

Amherst Island Beacon



Issue 425 *BONA LIBENTER, TRISTIA MAESTITER, MALA NUMQUAM* **Dec 2013**

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DOROTHY ANN WILLARD (1942-2013)



It is with great sadness that we announce the unexpected passing of Dorothy Anne McGinn (Willard). Dorothy was predeceased by her husband Kaye (Nov. 9, 2009), her parents Joseph and Gertrude Willard and infant daughter Marlene. Left to mourn are her children Karen Miller (Ted Welbanks) and Vernon (Dorothy), grandchildren Candace, Jeremy and Jason, brother Earle (Donna), twin sister Doris Eves and sister-in-law Gayel. Predeceased by her brothers Wilbert, Elmer and Reginald. She will be sadly missed by many nieces, nephews and her extended family.

As expressions of sympathy the family would appreciate donations to either Amherst Island Emergency Response Team or St. Alban's Anglican Church, Stella.

-Ian Murray, Editor

We've never had 6 Island-related deaths in one issue before – and I hope this remains a record forever. Our condolences to the families and friends. We intend to complete the eulogies and photos in the January issue.

It has been remarked that the Beacon would be more cheerful if obituaries/eulogies were tucked further back in the newsletter. The Whig, for example, puts them at the end of the classifieds. However, it is our way of honouring past and present members of this community – each one with relatives, friends and neighbours who will miss them.

We hope to get a eulogy for Christine Archibald for the next issue.



HELEN WILMA LAMB (née Storey)

Helen Lamb, wife of Doug, passed away at St. Mary's of the Lake on November 1, 2013. She was in her 84th year and she and Doug had just observed their 63rd wedding anniversary. Helen had been ill for some years, troubled mainly by worsening lung disease, a problem that she had faced all her life. She and Doug had lived many years in Markham, Ontario, and chose Amherst Island for their retirement spot over 20 years ago. Helen was born and raised in Napanee and still has family in the area.

Besides Doug, she is survived by her two sons, David and Peter and their wives, as well as several grandchildren and one great-grandchild and her dear brother Ralph. Helen was well-known in our community as an active member of St. Paul's congregation and its choir and the Amherst Island Women's Institute. Equally, she is

remembered for her positive and warm nature, lovely smile, quick mind, and her willingness to help in community causes.

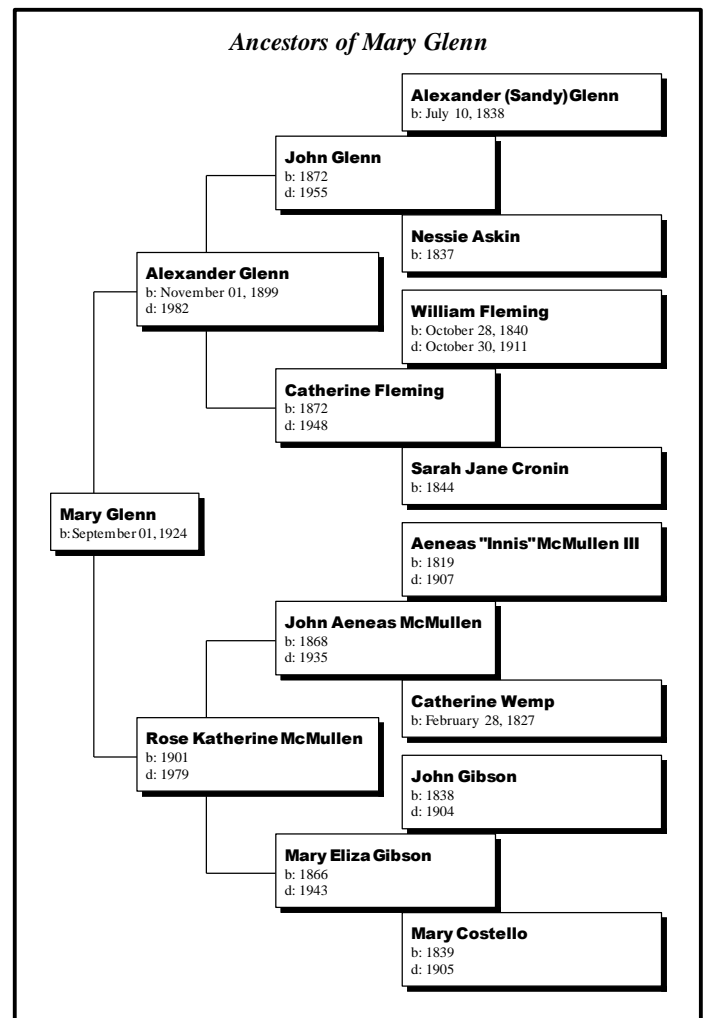
A funeral service was held at St. Paul's on Wednesday, November 6th, with interment in Glenwood Cemetery. Doug plans to stay in their home on the Stella Forty Foot, and enjoy his garden and walking/bicycling on the island he loves.

MARY NEILSON (née Glenn)

Mary died peacefully, in her sleep at Trillium Ridge, on Sunday, November 17, 2013, in her 90th year. Mary was the beloved wife of 57 years to Jim Neilson, and by previous marriage to the late Harris Filson. She was predeceased by her parents Alex and Rose (née McMullin) Glenn and by daughter Patti-Jo Neilson. Dear mother of Glenn Filson (Sandra) of Kingston, Lee Sudds (Cliff) of Westbrook, Fred Neilson of Ivy Lea and Lisa Rago (Mario) of Toronto.

Affectionately known as "Nanny" to her nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Also fondly remembered by her special cousins, as well as nieces and nephews.

A Service of Committal was held at Glenwood Cemetery on Amherst Island, on Wednesday, November 20 at 11 a.m. A time for remembrance and refreshments followed the graveside service. As expressions of sympathy, donations may be made to The Alzheimer Society or The Heart and Stroke Foundation, in Mrs. Neilson's memory.



CYNTHIA ANN MCMULLEN



Michael, Cynthia, Rob, Grace, Ben, Katie.
(Back to front, left to right)

The McMullen family vacations each summer at their family homestead at the Head.

Cynthia, 76, a long time summer resident of Amherst Island, died at INOVA Fairfax Hospital in Virginia on Friday, November 15, 2013 after suffering an aneurysm on November 12.

The beloved mother, and former wife of Neil McMullen, is survived by her daughter Megan of Brambelton, VA, her son Paul of Baltimore, MD, and five grandchildren, Robert, Michael, Kathryn, Grace and Benjamin. Cynthia is also survived by her beloved sister, Priscilla, and her many devoted friends.

