

# Amherst Island BEACON

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Issue 365

www.amherstisland.on.ca  
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August 2008



## AMHERST ISLAND EMERGENCY SERVICES 2008



Back Row (L to R) - Cpt. Alex Scott, Rick Welbanks, Wayne Fleming, Mike Walhout, Don Miller, Maureen McGinn, Lesley McDonald, John Munro, Cpt. Gary McDonald  
Front Row (L to R) - Jean Pierre Thiffault, Andrew McDonald, Jacob Murray, Vicki Keith Munro, Brennan Kilpatrick. Absent - John Mayman, David Albertan

### THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

A few weeks ago I finally realized that postage and printing costs have increased so much that we are losing money on our subscriptions. Our new yearly subscription rates are: Canada, \$35; USA, \$40 (American money is more or less at par now); elsewhere, ask us. The e-mail subscriptions are still \$20.

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Once again we have received a large number of good photos. We'd print all of them if we had room. The problem is that, except for very rare occasions, the Beacon will not go beyond 20 pages. If we put out Beacons larger than 20 pages - the next increment is 24 pages - the sale price would have

to go up. I expect that we'll eventually have to increase the price per copy but I want to put that off as long as possible.

So, thanks for the photos and I regret that we will have to select ruthlessly and hope that there are not too many hurt feelings.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Our sympathy this month to Garry Filson (Susan) and family, following the passing of his father, Harry Filson.

Congratulations to Helen Bulch on the birth of another great-grandchild, a girl (as yet un-named) weighing a whopping 11 lbs., born to her grandson Patrick Bulch and his wife



## The Amherst Island Beacon

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(Continued from page 1)

Katrina.

Congratulations also to Keith and Shirley Miller on the birth of their 3rd great-grandchild, also a girl. Kya May was born in Toronto, in June, to granddaughter Dana and Noah.

My mom, Kay Wolfreys, has arrived from Orlando, for her annual 2 month visit and is thoroughly enjoying our "chilly" summer. I guess when you live with 90+F temperatures and high humidity for 7 or 8 months a year, this year's summer would be a treat!

Dick and Puddy Dodds have experienced an eventful summer. First, they attended the induction of their friend, Don Cherry, into the Bobby Orr Hall of Fame in Parry Sound and Puddy had the opportunity to spend time with her "hero", Bobby Orr (& we thought Dick was her hero!). (see photo page 14.)

Next, Canada's first astronaut in space, Marc Garneau and his wife Pam and their two boys enjoyed their annual visit with Dick and Puddy. On August 8th, Puddy will undergo surgery on her throat at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto and on August 15th, Dick will undergo a hip replacement surgery at KGH. Talk about a summer of "peaks and valleys"!

St. Paul's Church held its 60th annual Garden Party at the end of July. A large crowd enjoyed the beginning of the Garden Party but were sent running for cover when a large and fairly severe thunderstorm moved in and settled in for the afternoon.

Our summer here on the Island has been cooler and much wetter than recent summers. The farmers had a good crop of hay, but with all the rain, have had a hard time getting it baled and off the fields. There are many of us who have enjoyed the less humid summer, and some of us who have even enjoyed the numerous thunder storms - as long as they are just passing through!

The Island has remained lush and green into August - but with the arrival of August, all that could change and next month this time we could be wishing for a little rain!

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Sharen English and Mary Kay Steele

Seventeen members and one guest, Jean Tugwell, attended the Women's Institute meeting on Wed. July 16 at 3 p.m. on Elsie Willard's lawn on a sunny afternoon under a large shade tree.



Our guest speakers Anna Hitchins, Jean Tugwell and Marion Glenn spoke of their summers on Amherst Island and what they liked and disliked about living on Amherst Island. It was a fascinating and enjoyable talk.

The business meeting occurred after a lovely snack of strawberry shortcake and lemonade provided by Elsie Willard and Kirsten Bennick.

Correspondence to and from the Women's Institute was discussed. Standing committees made their reports.

The Women's Institute will produce a cookbook as a fundraiser for our branch in honour of the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. The date of publication will be in 2010.

Joyce Reid reported that work on the Island calendar which includes black and white photos by Brian Little is progressing.

A bench has been commissioned and purchased from the blacksmith on our Island, Mr. Paul Cuyler. We will donate this bench to the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre.

A grant from Loyalist Township has been received to restore the stone wall fences in Pentland Cemetery. Judith Harrower will organize the restoration.

Jackie Sylvester is working on an insert to correct and add phone numbers to our Island telephone directory.

Erika Krauklis has volunteered to be responsible for organizing recycling facilities at the Amherst Island Folk Festival on August 16<sup>th</sup>. This is a fund raising event for the Island radio station CJAI. We have been invited to sell cold drinks at this event.

Molly Stroyman thanked us for the great job we did catering an event on Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at the Lodge.

The bake sale on Friday, August 1 at the General Store at 3:45 p.m. was discussed and organized. Members who don't bake may make a donation to this effort.

The speakers were thanked for their talk and the hostesses were thanked for the delicious food. Pennies for friendship and collection occurred.

The meeting adjourned.

Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> is the date of our next meeting and it will be an outing to Prince Edward County to visit eco-friendly farms and businesses.



## MEMORIES OF HARRY

- Alan Kidd

I first met Harry Filson on my second trip to Amherst Island back in July of 1970. I had just bought my place on the Island and I had driven down from Toronto with a couple of friends to take another look at the property.

Somewhat to my surprise, managed to find the place again and I found I liked it even more the second time I saw it, which was just as well as I had already had my offer to buy accepted.

On our way back we stopped at the Filson Café in Stella. It was located where Freda Youell's house is now. We had a chocolate shake and were going to fill up the tank for the trip back. I then realized I didn't have enough money to get the gas I needed. I must have been very short of money since gas didn't cost very much back then. Harry immediately came to my rescue. He pumped the gas for me and told me I could pay him back the next time I was on the Island. I was amazed – Harry had never met me before and still was willing to trust me.

So I just want to say thanks to Harry. Thanks for the loan of the gas money – thanks for all the chocolate shakes and pies you and Barb made for us – and thanks to you and the other fire fighters in your crew for keeping my house from burning down only a couple of months after I moved to the Island. But that's another story.



*Harry, Valerie and Garry going to church.*



*Les Glenn (in car) & Harry Filson travelling across the ice 1959.*

### HARRY A. FILSON,

**BORN OCT. 6, 1926 - JULY 2, 2008**

Harry was born in a log house on the South Shore of Amherst Island to Ross and Tena Filson, younger brother to Catherine (Wemp).

In his early years, the family moved to the 2nd Concession and Harry farmed with his parents. On Oct. 11, 1947, Harry married Barbara Cole and they moved to Chatham where he worked for a short time, only to return to the Island to buy Ross & Tena's farm.

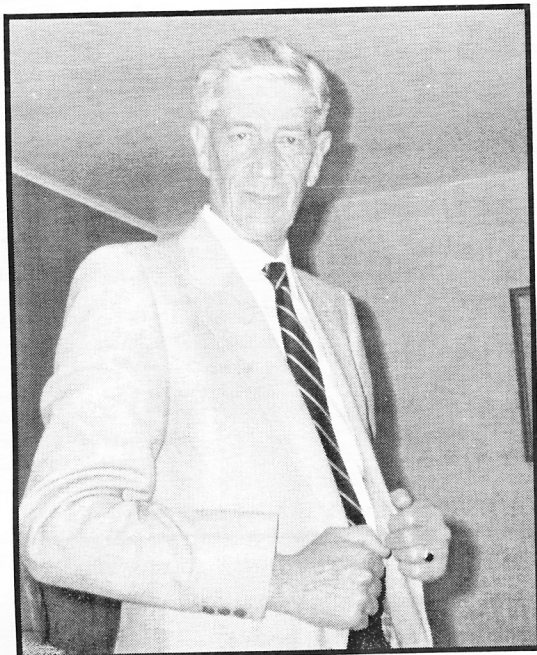
Harry and Barbara had two children, Garry born May 3, 1950 and Valerie born Aug. 8, 1954. While farming, Harry also worked at the C.I.L. plant, travelling by foot or a cut down car across the ice in the winter months. In 1968 they sold the farm and opened a coffee shop in Stella, which is now the home of Freda Youell. Harry also worked as Road Superintendant on the Island and in the early 1970s Harry worked for the Ministry of Transportation in Kingston for several years. He then worked as deckhand and then engineer on the Amherst Island ferry until he retired in 1991.

