

# Amherst Island BEACON



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aibeacon@topsyfarms.com

April 2009

## The Beacon goes to Sunny Los Angeles!

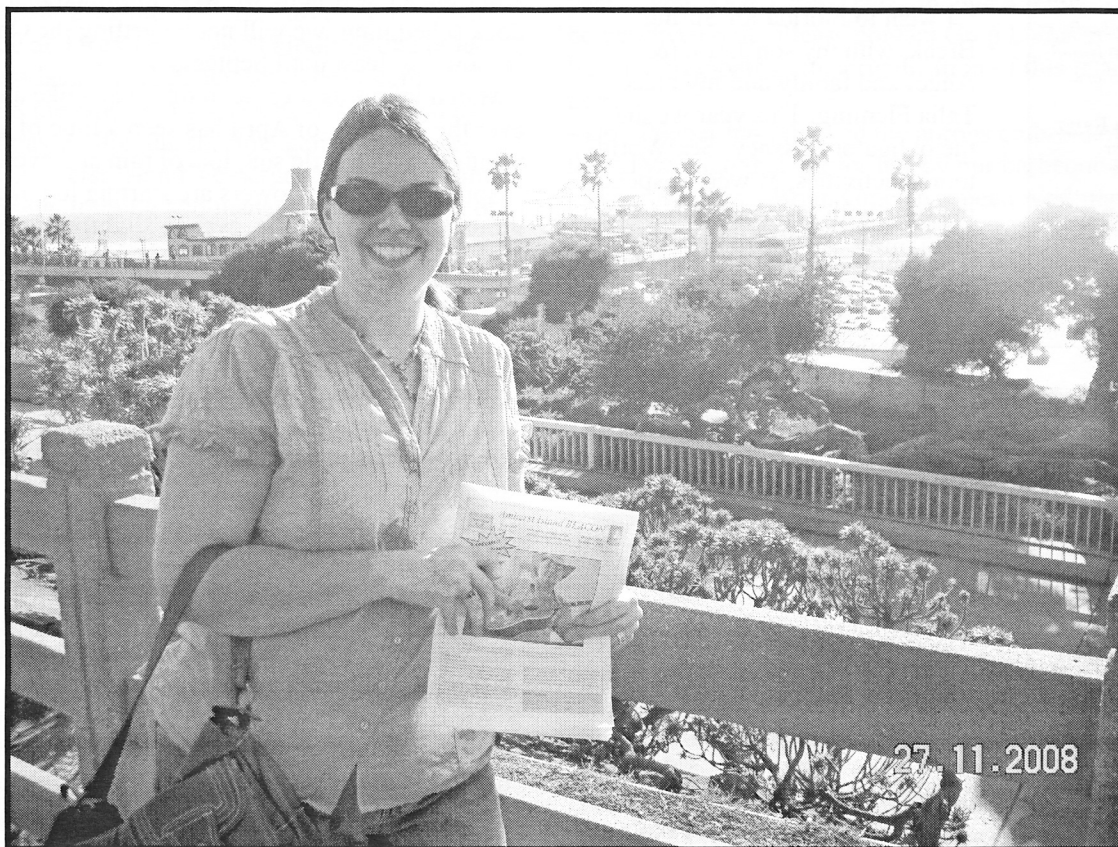


PHOTO COURTESY JESSICA RYBKA

*Last November, Amherst Island native Jessica (Gavlas) Rybka visited fellow AI native Bonnie Marshall in Los Angeles. She decided to take the Beacon along for a visit. This photo was taken on the Santa Monica Pier. For more photos from the Amherst Island Beacon's first photo shoot in LA, turn to page 8.*

### THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

Some of this issue is devoted to gardening. Growing some of your own food is eating as local as you can get.

There is also more than usual in Council Gleanings.

We have, once again, more good photos than we have room for. It's not easy to decide what to leave in and what to leave out as they are all interesting.

It has been awhile since we re-printed from old Beacons.

Sally tells me that it's time to do so again. So there are 3 short, but I hope interesting, articles from the first issue of the revived Beacon.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Archive Beacon Articles—Pages 3, 5, and 6  
Special Gardening Section: Pages 10—13



## The Amherst Island Beacon

Issue 373  
April 2009

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A.I. Beacon  
14775 Front Road  
Stella, ON  
K0H 2S0

Voice & Fax  
(613) 389-3802  
E-Mail: aibeacon  
@topsyfarms.com

### Photo Editor:

Sue Frizzell c/o  
aibeacon  
@topsyfarms.com

### Typesetting:

Sue Frizzell c/o  
aibeacon  
@topsyfarms.com

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Happy 80th Birthday to (a young) Ray Koenders! Ray celebrated with family and friends at the Lodge. A few day later Ray and Zelma headed to the west coast to visit his sister in Seattle.

Kim and Duncan Ashley and family visited Duncan's parents in Alabama during Spring Break.

I went to Florida for Spring Break, with my son Jason (& Ange) and family and my niece Talia Fleming. This year we did the obligatory Disney, Sea World tourist activities, as well as spending time with my mom and sister and family. An added bonus was seeing a space shuttle launch, joining hundreds of others on the beach at dusk, to watch the shuttle climb into orbit, as the rocket boosters dropped slowly back to the ocean.

While many try to escape our Canadian winter at some point, the Whittons spent Spring Break in Alberta on a skiing vacation in the Rockies.

Dale and Elly Gowan spent some time in South America this Spring.

Elsie Willard and Marion Glenn spent a few weeks in Florida, escaping some of the winter blues.

Earl and Donna Willard have returned from their winter get away in Florida.

Good-bye to Caroline Yull and her daughter Fae, who have sold their home in the Village and moved to Bath. Fae will finish her last few months of elementary school where she started, here at A.I.P.S.

St. Alban's held their 2nd Annual Irish Night, prior to St. Patrick's Day, with music by Crooked Wood.

The Amherst Island Rec Association's community euchres have ended for the season. A good number attended the Friday eve-

ning euchres, enjoying cards, refreshments and good company!

A.I.P.S. Senior Class held a Spaghetti Dinner and Movie night, as they continue to raise funds for their year-end trip to Ottawa in May.

The ice is gone from the channel, with a little less fanfare than usual. The usual air of excitement and anticipation (& maybe some wagering) of the ice leaving was dampened this year with the news that as soon as the ice was gone we would be getting the Quinte Loyalist (as Wolfe Island needed our ferry) for an extended time again. After the ice was gone we were informed that, due to dry dock scheduling, we will not be getting the Quinte Loyalist now - at least until September . . .

March left us as it came in this year - like a lamb. However the 1st week of April has seen a little of all kinds of weather, with a little sun, lots of rain and even some snow.

Spring bulbs and flowers are starting to poke through the ground, and the grass is, ever so slightly, starting to green.

## TWO ITEMS

- Judith Harrower

Molly Stroyman was featured on CBC news a week ago Friday regarding the housing crisis in Canada. She spoke about what the situation was in Toronto.

Very well done.

\*\*\*

The Stone Fence Committee of the Amherst Island Women's Institute are pleased to say that this summer we will be commencing and hopefully completing the last remaining fence in Pentland Cemetery.

Mr. Bill Hedges is returning to teach and guide us in completing this long-term project. This hopefully will be our last summer restoring stone fences unless there is an overwhelming demand for other fences to be restored. We would like to have many volunteers this summer which would make the completion go quicker, and work would not have to continue another summer.