Cynthia received her degree from Trinity College in Washington, DC. She was a Daughter of St. Francis de Sales and spent her life in service to her family and her faith. Cynthia was a master of language and learning. Her wisdom, kindness, and compassion will be missed by all who knew her.

Cynthia had a passion for the McMullen Farm on Amherst Island. She loved the history and the beauty of the place. Cynthia shared that love with her children and grandchildren. Each evening, she could be found on the front porch of the stone house reveling in the miracle of another spectacular sunset over the Bay of Quinte.

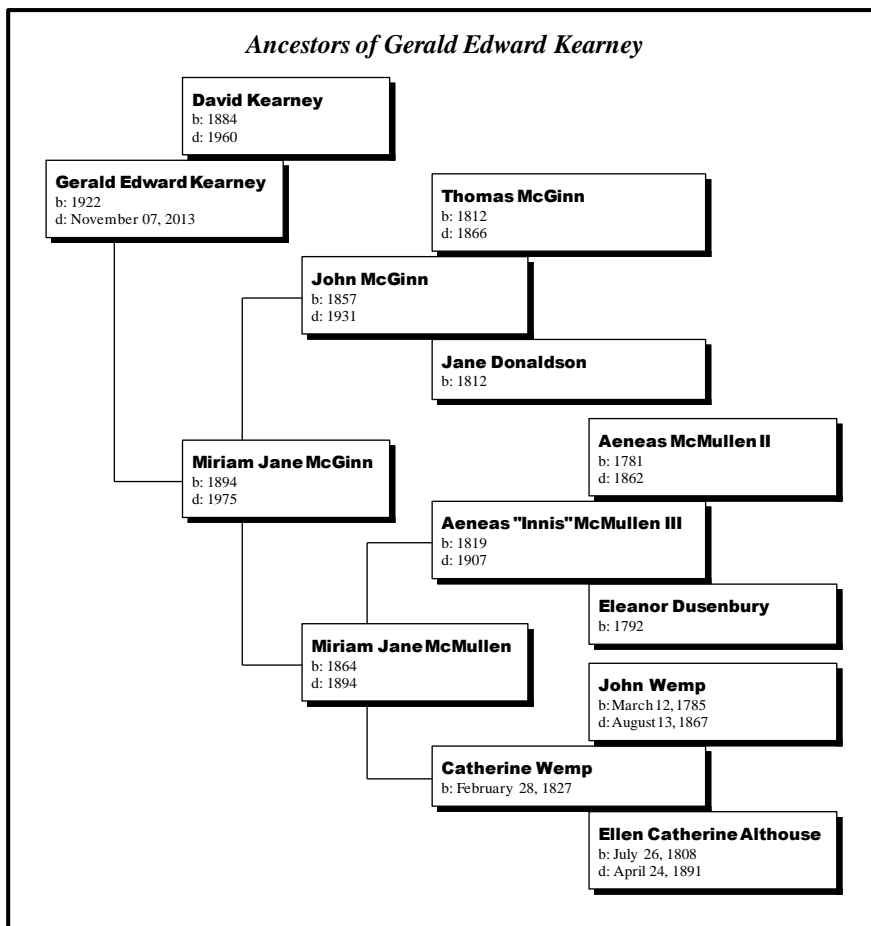
A mass of Christian Burial was held on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Potomac, MD. Cynthia was buried, as she wished, at St. Gabriel's Cemetery in Potomac, MD to be with her son, Robert Wardale McMullen who died in 1986.

Gifts and donations may be made in Cynthia's name to the priests she so dearly loved -- The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales at 2200 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19806.

GERALD KEARNEY (1922-2013)

WW II Veteran.

Died peacefully at St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital on Tuesday, November 7, 2013, in his 92nd year. Gerald, beloved husband of 48 years to Shirley (Franklin). Loving Dad of John and his wife Dianne and their children, Ashley and Josh, all of Kingston and Paul and his wife Sharon and their children, Katie, Peri and Finn, all of Seattle. Gerald is survived by his dear sister Edna Collins and brother Don Kearney (Pat) and was predeceased by his brothers John and Wallace (lost at War) and Arthur and by his sisters Ruth, Jean, Alice, Mary, Lorraine and Doris. He will be sadly missed by his step-son Rick Garrett and Jodie and Jessie, who were very dear to him and the family.



GERALD KEARNEY

-Allen Caughey

The Kearneys were a family of 12 who lived in the farm house now occupied by Rick Bedford. All 4 sons served for our country in WW II and John and Wallace were lost in the war.

After the war, Gerald returned to run the farm with his mother Miriam who was a sister of Henry and Edward McGinn. He was a progressive dairy farmer in his time but as future investments in dairying involved building a milk house and installing a bulk milk cooler, he took the opportunity and sold the farm to Albert Ameriks and moved to a farm in Napanee. When he retired from farming full time he had a hobby farm at the corner of Hwy 15 and Woodburn Road.

Through the years, Gerald always enjoyed a visit to catch up on Island news.

REMEMBERING

-Ida Gavlas

Remembering the parade through Stella on Remembrance Day with the Legion members and the flags all in step and coming to the cenotaph at the school for a service that ran chills down the spine of young children.

Mrs. Kearney always laid the wreath as she had two sons who died in the war. Seeing her son's death notice in the Whig today brought back that memory. The Kearney farm was where Rick Bedford lives now.

In remembrance of Dad and Les Glenn and Ralph Wemp and Sam Reid and Earle Tugwell and Tony Tugwell and Kenneth Miller and Fred Hitchins and James Eves. All long since gone but not forgotten. I wear my red poppy for them: not to remember war.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lynn Fleming

Get well wishes this month to Jean Tugwell, We have lost several more Islanders this past month.

Our condolences to Doug Lamb and his family following the passing of his wife, Helen.

Our sympathy to Karen Miller (Ted Welbanks) and Vernon McGinn (Dorothy) and their families, and Earle Willard (Donna), after the sudden passing of their mom, grandmother and sister, Dorothy McGinn. Dorothy also leaves behind many extended family members and friends, both on and off Island.

Condolences to Jim Neilson, his son Fred, & daughter Lisa and their families following the passing of their wife, mother and grandmother, Mary. Jim and Mary grew up on the Island and raised their family here, until their later years. They farmed the property that now houses the radio station and surrounds the school. Mary was predeceased by daughter Patty-Jo. The house where Larry and I live

is still called Jimmy's house by old Islanders – Jimmy and Mary left almost 30 years.

Condolences to Kevin Archibald on the passing of his wife, Christine.

Congratulations to Dan and Mary Claus, who celebrated their 50th anniversary with a surprise party at the Legion in Millhaven. Mary's sister Jean, from the west, was a surprise guest.