Very active in many things on the Island, he was instrumental in starting the Amherst Island Volunteer Fire Department. Harry was always willing to help others out and loved a good party. He never missed a dance or a euchre party and loved horses and horse races. When Harry had a stroke 9 ½ years ago he was unable to take part in the things he enjoyed most.

Harry made many friends over the years and the day of the funeral proved that when so many friends, relatives and neighbours joined us at the graveside service. All the kindness and affection of these people was shown to the family in so many ways that day.

\*\*\* *More photos on next page.* \*\*\*

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE FILSON FAMILY



*Above: Harry Filson gets ready for New Year's Eve on the Island.*



*Right: Barbara and Harry Filson on their wedding day, October 11, 1947.*

*Below: Harry and Barbara Filson with their original wedding party on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. From Left to Right: Wallace Wemp, Doris Crackel, Catherine Wemp, Hugh Filson, Barbara Filson, Harry Filson.*





## AIMS: JULY MEETING

Hugh Jenney

Twenty-five men sat down to a full and delicious breakfast prepared by the AI 4-H Calf Club members.

Woody, Ross and John Schutzbach volunteered to get the BBQ to the AI Museum at 9 AM for Saturday's Art Tour. Lorna Willis agreed to cook the hamburgers, hot dogs and sausages with help from Brian Grace, Woody, Ross and Bruce Burnett.

Dayle arranged for us to use the Presbyterian tents. We have four tables available for our use too. The Museum chairs will be set out for our patrons.

Brian Grace reported on the Greening of AI seminar on August 14 at 7 PM at the Community Centre. Thermal, solar and wind information experts will be on hand. Hopefully John Gerretsen will be there with good news from his government about paying for 50% of anybody's expense in using any of these energy-saving technologies in his home.

Ross Haines suggested we look into buying aprons with our name on them.

Brian Grace suggested hiring teenagers to run the BBQ.

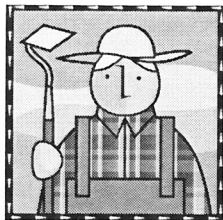
Brian Little suggested that we put an additional sign on our Market Open sign when the BBQ was in action.

Ken Albertan introduced our guest speaker, Gary McDonald, by congratulating him for all his family's good works that they have performed over the twenty years that they have lived on the Island.

Brian Little set up his computer so that Gary could show all his pictures from Dubai. They dug up the ocean floor to create a bunch of islands in the form of the world map (The World- \$15 million for the cheapest island), plus three large islands in the shape of Date Palms, The Palm, Jumeirah, The Palm Jebel-Ali, and The Palm Deira. (Check the website [http://realestate.themiratesnetwork.com/developments/dubai/palm\\_islands.php](http://realestate.themiratesnetwork.com/developments/dubai/palm_islands.php)). All power is provided by diesel engines. Diesel cost 12 cents per litre. They are very security minded. Gary had to get a special pass to get onto the construction site. He had to pass through ten gates. They created all these islands to create more waterfront properties. Gary saw 68 houses with only one being occupied. The others were bought by speculators for \$2 million each 18 months ago. Now they are worth \$7 million.

They have built the largest aquarium in the world in an attempt to make this complex the tourist destination of the world. They even used gold shingles.

Gary showed us the huge cruise ship where the superintendents and project managers stayed. There are 156 nationalities working 24 hours a day seven days a week on construction. Most are Pakistani labourers. The trades are represented mostly by Indians. So many men were being killed a month that the Sheik mandated a new safety system. He gave the construction companies three months to fix the problem. As an incentive the Sheik



had anybody in charge of a construction site that had a fatality arrested while they investigated whose fault it was. This usually took three months. If the superintendent was found guilty the sentence was three months. During the last six months, nobody has died on the job. The living conditions for the workers were horrendous. The Sheik demanded that the construction companies remedy this situation immediately. It was.

The temperature averages 30-32 C in the winter. In the summer it goes up to 45-50 C with 100% humidity. Going into an air conditioned building is like walking into a freezer. The wall of mist is so thick one has to feel one's way to the next door.

Gary's job was to oversee 40 men building a 3200 square foot Lindel Home from Vancouver. It was post and beam with plastic palm roofing. It only took Gary's team twelve weeks to build this modern cedar house. The Australians and New Zealanders were in the contest too. They lost. The houses must be sold two years in advance because it takes that long to get all the necessary permits.

Gary had to pay cash for everything he bought. Dubai is the world's center for money laundering. His company now has the contract to build 560 cedar homes over the next two years with the prospect of doing another 500 homes at \$15 million each.

The easiest way to build a bridge there is to fill in the area needed, build the bridge and then dig out the causeway under it.

The workers caught fish every morning and cooked them over halogen lights. Gary wondered where all his lights had gone. Now he knows. His workers are very clever.

Water is expensive. It comes mostly from desalinization plants. The gray water is put through a Canadian Zirkon system.

Gary found it hard to live there because there never was a clear day. The only time the sky cleared was between 10 and 12 midnight.

Constructing those sky scrapers was a daunting task. They could pour a floor a day by pumping the cement up through a pipe in the middle of the building.

The shopping malls were humungous. That is where they have the ski hill plus 24 cinemas and areas representing all the nationalities. English, German, Dutch and American schools were all there too.

The native schools are all open and very quiet. Gary went into one school with 1200 students and heard not a peep.

Gary and Lesley went on a desert tour for 40 durams each. The touring car was a \$100,000 Porsche Ferrari!

Whereas Abudaby claims to have 110 years of oil reserves, Dubai has only 25 years left. That is why the Sheik is keen to make this area into a tourist destination.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Gary was surprised to see all the international manufacturers there. He explained that Iran sells its products to the United Arab Emirate who then sells it to us.

Gary told us that there are no taxes in Dubai, but there is a large sales tax. He told us of a 24 year old engineer who was left \$40,000 by his mother. The engineer invested it in real estate and left four years later with over \$2,000,000.

We asked about how safe it was for Lesley when she visited him there. Gary said it was a very safe police state. There are undercover police everywhere so the crime rate is practically non-existent.

When you pay for your hotel which is very expensive it includes free medical care and transportation anywhere you want to go. They have twelve huge national hospitals. They are so rich that they are going to build everything the Olympics will need BEFORE they apply.

Greg Latiak thanked Gary for a fascinating and very informative presentation.

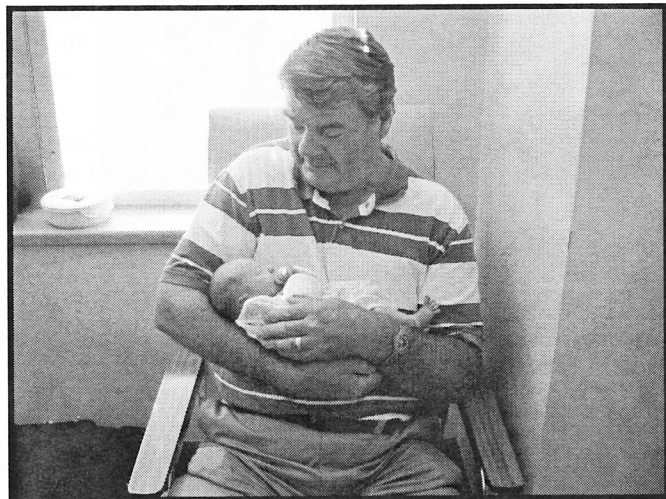


## NEW GRANDBABY

-Linda Joll

We are thrilled to announce the birth of our first grandchild. Our daughter Catherine and her husband Gavin welcomed Owen Miles at 4:27 a.m. on August 2, 2008. He weighed 5 lbs 8 ozs and measured 19 ins. Catherine, Gavin and Owen are doing well, and so are the happy grandparents.