At this time Mr. Hedges and the Committee have not firmed up specific days and start date will be in May. Of course that depends on weather conditions, most probably towards the middle of the month. Thursdays were popular in the preceding years however if enough volunteers wish another day we're flexible.

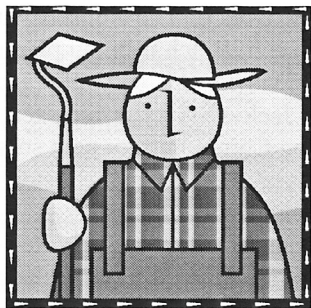
Please consider coming out once a week or once a month and help restore such a unique part of Amherst Island's history.

To volunteer or for information please call Judith Harrower at 613-384-0435.

**AIMS, MARCH 14 BREAKFAST MEETING**

- David Meikle

Seventeen men sat down to a wonderful breakfast prepared by members of the Amherst Island Public School. Our thanks to: Connie, Marisa and Mathew Free; Caroline, Faye and Caleb Yull; and, Tessa Mayman for breakfast.



Following breakfast Chief Wayne Calver of the Loyalist County Fire and Rescue Services kindly spoke to us on the Amherst Island emergency services system.

Prior to 1998 the emergency services were funded by private donations. Following the amalgamation movement in 1998 Amherst Island's emergency services came under the funding, training and management umbrella of Loyalist Township. Loyalist Township Fire and Rescue has 3 full time staff and 86 part-time volunteer Emergency Services personnel in 4 stations. The Island station currently has 16 volunteer members.

Loyalist Township is one of the few municipalities that have a full service training facility. Amherst Island's emergency service volunteers receive full training in both fire and rescue emergency services. Chief Calver emphasized that the volunteer label in no way indicated an incompletely trained or equipped crew.

The Township's emergency services as a whole are gradually evolving from a fire fighting service that did a few emergency calls into an emergency service that does a few fire calls. This trend is even more exaggerated on Amherst Island given our older than average population.

In the event of a call all volunteer members are contacted. Response time on the Island is only a few minutes. All members are cross-trained for all services. In the last 5 years there have been 125 calls on Amherst. The vast majority of calls are emergency care calls. The average number of respondents to a call is 8.43. The lowest average number of respondents is 5 for calls that come in mid-afternoon. This is sufficient for any type of call.

If you have a concern that your telephone service providers has accurate emergency service information on file Chief Calver recommends you call 911 and have the operator check your information. With the spread of telephone service providers there have been cases of emergency information being incorrect.

In the event of a call, the ferry services are immediately contacted and the ferry stands by for emergency transport as required. If the call is after hours the evening ferry crew is called to staff the ferry.

Amherst Island emergency services also provide cour-

tesy home fire safety inspections on request.

After thanking Chief Calver for his time Greg Latiak called the business portion of the meeting to order.

- The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.
- Membership renewal and contact information updates continue.

- Paul Lauret presented the Treasurer's Report.
- Committee Reports:

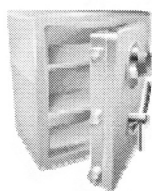
- The transportation committee had 1 call in the past month.

- New Year's Dance Committee. There has been a good response to the request for volunteers to manage next year's New Year's Eve Dance though a few more would be very welcome. Please contact Greg Latiak if you would like to participate in the organization of this Island tradition.

- Don Pepper has received the aprons embroidered with the AIMS logo that are for use by our barbeque staff.

- Other Business: Brian Grace has been working on a plan for a pick up procedure for water samples to save each of us making a trip to the mainland. He will be sending out a flyer and posting a notice of the details.

Next Meeting -- 11 April 2009 at 8:00am

**ARCHIVE: I.S.L.E****VOL. 3 #1 DEC. 1ST, 1978**

- Randi Murray

Island School Liaison Enthusiasts (I.S.L.E.) is a 10 person group put together for the purpose of furthering communication and interaction be-

tween the public school and the surrounding community. Our first large project, the creative playground, is nearly completed and a great success. We are indebted to a very large number of people for their contributions of funds, time, facilities, and "good junk" (for the garage sale that provided the basis of our funds).

The present I.S.L.E. committee is composed of Bob Horth, Cathy Glenn (Treas.), Clarence Kennedy (Staff), Jack Kerr, Jack McCormick, Judy Miller, Yvonne Mondoux (Staff), Randi Murray (Sec'y), Diane Pearce and Phyllis Strain. We need your ideas to function effectively.

Please contact any I.S.L.E. member to have an item placed on the next agenda.

\*\*\*



## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Sharen English

Thirty-five Islanders met at St. Paul's Church on Wed., Apr. 18, to hear a talk on solar energy, sun to electric by way of solar panels.



Nancy Pearson introduced Mr. Ian Young from Kinu Energy Corporation who spoke about renewable energy. He and his partner Vincent Gallo, who are based in the Ottawa Valley, serve mainly rural communities and hotels, farms, homes, businesses and institutions. Mr. Young spoke about solar thermal energy, sun to generate heat, hot water or radiant floor heating. This type of energy can be purchased directly, financed over several years, or acquired by community utilities to sell power to local users. Mr. Young explained the science behind these technologies. He was very informative.

His contact information is Mr. Ian Young, Kinu Solar Energy, Tel. 613 761 0929, Fax 866 356 7788 and email [vanyvo@ca.inter.net](mailto:vanyvo@ca.inter.net)

Our co President Kirsten Bennick thanked our speaker. A snack was provided for our guests and ourselves.

Kirsten Bennick presided over our business meeting. Fifteen members attended. The minutes were accepted. The financial statement was approved. A motion was made to pay small bills. Pennies for Friendship and the Collect occurred.

Our secretary Mary Kay Steel reported that we received correspondence from the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, giving us new volunteer forms. We also received a letter from Azana, a project that provides skill development in weaving, income generation and literacy classes to Afghan women in Kabul. They are having a sale in Ottawa of 100 percent pure silk shawls.

Get well cards were sent to Judith Harrower by our Good Cheer Committee person Joyce Reid.

Advocacy chairperson Liz Harrison and Judith Harrower reported that Loyalist Township is not ready for Styrofoam recycling.

Advocacy, Education: A school competition has started to see which school can collect the most used batteries.

Tweedsmuir representative Leslie Gavlas reported that she is continuing to work on the article about the bank that used to be on Amherst Island.

Public Relations person Sharen English must receive the volunteer hours for non-Rose programs from our members by the April meeting.

Joyce Haines, our District Committee person gave an extensive report on the numerous events taking place at the branch, area and district levels.

Financial Committee representative Jackie Sylvester

announced that a second bench has been arranged for at the front of The Neilsen Museum and Cultural Centre. A bench launch is being planned for the Victoria Day weekend. The W.I. will put plaques on both benches.

Jackie Sylvester reported that the work of the Nominating Committee for next season is underway. Members were asked to give consideration to which posts they might volunteer.

Judith Harrower reported that the Stone Fences Committee is planning to clear the north fence of Pentland Cemetery this spring, summer and fall. Mr. Bill Hedges from Kingston will help us with this endeavour.

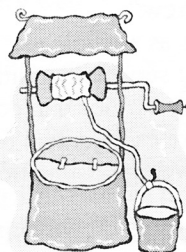
Education: Judith Harrower reported that we will be having a buy Canadian initiative at the Saturday Market. Buying and promoting local food is one of the aims of this. Judith needs members to volunteer for this.