The community Remembrance Day service was hosted by Amherst Island Public School. Students showed their respect to our service men and women, past and present, with poetry, art and a slide show, followed by wreath laying at the cenotaph.

November 16th was Island shopping day, bargains could be found at the St. Paul's Bazaar and lunch, and the Weasel and Easel, and Topsy Farms Wool Shed opened for the day.

November 16th also marked the first official "Cow Count" on Amherst Island, hosted by CJA radio personalities, Steve Kennedy, Keith Miller and Dan Simpson. Participants travelled by a tractor pulled wagon, past various farms to get an idea of how many cattle reside on the Island year round. A great time was had by all!

Our first snowfall arrived on the Island at the end of November, preceded by several days of strong winds, and much colder temperatures. We are settling in for the winter and preparing for the holidays.

I would like to wish our Beacon readers a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, filled with safe travels and lots of time with family and friends!

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Claire Jenney

Christmas was in the air at the monthly meeting of the WI held in Joyce Reid's lovely home as the table was set up like Santa's work-shop, with Judy Greer and Marilyn Pilon as our instructing elves!

Before we began our Christmas craft, Pres. Liz Harrison opened the business portion of our meeting by introducing Terry McGinn who gave us a presentation on the proposed AI Co-op whose aim is to foster an Island "brand" and to promote our Island culture. When the Board of the Co-op is established Andrea Cross has agreed to be a WI Member of the Board with Joyce Haines as alternate.

Thank you letters were received from Loyalist Township for our contributions to the Ameriks scholarship fund and from Lennox and Addington for our donations to Hospice.

Elsie Willard, Good Cheer member, reported that 11 cards have been sent this past month.

Mary Kay Steel reported that Tweedsmuir histories may be digitalized through an arrangement with the Napanee Archivist and the Genealogical Society.

Jackie Sylvester was thanked for the success of the flower gardens at the dock and she pointed out that AIMS kept them well-watered all season.

Sharen English was thanked for regularly emptying the battery box at the General Store.

Joyce Haines reported that 10 groups of women in different countries have received loans for start-up businesses through KIVA, an organization WI supports.

Jackie Sylvester announced that AI aprons may be pre-ordered and will be ready for Victoria Day.

Andrea Cross suggested that AIWI try to connect with the people of the Peninsula of Ards, Ireland, as so many of the early Island settlers come from that area.

Marilyn Pilon finalized plans for the Seniors' Christmas Dinner, President Liz Harrison reminded us all that the Christmas party is at her home on Dec. 4 and that the Parade of Lights is on Dec. 14th. She thanked hostesses Nancy Dunn and Andrea Cross for the delicious lunch which we all enjoyed---and, fortified, we all created Christmas ornaments which surely out-shine Martha Stewart's!!!

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

Raptors on Amherst Island

No the Toronto Basketball team is not coming to play on Amherst Island nor are we being invaded by long extinct dinosaurs. Raptors in the language of Birders are birds that eat other animals. Hawks, eagles, falcons and owls are raptorial birds eating rabbits to grasshoppers. Turkey Vultures and Condors even though they eat as scavengers are also raptors. The feet of raptors are specialized talons with each toe bearing a razor-sharp claw used to capture and kill live prey. Their sharply hooked

beaks allow them to tear the prey apart. On Amherst you may be observing a Golden Eagle with an eighty-eight inch wingspan or a tiny ten inch American Kestrel with a twenty-three inch wingspan. They are both raptors.

The American Kestrel is the smallest of the falcons and it nests here on Amherst Island in cavities left by Woodpeckers. On one occasion a pair nested in the Gavlas' pig barn behind a broken board. The little ones were quite feisty as they left the nest and already the male was showing blue on his wings. They eat insects, reptiles, and small mammals, hovering over prey before plunging rapidly down on the prey. Some hardy Kestrels even stay all winter hunting voles on the frozen fields. Here at Flemingisle Farm we have a pair who winter where they can keep an eye on the Mourning Doves and Pigeons around the feeder and barn. They are easily recognized by their russet tails and double black stripes on the face.

The Merlin and Peregrine are larger falcons that have been seen regularly on Amherst Island. A Merlin has been nesting for the past few years in an Evergreen Row between Doug and Joan Martin's cottage and Paul McCormick's cottage. The mother screams at us if we approach the nest. The Peregrine Falcon is now nesting on a high rise building in Kingston so is more easily seen than it used to be. If you park in the lot at the corner of Princess and Division you will probably see a Peregrine Falcon either chasing pigeons or landing on the apartment roof. The Gyrfalcon is rarer. It nests in the high Arctic but migrates irregularly south. Once one got inside the Pheasant pen at Matthews' farm and Marni called to report a gray morph Gyrfalcon. That's birding up close but not too healthy for the pheasants.

The Quinte Pasture is raptor heaven with its open grasslands and abundant voles. One can see Red-tailed Hawks, a large buteo that nests here, Rough-legged Hawks, a visitor from the Arctic, and Northern Harriers, another raptor that nests on Amherst Island and all these birds will be hunting the pasturelands. They seldom seem to have any differences of opinion as there seems to be food for all so I was quite surprised to hear Ida Gavlas' story once of a Short-eared Owl and a Rough-legged

Hawk in a skirmish. Perhaps one encroached just too close on the other's hunting spot.

Sharp-shinned Hawks are a smaller accipiter that hunts other birds and has nested on Amherst. They are fast flyers but not the super flyers like the falcons. Goshawks and Cooper's Hawks are larger accipiters and spend time here following the migrating flocks. They can dive right into bushes and scrub after a fleeing bird. A visiting Goshawk at our feeder on the South Shore would dive in low down on a conifer then work her way up. We would see the Mourning Doves erupting from all sides of that Spruce before we would know that she was in there.

Golden Eagles make rare flyovers and once in a while stop to visit but Bald Eagles in the past thirty years have become frequent winter visitors. The Bald Eagles roost along the shoreline waiting to grab a tasty duck for lunch. The ducks waddle up on the ice for a snooze and the sitting eagle swoops in for the kill. This past month Bonnie Livingstone, Dan Simpson and Rick Henderson have spotted and reported Golden Eagle sightings along the North Shore.

With the ten species of Owls that visit Amherst Island added to all these eagles and hawks we do have a lot of raptors. Most are after the delicious vole that lives here. Snowy Owls for example eat ten a day. If a Snowy arrives in November and stays until May, it will probably consume more than 1800 voles. Sometimes we have over 20 Snowy Owls hanging out on fence posts, hydro poles and even TV aerials around the pastures on Amherst Island. That's 36,000 voles consumed. Imagine what our life might be like if the raptors didn't come to Amherst Island for their winter vacation!

