



Newsstand  
\$2.00

*Issue 410      September 2012*

**The Amherst Island  
BEACON  
Issue 410  
September 2012**

*Published monthly, the  
Beacon is wholly funded by  
paid subscriptions and by  
sales at the Amherst Island  
General Store and Stella's  
Cafe.*

**Subscription Rates**

Canada.....\$35/yr  
USA.....\$40/yr  
Overseas:.....contact us  
E-mail.....\$20/yr

**September Printing**

210 copies

**Subscription & Editorial**

A.I. Beacon  
14775 Front Rd  
Stella, ON K0H 2S0  
(613) 389-3802  
E-Mail:  
aibeacon@topsyfarms.com

**Editor**

Ian Murray c/o  
aibeacon@topsyfarms.com

**Production**

Don Tubb c/o  
aibeacon@topsyfarms.com

**Submission Deadline**

25th of each month

**Printed By**

Burke's Printing  
457 Advance Ave  
Napanee K7R 3Z5  
dburke@burkeprinting.ca

**Credits**

Corel WordPerfect X6  
Corel PaintShop Pro X4  
Corel After Shot Pro  
FastStone Image Viewer  
Acrobat 10.0  
Family Tree Maker 9.0

## THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get well wishes this month to Nancy Dunn and Lianne Bush.

Happy 40th Anniversary later this month to George and Ida Gavlas.

John and Petry Gavlas and daughters were here from Greenwood, Nova Scotia to visit his mom, Leslie and brother George and family. John and Petry's daughter from Ottawa and her husband met them here for an Island vacation as well.

Doris and Joe Crackle, who spend their summers here with Barb Filson, celebrated their 80th birthdays with a surprise party at Garry and Susan Filson's. Doris and Joe's family from Florida "snuck" up to surprise them, as well as other friends and family.

Congratulations to A.I.P.S. head teacher Miss Cindy Marshall, who became Mrs. (Ryan) Caverly over the summer break.

CJAI held another successful book sale at the radio station in early August.

Mitchell Morgan-Bursey travelled to Newfoundland with his step-mom Deb Bursey, to visit family.

Congratulations to Dan and Joan Simpson and their band of volunteers, who produced another successful 3-day Emerald Music Festival. The weather co-operated, and a good crowd enjoyed some good music and socializing!

I can't believe the summer is over already. It continues to be hot and dry, and the wee bit of rain we got in early August has done nothing, really. The Island is still very dry and brown, ponds and wells are drying up, vegetation is looking faded and wilted. Some of the trees have turned yellow and brown, dropped their leaves or are almost bare - it is looking like fall without the colours!

The 80% chance of rain predicted for yesterday amounted to a couple of sprinkles - not enough to wet the ground under the trees that still have leaves.

The Front Road has been re-surfaced and construction completed. School will be back in a few days, old and new teaching staff are getting settled and ready for the first day back, as I'm sure, parents and students are as well.

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Photo by Don Tubb

Old Millhaven Fibers is being decommissioned... they seem to be working on the pipes, tanks, etc around the main buildings... don't know if they are coming down or not.

## THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Liz Harrison

Twelve A.I.W.I. members and seven Islanders enjoyed a splendid August day out organized by programme co-ordinators Judy Greer and Marilyn Pilon. After a delicious lunch at "Capers" on Front Street in Belleville, we walked over to the Empire Theatre to see a fine production of "Calendar Girls" directed and produced by Caroline Smith of Moonpath Productions, a company specializing in bringing professional theatre productions to Eastern Ontario. Almost everyone knows the true-life story of the Yorkshire Dales (U.K) W.I. branch that set about creating a "different" W.I. calendar to raise money to buy a settee for the waiting room of the local hospital in memory of the popular, recently deceased husband of one of its members. The success of the calendar made the branch famous when unprecedented sales brought in a financial bonanza and led to the building of a new cancer wing in his name. During the process of the calendar's production and perhaps even more after its success the women learned about themselves and each other. Shared laughter, experiences and misunderstandings led to growth and tolerance as well as appreciation of individual talents and strengths.

As yet I detect no inclination from A.I.W.I. members to start discarding their clothes as a fund-raiser!!

So, having had no business meeting this month and having enjoyed fairly leisurely meetings in June and July, we will have all kinds of decisions to make moving into the busy fall and Christmas season. As this long, hot summer draws to an end, hopefully we will tap into our resources of energy and bring lots of ideas to the meeting at Marilyn Pilon's home on September 22 at 7 p.m. Please note that we are never too busy to extend a welcoming hand to visitors or to enjoy the fun and fellowship of each other's company. For details, please call me at 613-389-5176 or any A.I.W.I member.

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l to r: Sharen English, Coralie Marshall, Jane Miller, Jackie Sylvester and Judy Greer at the 'Calendar Girls'.

## COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of Council, July 23rd

Moved by Councillor Ashley and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bresee that By-law 2012-072, being a by-law to authorize the establishment of a highway (road widening - South Shore Road) be adopted. Enacted and Passed this 23rd day of July 2012.

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From the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of Council, Aug. 13th

From an audit conducted by the Fire Underwriters: "At the earliest opportunity, the personnel at the Amherst Island Station need to be increased and maintained at a level above 15."

\*\*

"... the draft Indemnity Agreement with Windlectric Inc. be approved in principle and that the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the agreement following formal approval by by-law at the August 27th, 2012 meeting of Council. Motion carried."

\*\*

Council approved – with conditions – Windlectric's request to "Conduct Studies in Unopened Road Allowances".

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From the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of Council, Aug. 27th

Council received a letter from CAIRE (Citizens of Amherst Island for Renewable Energy) stating reasons why its members support the proposed wind energy project.

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Council received a letter from Sharon Broderick et al opposing Algonquin Power's request to access an unopened road allowance.

\*\*

"That Messrs. David Casemore, Peter Vass, Randy Sangster, Chris McTaggart and Alex Scott be appointed as Fenceviewers for Loyalist Township.

\*\*

The Ministry of Environment has ruled that: “In order to continue to have paragraph 2 of subsection 54 (1.2) of O. Reg. 3Sg/Og apply to the Amherst Island Wind Project, Algonquin Power Co. must submit an REA application to the Ministry . . . on or before August 2, 2013, paragraph 2 of subsection 54 (1.4 of O. Reg’ 359/Og ceases to apply to the Amherst Island Wind Project”.

