

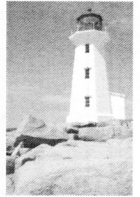
# Amherst Island BEACON

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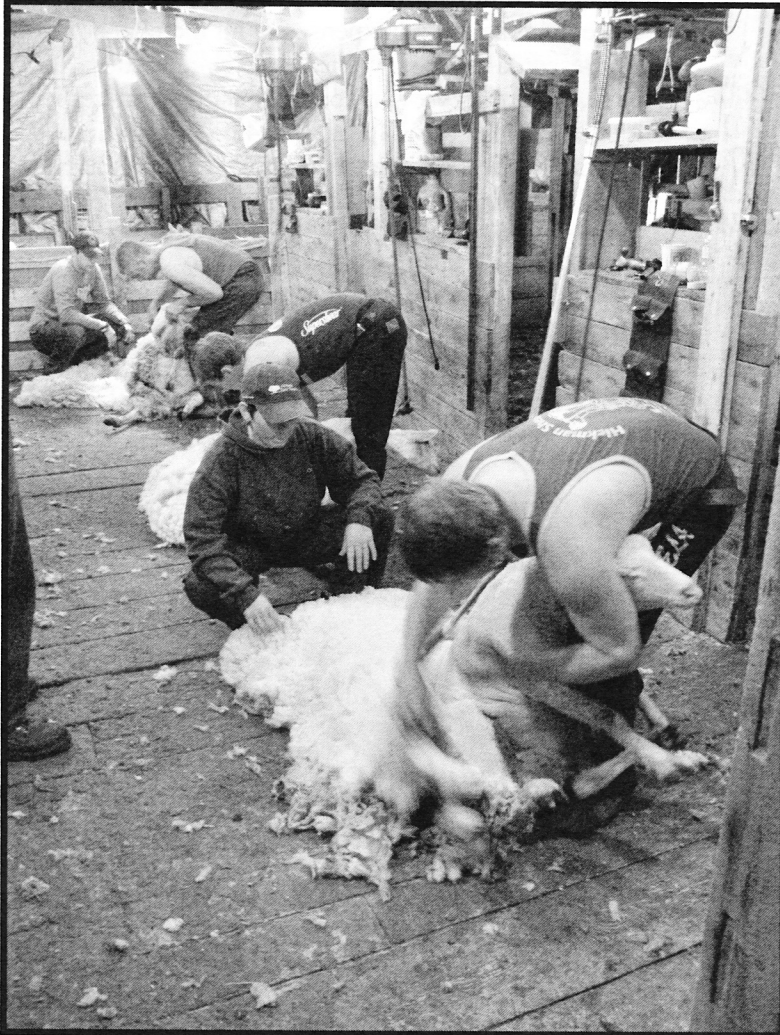
Issue 385

www.amherstisland.on.ca  
aibeacon@topsyfarms.com

April/May 2010



## WEATHER WARMING UP—IT'S TIME TO DON THE SUMMER ATTIRE!



*Shearing time has come and gone for another season on Amherst Island. First at Foot Flats Farm, the shearers then spent two days at Topsy Farms. From back to front, Rouseabouts (Rousies) and shearers: Chris Reed (Rousie), Gerald Gemmill (Shearer), Josh Bruton (Shearer), Sue Murray (Rousie), Don Metheral (Shearer).*

*For more photos please see page \_\_\_\_.  
(Photo by Terry Culbert)*

### THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

Sue & I apologize to our readers for once again being unable to produce a separate April Beacon: family issues and other obligations overwhelmed us. A special apology to our loyal subscribers who will, I hope, be content with this double issue.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD APRIL

- Lyn Fleming

Get well wishes this month to Kassy McGinn.

Congratulations to Gary and Anne-Marie Hitchins, who celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a trip to Las Vegas.

By March, many are looking for a getaway as well as the kids out of school for Spring Break, which means lots of travellers.

Elsie Willard and Marion Glenn recently returned from a few weeks in Florida.

Eric and Janice McGinn and Peter and Pam McCormick spent a week in Mexico.

Rosemary Richmond and Barry and Ciara were off to Barbados to visit family.

Kelly and Maureen McGinn took a southern Caribbean Cruise.

Cathy and Allan Glenn travelled to Myrtle Beach.

Kim and Duncan Ashley and Gavin and Megan travelled to Alabama to visit Duncan's parents.

Larry and I took a leisurely trip to Florida, via the Blue Ridge mountains, to visit my mom and sister. Laird and Julie Leeder and son J.P. visited Julie's parents Jack and Beth Forester in Florida.

Dave and Dianne Hieatt spent some time in Australia and then visited their daughter on the South Seas Island of Vanuatu.

The final of 3 Pub nights held at the Lodge this winter was another huge success. Congratulations to Molly, Victoria and staff for 3 great nights!!

Spring is finally here on the Island, with a sunny and mild forecast for the Easter weekend. There are signs of green grass starting to show and the early spring bulbs are popping up in the gardens. Unfortunately, the scenic drive around the South Shore has now been ruined with the installation of some ugly steel guard rails.



## The Amherst Island Beacon

Issue 385  
April/May 2010

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

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

Editor: Ian Murray  
c/o aibeacon  
@topsyfarms.com

Photo Editor:  
Sue Murray c/o  
aibeacon  
@topsyfarms.com

Typesetting:  
Sue Murray c/o  
aibeacon  
@topsyfarms.com

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD MAY

-Lyn Fleming

Get well wishes to Guido Visitin and Gian Frontini this month.

Condolences to Zander Dunn, who's mom passed away recently in B.C. Zander was able to get out to B.C. to be with his mother prior to her passing.

A farewell party was held by family for William Loyst, grandson of Keith and Shirley Miller, who is being deployed to Afghanistan at the end of April.

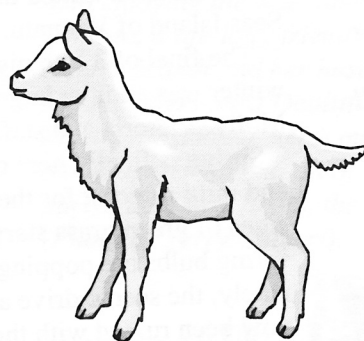
Wilbert and Gayle Willard spent a few weeks in B.C. visiting their daughter and her family, and getting to know their first great-grandson.

St. Alban's Church was filled from door to door for the induction service of Father Don Bailey in April. Members of his former congregation as well as his new, Bishop Bruce, and about a dozen other clergy attended the ceremony and enjoyed a potluck dinner and social following at the Lodge.

Lynann and Ben Whitton spent a week in Alberta and BC getting in some skiing, while Jim headed south to North Carolina to visit his daughters and do some golfing. Shortly after, Lynann spent a week in Botswana on business.

St. Alban's held their annual Beef dinner in April, as always, to a sold out crowd.

It has been a fairly dry and mild Spring so far. There are already early calves and lambs in the fields and early bulbs seem to be blooming even earlier than usual.



## COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

Regular Meeting, 7<sup>th</sup> Session, March 8th

Council directed staff to write to the Amherst Island Agriculture Society to learn more about the current status of this organization.

Those interested in learning more can do so on the Loyalist web site.

\*\*\*

Regular Meeting, 8<sup>th</sup> session, March 22

Remuneration and expenses of all members of Council are presented in a chart. The 2009 remunerations for reeve, deputy reeve, and council members are respectively: \$27,114; \$18,846; and, \$14,657. There are also benefits, vehicle allowance & mileage, per diem payments, and other expenses. The grand total is \$172,356.

\*\*\*

Regular Meeting, 10<sup>th</sup> Session, April 12

The inaugural council meeting to be held December 6, 2010, will see the head of council become the first mayor of Loyalist Township. The deputy reeve position will now be called deputy mayor.





**WOMEN'S INSTITUTE APRIL**

- Mary Kay Steel

Our regular monthly meeting was held on March 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's church hall, starting at 6pm. Twelve members and one guest, returning member, Sharen English, were in attendance. We are glad to have Sharen back. Co-president Kirsten Bennick was in the chair. The usual opening routine and collection took place, along with the treasurer's report and review of minutes. Correspondence consisted of thank-you letters from Seniors' Outreach Services and Kingston ParaSport for our recent donations.

Several Standing Committee heads made reports. An update on events and plans at the District level was provided by Joyce Haines. She reported that outer milk bags are being collected and made into sleeping mats for needy people abroad; the annual district meeting will be held in May in Roblin; we are invited to a ROSE open meeting later this month, in Napanee, on the subject "Adopt a highway". Joyce Reid (Good Cheer) noted the several sympathy and get-well wishes she has sent on our behalf recently to island friends. It was reported for the Island Directory committee that advertising sales are going well, and that the database is being developed/revised as necessary.

Leslie Gavlas reported that she and Liz Harrison have been working on gathering pictures and items for an exhibit at the Neilson Store Museum in honour of our branch's upcoming 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Suggestions and offerings of old photos were requested. As in past years, we will be sponsoring an Island mailing for the April Cancer Society campaign. Jackie Sylvester asked for volunteers for executive office for our new year beginning in April; she and Joyce Haines hope to have a complete report ready for a vote at our annual meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> at Leslie's house.

