

Amherst Island BEACON



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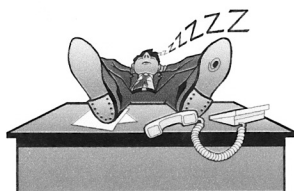
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BEACON NOTES

We are very sorry to report that **KR Copy** has closed. They gave us great service and had good prices plus their location was excellent. Since Michael Bregg's death a year ago, management has been done by his wife (and co-owner) who had a career of her own which has suffered. In closing the store, she is now free to start that career again. So we wish Nancy Bregg and family plus all of the other staff the best for the future.

We hope that everyone had a good holiday season. Now it is time to get down to the real work of making it through another winter. The Channel froze all the way across during the night of the Dec. 27th-28th but it broke up during the day. This is too early for me... The whole channel is still not hard frozen as of the Jan. 13th.

It was pointed out to me that there was some confusion in the intent of a phrase I used last month... so let's clarify it. In the Council report I characterized Council members as 'amateur politicians'.

The problem probably stems from confusing 'amateur' with 'amateurish'. These Council members are certainly not

amateurish. They come to Council well prepared and ready to make decisions (or to defer an item until there is enough information). They are willing to listen to other points of view and make compromises as evidenced by a significant number of resolutions coming before Council that leave improved after a 'friendly amendment' is attached.

So, in what sense are they amateurs? Unlike Federal or Provincial politicians, they don't seem to play political games with issues or with their fellow Council members. This leads to a Council chamber that appears to be remarkably free of political tensions and thus a better working relationship between Council members is achieved.

The term 'amateur' was used as a compliment with no negative connotations intended.

Enough said? Not quite... Before we get letters, I should say that there have to be good Federal and Provincial politicians out there. However, the rough and tumble of Federal and Provincial politics is not very enjoyable.

Amherst Island Community Sunday School

Regular Sunday School classes
start again on January 21st
at the Amherst Island Community Centre
from 9:45 to 10:45 am

For information please call
Janet Scott 389-4608 or
Ann Albertan - 389-2662



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

- Don Tubb -

December 18th, 2000

All members of Council were present and nearly a full compliment of department heads. A larger than normal number of interested spectators were in the audience.

The first significant order of business was the presentation of Long Term Service awards. Of Island interest were:

35 years	Earle Willard
30 years	Cedric Wemp
20 years	Darrell Miller
10 years	Garry Filson and Donnie Miller

At one point in the meeting, it was announced that the Reeve was acclaimed as County Warden. This should help fill up any spare time the Reeve might otherwise have had.

There were a series of written reports from the Department Heads summarizing the capital spending in the 2000 fiscal year. Of the several items not completed last year was a repair job to the ferry dock worth \$15,000. This work, according to the report, was scheduled to begin in December. I forget exactly what the work entailed but I don't think that, when it does happen, it will cause any significant disruption on the docks.

Probably the most intensive part of the year for both staff and Council members is coming up - setting the budget. Department heads meet five times during the first half of February and submit a 'budget manual' to Council on the 23rd. From there, Council meets eight times in March and April with the goal of approving the budget on April 23rd.

The ferry rate structure has been formalized again in a by-law. It essentially remains as it was but clarifies the issue of certain health care workers. Victorian Order of Nurses, Allcare and Homecare workers will be charged. You may not

have known but school buses are charged as are school teachers. There are 7 groups which do not pay to ride the ferry (the following is taken directly from the by-law):

- Ontario Provincial Police (anytime);
- Fire Department and Ambulance vehicles on emergency calls;
- Hearses and funeral car for funerals;
- Council members (business card counts as a pass while on Township business);
- Loyalist Township Senior staff (business card counts as a pass while on Township business);
- Loyalist Township Committee members (while on Township business)
- Community Animal Control.

There are also a small number of complementary passes issued to retired ferry personnel.

The Year 2000 Building Permit Summary was included with the agenda package. It lists the number of permits issued and the value of the work being done. In all, there were 149 permits issued with a value of nearly \$6,000,000. Of that the

bulk were for residential development with 23 new residences and 4 semi's being started for a combined value of almost \$4,000,000. Commercial and industrial permits were valued at nearly \$300,000 plus institutional permits totaled a little over \$300,000. New buildings and renovations to farm buildings totaled a little under \$200,000. And, renovations were valued at approximately \$1,250,000.

