

Amherst Island BEACON



Issue 388

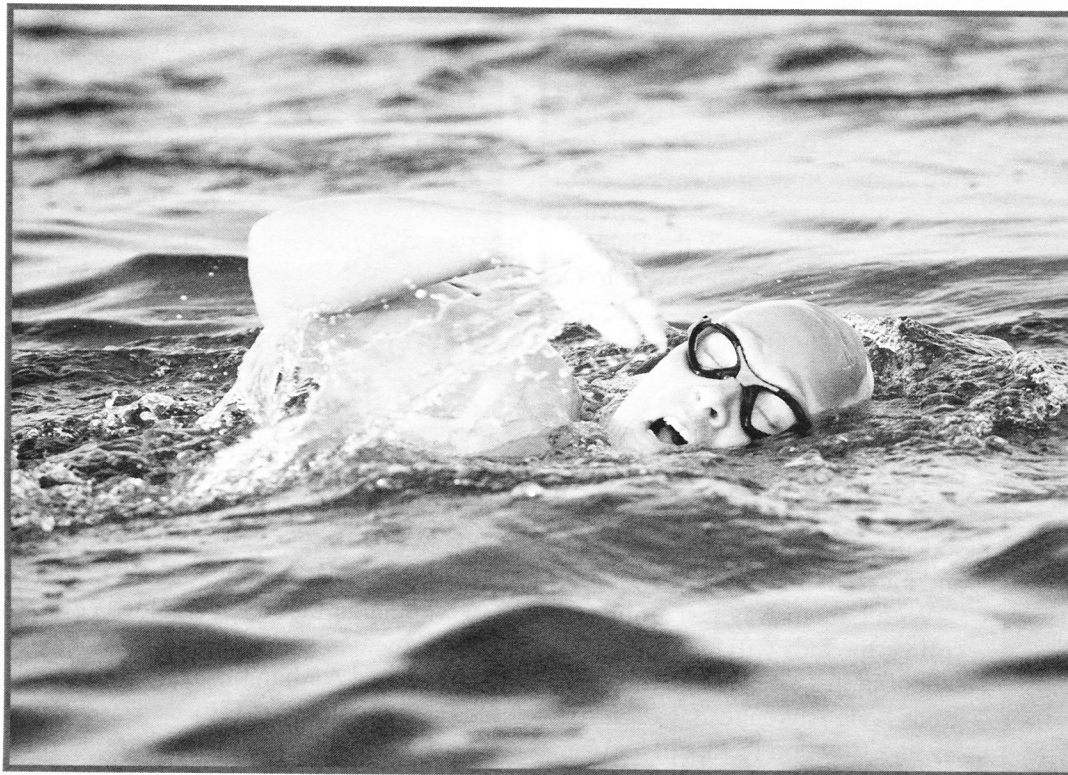
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September 2010

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SUSIE'S SWIM FOR SHRINE KIDS



On August 10, 2010, Susanne Robinson started her Lake Ontario swim from Niagara-on-the-Lake to raise money for Shrine Kids. She became the 43rd person in the world to defeat Lake Ontario after a 52 KM swim. For photos see page 7. For article see page 10.

SUBMITTED BY ERIC WELBANKS

THIS ISSUE

-Sue Murray

Condolences to the family and friends of Wilbert Willard on his recent passing, he was a good man, who will be greatly missed. Obituary will be included in October Beacon.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to Royce Eves, August it seems was the month for weddings on Amherst Island.

On the first weekend in August, Dan Simpson and Joan Bierma were married in an outdoor wedding at their farm (former Dennis McGinn farm) at Emerald, followed by a trip to Newfoundland.

On August 7th, Andrew McDonald (son of Gary and Lesley) married Chelsea Penner in an outdoor wedding on the North Shore at Poplar Dell. A reception followed, also at Poplar Dell. They travelled down east for their wedding trip, and now reside at their home in downtown Stella.

Also, on August 7th, at St. Thomas's in Reddendale, Stephanie Fleming (daughter of Larry and Lynn) married



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(Continued from page 1)

Jeff Wartman. A reception followed at the Days Inn Conference Centre. Jeff and Stephanie enjoyed a week in Mexico, and are residing in their new home in Kingston.

On August 21st, Robyn Gavlas (granddaughter of Leslie, daughter of John and Petrie, Nova Scotia), and Julian Braet were married at St. Alban's, Stella, with a reception following at the Community Centre. They will reside in Ottawa.

Great news for Islanders, August also saw the re-birth of an eating establishment in Stella. Anthony Gifford and Judy Bierma have opened Stella's Cafe (formerly the Back Kitchen), and will continue into October for now.

St. Alban's held their annual Chicken BBQ in mid-July, and again was well attended.

The annual St. Paul's Garden Party was great success again this year. It was a beautiful afternoon of socializing, good food, good buys, and much more.

With Labour Day just around the corner, the kids will be back to school in just a few days. A.I.P.S. grads Kyle Aitkenhead, Gavin Ashley and Brandon Reid will all be off to NDSS to start their high school years. Mairi Kennedy and Drew McGinn will begin their school years in JK at A.I.P.S.

It's been a long, hot summer this year on the Island, and I for one, look forward to the cooler (but not too cool!) temperatures of fall. The round bales are slowly disappearing from the fields as the farmers bring them home for the winter, the bridge work and road closures are coming to an end as is summer.

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

Wow, what an exciting day I had on August 25th! Thanks to Erwin Batalla and Alex Simmons, both members of the Kingston Field Naturalists, I was able to see my first Glossy Ibis. Those of you who travel regularly to the east coast of United States have probably seen this stunning bird before, but for me it was a brand new bird, a life bird, a first time sighting.

Ibises feed on mudflats, swamps and wet farmland as they probe with their long, curved bills in the wet, squishy, ooze looking for tasty fish, crabs, crayfish, snakes, snails, frogs, earthworms and molluscs but no puppy dog tails! The Ibis at the Kingston Field Naturalists' Property was doing just that as it fed along the edge of the main pond much like the Whimbrel or Curlew do.

The Glossy Ibis is a heron-like bird with long gray-green legs, chestnut plumage with a green or purple sheen, a down-curved yellowish beak and a white border on its face. This bird was immature and exhibited a regular barring in white down its neck under its chin. It appeared dark when spotted but in the scope one could see the variable iridescent colours on its shoulders.