With our business taken care of, we welcomed well over twenty Island friends to join us for a special presentation under the Institute's ROSE program – featuring our special guest Deborah Kimmitt. She presented an account of how she became interested in the challenges of communication with ill and dying people, inserting her own humorous observations from time to time. The product, an 8-minute video illustrating how to listen and respond to the gravely ill patient, has been well received by local hospitals and teaching institutions. (It's for sale also.) In the video Deborah amazingly plays two roles at once – the patient and the visitor! We enjoyed watching it and asking questions. Then refreshments were served, including a St. Patrick's Day birthday cake to help celebrate the birthday of longtime member Marian Glenn.

**WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MAY**

- Mary Kay Steel

Our April gathering was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> at Leslie Gavlas' home, beginning at 7pm, with thirteen members present. Kirsten Bennick was in the chair, her co-president Claire Jenney still enjoying the last of her extended winter holiday in the Jenneys' Mexico hacienda. This being the

last meeting of the 2009-2010 WI year, Liz Harrison led us in extending sincere thanks to both our retiring co-presidents for their fine leadership over the past two years.

Then we dispensed with the business at hand, which included: report on the status of the new Island Directory, which is expected to be available the May 24<sup>th</sup> weekend; updates by several standing committees; and plans for our first bake sale of the season, to be held on Friday, May 21st at 3:45pm. We were also briefed on planned work on the north stone fence at the Pentland Cemetery this summer; Judy Harrower is organizing further gathering of stone and reported that this year's costs will be minimal, just lots of human effort. All helpers are welcome! Then Jackie Sylvester reported on the new policy at Loyalist Township for replacing trees and there was discussion on what it means for our Island.

Kirsten then reminded us of our next meeting, to take place May 19<sup>th</sup> starting with our business meeting at 6pm and followed by a 7pm presentation on Natural and Homeopathic remedies, which will be open to the public, at the St. Paul's church hall.

Upon adjourning our monthly meeting, we proceeded to hold our annual meeting which focused on the election of a new slate of officers. Jackie Sylvester chaired this meeting. After going through time-honoured WI procedures for nominations and voting, we welcomed our new executive and committee heads, and of course our new president Liz Harrison.

This meeting was then adjourned, and we enjoyed a social hour with excellent refreshments prepared by Leslie Gavlas and Marian Glenn. A Brown Bag auction followed, which was great fun; members were delighted with the surprise items they discovered in the bags they purchased – some edible or drinkable, others decorative or useful in the home, and perhaps a white elephant or two tucked in. Proceeds go to the operation and projects of our international level organization, Associated Countrywomen of the World (ACWW).

## JANET'S JOTTINGS APRIL

- Janet Scott

A raft of at least a thousand ducks could be seen off the South Shore in March. They were mostly Scaup. What a chance to study and compare a variety of duck species. There are still a lot of Goldeneye, a black and white duck showing a round white spot on each side of the head. These ducks were locally known as Whistlers due to the whistling sound they make as the flock takes off. Their courtship display consists of the male throwing his head tightly back against his back in a position that would make a chiropractor cringe. Mrs. Goldeneye flattens herself as close to the surface as possible.

She has a dark red head. Later, she will nest in a tree cavity near water.

About March the tenth Redheads joined this flock. They have round red heads and not ski slope heads like the Canvasbacks. Their colouring is a more shaded version of the Canvasback without that distinctive light back. Both Canvasback and Redhead ducks are bay ducks so their diet is more animal content than the dabblers, like Mallards and American Blacks, who prefer vegetation. Both species, Redheads and Canvasbacks, eat molluscs, small fish and insects.

All winter long the tiny Buffleheads, sometimes called Butterballs, could be seen bobbing along near shore with their dark heads and white patches from eye to crown. The female shows a small cheek patch on her dark head and a dark back. This duck takes off without running along the surface. To confuse you another duck with a white patch has joined this flock with a crest that lifts up and opens to show more white and a narrow outer band of black. It is a Hooded Merganser. The female has a bushy crest and dark back with a white wing patch. Like all mergansers they are fish eaters. There are Common Mergansers in our mixed flock too. The males have smooth green heads, reddish-orange beaks and very white fronts. The females have reddish, crested heads with a sharp contrast between head and throat which is white.

Just about now, as I write the Red-breasted Mergansers will arrive and you'll be trying to distinguish the females. The Red-breasted females do not show that distinct line between head and neck but a more blended colouring and they also have more crest. There are quite a few Greater Scaup in the flock and the brown female looks like she's wearing spectacles over her nose. The male Scaup is another duck that appears black and white in the group. Are you confused yet?

The pair of Red-tailed Hawks has definitely set up housekeeping again in the nest on the Stella Forty-Foot in a grove of trees on Reta Brown's farm. They were successful last year and have not been evicted by Great Horned Owls this year. Northern Harriers, both male and female are much more numerous these past two weeks. The male is smaller than the female with dove gray

back and white front. The female is the larger of the pair with brown streaking and a buffiness to her breast. Both birds exhibit a white rump patch when flying. They will nest in our wonderful grasslands and raise young in June and July.

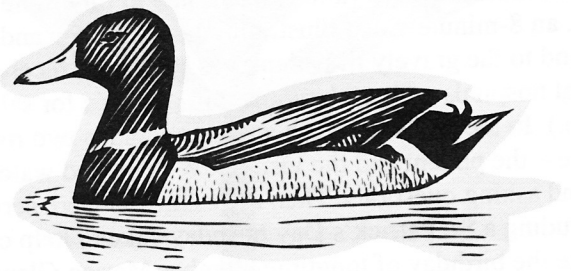
Another sign of spring, unfortunately, is my male cardinal bashing himself against the living room window. He can see his reflection in the glass and is determined to drive his rival away. Hopefully soon the saner female will put him out of his misery and they will settle down to raise a couple of families. In order to get two nestings completed the female lays one nest of eggs and hatches her young. The male takes care of that family while Mrs. Cardinal moves on to a second nest. Thus, two broods can be raised.

The dates have come as well to send our Snow Buntings on their long flight north to the nesting areas in the high Arctic. They appear every October with the first snow squalls and have been seen in the Kingston area for over 130 years. They remind you of snowflakes as they flutter in to feed at a favourite spot and then in a flash the whole flock seems to disappear. Hence their Canadian name of Snowbirds as used in Anne Murray's song and also to mean people who travel south for the winter.

The Snowbird has a long flight ahead. The males arrive on their breeding grounds by early April and three weeks later the females will arrive. The best nesting sites are nooks and crannies in the rock where predators like Peregrine Falcons and Snowy Owls can't get them. Their pairing is monogamous and she is completely dependent on him for feeding as she cannot leave the nest. These nooks and crannies may be safer sites but they are also colder being below the surface and the eggs and young would not survive if the mother left the nest. It is probably wise if she picks her mate not by looks only, she needs a good provider.

March 23rd had Turkey Vultures sitting on the old barn on Front Road, west of the Dump Road so it looks like they are ready to set up housekeeping. The Tree Swallows should be back this week and after that the Osprey so it is a busy birding time of year.

Enjoy the Spring Arrivals





## JANET'S JOTTINGS MAY

- Janet Scott

### Celebrating Earth Day

On Thursday, April 22nd I was invited to take part in the annual Pitch-in campaign at our local public school. Staff, students, volunteers all received bright yellow bags and set out to make our beautiful Island just a little nicer by cleaning up roadsides. The time was short so not all areas could be covered and our numbers are small with only 23 students in Grades 1-8 to do the picking up. Everyone did it with such good grace and enthusiasm that it makes one very proud of our young people. My group was only able to cover the ditches, both sides of the road between Alex Scott's laneway and Vince Aitken's laneway. (I apologize for not knowing the name of the new owner). In this short area we recovered a full bag of litter and another smaller amount of recyclable cans in another bag. It was fun and the students kept us entertained with comments like "Now we've got a complete combo?" and "Does anyone want a Tim Horton's coffee?" We have become a nation of Fast Food addicts but unfortunately we haven't yet learned to pick up after ourselves!

With the afternoon fresh in my mind of Tim Horton's, McDonald's and Country Style litter floating in our culverts I went on to the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Outdoor Centre for a celebration of the 40th Earth Day.

Thanks to Sally Bowen and Ian Murray I was representing Ian at the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation Award's Ceremony. The guest speaker at that event was Dr. Betsy Donald, a geographer from Queen's University speaking on "Sustainability and the Future of Food".

Because we have become a society of Fast Food and Big Box Stores we are rapidly losing the culture that surrounded our consumption of food. There are many consumers in big cities, who never see fresh, locally grown food or ever experience the joy of eating. Dr. Donald went on to talk about the 100 mile diet and how most of the vegetables and fruit that we eat have probably travelled 1500 miles on average. She lauded Prince Edward County for their artisans such as Fifth Town Artisan Cheese and how a small locally run business can produce an excellent product, hire local people to work and establish a market. Kingston has the market where downtown people can walk and find fresh vegetables.

