

# Amherst Island Beacon



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**THE LIFE OF MURRAY GORDON GLENN**

**-Juanita Glenn**

Murray Glenn passed away at Almonte General Hospital, on December 26, 2013, from a brief battle with cancer. He was in his 62<sup>nd</sup> year. He is survived by his loving wife, Suzanne, of Almonte, Ontario, and their four cats. He has two siblings, Francis (Lucy) Glenn, and Juanita, of Blenheim, Ontario, and one chosen brother, Herman (Carol) Langwald of Kingston, who survive him.

He leaves behind a niece, Margo (Kevin) Lee, Blenheim, and a nephew, Robert (Billie) Glenn, Blenheim, and also two little great nephews, George and Declan Glenn, of Blenheim. Marian Glenn of Bath is his only surviving aunt, and he leaves behind one cousin on his Dad's side, Bob (Val) Howard, Kingston.

On his Mom's Strain side he is survived by seven cousins and they are, Nancy (the late Arsene) Landry, Belleville; Janet (Ron) Hamilton, Trenton; Phyllis (the late Lloyd) Strain, Amherstview; Donna (Earle) Willard, Stella; Leslie (Lilly) Strain, Yarker; Barry Strain, Kingston and Cathy Hitchins, Kingston and all their extended families.

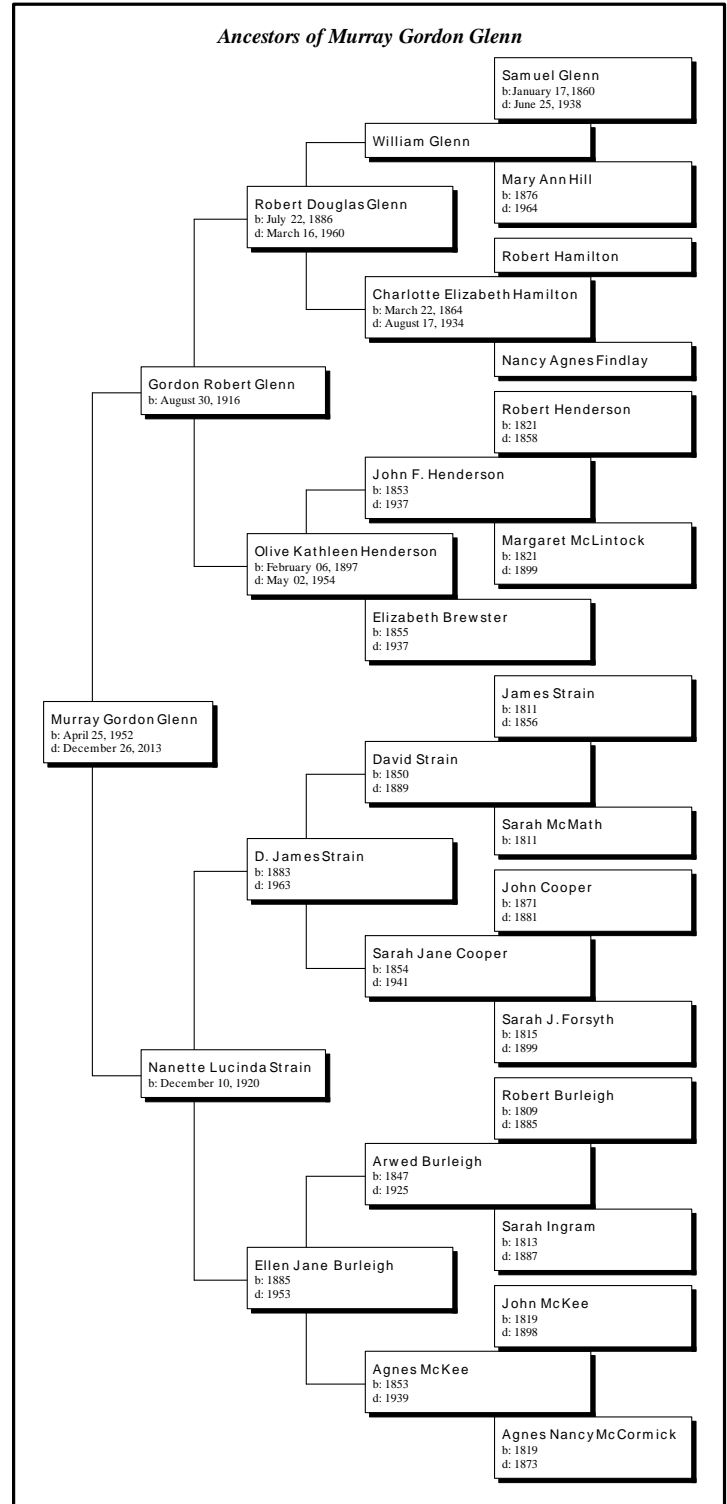




Photo at left:  
Juanita, Murray and Francis Glenn

Murray was born on April 25, 1952, at KGH, Kingston. He was the third child of Gordon and Nanetta Glenn, now both deceased, Gordon in 1992 and Nanetta in 1979. Growing up on the family farm on Amherst Island (just west of Little's), he attended the elementary school on the Island and then went to high school in Napanee.