Here's a picture of proud grandad, Michael, holding Owen at the age of 36 hours.



## \$3300. RAISED FOR MUSEUM IN 5.5 HOURS

- Terry Culbert

Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> was a banner day for the Neilson Store Museum & Cultural Centre as art lovers came out in droves and supported the Open Studio Art Tour. Presented by the Amherst Island Men's Society and organized by Peter Large and Terry Culbert, the five and a half hour event was a great success, raising a total of \$3300. The organizers plan to repeat the Museum fundraiser every second year.

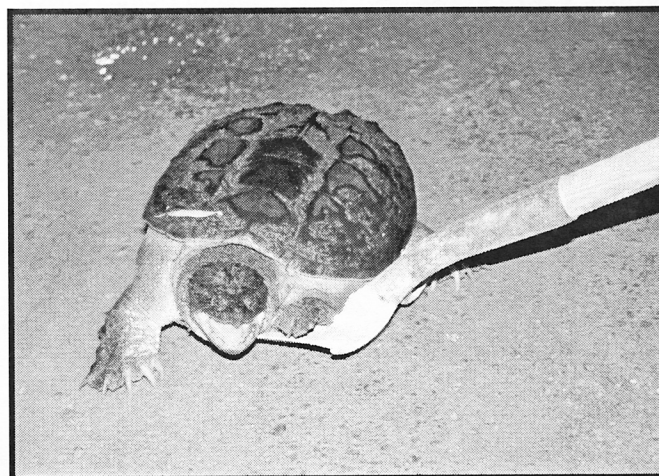
Equipped with a map and following directional signage, tour visitors were able to take in twelve venues of painters, photographers and artisans. Not only were people enjoying the show, but they were purchasing as well.

The Neilson Store Museum's Back Room was the starting point for the tour. Each participant was asked to donate an 8"x 8" painting or photograph as a fundraiser. The Back Room opened at 11am, giving everyone the opportunity to view and purchase quality work produced by three-dozen Islanders. The Back Room sales staff took in \$2300. The AIM's barbeque on the west lawn of the Museum brought in another \$400. after expenses, and Thomas Sylvester of the South Shores 'Hearth Bread' raised \$545 from the sale of eleven loaves of bread.

Large and Culbert wish to thank the participants and all the hard working volunteers for their time and energy in making this a truly perfect day.

\*\*\*\*See Photos on Pages 10 & 11\*\*\*\*

## HE JUST WANTED A RIDE ON THE FERRY...



Earlier this month, Ferry Crew members got a surprise when they lowered the ramp, and this guy (or girl) was waiting there. Doug Shurtliffe valiantly scooped this large snapping turtle up with a round mouth shovel and moved it to a safer location.

PHOTO BY BRIAN LITTLE



# RAIN DIDN'T STOP THE ST. PAUL'S GARDEN PARTY



*Tom Richmond held down one corner of a tent when the winds increased.*



*Cale Jones, Saskia Wagemans and Kate Little.*



*Quilting display.*



*A great turnout.*



*Many people braved the threatening clouds to attend the Garden Party.*



*Lots to buy, lots to eat, many to visit with—a great day for all!*

TOP TWO PHOTOS BY TERRY CULBERT, OTHERS BY BRIAN LITTLE.

## THE CHURCH AND THE ARTS

- Zander of DUNN INN

It was both interesting and gratifying to read the article in the Whig-Standard on July 2, about the Waterside Concerts and the roles of Bill and Bev Harris in organizing and promoting them at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Amherst Island. It served to remind me of the connection between the Church and the Arts.

In fairness it should be noted here that the Waterside series began many years ago at St. Alban's Anglican Church, under the direction of Inka Brockhausen, the church receiving some of the proceeds. There were excellent concerts presented there. But the concerts were moved to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, without any prompting from the Presbyterians, because St. Paul's had a bigger venue.

Now the concerts are held, not to support the church, although rent is paid by the Waterside group, but to make the best music available to the people of the Island. Wonderful music - classical, modern, jazz, country and western, folk, Celtic - has been shared with Islanders and mainlanders alike.

That good music is heard at St. Paul's is to be expected because The Church has, through the ages, been a sponsor of the arts. The Vatican has a fabulous collection of wonderful paintings, sculptures and tapestries which it has received by supporting artists over the centuries. Concerts of classical music, featuring the best soloists and musical artists, continue to be held almost daily in the churches of Rome, Vienna, Budapest, Paris, Venice....

It is most significant that at the first concert of this season, Tom Leighton, who played the piano-accordion and the piano keyboard, told me, in a conversation after the concert, that he has played at several services at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Picton, near where he vacations, at the invitation of The Rev. Lynne Donovan, who is the minister there. She has made it part of her ministry to invite artists to come to the church to share their talents with the people of the community, and often within a worship setting.

It was also significant that at the recent Art Tour of Amherst Island, six artists were featured in the hall of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Four were photographers, (all entirely different), one was a painter and tactile artist, one was a sculptor of unusual pieces. All made effective presentations which drew the admiration of those who came to visit.

The Church, early in its existence recognized the talents of the people of God and wanted to feature and encourage the gifts of the people. The Church employed the best builders to erect their sanctuaries, invited the best glass-makers to present the Gospel in their windows, and commissioned the best playwrights to compose religious dramas for their worship.

Sometimes the churches took these artistic forms out

onto the streets in processions of Biblical characters, shared their best pictures with the populace, carried sculptures of famous people and played music especially written for the occasion. These artistic presentations were considered to be appealing lures to get the people into the churches to experience the preaching of the Gospel story.

I would like to think the church is the venue for good music, laughter, and drama, not to get outsiders to come to worship, but simply to share with as many as possible the best of the talents of the people of God. In other words there are no ulterior motives for the Waterside Series of concerts, but it is always good to hear, as I have heard at almost every concert, someone express appreciation that the church opens its doors to receive "outsiders" to hear the best music available.

