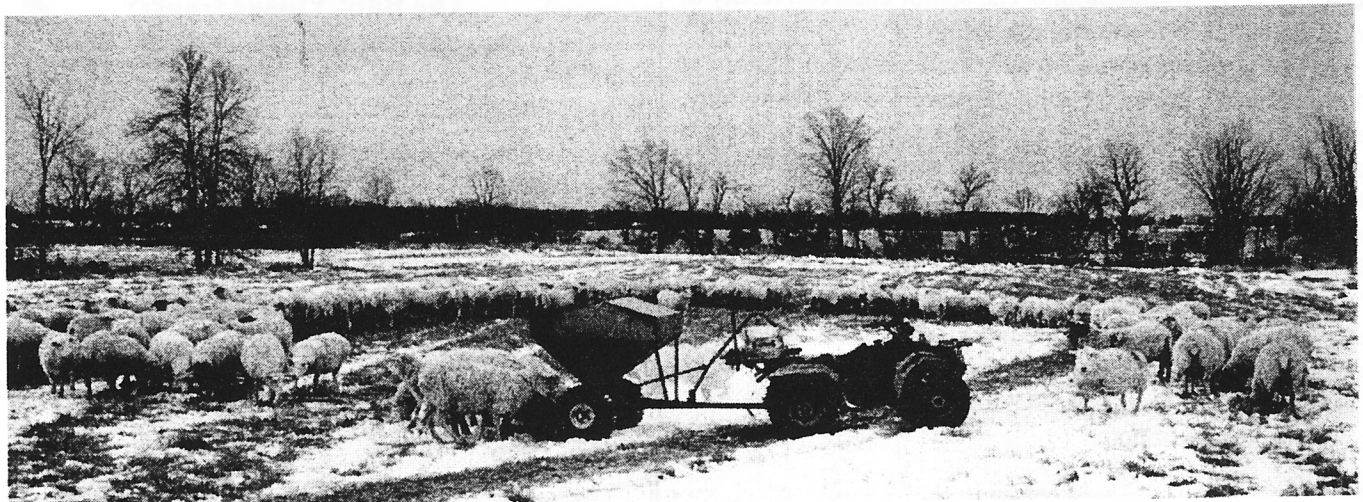
Farming continues despite the weather. This is breeding season so ewes and ewe-lambs must be sorted and put with their respective rams. Plus we are still shipping lambs to market. Of course, we have to feed and check on all of the flocks plus their guard dogs. So there has been a lot of sheep shuffling in the last while but they are gradually working their way back to the home farm.

While it looks like a winter's wonderland, it is wicked zipping along on an ATV checking sheep. Friday the 8th, I had a scarf over a balaclava over a tooke over a head band and a hood over it all to boot trying to keep the wind chill down to about -1000 degrees Centigrade. The actual temperature was -30 degrees Centigrade but I was driving into the wind at about 35 kph. It was as cold as I have ever felt. That day made all subsequent days feel pretty balmy and by the time we got a calm day at only -10, it felt summer-like.

Our grain feeder we tow behind the ATV has worked a treat even in the snow. Where it is too deep, we break trail with a tractor which does add some risk of running over a sheep as they mob both the tractor and ATV looking for their grain.

It takes into the afternoon to get everyone fed... right now we have 8 groups of sheep which will get amalgamated into a few flocks after breeding.

We at Topsy Farms wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. So until next year... the official start of the new Millenium... drive safe and stay warm.



The business end of our ATV grain feeder is being appreciated by a few ewes.

photo by DT



WANTED

A used tv
Call Sally at 634-3842

WANTED

A microwave & blender
Jake and Sue
Call 389-5316

ALBERTAN HOMES

Homes built or renovated
Ken Albertan at 389-2662

BABY-SITTER & MOTHER'S HELPER

Light yard work & homework
Call Stephanie at 634-2509

BAYRIDGE TRAVEL & CRUISE CENTRE

Leslie McDonald - Travel Counselor
For all your travel arrangements...
Call 384-8065

BABY SITTING!

Shannon Youell
389-5596 Reference available.

CAKES & GIFT BASKETS

Cakes for all occasions
Gift and Fruit Baskets personalized
Call Heather at 389-8246 or 389-2822

CISTERNS FILLED

Call Llew MacArthur at 384-4071

BULLDOZING DONE

\$40/hour flat rate
Call Llew at 384-4071.