Jackie Sylvester reported that the Island Directory is coming along well and will be ready soon.

An anniversary project for the year 2010, our branch's 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary is being discussed.

Kirsten thanked our lunch providers Joyce Haines, Anne Henderson and Nancy Pearson and set up persons Joyce Haines and Judith Harrower.

Our next meeting will be our Annual General Meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> at the home of Nancy Pearson.



*Have you ever said "I meant to do that" or "oh I forgot" and don't have the time? To assist you maintain safe drinking water from your ground or shore well a new service is being provided. On April 27, August 31 and*

*November 30 (all Mondays) leave your water sample bottle with the correctly filled out form indicating on that form that you want your results to be mailed to you, in the screen portion of the General Store in the marked container. The samples will be taken for testing by 11:00am that day. If you don't have a sample bottle there are many in the foyer at the Ferry Office and are available during the Ferry Office hours.*

*The Kingston Health Unit has said that three times a year is sufficient for testing. If there is no response then the service will stop.*



## JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

You cannot ignore the fact that Spring has crept up upon us with the quietness of a lamb. Everywhere the sights and sounds and sensations are telling us that Spring is here. As the snow drifts melted and displayed all the elaborate tunnels and villages of our resident voles it also displayed green life and vegetation that had lain dormant all winter.

The daffodils were already pushing up fattening heads along sheltered walls and against foundations as they sought the sun. Fortunately our daring, dancing daffodils are poisonous to deer and voles and can survive life here on Amherst Island. It won't be long until Coralie Marshall's lawn, sloping south towards Front Road, will be a carpet of bright yellow blooms. Already a few brave Crocuses have bloomed in people's gardens and the tulips that have been protected will join the riot of colours.

Everywhere the Island is turning green, from the darkest of Spruce greens to the yellowish greens of the Willows. The last few fallen leaves from last summer are being flipped and searched by Robins and Grackles as they dig and scratch for insect larvae and waiting worms to feed their migration starved bodies. The Cardinals have started calling with their clear, vibrant whistles and the Blue Jays have become quiet as dominance of the Feeder is no longer necessary. Our summer, feathered friends are returning once again. Tree Swallows are buzzing the boxes along the roadsides and Killdeer are calling from road edges as they search the soft shoulders for tasty treats.

By April 11th our Snowies will head for the Arctic Tundra and leave behind fond memories of the excellent Owling winter we have had. By the amount of twitter-pating going on in the village, one would assume the local House Sparrows have already begun house building. I have seen several carrying bits of grass and straw. The cluster flies and dormant wasps have awakened and are buzzing against the sunny window panes. Everywhere are sights and sounds, familiar and yet forgotten when the winter winds howled and ice pellets banged against the glass. The constancy of changing seasons forever appears like a miracle in this beautiful land of ours.

We too are awakened and reborn. Just like the birds and animals our children strip off the wrappings of winter and charge around the schoolyard with the freedom of Spring. Our steps hasten and are more sprightly as we experience the freedom of leaving winter boots behind. Basketballs replace hockey sticks and skipping ropes replace Snowman building. Of course everywhere is the wonderful, icky, gooey mud of Amherst Island. Our settler forefathers probably saw it as building materials and caulked log barns and buildings with this mixture added to dung. We modern Mothers see it as a bane as chil-

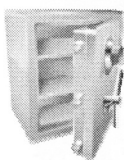
dren's clothes need frequent washings and muddy boots leave tracks across a kitchen floor. Every car from the South Shore begins to look the same colour but you know that this too will pass.

Mother Robin welcomes the gentle rains and fresh mud to build her safe nest for those sky blue eggs she wants to lay. The Cliff Swallows and Barn Swallows will return in April and build those elaborate cups and gourds, painstakingly created from balls of that same glorious mud.

April 11th should also bring back our resident Ospreys. The older nest is on a platform at the Kingston Field Naturalist's property along the Lower Forty Foot and the more recent nest is in the Baseball field in the recreation land behind the school. This pair will have to rebuild as those 100 km. plus winds of last December destroyed their nest. We will have to wait to see what they will do on their return.

Keep your senses aware and watch for all the colourful sights and listen for the songs of Spring. Don't forget to feel the earth as it comes to life and smell the new growth of Spring. Even our taste buds are awakened with the gift of Maple Syrup and the promise of our vegetable gardens to come.

Happy Spring Everyone!  
Good Birding.



## FROM THE ARCHIVES: ISSUE

1, VOL. 3, DEC.1/78

## AMHERST ISLANDER

- Chris Willard

Recently, Islanders welcomed back the Amherst Islander which had undergone repairs for a period of almost six weeks. During this time Islanders received the services of the Wolfe Islander. Heavy traffic kept it off schedule much of the time. Most obvious repair made was replacement of the deck. It was sand-blasted and covered with metal primer. The new surface is asphalt interwoven with wire mesh, with a coat of stone-chip overall. Engine repairs consisted of removing the old transmission and installing a new one.

The ferry was returned to the Island and resumed service for one afternoon. The thrust bearing broke and the ferry had to return to Kingston for repairs. Chief engineer Howard Welbanks reports, "It wasn't lined up right so the thrust bearing broke." Upon returning the thrust bearing was repaired. While at the Canadian Dredge and Dock some painting was done by crew members.

Next year the ferry will have its four-year inspection. Because of repairs to be made at that time, the chief engineer says, "This will put us right back where we started from." and lining up procedures will have to be repeated.

## COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

Admin. Meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Both John Adams of Amherst Island and Algonquin Power have formally, and separately, appealed sub-clause 5.11.3.7 (a) of Loyalist Township's Planning Amendment No. 18.

The sub-clause deals with noise from wind generators. I invite the interested reader to check out the details on the Loyalist web site.

\*\*\*

Regular Meeting on March 9.

There is a report to Council from Loyalist Planner Murray Beckel in which he reviews the proposed Ontario Green Energy Plan. The interested reader is referred to his full report on the Loyalist web-site. Here is Mr. Beckel's final paragraph:

"In conclusion, the regulatory environment for renewable energy has changed extremes, one where the Province lacked leadership, with little to no assistance or guidelines given to municipalities on how to assess and regulate renewable energy projects, to a situation where municipalities are going to be completely stripped of any ability to regulate and the public is largely shut out of the process, with decisions being made by an unaccountable bureaucrat."

John Harrison also criticized the proposed Green Energy Act in a presentation to Council.

\*

Keith Miller wrote a letter urging Council to take advantage of infrastructure money from senior levels of government to build end-loading docks.

\*

Judith Harrower wrote a letter requesting that the Marshall 40' be ploughed in winter when there is significant traffic to the Owl Woods.

\*

From the Loyalist Emergency Services reports for 2008:

- emergency calls: Amherst Island, 26; Amherstview, 118; Bath, 70; and, Odessa, 139.
- of total calls: medical, 27%; and, false alarms, 23%.
- \$523 per call on Amherst Island.
- "All personnel from the Amherst Island station attended the training facility twice for an extended evening training." [This was done in shifts so that the Island remained protected.]

\*

A letter was received by Council from the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing requesting municipalities to reduce costs wherever possible. In response, the CAO recommended to Council that a resolution be passed "that Provincial ministries initiating new programs and initiatives that are mandatory provide ade-

quate funding to cover the incremental costs of implementing such programs and initiatives."