The Glossy Ibis is an Old World species that has spread to the New World. It crossed the tropical Atlantic to settle first in the Caribbean and then spread northwards to Florida by the 1940's and Long Island by 1961. The first record for the Kingston area was in 1958 when four birds were seen in Perch River, New York. The first sighting on the Canadian side was from May 19th to 22nd 1968 when one visited Amherst Island.

In 1971 a total of 55 birds were seen from Prince Edward Point on Lake Ontario to Point Pelee on Lake Erie. The Glossy Ibis is a rare spring transient visitor with even fewer visitors reported in the fall.

Although they breed in the coastal areas along the east coast from the Gulf of Mexico to the upper Atlantic coast they do disperse after nesting is over and range substantial distances inland but spend the winter months along the Gulf Coast. Once again those valuable mudflats along the East end of our Island have brought us another rare gift from the world of birds right to our very doorstep.

Thanks again to those birding enthusiasts of sixty years ago, who saw and recognized the value of those fields and purchased that land as a Bird Sanctuary that has never ceased to provide us with a wealth of feathered friends.

Good Birding.

BOX CULVERT REPLACEMENTS

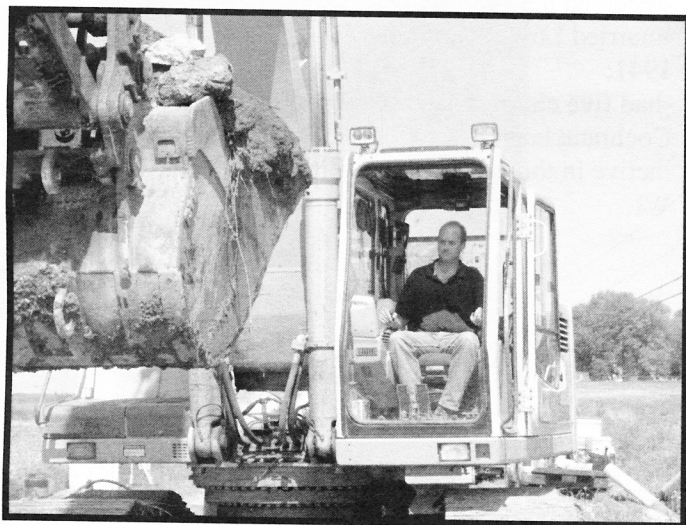
Morven Construction of Napanee has replaced two aging box culverts on Amherst Island. The week of August 9-13, construction took place at the corner of Front Road and the Emerald 40-Foot. After removing the old culverts, fourteen 7.5 tonne interlocking pre-cast sections were put in place. At this location, the new box culverts were angled which will allow a larger body of water to flow through during spring runoff. From August 14-19, road closures and a detour was put in place as Morven Construction replaced the culvert on the Stella 40-Foot Road just south of the Third Concession. Twelve Ottawa manufactured sections were placed there. Both areas can now accommodate two lane traffic.



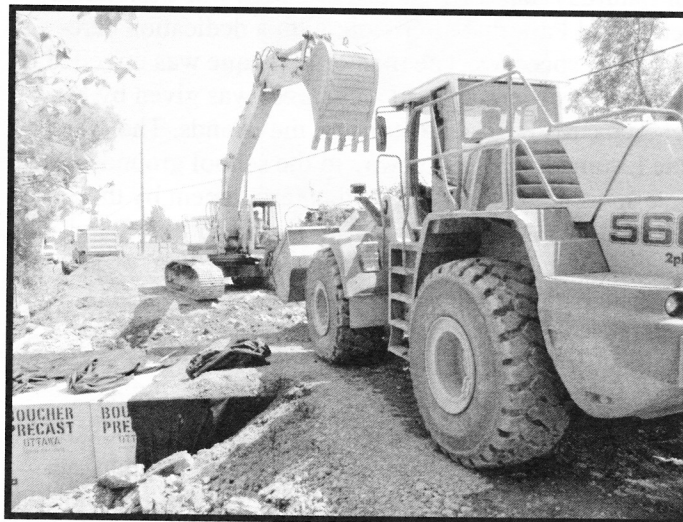
The Morven Construction team posing at Front Road and the Emerald 40-Foot. Left to right: Kevin Chant, Kenny Babcock, Chris Nielissen, Wayne Jenkins (foreman), Larry Young and Leigh Mills.



View of the box culvert construction looking north on the Stella 40-Foot Road, south of the Third Concession.



Morven Construction foreman Wayne Jenkins manoeuvring his shovel in August.



Heavy equipment operators Wayne Jenkins manning the shovel with Chris Nielissen in the front end loader.

PHOTOS BY TERRY CULBERT

****To see more photos, turn to page 14.**



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

[The August meeting will be included in the Oct. Beacon.]
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE 110TH ANNIVERSARY

-Mary Kay Steel

This year marks the 110th 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.

VI Canada's 100th Birthday and Beyond

Our WI branch was the key organizer of the Amherst Island celebrations of Canada's 100th birthday in 1967. WI presidents responsible for the planning were Marian Glenn and Myrtle Veech. The all-day party took place on Saturday, June 24, and began in the afternoon with a magnificent parade through Stella comprised of some forty-six floats. The parade started about a mile east of Stella, and paused at the park area in the village (where we now hold our Saturday markets). Indeed, the park was designated Centennial Park that afternoon, with a dedication ceremony and speeches. The memorial plaque was unveiled by Reeve Harry Fleming, and an address was given by Mr. Syl Apps, MPP for Kingston and the Islands. Then the parade resumed, making its way to the school grounds. There were speeches of welcome and entertainment by the school students and the Rob Roy Highland Pipe Band. The band was engaged by the WI who paid the sum of \$50 for its participation. Following the entertainment, a giant birthday cake with ice cream was enjoyed by all. In the evening, the WI had organized a Centennial Dance, with music by Dalton Brown and his band; most attendees came in "centennial costume". The old minute books tell us that our WI branch also gave a silver dollar to babies born in 1967 to Island families, and chartered a bus to take some members to EXPO '67 in Montreal. Those of us who are Island WI members today will be astounded at the energy and work our 1960's sisters put into the Centennial Day celebrations.