Many cities have no access to fresh fruits and vegetables as the independent groceries disappear. Young people today are becoming interested in sustainable foods and are making changes. They want to plant gardens and grow things. If our agriculture is going to change it must be consumer led.

If enough people want local produce, local meats and

cheeses, then the market will grow but it cannot be just for the rich who can afford it.



Sustainable Food needs to begin with healthy school meals and the teaching of how to prepare and serve foods. We have lost the family meal where we eat slowly, converse and maybe spend an hour in each other's company.

Dr. Donald left us with three main points to think about:

- 1) Re-solarizing the farm
- 2) Re-regionalizing the Food System
- 3) Re-building our Food Culture

She left us with a great deal to think about.

Certainly here on the Island we can prepare an Amherst Island meal in the right season with Topsy Lamb or Fleming's Beef served with Barb Reid's potatoes and George Gavlas' Carrots. Local apples could be the dessert. It's a challenge and I'm working on it.

After the talk by Doctor Donald, the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation presented four Conservation Awards of Excellence. James McCowan received the Citizen award for his work in founding the Cataraqui Regional Conservation Authority in 1964. Queen's University received the Education Award for the work of the Queen's Biological Research Station that was begun in 1945 and Steve Knechtel received a special Stewart Fyfe Conservation Award for his work as an employee of the Cataraqui Conservation Authority.

The award of special interest to us was The Community Conservation Award of Excellence. Clayton McEwen accepted the award on behalf of all Loyalist Township residents but special mention was made of the purchase of 533.17 acres of Big Marsh on Amherst Island for conservation purposes back in the late 1950's by the Township of Amherst Island and the addition of 9.2 acres in 2006 thereby protecting a significant coastal wetland and a flyway site

for migratory birds. Other points made were: the acquisition of 92.5 acres on Amherst Island in 2000 to protect part of the Owl Woods, the acquisition of 1.15 acre flood susceptible site with 150 feet of shoreline on the South Shore of Amherst Island and the acquisition of the Neilson Store property to protect 275 feet of shoreline. There are many more points of conservation interest in the document which are on the mainland such as; Lake Ontario Waterfront, Rideau Waterways, Fairfield Water Treatment plant and Millhaven Creek Floodplain but I did want to cover those of particular interest to our Amherst Island readers.

Congratulations Loyalist Township for your work to protect and conserve for the next generation.

My day finished with a quiet ride back to Amherst and ended with choir practice where we worked on a piece about growing things and wheat turning green.

It was a lovely Earth Day!

## AIMS MEETING MARCH 13

- John Kuti

There were 21 in attendance with Janet Scott preparing a delicious breakfast with the assistance of students from Amherst Island Public School.

Dale Gowan introduced Janet Scott as the scheduled speaker as the unofficial bird lady of Amherst Island. This is a fitting title because of her decades of work promoting bird habitat, supporting research, the annual bird count as well as informational roles on radio and with local groups.

Janet began by thanking AIMS for the monetary support through which the school was able to visit the King Tut Exhibit in Toronto.

She began her talk by describing the different habitat areas of Amherst Island beginning with the East End nature reserve, the hundred hectares owned by Kingston Field Naturalists. She went on to describe the work that Ducks Unlimited digging ponds, creating swamp and marsh areas that have served as habitat for ducks, herons, bitterns, egrets and osprey.

She described how Tom Sylvester, his father and brother planted evergreen trees over and over on the East End of the Island, so that the present stand of tamarack, White Pine and spruce is welcome cover for owls and many other bird species.

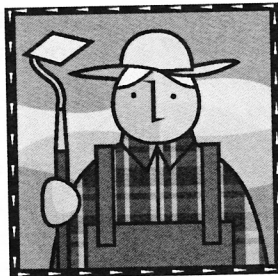
Janet described her connection to the Owl Woods on the Marshall 40-Foot beginning in 1970 when she came for a personal visit and saw cars parked all along the road, learning their purpose was to see the many species of owl in the woods.

She credited Rod Barr with improving the owl woods habitat by continually planting spruce and Jack Pine that have taken the place the cedars and white pine lost in the ice storm of 1998.

She described the ongoing study of short eared owls conducted by McGill students on the Island, pointing out that Amherst Island is one of the few places where there are short grassland habitats ideal for many grassland species like the short eared owl. Because grassland is continually changed to domestic crops, such species are threatened.

The other significant habitat for birds on Amherst Island is on Miller's farm where there is a nesting heronry, which also sees snowy egrets and great egrets.

She then described how the Second Concession to the west end of the Island would be an ideal place to put Bluebird houses all way to Wemp's marsh. She gave the appropriate size and suggested that they would be best on five foot to seven foot steel poles that would discourage marauding raccoons. She suggested that it would be a beneficial project to undertake in the following year, as the swallows and Bluebirds that would use the houses come back on March 24. A number of members sup-



ported her idea, and some indicated they would be prepared to make and put up Bluebird houses with the permission of individual landowners.

Greg Latiak thanked Janet for her wonderful overview of Island habitat and her encouragement of members to contribute in any way they might find appropriate.

It was agreed give \$200 to the first responders in support of the bonfire gathering.

## AIMS MEETING APRIL

-Dave Meikle

Following a wonderful breakfast hosted by the senior class, AIMS acting president Greg Latiak called the meeting to order. Twenty-two members and prospective members were in attendance.

Thank you letters for donations made by AIMS to the Fire and Rescue Bonfire and to the Amherst Island Radio Fundrive were acknowledged.

Preparations for the New Years dance are progressing smoothly thanks to the organizing committee. All preparatory activities have been completed.

Greg Latiak asked the membership to give their views on how they felt AIMS should be constituted in the future.

Currently the executive and a few permanent committees constitute AIMS only formal structure. The general membership acts as a pool of volunteers to be drawn on as needed. There was general agreement that the AIMS in its current form is working well. Several members, contrasting their experiences with other service organizations with that of AIMS, felt

that AIMS informality has enhanced its effectiveness. They expressed concern that if we were tempted to move toward a more formally structured organization both AIMS and the community would suffer.

A member suggested that this informality may be leading to uncertainty about AIMS's activities in the community. It was agreed that the secretary should produce a brief annual synopsis of AIMS activities for publication in the Beacon.

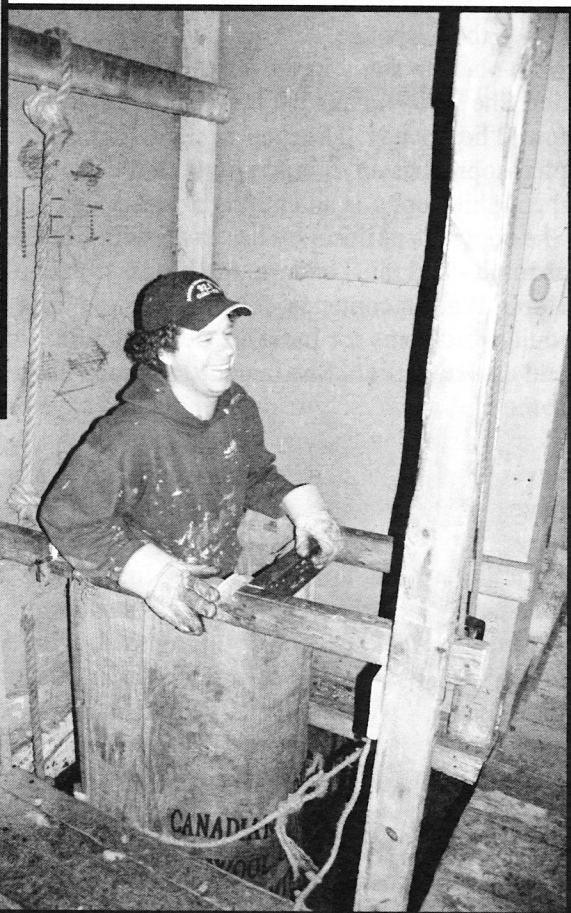
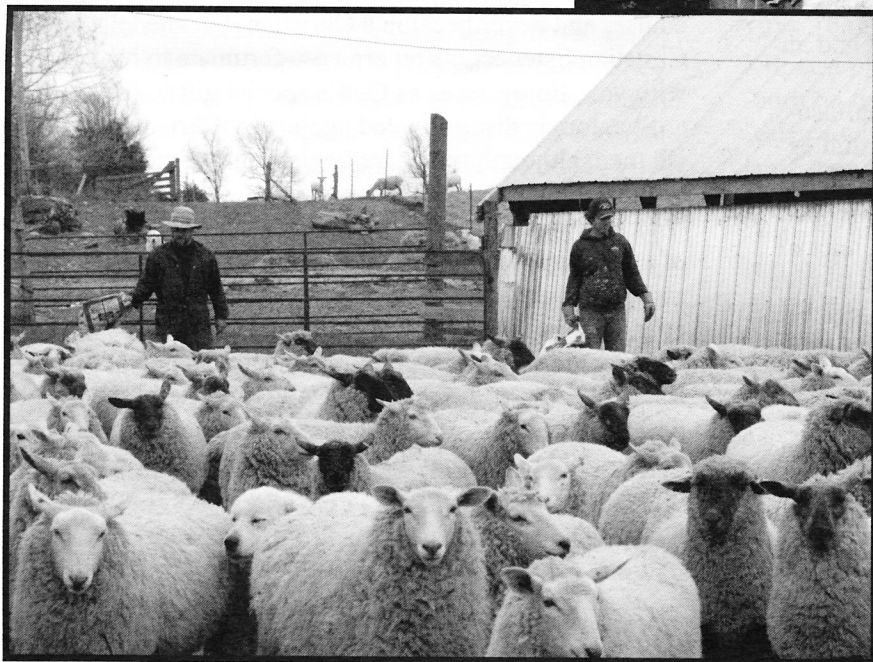
Some members felt that the monthly breakfast format was a valuable service role in of itself. They felt chatting over eggs and coffee can build the loose social ties between neighbours that glues a community together. The breakfast also acts as a fund raiser and a service experience for those hosting the event. They felt increasing the attendance would be valuable to the community independent of the other services AIMS provides.

