

# Amherst Island BEACON



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## THIS ISSUE - Ian Murray

The big change this month is that I will be responsible - with lots of help - for getting the written, photographic and other information together. After proofing, the material will be sent to Tom Richmond who will use a desk top publishing program to get the Beacon to the stage where it can be sent to KwikKopy where it will be printed. This is a big deal for me because, while I like to get the writing and family tree stuff together, I have no interest in the actual production phase: Tom likes this part and is very good at it.

I hope that most material will come in on or before the 20th of each month. But I am not working towards a firm completion date other than somewhere near the end of the month. I can usually include material, especially if it is e-mailed, fairly late in the month. My focus is less on what's coming up next month as it is in creating a snapshot of Amherst Island for the previous month.

I hope that a person interested in Amherst Island can pick up this Beacon issue, and any other issue, and find it worth reading 25 or 50 years from now. Since we don't print anything that reflects badly on anyone - that's our goal anyway - it might be a good idea to fill in the margins of your Beacon with interesting information for your grandchildren to puzzle over.

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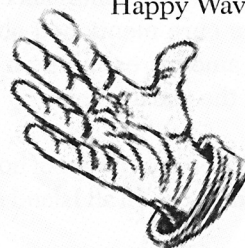
## THE WAVE

- Dianne Marshall

It is with some regret that I have recently observed the diminishing of an old Island tradition know as "The Wave". **The Wave** has been a part of Island hospitality quite possibly since the beginning of time. **The Wave** can take the form of passively lifting up the fingers from the steering wheel, or it can be an energetic whole hand actively waving back and forth or up and down. We can wave while we walk down the street, ride our bicycles or sit on our front porches. It really doesn't matter whether we know the person we're waving to or not. It is simply an acknowledgement of another human being's existence. If we do know the other person, this should be considered a bonus.

To all those who have done their best to keep up this tradition, Thank You. For any who are new to "The Wave" you may try a variety of hand motions until you come up with your own unique way of saying Hello to your fellow Island friends, family, neighbours and acquaintances.

Happy Waving



## NEIGHBOURHOOD - Staff



[Note: Lyn will be back next issue. She will fill in anything we missed from August.]

Condolences to Barb and Jim Reid and family on the death of Stratton.

Condolences to Lyn Fleming and family on the death of her father, Arthur John Wolfreys. There will be an obituary in our next issue.

Condolences to Chris Glenn and family on the death of her husband, Don Gregg, who died on August 24.

Congratulations to Sarah McGinn & Jamie Scott on the birth of their first child, Quentin James Russell Scott, August 24, 5lbs 8oz. First grandchild for Russell and Jane McGinn and another grandchild for Janet Scott and Alex Scott (of Bath).

Congratulations to Sarah (Scott) and Donald Wemp (a grandson of Wesley and Laura (McGinn) Wemp) on the birth of their second child, Brandon Donald Wemp. Another grandchild for Janet and Alex.

Congratulations to Vicki Keith and John Munro who swam across Lake Ontario - Cape Vincent to Kingston - on August 25 weekend. Their 19 hour swim was reported in some detail on the front page of the August 27 Whig Standard.

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## AMHERST ISLAND ROADS

- Ian Murray

During the 30-or-so years I've lived here, I've considered the Island roads from various perspectives: as a civil engineer working for the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario; as a member of the Township

Council; as a bus driver; and, as a farmer. As a civil engineer, I am aware of the structural problems of the roads: the poor drainage, the narrowness, the lack of shoulders, the inadequate sight lines. A consulting engineer, after touring the roads with Stuart Miller several years ago, told him that there was basically nothing wrong with most of our roads that straightening them and adding a foot of gravel wouldn't cure.

As a former council member, I am aware that all road improvements (as well as routine maintenance) must be paid for out of tax dollars. The cure mentioned above would, at that time, have cost an amount equalling a decade of all municipal taxes - not just the usual amount allocated for roads.

As a former school bus driver, I am aware of how the seasonal weather affects driving conditions on all Island roads. Nothing

is quite as thrilling as driving the school bus with 5 or 6 children aboard along the south shore on a February day with ice all over the road from yesterday's big thaw - the road actually seemed to tilt towards the lake.