During the 1960's and '70's, members busied themselves with many and varied activities. Here is a sampling - Support for student projects; sponsoring Euchre Nights; support and provision of group leaders to the local 4-H;

WI members and husbands went off as a group to a screening of "The Sound of Music" in 1966; purchase of bushes for the school grounds; in-person canvassing for Cancer and Blind causes; donation in 1969 of \$75 towards a new chimney at Victoria Hall; catering for many Island events; helped with annual Santa Claus parade; donation to fire department towards a new ladder. Programs at the monthly meetings must have been interesting: often they consisted of presentations by members on current events followed by lively discussions; musical and poetry presentations; programs by members of a visiting branch; occasional guest speakers; and quizzes and contests of an educational nature, often won by sisters Lulu Strain and/or Anna Hitchens.

In 1975, our branch celebrated yet again, this time the 75th anniversary of its formation. A tea party was held on October 1, 1975 at Victoria Hall, with at least 100 in attendance. Speakers included Reeve Chester Tugwell, Syl Apps (at this time a former MPP), and MP Flora MacDonald.

And now for some more of our past presidents. (Note that Marian Glenn took another turn at president in 1965-67, and Lulu Strain again in 1976-78. They were presented in a previous article.)

PHOTO UNAVAILABLE

1967-1969 Myrtle Veech (Mrs. Lorne)

-born in Kingston to Alberta and Leon Terry;

-received her schooling in Kingston;

-married Lorne Veech, her high school sweetheart, in 1941;

-had five children, and lived and farmed on the former Cochrane land next to the Anglican church on the Island;

-active in the Presbyterian Church, 4-H club, as well as the WI.





1969-1971 Anna Hitchins (Mrs. Henry)

- born on Amherst Island to Georgia and William Glenn;
- schooled on the Island, worked at the YWCA in Kingston;
- married Henry Hitchins and had four children;
- long service to the WI and to other community organizations;
- took on the presidency again in 1972-73 and in 1986-88;
- lives today on the 2nd Concession and is still a WI member.



1971-1972 Helen Miller (Mrs. Wilfred)

- born on Amherst Island to Kathleen and Arnold Wemp;
- received her schooling on the Island;
- married Donald Miller, ran a farm, and had three children;
- Donald died in 1958, and she later married Wilfred Miller;
- in later life she worked as a secretary in the insurance business;
- gave much service to the WI and to other Island organizations.



1973-1976 Ena Baker (Mrs. Clinton)

Bio not provided.



1978-1980 Phyllis Strain (Mrs. Lloyd)

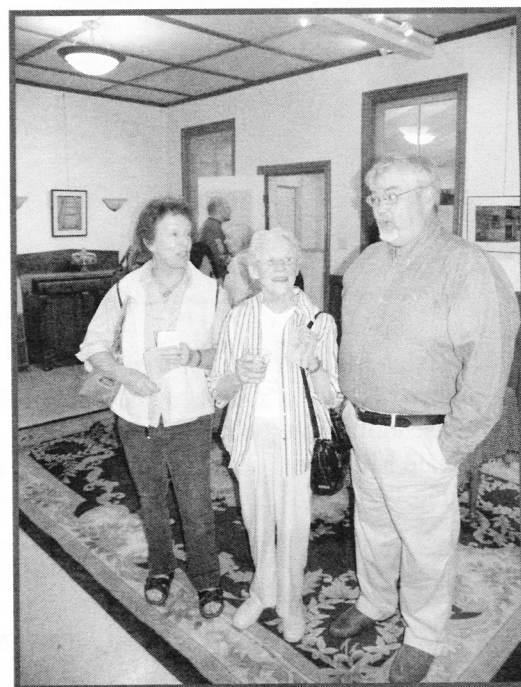
- born to Gertrude and Roy Abrams in Fredericksburgh Township;
- took teacher training in Peterborough and taught at Amherst Island school;
- married Lloyd Strain whom she met when he was working on the ferry;
- Mr. Strain worked for many years on the ferry, latterly as Captain;
- had two children;
- held many positions in the WI over the years of her membership.

THE LARGE & LITTLE ART SHOW

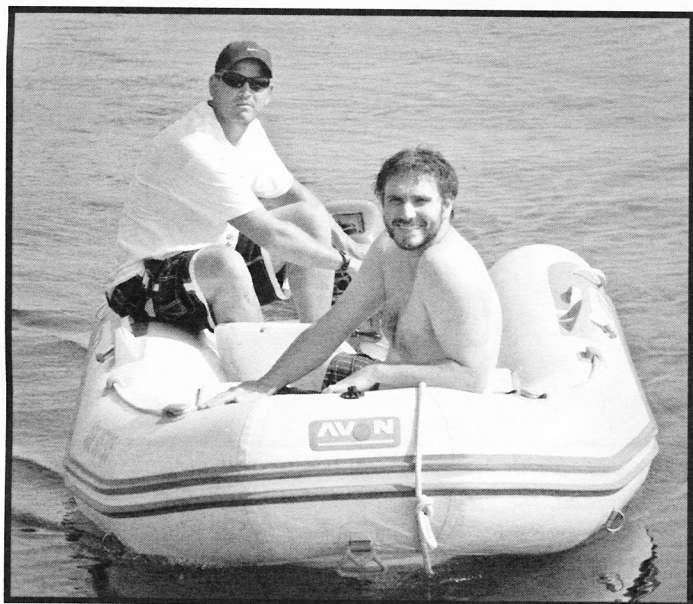
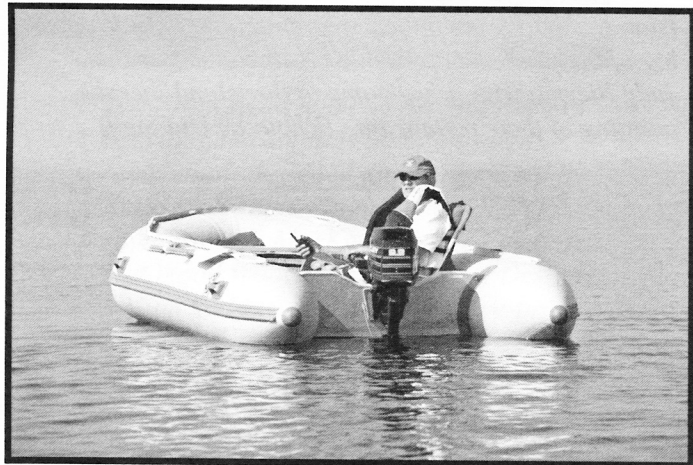
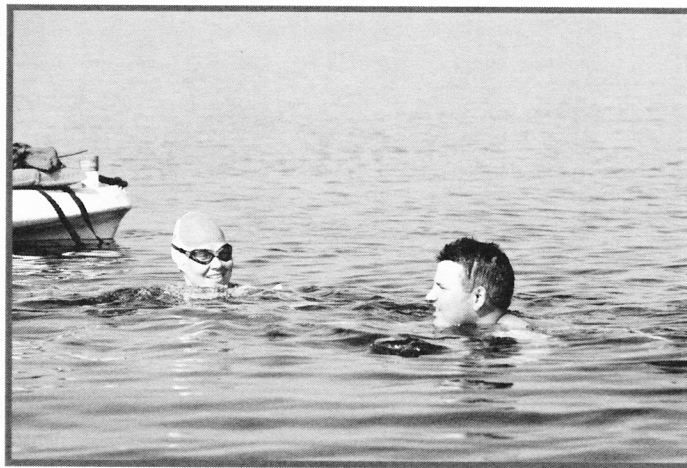
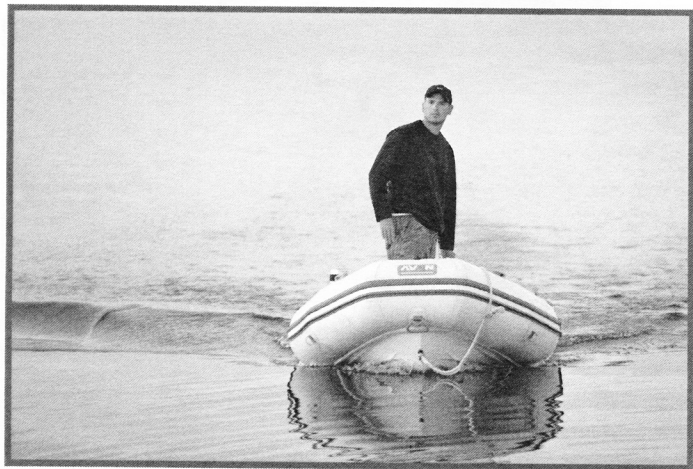
On September 4th, The Lodge on Amherst Island presented new works of artist Peter Large and photographer Brian Little. With a great turnout, the two Island artists mingled with lovers of the arts. If you missed the opening reception, the show continues by appointment until October 5th. Give Victoria Cuyler a call at 613-634-1388 and she will be happy to open The Lodge for you.