As usual, Council dealt with many other

items than those few mentioned here.



Public Meeting

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT STUDY

Amherst Island Community Centre

Tuesday, January 23, 6:30 PM

Open House

Formal Presentation

More Open House

Refreshments Provided



**The Ferry Office will be closed
February 2nd, 2001.**



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

- DON TUBB -
January 8th, 2001

As usual, all members of Council were present as were the appropriate department heads (except for the Engineer). There were 8 people in the audience. This was a short meeting with few Island-specific items.

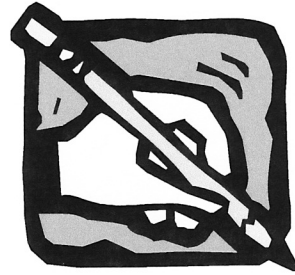
Council approved payment by debit card, at the Recreation Office, for dog tags and blue boxes. This expands the list of services that can be paid this way from the present recreation program registrations, memberships and other recreation activities.

The Province has sent out a News Release announcing a \$300 million Superbuild fund aimed at sport, recreation, culture and tourism facilities. The Recreation Department will be providing a list of potential projects that could fall under this program.

The agenda at every meeting contains several resolutions from other municipalities which are asking for support. Some are simply received while others are received and supported. This means a letter of support is sent back to the municipality that sent the resolution. Many times these resolutions are specific only to the sending municipality while the issues are or could become province wide. The Reeve pointed this out (and has in the past) so what will happen for a couple of these resolutions is that the idea will be supported not just the specific resolution. This makes plain Council's concerns to anyone who might read the letter of support.

The L&A Historical Society is 'working to memorialize our veterans of World War 2 and the Korean conflict through the means of a book'. It has a list of veterans but, for some, the information is sketchy. While the Society made no direct request of Council in its letter, the list of the veterans with little personal information has been posted in Township offices. The hope is that people will look at the list and supply some more information to the Historical Society. Because the list runs to nearly 1100 names, we will not be re-printing it.

As usual, Council dealt with many other items than those few mentioned here.



The Neighbourhood

- Lyn Fleming -

Happy New Year!!!

Get well wishes this month to Stratton Reid, who is in hospital. Continued good health wishes to Llew MacArthur, Sally Bowen and Lillian Miller.

Make up a party NOW for

ROBBIE BURNS SUPPER

**Enjoy Traditional Scots Food
Plus an Evening of Fun and Song
Led by "The Singing Ministers"
The Reverends David McKane and
Malcolm Sinclair from Toronto**

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2001

AMHERST ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cash bar provided by (and for) the Amherst Island Recreation Association

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner is at 7:00 p.m.

Entertainment begins after dinner.

**Tickets: \$12 per person, Children 4-12: \$6. Under 4: free
Seating is limited.**

For tickets call:

**Dorothy McGinn 389-2947 Michael & Bobbi Shaw 389-0223
Dave Hieatt 389-9294**

In Bath call Marg Franklin 352-7277

Sponsored by St. Alban's Anglican Church

Our deepest sympathy to Sylvia Dopking and family following the sudden passing of her husband Charlie, on New Year's Eve. Condolences to Shirley Miller and family on the recent passing of her niece, Tina Pettifer, following a lengthy illness.

Congratulations to Shirley and Keith Miller on the birth of their first great-grandchild, Nathaniel Demetrio Tesan to grand daughter Amanda (Bateman) Tesan and her husband.

Gary and Leslie McDonald and family, Warren and Laurene Kilpatrick and family, Clinton Kilpatrick and Peter and Joyce Morgan joined other family members and friends for a cruise of the western Caribbean at New Year's. Paul and Nancy Henshaw took in the theatre and did some sight seeing, while visiting their son in San Francisco after the first of the year. My family spent Christmas in Orlando visiting family and friends and enjoying warm weather and sunshine. Leslie Gavlas traveled to Quebec to visit her daughter and family, then to Cobourg to spend time with another daughter and her family. John and Alena Schram were home from Africa for a quick pre-Christmas visit. Ardis Shurtliffe left for Florida after the holidays. I know there were many more holiday travelers to and from the Island and I apologize for those I missed.