As a farmer driving large farm equipment over some of the Island roads, I am very aware of the many blind spots on the Front Road west of Emerald as well as on other roads where we get hay and/or pasture our sheep.

So here are a few road related observations:

1) The roads are improving. The roads crew have more equipment available to them now than ever before and more money to work with. It's good to see the rights-of-way cleared of tall vegetation so that one can see what's beside the road. I have travelled on the 2nd Concession Road enough to appreciate the work currently being done there. I still remember the queasy feeling looking ahead at hundreds of feet of partially frozen slush east of where David Fleming's house is now. The much improved drainage should eliminate that condition. The Emerald 40' just south of the Front Road intersection used to be a mud hole every spring. Not anymore. And so on around the Island.

2) There will not be enough money in the foreseeable future for Loyalist Township to bring most of our roads up to mainland standards: we just do not have the tax base over here to pay for that; nor the traffic to justify such high standards.

3) Remember the old saying "so dangerous it's safe"? That applied to things like very narrow bridges or sharp bends in a road. But it also implied that people knew something was so dangerous that extra caution

was necessary. I believe that

many of the people driving on the Island roads have become so used to mainland roads where there are nearly always adequate sight lines at intersections, curves and hills that they do not realize that many of the roads over here do not have adequate sight lines at cross roads, at curves and on hills for vehicles travelling at 80 kph - the legal speed limit outside Stella. It can only be the low level of traffic that prevents more head on collisions on Island roads. I think that drivers tend to forget that there could be another vehicle coming the other way, on a blind corner, a blind hill or at a hidden intersection. And that many of our roads are too narrow to allow much evasive action.

Stupid things that I've seen:

1) Top of the list is the time that 2 pickup trucks passed my two loaded hay wagons as I was heading west on the Front Road a little down hill from Gavlas' mailbox. Had there been





anyone heading for the ferry coming around deHaans' corner, there would have been a real smash-up. (For the record, these were not Island trucks but those of some mainland workers.)

2) During the last few weeks of June, we often see school buses over here with an elementary class from the mainland on a school trip to this beautiful island. I was heading for the ferry one day when I came upon a cluster of school kids and 2 or 3 teachers, all on bikes, also going towards Stella. I expected that the cyclists would all pull to the right and I could go by. To my amazement, some went left and some went right and a few wobbled both ways for a while. I passed them very slowly and almost missed the ferry. A better citizen than I am would have stopped and, hopefully without yelling, pointed out to the teachers that, even on backwaters like Amherst Island, cyclists go to the right, pedestrians to the left, and that it can be very stressful for drivers to have cyclists or pedestrians on both sides of the road.. The driver can not be sure that someone isn't going to suddenly bolt over for the other side and be run over.



## BEACON POLICIES

- Ian Murray

Here are the current Beacon policies as understood by those of us who do the work:

- 1) Avoid news that has any scandal attached - leave that for the Whig.
- 2) Edit what is sent to us as little as possible.
- 3) Include all news that affects those living on, or owning property on, Amherst Island.
- 4) Advertisements are free.
- 5) Only advertisements with a strong Island connection are included. This would take in ads placed by former Island residents providing a good or service aimed at Island residents. Ads placed by non-Island residents will not be included except under special circumstances.
- 6) In proofing, we will try not to be pedantic.

We certainly welcome articles, notices and advertisements that conform to these policies. More policies will be changed or added to as experience warrants.

## FAMILY TREES

- Ian Murray

One of the Beacon items that many people seem to find interesting are the family trees that we print when someone from one of the old Island families dies. This information

comes from a Family Tree Maker program that I've built up over the years. I consider this to be public information and anyone who wants to is welcome to come up here with a CD or floppy disc and get a copy. Or we can just print out what you are interested in.

There is a lot of information on this program - and a lot of information missing. And, sadly, some wrong information. Please, if you see something wrong in one of the ancestor trees, or can add more names and dates, phone, write or e-mail me and improvements will be made.