\*

David Thompson, Director of Engineering Services, wrote a report for Council in response to Keith Miller's suggestion mentioned above. One of the larger problems would be getting an Environmental Assessment completed. Mr. Thompson goes on to say: "Should the Township proceed with the EA, then as part of the process, the financing of the construction would also need to be discussed. On the basis that the total project cost is \$6.0 million; and on the basis that the Township would be responsible for one-third of this cost, i.e. \$2.0 million; then the Township would need to decide how to fund this portion. This level of expenditure is a significant undertaking for the Amherst Island Ferry service area; and is also a significant cost for Loyalist Township as a whole, with the current level of debt of the municipality." Earlier in his report Mr. Thompson wonders: "Alternatively, when one realizes that the Amherst Island Ferry Service is the only provincially funded ferry service where the Province does not own the docks, it may be more appropriate for the Province to fund the end-loading dock project in its entirety, including an Environmental Assessment. It is the writer's understanding that the Province is currently paying for the Wolfe Island EA in its entirety."

\*

Mr. Thompson also wrote a report in response to Judith Harrower's request regarding snow ploughing the Marshall 40'. "Ms. Harrower's request sounds simple and reasonable, but would not be without its issues. It is staff's opinion that by providing such tracks, it may promote visitors to try and enter the Marshall Forty-Foot with their vehicles, thinking that someone has already been down the road with the end result of possibly getting stuck and having to be towed out, causing a significant amount of noise and commotion. . . . it is staff's recommendation that a trail not be provided, but that Ms. Harrower or a group such as the Kingston Field Naturalists assist the birders by placing markers for the birders to follow, thus ensuring they remain on the gravel road platform, therefore minimizing the chance of birders trekking into snowed in ditches."

## ARCHIVE: NEW COUNCIL

### VOL 3 #1 DEC 1ST, 1978

- Ian Murray

On Nov. 13, the 1979/80 council was elected. The four successful candidates are John Hall, Jack Kerr, Jean Tugwell and David Vrooman. Reeve James Neilson was returned by acclamation. The turnout of resident voters was approximately 73%. In the absence of a meet-the-candidates night, that's not too bad a turnout, is it?



## **Snowy Days and Snowy Owls on Amherst Island (and one cute squirrell)**

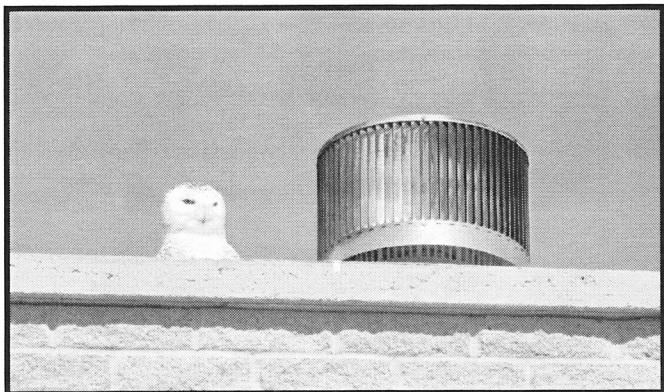


PHOTO BY EVAN YOUNG

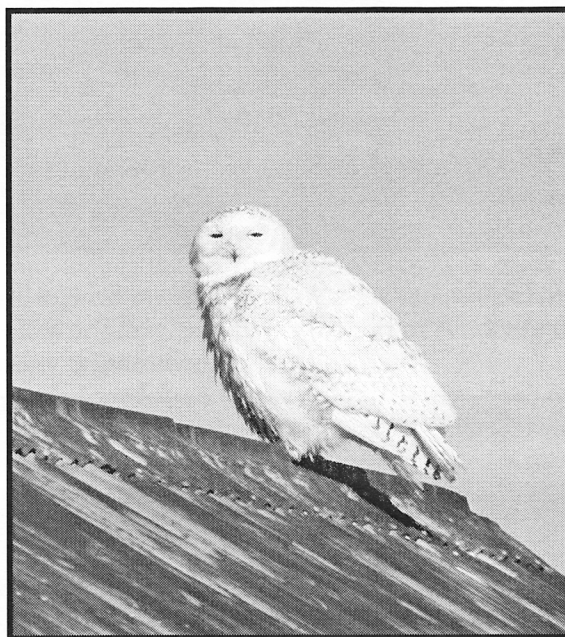


PHOTO BY DAVE YUELL

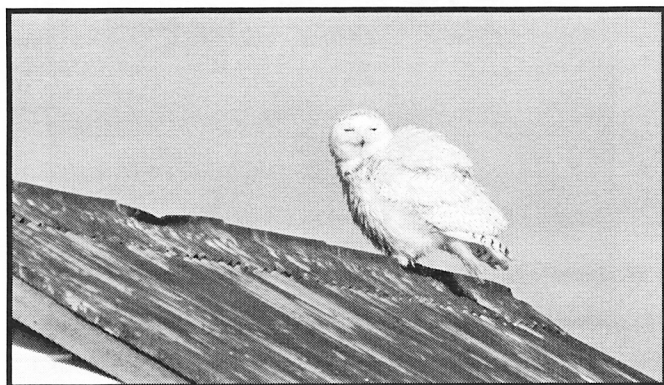


PHOTO BY DAVE YUELL



PHOTO BY EVAN YOUNG



# Fighting Pirates, The Roosevelt Hotel, Hollywood Blvd.—The Beacon Saw It All in Los Angeles.

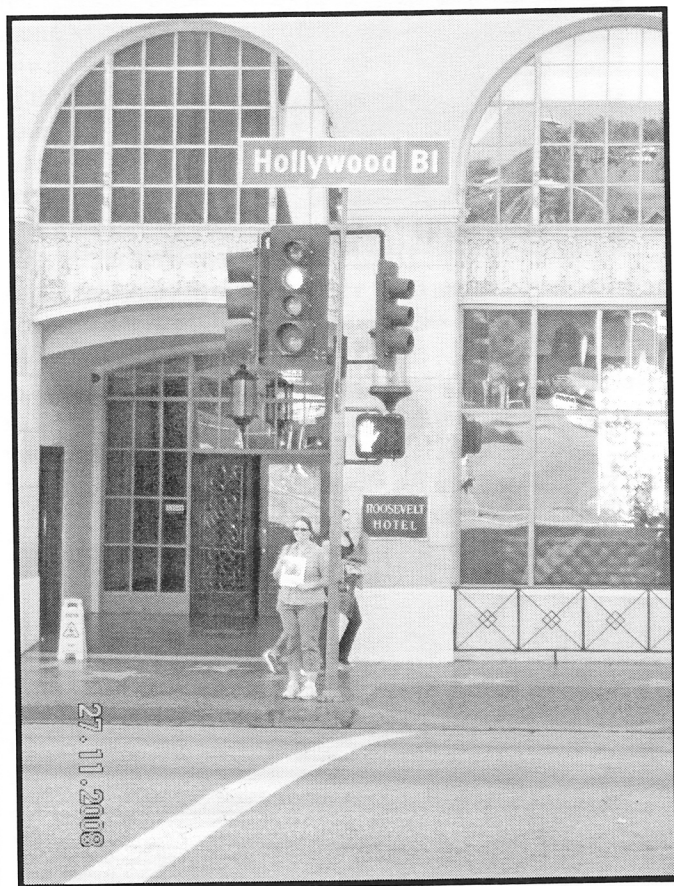
ALL PHOTOS BOTH PAGES COURTESY JESSICA RYBKA



Jessica Rybka holds "Captain Jack Sparrow" at bay in Hollywood.