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Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Transportation, in a letter: “I am pleased to advise you of the approved operating allocation for municipal ferry operations for this year. . . of \$2,161,800.”

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## **AIMS August Meeting**

- Hugh Jenney

Chaired by Anders Bennick.

Twelve men and two ladies sat down to a light breakfast of fruit and cheese plus home-made bagels by Greg Latiak. Delicious and thanks go out to the food providers: Greg, Kevin and Anders.

Anders introduced our guest speaker, Laurie Kilpatrick. Laurie studied anthropology and archaeology for five years at McMaster University and participated in many digs in Ontario.

Last year, she retired from a career with the federal government and is happy to have more time to research Island history and archaeology.

Laurie has been a volunteer with the Neilson’s Store Museum and Cultural Centre for a number of years and her presentation was on the archaeology and history of Amherst Island.

Laurie started by congratulating AIMS for creating our very own AI Museum. She thanked us all and especially Bruce Burnett for keeping it going.

Laurie provided the following overview of her presentation:

Amherst Island has a rich human history that dates back thousands of years.

A number of Islanders have found stone tools in their fields and gardens. These finds include stone axes, adzes and arrowheads. Archaeology tells us that these tools belonged to Aboriginal peoples who hunted, fished and gathered on the Island sometime between 10,000 and 3,000 years ago. Some of these artifacts are

on display at the Neilson’s Store Museum.

In the early 1600s, the French were the first Europeans to make their way into Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte area. These French explorers, traders and missionaries kept detailed records of their travels. These records have been preserved and are the first written accounts of the area now known as southern Ontario.

The early maps tell us that Huron peoples inhabited southern Ontario at the time of first contact. It is not known whether the Huron actually inhabited Amherst Island. It is interesting to note that the Island was named Kaouenesgo that is reported to be a Huron word.

In 1650 the Five Nations Iroquois whose ancestral lands were south of Lake Ontario defeated the Huron and destroyed or took over their villages along the north shore of the Lake.

Several oral histories and early written accounts tell us that there was a Mohawk settlement referred to as

the “Old Reserve”, on Amherst Island in the 1800s. This reserve was still used seasonally in the 1920s and the museum has a number of handcrafted items, such as clothing and baskets, that were made by the Mohawks and sold to Islanders.

More research is needed to understand and appreciate the role of the Huron and the Iroquois in the story of Amherst Island. This

is also true for the Mississauga, another Aboriginal group that has been connected to Island history.

In 1675 King Louis XIV granted Kaouenesgo to Rene-Robert Cavelier de la Salle and our Island became part of his seigneurie, one of the first in what is now Ontario. LaSalle renamed the Island “Isle Tonti”, after his Lieutenant, Henri de Tonti.

French contact and influence in this area lasted about 150 years. In 1758 Fort Frontenac in Kingston fell to the British and in 1763 the British took possession of New France.

The defeat of the French opened the doors to British settlement in the area. In 1792, Isle Tonti was renamed “Amherst Island” after General Jeffrey Amherst, Commander-in-Chief of British Forces in North America.

Sir John Johnson, a United Empire Loyalist, was another key historical figure who helped shape Amherst Island. Following the American Revolutionary War, Sir

**9th Annual  
Amherst Island  
Harvest Fest**  
  
**Saturday, September 29  
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.**  
**At  
Reidview Farms, 10850 Front Road**



John was responsible for the settlement of the United Empire Loyalists along the St. Lawrence and the Bay of Quinte.

Sir John petitioned for and was granted the entire Island in 1798 by King George III. Sir John was the first landlord to run the Island as a tenanted estate.

UEL families settled primarily on the northwest shores of the Island and many descendants of these early UEL settlers still live on the Island. At 9840 Front Rd, you can visit the plaque and family burial site of Barnabas Wemp, one of the first UELs to settle on Amherst Island.

In 1823, Sir John's daughter, Catherine Maria Bowes, assumed the management of the Island estate until 1835. She was very successful in attracting immigrants to Amherst in these early years.

Two Irish landlords and hundreds of Irish settlers dominated the next chapter of Island history and it is primarily from this period that Amherst Island's unique Irish character emerged.

In 1835 Catherine Maria Bowes sold the remaining properties and leases to the Earl of Mount Cashell of Ireland. The Earl sold the Island estate to Robert Perceval-Maxwell in 1857. This was a time of great prosperity on Amherst Island. This part of our history has been well documented in a book called "A New Lease on Life" by Dr. Catherine Wilson. This book is a "must read" for those who are interested in Island history.

We owe a debt of gratitude to those who loan their treasures, tell their stories, and share their research. This overview has benefitted from the work of our local historians, researchers and storytellers.

There is still much to discover about Island history and archaeology. If you have information to share or artifacts to loan, you can contact Laurie or Janet Scott who is the chair of the museum exhibit committee.

There were a few questions on archaeological practices. Laurie indicated that in Ontario, a license is required to carry out archaeological digs; artifacts from excavations are the property of the Crown; and, local Aboriginal peoples need to be consulted on the excavation of Aboriginal sites.

Anders thanked Laurie for a most interesting and informative history about AI.

As nobody has stepped up to organize our

Thanksgiving Auction, we decided to skip this year. Hugh and Don will organize next year's auction for Labour Day (Saturday, August 31/13). Dayle Gowan has once again generously volunteered his barn for storage so start collecting everybody.

The AIMS Wagon volunteer sheet was once again passed out. Call Marc Raymond 389-7184 to volunteer a Saturday morning of wheeling and dealing.

Anthony Gifford will report on the Sandy Beach project as soon as he has anything new to say.

Woody, our past president, was elected as the nominating person to find us a president and vice-president ASAP. Please call him if you are willing to serve 384-0887.

Greg has changed his mind about letting members know about the meeting through the internet. He, Don and I will now be telephoning people a couple of days before the meeting so that we can report the turnout to the breakfast providers. We pay \$7.00 for 23 breakfasts whether we use them or not. The providers cannot work for less so do come and join us for a delicious breakfast sprinkled with convivial conversation.

Greg suggested we find out if our potential younger members could be occupied with the Emergency Response Team meetings on Saturday.

Anders suggested that we advertise by email and on the ferry bulletin boards special talks for all Islanders. After all, we are an educational society too and should provide interesting talks for all to enjoy.

[Editor: Laurie Kilpatrick is a "comeback" – she grew up on the Island and, after a mainland career, has returned. She wrote a high school column for the Beacon in 1970 & '71. ("Comeback" is a term I've borrowed from my relatives on PEI.)]