This issue we have included all the data we have on Stratton Reid's ancestral tree - it was too much for one page and Tom will have to figure out how best to show the information. Bruce Caughey's ancestral tree is also included. Beth helped fill in some blanks here and also wrote Stratton's obituary. I hope that we can eventually include stories in the Beacon on how each family came to the Island. It's interesting to learn that Alexander Caughey brought his 3 eldest children here following the death of his wife. His youngest child was left in Ireland with his wife's family. What a hard decision that must have been.

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## ROBERT STRATTON REID

- Beth Forester

The Community was saddened to learn of the sudden passing of one of our lifetime citizens, Stratton R. Reid, on Tuesday morning, August 21, 2001. In his 75th year, Stratton died peacefully, at home, on the farm where he and Barbara (Robinson) had worked together for 45 years, and where his Grandparents before him had established the dairy farming business.



Stratton, together with his wife, and later his son Jim, toiled diligently and honestly, and even until the end of his life, Stratton was working daily, with the chores involved with their beef cattle operation. Together with his 5 year old grandson Brandon, he enjoyed planning the crops, and chatting about the livestock. His 8 year old granddaughter, Brooke, also thrived from her Grandpa's interest and encouraging words about her activities. Stratton held a special admiration for his daughter-in-law Sandra, who readily has assisted with any tasks in whatever area she has been needed.

Over the years, Stratton had encountered a few set backs,

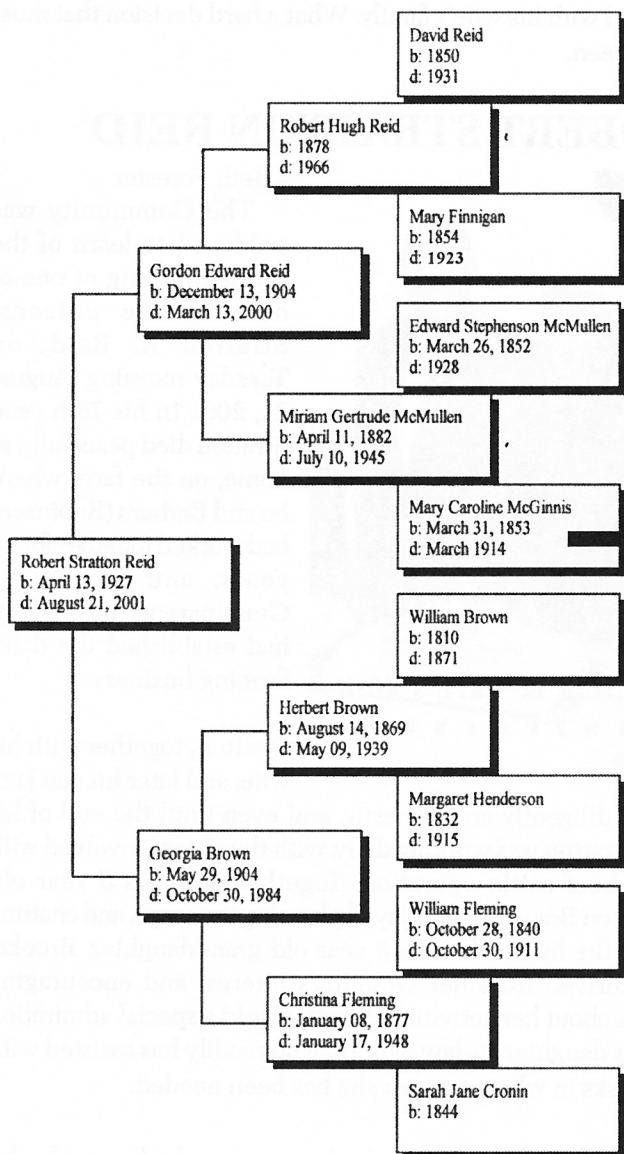
through hospitalization following a car accident, broken bones resulting from farm injuries, and several surgeries. More recently, Stratton had just had eye surgery, and removal of the cataract on his other eye was slated for later this fall. In spite of these situations, Stratton dealt with each one, and pressed on tirelessly, each time returning to his farm and family with renewed hope and dedication. Stratton was a good and dependable neighbour, and together with Barbara has faithfully contributed to Community functions. He will be missed at dances and dinners, at which you could count on Stratton for a kindly and quiet chat.