Bonnie Marshall demonstrates how short these bathroom stalls really are—they are the worlds shortest—at Zuma Beach in Malibu.

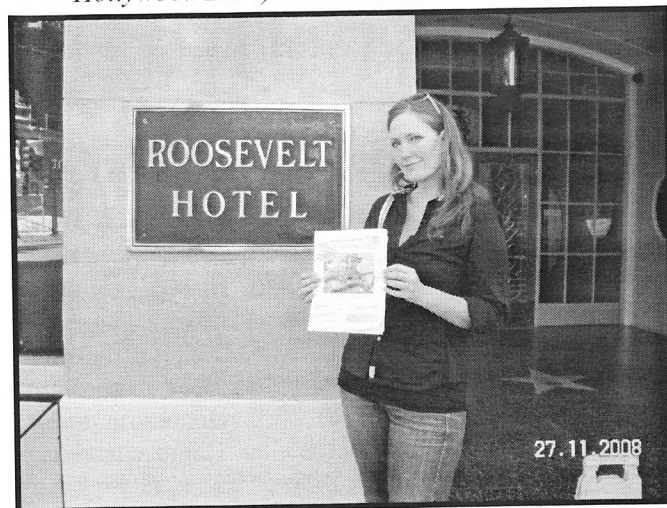


Jessica poses with the Beacon on Hollywood Blvd.

Right: Bonnie displays her copy of the Beacon in front of the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood.



Bonnie (right) and Jessica (left) pose for a quick mug shot in front of the Roosevelt Hotel (on Hollywood Blvd.)



## NOT RELIGIOUS, SPIRITUAL

- Zander of DUNN INN

Congratulations to Ian Murray, Don Tubb and the staff of The Beacon (past and present) for 30 years of reporting the news and stories of Amherst Island. I always look forward to getting my copy of The Beacon.

I was asked, by Ian Murray - four years ago - to write a column for the Beacon. Prior to that, I had been doing interviews with older islanders to record what life was like for them "in the good old days" - 80 and 90 years ago.

When I ran out of Islanders to interview Ian suggested other stories and then urged me to write a regular column about Faith and Spirituality. He did not want it to be too "religious." I think he feared I might use it as a means of "evangelism" or "proselytism." But he also said he didn't want it to be too "churchy" but to be practical and down to earth in language people can understand. I think I know what he meant and I've tried to follow his instructions. Whether I've succeeded is for the readers to determine.

I have no great love for religion. Neither did Jesus. Nor does God. Religion is all about the systems we humans concoct to get us to God or closer to God. (As if we could get closer to God than God is already close to us.)

Religion has caused some of the worst problems and wars in history. We have argued about which religion is better or best and we've gone to war to force others to obey or respect our religion. It is deplorable that the Christian right in the U.S. has pushed the war in Iraq. It is lamentable that the Islamists (Muslim terrorists) of the Middle East are forcing their standards and procedures on others.

All the religions of the world have good points, but whenever their adherents believe them to be perfect or the best, they cause trouble for everybody else.

Christianity, as a religion, is not the greatest. In fact, a Christian professor declared that Christianity is literally a "bloody mess" (it involves crucifixion) and if you want a good religion the best one is Buddhism which has none of those messy problems.

I don't believe in Christianity. I believe in Christ.

There is a big difference. Christianity has developed into a force for good and bad in our world. Christ continues to be the one highly regarded and praised by Jews, Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus as well as Christians.

Jesus' purpose was not to start a new religion. Jesus was never a Christian. He was and always remained a Jew. But he brought a fresh outlook and new insights into God's relations with humans. His "good news" which he shared was that God loved all people. And because God loved all people God wanted justice for all - for the sick, the poor, the outcasts, not only for the rich

and powerful.

Jesus got his theology from The Old Testament, a Jewish document which both Christians and Muslims honour and read. The irony is that Jews, Muslims and Christians, at their best, when they're not trying to promote their religions, agree about the essential issues of justice, love and peace.

So, why do I participate in the Christian religion and in one particular part of it - The Presbyterian Church?

First, I grew up in The Presbyterian Church and feel I belong to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, here on Amherst Island. It offers the routine through which I feel most comfortable in organization, worship and discussion. I am well aware not everybody feels comfortable in a Presbyterian Church, or in any church. That does not mean God loves them less or they are not as good as I.

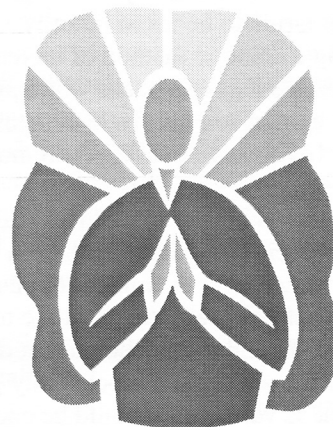
Second, I need the fellowship of the people of the congregation. They support me, encourage me, inspire me and empower me. I value their love.

Third, among the people of the church I can speak my mind, express my doubts, confess my failures and not be expelled or ostracized. That's not true of every church or of every organization.

Fourth, I need the discipline of the church. It calls me to worship once a week and involves me in dealing with the sacred texts of the Bible. It offers me a place and time where I can encounter Jesus - where I can be spiritual.

I know you don't have to go to church to be spiritual. Many who do not come to worship have told me that. I respect their point, but I, personally, find that when I do not have a group to meet with or a passage to consider or some songs to sing, I don't get around to being spiritual on a regular and fulfilling basis.

This is my experience. It may not be yours. But remember, whether you agree with me or not, whether you are religious or not, whether you are spiritual or not, God loves you unconditionally. No strings attached.



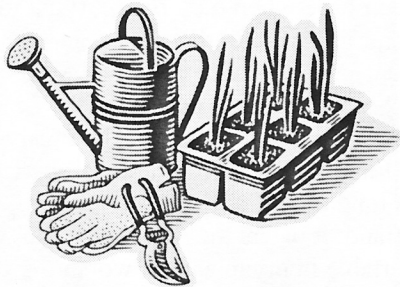


## FROM MY GARDEN

- Doug Green ([www.dougreensgarden.com](http://www.dougreensgarden.com))

### Glossary of Useful Gardening Terms:

This glossary of gardening terms is brought to you by tongue-in-cheek productions. Feel free to add your comments or suggestions for other useful gardening terms. Do try to remember that this is a family-friendly gardening series.



**Bolting:** The growth of the plant runs away with itself and it stops producing leaves, going right to seed. So the term is usually read as "bolting to seed" but is mostly shortened to "bolting" or "bolt". Now you know - you don't want plants like lettuce or spinach to bolt because they produce seeds rather than leaves. But many vegetables do this based on the weather - which is why we have spring and fall sowings of some vegetables (to avoid the heat that causes bolting).

**Capsaicinoid:** The chemical in peppers that makes them hot or hotter. The concentration of capsaicinoids is higher toward the stem of the fruit than it is away from the stem at the end of fruit. Yes, you got it - a hot pepper is hottest at the stem end.

**Dandelions blooming:** A wonderful way to know the soil is warm enough to plant early crops such as lettuce and spinach.