KEITH & CORA' S 60th ANNIVERSARY
-Terry McGinn (the younger)

In early November, surrounded by family and friends at an open house and the dinner that followed, Keith and Cora McGinn - my grandparents - celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary.

As a big family we're well used to big gatherings, and the atmosphere at The Lodge was the perfect setting for one that was bigger than most. There were infants and ninety-plusses, sometimes in the

same chair! All were smiling and laughing; all were enjoying each other's company.

My grandparents were toasted, cheered, and lavished with love.

As they should be.



COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From the 28th Regular Council Meeting, Nov11

The Ameriks Scholarship Fund is a reserve fund that existed pre amalgamation in Memory of Reeve Frank Fleming (Amherst Island). Interest and individual contributions are distributed yearly to eligible post secondary students who have been

residents of Amherst Island for a period of five years or longer.

Recommendation: That the Assistant to the Clerk's report dated November 4, 2013 be received and that each of the following applicants receive \$337.20 of the donations and interest accrued from the joint funds:

Applicants:

Ashley McGinn, Trent University

Benjamin Whitton, University of Western Ontario

Beth Albertan, Georgian College

Daniel Little, Carleton University

David Albertan, St. Lawrence

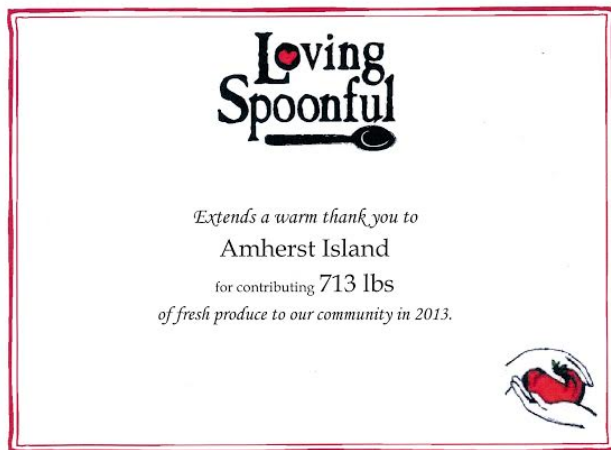
College/Laurentian University

Katelyn Aitkenhead, Western University

Katherine Little, Nipissing University

LOVING SPOONFUL

-Sally Bowen



Thanks to all participating Islanders (and to those who wished to participate too).

Our 713 lbs were part of over 10,000 lbs of fresh produce from around Kingston helping agencies, shelters, food programs and pantries provide nutritious interesting food to hungry folks in the Kingston region. The Preserve and Reserve group ensured that seasonal excess will continue to enhance winter fare.

Special thanks to Mary White who received, weighed and delivered the Island produce weekly.

AIMS MEETING Nov 2013

- Bill Barrett

Larry called the meeting to order and thanked Brian Little and family for the outstanding breakfast.

Anders spoke this morning of the burgeoning winery business in our neighbouring Prince Edward County (PEC).

Vines, Wines and Whines of Prince Edward County.

Early evidence of wine making in PEC include an 1854 report written for the Agricultural Society of Upper Canada and a gold medal award to grape growers of PEC at the International Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876. At that time Concord was a commonly grown grape, but it "has given Canadian wine a very bad name" according to a report by the Ontario Agricultural Commission in 1881. Partly because of the growth of the temperance movement grape growing in PEC was gradually abandoned until it was revived in the 1990s with test plantings of hybrid and vinifera grapes. This led to the planting of an ever increasing number of vineyards and the opening of the first winery in 2001 at Waupoos. Today there are close to 40 wineries in PEC.

Cultivation of grape vines started 8000-6000BC in the Caucasus region and by 5000 BC there is evidence of winemaking.

Today Vitis Vinifera account for 99% of the world's grapes. They include varieties such as Cabernets, Pinot Noir, Merlot, Shiraz, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling and Pinot Gris. Some hybrids such as Marechal Foch, Baco Noir and Vidal are also grown. All the world's wine growing regions lie between 30 and 50° latitude and PEC falls within this region. Also the soil of PEC is similar to that of Burgundy in France suggesting the possibility of growing high quality early ripening grapes (such as Pinot Noir and Chardonnay), but the cold winters in PEC are a challenge necessitating burial of the canes during winter to avoid damage or outright killing by temperatures below -27°C. To minimize the effect of the cold winters the vineyards are located close to the lake to take advantage of the moderating effect of the lake on the climate.

Apart from a break in the winter, growing grapes is a never ending work starting with lifting the canes out of the ground in the spring, pruning and training the canes, establishing and maintaining the canopy

of leaves through the summer, battling disease, removal of leaves and excess grapes to insure a quality harvest and then laying down the canes again in the fall.

Some of the larger and popular wineries include Waupoose, Huff and Sandbanks. Closson-Chase, Long Dog, Rosehall Run and Norman Hardie are all medium sized and there are many small wineries such as Exulted, Lighthall, Old Third, Hubb's Creek, Lacey and Hinterland. Although these wineries have only been in existence a short time many produce high quality wines. The best way to find the wines you like is to visit the wineries and you will at the same time support a local economic revival.

Q: What is the economic viability of the PEC wineries? In the long run quality is probably the most important factor

Q: How did winery owners such as James Lahti (Long Dog) make his money to start the winery? Many winery owners started out in unrelated businesses and many are self-taught. Many are pursuing a dream at all cost. Others are highly respected winemakers and have attracted capital from investors.

Q: Is anybody around the 5km line from the shore taking temperature measurements? Most are closer than 5km and often 1km from the shore of L. Ont. to get maximal benefit from the moderating effect of the lake on local climate. Maps of yearly temperature variations and soil conditions are available. It is important to get temperature measurements over a number of years and soil analysis of a specific location before considering planting a vineyard.

Treasurer's report: Kevin reported we received the \$150 cheque for flowers from the Township. An average of \$3500 is on deposit for AIMS.

AI Co-Op Update: Gardiner shared a Christmas ornament example (intended for annual sales; Boreal Owl and co-op logo embossed; made in Philadelphia; cost \$7;(price \$20); gave notice of a BODirectors meeting "very soon" (Nov 13 confirmed) where use of \$5000 seed money provided by Co-Op Assoc. of Canada to get started will be divided. ~10 Acres of land is proposed so far for Hascap production. Gardiner will send out an Island-wide flyer before Christmas. A Canadian Hascap report about this year's production is due out soon. Gardner talked about making a co-op monthly

treasurer's report available to AIMS for review and comment; and reminded us to check out the website at aicoop.ca.