After graduation, he sold and serviced TV's and stereos in Kingston, then was inspired to go to school for computer science at St. Lawrence College. He met and married Roberta Kay and after graduation they moved to Ottawa where he was employed for several years in Revenue Canada and then Foreign Affairs as a computer hardware specialist. His marriage to Roberta ended in divorce. He then met Suzanne, they married and lived in Ottawa and later Almonte. Changes in government dept. policies encouraged Murray to become a private contractor and bid on shorter term jobs in the government.

All was well until further government cutbacks reduced contract work, with periods of unwanted leisure. As a part time job he drove taxi and limousine in Almonte over the last five years, in between contracts. He enjoyed his work.

A dream job at National Defense near Almonte was interrupted by a rapidly developing cancer. He underwent treatment at the Ottawa Civic Hospital and then was transferred to Almonte Hospital where he received marvelous care in his painful decline. The attending staff at both hospitals were very caring and helpful.

All who knew Murray will miss his company, and he will be sorely missed by his family and friends. Cremation has taken place, and there will be a small graveside gathering of family and friends in the summer when he will be interred in the family plot at Glenwood Cemetery, Amherst Island.

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#### NEIGHBOURHOOD – by Lynn Fleming

Happy Birthday to Leslie Gavlas who celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with family and friends on Feb 2nd





Get well wishes to Valerie Howard.

Mindy (Fleming) and Stu Burnside left their home in Scotland, to spend Christmas on Amherst Island. Stu got to experience a real Canadian winter with snow and a multi day ice storm. Also home for Christmas from Alberta, was Mindy's brother Tom Fleming and Brittany Daniels.

Jack and Beth Forester escaped some of the coldest weather this winter, leaving for Florida right after Christmas, and returning mid-January.

Congratulations to Steve Kennedy and Danielle Turkington, who were married in early January. They will live in Steve's house on the South Shore.



Photo of Steve and Danielle by Brian Little

Dayle and Elly Gowan spent the early part of the winter in Florida.

Mike, Anita and Graeme McKee spent a week in Cuba.

Tagget Bonham-Carter and kids - Noa, Lucie and Finn - spent the last days of Christmas Break in British Columbia.

January has been an especially snowy month on Amherst Island, bringing back lots of memories of "old fashioned" winters, with almost daily snow, and many days and nights of high winds - creating blizzard conditions. There are drifts of snow, bigger than I have seen in years. Hard to believe it has been 35 years since the "Blizzard of '78".

We have had 2 days of no school because of the weather, and wind chills so cold that the kids didn't go outside for recess for a week and a half. We have two more winter storms in the forecast for the first week of February, so I'm assuming it is not going to be an early Spring.

Again, thanks to our ferry and road crews for getting everyone home in some of the worst weather.

Stay warm.



Ariyonna and Finn  
Skating behind the school  
Photo by Roxanne

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## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Mary Kay Steel

On January the 15<sup>th</sup> we held our regular monthly meeting at the home of member Kirsten Bennick commencing at 2pm. It was a sunny, crisp winter afternoon, with a beautiful view of the lake, and warmed by the companionship at the meeting table.

The meeting started with the introduction of our guest, Ms. Pauline Arsenault, Coordinator of Volunteers at the Seniors' Outreach Program (SOS), of Napanee and now Loyalist township. The second office here in our township was opened about a year ago and is located at the junction of Taylor-Kidd Rd. and County Rd. 6. Pauline provided a most interesting overview of the many programs and services offered by the non-profit SOS; they usually require a small user fee with most being subsidized so that fees are small. She stressed that the organization runs on donations and grants, and that its mainstay is the group of volunteers who actually deliver the programs. Many of the services can, with some arranging, be made available to our Island residents; and the drop-in programs of course welcome all from the Lennox and Addington region. The SOS and the local branches of the WI, including Amherst Island, have had a long association, with the WI giving some financial support. Programs you may have heard of include Caregiver Respite, Lifeline, Foot care, and preparation of frozen meals. There are many others. You may enquire at 613 354-6668, and of course they would welcome more volunteers, if you have time and energy to spare.