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Photo by Terry Culbert  
**Amherst Island Woolly Bully Race  
organizers Joe Du Vall and Carol  
Sinclair of Ottawa.**

## **INAUGURAL "WOOLLY BULLY RACES" ENJOY POSITIVE RESPONSE**

- Joe Du Vall and Carol Sinclair, Event Co-ordinators

The "Woolly Bully Races" enjoyed a modest but positive response for the inaugural event that was staged on Sunday morning, August 19, from the public works depot on the Stella 40 Foot Road.

“Stella’s Café” co-owner Judy Bierma was given the honour of race starter and she sent off a field of 28 runners in the 5 and 10K races. The route was south on the Stella 40 road to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession. Runners in the 5K continued on the 2<sup>nd</sup> for approximately 2.3 kilometres, at which point they reached the halfway point of their race and were pointed back towards the finish. The 10K runners continued further down the roadway for an additional two kilometres to their halfway point and then headed back to complete the last half of their race.

Twenty two runners completed the 5K event while six opted for the 10K race. Jessie Steinburg of Shelburne, Ontario was not only first woman overall in the 5K event, she was first overall in 25 minutes, 59 seconds. Cory Lynn Stephenson of Bath was second in 26:22, holding off Napanee’s Jordan Sinclair who was top male in 26:30. Colin Wilkinson of Kingston led the field in the 10K in 39:25, followed by fellow Kingstonite Al Cantlay in 45:59. Stephanie Place of Bath was third overall, first woman, in 52:57.

After the race, all participants received light refreshments followed by the awards ceremony and a raffle for a variety of draw prizes. Everyone in the race came away with something, including some donations from Sally Bowen of Topsy Farms and Judy Bierma/Anthony Stafford of Stella’s Café. Many opted for a late breakfast or lunch at the café once everything wrapped up on site.

We would like to thank Garry Filson, roads superintendent on Amherst Island for his assistance and co-operation to ensure we met all the necessary requirements of Loyalist Township. Garry was also helpful in providing access to the works depot and some equipment. CJA Radio was very helpful as they promoted with announcements well in advance and it was a pleasure to speak on air with Terry Culbert on his radio program the Friday morning before the race. Terry was also there on race day with his camera.

We had a great crew to help out on race day which included Sally Reed, Jane Alkenbrack, Ian Sinclair, Al Sinclair, Cec Thomas, Patti Sinclair, Vicki Keith, John Munro and the gang from the Little household on Concession 2. Andrew McDonald and Laird Leeder from the Island Volunteer Fire Department were also on hand to serve as our emergency response team.

Plans on the 2013 edition of the “Woolly Bully Races” will be publicized in the coming months.

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**Judy Bierma of Stella’s Café, a friend of the organizers, gave the countdown to the runners.**

**Photo by Terry Culbert**

### **10K Results**

**PLACE / NAME / TIME(minutes) / CITY**

- 1 Colin Wilkinson (39:25m) Kingston
- 2 Alan Cantlay (45:59m) Kingston
- 3 Stephanie Place (52:57m) Bath
- 4 Lindsay Buell (56:02m) Brockville
- 5 Scott Allen (59:58m) Kingston
- 6 Ted Freiman (64:16m) Kingston
- 7 Andy Ledger (66:17m) Ottawa

### **5K Results**

- 1 Jessie Steinburg (25:59m) Shelburne
- 2 Corry Lynn Stephenson (26:22m) Bath
- 3 Jordan Sinclair (26:30m) Napanee
- 4 Todd Robertson (28:34m) Napanee
- 5 Ann Ranger (29:33m) Bath
- 6 Julie Leeder (29:33m) Amherst Island
- 7 Logan Ralston (30:18m) Hunterdon Co. N.J.
- 8 Emily Mackwood (30:36m) Kingston
- 9 Gale Rogers (30:45m) Kingston
- 10 Lauren Alexander (30:50m) Kanata
- 11 Rob Genereaux (30:55m) Tamworth
- 12 Lisa Wlock (31:54m) Amherstview
- 13 Angela Lim (33:20m) Kingston
- 14 Jennifer Bascom (34:46m) Shelburne, ON
- 15 Leah Murray (34:46m) Amherst Island
- 16 Mason Ralston (38:06m) Hunterdon Co. N.J.
- 17 Nia Ralston (38:20m) Hunterdon Co. NJ,
- 18 Heather Munro (40:22m) Hamilton
- 19 Sheena Curry (40:49m) Amherstview
- 20 Alicia Von Konaught (46:15m) Napanee
- 21 Christina Rousseau (46:41m) Toronto

**Total Runners - 28**

**Female - 17**

**Male - 11**

**\*\*\*\*\***



# EMERALD MUSIC FESTIVAL

- Terry Culbert

Dan Simpson, Amherst Island's beef farming country singer and his wife Joan opened their second annual Emerald Music Festival at 6pm, Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup>.... twenty-four hours of country, bluegrass, Celtic and 50's rock n' roll. The weekend would see sunshine, high winds and at times heavy rainfall. Throughout it all the fans loved what they heard and saw. There were more RV campers and tents on site than the previous year and even with the inclement weather, the attendance was up by one hundred reaching a total of 450 music lovers. A wonderful success for the non-profit event and a promise from Dan and Joan that the Emerald Music Festival will return next year with the dates set at August 9, 10 and 11<sup>th</sup>.

On Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup> Dan Simpson was a guest on Island Radio's Udder Morning Show. At that time he presented co-hosts Dayle Gowan and Susan Filson with a generous donation for Amherst Island Public Radio from the non-profit music festival.

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Photo by Terry Culbert

Hosts Joan and Dan Simpson open the 2012 Emerald Music Festival on their Amherst Island beef farm.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Dan Simpson watches Charlie King, a sound perfectionist.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Dan Simpson with his daughter Cathy Smith and one month old grandson Liam.



Photo by Terry Culbert

High winds at one point blew the ticket takers' tent down.





Photo by Terry Culbert

Rough camping was provided.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Dan and Joan Simpson close the 2012 festival with MC Ellis Wolfreys of CJA Wolf's Den.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Newfoundland-born country singer Jamie Spurvey was a huge hit.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Doris Hamilton of Freeport, Bahamas visited the festival and her good friend Judy Bierma.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Anthony Gifford lead the Gospel Hour with the accompaniment of Keld Jensen on violin and Keith Miller on harmonica.