The A.I.P.S. school concert and the Sunday School Nativity were both exceptionally well done this year. As I mentioned before, we have a lot of talent in the students here on the Island, and the teachers of both groups did an amazing job of showcasing those talents. Congratulations to all!

The ecumenical Christmas Carol Service was held at St. Alban's this year. Islanders, as well as visitors from the mainland rang in the New Year together at the annual dinner and dance held at the Community Centre.

NEW YEAR'S DANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Many thanks to all who attended the New year's Eve Dance 2000. We are pleased to announce a realized profit of \$3,161.00 from the event. The success of the evening was largely due to the hard work and generosity of the following volunteers:

Andrew Chisholm, Bernice Gould, Rick Bedford, Stan Burke, Peggie Coulter, Andrea Cross, David Willard, Laurie McEwan, Ardis Shurtliffe, Reta Brown, Ross Haines, Zelma and Ray Koenders, Karen Miller, Ted Welbanks, Marc Raymond, The Weasel & Easel, A.I. Women's Institute, the A.C.W., Dick Dodds, John Mayman, Brian Grace, Todd Aird

AMHERST ISLAND PHONE DIRECTORIES

on sale at the General Store

Have you got yours yet?

Need a second copy?

Only \$6.00 each!

A.I.W.I.

and Chris Legge.

We thank you all for being there when we needed you.

The money has been deposited with the Township and will be used toward the restoration of Neilson's Store. We extend our thanks once again to the Community for supporting this event and look forward to fund raising with you again in 2001.

The New Year's Eve Dance

Committee: *Dorothy McGinn, Joyce Haines, Janet Grace, Dick Shurtliffe, Bruce and Susie Caughey.*

To The Beacon

Thanks and Farewell !

On behalf of ourselves and 160 other people who enjoyed the New Year's Eve dance, we'd like to thank those who made this what many called 'the best dance ever'. The food was wonderful, decorations were beautiful, and it was all done in the island spirit by volunteers. In particular, we thank Dorothy McGinn who kept an island event alive. Earlier, the dance had been cancelled by the recreation committee because of hooliganism last year but Dorothy said a tradition shouldn't die. Along with Dorothy, we thank those members of the committee who turned out and all the others who worked with energy and imagination to make the event a success and to raise money for restoration of the heritage Neilson's store.

With sadness, we must note, however, that a pall was cast by the passing of Charlie Dopking. The hall was cleared while heroic but vain efforts were made to save him by Drs. Brian Grace and Harley Smythe, Amy Caughey, and members of the first response team. Charlie, who built many of the island homes, earlier had a heart bypass operation and his health was precarious. He had recently celebrated a birthday and retirement party with many friends and was anxious to attend the New Year's celebration. At the party, he was in good spirits, greeted many friends, and then slipped away. As Brian Grace said after, it was the way Charlie would have wanted to go and added that that he would want the party to continue. We raised a glass to Charlie and, gradually, regained the party spirit.

So long, Charlie -- and thanks everyone !

Peggie Coulter and Stan Burke

4 H Registration - 2001

Become a 4-H member. 4-H is about personal development but it's also about making friends and having fun. If you were 10 years old and under 21 on January 1st, 2001, you can become a 4-H member.

For more information and to join call Susie at 389-2012 or Freda at 384-4135 before January 21st, 2001.

News From The General Store

Happy New Year to Everyone!

Just a reminder the price of postage has increased.

Canada - 47¢ + GST = .50¢

U.S.A. -.60¢ + GST = .64¢

International - \$1.05 + GST = \$1.12

We've got some great new movie rentals available. Beat the January blahs with a good movie tonight. We have:

Gone in 60 Seconds - Nicholas Cage, Angelina Jolie

The Replacements - Keanu Reeves, Gene Hackman

Shaft - Samuel Jackson

Small Time Crooks - Woody Allen, Tracy Ullman

U-571 - Matthew McConaughey, Harvey Keitel

Keeping the Faith - Ben Stiller, Ed Norton

More new arrivals coming...

New releases - \$3.00 + .45¢ = \$3.45

Older Movies - .99¢ + .15¢ = \$1.14



FERRY OFFICE HOURS

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.