Top Left: The Stars of the Show: Peter Large and Brian Little, Above: Barb Hoegenauer, Caroline Ackerman, Jackie Sylvester, Neil Johnston and Tom Sylvester enjoying the Large and Little Show.; Left: Claude Minville and his partner Renee Desjardins with Eva and Daniel Little; Below left: With the 'sales wicket' open, Victoria Cuyler is pleased to take a purchase from Terry Horner; Below: Photographer Brian Little chats with Islanders Betty Wemp and Jean Tugwell.

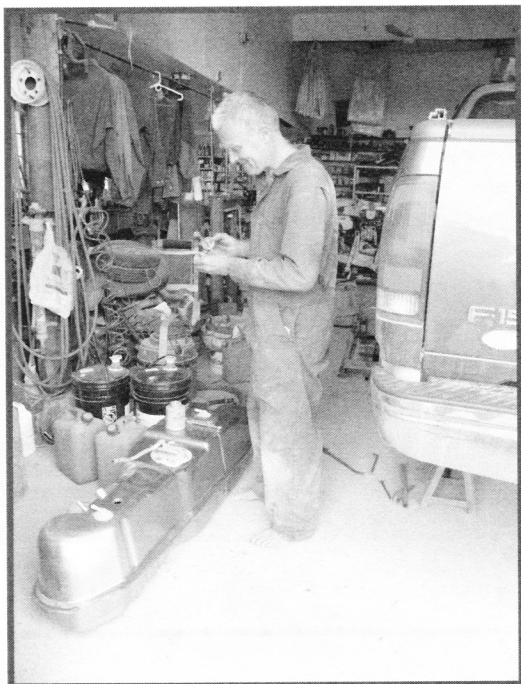


SUSIE'S SWIM FOR SHRINE KIDS

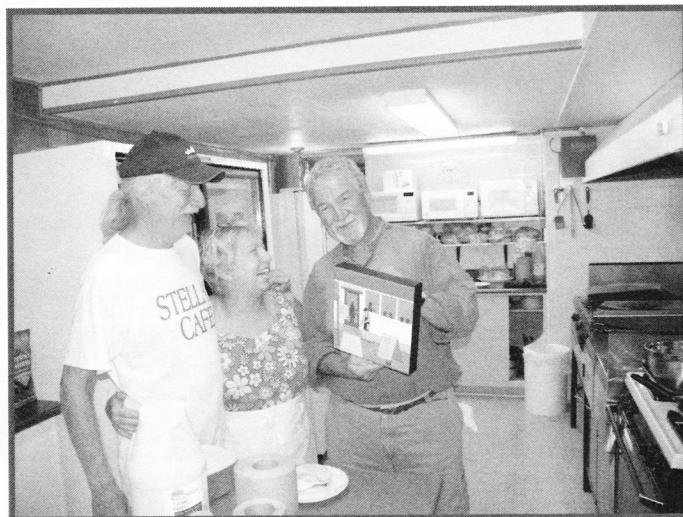


AROUND THE ISLAND WITH TERRY CULBERT

PHOTOS BY TERRY CULBERT



George Gavlas, the barefoot mechanic, installs a new gas tank on a 12-year old Ford F-150 pickup.



Island artist Terry Culbert in appreciation of the opening of Stella's Café, presented Anthony Gifford and Judy Bierma with a 'welcome to the island' acrylic painting of their restaurant. (Photo by Ula Steif)



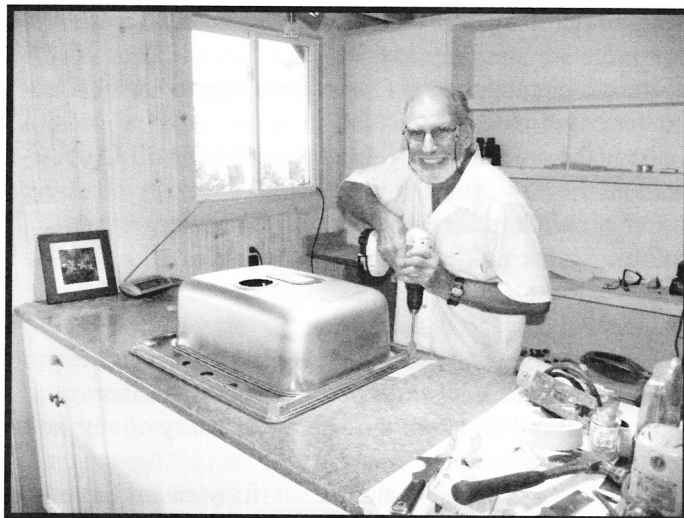
Keith Miller combining oats with his 1977 Allis-Chalmers Gleaner F-2.