## DISAPPOINTMENT

- Zander of DUNN INN

Nancy and I were looking forward to going to London and the Olympics August 7 to 15 and later, August 16-19 to Paris for a few days. Our youngest son, Marc, whose wife, Elfi Schlegel, does commentary on gymnastics for NBC and was already in London, had asked us to accompany him and his three children. We were to help the kids on the flight to London, then help their father and mother in London as we took in the various sights and activities. After that we were to watch over them as we visited friends in Paris. We were looking forward to the trip.

Then, on July 23, Nance slipped on the slime of the lake in front of our house and hit her leg on a rock while she was trying to fill up a bucket to water the flowers. At first we thought it was a sprain but Kirsten Bennick, a physiotherapist, insisted Nance get her leg x-rayed. The result was inconclusive and we began physiotherapy. A second x-ray revealed a spiral fracture of the fibula, near the ankle. The doctor suggested we not go to London. There was the danger of swelling and a blood clot during the flight. The doctor said no weight could be put on the plastic air-filled cast Nance bought. Stairs would be almost insurmountable, the rush of the city would be overwhelming, the exertions Nance would have to make would be exhausting. We agreed it would be better not to go and so we cancelled our trip.

Disappointment set in. We were disappointed that we would miss all the events we had lined up. We were disappointed we would not be able to help our son with his children. We were disappointed that we were missing a unique occasion in our lives. I said nothing, but I was especially disappointed that I would have to do the work Nance usually does around the house and garden.

Before we could spend too much time feeling sorry for ourselves we were overwhelmed by many kindnesses many people showed us. Both Beth Forester and Margaret Mooney brought us crutches for Nance to use. Kirsten and Beth each contributed a cane to help Nance walk. We received a walker without wheels from Elsie Willard and a walker with wheels from Margaret Maloney. Rick Burns, husband of Joyce (Glenn) Burgess, gave us the use of a wheelchair. Judy Greer, an occupational therapist, came with a special seat for our shower and a high toilet seat with arm rests. Our house is full of helpful physical implements, all gifts

from friends. Nance has used and continues to use all those items.

Then came the food. Islanders express their love through food. Andrea Cross took it upon herself to arrange for suppers to be brought in to us by parishioners and other friends every night for three weeks. Of course, other cooks simply gave us their delicious meals, whether requested or not. We have been overwhelmed with kindness and love.

I have found all this to be a learning experience. I have had to help Nance get around. I have had to do the dishes. I have had to do the laundry. I have had to learn just how much my wife does for me and for both of us without being asked or thanked. There are so many things to do, which she normally does, that I do not have time to do what I normally do - read and write.

Nance and I have both come to realize how much we take for granted. Nance has learned how important her legs are and how valuable good health is. I have learned how much time it takes to keep a household going.

I am sure many others have had the same experience and have learned the same lessons but that does not detract from their importance for us.

Life is not always easy or successful. Sometimes things go wrong. At such times we tend to cry out to God expressing our disappointment and dismay. God does not seem to do much about it, except that God works through people - all the people who have expressed love and support, all the people who have shared their implements to help Nance get around, all the people who have dropped in for a visit, phoned or sent cards, all the people who have delivered food, all the people who have asked about our health.

That is how God works, in the face of disappointment, through people who are channels of God's grace. They may not be religious, they may not say much, they may not do spectacular things, but they are used by God to help disappointed people like us. And what they do makes all the difference in the world to us.

When Nance had her accident we both focussed on what we had lost. But now we are encouraged, enthused and enthralled by our Island, and off-island, friends who have lifted our spirits by their compassion and love expressed in such practical ways.

We have much for which to be grateful even in the face of disappointment.

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# ISLAND RADIO USED BOOK SALE

- Terry Culbert

From 9am until 1pm on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, the drive shed beside Island Radio was abuzz with readers looking for quality used books. The annual fund raiser for CJAI was in full swing. Most books could be had for a dollar or two. Thanks to a hard working group of volunteers, many islanders and mainlanders who came shopping, over a thousand dollars were raised.

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Photo by Terry Culbert

The sale is held annually in the drive shed beside the milk house radio station.

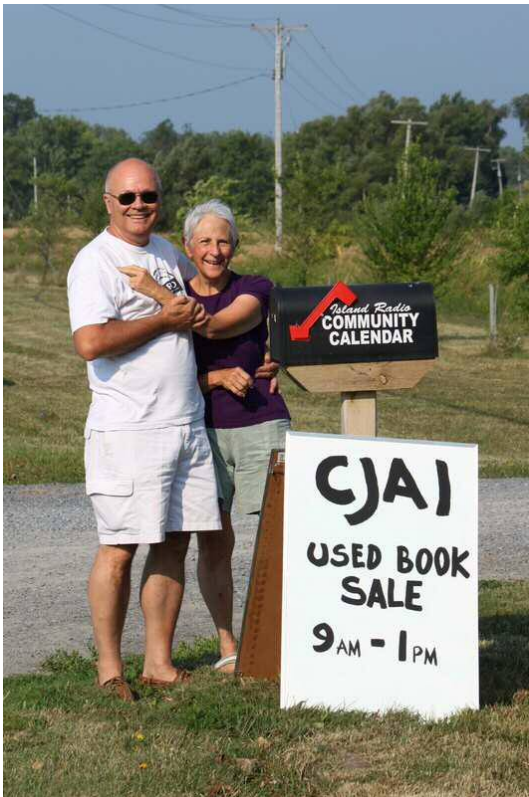


Photo by Terry Culbert

Doug Green and Mayo Underwood arrive at the used book sale.

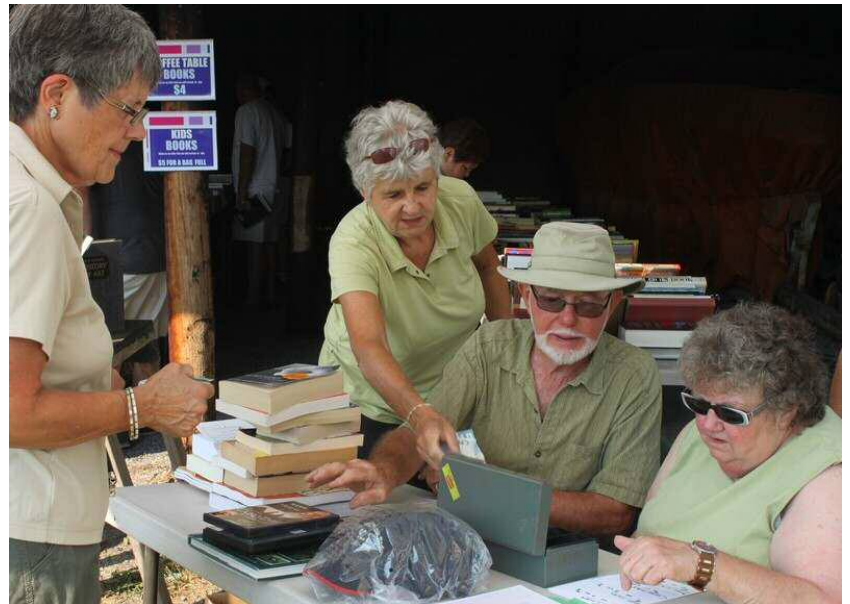


Photo by Terry Culbert

Islander Anne Henderson makes her purchase from Michele LeLay, Dayle Gowan and Mary Lou Wolfreys.