ISLAND

HISTORY

QUEEN'S GRAD PAYS VISIT TO OLD HAUNTS

from Whig-Standard October 8, 1952

[submitted by Prof. Don Smith, U. of Calgary]

A native of Amherst Island where he taught school nearly 60 years ago, Dr. Harry Gibson, Sr., of Calgary spent the week-end visiting friends and the scenes of his youth in Kingston and district.

Now 74, though he looks much younger, Dr. Gibson was brought up on Amherst Island where his father, the late Alex. Gibson, engaged in mixed farming, "Like all the other residents of the island."

"Barley, milk and cheese were our main sources of revenue," he recalled. The mail came by row-boat from Bath, with Alex Stevenson, the mailman for many years.

"We had a daily boat, the old 'Hero', which served as our link with the mainland. For excitement there used to be horse races up and down the village street when I was a boy. The were also two toll gates between Bath and Kingston, and they let down the gate bars at night. The toll use to be two or three cents," said the doctor.

The population of Amherst Island was about 1,000 when Dr. Gibson was born. It was 900 when he taught school there. Among the old families he remembers were the Prestons and James Paterson.

After teaching school for a year or so, Dr. Gibson entered Queen's University in the faculty of medicine, then a four-year course....

**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.



OBITUARY

JEFFERY, Ken

Peacefully, but all too soon, at his home on the evening of December 15, 2000. Ken Jeffery, loving husband of Carol. Dear father of Steve (Elaine), Alan and John (Vanessa). Predeceased by sister Anne and brother Harold. Son of the late Mary and Everett. ... A devoted friend to his community and the environment, Ken's extraordinary commitments and contributions to Ducks Unlimited and the Rotary organization will not be forgotten. As a passionate outdoorsman, his fellowship and hospitality will be missed by all of his sporting friends.

[from the Whig-Standard, December 19, 2000]

DOPKING, Charles L.

Suddenly on Amherst Island on Sunday, December 31, 2000. Charlie Dopking, in his 61st year. Cherished husband to Sylvia Dopking. Dear father of Aimee Pianosi and her husband Dave. Adoring grandfather of Robin. Survived by his brothers Elwood and Bill, sisters Bessie, Rose, Mary and Lorna, half sisters Joy and Bonnie. Predeceased by his sister Jean and half brother Roy (Billy).

[from the Whig-Standard, January 9, 2001]

Dear friends at the Beacon,

I was wondering if there would be room to put in a little notice about my mother's passing away in the Beacon.

She visited Amherst Island on several occasions and felt she was very much connected to it, and that its life was a part of her life.

Thank you very much

Sincerely

Carolyn McIntire-Smyth

Dorothy Goodner Kennedy

The mother of Carolyn McIntyre-Smyth, Dorothy Goodner Kennedy, died October 8, 2000, in her 87th year, after a series of strokes. She was born in Gainesville, Texas, on January 3, 1914, and was married to the late Reverend Clyde Kennedy, a Presbyterian Minister. After her husband's death in 1962, she was a librarian in New Jersey, a missionary in Beirut, Lebanon, and a teacher and principal in Southern California. Her legacy is in the memory of countless people whom she touched with her love and humour, and with her musical gifts as a pianist and vocalist. A memorial service to celebrate her life was held in Glendale, California, November 25th.

An Occasional Collect upon the Passing of Charlie Dopking

December 31, 2000

Lord Jesus, Master-Carpenter of Nazareth, we thank You that with your own hands You ennobled the craft of woodworking for all who have followed you in it.

We thank you especially for Charlie's calling, for the gifts you gave him, and for the humour, friendship and love he brought everywhere with him in the faithful completion of all his earthly tasks.

Above all we thank You that, upon the cross through wood and nails, You, once and for all, fashioned and finished your perfect work of forgiveness, restoration and complete salvation, with its sure and certain hope of endless life with You, for Charlie, and for us all.

Here, at this hour in this your daily workshop, we who remain come together to You as yet rough-hewn. Wield well, Lord Jesus, the tools of your love and power in our lives, we pray.

Soften our hard hearts.

Bend our proud wills.

Mend our brokenness.

Raise up and make fast in us that which has fallen. Carve us deeply so as to receive and hold You that, at the end of your day's work in us, we too, with Charlie, at last may be found in You, fashioned to a truer beauty by your hands.