CERTIFIED ELECTRICIAN

Home, farm and commercial work
Building maintenance and repair on the Island
Call Tom Richmond at 634-1855

COMPUTER ASSISTANCE

Can help to build computer skills on many programs. Call Jan at 634-1995.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE

Call: 389-4484.

FLOORING

Carpet, vinyl, wood,
Summit International distributor
Agent: Gord Forbes 389-8516

GLM CONSTRUCTION

General Contracting, Renovations & Design
Contact Gary McDonald at 384-1456.

LAKESHORE RUBBER STAMP

Quick service for all kinds stamps (self-inkers, daters, signature, logos, business & personal)
Call Linda Welbanks at 389-8441
Fax 389-9770

LAWN CUTTING

Call Tom DeHaan: 389-6647

LIN - SAR

Mechanical - Peter Wemp
Heating & Cooling
Sheet Metal Fabrication & Installation
Phone: 478-5417

IMMUNE SYSTEM BREAKTHROUGH:

Natural health product - find out more.
Call Diane Hieatt,
Independent Consultant, Body Wise Inc.
389-7074.

FOR SALE

Woollen Blankets, Yarn and Sheepskins
from Topsy Farms
Call Sally or Ian at 389-3444.

PAINTING CLASSES

Call Shirley Miller at 389-2588.

FOR SALE

Picnic tables
Weather vanes
Adirondack chairs
Call Keith Miller at 389-2588.

PORTABLE WELDING

Call Noel McCormick at 389-5172.

PRINTING

A complete printing and design service.
Contact Peter Morgan at 384-4102.

PUMPS OF ALL KINDS

Rural water system maintenance.
Call Tom Miller at 389-0105.

SEAMSTRESS

Alterations, mending, custom clothing, home deco, gift items.
Call Debbie - 384-3188

SHORE WELL MAINTENANCE

Call Warren Kilpatrick at 634-7869.

WHIG HOME DELIVERY

If you would like to Whig Standard delivered to your home, please phone Jim or Sandra at 389-4484.

**Water sample bottles are available
at the Ferry Office.**

THE AMHERST ISLAND LANDFILL SITE HOURS OF OPERATION

**Wednesday 11:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Sunday 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**A.I.P.S. Club Z
account number is
9 4 3 1 9 9 9 2 2**

SENIOR OUTREACH SERVICES Frozen Dinners

**For orders, menus & information
Call Freda Youell at 384-4135**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Sunday, December 31st NEW YEARS DINNER & DANCE

JANUARY

Monday, January 8th Council Meeting

Monday, January 22nd Council Meeting

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 9th ROBBIE BURNS DINNER

WANTED

I am still collecting the following: - A&P Tapes - used stamps - any country including Canada - for guide dogs for the blind. Good clean clothing for the animal shelter thrift shop and knitted squares, blankets, pet food, paper towels, etc., for the Napanee Animal Shelter. Please call me if you have anything to donate or leave in my front porch. The animals really need our help.

Freda Youell 384-4135

ISLE

Cheese Dates

ORDER IN BY:	PICKUP & PAYMENT 6-7pm at the school
Dec 15	Dec 20
Jan 19	Jan 24
Feb 16	Feb 21
Mar 9	Mar 21
Apr 20	Apr 25
May 18	May 23
June 15	June 20

Amherst Island GENERAL STORE

389-0417

STORE HOURS

Monday - Saturday 9 am - 6 pm
Sunday 10 am - 6 pm

CANADA POST

Monday - Friday 9 am - 11:30 am
..... 2:30 pm - 5 pm
Saturday 9 am - 12 noon

The Saturday Beaver will now be available at the Amherst Island General Store.

We have a wide variety of products available. If we don't have what you need, it can be ordered with deliveries.

Delivery days are Wednesdays and Saturdays. Just call a day ahead to place your order.

Our deliveries arrive at 10:50 a.m. and we ask that you pick up orders around 11a.m. as we have no room for storage in coolers at this time.

FAX SERVICE

FAX service is now available at
Amherst Island General Store
Mon - Fri only

To send - Local - \$1 for first page
.50¢ for each additional page
Long Distance \$5.00

Receive - .50¢ per page - Local and Long Distance
FAX# - 613-389-0417