New Year's Party: Larry updated on Dan Simpson's planning group (8 Islanders) activities: South of Seven group signed for music in the Community Centre starting at 7 pm; Lafarge agreed to be sponsor; no meal planned with a buffet at 10:30 pm; Rec committee agreed to provide the bar; surplus funds will go to acquisition of the Baxter property.

Baxter property fundraising: John Harrison provided a report to Council sent out under separate cover to all members.

2014 Hanging flower baskets; Neilson Store Museum garden: Ross has the new application due Dec 1; Marc and Hugh assist; Tues Nov12 at 11:00am a crew will dig up the existing garden.

Internet Cafe at Neilson Store Museum; Tues 9-11am, Wed 1-3pm, Thurs 9-11am; bring your problems and question and maybe get a coffee; supported by Bill Barrett, Dave Pickering, Brian Little; free internet thanks to AC/KOS.

PEC wine tour 2014 in planning; stay tuned.

SIN CITY

-Zander of Dunn Inn

Early in November Nance and I flew to visit Las Vegas for five days. Why would a minister, a Presbyterian minister at that, take his wife to Las Vegas? For several reasons. First, we had never been to Las Vegas which is a unique city in our world. Second, we had been urged to see the city. We were told the sights, the shows, the shysters would all be worth seeing and experiencing. Third, from Las Vegas we could go to see the Grand Canyon and the Hoover Dam, to mention only two special places.

The title, "Sin City," has always fascinated me. Having retired from the ministry for the second time, after 50 years, I figured my concept of sin was probably both deficient and out of date. I thought it might be a way of bringing me up to date for us to go to Las Vegas which was proud of the name, Sin City.

My experience of Sin City was both uplifting and disappointing. First, I was impressed by the excitement of the city. The bright lights, the exclusive, expensive shops, the amazing hotels, the

innumerable exciting shows, the politeness of the people, all made Las Vegas a great place to be. We stayed on the strip and did not get into the old city so I cannot comment on everything about Las Vegas, but we were made to feel welcome by everybody. Second we felt safe in Las Vegas. The police were everywhere. Never did I fear I would be mugged or robbed. I felt very secure, knowing that most of the people around me were tourists also and would, hopefully, come to my rescue if they saw me being physically attacked. The major problem with the bright lights, the big shows, the grand hotels was, as Nance put it, "sensory overload." We simply wanted to be quiet at times. We did find quiet in our hotel room but we had to walk down the longest corridors in the world to reach our room on the 11th floor. We slept well on good beds in our efficient room. The best part of our trip was not the city but the Grand Canyon we visited. Unfortunately it took five hours to get there and another five hours to get back but we had four hours to admire one of the world natural marvels.

I felt the power of God in the Grand Canyon but wondered if the signs telling us that some of the rocks and stones of the Grand Canyon were millions of years old would upset the fundamentalists who contend the world was made in six days which means it was about six thousand years old before Jesus arrived.

I confess I was taken aback by the amount of gambling in Las Vegas. Every hotel had its casino which we had to pass through in order to get anywhere. We were told there are no windows in the casinos so that people are not distracted. No clocks can be found so that people won't worry about the time they spend gambling. Extra shots of oxygen are pumped into the casinos to keep the tired people alert and betting. We were told that there are over 1000 gambling centres in the city and that last year 55 million people came to visit Las Vegas. New hotels are springing up to accommodate the people that the Las Vegas industry wants to gamble.

I was also shocked by the promotion of prostitution. We saw big pictures of beautiful young women on the sides of huge trucks. These women all wanted to see me and would come to my residence if I desired. I don't think they thought I would simply talk with them about the cost of eggs in China. What

do you call men and women who handed out tracts, brochures, tickets and invitations to get to know the beautiful women of Las Vegas? Would pimps be too harsh a word? It used to be church people handed out tracts and invitations. Now others have taken over our practices!

I was also shocked by the men and women who openly drank alcohol, mostly beer, on the streets. I wondered if they also had cars which they might try to drive.

But gambling, prostitution and the public consumption of alcohol are minor offences compared to the real sin of the city. I figured the major sin of Las Vegas had to do with the amount of money, effort and time spent on glitz and show with no substance. One hotel had an impressive fountain show using water in a man-made lake in a part of the country which does not get enough water for people and cattle to drink.

I thought it was significant that several beggars were set up on the strip. One of them advertised that he wanted money so he could buy beer. Another said for money he would give people worthless advice. Even the beggars were not dealing with reality.

All that money going into entertainment, excitement, electricity when so many in our world are starving, suffering, sorrowing! I know that gambling can ruin lives, prostitution is a terrible way to treat women and alcoholic consumption is a horrible addiction but they are only signposts pointing to the real problem of the city. The city which has a pyramid and a sphinx, a statue of liberty and a statue made of jelly beans, an Eiffel Tower and a Notre Dame is all a sham - a fun and expensive sham, but all a sham. It produces nothing, it seeks out no world problem to solve, it offers nothing of lasting value. Even the value of a marriage is debased by chapel signs which suggest "a wedding on a whim" or "get hitched in a hurry." It's all a great show not to be taken seriously.

I noticed no church on the strip. I suppose no church could afford to build there. Las Vegas was lacking compared to the red light district of Amsterdam. In Amsterdam there was a church in the centre of it all - a real church where God was worshipped, the Gospel was preached and anybody, including prostitutes could go in for counseling and

solace. I missed the church as a reminder that God was with us.

I asked myself, as I always do, "Where is God in this place?" God is in the people who must live and work in all that sensory overload. I felt I met God in the waitresses, the maids, the hotel receptionists, the cooks, the bus drivers, the actors - the little people who don't have the big bucks Too bad we didn't spend more time with them.

NEWS FROM THE MUSE

Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre Inc.

-Janet Scott

On November 22, to a full house, Noa Amson presented an amazing talk about her visit to the Arctic last Spring with a group of international students. The programme is called Students on Ice and she learned of it via her Grandmother, Cherry Allen, who read about it in National Geographic. Through a process of applications and eliminations, Noa was chosen as one of five students to receive a \$10,000 scholarship to attend this course. She learned about flora and fauna and experienced the culture in Greenland and Canada's Arctic. These students saw the birthplace of icebergs and learned firsthand the effects global warming is having on the north. We congratulate Noa on her accomplishment and appreciate the wonderful talk she gave.

Thank-you Noa.

Stay tuned for more talks in the Backroom at the Museum. In January, one of the best months for stargazing, George Gavlas will be talking about Astronomy. In February Margaret Maloney and Peter Large will take us with them on a trip to Africa. Watch your Beacon.