## COLIN MCKENZIE AND SARAH POWERS

- Eric Bowler

Colin McKenzie was one of the very early settlers on Amherst Island. The first record we have found of his residence there is Rev. John Langhorn's mention of him in April 1794, although we believe that he arrived on the Island with the first wave of settlers in 1792.

Colin was a Scotchman from Inverness-shire, the traditional home of the McKenzie/Mackenzie clan and like most of the Scots was the perfect type of pioneer that was needed in North America, the sort of man who could turn his hand to farming, fishing or forestry and who, being used to the icy horizontal rain of his home country could accept New World winters as a minor annoyance.

Colin was influenced to come to America by the stories told by his three uncles who had come to Canada to fight in the Seven Years War against the French. One of his uncles, Alexander McKenzie, had been wounded in the battle of Sainte-Foy in 1760 and as a result of his wounds had been appointed Barrack-Master at Fort St. Frederick, Crown Point, New York.

So Colin McKenzie too joined the British Army and came with his regiment to the New World in 1769. By this time the Seven Years War was over and the American Revolution had not yet started, so Colin's service in the Army was reasonably quiet. When his four year term of service was over, he requested and was given demobilization in America and settled near his uncle on Crown Point, New York. (About 300 kilometers due east of Amherst Island). Here he met and settled down with an attractive and strong-minded woman named Sarah Powers.

There has always been an element of mystery about the 'marriage' of Colin McKenzie and Sarah Powers. Sarah had originally been married to a Johannes or John Bleecker, a Dutch merchant from a wealthy and notable fur-trading and brewing family of New York State. She had two children from her marriage to Bleecker, a son, John R. Bleecker and a daughter, Lucretia Bleecker, both who would become quite famous in the annals of Upper Canada. Sarah left her husband and it seems, left her two children and moved in with Colin McKenzie. In the straight-laced and deeply religious pioneer communities of the late 1700's this would have been considered scandalous although by to-days standards it could pass almost unnoticed. Even over a hundred years later, the family history in the "Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte", smoothed this incident over

by intimating that Johannes Bleecker had died before Sarah had re-married.

The records we have from Crown Point dated 1773 mention Colin as married and also mention his brother-in-law, William Powers as living close by. Researchers of the Bleecker family history insist that Johannes Bleecker did not die until about six years later. It seems that Sarah's two children by Johannes Bleecker stayed with their father in Albany as in later years young John R. Bleecker was noted for his heavy Dutch accent. Had he lived with Colin McKenzie, he certainly would have picked up a solid Scots brogue from him.

When the American Revolution broke out in 1776, Colin McKenzie and his two eldest sons Colin McKenzie Jr. and Thomas McKenzie joined the British forces, as also did Colin's step-son, John R. Bleecker. This was a rather surprising turn of events as every other male in the Bleecker family sided with the colonists who had revolted against their legal government. It is probable that the personality and strong character of Sarah Powers McKenzie was the deciding factor that caused young John Bleecker to stay loyal to the British government. At the end of this war, the McKenzie family settled along the Bay of Quinte, as did John R. Bleecker and his sister, Lucretia Bleecker. Colin and Sarah McKenzie ending their lives in peace on Amherst Island.

Their children:

John R. Bleecker married first, Catherine Meyers, daughter of John Waden Meyers, the founder of Belleville. After her death he married her sister Mary Meyers. He was one of the original residents of Trenton, Ont., trading with the Indians and operating a general store. He was later appointed a Justice of the Peace.

Lucretia 'Lucy' Bleecker married Henry Finkle, a shipbuilder of Bath. This Finkle family were the first builders, and operators of a steamship on the Great Lakes.

Colin McKenzie Jr. married Mary Howard of Amherst Island and owned one of the first lots of land to ever be sold on the Island. He too became a Justice of the Peace and for many years was the collector of customs at Bath.

Thomas McKenzie never married. He farmed on Amherst Island most of his life and at his death in 1833 he left his farmland to his sister, Anne Berdan.

Anne McKenzie married John Thompson Berdan and lived on Amherst Island. Unfortunately we have not been able to find any information on their family or life.

William McKenzie married Sarah Howard and lived



on Amherst Island until about 1820 when he moved to Bath. The only item of information we ever found about them was a comment of Mrs. Bessie Toale who wrote a family history in the 1930's and said of them: "They had three sons, two died young of dissipation, the other, Colin died older the same way. One was educated for a lawyer and one for the ministry but they drank themselves to death."

We wish we knew if there was any truth in Mrs. Toale's cruel summary of this family.

Duncan McKenzie married Elizabeth Church and lived in South Fredericksburg. They had one daughter, Mary. We have never found any other information on them.

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## BEACON ADS

### One New Ad This Month:

**I am now selling Watkins Products as well as Rawleigh Products.**

Catalogues available. To place an order call Marie Ward at 613-389-5767 or via email:

[bandmward@xplornet.ca](mailto:bandmward@xplornet.ca)

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#### AMHERST ISLAND CHIROPRACTIC

10650 Front Rd.

Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

For appointments call 613 328-8892

\*\*\*

#### AMHERST ISLAND STORE

Monday - Friday: 9am - 11:30am; 2:30pm - 5pm

Saturday: 9am - 1pm (Post Office closes at noon)

Sunday: closed

\*\*\*

#### BETTY'S HOME COOKING

My Market Goodies are available!

Plus if you want a full meal to go... a few days notice and your cooking for company is over.

Call Betty 389-7907

\*\*\*

**Do You Need Extra Help** at your house or property?

Do you need someone to watch your house or animals while you go away?