**Days to Maturity:** This is a useful scale for comparing different varieties of the same species. All things being equal, a tomato with a 65 days to maturity rating will ripen before a tomato with an 80 day rating. This is quite variable because the Days to Maturity is based on the number of heat units expected in any 24-hour period. And as we all know, weather changes as the season progresses and between different years. A general guideline and not a rule to be taken literally.

**Double Digging** a diabolic method of increasing strength in gardener's legs and backs while producing some of the best garden soil known to vegetables.

**Frost-damage:** If you have to ask, you're not Canadian.

**Full sun.** 8 hours of sunlight a day that includes the main sunlight between 10 am and 2 pm. You can have shade in the morning and/or evening but you need that 10-2 sun and 4 other hours around that time to qualify as full sunshine. Part-sunlight is 6-8 hours that doesn't contain that 10-2 four-hour time block. Only getting the 10-2 sunlight time is variable - it could be enough sun for some plants but not enough for others, depending on how much other light they get. You'll have to experi-

ment with those.

**Green manure.** A non-smelly way of getting organic matter into your soil. Sow seeds such as buckwheat (advantage: a lot of organic matter in a short time) or rye (advantage: secretes chemical that stops weeds) allowing them to grow 'till 12-inches tall and then mowing them down and digging in the organic matter.

**Herb:** Technically, any plant with non-woody stem that isn't a bulb or close to that. In practice, something we grow for flavouring. My advice is to only grow herbs you know you're going to use compared to growing everything in the catalogue.

**Intercropping:** Growing at least two plants in the same space at the same time. For example, planting vine-like squash in the same row as corn.

**Lilacs blooming:** When lilacs bloom, you know the soil is warm enough to plant tomatoes and other hardy spring crops. Air temperatures might be too cool yet, it depends on the season.

**Multiple Cropping.** Using the same garden space for more than one crop. It is usually planting something really early in that space (e.g. spinach) harvesting it, and then planting something else (e.g. beets) in the same space to harvest later.

**Perennial.** A plant that is supposed to live more than one year in your garden. There is no guarantee that a perennial plant will indeed do that (much to our annoyance) but that's the definition. Note that most perennials are short-lived, that is any plant that is supposed to live more than one year usually only lasts 3 before it needs some renovation work to keep it alive.

**Read the label:** A new way for garden writers to tell you to read the label of products so you don't screw up and try to control a fungus disease with a product that is made to control insects.

**Rules (as in Gardening Rules)** There are two. The second is you need to have fun. Doug's first rule of gardening states that "It is only necessary to feed your plants if you want flowers, fruit or new leaves." Those two pretty much cover the bases

**Soil:** Non-gardeners call it "dirt".

**Soil temperature.** The actual temperature of the soil. We use this as guidelines in ensuring good germination of seeds and we know that some seeds love cool soils (spinach) and some seeds love warm soils (melons). Understanding which love which will help you with both sowing seeds in the house and in the garden. There are soil thermometers but candy thermometers that can be "borrowed" from the chef work well too if they go between 10C (50F) and 20C (70F) the desired range for vegetable seeding.

**Sow:** Put seed in dirt/soil. No wild-oats sowing instructions contained in this seminar.

**Thinning:** Removing unwanted plants from between de-

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sired plants. You plant too many seeds in a row to ensure enough for your needs. The extra young plants are removed when the leaves start touching (neighbouring plants) to ensure enough space for a mature crop. Use the thinnings in salads or transplant them to other parts of the garden. In short, plant too many, take out the extras.

True leaves: there are seedling leaves (the first rounded ones produced by the plant) that everybody thinks are true leaves (but aren't) and then there are the leaves that look like the mature leaves of the plant and are really "true leaves".

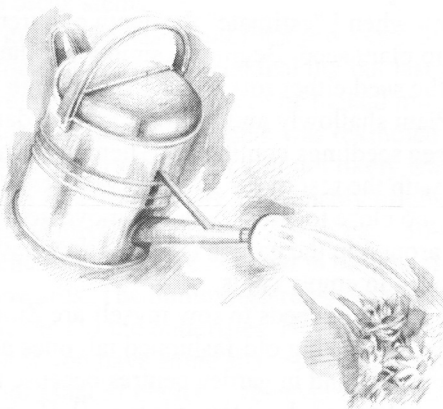
Tough plant: One that lives anywhere in Canada for more than one winter (unless that somewhere is tropical-Victoria) Alternately: any plant that survives at least one killing frost or grows for more than two months on Newfoundland.

Victoria Day Weekend: The main planting and gardening orgy across the country. Followed closely by Sore-Back-Tuesday.

Weeds and Weeding. The thing you ask your kids to do that they never get around to doing. Removing unwanted plants from between, among and snuggled up to your desired plants. Usually a lot easier to grow than vegetables.

Well-drained, fertile soil. A mythic beast, beloved of garden writers and garden experts for years. None of us have ever gardened on perfect soil in a perfect garden. Use what you have and try to add as much organic matter to it as you can.

Zones (Garden Zones) a semi-scientific way of confusing gardeners as to what plants the horticultural trade can't agree on that may (or may not be) hardy where you live. In short, a general guideline that is not to be adhered to religiously. Check with local garden centres where they grow their own plants or those with great gardens in your neighborhood.



## CLAY SOILS

Let's look at the basic methods we have dealing with clay soils - making them ready to garden on in productive and easy ways.

Remember that all remedies are pretty much mechanical because what we're trying to do is separate the tiny clay particles, allow air and root movement between them and eliminate some of the water problems in this kind of soil.

I also note that heavy clays soils (50% clay particles or greater) will have different characteristics and require different "fixes" than soils with less of a percentage of clay. So at the risk of depressing you, there's no one size fits all.

One problem brought up by at least one member is the existence of multiple layers of soil and clay. You have a slightly clay soil over top of a heavy clay layer. Or, with really poor garden-soil practices you've created this layer by repeated scuffing or polishing of that soil layer with roto-tiller tines (tilling at the wrong time when the soil is too damp). Tillers compress this lower level and make it impenetrable. Again, this demands a different response.

The Single Solution That Works in All Cases:

No matter what your problem, building good raised beds will work. And it will make your garden life ever so much easier. Mayo and I, with our shallow soil, are constructing raised beds throughout our garden; it's the only way we can successfully garden on this property.

So, if you have some really serious problems (see below) the cheapest solution is often to build raised beds.

The Second Solution That A Lot of Folks Use:

Excavate. Remove clay. Replace with good soil. Do this at least 18-24 inches deep for perennial and vegetable house-gardens.

Way Too Much Water = Drainage:

If you have a soil that collects and holds too much water, then the time-honoured way to eliminate that water is to install a drain system in your garden.

On the home scale system, this involves excavating a large hole that will hold a bottomless tank. The size of this tank depends on the size of the area being drained but it has to be large enough to handle a fast inflow of spring runoff and mid-summer. Drainage tiles are run through the garden and hooked up to the bottomless tank. Water flows downward so excess water drains into the tank where it slowly leaks out the bottom. This slow speed is why the holding tank has to be calculated to be able to hold enough water to handle the inflow during heavy draining periods.

Normally we suggest landscapers install this kind of system, they'll have the tools and expertise to both calculate and install this.

Farmers have used this system for centuries to bring heavy clay fields into production; it is a remedy on the home front as well.

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### Adding Organic Matter:

Organic matter in the form of compost (or other material) is a great way to break up lighter clay soils. Incorporating this material separates the small clay particles and helps feed the plants.