After questions and discussion it was time for refreshments, and as always they were good!

Liz Harrison, President, got the business meeting underway following Pauline's departure. Our Warm Winter Walking program is again underway at the Community Centre on Mondays at 4; we welcome fellow Islanders and it is absolutely free. We agreed to join our provincial organization in advocating for life skills curriculum content in Ontario school systems. Our Advocacy coordinator Anne Henderson will act on this.

There are plans afoot to study and propose changes to the provincial WI structure, with a view to making it simpler and more effective; our branch will support this initiative. With the prevalence of various avenues of electronic communication it is time to "modernize" the organizational structure.

We also reviewed the status of our list of donations this year, and voted to make a significant contribution

to the Loyalist Township fund for acquisition of the Sand Beach area for Islanders' use. After a few more business items, we made plans for our February gathering, to be held the afternoon of February 19<sup>th</sup> at Norma-Lynn Cole's home, involving a movie, fun, and supper.

A reminder: guests are welcome

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## COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From 1<sup>st</sup> Session of Council January 13th

Dan Simpson, one of the organizers of the New Year's Eve Dance on Amherst Island, presented a cheque in the amount of \$1,675.00 towards the funding of the Sand Beach Project.

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AIMS Meeting January 11

- Anders Bennick

Breakfast: Thank you to Victoria and Ben Cuyler for a very tasty breakfast.

Attendance: 13 members.

Chair: David Pickering

Agenda

1. Presentation.

The speaker was David Pickering who talked about his career in the Canadian Military.

Unlike the United States military, which is composed of separate services, the Canadian military is a single service. This organization, formed in 1968, is referred to as the "Canadian Armed Forces" and is subservient to the federal Department of National Defence which provides civilian support, control and oversight. Some years later, the more modern name of "Canadian Forces" was taken, though the original CAF still stands in the National Defence Act which established it.

While, over the years, the Canadian Armed Forces has returned to three different uniforms and has begun to reuse the terms Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Army and Royal Canadian Air Force it is still officially a unified force with a single organization.

The forces are comprised of both regular force and reserve force members. Regular force members serve 24 hours a day/7 days a week (though typically they have about a 40 hour work week). Reserve force members will work a few evenings a week and one weekend a month, and will typically hold a normal civilian job as well. Reservists can also choose to accept fixed length contracts, extending from weeks

to years, which will move them up to full time service. In addition to the primary reserve, there is also the Supplementary Reserve, which is comprised of trained members who have left the military, but who choose to leave their names 'on the books' and be available for call back should the need present itself. There is also the Canadian Ranger organization, which is largely manned by aboriginal peoples in the north – providing an invaluable monitoring service for what is happening in distant areas of our country. Finally, there is the Cadet Organizations and Training Service which runs all of the Cadet groups, corps and camps in Canada.

The Forces costs about \$20B annually. There are 68,000 regular force; 27,000 primary reservists; 5,000 Rangers and 19,000 on the Supplementary Reserve list. The Cadet organization has more than 7000 members supporting more than 1000 cadet air force and navy squadrons, and army corps.

Most military people are posted onto Bases, of which Canada has more than 25 scattered across the country. A Base is a large patch of land, which houses military units which draw support services from the Base. The Base provides land, buildings, pay, administrative and other support services to the units. The units are the working arms of the Canadian Forces; accepting missions assigned.

Kingston has more than 20 units, including five schools, two regiments, an Air Force wing which commands tactical helicopters throughout Canada, various headquarters units, maintenance units and the Communications and Electronics Museum which is open to the public. It is the home of the Communications and Electronics Branch, so a preponderance of those units and people are here.

Members of the military have both a classification and a rank. The classification defines their job type and training. These could be cook, chaplain, pilot, infantry soldier, supply technician or firefighter. There are more than 80 classifications; some being for non-commissioned members and others for officers.

An NCM would come in as a recruit, be given classification training, and then start his (or her) career as a private. Over the years this person would receive additional training, and hopefully promotions which would advance them through the rank structure. An officer would start as a second lieutenant and would similarly rise through the officer rank structure.

David Pickering joined from Toronto and went to boot camp in Cornwallis NS in 1973. From there, he came to the school here in Kingston. He took the Communications Research (CommRsch) classification

and received training as an intercept operator. Once trained, he had postings in Inuvik NWT, Masset BC, and Leitrim ON before returning to Kingston in 1981 to become an instructor at CFSCE. (Canadian Forces School of Comms and Electronics) His favourite job was signals development, where he investigated new comms signals. This is also what he taught.