We pray to You, Lord Jesus who, with your Father and your Holy Spirit are alive forever more.

Amen

Footnote: Composed and read at the funeral service for Charlie Dopking, Church of St. Alban, Odessa, January 4, 2001. Dr. Smyth is a lay reader to the Anglican parish of St. Alban's, Amherst Island and a friend of the Dopking family.



Thank You Notes

Many thanks from all the Captains and crews of the Frontenac II for the goodies and good wishes at Christmas. Every cookie, candy and chocolate, etc was much appreciated.

Janet's Jottings

- Janet Scott -

Thank you to all those who helped count birds and species on December 28th., to all those who phoned me with sightings and feeder counts and all those patient Islanders and Ferry crew members who helped and aided the counters. We had a wonderful although somewhat chilly day for our count. The first early birders arrived on the 6:30 ferry but the majority of participants arrived on the 7:30 ferry and were assigned groups and routes. We had 28 participants coming from as far away as Guelph in the west and St. Bruno in the east. My intrepid crew managed to find 57 and Alex Scott was able to add 3 the week of the count which gave us a total of 60 species. By 1:00 most of my frozen but exuberant birders were back for soup and hot apple cider but many as a reward trotted off to the Owl Woods to check for owls. The very dedicated few stayed until dusk to watch the Short-eared Owls perform in the fields south of Stella.

Below is a list of species seen:

Great Blue Heron 1	Canada Goose 671
American Black Duck 83	Mallard 361
Northern Pintail 10	Gadwall 2
Redhead 1	Long-tailed Duck 16
Black Scoter 2	White-winged Scoter 15
Common Goldeneye 587	Bufflehead 160
Common Merganser 255	Duck species unidentified 47
Bald Eagle 5	Northern Harrier 4
Red-tailed Hawk 23	Rough-legged Hawk 50
Kestrel 7	Ring-necked Pheasant 3
Ring-billed Gull 1	Herring Gull 14
Greater Black-backed Gull 4	Rock Dove 2
Mourning Dove 55	Great Horned Owl 5
Snowy Owl 11	Barred Owl 1
Long-eared Owl 20	Short-eared Owl 29
Northern Saw-whet Owl 8	Belted Kingfisher 2
Downy Woodpecker 10	Hairy Woodpecker 3
Northern Flicker 3	Horned Lark 4
Blue Jay 114	American Crow 31
Black-capped Chickadee 106	White-breasted Nuthatch 5
Brown Creeper 1	Cedar Waxwings 20
Northern Shrike 5	European Starling 217
Northern Cardinal 8	American Tree Sparrow 103
Song Sparrow 5	White-throated Sparrow 2
Swamp Sparrow 1	Longspur 15
Snow Buntings 576	House Sparrows 136
House Finch 50	Meadow Lark 1
Rusty Blackbird 1	Brown-headed Cowbird 48
Junco 21	Goldfinch 3

Within three days of the count either way Alex added a Loon, a Boreal Owl and a Robin. The next week we were all excited to see three Boreal Owls in one day, an Ivory Gull on the ice and a few got to see a Hawk Owl south of the village. Great Birding!!!

Amherst Island: A New Frontier For The CRCA

[from Cat Tales Winter 2001 issue put out by the
Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority]

The newest part of our jurisdiction is Amherst Island. It became part of our jurisdiction in January 2000. A common-asked question is what the Authority might do on the Island.

We're pleased to report that we have just acquired 92 acres of the Owl Woods property. This property is well-known by local naturalists as a significant habitat for a variety of owls and songbirds. Loyalist Township and the Kingston Field Naturalists are assisting with the purchase. This purchase ensures that the wildlife habitat will be maintained.

There are lots of other things the CRCA could do.

Floodplain mapping for the shoreline would let planners and new landowners know how much of an impact the Lake Ontario water levels might have on various waterfront properties. Wave uprush, or the extent to which waves flow under storm conditions, particularly affects the southern shoreline. Mapping helps in making decisions on setbacks for new development, and also helps in long-range planning for the municipality.