## THREE FERRIES AND BACK IN ONE DAY!

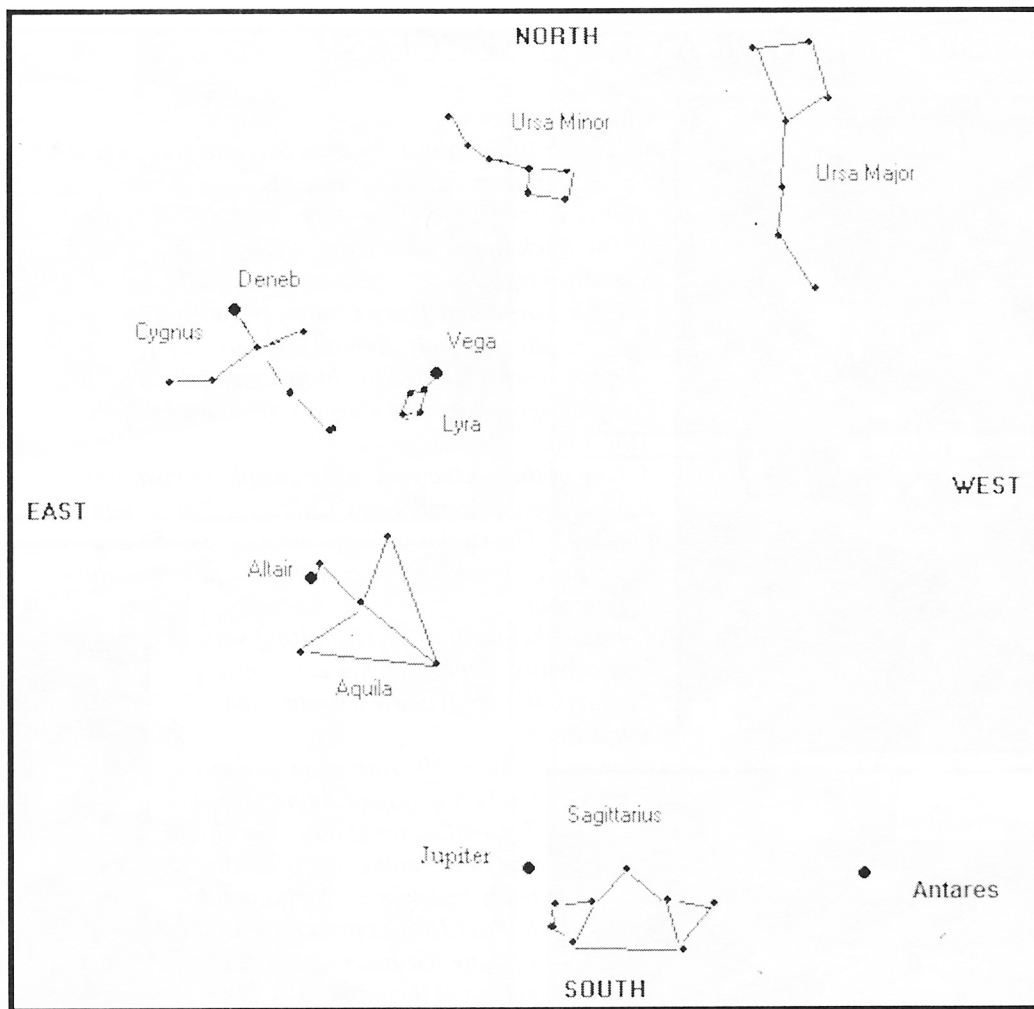
- Lyn Fleming

Larry and I recently visited a friend's cottage on Simcoe Island. We left Amherst Island on the noon ferry, knowing it would be busy on the (free) Wolfe Island ferry. We planned to arrive at the dock downtown in lots of time. We arrived in the line-up at 12:58 to catch the 2:00 p.m. ferry. We were the 3rd car left. So, we waited another hour for the 3:00 p.m. ferry. There was no room to squeeze even a motor cycle on by the time the ferry was loaded. Every seat was taken and people lined the deck to enjoy the crossing. Once on Wolfe Island, it was a 3 or 4 minute drive to the cable ferry to Simcoe Island. We paid our \$5.00 return "good for day of purchase" fare (apparently they are saving up for a bubble system) and took the 5 minute trip across on another full ferry - 3 vehicles, no bikes, walkers, etc. We arrived at the cottage at 3:50 p.m.! While on Simcoe, we drove the length of the Island (10 minutes) and visited the lighthouse that Larry has looked at and wondered about for as long as he can remember. It can be seen from the South Shore of Amherst Island.

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We remember well, the days not so many years ago, when we would wait for 2 or 3 ferries, lined up the side of the highway in Millhaven to get home from work on a Friday evening and then again on Sunday evening, people waiting 2 or 3 ferries to get off the Island, lined back through the village.





## AUGUST SKIES

- Alan Kidd

This month brings the year's best meteor shower and the reappearance of Venus in the evening sky. Also we have another interesting grouping of planets in the western sky, which will last most of the month.

Seeing the Milky Way is one of the benefits we get living on Amherst Island, away from the city lights. Unfortunately, during these hazy summer nights, we often can't see it even here on the Island. However, there are a few nights, even in the summer, when cool dry air pushes the haze away and we can see the summer milky way in all its glory, stretching from Cassiopeia in the north, arcing over to the Northern Cross and Vega, then going south and reaching its climax at Sagittarius.

Sagittarius, or The Archer, is traditionally depicted as a Centaur with a drawn bow and arrow. The tradition goes back a long way, probably as far back as the Sumerians



and even the ancient Greeks didn't know why that pattern was chosen. These days most people see the constellation as a teapot. On clear nights, a great cloud can be seen coming from the spout of the teapot. This is the Great Sagittarius Star Cloud, and is nothing less than the dense cloud of stars that surround the central disk of our galaxy, roughly 25,000 light years (or 250 million billion kilometers) away.

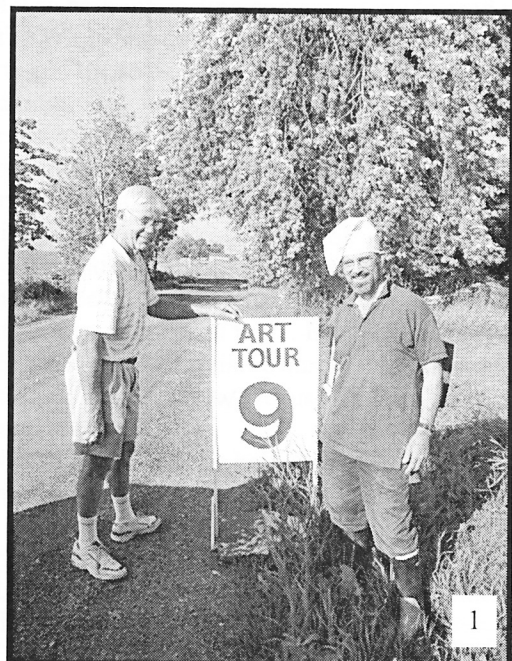
Venus reappears in the evening sky this month.

Mars and Saturn and Mercury are also visible low in the western sky. On the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of August, Venus and Saturn are less than 1/2 a degree apart, low in the western sky at sunset. By the 14<sup>th</sup>, Mercury will have joined the duo and for the next couple of nights the three planets should be visible just after sunset. After that Saturn moves too close to the sun to be seen. However, the dance of the planets is not over. During the second half of August, Mercury and Venus close in on Mars and by the end of the month are only six degrees from the red planet. However, all of this activity will occur near the horizon, so we will need clear nights to see this event.

Jupiter is now the only planet now visible all through the

(Continued on page 12)

# OPEN STUDIO ART TOUR A GREAT SUCCESS!!



*Clockwise from top left:*

*1. Hearth Bread baker Thomas Sylvester receives a studio sign from Jack Garrett of London, Ontario. Jack is Terry Culbert's brother-in-law.*

*2. The Back Room sales team of Chris Laffin and Sherrill Wright.*

*3. Peter Large and Terry Culbert organized the Open Studio Art Tour. Behind them are a few of the original works donated by three dozen Island painters, photographers and artisans. (Picture by Beth Albertan).*

*4. One of the twelve venues for people to visit was Barb Hogenauer and Terry Culbert's "Studio on the Bay". The studio-gallery, located at 8750 Second Concession Road, opened for the first time during the tour.*

*5. Head chef for the AIMS BBQ was Lorna Willis, flanked by her assistants from left, Woody Woodiwiss and John Schutzbach.*

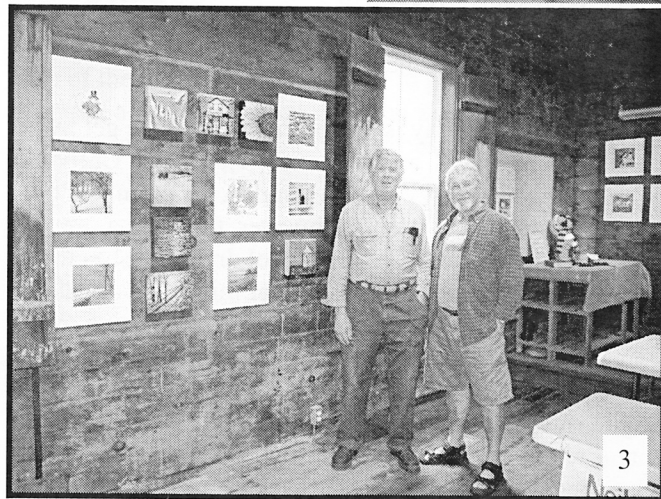
*6. Beth Albertan shows Terry Culbert a map of Amherst Island.*