During this period, he also served in CFS Alert for 3 separate six-month periods; once in 1975, once in 1979 and finally in 1982. Alert, situated on the northernmost tip of the northernmost island of the Arctic Archipelago, is the most northerly permanently inhabited spot on the planet.

In 1986, David underwent a career change – moving from NCM to Officer. He gave up Communications Research and instead became an Air Communications Officer. Again, training was conducted in Kingston. From there he went to Shearwater (near Dartmouth in Nova Scotia) and then to Halifax. As an officer, he provided telecommunications and information management services on the various bases he was posted to. As an air officer, this also included air traffic control systems, radar and beacon systems, and those systems which support air operations.

In 1993, David returned to CFSCE, once again assuming an instructor's role as well as fulfilling various planning and management functions at the school.

In 2001 he was posted across the highway to the Canadian Forces Joint Signals Regiment. For five years he was responsible for information management planning and information systems security, both for those facilities in Kingston as well as those deployed around the world by the Regiment.

In 2006 he retired from uniformed service, only to accept a civilian position back at CFSCE, again teaching young officers. Over the course of seven years he provided initial training to more than 450 of them.

When all three careers are considered (NCM / Officer / Civilian), David was a proud member of the Canadian Forces and the Communications and Electronics Branch for forty years. It was an interesting and fulfilling career and he recommends it to others without reservation.

## 2. Minutes of the last two meetings

The minutes as reported in "The Beacon" were approved.

### 3. Treasurer's Report.

The treasurer reported on the bank balance. A shortfall in revenues from breakfasts at the monthly meetings can be covered from members' dues. The honorarium for rent of the hall for these meetings still has to be paid to the Presbyterian Church.

### 4. Review of membership list.

Currently there are 28 members. The treasurer will check if all members have paid their dues.

To update the membership list, David Pickering will send the list to all members to check its verity.

### 5. Review of potential income.

While the income from the Saturday market is limited, it is important that AIMS maintain a presence in order to keep the market going.

The income from the 2013 auction was about \$2400. This year the auction was held on the Sunday of the Labour Day week-end. There was general agreement that the 2014 auction should be held on the same date. For information Peter Large reported that there will be no Art Tour this year. If another is organized (e.g. by the Neilson Museum) an accompanying art sale could be organized.

### 6. Review of potential expenses.

In the past AIMS has contributed to causes such as Ameriks scholarship, the AI Public School, the AI Radio Station and the Jim Whitton prize. Brian Little will look into the need to increase the contribution to Ameriks Scholarship.

A decision on donations for 2014 will be made at the next general meeting.

### 7. Report on New Year's function.

About 86 people enjoyed this event. A profit of about \$2100 was turned over to the Township to help cover the expenses of purchasing the Baxter property.

8. Next month's chair. It was agreed to ask Larry Jensen (absent) to chair the February meeting. If he is unable, David Pickering will chair.

### 9. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at ~10:20

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## WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE?

-Zander of DUNN INN

On January 12 St. Paul's Presbyterian Church was honoured by the leadership of three members of the "Penguins Can Fly" swim club run by Vicki Keith and John Munro. Amherst Island's own Vicki Keith is the coach and mentor of this unique group of young people. The Penguins Can Fly is a group of persons with

physical disabilities (and their able-bodied siblings) who do amazing things in the water. Vicki Keith encourages and directs them and they respond to her guidance because they know she loves them.

I have seen some of these beautiful people in the water doing "incredible" things. The word "incredible" means "unbelievable" and is vastly overused by our society. I use the word in its best sense. You and I would not imagine, let alone believe that these special people could achieve what they do. Some of these people do not have the use of their limbs. Others cannot see or balance properly. Many are victims of diseases or accidents. They have all overcome their natural fear of water and have discovered that in the water they can excel. One of them told us that he felt free in the water. He meant he was free of his wheel chair and could move freely.

These young people succeed in ways we can never know. They succeed in keeping their bodies afloat. They succeed in reaching their goals of getting to the end of the pool or swimming their best time. They succeed in setting world records. World records! Honestly I don't know if they are "world records" but when they speak of records - Provincial Records, Canadian Records, North American Records they might as well be, and probably are, World Records. And Vicki Keith is as proud of their records as she is of the world records she, herself, has achieved in long distance swimming.

To me, to their parents, and especially to Vicki and John, they are all heroes, worthy of the highest praise. They have overcome so many disabilities and have faced so many challenges that they are models of commitment, perseverance and hard work.