Stratton was a member and Past Master of Burleigh Loyal Orange Lodge, a former member of the Canadian Order of Foresters, had been a director for 23 years with the Amherst Island Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and remained a

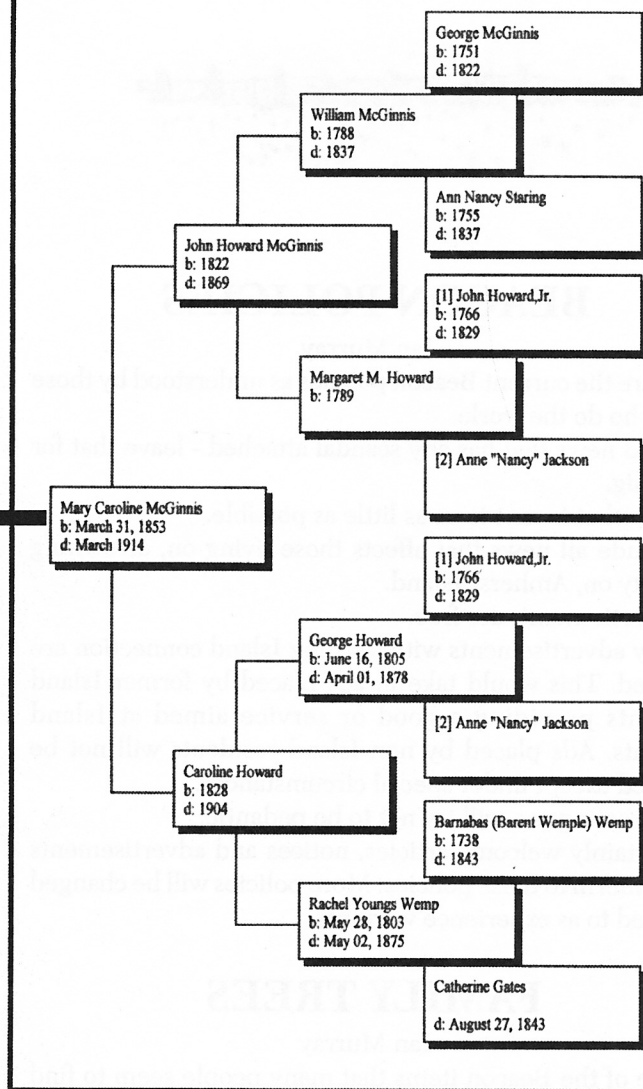
member of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. He was predeceased by his parents, Gordon and Georgia (Brown) Reid, their farm having been located where Laurie and Dave Youell presently live, on the Second Concession.

He is survived by his sisters, Marian ( the late Marshall) Glenn of Bath, and Elsie (Eldon) Willard; his sisters-in-law, Geneva (Arthur) Keyes of Wolfe Island, and Linda (Wayne) Brown of Forest Mills, and several nieces and nephews. The funeral was held on Thursday, August 23rd, at the Paul G. Payne Funeral Home in Odessa, with the Rev. Dr. Zander Dunn officiating. Interment was at Glenwood Cemetery, with a reception following in St. Paul's Church Hall. The Pallbearers were: Nephews- Doug Willard, Steven Brown and Dean Keyes, and Neighbours/Friends - Gary Hitchins, Warren Kilpatrick and Don Pepper.