Amherst Island is the only location within the Conservation Authority's jurisdiction where dynamic beaches are found. Part of the Back Beach is a dynamic beach. It is defined as an unstable accumulation of sand subject to constant change. A dynamic beach is a type of natural hazard, where construction should not be permitted because of flooding and erosion.

One of our traditional programs is planting trees on public and private land. Programs are often available to subsidize such tree plantings. Another form of planting might be to broaden fence rows. This increases the diversity of the habitat in the area, and provides wildlife corridors.

Farmers in the area have expressed an interest in looking at nutrient management on individual farms to see how well natural processes break down manure. Testing could be carried out to see where the run-off goes. Are there concerns about water quality in the streams - should there be monitoring of the streams or drains?

Are there environmentally friendly ways to deal with shoreline erosion? Studies have been carried out to determine how this problem should be addressed. The CRCA can help find solutions to help resolve these ongoing problems.

The CRCA is a supporter of a regional trails network. In particular, discussions have been held about the possible routing of a secondary Waterfront Trail route around the Island.

The idea of a watershed management plan should also be considered for the island, to help guide levels of government in future land use planning and resource management. With the apparent popularity of island sites for residential development, a watershed management plan could help find a balance between the natural environment and the human use of the land. It might be a case of anticipating environmental stresses, before too many more lots are created and developed.

If you have any ideas or specific projects, please let us know.

Groundwater Management Study

- Ian Murray -

Following public meetings on Amherst Island and on the mainland, the study will be presented to Loyalist Township Council for its consideration and action. The study, which was conducted by Trow Consulting Engineers, contains important recommendations that have the potential to affect every landowner on Amherst Island. Recommendations from the Groundwater Steering Committee will also be presented to Council as well as recommendations from the Township Planner and Township Engineer.

Why 3 groups of recommendations?

Firstly, the consulting engineers must make recommendations based on their professional opinions on what should be done regarding groundwater in Loyalist Township.

The Steering Committee which is made up of township employees, the consulting engineers, representatives from the local Health Unit and conservation authority, and some township farmers may well disagree with some of the recommendations made up by the consulting engineers. The Island farmers that are on the committee - Lance Eves, Keith Miller and myself - certainly find some of the engineering recommendations to be troublesome.

And the township staff will very likely provide Council with advice on what can be legally done by the municipality and what should be done but must be initiated by the Province. Staff may also advise that some of the recommendations may sound good but are just not workable.

The report itself is a somewhat intimidating document but the consulting engineers are prepared to take whatever time is needed to explain it formally at the open house part of the public meeting, at the formal presentations, and again on an individual basis after the formal presentations.

Believe me, the groundwater management issue is very important. It affects everyone living on or owning property on the island. Now is the time to learn about the groundwater study and to make your opinions known to the consulting engineers, to the committee members, and, most importantly, to the members of Council.

Gardening Calendar for January

- Inspect houseplants for white flies, spider mites and aphids.
 - Inspect bulbs in storage. Discard bad ones.
 - Expand personal knowledge through library visits, courses, catalogues, etc.
 - Plan your garden.
 - Order flower and vegetable seeds. Decide which to be started inside.
 - Try forcing amaryllis and paper white narcissus.
 - Start slowest germinating seeds like begonias and geranium, also seeds for early spring bloom e.g. pansy, verbena, alyssum, and dianthus.
-

Rise Above the Circumstances

Old Jim had been a faithful horse,
But he was growing old.,
So Uncle Lem made up his mind
The horse should not be sold

But turned out in the pasture land
To roam and feed at will,
Or rest beneath the shady trees,
Down by the waters still.

Lem loved his faithful servant Jim,
And watched him day by day,
And when he whistled to the horse,
Jim gave an answering neigh.

One day the horse had disappeared,
So Lem went out to see
What had become of faithful Jim -
Where could the creature be?

Lem thought of an abandoned well
Which had uncovered been;
He hurried down the path to see;
Yes, Jim had fallen in!

If he should try to pull him out
A leg might broken be
So he would go and get his gun
And end Jim's misery.

Lem brought the gun but couldn't bear
To shoot old faithful Jim,
So brought a shovel and a pick
With which to bury him.

Lem took a shovel full of dirt
And rolled it in the well,
It slid down on the horse's back
And to the bottom fell.

As fast as every load was sent
The horse would stamp it down,
And as they both thus worked away
At last the well was gone!