In years past Vicki brought her charges to sing for our congregation on a Sunday before Christmas. We heard carols, anthems and solos by young people whose forte is not singing but swimming. They concluded our service of worship by wishing us a Merry Christmas in music and laughter. After worship they descended upon the food in the church hall like a horde of locusts (in other words, like most active young people) and devoured everything in sight. Those who could, spoke with our church members about what they were doing and how they were handling life. They enchanted our people and embraced them with hugs of love and acceptance. We always felt we had been blessed by these young people through what they sang and said.

But this year was different. The Penguins didn't come before Christmas. There were fewer of them than in the past. They didn't sing. They didn't have to listen to my sermon. They preached three "mini-sermons" instead. I'm sure those sermons were more effective than any of the longer sermons I've preached. Eva, Chad and Liam spoke about what they believed and the One in whom they put their trust.

They all spoke so well (even Liam who had to use a voice machine) that many in our congregation proposed that they plan to go into the ministry of the church.

Liam, the most restricted of the three, shared with us his sense of humour and made us laugh.

Eva shared her knowledge of Scripture and expounded her favourite Bible passages. Chad faced us and made it clear he was committed to serving God who loved him.

They all referred to their experience of God in Jesus, The Christ. They amazed us with their knowledge of the Bible, their sophistication and their dedication to helping others. Each of the three gave special thanks to Vicki Keith for what she had done for them, not only as swimmers, but as Christian people.

I, who am seldom able to hear others preach, heard God speak to me through those young people in ways I did not expect. This is some of what I heard.

First, Vicki Keith, by devoting her time, her expertise and her love to these young people has been used by God to change their lives. Vicki represents for me how much good God can do through one person willing and ready to use his/her abilities to help others.

Second, these young people were taking the Bible seriously. They read the Bible. They knew the Bible. They heard God address them through verses of the Bible. Perhaps many of our youth don't connect with God through the Bible because they have life too easy. Perhaps they figure they don't need help. Perhaps they don't know about the help that God has offered through Bible stories and sayings. Perhaps they have never met the one to whom the Bible points - Jesus.

Third, the three who spoke to us refused to be defined by their disabilities. They are not "the girl who limps" or "the guy who uses a walker" or "that fellow confined to a wheel chair." They are bright young people - Eva, Chad and Liam - who look past what holds them back and listen to God who wants to go with them on their faith journeys. They all spoke of Jesus as Saviour and Lord and thus made their personal testimonies very clear.

Those three Penguins showed us what they could do with their lives and by doing so they challenged us to consider what to do with our lives. Even I, although

retired, still have a lot of living to do and I still must think about what to do with my life. That's true for all of us.

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## LAFARGE PUBLIC MEETING

-Liz Harrison

Twenty-five interested Islanders braved snow and ice on January 7 to hear what Rob Cumming, Environmental and Public Affairs Manager of the Lafarge Cement Company, had to tell us about the Green(er) Fuel Project which his company is to launch in 2014.

In his introduction, Rob told us that the Canadian cement industry currently emits about 3.8% of the country's CO2 emissions and 30-40% of those emissions are due to fossil fuel use. Currently coal and petroleum coke are brought in from USA. The Green(er) Fuel Protocol on which Lafarge is working with Dr. Mabee and Dr. Pollard of Queen's University and its other partners, Pollution Probe, WWF Canada, the Cement Association of Canada, Scott Environmental and Rail Link, a Metis Company, aims to evaluate the use of renewable, low carbon fuels and involves building a full-scale demonstration plant. Natural Resources Canada is investing \$2.68 million in the project to be completed by 2020.

The protocol for the project was developed with the aid of a task force including the Community Liaison Committee (of which Jacob Murray is a member), Lafarge employees, local health representatives and local and national environmental groups. The aim is to ensure that the new fuels are fully evaluated using social, economic and environmental criteria. Anyone who is interested in the guidelines can contact me at 613-389-5176 and I will send out a fact sheet. Three of the fuels selected for the pilot study are railway ties, asphalt shingles and construction and demolition material. He admitted that there will be an increase in the number of trucks using County Road 4 and passing through Bath.

Rob also noted that in contrast to previous experimental projects Lafarge aims to be more transparent and responsive to community concerns with the development of "Cement 2020".

In response to concerns about the cumulative noise impact on the Island caused by the planned wind turbine development, the existing Lennox and Addington Generating Plant, the new Napanee



Generating Station and the Lafarge project, Rob noted that he has been in contact with Peter Webster of NGS. He admitted that measuring sound and taking steps to mitigate associated problems is not his field of expertise but he will investigate and send relevant data to interested parties on Amherst Island.

Rob was introduced and thanked by Judith Harrower and presented with a dozen locally produced eggs as a token of appreciation for his informative and responsive presentation.