Exhibits: The Exhibit Committee asks your help. 2015 is 200 years since John A. Macdonald's birth. If you have copies of letters or notes, anecdotes or legal papers signed by him and would be willing to let us copy them we would love to be able to feature our former MP in the Museum.

ISLAND MUSINGS

-Sharen English

On the South Shore around 6 p.m. on Sunday we came across Paul walking Scully. "We are out for a preprandial preamble." I say, "Look it up."

At the Lower Forty Foot and Front Rd., Oct. 1 at 5:30 p.m.

Mud wasps fly around my windows.

Crickets, frogs and dogs barking fill the air with noise.

The milkweed is white and soft on my lawn.

The weeds/flowers, depending on your point of view, are white and purple.

The water table is low and the lake is calm. I see the rock table displayed before me like I have never seen since 2005.

A carp jumps out of the water

The gravel on Front Rd. is large again, it has yet to be thinned down.

My dog won't go for a walk unless I force him to, and I don't feel like forcing him.

The grass is green and the lake is blue.

There are white clouds and the wind is low.

The creek that runs through our property is dry now.

Last month it was burbling wet.

I take a walk to Bob and Bernadette's garden. It is tilled now, cool and dry and awaiting planting in the spring.

A neat pile of wood sits on our lawn, waiting to be burned during the long and windy cold winter.

The gravel makes a crunching sound under my shoes. It is 6:43 p.m. now and the sun is setting. It looks like a glowing yellow and red ball descending in the sky.

Alison just drove by and left me in the dust.

Do I really own this gorgeous piece of heaven?

CHEESEMAKER'S DAUGHTER (6)

-Judy Bierma (judybierma@gmail.com)

Walking down memory lane. What do I write about this month? I had fun with last month's, asking people about what they remember about Halloween on Amherst Island. Two of my friends, people I had been friends with when I went to Amherst Island Public School in the 60's said, "The night George Bierma ran into the chicken wire fence in Stella." There were lots of memories of pulling things out of

the ditch and dragging them onto the road to make blockades. So I guess my memories were pretty accurate. If you have memories of Halloween email me or call me. I'm at Janet Scott's, 613-389-4608.

Winter on the Island in the 60's from my memories. Snow...lots of snow. Skating on Stella Bay. Not a lot though. It was too hard to shovel the snow off but sometimes a teenager would come along and do it for us. The ice would be ripply and when we skated over it we would go bump, bump, bump. That was a bit difficult. I remember lying on the ice and looking down through the many different layers. Perhaps a leaf would get frozen in the ice or there would be cracks under the top layer of ice and the colours ... the colours were fabulous, different shades of blue from light to dark, dark blue. I remember putting my cheek on the ice to feel its coldness. It was a fine time.

Mom and Dad worked 365 days of the year and they would go out to the factory on Christmas day to make cheese. The farmers came in with their milk every day. We didn't have enough refrigeration to keep the milk cold so they made cheese every day just as the farmers milked their cows every day, twice a day. I don't remember any complaints - it was just the way it was. We all helped out in the factory. I think Joan and Robert were too small but they were there. Joyce and I scrubbed the vats and cleaned the Creamer, 100 discs, to wash and sterilize.

Wow it's strange and good to see Madeline and Stirling's house getting a new roof and new windows and having cars around it. We used to visit Madeline as kids quite often. She would cut Robert's hair for a nickel. We would sit on the back porch and talk about ...don't remember. Stirling was away on his boat or in the garage or just away. Once Dad and Stirling went out in the boat and the motor died and Art Drumgoole went out with his boat to tow them in. Art's dock was where Jack and Beth Forester's dock is now but it was wood and longer, I think, and we ran and jumped off it all summer long. When I sold cheese in the factory as a kid I would be in swimming and then when one of the yachters came to the dock and into the factory I would just dry off and run into the Curing Room and cut them off a slab of cheese, weigh it, wrap it and back in the water. I wasn't alone in the water. Joyce, Joan and

Robert were there. Robert always wore a life jacket, maybe Joan too. Mom was working in the factory so she didn't have time to supervise us swimming all the time. Sometimes, after the cheese was made, she would put her swim suit on and come and join us. Often she would wear a shower cap so that her hair wouldn't get wet.

I have pictures of all these events somewhere. I'll look for them and put them in the Beacon sometime. Well time to go. Please email me with any memories you have of Amherst Island even recent ones. I want to hear about them and other people enjoy reading about them too, it sparks their own memories.

AMHERST ISLAND'S FIRST COW COUNT -Sherri Jensen (photo by Keith Miller)



Steve Kennedy together with Keith Miller as part of their "Up Steve's Sleeve Show" on CJA 92.1 created the first ever Cow Count on Amherst Island, we also believe it is the first cow count in the world.

The inception of the idea started a couple of years ago when Steve and Terry Culbert were on the annual Bird Count and they thought it would be much easier to count cows rather than birds, i.e. easier to spot!!

On November the 16th, 25 participants did just that, we set out from the Community Centre where we loaded ourselves onto a fabulous hay wagon supplied by the Reid Farm, with Doc Luv at the helm of his tractor. We were supplied with little clip boards and instructions how to count the cows. The fun began, the day was beautiful with lots of blue sky and light wind. We chatted, we sang, we laughed, the trail took us west on Front Road, with a turnaround at the Simpson Farm, then we proceeded

up Emerald 40 foot, east on 2nd Concession, back through the Dump Road, ending at CJAI Radio Station. During that time the most cows counted was 138, although the possible number of sightings should have been over 400, wow we were a little off maybe too much chatting.

Thank you to Steve and Keith for a wonderful afternoon.

REMEMBRANCE DAY POEMS From AIPS TRUCE

We call a truce
Just long enough to drag the injured away
I often complain about this
But the dead do not
I realize how lucky I am
They are gone
But I will live another day
by Becca

WAR IS NOT PEACE

Bang, Bang!
Stop the war, war is not peace.
Peace is love, not shooting guns!
Not dropping bombs.
Peace is kindness,
Not killing people.
War is not peace.
But Remember!
by Ayrionna

WAR IS POINTLESS

War isn't weapons or even guns.
War isn't peace with a basket of hot buns.
War is the soldiers that were within
But the victory for any team is very, very slim.
So war is pretty pointless
Because many the soldiers will end up jointless.
It's time for us all to use our head.
The soldiers just want to go to bed.
by Jacob

REMEMBER THE HEROES

Remember the heroes dead or alive
Remember them with pride
They are true heroes
They help all of us me and you
Remember the real heroes