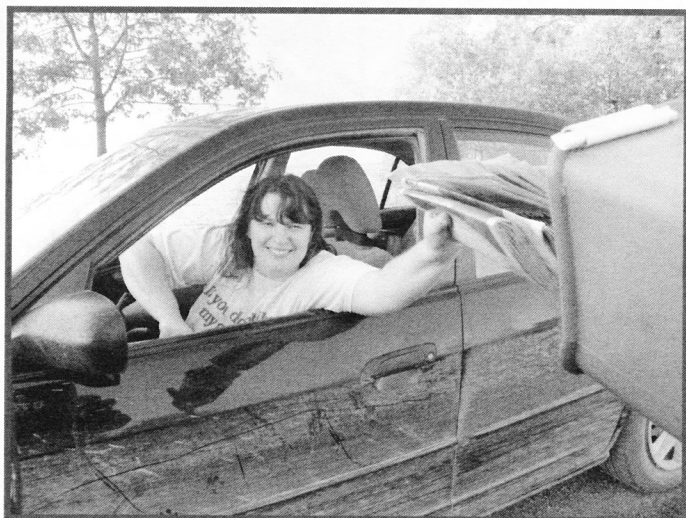
The oats Keith Miller is combining will be sold for horse feed, the straw sold for cattle bedding.



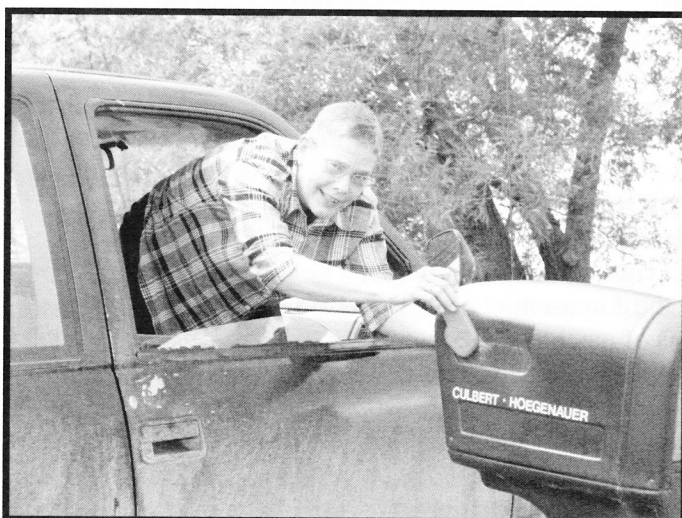
The Front Road home of Ali MacKeen in the village of Stella is going through renovations designed and constructed by Keith McIlwaine. In this photo left to right are: Ali MacKeen, Peggy Edwards, and Wood Woodiwiss. Woody of Design by You had just completed an 'eye-brow entry roof'.



Keith McIlwaine not only designed and constructed the renovations on Ali MacKeen's home, he also did the plumbing.



No matter the weather, Barb Miller delivers our newspapers.



Ann Albertan has been delivering the Island mail since January. Ann took over from Helen McCormick who retired.

SUSIE'S SWIM FOR SHRINE KIDS

-submitted by Eric Welbanks

Susanne Robinson, a Bowmanville Ontario resident, is a wife, mother of two, Erica 8 and Trent 6 and an avid swimmer.

She is a member of the Clarington Ontario Swim Club and her coach is Karen Stinson.

She is the daughter of Noble Eric and Lady Linda Welbanks of the Kingston District Shrine Club.

In her childhood she tagged along with her parents to multiple Shrine fundraisers but it was a visit to the Shriner's Montreal Hospital that sparked her interest in raising funds for the Shrine cause.

She started intensive training at long distance swimming in 2005 and decided that the Rameses Shriners Transportation Fund would be the beneficiary of any funds that she could raise.

In the summer of 2007 she successfully swam Lake Erie from North to South and set a world record in completing the 19.2 KM distance in 8 hours 14 minutes.

As a result she was able to see donations of over \$ 3000 go to the Transportation Fund.

In 2009 she set a goal of swimming Lake Ontario to again raise money for the Transportation Fund. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate as the water temperature of 56 to 58 F made the attempt impossible.

Again in 2010 she felt that she wanted to attempt the Lake Ontario swim.

On July 5th at the Imperial Ladies Luncheon she was recognized and it was announced that Susie would attempt the "Susie's Swim For Shrine Kids" on August 10th.

The guest speaker at the luncheon was Bonnie St. John and she offered her great encouragement to go for her goal.

In the early morning of August 10th Susie slipped into the water at Niagara on the Lake Ontario. With the support of fourteen crew members including her parents, brother

and sister Shawn and Cheryl, it truly was a team effort as the flotilla of two Zodiacs, a Kayak, a 40' sail boat, a 39' power boat, coach, swim master, John Munro and others set out one stroke at a time.

Feeding was every 30 minutes (No touching allowed) and the slow trek toward the Toronto destination proceeded. The first 18 hours could be considered normal for a marathon swim. However the next two hours saw Susie swim hard against strong currents with no progress at all.

With considerable effort and encouragement she swam for the next six hours, and 24 hours and 28 minutes after the start she touched the shore in Toronto.

She became the 43rd person in the world to defeat Lake Ontario after a 52 KM swim.

Susie wants to thank all of the Shriners, their ladies and others for their encouragement and support.

She also asks that everyone consider donating to:

Rameses Shriners Transportation Fund

3100 Keele Street

Toronto, Ontario

M3M 2H4

Please note "Susie's Swim for Shrine Kids"

For Photos see page 7.