Out jumped the horse, all whole and sound
Kicked up his heels and ran,
Let's get from out this simple tale
A moral, if we can.

When people try to crush us down,
And cover us with dirt,
Let's stamp it underneath our feet,
And never let it hurt.

Let's be like Jim and rise above
The troubles that beset,
If we are on the side of right,
We'll gain the victory yet.

Submitted by Syke Fleming



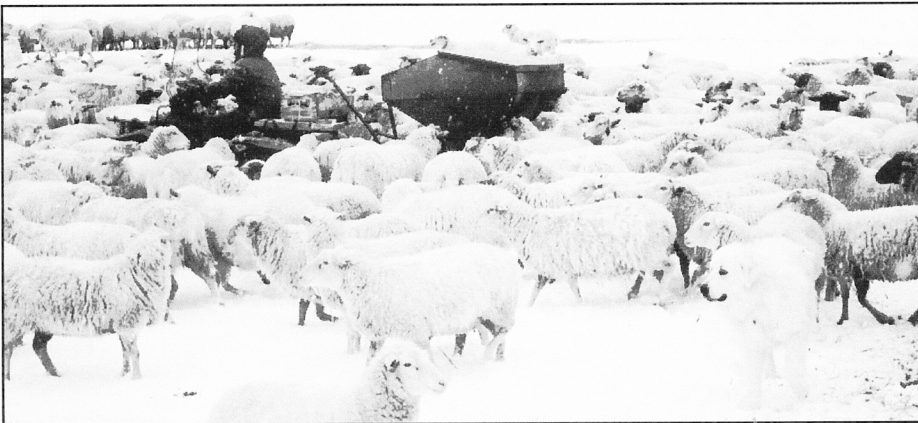
A Letter Home

Things are finally getting quieter on the farm. Breeding is finished and the number of flocks has been reduced to four. Basic chores only take about 5 or 6 hours now.

We are still feeling the effects of last year's rainy summer in that the hay isn't very good. The mineral and energy content is low so we have to supplement with grain. The lambs are growing, but slowly... usually by this time we are almost done shipping but we still have about five hundred around. Prices however remain good.

The weather has modified with enough snow for the sheep to get their moisture requirements but not enough to make it difficult to get around on ATVs and tractors. And the temperatures (up to now) haven't been too high or low to create problems for the sheep.

I am hoping for more of the same... just a dusting of snow occasionally to whiten things up.



Chris and the 'snacker' being swarmed by 900+ ewes...

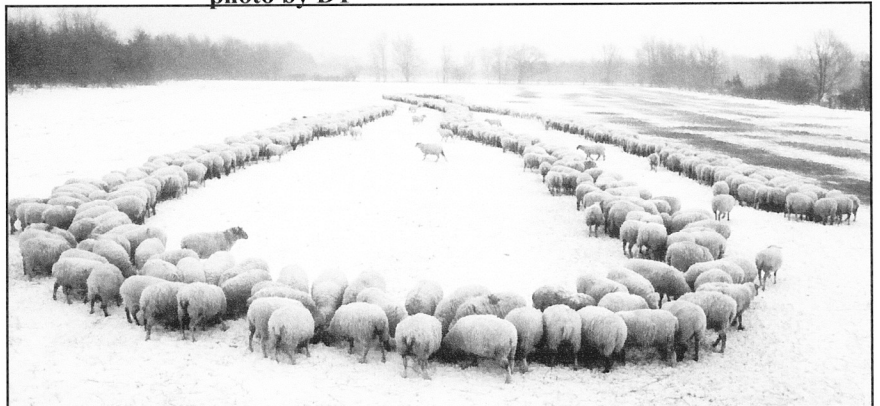
photo by DT

TOPSY FARM'S LAMB

will be available
this winter.
Call Sally at 389-3444

Blankets Yarn Sheepskins

Available at
**Topsy Farms
and
The Bath Village Gallery**



Quickly they sort themselves out and get down to some serious eating.

photo by DT



FOR SALE

Electric stove, portable dishwasher, shower stall.
\$50. each.
Also kitchen sink, cupboards and jet pump.
Phone 389-0223

FOR SALE

JENN-AIR COOKTOP
Jenn-Air cooktop and barbecue-grill top
in good working order. \$75.00
Call Carolyn Smyth 389-3054 or 416-489-2121

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 Lew MacArthur at 384-4071

BULLDOZING DONE

\$40/hour flat rate
Call Lew 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.