There was some discussion as what might be discouraging wider membership. One member commented that there may be the perception in the community that AIMS is an elitist group, or that the organization may endorse certain views controversial on the Island. It was raised that the perception that AIMS is an obligate service



## SHEARING AT TOPSY FARMS

April 21 & 22 were shearing days at Topsy Farms. In those two days, our three shearers (with support from the rousies), handled about 900 sheep. The shearers are independent contractors who travel around to various farms. Many shearers spend their winters either down south, or in New Zealand. Shearing is the first step in the process of making yarn and blankets. Once shorn from the sheep, the fleece is washed and carded (combed), spun, and then plied into yarn or woven into blankets or other woollen goodies.



(Continued from page 6)

organization may also be deterring involvement. Islanders not wanting to be involved in fundraising may be steering clear of AIMS.

A suggestion was made that AIMS could promote the monthly breakfasts as an event separate from AIMS membership. This might allow the breakfast to greater serve that social tie building role and gently encourage a broader range of islanders to stay for the following AIMS meeting. Some members felt this might jeopardize the formula that keeps AIMS working so well.

Terry Culbert reported that the planning for the Art Tour is going well, event scheduled for 10 July.

Bruce Burnett circulated the signup sheet and passed out maps for the Spring Island Road Cleanup. This is an annual event since 2001 where members each take a share of the Island roads and pick up litter. The goal is to have the roadsides cleaned up by Victoria Day.

*Top Right: Chris Reed and Caroline Ackerman prepare a fleece.*

*Above: Chris Kennedy and Jake Murray roundup another flock to be shorn.*

*Right: Jake Murray packing a burlap bag to be trucked to a woollen mill in Prince Edward Island.*

*(Photos by Terry Culbert)*

## DISCRIMINATION

- Zander of DUNN INN

Recently I attended a conference of people interested in matters of theology and society. We had three main speakers. The first was Brandon Scott, a member of the Jesus Seminar. His theology was formed during the time when Pope John XIII opened the windows of the church and let the winds of the spirit blow through making changes galore. Roman Catholics reached out to Protestants and both worked together to welcome other religions in discussions about how they could work together.

Brandon Scott, an author of two books on the parables of Jesus, lamented that such rapport is no longer to be found among the churches.

The other two speakers were women, most unusual women, who spoke with enthusiasm, excitement and authority.

Karen Warren calls herself an Eco-Feminist philosopher. She has done all the normal philosophical studies and has gained the highest marks. But she knows many male philosophers do not like her or her philosophy because it has to do with ecology and feminism, neither of which they espouse. Her male colleagues refused to give her a place to study in the university and tried to get rid of her. She stood up against them until they gave up and allowed her to stay. The men in her department do not think philosophy has anything to do with the ecosystem. For them philosophy is an entirely abstract - mental business. She contends philosophy has to do with life - body as well as mind - and must address the life issues people face. Karen Warren contends, for example, the three major ecological problems for India are deforestation, soil erosion and desertification. She laments that men have clear cut some of the diverse forests of India and have replaced them with a monoculture - eucalyptus trees. The men never consulted the women, of course. The women could have told them that while eucalyptus trees grow quickly they are good only for exporting lumber and are not good for use in heating homes or ovens. India needs diversified forests. Without them the country is suffering.

Male philosophers want nothing to do with Feminism, mainly because they think women have no right to philosophize or give leadership. Feminism is not concerned about abstract matters; it is concerned about relationships. And the relationships which concern women have not only to do with other humans, but also with plant and animal life. While men may scoff, women are discovering that we can relate to life forms beyond humanity and it is necessary for us to do so. Amy Jill Levine is a Jewish woman who teaches New Testament at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Imagine, a Jewish woman teaching New Testament in a Christian theological college! She also conducts a two hour Bible study with inmates of the maximum security prison in Nashville. Her students are murderers, rapists, child molesters - most in for life. One

man has been in prison for 39 years!

Of course she had a hard time getting to teach New Testament. Most churches opposed her. Most ministers opposed her. Most universities opposed her. But she is so brilliant and powerful she has become a renowned scholar and author. She is, however, best at teaching New Testament to Christian Church people. She attends an Orthodox synagogue where she studies the Old Testament with her rabbi and other men. Her knowledge of the Old Testament has opened up many aspects of the New Testament for her and for her students.

I was most impressed with her willingness to give herself to Christian churches. She greatly enjoys leading Bible studies in churches and in speaking to conferences of Christian ministers. She knows Jesus was a Jew, of course, and never became a Christian, but she tells her Christian listeners, "You are very fortunate to have Jesus with you. Enjoy Jesus as God's special gift to the church."

She, too, is discriminated against by Christian and Jewish men, although many are beginning to accept her as one of the Biblical experts of our time.

I came away from the conference amazed at the power of intelligent, learned and determined women. I also came away discouraged that they face so much opposition and even vicious antagonism from Christian men.

What amazed me even more was that Brandon Scott, Karen Warren and Amy Jill Levine, in spite of the opposition to them by men in the church, have not given up on the church but hang in there trusting God can do new things and work through women as well as, if not better than, men.

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

### 110<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

-Mary Kay Steel

This year marks the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Amherst Island Branch of the Women's Institute. Women's Institutes began in Stoney Creek, Wentworth County, Ontario, in 1897, and are now a worldwide organization. The Amherst Island branch was the fourth (in the world we understand) to be established. In partnership with Beacon staff, we are presenting a series of articles to mark our anniversary.

III More on the 1930's

In this chapter, we describe more on the WI as it developed in the 1930's, and introduce three more Amherst Island branch presidents: Vera Miller (later Hogeboom), Leith (Cochrane) Kilpatrick, and Margaret (Ruttan) White.

An interesting and bold undertaking in the early 1930's was the significant contribution of the Canada-wide Federation of Women's Institutes to the creation of the Inter-





(Continued from page 8)

national Peace Garden in 1932. Straddling the Canada-U.S. border where Manitoba and North Dakota meet, this 2300-acre garden was dedicated to eternal peace between the two nations. It still serves as a focal point for international exchanges between the WI members of the two countries. For example in 1998 sixty members of the Manitoba WI hosted, at the Garden, a luncheon visit for some one hundred and eighty of their U.S. counterparts, from as far away as Texas and Hawaii.

Although it began way before the 1930's, the long-term association of the Women's Institutes in Canada with 4-H clubs will be described here. In the early 1900's, the Women's Institutes of Canada were forming homemaking clubs for girls and young women, while at the same time, departments of agriculture were encouraging boys' agricultural clubs. In 1901, the first 4-H club was established in Missouri and by 1913 this concept of a mixed boys and girls club called 4-H had spread to Canada. So it was that the girl's homemaking groups joined with the boys agricultural clubs to form the Canadian 4-H movement. Ever since that time, Women's Institutes have had a close relationship with local 4-H clubs and have given their support, both financial and as leaders, to this worthy endeavour.

In June 1935 it was the turn of the Amherst Island branch to host the annual meeting of the Lennox District WI branches. So it was that Amherst Island's thirty-some members hosted a daylong gathering of approximately 135 women in Stella; welcoming remarks were made by Reeve David Caughey and there were guest speakers, discussion of issues and musical offerings. Our island hospitality was well received.

#### RIGHT:

1935-1936 Vera Miller (later Mrs. Maurice Hogeboom)  
 -born on the island, at the Miller homestead on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Concession;  
 -attended the island's #5 school and the Continuation School;  
 -husband Maurice, who worked at the Neilson store, was an avid amateur photographer, recording much of Island life;  
 -she remembers the WI organizing a three-day cooking session, with a teacher from the mainland, for Island women in the 1930's;  
 -one son, Kerry;  
 -she resides on McDonald's Lane.



#### ABOVE:

1936-1938 Leith (Cochrane) Kilpatrick (Mrs. Arthur Kilpatrick)  
 -born on the island, to William and Annie Cochrane;  
 -early education on the Island, taught school on Wolfe Island, then took training in Kingston and became a registered nurse;  
 -she and husband Arthur lived in Emerald and ran the general store there;  
 -two children – Madlyn and William;  
 -known as a great help to friends and neighbours with her nursing skills.