### *Ancestors of Robert Stratton Reid*

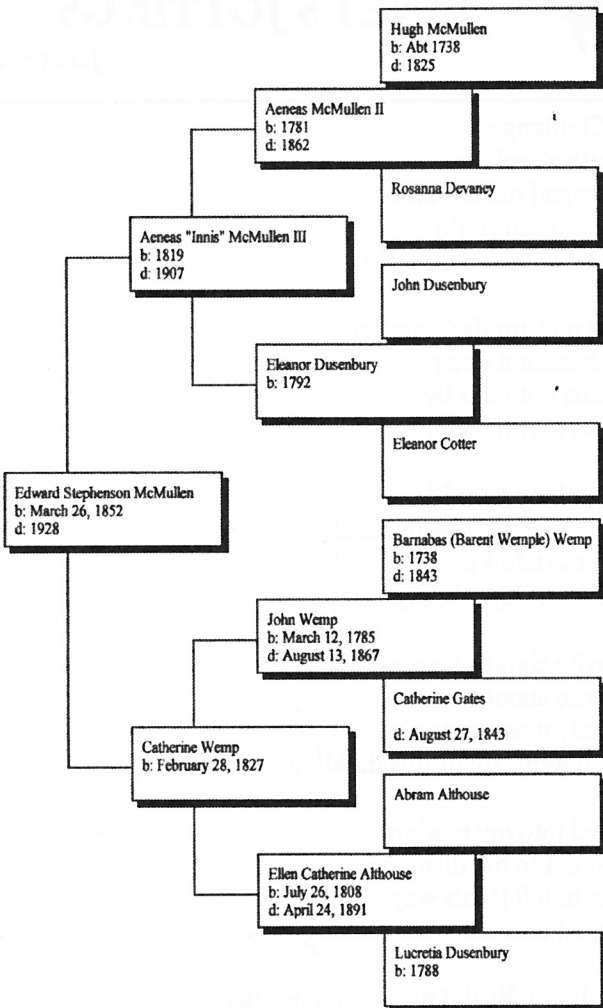


### *Ancestors of Mary Caroline McGinnis*

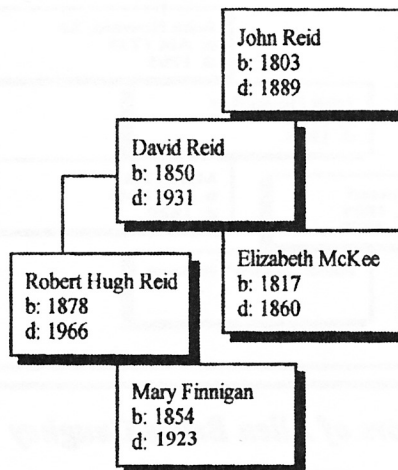




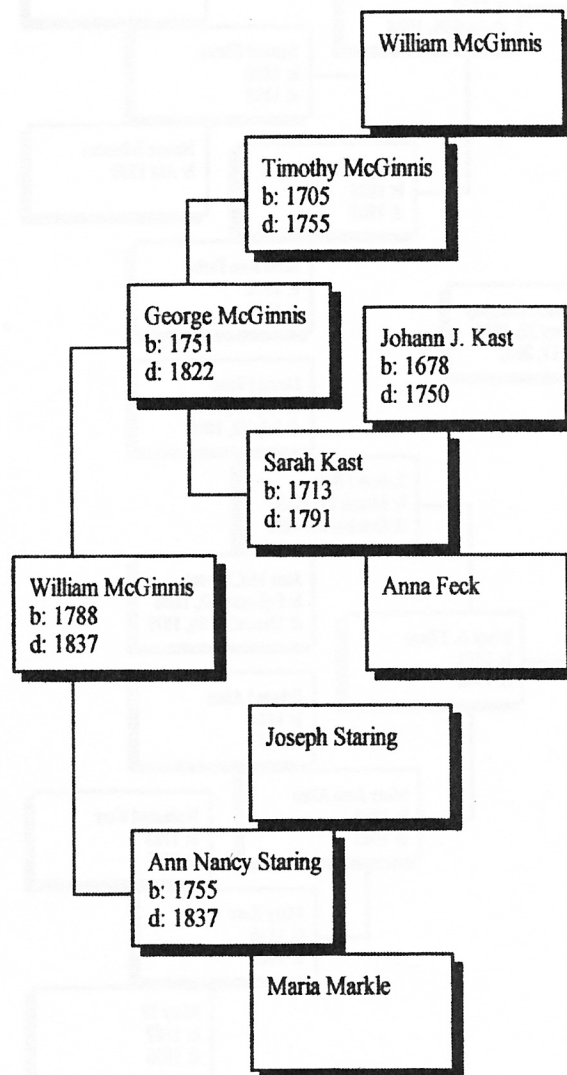
### Ancestors of Edward Stephenson McMullen