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

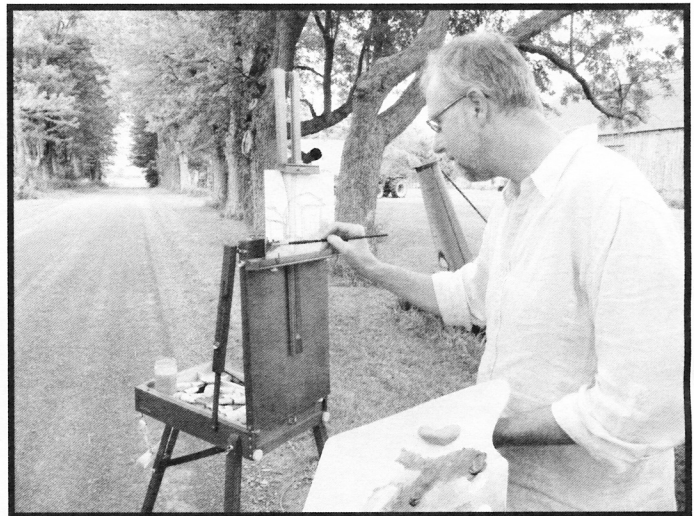
- Ian Murray

I couldn't find anything in the August minutes that was of much interest to Amherst Islanders. Those interested can look at some ferry budget information.

The large culverts at Emerald and on the Stella 40 Foot are being replaced.

The roadsides have been trimmed back thus making the shoulder areas more visible and improving sight lines.

The ferry office has moved to the Municipal Yard.



Plein Air painter Leopold Papez of Ottawa paints an acrylic of Rita Brown's barn.

PHOTO BY TERRY CULBERT

AIMS Meeting in August

- Hugh Jenney

Hugh Jenney read Zander Dunn's thank you letter for the use of our BBQ.

Woody welcomed our new member who has purchased the Stella Cafe, Anthony Gifford.

Woody thanked Ross, Chris and Dayle for looking after our flower baskets. He also thanked the following people for their work on the Studio and Art Tour: Terry Culbert, Peter Large, Dayle Gowan, John Harrison, Ross Haines, Paul Lauret, Bruce Burnett, Chris Laffin, Harold Redekopp, Keith McIlwaine, Janet Grace & Lorna Willis

Marc Raymond reported that nobody requested trees this year. The tree committee has obtained another truckload of tubes. They have put a \$10 package together for next year consisting of a tree, stake, tube, fertilizer and instructions on planting. The sign-up for a tree list is in the AI store.

Terry Culbert thanked AIMS for covering the costs of the flyers plus all their help for the very successful Studio and Art Tour.

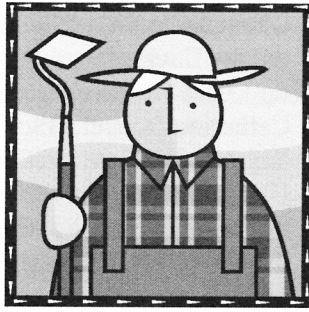
Dayle reported on our efforts to help with the Beacon. After much discussion a motion was passed to lend financial assistance to the Beacon of up to \$100 which will be under yearly review. Good luck to Ian Murray and his crew of faithful volunteers. Brian Little volunteered to pick up the Beacon in Napanee and distribute it to the AI store and Stella's Cafe.

Since there has been no usage of the horseshoe pits, Allan Glenn has kindly removed them.

Greg Latiak is looking for volunteers for this year's New Year's Dinner & Dance.

Gary McDonald advised us that the Parade of Lights will have activities for both kids and adults.

Woody called on Ross Haines to introduce our guest speaker, Judith Harrower. He was delighted to do so because he has admired Judith for all the good things she has done and is doing for our community. Judith is a newly retired Federal Parole Officer who has done a magnificent job restoring her old house. Her work on the Stella flower tubs compliments our hanging baskets beautifully. She has been an energetic and primary promoter in the restoring the Pentland Cemetery's monuments and old stone fences. She has raised money for the cemetery by producing two posters for sale (Doors of AI and Windows of AI), obtaining grants and donations from charitable organizations for such projects as "Adopt a Stone". She is instrumental in recycling batteries in the community by encouraging students at the school. Judith has provided a battery recycling box at our AI store. She has been a keen supporter of recycling



clinging at the dump. Thanks to her working with Loyalist Township the AI landfill is now geared towards recycling in large containers. The need for recycling of Styrofoam remains an important issue. The Beautification Project flower tubs, the collection of batteries, and the extensive work on the stone fences were all initiatives by Judith, carried under the auspices of the Women's Institute.

Judith started off by thanking everybody who had worked with Bill Hedges and Joyce Haines over the last six years to restore the stone fences and for the many other ways they have helped to make our community a better place for us all.

"The Gift of Life" program involves the donation of both organs and tissue to those who desperately need them. She informed us that having a Gift of Life notation on your driver's license is not sufficient today. Now one must have it registered on one's OHIP card so that when the paramedics scan the card the information is read immediately at the local hospital.

One donor can save up to 8 lives through organ donation and enhance the lives of 75 others through tissue donation. The oldest organ donor was over 90 and the oldest tissue donor was 102 years old. Even with current poor health issues, people are encouraged to donate as the professionals will use what is healthy; such as, bone, skin and optical parts.

She passed out consent forms in an envelope already addressed to: "Organ Donor Consent Service Ontario, PO Box 48, Kingston, ON, K7L 5J3

Judith urged everybody to get their friends and family to send the forms in. Especially is this true for a child over the age of 16. In case of a traffic accident, family members are the closest match you will ever get.

"This is the most unselfish act you can perform." This is a free service in Canada and the only cost to each donor is the cost of a stamp.

Other countries sometimes require payment as in India. Some countries just take organs and tissues from dead people whenever the opportunity presents itself. Not so in Canada, so please fill out your form and send it in ASAP.

Judith also advised us that one's family physician can override a family member's request to ignore the deceased's request so that is another good reason to fill out the form today.

Gary McDonald suggested that we do the same for Do Not Resuscitate requests too.

Woody called upon Marc Raymond to thank Judith. He told of attending a wedding that could not take place until the groom received a kidney. That took seven years and all is well now. Marc said he has been procrastinating, but that now, thanks to Judith's speech, he will send his application immediately.