#### RIGHT:

1938-1939 Margaret (Ruttan) White (Mrs. Donald White)  
 -born in Sandhurst, Ontario, and attended school there;  
 -trained in Watertown as a cook;  
 -husband Donald was a cheesemaker, working in Sillsville, Bath and later on the Island, first at the Emerald and later the Stella cheese factory;  
 -had three children, Arthur, Harold and Madeleine (Madeleine Glenn).



## AMHERST ISLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, ANNUAL FALL SHOW? WHO KNEW?

- Dayle Gowan

Clipping from "The Canadian Farmer" Volume 1, 1864

Mal Appropriation of Agricultural Society Funds

J. Rothwell of Emerald complains that at the usual dinner after the Annual Fall Show of the Amherst Island Agricultural Society the extra liquor used by the guests was, by a resolution of the directors, decided to be paid for out of the surplus funds of the society. Our correspondent states that the six directors were equally divided in their vote on the resolution and that the decision was made by the president's casting vote. We hope there is some mistake here, as we can hardly believe the officers of an agricultural society would make so glaring a misuse public funds.

I ran across this reference to the Amherst Island Agricultural Society while doing a bit of research for the Neilson Store Museum.

I was intrigued from several points of view. First, that someone at the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University had scanned this copy of "The Canadian Farmer" into their library database, and second, that the Amherst Island Agricultural Society "dinner after the Annual Fall Show" was a "usual" event by 1864. Obviously, the Amherst Island Agricultural Society had been formed sometime earlier than 1864.

Although it seems that Fall Fairs were held regularly into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it wasn't until sometime after the turn of the century that the Agricultural Society acquired a permanent fair ground.

In early May, 1921, J. Lokie Wilson, superintendent from the Department of Agriculture and the County Clerk, met the directors of the Amherst Island Agricultural Society in Stella to inspect the proposed site for the fair grounds. It was hoped to have the grounds and buildings ready in time for the fall fair.

A total of 7.2 acres in the village of Stella was to be purchased from Thomas Smith, John Tugwell, and John Edwin Lindsay.

Apparently Mr. Lindsay was not satisfied with the amount of money offered through the arbitration proceedings, filed an objection, and was eventually awarded \$490 for his 4.9 acres. However, this delayed the acquisition, and it wasn't until January 1922 that the transactions were finally completed. The first fall fair on the new fair grounds took place on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1922.

For the next 20 some years it was an annual event with many displays and competitions, including horse races on the race track.

The 1920's seem to have been glory years for the Am-

herst Island Fall Fair.

According to an article in the Napanee Express, September 27, 1927,

"...now Amherst Island Fair is recognized as one of the best one-day exhibitions in Eastern Ontario. The Agricultural Society today owns the exhibition grounds, which include about 7 acres and considerable money has been spent leveling it, building a half-mile track and surrounding the grounds with a row of young maple trees which will in later years add greatly to the appearance of the grounds."

At that time there were fourteen officers and directors in the Agricultural Society, representing many island families: Marshall, Filson, Scott, Tugwell, Cochrane, Glenn, Fleming, Miller, Caughey, Willard, Reid and Hitchins.

The last fall fair was held in the late 1940s, as best as folks can remember.

In the early 1960's, the exhibition ground was cleared of the buildings and only a hint of the half-mile track remains.

In 1967, The Township of Amherst Island leased approximately 1 acre of the fair grounds for Centennial Park. Since then, the fair grounds and the Agricultural Society have faded into history, as far as most island residents are concerned.

Fast forward ten decades to the 2009.

Directors of the Neilson Store Museum (incorporated in 2002) are struggling with a problem. Part of the mandate of the museum is to preserve artifacts related to island history. Agricultural artifacts (old machinery, for example) are disappearing at a rapid rate. But, since many of these items are physically large, there was no space available to store or display artifacts that the museum might be able to acquire.

If property could be found nearby that the museum could occupy, then perhaps a structure could be built to store, protect and display artifacts of the islands rich agricultural past.

Amherst Island Exhibition grounds, perhaps??

It turns out that for the past six decades or so, the Agricultural Society has been kept on life-support by a few dedicated Islanders. Gary Hitchins, Bruce Caughey and Wayne Fleming are the present executive; some of the same family names that were involved in 1927.

Since one of the museum objectives "to collect and preserve agricultural artifacts" seems to be very much in line with Agricultural Society objects, Keith Miller and Dayle Gowan were authorized to meet with the Agricultural Society directors to investigate the possibility of using part of the fair ground property for the museum.

At the meeting last May, the Agricultural Society direc-

(Continued on page 14)



## ONE, TWO, THREE WRITE!

-Ciara Richmond, Rachel Scott & Shyanne Shurtliffe

We began our adventure on Thursday, April 22nd as we set off for Ottawa to attend the MASC Young Authors and Illustrators Conference.

After three hours in a car, with some snoring beasts in the back, we arrived at The Quality Hotel right above the Don Cherry Sports Bar. Our only stops were at Tim Horton's in Collins Bay and for supper at McDonald's Restaurant just outside of Ottawa. We checked in and went to our rooms and then took a walk through the Rideau Centre and then on to Parliament Hill and waved at every RCMP officer that we saw. At the eternal flame we saw some people wearing cultural costumes and acting out a play. We then walked to Tim Hortons and grabbed a hot chocolate before returning to our rooms to turn in for the night.

The next morning we met up in the lobby and went to Cora's Restaurant for breakfast. Everyone had a Cora's Special, except for Rachel, who was too special to have one so she chose a Fruit Magic. After breakfast we walked back to the hotel, grabbed our bags and drove to the conference held at St. Paul University, 223 Main Street, Ottawa. On the way there we had a little trouble finding our way because Shyanne's Dad went straight in a turning lane and Ciara's Mom couldn't make a U Turn but Ciara was a great backseat driver. Our competent limousine drivers got us safely there.

There was no red carpet rolled out for us but we strolled fashionably down the terra cotta tile to our registration room, where we received a gift bag and free book. From there we walked to the lunch room, found a seat, and spent our parents' money on books at an amazing book sale. Ciara bought an awesome fantasy book, the last one. Shyanne found a book called *Into The Ravine*, a comedy. Rachel bought *Alex and the Ironic Gentleman*, written by one of the guest authors.

Next we met the authors and illustrators and were off with our shadows to our first class. Shyanne went to hear Richard Scrimger talk about how to write a story. Ciara went with Tom Fowler, an illustrator, and he taught her how to break cartoons down to the skeleton. Rachel went with K.V. Johanson and learned how to take a normal fairy tale and give it your own twist. After the morning seminar we went for lunch in the cafeteria and were reunited with each other.

After lunch Shyanne went to hear Tom Fowler and was shown some of the pages from his new book. Rachel went to Adrienne Kress and learned how to let your ideas just flow out of your mind and Ciara went to Edward Lee Fodi and he taught her to create a villain for a story. After that we returned to the lunch room and attended a live concert where we danced and sang great songs.

The book signing followed with long lines at all the authors and we got our purchased books signed.

All and all Shyanne enjoyed how they got everyone's

imagination flowing. Ciara liked how each participant got to show their creativity in their own way. Rachel thought it was interesting and a great way for young authors and illustrators to have experience, to make their own stories better and to make them selves better in their own way.

## 2010 GROW A ROW FOR KINGSTON

- Sally Bowen

Amherst Island used to contribute fresh produce to the Partners in Mission Food Bank. I'm proposing we try to do it again. I would be glad to be the phone co-ordinator, finding out whose garden had fresh produce to donate in a given week. Now that I'm mobile, I could probably do some of the pickup. Perhaps someone from AIMS or another Islander could make it part of their weekly trip to town, to drop off the food. It would just take a little sorting out of logistics.

Here is a quote from the brochure available on the topic in Kingston:

" You can make a difference. Plant a little extra in your garden and donate the produce. Share your produce by taking it to a designated drop-off site: June-October, you can drop off produce at the "Loving Spoonful" Table at the Kingston Public Market, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, 2-4 pm, or you can drop off produce to "The Partners in Mission Foodbank", 140 Hickson Avenue any time it's open (Please state your donation is for Grow a Row). The produce will then be delivered to meal providers and shelters in Kingston, such as Martha's Table, Interval House, and the Youth Shelter.

Which crops are best? Root vegetables, such as potatoes, carrots, onions, and turnips are easiest to store and transport. Also greatly needed are broccoli, cabbage, beans, tomatoes, corn, cucumbers, sweet peppers, winter squash, apples, pears, and melons.

Plant a Row - Grow a Row was established by the Canadian Association of Foodbanks, the Composting Council of Canada and the Garden Writers Association of America. In 2009, Kingston was one of 80 communities across Canada to participate in this initiative. In 2009, Kingston grew close to 3000 lbs of food that was distributed through Grow a Row. Help us reach our goal of 4000 lbs in 2010! "

I would welcome phone calls (mornings or evenings) at 613 389-3444 or emails at [sally@topsyfarms.com](mailto:sally@topsyfarms.com) to let me know whether you are growing a vegetable garden that may produce some extras, or have an energetically producing tree or bush. There would be no expectation to donate regularly, just when you have extra to spare. Is there anyone willing to volunteer picking time, if someone will be away for a week or two and invites us to help ourselves?

## OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM

-Zander of DUNN INN

My hopes were raised recently, when the government told us, in the throne speech, that appropriate changes were going to be made to our national anthem.

There are several things wrong with our national anthem which I think should be fixed.

Some, of course, figure the national anthem is sacred and cannot be changed.

The truth is that our national anthem has undergone many changes. For example, in 1930, when my father graduated from The University of British Columbia the program for that event had on it the national anthem - as it was then.

O Canada, our heritage, our love,  
Thy worth we praise, all other  
lands above -

From sea to sea, throughout thy  
length,

from pole to borderland.

At Britain's side, whate'er betide,  
unflinchingly we'll stand.

With heart we sing, God Save The King!  
Guard Thou our Empire wide, do we im-  
plore,

And prosper Canada from shore to shore.

We could not sing those words today. They linked us too much with Britain. They did not allow for the reign of a Queen. They implied The British Empire was ours.

Radical changes were made until we arrived at this version in 1980:

O Canada, our home and native land,  
true patriot love, in all thy sons com-  
mand.

With glowing hearts, we see thee rise,  
the true north strong and free.

From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on  
guard for thee.

God keep our land, glorious and free;

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

Obviously we say too often "we stand on guard for thee." It would be better if we could be up to date, speaking the language of the people, and say "You" and "your" instead of "thee" and "thy."

I am one of many Canadians who cannot say that Canada is our native land. I was not born here so I am not native to Canada. I was born in British Guiana, now Guyana. I would feel more comfortable and honest if I could sing, "our home and (sacred, chosen, special) land" or something like that.

The word "sons" needs to be changed so daughters are included. Our church has simply rendered that line to



read, "in all our hearts command." Or we could simply say, "in all of us command." I heard an educated woman scoffing at the idea of removing the word, "sons" because she knew that "sons" included women as well as men. Most churches, in employing inclusive language, have declared that females and males are equal. It is not right and it is not good to use only male language to define society. Today there are more women than men in Canada and more women than men are graduating from our universities and taking leadership roles. Our national anthem should reflect that. Its language must be inclusive.

Some, of course, want all references to God to be removed. The version sung at my father's graduation did not petition God for anything but to save the king - a reference to the British National Anthem, but it could be interpreted to mean that God was the unseen power behind our anthem which implored God to keep the country prosperous.

Is our national anthem a declaration of loyalty only, or is it also a prayer to God to help us to keep our land glorious and free?

Perhaps the Conservative government dropped the whole business because it feared it would split the country over the matters to which I have referred.

It would not upset me if the decision was made to remove any reference to God because I believe God is with us whether we acknowledge that or not. If we pledge to stand on guard for all those things which are good and loving we don't need to mention God because God will be in such promises and actions. Besides, inclusive language should also include those who do not believe in God.



## AN OUTING

### -SALLY BOWEN

Janet took me to the Owl Woods last week. She is extremely busy, between school bus driving AND teaching, monitoring the heavy numbers of people in the Owl Woods, and accommodating a doctoral student researching Owls on the Island, not to mention delivering her weekly birding report on our radio and her monthly written column to our Beacon.

But she made a special date for Family Day, to take me. I'd had a small accident a few days before and was really gimpy, but because of the pain I was even more eager for an outing.

Beautiful morning.

The Owl Woods were entirely privately owned by three families, but now by two families and the Kingston Field Naturalist and Conservation Authority. The landowners are extremely generous, allowing us all access. In some years, the conditions further north for hawks and Owls and the vole population on the Island combine to create conditions that make Amherst Island one of the meccas for watching these magnificent predators. Some years ago Janet's husband trained chickadees there to eat out of his hand. Each year the adult birds teach the fledglings, and seeds are almost always available. Other birds are often seen there too.

Fortunately we've had little snow, so it was easy to park and to walk. We approached the informal entrance, recently posted with the new guidelines outlawing dogs and flash cameras; teaching visitors respectful behaviour around the birds. A small crowd of Chickadees met us as we walked though the dead logs, piled recently to indicate the start of the path. Janet had thoughtfully provided me with a baggie of black sunflower seeds (higher fat content - the seed of choice for the Chickadees). Within moments, they were landing on my head, shoulders and hand, happily lightening my seed load. It was such a lovely small miracle.

We soon met a birder, quietly whispering about the three owls he'd found, and indicated their locations to Janet. Since they tend to hunt mainly at night, they are likely to stay put unless harassed by overeager birders/photographers.

We ambled to another couple of hundred yards and there was a Barred Owl, posing. He's about 19"-20" tall, with rusty and white striping under his chin going sideways, same coloured striping going vertical on his chest, and almost spotty colouring on his wings. He was awake, swivelling his head, hunting. I was thrilled to the core. He was so easy to see, to feel. Janet said unlike most Owls he has almost chocolate brown eyes. As far as I was concerned the day was already full to the brim with joys.

We moved on, and met two couples who had travelled from Florida and Virginia, specifically to visit our Owl

Woods. They were happy with the visit - time and distance felt worth it. And here it is, in my back yard!

We moved into the feeder area, where there are a few benches, a small donation box for seed used, and a supply of seed available. Janet added to that. As we moved on, she put some seed on a small stump which she said always felt to her like an offering to the gods of the woods and the birds.

We visited a cedar 'cathedral' - wondrous old white cedar trees, leaning in and smelling WONDERFUL in the cool morning air. The space felt a bit magical. Janet knows so much about the changes in the woods over the 27 years she has lived here. The impact of the ice storm was significant, but not devastating, and she described roots and stumps and evolving changes. Being with someone who knows an environment so intimately was quite wonderful.

Janet was told there was a Saw-whet owl in 'the last white cedar before the field'. She knew where that was but had to circle the tree a few times, quietly, before she found it. Ohhhhhhhh. It was a tiny - 7 inches or so - mite, sound asleep, tucked in against the trunk. Its feathers ruffled slightly in the breeze, showing off the almost cinnamon colouring - magnificent camouflage against the cedar. I started leaking tears.

It was very hard to leave but my muscles were seizing up and standing still is worse. We'd been told of a third owl further on, a Boreal Owl, but directions were unclear and it would have been quite a time and distance yet, so I regretfully asked to reverse our steps. We were then in the Jack Pine part of the woods, trees planted 3 or 4 times by landowner Mr Barr, until he found a species that 'took'.

As we returned, Janet showed me several owl pellets - another instance of impressive natural function. The owls can't digest the teeth bones and fur of the small rodents, so they are encapsulated internally, bones inside, fur outside, surrounded by a gelatine-like covering. These are regurgitated, and are a clear ground indication of favourite roosting branches. We said goodbye to the Saw-whet in passing, noticing he'd now tucked his beak under a wing.

We met two arrogant oblivious photographers charging along. Janet ensured they weren't using flashes on their cameras, as that is horrendously invasive and eye damaging to the night-adapted owls. Fortunately all other folks we met were respectful.

A Hairy Woodpecker was thumping energetically near the feeding area. A couple of tidy Nuthatches flirted by, landing with their characteristic pose, head downwards on the tree.

As it was a holiday weekend the KFN were providing members to monitor the behaviour in the woods. I passed the remains of my seed baggie to a family with 3 kids who were just arriving. A boy, 10 years old or so, stood stock still, eyes amazed, as the chickadees came to him.

Just to top off the wonderful day, Janet took me to the

*(Continued on page 14)*

(Continued from page 13)

South Shore to see the Tundra Swans and big group of Golden Eye ducks (also called Whistlers), enjoying the fact that the south shore water has not frozen over this winter.

We drove passed the KFN property on the south east corner of the Island, just in case the Snowy often seen there was within sight, but he was probably elsewhere on their 200 waterfront acres.

The crows are pairing off.

A Red-tailed Hawk drifted by. (Dark heads, white fronts.)

The other two large Island sheep flocks were in healthy form.

A name post is up for the smiling ram, Icicle.

The Island llama was in his shelter.

I was so happy.

(Continued from page 10)

tors were generally supportive, but there was concern regarding legal liability in case someone was injured on the property. Since the Society had no funds for insurance, this was a problem. If the museum could solve the problem, then we should be able to work out an agreement.

Perhaps Loyalist Township could help?

At the time of the meeting, a number of other benefits of such an agreement were suggested:

parking for the Saturday market could be moved from the road side to the area behind the market, reducing congestion and risk to children

the 4-H club could move their fall fair to the traditional fair grounds if they wished

once the museum had a structure in place, it could be used by other community groups for events or as a covered venue for the village market

other Island organizations, such The Women's Institute, AIMS, AI Recreation Association, and church groups could use the space for their events

After several discussions, and a presentation to the Loyalist Parks & Recreation Department, Loyalist Township agreed to support this proposal, and extend liability coverage to the Agricultural Society if an agreement is reached.