LAKE SHORE 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.**

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

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.**

SENIOR OUTREACH SERVICES Frozen Dinners

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY

Sunday, January 21st, 9:45 a.m. **Sunday School** starts at the Community Centre

Monday, January 22nd, 7:00 p.m. **Council Meeting**

Tuesday, January 23rd, 6:30 p.m. **Groundwater Management Meeting**

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 2nd **Ferry Office closed**

Friday, February 9th, 6:00 p.m. **ROBBIE BURNS DINNER**

Monday, February 12th, 7:00 p.m. **Council Meeting**

Monday, February 26th, 7:00 p.m. **Council Meeting**

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

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

[Staff: A little history from past Beacon issues... There were pictures with this story but when I scanned them, the print on the page behind showed through and the quality was poor so I didn't include them. The story has been edited slightly but is largely as printed.]

Issue #25
March 18, 1971

Worst Winter In Years Tests Islanders

- G.F. Sheil -

Since our last edition on March 4th, Amherst Islanders have experienced two weeks of severe winter ushering a deluge of frustration and hardship. Travel across the ice, snow removal and plowing were the focal points of concern: farmers frantically managed to get their milk to the factory; people who are employed on the mainland fought their way to and from work; the elementary school abandoned any regular classes; the township council was confronted daily with problems and predicaments; Island people, and particularly those situated a distance out of Stella, found themselves isolated.

Wind and snow combined to fill our Island roads which in many cases were already lined with ten foot banks, and the roads were virtually sealed on Thursday evening, March 5th, when the grader, our most effective plowing machine, was marooned at Sand Beach on the Third Concession. The grader had a flat tire and, after transporting the tire to Kingston for repair and then back up to the grader by snow machine on Friday, the men found that the steering mechanism on the grader was broken. The situation was compounded on Friday night when our road crew resigned en masse.

On Saturday, March 6, at 2:00 p.m. Reeve Vince Aitken called an emergency council meeting. Bert Glenn was appointed as temporary road superintendent. The township's plow truck was detailed to do as much as possible with the assistance of two front-end loaders, Ed McCormick's and the township's. This meant that the loaders would clear a hole through the drifts and the

truck would "root" through; the wing was broken on the truck adding to its inability. It was hoped that a path could be made to the grader so that Clinton could weld the steering.

James Neilson and James Eves "blew" out the road to Stella from their farms on Saturday and their milk was picked up by the truck, as was Roger Holden's at the Foot. By Sunday midnight Marshall Glenn's milk was picked up as the truck and tractors had gotten that far.

On Monday a new storm filled the roads again and plowing operations halted. New parts for the grader were ordered from Paris, Ont.

Twelve skidoos delivered 23,000 lb. of milk to the cheese factory on Tuesday; this is approximately one-half of the Island milk; the other half had been picked up by the bulk tank.

The plow wing on the truck was repaired on Thursday and by 8:00 p.m. Friday night the Front Road was open up to Fred Hitchins' farm. The parts for the grader arrived on Friday and the grader was ready for action by midnight, but the accumulation of snow dictated that assistance would be needed before the grader would move.

A 3,500 pound, \$6,500.00 snow blower (or thrower) arrived on Saturday March 13th. The blower was installed on to the township tractor and numerous onlookers turned out to witness the occasion. However, they were somewhat disappointed in the fact, that the blower would not operate properly until additional weight was mounted on the rear of the tractor. This undertaking was carried out by Clinton Kilpatrick and by Sunday at 1:30 p.m. the blower was beginning above Marshall Glenn's hill; the sun and rain hampered the effectiveness of the blower for the snow was slushy and plugged the chute. At Bruce Caughey's farm the alternator and chain drive gave out and the blower waited for repair by a company representative on Tuesday.

Monday and Tuesday saw a concerted attempt to get the grader "on the line" and by 4:00 Tuesday afternoon its muffled roar was heard breaking through the last drift on its way down the Third Concession.

As this edition goes to print the grader is opening the road at the Head, and "spring cannot be far behind".