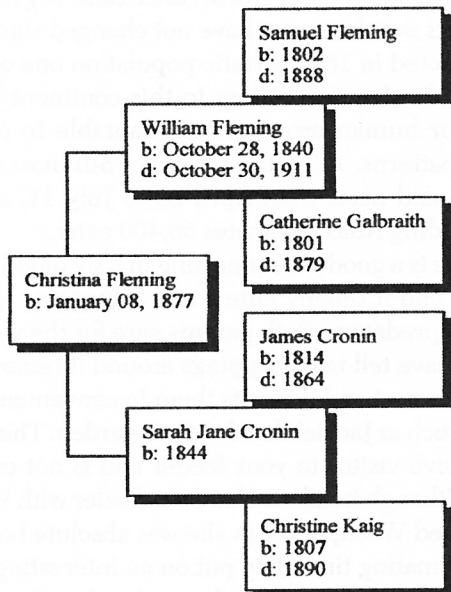
### Ancestors of Robert Hugh Reid



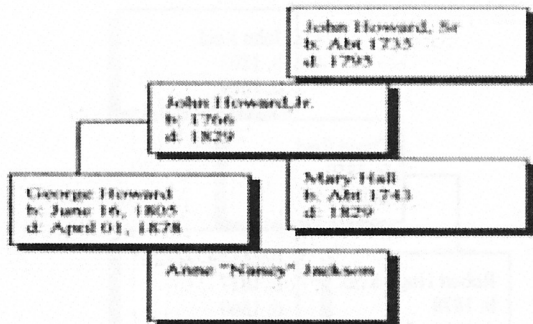
### Ancestors of William McGinnis



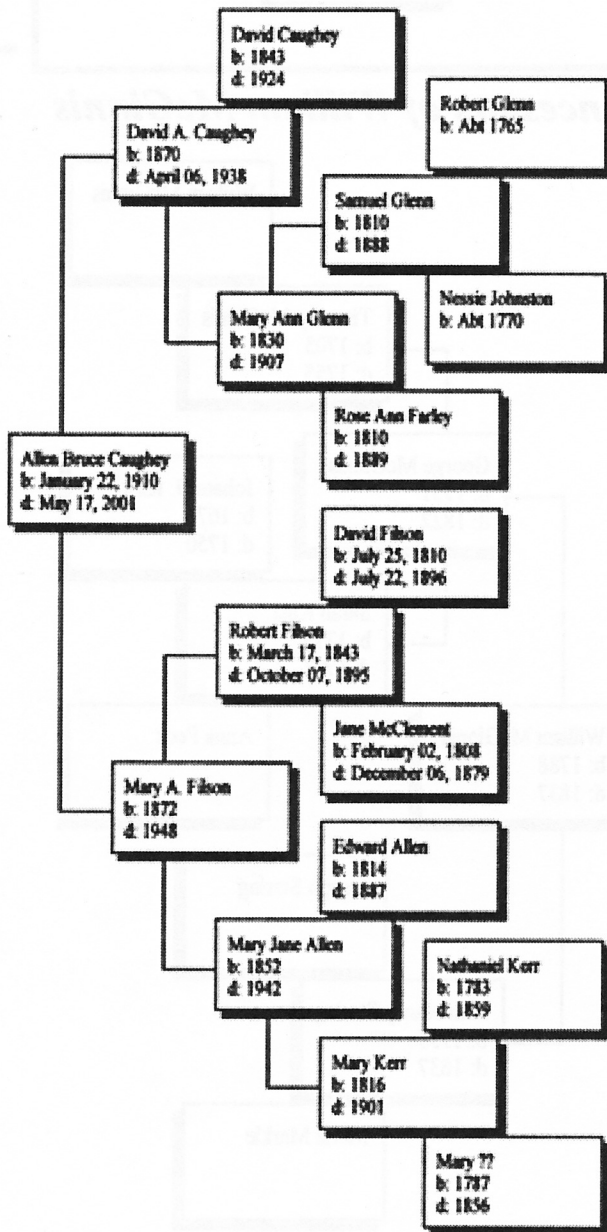
### Ancestors of Christina Fleming



### Ancestors of George Howard



### Ancestors of Allen Bruce Caughey



## JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

#### The Challenge

Ian with a cackle  
Challenged me to battle  
See if you can rattle  
Off, a tale about a Grackle.

I must pick up the gauntlet  
A Scott cannot deny  
We must not let it by  
But parry with couplet.