HARVEY STUART FILSON

-Ross Filson

Harvey Stuart Filson was born on Amherst Island November 10, 1890. He came west "to grow up with the country" in 1909 after receiving a diploma in Agriculture from the Agricultural College at Guelph. He harvested with his brother-in-law, Robert Ledingham, at Boharm, Saskatchewan, in 1909, after which he joined a group who were looking for land in the Lonestar and Alhambra districts of southern Saskatchewan. He gained entry to his homestead, located five days travel from Boharm by oxen and cart, in March of 1910. He was back at his sister's home, Jenny (Filson) Ledingham, near Boharm, to celebrate his twentieth birthday, after breaking 55 acres with his four oxen and a walking plow, building a shack to live in and seeding and harvesting 10 acres of oats.

On Saturday, July 3, 2010, the youngest son of Harvey Stuart Filson, and fifteen of his twenty living grandchildren, gathered to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of his gaining entry to the land which became the cornerstone of a farm which remains in the family today. A total of 102 family members attended the celebration.

The events of the day began at 2 in the afternoon when the family gathered at the Woodrow Municipal Cemetery to inter the ashes of the 95 year old second daughter of the pioneer, and to visit his gravesite and that of his wife, Fanny Mabel Smith. This was followed by a visit to the original quarter section of land, the South East quarter of Section 16, Township 8, west of the Third Meridian. The gathering then moved to the lake cottage home of grandson Ben Filson at Thomson Lake for much visiting, storytelling and eating and the distribution of a booklet telling the ancestry and history of the family.

Harvey was born on a 100 acre farm on Amherst Island on which his grandfather, David Filson, had settled in 1860, when he came from County Down in North Ireland. Harvey's father was Henry Filson, an Uncle of Robert Filson who later operated the Amherst Island farm and was the father of Ross Filson and grandfather of Catherine (Filson) Wemp and Harry Filson.

THANK YOU – IT'S BEEN A HOOT!

-‘The Owl Girls’:

Chantal Cloutier, BSc. Candidate, Environmental Biology, McGill University
Catherine Doucet, BSc. Wildlife Biology, McGill University
Kristen Keyes, MSc. Candidate, Wildlife Biology, McGill University



Well, time sure flies when you're having fun!

I first visited Amherst Island in April 2008 as I was considering a Masters project at McGill University that would require living here for my field research. I had heard of Amherst Island as a prime location to view Short-eared Owls, the species at risk I chose to study to complete my thesis. I'll never forget the friendly smiles of the ferry crew as my first introduction to this warm, interesting, and truly special part of Ontario.

Eighteen months ago I moved to the Island along with my first field assistant, Catherine Doucet, full of energy, excitement and optimism. As is the case with any other graduate student, I had big ideas and even bigger ambitions, and was eager to get started. As it would turn out, a lot of what I had planned proved to be rather challenging (i.e. catching Short-eared Owls!), and the learning curve was quite steep. Though at day's end, Catherine and I were always so thankful to return to 2090 South Shore Road.

The same was true over the winter months, while I paid visits to the Island every other week, and this summer, while once again living on the Island full-time with my second field assistant, Chantal Cloutier. I'm sure most of you know Janet Scott as the 'Bird Lady' of Amherst Island, but we've come to know her as our Amherst Island Mother. Words can't describe how much she has done for Catherine, Chantal and I, how welcome she's made us feel, and how much we'll miss her...

Also, to the Amherst Island community at large, the three of us would like to express our sincerest thanks for your never-ending warmth and hospitality. To the landowners, who have been incredibly cooperative to let us use their land for our study, this project would not have been possible without your helpful assistance!

Finally, to the Short-eared Owls of this Island and around the world, may all members of the human race be willing to work together to ensure that your species, and the many others at risk, continue to coexist indefinitely on this fragile home known as Planet Earth.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HARVEY

- Zander of DUNN INN

In August Nance and I attended the Shaw Festival in Niagara On The Lake and among the plays we saw was Harvey. It was wonderful - full of laughs, reversals, upsets and good ideas.

The story is about Elwood P. Dowd who is so kind, generous, loving and gentle that he is seen to be a bit crazy. When it is discovered that Elwood P. Dowd has an invisible friend called Harvey, who is a six-foot rabbit, he is considered to be really crazy. Not only is he crazy, he is dangerous. He's not simply eccentric or a bit odd. He's not only different and strange. He's not merely weird and anti-social. He's completely out of it and must be put out of the way. Therefore, his family, especially his sister and niece, conspire to get him to a psychiatrist to have him declared mentally unfit and put into a mental institution.

The play forces us to rethink what is "normal." When we see how "normal" people act we can see that they are crazier than those whom they and our society consider to be crazy. It is amazing how crazy most of us appear when we compare ourselves to Elwood P. Dowd with the invisible friend.

I got to thinking of that invisible friend in terms of God. Harvey, in the play is a huge rabbit who never speaks and is never seen, but who influences everything and everybody.

For us, God is unseen. God's message is never vocalized. God, whom many seek and about whom many have written, changes people in every way. God is not a big white rabbit. In fact, as our Jewish friends remind us, we cannot find or create a picture, an idea, a vision of God. God is beyond our imagination to capture in any form.

Those who do not believe in God because God cannot be seen or heard with the human eye or ear, and who cannot be limited to any form or picture, have always called God seekers or God worshippers crazy.

Atheists are especially active now in ridiculing Christians who, like Jews and Muslims, say there is only one God who cannot be seen. Atheists love to mock Christians who contend that God has lowered and focussed himself or herself in the man Jesus who lived among us years ago. For Christians, Jesus is the best expression of God in human form. Significantly, we have no physical description of Jesus lest we try to force him into a mould of our making.

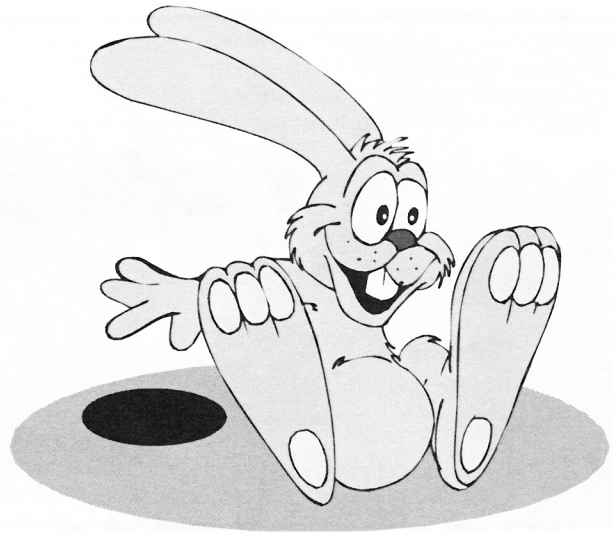
As a Christian I feel like Elwood P. Dowd. In trying to introduce others to Harvey he had only an imaginary space to point to. I can point to Jesus' stories in the Bible, but I can't introduce anybody to him in palpable human form. I can only speak about Jesus and tell the stories about him. I can only hope that those who hear of Jesus will want to meet him in their daily lives.