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## THE TELEPHONE OPERATOR

-Shirley Miller

When I came to Amherst Island Ada Filson was the operator and lived and worked next door to me in the village. She was on call 24 hours a day. At that time the telephone company was owned by the Island. I am sure every family had stories of their own about the telephone at that time.



Ada Filson – pre 1970

I used to visit with Ada often as she sat at the switch board. She might get a call “Is the vet on the Island”? she would know because she had managed the call. She knew where he was going and when he would get there. It was quite a service. She was the hub of the Island. She knew who was sick, who was visiting who and a great deal about everyone’s business. That didn’t always please so if you had a secret best not use the phone.

In 1958 February twenty second when a tree fell on Keith’s leg while they were cutting wood he was taken by horse and sleigh to the house then loaded in the back of the truck; a 1953 GMC owned by Albert Henderson

and away they went across the ice to Millhaven then on to KGH. He remembers every bump and no one was in the back with him. When they took his thigh rubber boot off at the hospital he said his foot just flipped over like it was on a rag doll. Everyone had chores; cows to be milked and horses to be to be fed as well all that needs to be done before night so there he was alone. Sometime during the night the doctor tried to phone for permission to amputate his leg. They couldn’t get the call through. By morning Dr. Bingham had arrived and decided to try and save his leg.



Ada Filson – 1987

All things change and the Bell came to the Island but that took time so they paid Ada for 24 hour service which was more money than she knew what to do with - for a while. I told her I was going to town one day, “Do you need any money?” and out of her purse she pulled a hand full of bills like lettuce leaves out of a salad bowl.

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## A TRIP ON THE ICE

-Shirley Miller

On the Island radio show “Up Steve’s Sleeves” Steve and Keith have been reading stories from Doctor Burleigh’s book “Tales of Amherst Island” and that reminded me of some of the trips I remember crossing the ice.

I was working in Kingston and was staying with my parents at Forest Mills so I could be sure to get to work as the ice was not good. But on my days off I needed to get to the Island as my children were there with the Emerson family.



Howard Welbanks ferried me home to the Island in the sleigh behind his snow mobile. He had a car seat in the sleigh which I was to sit on with my back to the machine. He said he had to cover me with a tarp because the ice would be flying up as we went. "Hang on" he said and away we went with the ice pelting my back. Howard was one of the Island's commercial fishermen and because they fished through the ice they knew its condition. They knew when it was safe to travel the ice and when it was not.

When it was safe to travel it was like being liberated. When the chores were done we could be off to town without having to wait for the ferry. As the season progressed travel could be dicey but without the boat running it sometimes meant taking chances.

One trip that I would not like to take again came about after my brother was killed in an accident at Kenora. It would take most of a week for his body to get to Napanee. We traveled the ice to be with my parents most days between chores. One morning as we crossed it was raining. On the trip home that night there were white caps on the water on the ice. The next morning after freezing all night the ice was quite thick on top of the water on top of the ice. It was a scary feeling to say the least to be breaking through ice and hoping the ice was still good underneath.

Some folks had an ice car, especially the ones who worked on the main land. There were not that many back then. The old car had no doors so the passengers could jump if needed.

Glen Sheil was the school principal at the time and he started the Island Beacon. Glen and his wife Shirley along with Ian and Randi would gather to put the Beacon together. I would listen to the stories and try to draw a cartoon to suit. Glen had the idea that I should draw Les Glenn's ice car. I said "what does it look like"? He thought for a moment "Do you remember what Dick and Jane's father's car looked like"? At least he didn't say a 19-whatever, I am not good with car makes or years. ("Dick and Jane" was the first book we learned to read when I started school. Some folks may be old enough to remember Dick and Jane and their dog Spot.)

[Editor: and little sister Sally]

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## THE CHEESEMAKER'S DAUGHTER

-Judy Bierma

Well it's a lot different to think of Memories of Amherst Island while I'm in the Bahamas but I'll give it a try. What is happening on the Island now? Have the Euchre Parties at the school started?

I remember people coming over to the house and playing euchre with Mom and Dad and all of us going to someone's farm to play euchre. The kids would play upstairs in a bedroom and the parents played euchre in the kitchen. There was always food involved and coffee or tea and often a drink. I loved to play teacher. I had my recipe card box with blank recipe cards and I would make up names of the students and have a card for each student. Joyce and Joan and Robert always had to be the students and any other friends who were visiting.