For a hard-working individual you can trust, please call Scott Marshall

Home: 613-389-0554 or Cell: 613-545-5433

\*\*\*

**ELECTRICAL WORK** done reasonably and professionally.  
30yrs experience.

Call Cary 389-8327

\*\*\*

#### FOOTFLATS FARM ACCOMMODATION:

[www.footflats.com](http://www.footflats.com) (613 634-1212)

Goodman House (waterfront)

- 4 bedrooms, 3 baths

- available year round

Waterfront Cabin

- 3 bedrooms, 1 bath

- May to October

\*\*\*

#### FOR RENT

House in the village is available by the weekend or the week.

Contact - Jan Sydorko at 519-451-1197 or email to

[michael.sydorko@sympatico.ca](mailto:michael.sydorko@sympatico.ca)

\*\*\*

#### FOR RENT January - March, 2013

1 1/2 storey house on south shore, huge windows, radiant heating, plus propane gas fireplace in loft and radiator at other end, ensuite bathroom off master bedroom, door from m.b. onto porch, second bedroom and bathroom, room in loft area for at least 3 other beds (2 double airbeds available), fabulous views in all directions, large open fully equipped kitchen. (photos available)

Call 613 389-7758

\*\*\*

#### GODDEN'S WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE

We would like to thank our faithful sausage customers on Amherst Island for their continued support of our product.

Flavours now include: Salt & Pepper; Honey & Garlic; Sundried Tomato & Oregano; Hot Italian; Sweet Chilli & Lime; Maple Breakfast; and Salt & Pepper Breakfast.

Now selling packages of 4 sausages!!

See more at: "thewholehogblog@blogspot.com"; Facebook, "Godden's Whole Hog Sausage"; or, follow us on "Twitter@Godden Farms".

Please call ahead for large orders, 705-653-5984.

With Sincere Thanks

Lori Caughey & Family.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### HARTIN'S PUMPING SERVICE:

Septic Pumping & Inspection

613-379-5672

\*\*\*

**HELP STILL NEEDED.** We need the following items for the Lennox and Addington S.P.C.A.. Used towels and linens, paper towels and cleaning supplies, pet food, kitty litter, dog and cat toys are always in demand as are used stamps (any kind), Canadian Tire coupons and pop cans. There is a large container in my porch for the pop cans and any other items can be left in my porch as well.

Thank you for helping to support our animal shelter.

Further information needed? Call Freda Youell - 613 384-4135.

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### **ISLAND YOGA**

Call Taggett for more information 613 888-5156

\*\*\*

### **POPLAR DELL FARM BED & BREAKFAST**

3190 FRONT ROAD, AMHERST ISLAND

Welcoming guests for over 30 years.

Also, Cottage Rentals and Godden Sausage sales.

Call Susie @ 613-389-2012

\*\*\*

**SPIDER SPRAYING**, wasp removal and so on. Free estimates.

Colin Brady, 613-634-6680.

\*\*\*

### **STELLA'S CAFÉ**

During the season the Café will be open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and holiday Mondays from 8:30 am to 7:30 pm; open on

Thursdays from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm. It will be closed on non-

holiday Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

\*\*\*

### **STUDIO ON THE BAY**

8750 Second Concession Road

Acrylic works of Barb Hogenauer & Terry Culbert

Open by chance or appointment 613-634-8217

[www.studioonthebay.ca](http://www.studioonthebay.ca)

\*\*\*

### **TOPSY FARMS WOOL SHED 613 389-3444**

Wool and sheepskin products including yarn, blankets, and crafts.

2012 Calendars and individual photos by Don Tubb.

Also Topsy's frozen lamb cuts.

Open weekends and most weekday mornings.

\*\*\*

**TOPSY FARMS** has a supply of freshly frozen lamb cuts for sale in the Wool Shed. We should have any roast or chop or shank or stew or ground lamb you desire.

We also have lamb patties, and our own sausage for sale. For those who enjoy organ meat, we have kidneys and liver available also.

\*\*\*

### **THE VILLAGE GALLERY**

The Gallery will open on weekends and holiday Mondays from 10 am - 4 pm.

\*\*\*

### **THE WEASEL & EASEL and**

### **NEILSON STORE MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTRE**

The Weasel and the Museum will be open 7 days a week, 1 - 4pm, except Saturdays, 10am - 4pm. Call 613 634-9512. There are many new and unusual items available.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **FROM THE ARCHIVES**

{Island Beacon: September 15, 1982 - Volume 3 Issue 56}

### **HISTORICAL TOUR OF STELLA**

- Cathy Wilson

Come join us for art historical walking tour of Stella on Sunday September 26. We'll start at the Glenn Store, then stroll through the village, stopping at the blacksmith shop, the cheese factory and many other places of historical charm.

Our tour will leave at 1:30 p.m. another at 3:30. In case of rain, the event will be postponed until Sunday October 3rd. If the weather is ambiguous, call 389-3444.

Sure hope to see you there with & warm sweater and a thermos of tea or coffee.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Tom Sylvester

August 6: Council met in special session for the purpose of considering the tentative collective agreement between the Corporation of the Township of Amherst Island and the Ontario Public Service

Employees Union (OPSEU) representing the ferry and road crews.

The collective agreement was ratified.

\*\*

August 20: Council met in special session to discuss and accept the offer to purchase the former Gibson property for \$2900.

\*\*

Excerpt from August 3 Regular Session minutes :  
Resolution #937 - Hall and Tugwell - that in response to Napanee District Land Use Strategy, Council recognizes Amherst Island as an Agricultural community and as such would object to the creation of any additional marshes or sloughs that would encourage an increase in the wildfowl population and be detrimental to the farming economy, and, therefore, to the extent that the draft land use strategy proposes or supports such developments. Council would object to the draft. Carried.

\*\*



September 7: Regular Meeting

The ratification of the collective agreement with OPSEU has led to two new concerns. Temporary ferry employees under the agreement will acquire seniority if kept on the payroll for a continuous period exceeding six months. The temporary help thus acquiring seniority would be eligible for part-time or full-time permanent positions when available. Council, with expressed regrets felt obligated to dismiss Vernon McGinn and Brent Wolfreys and not rehire them within the next six months, initiating a six-month on, six off cycle.