There are many people who have experienced God in Jesus. They speak in terms of visions, feelings, emotions,

lights. They are quite sure they have experienced Jesus alive with them. Atheists could argue that because Jesus was reputed to have been raised from the dead and met several people after his death, Christians are influenced to believe in Jesus alive today. The irony is that the Atheists are right! My experiences of the risen Christ are based upon my reading about his post-resurrection appearances in the Bible. I have come upon Jesus, The Christ, in worship, in communion, in reading the Bible, in the love my wife and I share.

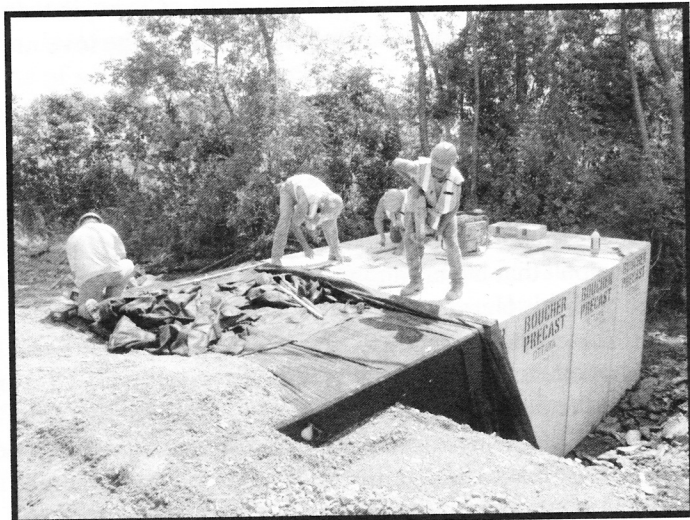
Elwood P. Dowd is the most Christian man I have ever seen in a play. Of course, he is too good to be true. Perhaps he can only be as good as he is because he is crazy or different. But he is what we should be - a person of love, patience, humour and kindness. We can laugh at his "delusion" that he has an invisible, silent friend, Harvey. And yet, this Harvey is a powerful force for good in his life who cannot be laughed off or dismissed out of hand.

I hope I can appear to others like Elwood P. Dowd. But I hope the invisible friend to whom I point is Jesus, God with us. I hope my friend Jesus can influence me for good and can so direct and guide my life that others, who may consider me crazy, will find in me the same acceptance and compassion I have found in my friend, Jesus.



CULVERTS

Continued-From Page 3



Morven crew working at Front and the Emerald 40-Foot Roads.



Scooping out the Stella 40-Foot ditch.

PHOTOS BY TERRY CULBERT



I would like to thank everyone who called sent cards and stopped to check up on me following my recent knee surgery. It is very nice to live in such a caring community.

Keith Miller

[Editor: Keith's note should have been in the previous Beacon. I lost track of it.]

Thanks to this community for all their support during my recent accident and recovery at home.

The Response Team was kind, efficient and calm – much needed in those early moments after my fall.

I am grateful to all who have contributed to my good recovery.

THANK YOU AGAIN.

Joyce Reid

Thanks to all the people on the Island for supporting us and coming in to Stella's Cafe, for eating and visiting.

It really makes us feel good to see people come in, meet someone they weren't expecting who they hadn't seen for some time, and join them for a meal.

We really do need your on-going support now after Labour Day.

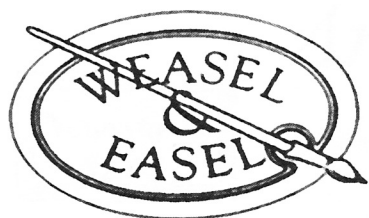
Thank you, thank you.

Judy Bierma and Anthony Gifford

Friends,

On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to thank all of you for your support during my recent recovery from heart surgery. It is the Island people that makes living here so special.

Brian Little



**FROM JULY 1, 2010 WE
WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO
HST**

So come in and see our new inventory in our spruced up store.

Fabulous quilts and quilted place-mats

Eco friendly Bird houses made from hollowed out gourds

Garden stonework
Beautiful hand carved wood plaques

Handmade cedar blanket box; bird houses, quilt racks

Beautifully hand painted silk scarves and wraps

A larger variety of watercolours and acrylics from Island artists

A great selection of cards, many featuring Island scenes

Fine wool Ponchos and Prayer Shawls

Pottery, Jewellery, Afghans, rug hooking, stained glass, children's clothes and more.....

Our hours of operations are:

WEEKENDS up to and including Thanksgiving:

Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sundays from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Holiday Mondays from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m.

WEEKDAYS throughout July and August from 12:00 to 4:00

We are pleased to accept cash, cheques, debit, Visa and MasterCard.

Our volunteers look forward to welcoming you to the store at 5220 Front Road. Our telephone number is 613 634 9512 during business hours. If you would like further information, please contact Sherrill Wright at 613 634 7038 (sherrillwrightfl@gmail.com)

~ CLASSIFIEDS ~

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.

HOUSE FOR HOLIDAY RENTAL:

Upgraded, furnished c. 1870 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom farmhouse on 2.2 acres, and surrounded by open fields. \$300/weekend, \$800/week, including utilities and phone. References preferred. Please call Nick at 647-893-0810, or write nick@gbca.ca. Photos available.

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.

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.

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.



~ CLASSIFIEDS ~

FOOT CARE

Has moved to the Firehall.
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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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

Sept: Saturday September 11

Nov: Saturday November 2

AIMS AUCTION

The annual AIMS Auction this year will be held on Oct.9 in the park, Stella.

If anyone has donations for pickup please call Woody at 384 0887 or Dayle at 634 3815.



On August 7th, at St. Thomas's in Reddendale, Stephanie Fleming (daughter of Larry and Lynn) married Jeff Wartman.

SUBMITTED BY LYNN FLEMING