On my way home from school I often would stop into Nessie Drumgoole's house and play canasta with her. I went to the Amherst Island Public School from grades 5 to 8 and then off to Napanee District Secondary for grades 9 to 13. Nessie and Art Drumgoole lived where Alan and Bonnie Caughey live now, under that magnificent Horse Chestnut tree on Front Road, main street in Stella. It was always a warm, welcoming place for me. Art would be out at the barn down by the Cheesemaker's house and Nessie and I would be playing cards. When he would come home Nessie would make him a couple boiled eggs in an egg cup and mix them up with a big daub of butter and pepper and salt. It was sooo good. She would make me one too.

The kettle would be boiling in the background and steam would be floating to the ceiling. Sometimes Nessie and I would sit in the living room and she would write on cards, greeting cards she had received. She would write notes to Ruth Artwyna, their daughter. Nessie would write for hours on these cards. I always thought what a wonderful thing to do and how happy Ruth Artwyna would be when she got to read all these notes her Mom had left her.

Shirley Millar wrote me the other day to help me out with names and spellings. She moved to the Island with her three children about the same time as we came. I remember them moving in and how excited we were to have more children in the village. They lived in the little house across from Nessie and Art's where Laura Gardner lives now.

Shirley was saying that it was Bertha Beaubien that danced with us. She was a good step dancer and she was a great teacher. She taught me how to polka and other dances. I remember a party at Harry and Barb Filson's on the Second Concession. There was music and dancing and Bertha danced with us kids. Does anyone else remember that party, Joyce, Joan, Robert, Garry or Valerie? We were dancing to records, 33 speed ones, the big albums. She was a

great person and so good with children. The needle would settle down on the album and we would dance around the room. I remember other people were dancing too. Mom and Dad were good dancers, I loved watching them. I'm sure Harry and Barb danced. I can't remember who else was there. It was a fun night.

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#### THANK YOU NOTES

We, the Glenn family, would like to thank everyone in the Beacon and Amherst Island community for sending sympathy cards to us, following Murray's passing on December 26, 2013. It was very kind of you to remember us through this difficult time. He will be missed. Thank you for caring.

Sincerely, Francis, Juanita and families."

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Thanks for all the warm caring messages and help since my operation to repair an ice-shattered kneecap. The encouragement really helps.

Sally Bowen



Aqua Master power unit – one of two we have on our ferry. Photo by Ida Gavlas

*FROM THE ARCHIVES:*

*AMHERST ISLAND BEACON*

*February 15, 1984 - Volume 3 Issue 73*

*COUNCIL REPORT FOR REGULAR FEBRUARY MEETING*

*- Chris Kennedy*

*All councillors were present. Judy Miller is the new assistant in the Township office. The building inspector is going to a seminar on the revised building code. No building permits were issued last month.*

*In response to Council's appeal for comments on the ferry charges, only one person turned up to hear what other people had to say. Council tried to sort out various minor problems that have arisen. A pass is available to a student only if a parent or guardian has a pass.*

*Council wishes to point out that damage under \$2,500 to vehicles on the ferry is not covered by insurance, but is paid out of Township funds i.e. our pockets.*

*The discussion over the wharfage fees payable to the Federal government continues. Council is thinking of billing the federal government for back taxes on the ferry dock buildings. Dock alterations are being discussed to accommodate the spare ferry, the Charlevoix.*

*The road budget was discussed. Wages have gone up and there is a big bill for gravel and a sander this year, but the government input has only raised 1.7%, and it is very hard to get money out of them. Council has to decide where to get the extra money without cutting the care of the roads.*

*Diane Gavlas, the new librarian, wrote to Council because the library is too small. Council is investigating various ways out of the problem.*

*Council received a letter from Ducks Unlimited about the Big Marsh, asking if they could study it. Council is pursuing the matter.*

*The Owner of the old granary in Emerald asked that Council designate it a Heritage Building. Council asked for a lot more information before making a decision.*

*Lloyd Clare asked for and got approval in principle to sever his home from his workshop and the rest of the farm.*

*Council discussed the question of people driving the ice. They felt it was not their job to bar people from the ice, but that they should not bush the road either as long as the ferry is running well.*

*After various minor matters, Council adjourned.*

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

*WORLD DAY OF PRAYER*

*The annual World Day of Prayer service will be hosted by the Anglican Church Women on Friday, March 2, 1984 at 2 P.M. in St. Alban's Church, Stella.*

*An invitation is extended to all the ladies of Amherst Island to attend this service. The organist requests the support of the local choir members on this occasion.*

*The next meeting of the Anglican Church Women will be held at the home of Elsie Willard on Wednesday, April 11th, 1984, at 8P.M.*

*Leslie Gavlas, Secretary, A.C.W.*

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

*CARDS OF THANKS*

*I would like to thank my family for being so attentive to me while I was in the hospital, Marjorie for driving me in and Maureen for bringing me home.*