Do understand that organic matter is consumed in northern soils at roughly one half of the existing level per year. So if you add 2 cubic feet of peat in year one - you'll have one cubic foot left of peat at the start of year 2.

So you have to add compost every year if you want to see continued success.

### Adding Sand:

Using a mechanical addition such as sand can be done but it is fraught with potential danger.

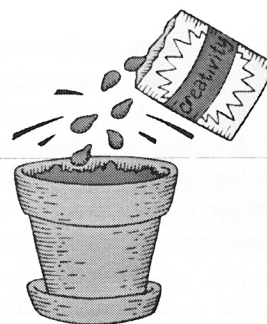
I generally say if you think you want to add sand, do it one quarter to one half inch at a time and work it in thoroughly. If you add too much or don't mix it thoroughly, you wind up with patches of sandy soil interspersed with balls of clay - or clay soils with streams of sand running through it. Either way, you won't be happy.

In general, I'm not convinced this really works.

### Double Digging:

This works really well on regular soils. I've done it for years. When it comes to maximizing production and actually creating a soil that will grow carrots properly, you're going to need something that's a lot more open and loose than clay soil. Double dig it - work in scads of organic matter and you might be able to actually grow great carrots.

If you're growing great root crops, you don't have heavy clay soils.



## EASY ANNUALS FROM SEED

One of the things that's always intrigued me is how so many gardeners think the only way to get great plants is to purchase them already started from a garden shop. So with apologies to my buddies in the industry, here are three wonderful flowering plants that actually do better when started in your garden from seeds. The other advantage of starting your own seeds in the garden is that you can find seeds the neighbours don't have; not that gardening is a competitive sport you understand. All three of these easily grown plants are intended for full sun gardens so do find a sunny spot and give them a home.

To begin with, there are two reasons many gardeners fail at starting their own seeds outdoors. The first is our insane desire to have flowers, any flowers, in our gardens. So seed gets put into ground that is way too cold for them to germinate. When you can put the tender inside of your wrist on the soil and not shiver or think the ground is cold, then it's time to plant. In most cases, anything before the third week of May is too early and even in a cold season, this is too early in our USDA zone 4 and Canadian zone 5 region. Sowing a week later will guarantee higher germination rates and not only that but the later-sown seeds will catch up to the earlier cousins because they weren't stressed at all.

The second reason is that gardeners don't cover their seed, they bury them. I can't tell you how I have to hold myself back when I "estimate" the depth of a trench or the depth to plant seed. Beginners simply put them too deep and the seed either rots or can't get up high enough to grow. Plant shallowly and keep the ground dampish until you see seedlings coming up. Then only water the seedlings with the rest of the garden. And yes, if you sow them too close together, you can move your own seedlings around in the garden (wait till they have 4 true-leaves) to fill in empty spots.

My first choice of seeds to sow myself are Zinnias. I particularly like the big old-fashioned tall ones and these are never found in garden centres because they grow too quickly and don't transplant well. If you want easy colour for mid-summer right through fall, great cut flowers and so many blooms you won't know what to do



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with them all, this is the plant for you. One of my favourites was an older variety called 'State Fair' because this 30-inch tall plant bloomed with large double-flowers. This variety is common in the greenhouse trade so you might be able to find them there. But you'll spend the same amount of money on 50 seeds as you will 4 plants. The reason I often grow it is because it is resistant to powdery mildew and this disease can do some damage to Zinnias if left unchecked. If your taste in annual flowers is a little more adventurous, you'll want to check out the other favourite called 'Whirligig'. This one has every red and yellow shade imaginable and every combination of those colours (some pretty strange in any artistic combination) you can picture in straight and bi-colour blooms. If you want a variety that is wonderful for cut flowers, you want to try 'Ruffles' because it continues to produce a second heavy crop after the first one has been cut. There are simply too many varieties to tell you about and basic seed catalogues are going to give you all the options.

The same is true for Asters; you can find so many varieties that aren't in garden centres that you simply won't be able to make decisions. From the very short to the incredibly tall, there's an Aster for every garden. Or even half a dozen Asters for every garden because I am not able to stop with just one. One of my all-time picks is the 'Matsumoto' series. It only grows about 14-inches tall but comes in all colours from blues through reds and whites. The flowers are semi-double and have a yellow centre so they look like florist plants. 'Matsumoto' comes in straight colours and mixes and I rather doubt you'll be able to resist growing less than two or three varieties once you see them in your garden. 'Crego' is another mix of the big old favourites that have a ragged, shaggy blossom and that will quickly become a standard in your garden. But if you really want to blow away the neighbourhood competition, go with 'Tiger Paws' because they have a fully double, 6-inch blossom. This one is a standout but you may have to support those blooms in rains because they can get a touch heavy and break stems.

I hadn't grown this last plant for a few years because of all the garden moves I had been making but last year a friend gave me a few seedlings to be tucked into the garden. The love affair with Tithonia was rekindled and this monstrous bright orange daisy will not likely leave my garden again. The flowers are fashionably bright orange with orange centres, the plants reach an easy 30-inches tall and 36-inches wide and are covered in blooms from mid-summer onwards. The hummingbirds worked the flowers last summer as did the butterflies. Not a plant for the small garden, but if you have some space to fill this full sun lover is your plant of choice. I've never seen this plant in garden centres so you'll have to order seeds (and then save them from year to year) from a seed company to get it.

Those are only three plants that thrive on self-sowing.



## ODE TO THE HUMBLE ZINNIA

- Sally Bowen

I like everything about zinnias.

They are multi-coloured and gaudy and lovely at the time of year when everything else, including gardeners, are starting to fade.

Their seeds are extremely easy to save from year to year, so they are free.

They will grow in just about any soil, though they are much happier in sun and will be taller in good soil. You just scatter a few seeds, cover lightly with soil, and they reward you in just a few days, leaping up sturdily.

They are drought tolerant, but will thank you for the occasional drink.

The butterflies love them as do the bees and small birds as the flowers start to go to seed. Our zinnias had Giant Swallowtails, the increasingly endangered Monarchs, Viceroy and many other butterflies I couldn't find in my small reference book, dancing in the sun, feeding on the nectar, and entrancing one small boy and his nana.














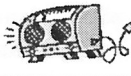
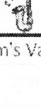
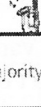









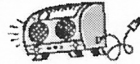









Free seeds are available at the Wool Shed for anyone who wishes to add colour and to feed the butterflies – and to celebrate life.