*7. Geoff Jones shows Judi Gould one of the many one-of-a-kind teddy bears in his Stella booth.*

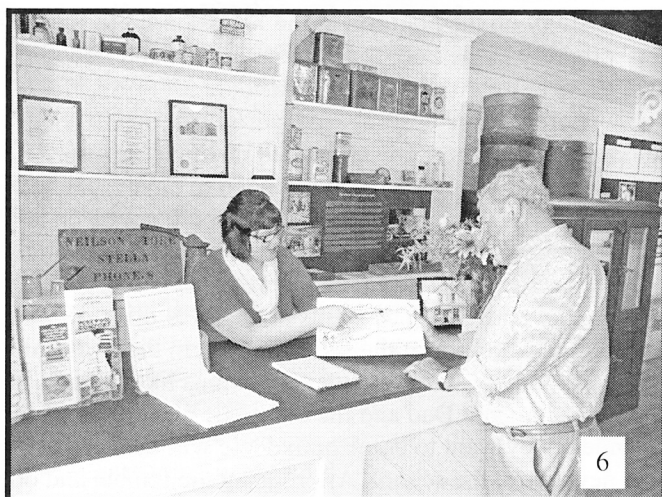
*8. Ross Haines produced all the signage. Grandson Michael helps put them into a pickup truck for delivery around the tour route.*

*9. Located at The Lodge, acrylic painter Peggie Coulter stands in front of her metal display wall designed and created by blacksmith Paul Cuyler.*

ALL PHOTOS BY TERRY CULBERT



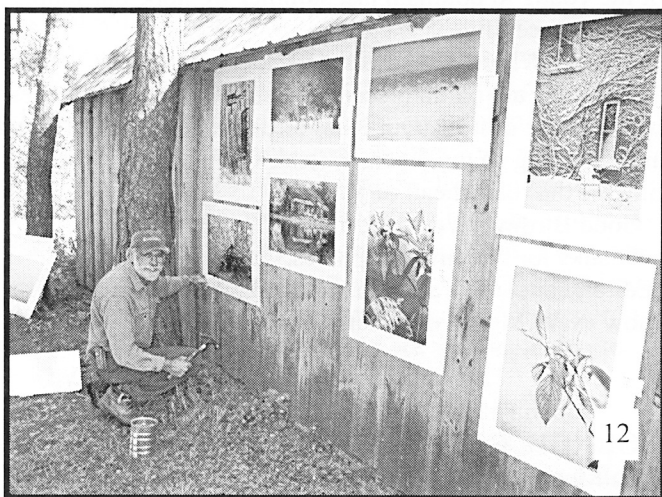




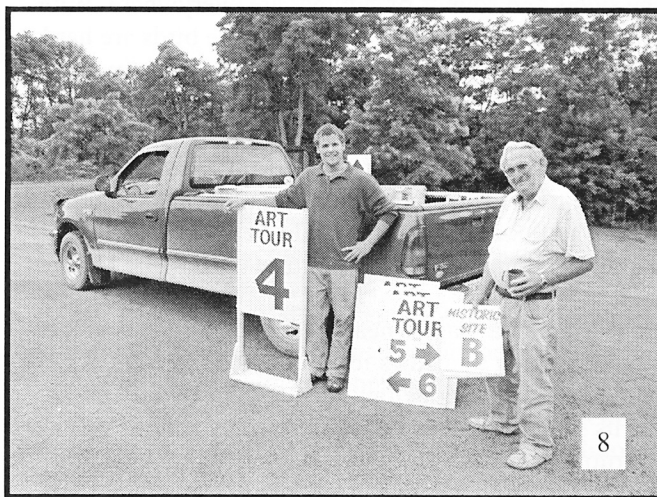
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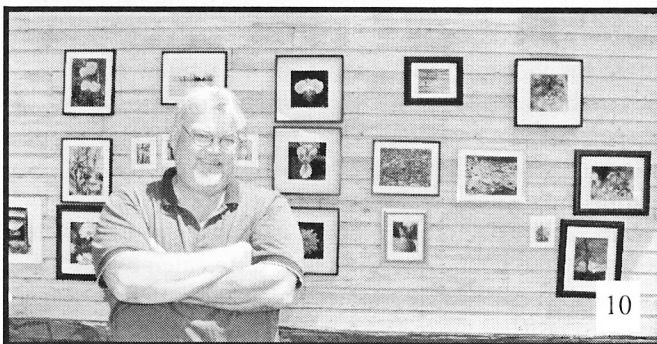
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10. Brian Little stands in front of his photographic display mounted along the west wall of the Museum.  
11. David Youell set up his photographic table beneath the shade of a tree alongside the Amherst Island General Store.  
12. Topsy Farms Wool Shed became the perfect display area for Don Tubb, the sheep farming-photographer.

(Continued from page 9)

night. The giant planet will continue to shine brightly near the constellation of Sagittarius. Jupiter is now getting well placed for telescope view, since it is fairly high in the sky early in the evening.

One major event this month is the Perseid meteor shower. This will occur in the early morning hours of August 12<sup>th</sup> this year. The best time to look is between 1:30 a.m. (after moonset) and dawn. Expect to see about one meteor every minute at the peak of the shower.

## JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

The sights and sounds of summer are everywhere. With the thick foliage on all our Island trees, the birds are harder and harder to see but they still make their distinctive sounds. As I strolled along Front Road there were Upland Plovers calling in the recently hayed fields just east of the village. They were not making their wolf whistle call but rather a distress call so I presumed that they had young nearby. The flooded spots of muddy field made an excellent gourmet dining area for the plovers and some Killdeer as well.

In the Manitoba maples nearby a young Oriole was feeding and Chipping Sparrows fed on the road in front of St. Alban's. It wasn't long before I disturbed a Catbird and it made its scolding call as I passed. Another catbird was also on territory at Grace's so I think they are doing well this summer. The regular rains have not only created the lush growth in trees and shrubs but have also allowed for a consistent insect source of food for our songbirds. Robins were scolding at Leslie Gavlas' so I imagine they are feeding a second if not a third family this summer. At the school the Osprey were calling to each other and Mom is feeding at least two young. Later in August when they leave the nest but still perch in the vicinity we will get a better idea of how many chicks we have. The barn Swallows have left the nest at the General Store and the activity at Noel McCormick's garage has seemed to have stopped so I presume the Cliff Swallows have flown as well. The Martins continue to chirp loudly around Captain Bulch's birdhouses and dip and dive over the village after their meals.

Perhaps you have a House Wren in your yard singing and bubbling away as the males continue to sing right into August. They will depart late September and early October to make the long flight to Mexico for the winter. They raise two broods and are quite persistent in driving other bird species from a nesting box. Both the wrens at my house and those at Jamie's are still singing happily.

During the sixties the Osprey dropped dramatically in numbers. Toxic chemicals washed into water courses were ingested by the fish. The fish in turn were eaten by the Osprey and the results were thinner shells and failed nestings. Now with restrictions in DDT the Osprey are on the re-

bound. Our own Amherst Island Osprey have been nesting successfully on the platform at the Kingston Field Naturalists' property at the Foot for the past decade and now for two years at the Amherst Island School.

There are Osprey nests at the Hydro Plant on Hwy. 33 and also a brand new one at the ball diamond in Amherstview. Loyalist Township arranged to have a new platform built last fall so that the Osprey would not be on a light standard but unfortunately they built on another light standard instead. Each year an Osprey nest is reused and continually added to. The adults at the KFN drive off any adult birds who look at the second platform that was built there but perhaps our growing generations like to build in view of Mom and Dad and the old home place. Just like Islanders they want to come home! We will be watching this new site at the school. After losing the female and one of the young to botulism last summer we hope our family will be successful.

Orioles, Wrens, Kingbirds, Grackles are feeding young. The Robins are on their second nests and the Goldfinches will soon be nesting. Our local birds are feeding, nurturing and moulting so give them a break when they're slow getting off the road ahead of you.