At this point in time, we are awaiting a response from the Agricultural Society, but we are optimistic that an agreement can be reached. Hopefully, through the co-operation of the Amherst Island Agricultural Society, the Neilson Store Museum, and Loyalist Township we can finally, after 60 years or more, have the fair grounds used by the community again. This is an opportunity for the Amherst Island Agricultural Society to make a significant contribution to the community, as it did so many years ago.

Note: if anyone happens to have photos, or can provide corrections to the above information, or any other comments please let me know.

## LYME DISEASE

- Sally Bowen

The Black-legged ticks that carry Lyme disease are now present on Amherst Island in apparently increasing numbers. Several Islanders in the past couple of years, as well as their pets, have been diagnosed with this disease. All, to my knowledge, have been successfully treated with antibiotics, because they sought help quickly.

The ticks can be transported by birds from one region to another. They choose many hosts, including deer, sheep, your family pets... and potentially, you. They are most abundant in long grasses and underbrush, all spring, summer and autumn.

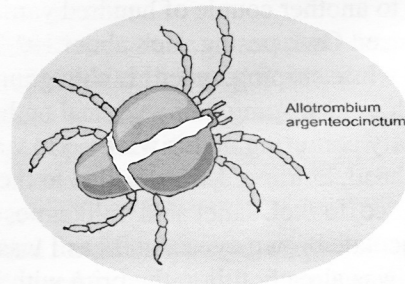
Be wary when out walking in fields or bush. Keep your pant legs tucked into socks. It is preferable to wear long-sleeved shirts. Check your body (and your friend's) regularly as you might locate an exploring tick, not yet burrowed in. They are very tiny before they become engorged.

If you do find a tick embedded, DO NOT PULL IT OUT. The mouth parts if squeezed will release the bacteria. There are special tweezers available (from veterinarians; perhaps elsewhere) for removing these ticks without squeezing. Alternately, go to a clinic or doctor for removal if you can get there fast. Heat does not help. Do your best to insist that the tick be sent for analysis. It is much easier to detect whether the Lyme bacteria is involved by testing the tick rather than the host.

Ask about immediate medical treatment. Try to find a doctor who is concerned about the possibility of the disease - some are not. Watch the location on your skin for the telltale red and white ring around the area within a few days - although it is not always present. It is just one more indicator.

Remember, all ticks are not Black-legged ticks and all Black-legged ticks are not necessarily carrying the disease. But it's wise to be extra cautious.

Further information may be found at [www.canlyme.com](http://www.canlyme.com), the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation information website.







### LETTER FROM BARBARA MAMMEN

[This letter is in response to Sally's asking Barbara about her connection to the Island.]

My mother, Juanita Gibson Brady, was born on the Island, and was the only child of Cecil Gibson. Cecil had 2 brothers, Charles and Royal. Charles was married but had no children; Royal never married. At the time of Uncle Roy's passing (great Uncle I should say) in the mid-1950's, he was living in the village at 180 McDonalds Lane next door to where Howard & Noreen Welbanks used to live. As Mom was the only living immediate relative, she inherited his house and we have used it as a summer residence ever since. My youngest brother, Colin Brady, spends quite a bit of time there, doing a lot of fixing up since it has deteriorated quite a bit, as my Father is now in a nursing home with Alzheimers and can't even remember the place and my Mother passed away in 1980 and is buried at Glenwood.

Further connections to the Island -- my sister, Holly, married Paul McCormick, Noel's oldest brother (I'm sure I didn't need to tell you that) and they have had a cottage next to Doug and Joan Martin for 30-odd years. I spend a couple of weeks in July with my sister at her cottage, and we always, at least once while we're there, walk up around the end of the Island sometimes as far as Topsy.

I have another brother, Richard Brady, who is a realtor in Cobourg now that he's retired from CBC in Toronto, and had pretty much been absent from the Island scene, until last year when he accepted one of my sister's many invitations to come up. He came for the Garden Party and my sister tells me he's making plans to come again this year, so there's still hope for him.

I also had a summer place with my partner right beside Garnet McDonald's house. We had it from the mid-70s to the mid-80s. I loved that big old house - I believe it once

belonged to my GG Aunt Ida Instant. When we were there on the week-ends, I would call my Mother in the Village and ask if she'd like to come to the 'country' for the day. We always had a good chuckle over that, as our house was surrounded by Garnet's farm. Just so there's no mistake about which house I'm talking about, it was the one with the sign out front "Hawthorne's Snake Farm & Model 'A' Ranch". Jack had a quirky sense of humour! He used to call the dump the 'Stella Exchange'. He'd take the garbage there and end up bringing something home again. Sometimes useful, sometimes not so much.

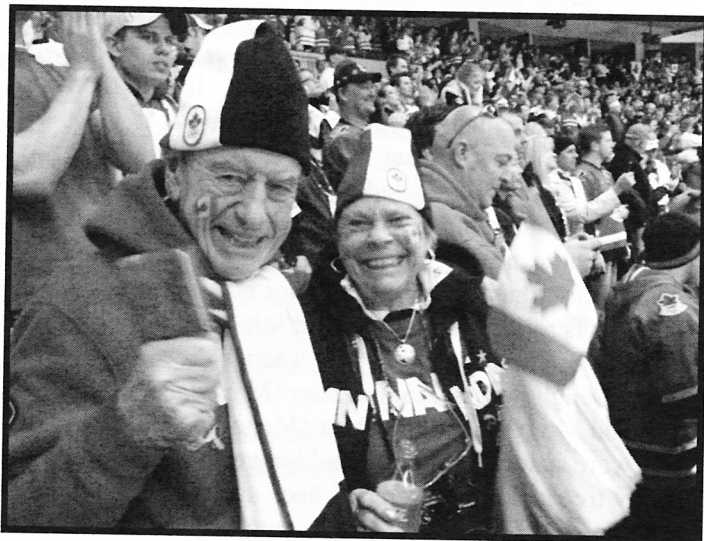
Mom is related to many Island folk - her mother was a Reid, I think that says it all. She was also related to A. Bruce Caughey. His Grandmother (Mary Jane Allen Fillion) and Mom's GGrandmother (Mehetibal M. Allen Gibson) were sisters, I think. I would have to go back to my family tree maker program to check again for that connection. Noreen Welbanks is also my mother's cousin, and so on and so on.

I have 3 children, adults now, but my oldest daughter loves to get away to the Island with me whenever she can manage it. She is the one who orders my subscription to the Beacon, hoping that when I was finished with it, I'd pass it on to her. I might add, she loves sheep and we'll drive around the Island looking for sheep for her to take pictures of.

I'm sure you didn't expect to get this much info, but now you have the link you were trying to figure out. I'm sure you find it interesting to see how far reaching interest in the Island is. In fact, a friend of my nephew's sent him a YouTube link about the Island. Someone, who was visiting the Island, videoed their visit starting while crossing the ferry to many sites on the Island including the Garden Party that year. That was cool to see.

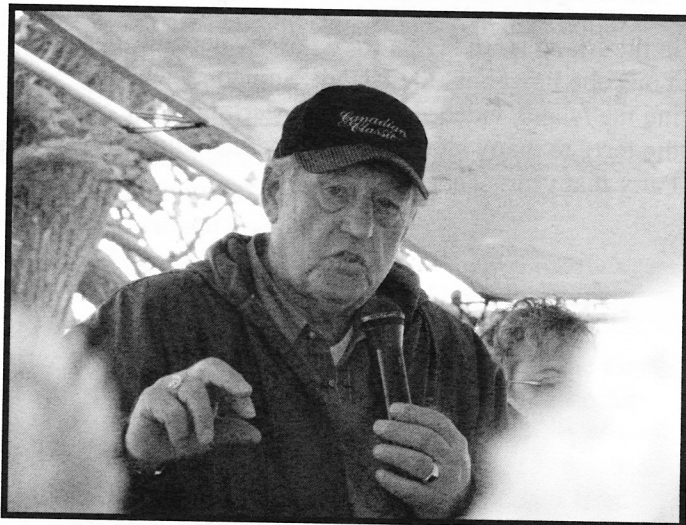


## ISLANDERS GO TO OLYMPICS



*Amherst Islanders Stanley Burke, Peggie Coulter and Janet Grace travelled to British Columbia in February to go to the Olympics. Out of all of the events they watched, they observed that Curling had the most enthusiastic fans.*