They made the world a better place
Remember the heroes
by Quentin

THE DAY IN A TRENCH

People breathing; in, out, in, out over and over again
until there is a gunshot.
Nothing too startling. It's not the first one I've heard.
It's when people start
running through the trenches, screaming. Then I start
to worry about where
I am. What I'm doing. What if these are my last
moments? What if this is my
last sight I see when I close my eyes for the last time,
forever? But, obviously,
it's not because I find myself still running for my life.
Literally, my life. This is
when I realize for the first time in 17 years, how
grateful I should be for what I
had back home. My own room. Food that wasn't
canned. I zone back in,
remember where I am, deep in the wet mud of the
trenches, running.
This is real, this is my life. War.

by Lucie

THE TEARS OF THE WAR

War has started and soldiers come from every
direction.
Ashes going in the ground, every day instead of
grass turning green,
turning red.
I see smoke coming from every direction, I look.
And always see pieces of dirt fly out from trenches,
turning longer and muddier.
Everybody, hoping they will get out alive.
Tears of children dropping to the ground, hoping
their dad will come back.
Alive.
Planes go by to bomb the souls of many lives.
Frowns turn to smiles when soldiers grab door
handles to their home again.
And many people never saw their homes again.
by Stephan

AFTER WAR

After war the fields are filled with bodies and guns
that the brave

soldiers used to fight the other ones.

After war there is peace, but there are also more graves where suffering soldiers lay.

I am sure that the people who started the war and fought in the war are happy when it is over.

After war

by Finn

MY FOXHOLE

October 29, 1914

It was an extremely gloomy day in my foxhole. I just returned from the trenches. The grounds and walls were getting worse. The water from the ground and the rain made the ground like a pit. My foxhole was ankle deep in water. My feet, I know, are rotting in my boots. The toes of my boots are a different shade of brown. I try to move quickly and quietly so the enemy can't see me. There's been a few accidents. A bullet or two lodged in my leg. Nothing that affects my shot. I miss my family. I hope I'll get home soon. Some days I wonder if they've forgotten about me.

July 10, 1944

It's steaming hot in my foxhole. I'm in France now. My face looks like a tomato. The trenches and foxholes are full of fleas and flies. Lots of men are sick. Luckily I'm not. But the bugs have been biting. If anyone finds this, send it to my family and tell them that I love

by Megan

TICKS AND LYME DISEASE

- Sally Bowen

Five Islanders now have Lyme Disease – to my knowledge. There may be more. One of the five probably had it for a couple of years before being diagnosed; it took my doctors 8 years. Another has just recently been diagnosed.

One person found the tick on him but it was during hunting season and he didn't think it was important enough to bother. Please do not make that mistake.

Black-legged ticks abound on the Island. Not all carry Lyme, but do NOT take a chance. Do NOT wait for the typical bulls-eye rash to form, as some doctors advise. It is already in your system by then. And, there is not always a bulls-eye rash.

If you find an embedded tick, lift it out with the fork-like tick lifter provided by vets and the health clinics if possible. Avoid squeezing mouth parts.

Go within 48 hours to emergency in Napanee, if possible taking the tick with you in a clean bottle for testing. If you request it, they will give you a single prophylactic dose of oral antibiotic.

Prevention is really worth it.

THANK YOU NOTES

I wish to thank all the friends and neighbours who helped us out and visited Helen during her lengthy bout of illness. Also, I very much appreciate the community's support and acts of kindness following her death. Thank you again.

Doug Lamb

Thanks to all who have contributed to the Beacon content this year. We appreciate Islanders considering this their own paper, and contributing memories, photos and articles. We are grateful to the Little family, for picking up the Beacon each month and delivering to us. Cheers to Judy Bierma who took up the challenge of layout. And to Don who did the layout for a long time and continues to do the subscription work.

Sally & Ian

Thanks to Keith, Steve, CJA and everyone who put in a lot of time and effort to organize the first annual Amherst Island Cow Count.

It was an enjoyable (and exciting) tour of the island for me as well as Matthew, Christopher and James who came from Toronto to join in the fun.

Great weather and good company contributed to yet another unique Island event.

Liz Harrison

The Amherst Island Recreation Association would like to thank the community for their support of our fund raising efforts throughout the year. By supporting the Spring Dance and Fish Fry, our canteen at the Emerald Music Festival & Harvest Festival, & our bar at various functions and Pub Nights, you have helped us to celebrate Canada Day in our own community, with fireworks that rival some larger communities!

CHILDCARE Looking for a local reliable childcare professional? Recent Early Childhood Education graduate, Brooke Reid is available to look after your children whenever needed. Registered with the College of Early Childhood Education First Aid/ CPR certified. Contact Info: Home: 613-389-4484, Cell: 613-484-9046

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 Chili & 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.

LOCAL ELECTRICIAN 30yrs exp, \$25 an hour. Also Home Renovations, Tree Removal, Pressure Wash. Call Cary 389-8327.

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, 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.

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

TOPSY FARMS WOOL SHED 613 389-3444 Wool and sheepskin products including yarn, blankets, crafts, and individual photos, books and booklets by Don Tubb. Open weekends and most weekday mornings. We also have fresh frozen lamb cuts.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

AMHERST ISLAND BEACON

December 15, 1983 - Volume 3 Issue 71

COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE REGULAR MEETING

- Chris Kennedy

All the members of Council were present.

The minutes of the previous meetings were passed. The new ferry rates are published elsewhere in the Beacon. Hans deHaan asked that Council approve the money for the installation of a new steering box in the fire truck as the steering is very bad.

Two building permits were issued in November. Clinton Kilpatrick is putting an addition to his barn and Mr. Wiley is building a boat mooring, using dynamite mostly, it appears.

The Township is applying to become eligible for Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (R.R.A.P.) Grants. These are apparently like the Ontario Home Renewal Program (O.H.R.P.) grants but for people with higher incomes. There is still money available in the O.H.R.P.

There was a discussion about providing sand for the deck of the ferry. Council also discussed people leaving their engines running on the ferry as the fumes can go into the car behind and also into the engine room.

Diane reported that only 5.6% of the 1983 taxes had not been paid. This is a very good record, as the usual figure for a rural municipality is about 20%.

The new tax assessment values will be published soon. The dates and times for the Open House when people can discuss the new values with the assessment officers are as follows:

Tax arrears for 1984 will be charged 15% per annum or 1 1/4% monthly interest.

Tenders have been sent out to several local contractors for work on the dump.

The Recreation Committee is to build a movable stage on the west wall of the gymnasium.

After dealing with correspondence Council adjourned.

Latest Census Shows Our Island Is 357 Strong.