The thinking I could try  
And with my tongue in cheek  
To tell the tale I seek  
As summer days slip by.

You write about a starling  
You write about a tree  
Certainly it seems to me  
You can write about this darkling.

I looked into my reading  
And found to my dismay  
I'll hae to tell it this way  
It's a bird that may seem boring!

#### An Ordinary Bird (*Quiscalus quiscula*)

The Grackle can be found throughout most of North America. It is only a casual visitor to the Pacific Coastal region and Alaska - like many other North Americans. My references tell me that its numbers now have not changed significantly since those noted in 1859, a static population one could say. It is a native bird not travelling to this continent by some exotic way or human error and is adaptable to changing agriculture patterns. In Ontario it is our 5th most common nesting bird and nests from April 25 to July 11, and "The Ontario Breeding Atlas" estimates 56,400 pairs.

The Grackle is a good parent nesting in a secluded part of a bush or tree and it quietly enters and leaves this spot so as not to attract predators. Both parents care for the young and so as not to leave tell tale droppings around it removes fecal sacks from the nest and deposits them in convenient nearby water holes such as Jackie's lovely water-garden. The Grackle is an aggressive visitor to your feeder and is not cowed by other birds although it did not share our feeder with Winifred, the Red-bellied Woodpecker as she was absolute boss!

When it is mating time they put on an interesting display by holding their heads pointing skyward and walking around

puffed up. Of course this shows off their glossy, purplish-blue heads and makes them look "MACHO". The cowbirds copy their display methods but look clownish because they tip over trying to walk tall. There may not be a Grackle in sight but as soon as I fill the feeder I hear their loud chuck and soon several are there. We could say they are neighbours that share because different families eat together. The female is duller and smaller while the young Grackle is drab brown with a dark eye. The adults have yellow eyes. They have rather aristocratic noses which make them appear to be looking down on their neighbours and rather elegant keep shaped tails which makes them excellent flyers and quick to manoeuvre into a tree or shrub. You can pick them out when flying in a mixed group of blackbirds by this tail shape. They may not be exotic, beautiful or wonderful singers but like you and I they are everyday, ordinary folk and there are lots of us in this great big beautiful world.

### Bird of Note

I hope over the summer you got a look at the family of Short-eared Owls that took up residence in the brush pile at the Road Garage/Firehall. I know they played kamikaze with cars on the side of the road at night as they seemed to prefer the very edge of the pavement and then fly up as your car reached their spot. At least one I spotted dead on the road. They were amusing though, early in the morning when they would line up along the wire from the tower to the hall and flap their wings like little sparrows either saying "feed me, feed me" or maybe just trying to keep their balances.

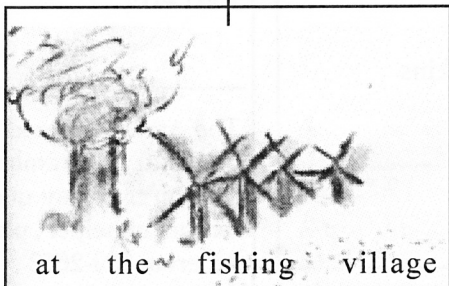
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## LETTER HOME

- Chris Kennedy

We were dry last month when I wrote, and we are even dryer now. Much of Ontario has had some rain, but not the Island, or at least not enough to do any good. In many places where the land is shallow the leaves are falling off the trees as if it were autumn. I will be interested to see how the trees and pastures survive the winter without the chance to lay down food stocks for the winter.

About the only thing that is thriving is the wildlife. We have all seen the number of meadow voles this year, and of course the hawks and owls and birders have followed in their wake. Anyone with young trees or shrubs would be wise to protect them against the voracious voles. We have been inundated with racoons around the barn and chicken house. So far we have taken fourteen, with no end in sight. They have also eaten all the cat food for the barn cats, which have left home in disgust, so there are mice everywhere. I have seen more fawns around this summer than



at the fishing village

I can ever remember, with twins being common. Without rain I fear that we will have a lot of hungry deer this winter. With the abundance of wildlife you would think that the coyotes would have plenty of wild food but no, they still prefer lamb. The coyote pups are old enough to try killing lambs for themselves now, and the results are not pretty. Anyone who has seen the aftermath of a racoon going through a chicken house or coyote pups learning to kill will not have a very warm and fuzzy view of nature.