Good Birding Everyone,

Thanks for the birding updates,

[Editor: Janet talks about birds on Dayle Gowan's CJAI show every Monday morning 7 to 7:30.]

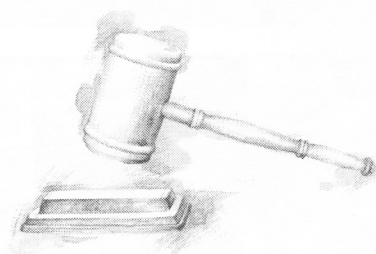
## COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From a letter addressed to Reeve Clayton McEwen and signed by James Bradley, Ontario's Minister of Transportation:

"As we discussed during the meeting, last year's audit of all municipally operated ferry services in Eastern Region found that all municipalities are in compliance with the terms of their legal agreements. The ministry understands the current conditions in which municipalities find themselves and can appreciate the need for your township to apply appropriate passenger fees to ensure the operations of the Amherst Island Ferry.

"Since our meeting, I have asked ministry staff to review the present legal agreement with a view to developing a subsidy arrangement to ensure a ferry service that is safe, convenient and as reasonably priced as possible. All municipal ferry services will remain funded by the ministry and the ministry will continue to ensure the maintenance and upkeep of all its ferries to protect the safety of passengers."





## FROM MY GARDEN: CLAY SOIL

- Doug Green (from "www.douggreengarden.com")

I know there are quite a few folks who want to know how to best deal with clay soils and I've been putting off writing this column just about as long as I can. You see if I write about it, then I have to go and fix my own miserable soil conditions and that was just too daunting a job. But, like all problems you can only ignore them so long before they become a problem. So here's the short answer to clay soil improvement or how you can learn to live with gardening in the hard.

First off, clay soils are very fertile soils and will grow amazingly great crops if they are tended properly. So that's the good news. The bad news of course is that you have to be picky about what perennial and woody plants you use because they have to be able to tolerate some extra wetness and compact soils with fewer air spaces. We're left with two options, learn to grow in clay soils and pick appropriate plants or learn how to modify those soils and open up the growing options. Let me be brutally frank here. There is no magic fix, no chemical you can add to your garden that's going to make it all better in a short time. This is hard work. Now are you beginning to see why I didn't want to write about it?

The short answer is organic matter. It doesn't matter whether we're talking about modifying the soil or trying to deal with it, the more organic matter you build into a clay soil, the better that soil will perform for you. Clay soils generally are over 50% clay particles and these are the smallest of the three major particles (sand and silt being the other two) making up the soil. These tiny particles scrunch together more easily than do the larger particles so adding organic matter adds spaces between the particles allowing plant roots to penetrate and water to drain. The organic matter also breaks down by bacterial action and the bacteria secrete substances that cause the clay particles to clump together. So not only does the organic matter immediately improve drainage and soil compaction, it also does so in the longer run by supporting the bacteria that make clay particles clump together.

The bad news here is that you have to dig this organic matter into the soil in order for it to work. If you want a decent soil depth of 30 cm (12 inches), then you're going to have to dig the organic matter in that deep. This is a good depth to consider for most crops of annuals, vegetables and perennials. Get out the shovels, forks, mattocks and rakes because you're going to spread one inch of organic matter such as peat moss over top of the soil and then you're going to work it in to the depth you desire. And you're going to do this every year for several years and then every second or third year after that. Now do you see why I've been

avoiding this?

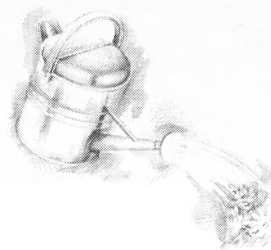
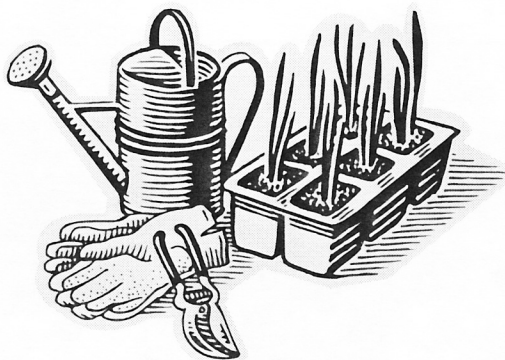
You can speed this process up by using compost tea. This material, if made properly, contains a great many different kind of bacteria. By watering your clay soils monthly with compost tea, you're going to eventually add the kinds of bacteria that are soil building and aggregate the clay clumps. Doing this is ongoing and is something you'll likely do every year you garden. I have read interesting things about this technique and some amazing success stories.

Having said that I really do have to point out that not all clay soils are created equally. What works in one

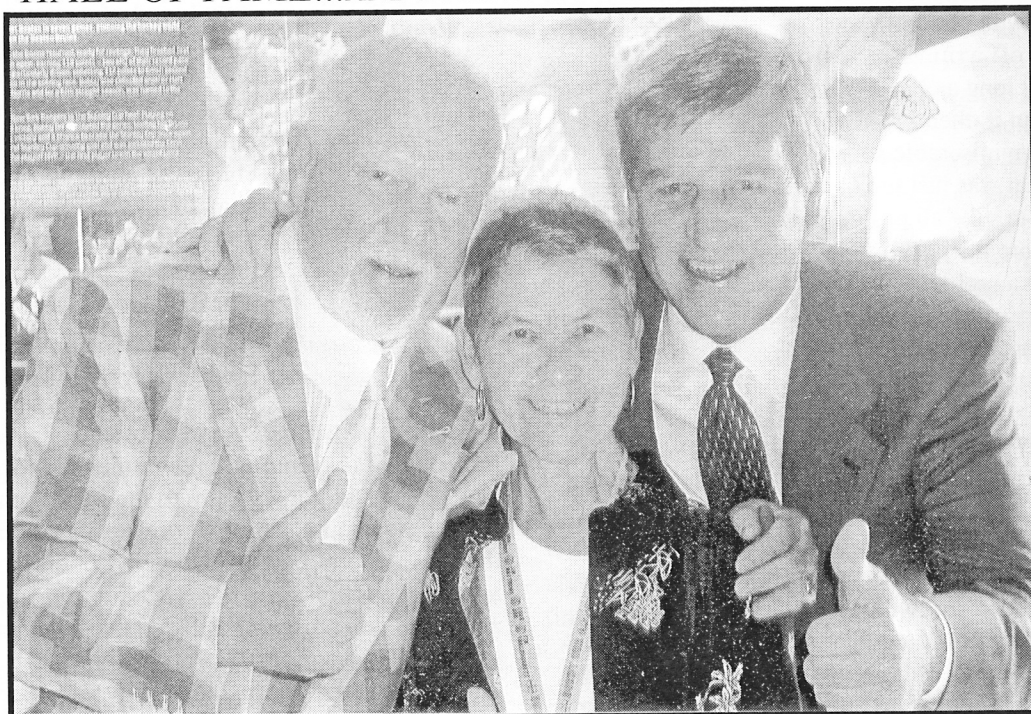
clay soil type will not work in another. For example, a remedy that is commonly recommended for improving clay soils is adding gypsum to the soil. But this only works if your clay soil is acidic. If your soil is already alkaline, then it won't work and you're left wondering why. There are too many folks recommending things that they've read about but don't research fully so that's the basic deal on gypsum. Do a soil test, if your soil is acidic, then consider digging in 18 kg (40 pounds) of gypsum per 1000 sq. ft. Applications of gypsum can apparently be spread on the soil surface and it will penetrate when rains drive it down. Again, this won't happen or create marvelous conditions overnight but a few years of consistent treatment on the right kinds of soil should improve the soil structure. The best gypsum to use in the home garden would be granular because you can spread it with regular lawn equipment. Finer grades are used in commercial horticulture and applied with the irrigation water.