Temporary employees dismissed routinely at six month intervals would never acquire seniority. My only perceived advantage to this strategy is to reserve the allocation of permanent positions, regardless of experience, to Council's discretion. The collective agreement included increased vacation periods to ferry employees, leading, I would think, to a higher demand for temporary or perhaps part-time workers. It is unfortunate that young willing workers are now bearing the brunt of management-union relations. Council expressed a concern, that with the presence of the union, there is a degree of formality required now. Ferry users and employees are to address their comments and/or problems directly to the ferry captains or ferry manager.

Evidently the Development road requires more stone than was budgeted for this year. Money will be transferred from working capital to cover the additional cost until the Ministry of Transport comes up with its share. This is prudent since it would cost at least twice as much if the additional quarrying was postponed until next year.

Town Hall painting has come along and new informative signs are on the door. Both look excellent. Ferry funds have been arriving promptly ahead of time - Township bank interest charges are vanishing.

The Township clerk will investigate the purchase of a proper electric typewriter to replace the small portable.

Council discussed the progress of the Municipal Drain. It sounds as if there are no further significant objections holding it up. I understand there are further requests for financial assistance being circulated to various provincial government ministries. Council hoped to have scheduled an Ontario Drainage Tribunal Referee hearing on the matter of an alternative impoundment proposal by the end of September.

Council went into committee of the whole to discuss ferry captain salary increases.

**CARD OF THANKS**

Dear Friends,

My mother and I, as well as the rest of the family, would like to express our thanks to all of you who helped us so much at the time of the death of my father.

Many thanks to Bill Churchill, Roger and Jackie Poretti, Doug and Joan Martin, Irene and Les Glenn, the boat crew, and any others who worked so hard to get help for my father. We can't thank you enough for trying.

So many of you have remembered us with beautiful cards or notes, food, and thoughtful words or calls. Your expressions of caring have certainly made my mother feel she was among friends.

My father truly loved Amherst Island and had enjoyed a wonderful summer among all of you. It is therefore comforting to know he was doing what he enjoyed so much - driving around photographing the Island - when the Lord called him home.

Thank you all again for your kindness and concern.  
Jane Miller

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE GARTH ORCHARD SERIES**

Chapter 4 {Staff: this is the third installment}

After learning most of the basic operations of farming during my two years as farm hand, I was now determined to further that knowledge by studying the modern methods. To this end, I sent away for all the government pamphlets available through our local Agricultural Rep. in Napanee, on crop care, animal husbandry, weeds garden and orchard care, then spent the winter evenings studying them. Mr. Buchanan, the Ag. Rep. at that time proved a good friend and a valuable source of information. He took me to some Junior Farmer judging competitions on animals, grains and vegetables. Knowing what the judges would be looking for, and careful selection of samples, enabled me later to win several prizes at the Fall Fair for some of our stock, grain and vegetables. It was quite obvious who the best farmers were, and I tried to emulate their methods of thorough cultivation and clean seed. For a conscientious farmer there is surely nothing to compare with the satisfaction of producing a bumper crop of hay, grain and root crops, in spite of rock bottom prices.

At that time oats and barley were sold for 25¢ a bushel, pork was 3 1/2¢ a pound on the hoof, and eggs were sold at the store for 11¢ a dozen. We handled very little cash in those days, but every farmer had a barn

## From The Archives continues

full of feed, a cellar full of vegetables and fruit, and home-killed pork and beef stored. The women always had a basket of eggs to trade at the store for the staples she needed, and any balance went 'on the bill' to be paid out of the next milk cheque. To pay the taxes we sold a cow, and a couple of hogs covered the cost of new roofing for the shed. Our black mare, Birdy, produced a sturdy colt, which assured our horsepower needs for years to come. Such was life on the farm during Depression days.

It soon became apparent that I needed help to properly farm 150 acres, and I persuaded Keith to join me that summer, and we worked well, together. That Fall we plowed ninety acres with a walking plow and a three horse disc plow, which enabled us, the next season, to thresh the largest crop ever taken off that farm.

Meanwhile, Winter was our social season. Without radio or shows to go to, young people made their own entertainment. Dances were held in the Orange Hall, with our ever reliable orchestra of Tina Filson on piano, Alec Glenn on fiddle and Stirling Glenn on banjo. These dances were well attended by both young and old. In fact we young people learned all the intricate steps of the traditional square dances from the mature couples who 'promenaded' gaily in every dance. Lunch was served around 11 p.m. with sandwiches, cake and cookies brought in by all the married ladies (who also deposited their bundled up babies in a row on the back kitchen table). If feeding time came during the evening, there would be a short respite from the dance to pacify the hungry infant. Apart from the odd couple 'going steady' there would be a stag line of shy boys on one side of the hall and a row of hopeful girls on the other side. You shyly asked the girl of your choice for a dance, hoping you would not lose her if it turned out to be a 'tag dance'.

Keith and I pooled our resources and bought a Model T Ford coupe for \$15. The rumble seat had long since been removed and replaced with a wooden box to carry grist to the mill, and half the inside floor boards were missing. This feature proved to be quite useful when we took our girl friends out riding in the evening. We somehow managed to find a puddle in the road, and there would be shrieks as the girls hoisted their legs high to avoid the incoming splash! Our tool kit consisted of a spare magneto and a length of baling wire, which proved equal to all emergencies even when a rival swiped two of our spark plugs during a

swimming date at the beach.

In the early Fall, the Young Peoples Club of the church formed a drama group, and we began practising for a play to be presented during the Winter. These practice sessions were delightful gatherings, held at various members' homes, always ending with a tasty lunch and a brisk ride home, bundled together in a wagon or sleigh. Scenery was painted, and the play was presented to an appreciative audience in Stella Orange Hall. In following weeks we would load up the scenery and players in a big bobsleigh, and journey to various mainland village halls to repeat the performance. The Amherst Island players attained a fair reputation for we were usually invited back. All this is fairly typical of social life in those days, and we certainly never felt deprived or at a loss for something to do!

Threshing time in the Fall was a period of hard work, hearty eating, and great neighbourly comradeship. Since it took from fifteen to twenty men to keep the threshing machine going, a group of neighbouring farmers would work together, going to each of their farms in turn till all the grain was safely threshed and stored. Young men vied with each other to see who could build the highest load of sheaves, or carry the heaviest bag of wheat to the granary. 'One arm' Willie Glenn with a wooden sling replacing the arm torn off by a machine belt, was an undoubted champion at building a wagon load of sheaves, and the man who pitched to him needed the longest pitchfork made! Equally valiant feats of prowess were evident at the lunch and supper tables, where huge roasts, bushels of vegetables, and pies by the dozen disappeared as fast as neighbouring farm wives could produce them. The heavy work made for prodigious appetites, and it was not uncommon to see a hungry man eat a whole pie after his main course, cheered on by his fellow workers.