For most visitors to the Island it has been a beautiful warm summer, and the lake is a good temperature for swimming. I thought it would take about five years for us to fill up the new ferry, but it has often been packed, after only two years of having it full time. How quickly we become used to these things. Meanwhile we will pray for rain and enjoy the last of the summer.

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## MORE FARM STUFF

- Ian Murray

The hay crop was light but of good quality - certainly more real feed value than last year's hay. The Island pastures badly need several inches of rain to produce fall pasture. Otherwise, a lot of this summer's hay will have to be fed before winter. Almost all cattle have been sent home from Quinte Pasture.

Keith Miller says that the barley has never been better.

Vince Eves reports that the oats were quite good with very nice straw. He also says that the corn is surprisingly good considering the lack of rain. The soybeans should yield about half as much as normal on the deeper land and possibly very little on the shallower land. The Eves family planted 200 acres of soybeans - you can see some south of Gavlas' and along the 2nd Concession - the plants are very low and quite green except where they are turning yellow. Soybeans require a very careful field work as the combine has to gather beans quite close to the ground and stones are not combine-friendly.

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## LOYALIST

### COUNCIL GLEANINGS - Ian Murray

Don looked through the pile of municipal council minutes and reports and so on and told me that there didn't appear to be anything directly affecting Amherst Island. I confirmed this over the phone with a township staff person. Where government is concerned, I believe that in most cases, no news is good news. (TR notes: AI Street signs have been tendered for!)



## **THE BACK KITCHEN RESTAURANT**

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END OF SEASON Sunday SEPT 9, 2001

Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday

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Specializing in :

Burgers and Fries and Homemade Pies

Hot Dinners

Dinner Specials 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

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

**Fresh fruits and Vegetables, in season**

**Barbara Reid**

**10850 Front Road**

**389-0675**

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The Weasel and Easel

&

Bath Village Gallery

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Home, Farm, Commercial work,  
right here on the island.

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# **TOWNSHIP**

requests applicants for the following positions:

### **1. OPERATOR - Roads and Landfill - Amherst Island**

on a contract basis not to exceed six (6) months. Hourly rate - \$15.85. Normal hours of work - 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. but must be available to respond to call-outs on the Island after hours for emergencies or winter control. Must possess a valid driver's license. Preference will be given to applicants who have a Class "D" license with a valid Air Brake endorsement ("Z").

**2. Winter Roads Relief, Amherst Island** - Operator on a part time, temporary basis. Hourly rate - \$12.79. Must possess a valid driver's license with a Class "D" license and Air Brake endorsement ("Z") and be available to respond to after hour call-outs on the Island.

**3. Winter Roads Relief, Amherst Island** - Wing on a part time, temporary basis. Hourly rate - \$8.48. Must possess a valid driver's license and be available to respond to after hour call-outs on the Island. Subject to experience and qualifications, duties will include winter control activities described in the job description for Operator.

A detailed job description is available by calling 386-7351, Ext.107 or from the address below. Written applications outlining qualifications and experience will be received by the undersigned until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 7th, 2001. Please submit your resumé to Jim Guest, Superintendent, Transportation and Waste Management

Loyalist Township

P.O. Box 70, 263 Main Street

Odessa, Ontario

K0H 2H0

The Amherst Island Community Sunday School will restart on Sunday, September 16th. at 9:45 at the Community Centre . If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a teacher or helper , please contact Janet Scott 389-4608 or Ann Albertan 389-2662 .

Amherst Island Sparks, Brownies, Girl Guides and Pathfinders will register on September 5th. at the school 6:00 to 7:30 . Meetings to begin on September 12th. Please direct inquiries to Janet Scott 389-4608 or Valerie Wolfreys 389-8513. Another leader would be helpful . Please consider and let us know

The Anglican Church Women are holding their Annual Turkey Supper on Saturday September 29, 2001 at the Amherst Island Community Centre: 5:00 - 7:00 PM. Tickets are: Adult, \$10.00; Children, 5-12, \$5.00; and preschoolers are free.