Finally, let me give you one small tip that will make some of your digging and distribution work a lot easier. If you're digging into heavy clay soil, a shovel is really not the best tool for this. It clogs up, holds the soil and very quickly you've added a lot of weight to the end of the handle. You're swinging lead down there. Instead of a shovel, use a digging fork for working clay soils. The fork can be cleaned off easier and will turn over the soil as readily as will a shovel. A mattock is an excellent tool for digging trenches in heavy clay soils where you want to actually remove the soils. But no matter how you slice it, clay soils are hard work for digging.

Now do you see why I didn't write this column?



## DON CHERRY INDUCTED INTO THE BOBBY ORR HALL OF FAME...AND DICK AND PUDDY DODDS WERE THERE.



*Left to right: Don Cherry, Puddy Dodds and Bobby Orr.*

## STELLA FROM ABOVE



PHOTO BY BRIAN LITTLE



## LAFARGE FROM ABOVE



PHOTOS BY ALAN KIDD

## “CORMORANT ISLAND”



PHOTO BY BRIAN LITTLE



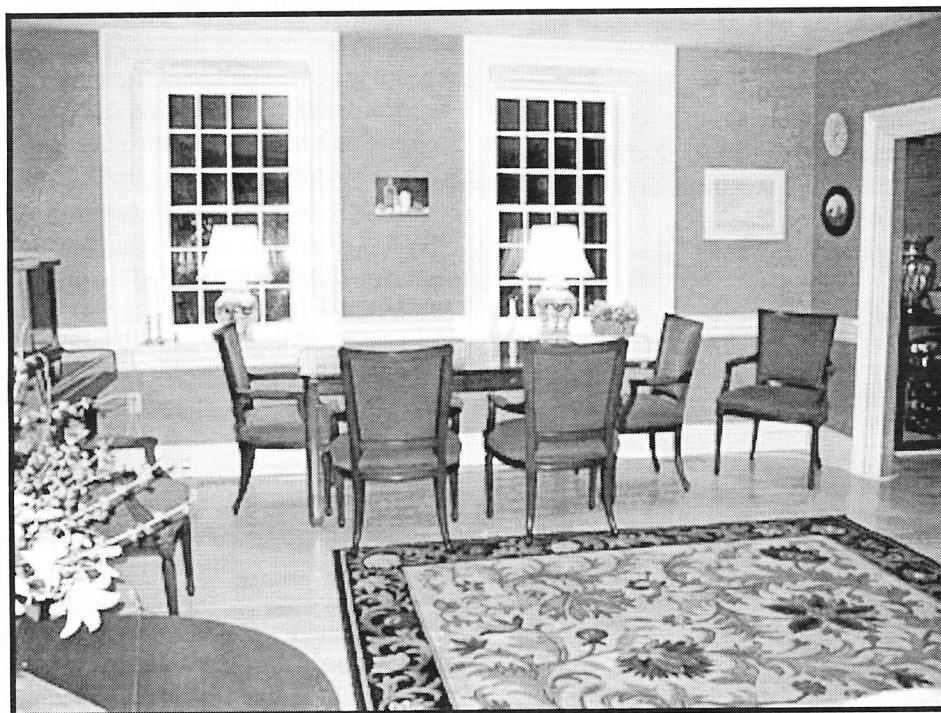
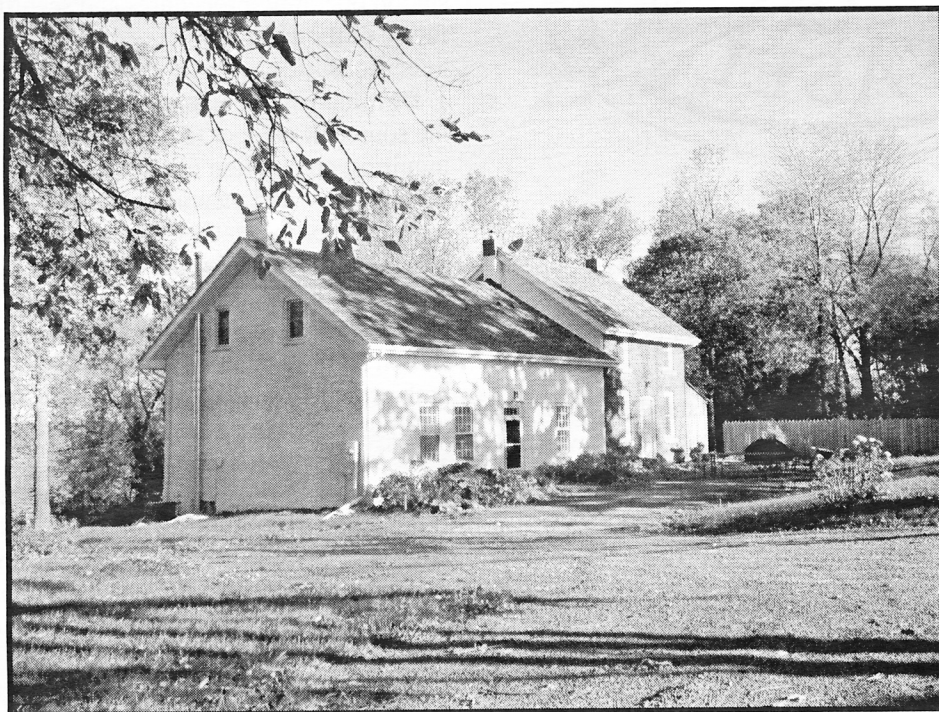
*This crusher waited earlier this month to cross to Amherst Island. It was destined for Caughey's Quarry on Front Road.*

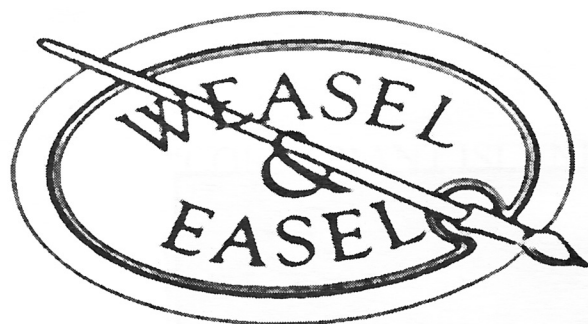
PHOTO BY DON TUBB



## HIEATT'S HOUSE

(ARTICLE WAS FEATURED IN JULY 2008 BEACON)





The volunteers at the Weasel & Easel would like to invite you to come and browse through our selection of Arts and Crafts featuring the work of many of our Islanders. We have paintings and pottery, jewellery, photography, woodwork and cards for all occasions. We also have hand made quilts, Afghans and blankets and much more.....

Our hours of operations are:

Weekdays (except Tuesdays) from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. during the month of August.

Each weekend up to and including Thanksgiving we are open:

- Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Sundays from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Holiday Mondays from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m.

We are pleased to tell you that as well as VISA, cash and cheques, we now accept **debit** cards.

We look forward to seeing you in the store at 5220 Front Road. Our telephone number is 613 634 9512 during business hours. If you would like further information, please contact Sherrill Wright at 613 634 7038 (sherrillw@ca.inter.net) or Linda Joll at 613 634 8213 (thejolls@kos.net)

## HELP WANTED----

Amherst Island Public Radio is seeking a full-time Station Manager, who will be responsible for the daily operation of CJAI-FM. In cooperation with the BOD, the Station Manager will play a significant role in carrying out station operating procedures and securing the financial future of the station.

Specific Duties:

1. Development of financial security for the station, being the source of contact for all membership and sponsorship inquiries, completion of applications for grants, sourcing of donations, and meeting with sponsors and advertising prospects for the station. The station manager will pursue additional revenue through these areas of interest and others as they become available.
2. Oversee outreach and training for prospective volunteer station staff, with a particular emphasis on diversity in both presentation and representation. Oversee retraining of existing staff on an annual basis.
3. Oversee broadcasting in cooperation with volunteer staff, to reflect station policies in conjunction with BOD and volunteer committees. Develop and implement daily broadcast schedules and changes to same.
4. Assist in outreach and public relations in conjunction with the president of the board of directors and others assigned by same.
5. Work closely with all volunteers, particularly local primary and secondary school students working on various projects. Work closely with and encourage involvement by senior citizens in broadcasting operations at the station.
6. Ensure that the creation and storage of program logs, archival recordings, and other necessary documentary logs are done in a manner that makes their retrieval possible. Ensure the safe storage of these documents is carried out in accordance with direction from the board of directors.
7. Take an active role in the planning and execution of CJAI-FM events, such as the Amherst Island Folk Festival, parade coverage, book readings, etc as directed by the board of directors.
8. Make arrangements for any remote broadcasts with station technical committee.
9. Ensure that the station is in compliance with all regulations and guidelines set by governing bodies.
10. Perform other related duties as assigned.