## AUCTION AT THE LATE GARNET MCDONALDS ON MAY 8TH

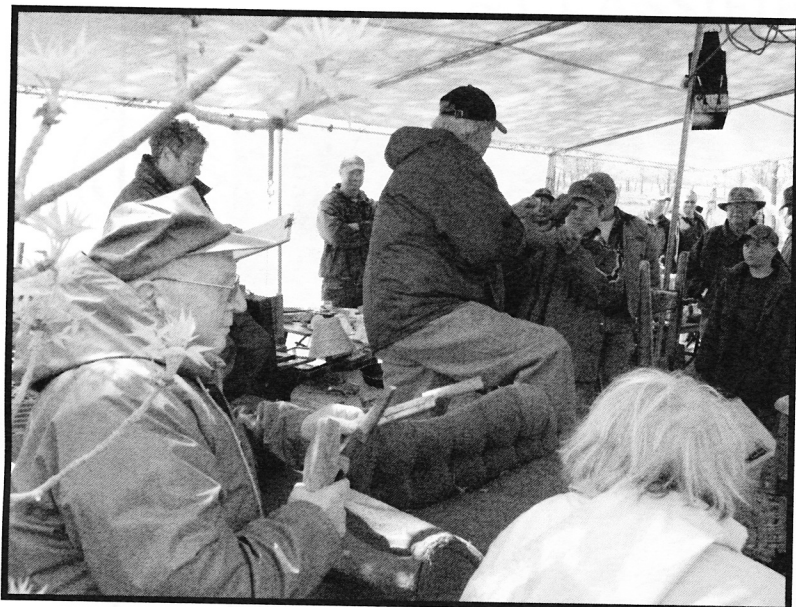


*Auctioneer (Photo by Terry Culbert)*

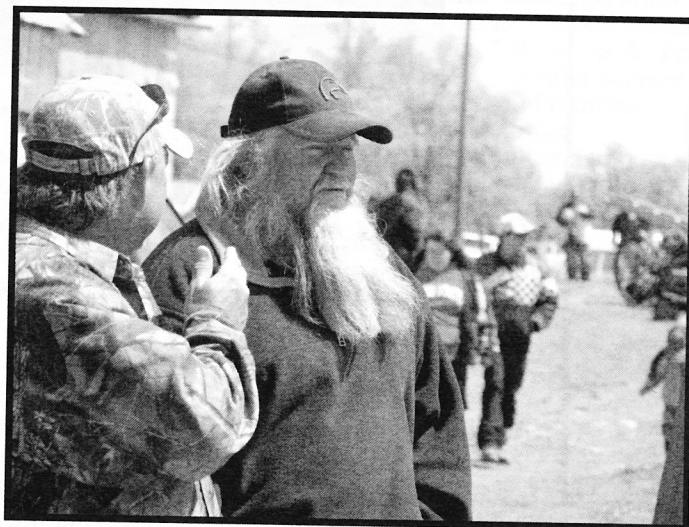


*The McDonald Farm, 11655 Front Road, Amherst Island. (Photo by Terry Culbert)*





*Left: Keith Miller purchased some antique artifacts for the Neilson Store Museum.*



*Right: A pair of "Mainlanders" looking for a deal.*



*Left: Farm boys checking out some of Garnet's vintage agricultural equipment.*



### ICICLE

*We are sorry to report to all of Icicle's visitors over the years, to those who have taken his picture, sketched and painted him and even sent him mail, that he is no longer with us. During his life, he has been mentioned in the Beacon, in the Globe & Mail & on the internet.*

*So many people enjoyed seeing him smile, slap five or just greeting a visitor.*

*We'd often be introduced to people, only to have them say "oh you're Icicle's family". Paul and I used to laugh and say that once we put him in the barn at night and then went to bed, he must have gone out partying, otherwise how would so many people have known him.*

*He rests in a beautiful spot behind his red barn on the top of the highest hill overlooking the water. We'll miss him.*

*Gwen & Paul*



### THANK YOU NOTES

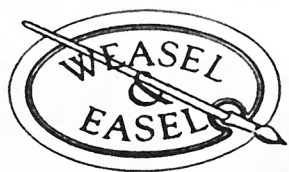
The last of 3 Pub Nights held this winter at the Lodge was held at the end of March. The Amherst Island Recreation Association would like to thank everyone who came out and enjoyed everything from darts & poker to Olympics on the big screen and Country music! The profits from the bar (& the generous tips) will all go towards the Island Canada Day Celebrations. Most importantly, we would like to thank Molly Stroyman and Victoria Cuyler for including the Rec Association in this new venture. They (& their amazing staff) have worked tirelessly to pull off 3 unique nights, with something for everyone! We look forward to working with them in the future.

Rick, Larry and Lynn

Thank You



# ~ CLASSIFIEDS ~ ~ CLASSIFIEDS ~



Operated by Volunteers  
Showcasing works by local Artists  
and Artisans

## 2010 Season Opening

Victoria Day Weekend

Saturday May 22nd, 10:00 to 4:00

Sunday May 23rd, Noon to 4:00

Monday May 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 to 2:00

5220 Front Road, Stella

## FOR RENT

Room for rent with kitchen privileges including private bath and TV/sitting room.

Great view and excellent home gym!  
\$300 monthly.

Leave voice mail at 389-1656.

## FREE "LARGE ITEM" DROP-OFF 2010 SCHEDULE

The Amherst Island landfill site will be open free of charge for residents to dispose of "Large Items" on the following dates. Regular charges apply for material not defined as "large item".

Saturday Disposal Days

10 a.m. to 12 noon

June: Saturday June 12

Sept: Saturday September 11

Nov: Saturday November 2

## WATER SAMPLE COLLECTIONS

Due to the great response from homeowners, water sample bottles will be collected on the following dates in 2010.

MAKE SURE you have filled the form out correctly and answer all the questions.

July 26 November 29

Put these dates on your new calendar now and leave your sample bottles in the screened porch area of the General Store by 10:30 a.m. on the morning of the above dates.



## AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

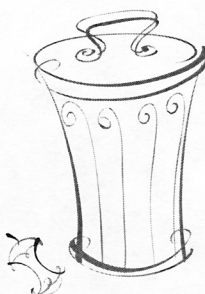
## AMHERST ISLAND DI-

## RECTORY - NEW EDITION

Get your copy of the 2010 Edition of the Amherst Island Directory. Available at the Women's Institute Market Cart every Saturday morning and at the A.I. General Store; or by calling Liz Harrison at 613 389-5176.

## FOR RENT

Waterfront House for rent - 10900 Front Rd. 2 bedrooms, finished basement, new oil furnace, well insulated, beautiful view, \$1200/month first and last no lease required. Tenant responsible for utilities, lawn care and snow removal. call Judy Roberts 613-542-7445 anytime leave message.



## FOOT CARE

at the Ferry Office/Library  
back room Please call Sue Irwin R. N.  
613-545-9379



## CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC HOURS

Tuesdays 5:30-7pm

Saturdays 9am-11am.

Call 613-384-5363

## PET SITTER

Muressa Fabian-Robinson is available day or evening to walk, feed, & visit with your pet.

Reliable, animal lover.

Call 613-634-3075.

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BETTY'S AFTERMARKET MARKET

Too busy!!!



No time to cook!!!!



MY MARKET GOODIES AVAILABLE ALL WINTER TOO!!!

A few days notice and cooking for company just became easier.....

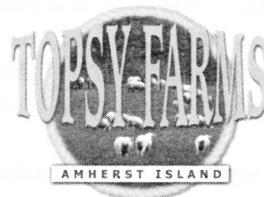


Call Betty 389-7907

## TOPSY FARMS NOW HAS INTERAC!

Use your debit card to pay for your purchase!

Topsy Farms now has individual cuts of our fresh frozen lamb available at the farm. Roasts, chops, shanks, and more. Please call before coming to find out what's in stock. 613-389-3444



## WILD PREMIUM BC SALMON

Coho fillets & Pink Salmon Sides currently in stock. Prices Vary. Call first. Other varieties available by order only: Salmon (5 varieties), Black Cod, Albacore Tuna, and Rock Lobster Tails. Selection may vary month to month.

All products are certified wild caught, individually quick frozen and vacuum packed. All varieties are skin-on and boneless.

Please call or email for pricing and ordering information.

Sue Murray 613-384-2478 [sue@topsyfarms.com](mailto:sue@topsyfarms.com)

## AMHERST ISLANDERS IN GEORGIA



*Amherst Islanders Doug Green and Mayo Underwood spent just over three months in Savannah, Georgia. On March 27th, they organized a dinner of six of their American friends and two fellow Islanders at the Sun-bury Crab Company, an hour south of Savannah on the Atlantic seaboard. Pictured left to right: Renee and Ken of Savannah, Mayo Underwood, Barb Hogenauer and Doug Green. (Photo by Terry Culbert)*



*Amherst Islanders vacationing on St. Simons Island, Georgia enjoyed a wine and cheese get-together in the courtyard of Barb Hogenauer and Terry Culbert's vacation rental on March 26th. Left to right: Bobbie Shaw, Bill Harris, Erna and Harold Redekopp, Barb Hogenauer, Bev Harris, Terry Culbert and Michael Shaw. (Photo by Hennie Marsh).*



*Also enjoying the wine and cheese were Jean Hafner of Toronto, a life-long friend of the Shaws, Kingston artist Hennie Marsh and her husband Dr. Graydon Doolittle, his daughters Sara Doolittle of Colorado and seated Marta Matsumoto, her 8 month old son Hiro and 4 year old daughter Naomi, all of Oklahoma. Oblivious to the party goers was Justin, the Amherst Island Bouvier. (Photo by Terry Culbert).*