The threshing session I remember best was the last of the steam engine outfits, still run on the road by Rob McFern, though he was then well over 80. He would fire up the boiler around 5:30 a.m. and by six o'clock you could hear him tooting for the team assigned to draw water from the bay for the engine which required a tank full every hour. The old threshing machine was the largest on the Island. It was hand fed by a man who cut the sheaf twine and pushed the loose bundles into the screaming cylinder at a rate that kept seven wagons hustling to keep up to it. Grain poured out at such a rate that I have seen men running with bags full to the granary. This delighted old Rob, who loved to see his machine test the speed of the best crew. That was one time that we had little chance to linger over the meal.



## **From The Archives** continues

Mr. McFern ate faster than anyone, and was soon out tooting for the machine to start again! Comparing these nostalgic memories of the old ways with the highly mechanized harvesting methods of today, makes me wonder if we may be missing some of the fun and neighbourliness of those times.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BACK TO SCHOOL THOUGHTS**

- Julie Forester Steven Willard

The bell has rung. School has started. The kids want to meet the new children and teacher. Miss Agnes is the new teacher teaching French and the Junior Room (Grs 3,4,5). There are 5 kindergarten students going into Mrs. Forester's class (Gr's K., 1, 2). There are 2 new students going into Miss Agnes' class and 1 going into Mr. Flannigan's classroom (Grs. 6, 7, 8).

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BACK TO SCHOOL THOUGHTS**

- Steven Ward

On the first day of school I was kind of nervous about going into the Senior Room. We had to get up at 7 o'clock because the bus was going to pick us up at about 7:30. It's a lot harder work in the Senior Room.

But I love the work and the homework.

\*\*\*

## **BACK TO SCHOOL**

- Sherry Ward

I was nervous about seeing the new teacher. On Tuesday we had lots of fun. We played lots of games. I made a new friend. Her name is Sara. I am in Grade 4 this year. The new teacher's name is Miss Agnes. They are making a soccer field. We do not have as many subjects as last year. I think that Miss Agnes is a nice teacher. I do not ride on the bus at night. I think Grade four is easy, even easier than Grade three.

I am awful glad to be back to school again.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **ISLAND NEWS**

McFarland Construction Co. and the local road crew are busily building up the Front Road.

Congratulations to Bob and Diane Marshall on the birth of their daughter and to first time grandparents John and Mary Hall.

School has reopened for another term with a student population of 39 with Mr. Flannigan-principal, Miss

Agnes-junior room teacher and Mrs. Forester-primary room teacher.

Mrs. Kathleen Wemp is now residing in the Marg-Ann Lodge, Bath; Fred and Nellie Neilson at Lenadco, Napanee, and Mr. Densem in St. Mary's Hospital, Kingston.

A successful "Open House" was held by the Oral History Girls on Aug. 26th in the school. The event was enjoyed by all who attended. It is hoped a good crowd will attend the walking tour of Stella on Sept. 26th.

A meeting of district Legion members was held on Sept. 12th in the school and a dinner was served by the local Legion.

Lloyd, Phyllis, Trudy and Michael Strain and Phyllis' parents from Hay Bay, Lois McCormick, Lulu Strain and Ruth Lawson visited Alberta and British Columbia recently.

Sympathy is extended to Jane Miller and family following the sudden passing of her father, also to the family of the late Norman Eves, a former Island resident.

Allan and Cathy Glenn and family have moved to their new home in Collins Bay, and the Larry Fleming family has moved into Allan's house.

Lorna Seaman has accepted a new position in Toronto.

We are glad to hear that Nessie Welbanks and Mrs. Kathleen Wemp are improving in health, also Debbie Bedford.

Members of the Women's Institute recently toured "The Bread Man" and "Arc Industries", Kingston.

Many Island people have also visited the beautiful new "Cataraqui Town Centre".

Bruce and Susan Caughey and family attended the Golden Wedding anniversary of Susan's parents in Indiana. Bruce attended the agents' licensing school in Cambridge.

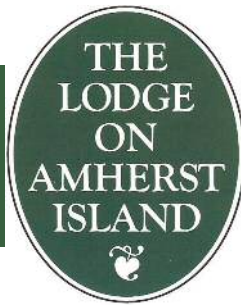
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**From The Archives** ends and so does this issue once you take a gander at the next page's ad for The Lodge!!

***Stop the presses!!!! One more ad...***

Shirley Miller is again advertising her paintings and art classes.

[Production Team: A more complete ad next month!]



**Opening Reception  
For  
Christine Jamieson Art Show**

Join us to open the show and celebrate with the artist  
Saturday, September 1, 2012 from 2 pm to 5 pm  
Show hangs until October 29, 2012  
The show open at 2 pm; sales begin at 2:30 pm  
Please come see the show and enjoy some refreshments

**Mushroom Hunting Workshop**

Description

Spend the weekend delving into the mysterious world of mushrooms and other fungi. Saturday will begin with a guided walk in Owl Woods followed by the earnest collecting of specimens. The evening will offer a choice of activities: more identification work, an entertaining Power-Point presentation, or just hanging out and relaxing. On Sunday morning, we head back into the woods to test the newfound knowledge we acquired the day before. Throughout the weekend there will be ongoing discussions on ecology, natural history, uses, and other topics of interest. Each participant will receive a species checklist plus a list of books, websites, and other learning resources. Field guides and hand magnifiers will be provided for use during the workshop.

Maximum 16 adults. Instructor: Richard Aaron.

Call ahead to register 613.634.1388

Overnight accommodations available

**All Island Art Show**

Open to all island residents

Pick up your entry form from the Store, Stella's Café or the Weasel and Easel  
Submissions must be delivered to the Lodge framed and ready to be hung by Monday, October 1, 2012. Please have your entry forms with your art work as well as the information written on the back of the art work..

This year's theme is "Anything Goes".

The Opening Reception will be on Saturday, October 6, 2012, from 2pm—5pm,  
with sales starting at 2:30pm.

The show will hang until the end of October  
Come join us to celebrate the Art of Amherst Island

The Lodge on Amherst Island  
320 McDonalds Lane, Stella, ON K0H 2S0  
613.634.1388  
[www.thelodgeonamherstisland.com](http://www.thelodgeonamherstisland.com)