Detail:

The Station Manager will be responsible to the CJAI-FM Board of Directors for the supervision, organization, and management of the station. The successful candidate will be outgoing and willing to take part in fundraising activities. The successful candidate will be reliable and provide direction and training for volunteers; be easily approachable by outside groups and organizations; have knowledge of finances; and be flexible with respect to routine and hours.

Salary: \$25,000, 40 hour weeks at \$12/hour, one year



(Continued from page 18)

term.

Applications can be mailed to:

Amherst Island Public Radio, CJAI-FM 92.1FM, 5830 Front Road,  
Stella, On K0H2S0

or emailed in PDF format or in the body of an email to: [air@cjai.ca](mailto:air@cjai.ca)

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MONDAY AUGUST 18th at 5PM EDT



The family of Harry Filson wishes to sincerely thank the Island community, folks on the mainland and those who travelled a long distance for the truly amazing support while Harry was in the hospital and when he passed away.

First of all to the Island First Response Team who arrived so promptly and were so great with Harry. To all the wonderful people for their kind thoughts, cards and food brought to our homes. To Garry and Susan and Val and Bob for holding the lunch the day of the funeral and The Stella Bellas for all you did towards the lunch which was beautiful and delicious.

Thank you for the donations towards the Amherst Island Fire Department. Harry would have been so proud to see the Fire Department at the graveside service dressed in uniform as a tribute to him.

A heart-felt thanks to Zander Dunn for his many visits to Harry in the hospital which he looked forward to and for the special graveside service.

Harry always felt the Island was one big family and as a true Islander he was the oldest male original Islander.

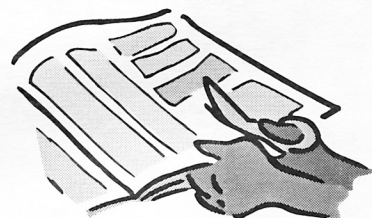
Again, many thanks to one and all.

## ~ CLASSIFIEDS ~

### LOST

At St. Paul's Garden Party on July 26th, a flat gold pendant with chain, featuring cutout design of giraffe and man. Sentimental value.

Reward. Call Coralie at 613 389-5031



### FOR SALE

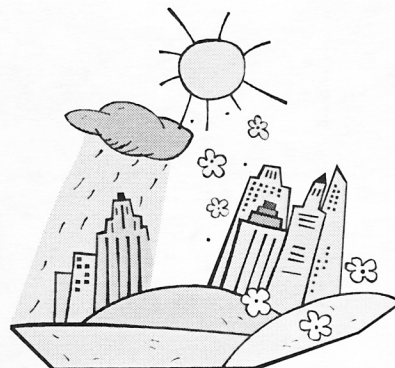
**Basil** and other herbs in season. Call Sally, mornings or early evenings. 613-389-3802

**SINGLE BED, 7' 1/2 " MATTRESS**  
6" foundation, metal bed frame, almost new. Firm: \$ 150.00  
Call: Rosy or Bruce 613/634-0103

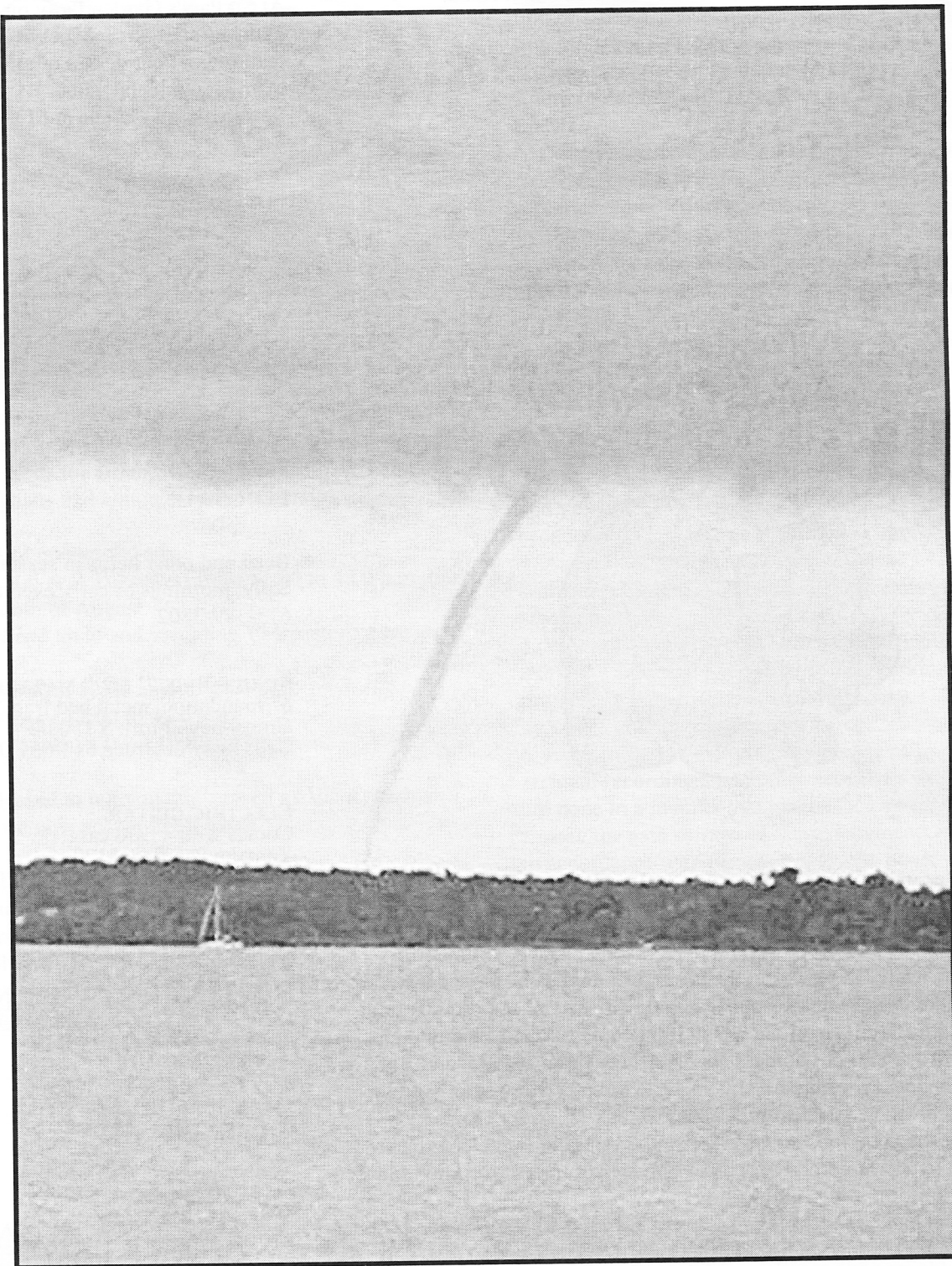
### ELECTRIC GUITAR.

Comes with a hard case.  
Yamaha Pacifica, \$120.  
Call Tammy Fleming at 352-1075

## AMHERST ISLAND WEATHER



## WATER SPOUT SOUTH OF AMHERST ISLAND



*You can clearly see the water spout in this photo taken a few weeks ago by Helen Trotter. One of Helen's photos was featured on CKWS News.*

PHOTO BY HELEN TROTTER

The



Foot