Following are some pertinent figures:

Age Gp	Total	Male	Female
0-4	14	4	10
5-19	78	44	34
20-65	207	107	100
66-up	58	31	27
Totals	357	186	171

SHAKE IT UP

On Tuesday Evening, January 10, 1984 at 8 pm in the School, your Recreation Committee is holding a Volleyball get together for anyone 21 years or over.

Play More In 84.

Talent Optimal.

Chester Tugwell, Chairman.

LIBRARY NEWS

- Diane Gavlas

December 28 will be Helen Bulch's last day as branch librarian as Helen has decided to retire.

Coffee and cake will be served at your library that day from 1 pm to 3 pm. Please drop in and say goodbye to Helen after ten years service in the library.

Retirement and Christmas Party

Miss M.A. Evans, County Librarian held a pot luck Christmas dinner for the County Library staff at her home in Napanee on December 2, 1983. Mrs. Helen Bulch was surprised with the news that she was the guest of honour, when presented with a corsage by Mrs. Judy Pollard of the Library staff. County Warden, Harold Chatson, presented Helen with a County pin for ten years service in our County branch library, a book of Historical Glimpses of Lennox and Addington and a commemorative plate depicting the County Court House.

The chairman of the Lennox and Addington County Library Committee, Mr. Doug Stevenson, presented Helen with a beautiful book, The Best of James Herriot.

Mrs. Marion Waitson then presented Mrs. Bulch with a print from the County Library staff; Florence Bousschaert's 'Tug Edmond at Chaffey's Lock'.

Helen was totally surprised and very touched by all the warm wishes and thoughtful gifts from her friends and co-workers.

NOTICE RE NEW YEARS EVE DANCE

Doors and bar open at 6:30 pm

Supper at 7:30 pm

Dancing at 9:00 pm

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours, St. Alban's A.C.W. and the Amherst Island Women's Institute for the cards of sympathy after the loss of my father.

Also thanks to all the ladies who brought lunch and to those who helped serve.

All these kind acts were very much appreciated.

Garnet and Gene

I would like to thank my family, neighbours and friends for their visits, cards, flowers and fruit, and the many kindnesses shown to me while I was a patient at K.G.H.

A special thanks to Rev. Babcock, Rev. MacIntyre and Mr. Allison for their faithful visits and prayers.

Harry Fleming

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please note the following changes in rates for the Amherst Islander and in ferry pass policy.

1984 Ferry Passes are available now at the Municipal Office.

The Corporation Of The Township Of Amherst Island By-Law #19-83

Being a By-law of the Corporation of the Township of Amherst Island to set the rate structure and certain policies regarding rates for the Motorship Amherst Island effective January 1, 1984.

1. Ferry Passes Individual, With Spouse, Student Annual \$157.50 \$210.00 \$50.00

2. Individual Rates

Automobile and driver... 1.50

Passenger... 0.25

Car and trailer... 3.00

Motorcycle and Driver... 0.75

Heavy single-axle Truck... 2.75

Heavy double-axle Truck... 3.00

Farm Tractor... 1.50

Farm Tractor with implement... 3.00

The above list not intended to be all inclusive; the pursers and the captain on duty are authorized to set the rate for vehicles and/or other objects not listed at a figure commensurate with the number of spaces occupied.

NOTICE TO ALL DRIVERS RE PARKING OF VEHICLES ON FERRY

Your attention is drawn to the posted notice that requires all engines to be stopped when cars are parked. This is to insure that poisonous exhaust fumes do not percolate into other parked cars, which might cause discomfort and sickness. If you are cold there is a heated cabin on the top deck for your comfort.

N.J. Allison, Ferry Manager.

SANTA IN RECESSION

by Sandra Haggett

Well Santa was scratching

With last year's itch;

Woollen underwear again,

What a son of a b----.

His hat was all holey

And the colour had faded.

His red overcoat

Was becoming outdated.

Time for a change

Before foul weather.

Must give it his best

And pull it together.

His black belt was worn

And falling apart.

So he purchased another

At Miracle Mart.

His socks were all darned,

Not worth throwing away;

And so off to Woolco's

"Dollar Forty-Four Day".

Santa's buckle had tarnished

While set in it case.

So he tripped on to K-Mart

And checked their displays.

For a new pair of boots

Came the "Sally-Ann",

Who'd even outfit

Your Uncle Sam.

Then to the "Harbour Light"

For a free cooked meal.

Now Santa was ready

From head to heel.

Thus all decked out

For his Christmas run

Feeling new and alive

And ready for fun.

But when on Christmas Eve

Santa leaves real quick

It's probably his underwear

Making him itch.

Visiting Sting and Freda

Sting lives with Freda.

He is my doggie friend. He is a Parsons Terrier.

I stop almost daily at Freda's to deposit pop cans in her porch bin. The proceeds from these cans go to the O.S.P.C.A. in Lennox and Addington County.

Sting always barks at me and frequently runs up for a petting.

He is white and orange and so sweet and friendly.

He won't lick me but he stops right in front of me and requests love.

Freda's one year old kitty also hangs out in the porch window.

She wants to be rubbed too.

Freda is very friendly and she loves her animals. "Heaven would not be a place I wanted to go if my animals weren't there", I once heard her say.

Sharen English

Many thanks to the Ferry Crew for taking such good care of us.
Dianne Marshall, photos by Brian Little



Since October, the senior students of AIPS have been practicing volleyball in preparation for the coed tournament on December 2 at NDSS. The team includes Lucie Amson, Jack Little, Megan Ashley, Rebecca Scott, Angus Little, Stephan McGinn, Finn Varette, Jacob Welbanks and Ayrionna Wronski, with help from Ben Cuyler and Quentin Scott during practice. We have been trained by Mrs. Caverly, Mrs. Mace, Mrs. Vanalstyne and Jacob Murray. On Tuesday November 19th, the team left for an exhibition game at Holsgrove Public School. There were 4 games played in which the students had won one set for their first time. On December 2nd at Napanee the AIPS senior class won their first match in five years after an intense game with three deuces. They then won the following game quickly and finished the tournament with their only loss of the day against the team from Newburgh. (Jack Little. Photos by Brian Little)



New Year's Eve Party 12.31.13

Door Prizes
Great Raffles

7:00 p.m.- Next Year
Amherst Island Community Centre
\$25.00 / Person
Music By; South of Seven
Bar Provided by Amherst Island Rec. Association
Cold Buffet served late evening

Only 150 tickets available
Deadline for tickets: Dec 15th, 2013

For tickets Call:

Bonnie C. @389-5729
Betty W. @389-7907
Lynn F. @634-2509
Judy B. @389-4608



Exclusive Sponsor : L A F A R G E N O R T H A M E R I C A