## CJAI 92.1

### April Programming Schedule

|          | Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6PM      | Canadian Classical  | The Udder Morning Show  | Tuesday Tracks  | Wednesday Morning Fuel Run  | Thursday Morning Show   | Friday Morning Show   | Canadian Folk   |
| 7        |    |    |    |    |     |    |    |
| 8        |   |   |   |   |   |   | The Hank Snow Discography Show  |
| 9        | Island Folk CDN   | Island Folk CDN   | Bluegrass Café  | Island Folk CDN   | Island Folk CDN   | Live from the Wolf's Den (Replay)   | Sally's Books   |
|          |    |   |   |   |   |   | Vintage Al Beacon   |
| 10       | Program Exchange  |    |    |    |     |    | The Green Majority  |
|          | Canadian Folk   |   |   |   |   |   | "For the Birds"   |
| 11       | Sally's Book  | Down Memory Lane  | Whole Jazz Album  | Jazz from Jim's Vault   | Jazz from Jim's Vault LIVE!   |   | Tea & Serendipity   |
|          | Canadian Jazz   |    |    |    |     | Jazz from Jim's Vault   | Community Programming   |
| Noon     |    | OTR: Bing Crosby  | OTR: Let George Do It   | Whitehall 1212  | OTR: Space Patrol   | OTR: Lone Ranger  | Jazz From Jim's Vault   |
| 1PM      | Uncle Barry's Canadian Blues  | Tea & Serendipity   | Vintage Al Beacon   |   | Uncle Don   | Sally's Books   |   |
| 2        |    |   | Celtic Tuesdays   | Live from the Wolf's Den  | Two Loons on a Thursday Afternoon   | Friday Morning Show (Replay)  | Canadian Mellow   |
| 3        | Canadian Voices   | Udder Morning Show (Replay)   | Teen Show   |   |   |   | Deconstructing Dinner   |
| 4        | Live from the Wolf's Den (Replay)   |  |  | Recordings of Hank Snow   | Canadian Spotlight  | LIVE ISLAND CONCERT SHOW  | LIVE ISLAND CONCERT SHOW  |
| 5        |  |   | Music From Away   | Tea & Serendipity   | Vintage Al Beacon   |   | Down Memory Lane (Replay)   |
| 6        |   | Book Reading  | Book Reading  | Book Reading  | Canadian Spotlight  | Book Reading  |   |
| 7        | Celtic Hour   | Sally's Books   | Music From Away   | Two Loons in the Evening  | Vintage Al Beacon   | Bluegrass Café (Replay)   |  |
| 8        |   | Jazz from Jim's Vault   | Uncle Barry's Blues   | Uncle Barry's Blues   | Uncle Barry's Blues   |   |   |
| 9        |   | LIVE! (Replay)  |  |  |  | Down the Rabbit Hole  | Down the Rabbit Hole  |
| 10       | Bound for Glory   | Radio Moo - CDN   | Radio Moo - CDN   | Radio Moo - CDN   | Radio Moo - CDN   |  |  |
| 11       | Radio Moo - CDN   |  |  |  |  |   |   |
| Midnight | Radio Moo - Intl.   | Radio Moo - Intl.   | Radio Moo - Intl.   | Radio Moo - Intl.   | Radio Moo - Intl.   | Radio Moo - Intl.   | Radio Moo - Intl.   |

Doug Green's Garden 8am, Noon, 5pm. Engines of our Ingenuity 9am, 5pm. WEATHER with Audrey 15 after the hour.

To listen online live go to [www.cjai.ca/playing.html](http://www.cjai.ca/playing.html) and click on Listen Online.

To become a member visit our website [www.cjai.ca/?page\\_id=6](http://www.cjai.ca/?page_id=6), write to us: Amherst Island Public Radio, 5830 Front Road, Stella, ON K0H 2S0 or telephone: 613-384-8282.

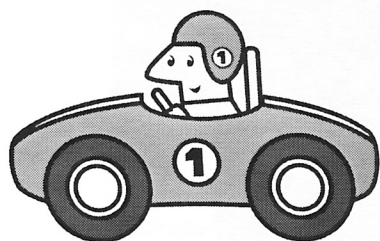
## ~ CLASSIFIEDS ~ ~ CLASSIFIEDS ~ ~ CLASSIFIEDS ~

**FERRY OFFICE/LIBRARY  
CLEANING**

Loyalist Township is currently seeking an individual who will undertake the following cleaning duties. Interested applicants are asked to contact Troy Buchanan at the number listed below. Position will start the end of May.

Duties to include:  
empty waste baskets  
dusting the computers, desks, cabinets, window sills and moldings  
sweep/vacuum and wash floors as appropriate in the Ferry Office, Library hallway and back room  
clean bathroom sink, toilet, mirror  
remove cobwebs as required throughout the building  
clean interior walls as required  
clean windows as required  
Other cleaning duties as assigned.  
2 hours per week re cleaning  
Rate of pay will be \$12.50/hr  
Other duties as assigned

Please contact Maintenance Supervisor at (613) 389-3648 ext. 204 or [tbuchanan@loyalist.ca](mailto:tbuchanan@loyalist.ca) or fax (613) 634-4045 if you have any questions regarding this position.

**FOR SALE**

'98 Mazda 626  
\$800 OBO.  
Geoff at 613-384-7183.

**CAROLINE YULL AND FAE MAC-  
ARTHUR**

have moved to Bath. We would like to thank our friends and neighbours who have been so good to know over the last 25 years, who have offered and accepted help, extended their hands in friendship, and generally made life much more wonderful in so many ways.

Fae is finishing her last year at Amherst Island Public School, so there WILL be a graduate this year, don't miss it!

And, of course, for those who miss the ferry, a cup of tea will always be on offer at 302 - 260 Academy Street K0H 1G0 - the apartment building just near Fast Freddy's.

You can call us at 613-881-0270 (weird, having to change phone numbers after 25 years!)

If anyone has any photographs of past years ice travel, I would like to know about them for a museum project.

Please call me at 613-389-2588.  
Thank you. Keith Miller

**FOR SALE**

Excellent 6' sofa  
2 matching chairs (which also fit together as a love seat)  
In a lovely subtle floral print.  
No fading. No wear.  
All cushions removable.  
\$350 firm for the 3 pieces.  
Peter or Margaret at 613-384-7925.

**CHIMNEY CLEANER  
WANTED**

Does anyone know a reliable chimney cleaner here on the Island? I have phoned the following: Jackson at \$200, Rideau at \$139 + GST, Renewable Energy at Plum Hollow at \$160, Fireplace on Dalton Ave. at \$124 and Cookies at \$140 but would take \$10 off if there were four of more chimneys to be cleaned. Is there anyone who would like to have their wood stove/furnace chimneys cleaned in May/June (off season period)?  
Call Judith at 384-0435

**COOL MEADOWS GALLERY &  
BAKERY**

30 Front Road  
613-634-8716  
Tue - Sat.  
10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Peter Bigras

**CHIROPRACTOR**

Amherst Island Chiropractic,  
Dave Meikle D.C.,  
11450 Front Rd., Appointments Tuesday and Thursday 8-11 am. 4-6 pm.  
For appointments or any questions call Dave at 613-384-5363 or 613-328-8892.

**WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CALENDARS**

Featuring Brian Little's photographs, are still available. The cost is \$10.00. They are available from Liz Harrison (613-389-5176), Joyce Reid (613-634-8716) and the General Store.

**FOR SALE**

A computer: AMD Duron 1.2 ghz processor with 256 meg ram; 20 gigabyte hard drive. It has a CD rom/floppy drive and speakers. Newly formatted windows 98, second edition. Internet ready. 19" monitor. Fully loaded programs including Word (Microsoft), Spreadsheet (Excel), Database (Access) games, etc.  
\$150.  
Call Betty at 613 389-7907

**FOR SALE**

2004 Sears lawn tractor  
25 hp Kohler v- twin engine  
54 inch deck  
Three blade side discharge  
Only 120 hours use  
Professionally maintained since new  
Stored indoors  
\$2,150 firm cash and carry.  
Call Mike or Linda (613) 634 8213  
1050 Front road

## Playing On The Ice



*Brent and Dakota walked from our house to the green buoy ( the green buoy in the middle of the lake in front of Sheila Whittings) on Feb. 14. The ice was approx. 22 inches thick. Brent Wolfreys took the photo of Dakota and Dakota Wolfreys took the picture of Brent.*