*I also want to thank the Legion for the lovely basket of fruit and the A.C.W. for the beautiful plant, and the visiting committee for her visit and "goodies".*

*I also wish to thank my good neighbours for looking after my mother so well.*

*Sincerely, Beatrice Wemp*

*\*\*\**

*Doris and I would like to express our many thanks to all our friends, neighbours and relatives for their kind acts and thoughtfulness during the loss of a Mother and dear Aunt. It was all greatly appreciated.*

*Barbara Filson*

*\*\*\**

*Jim Bell-Smith and Caroline Yull would like to thank all our new neighbours for the warm welcome to the Island they've given us, and for all the help and support during the fixing up of our wayward septic system.*

*Thanks particularly to the Gavlas (Jr. and Sr.), Neilson, and McCormick families - their friendliness and help (i.e., hard dirty cold work) got us through a very difficult first experience with the joys of owning a septic system!*

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

*ADVERTISEMENTS:*

*Mature man, clean driving record, class "C" or "D" license, will do driving jobs. If you want the job done safely and well, call Jim Bell-Smith at 389-xxxx, or drop by at the old Neilson house in Stella.*

*\*\*\**

*For Sale: Home Baking. All occasion cakes, fancy sandwiches and special orders taken. Carmelle Horth,*  
\*\*\*

*If it's Rawleigh Products you need Please call Barbara Reid. 389-xxxx*  
\*\*\*

*Upholstery: Give Diane Gavlas a call at 389-xxxx.*  
\*\*\*

*Fresh lamb is available from Topsy Farms - \$2.25/lb for a whole lamb cut, wrapped and frozen; \$3.75/lb for legs and loins only; and \$0.80/lb live.*

*Call Randi at 389-xxxx. Free delivery on the Island.*  
\*\*\*

*For Sale: a 30 inch avocado electric range in good condition. Call 542-xxxx*  
\*\*\*

*For sale: 1977 Royal Monarch Dodge 4 door, V-8 Automatic. Power Steering, Power Brakes, Air Conditioning, New Tires, New Rad. 64,000 kilometres,*

*Price negotiable. Phone 389-xxxx*  
\*\*\*\*\*

*St. John's Ambulance First Aid*

*Anyone interested in taking either Standard First Aid or Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), please contact Rick Tait (389-xxxx) for more information.*

*Course dates will be set when minimum enrolment can be met.*

*First Aid (minimum 15 people 16 years and over)  
CPR (minimum 6 people 18 years and over)*

*Courses will be held at the school.*  
\*\*\*\*\*



*Topsy Farms Front Rd sheep drive. Photo by Ann Adams*

*Howard and Noreen Welbanks, Raymond and Linda Wemp and Bill and Olive Hogan attended the Annual Ontario Commercial Fisheries Convention in London, Ontario, January 15th to January 19th.*

*On Monday afternoon they were joined by Beverly who is attending college in Guelph. Both Beverly and Olive were two of the lucky people winning prizes at the Banquet on Tuesday evening.*  
\*\*\*\*\*



## WINTER VISITORS TO AMHERST ISLAND

- Michael Mason - member of Kingston Field Naturalists

Amherst Island is experiencing its periodic invasion by hawks and owls. They come, of course, for the food; and, 60,000 mice a month in December and January (based on a census of bird numbers and what the birds eat) seem to be the kind of supply they are willing to stay around for.

Of these raptors, the hawks and some owls hunt by day. From November to April the rough-legged hawks are down from the high Arctic. Eighty to a hundred of them were on the Island in December and January, eating up the rodents. The red-tailed hawks which nest here, numbered between ten and fifteen. A few marsh hawks or harriers have also been seen, but the very cold

weather drives them away. There are kestrels, of course; and one golden eagle was seen in January.

Owls are more charismatic than the hawks. At any rate they seem to bring in the visiting naturalists from the States. In winter, species of owl come to Amherst Island which breed much farther north. The boreal owl is one, but it is small, roosts high in the cedars, and is hard to find. Two were seen in December, but only one in January. Their cousins the saw-whets are more common, or at least more easily seen. Up to eight of them were spotted at the east end of the Island in a single woodlot, in which long-eared and short-eared owls have also been seen. Up to thirty of these were short-eared.

The same woods have sheltered great horned owls and a barred owl, and, for a weekend at least, a great grey owl. Great greys are being seen on the mainland in the Kingston-Moscow area, but few on Amherst Island so far. In fact, like the boreal, the great grey owl is a very rare visitor in Eastern Ontario, one in five years or more being its usual rate of appearance around here.

We should not forget to mention the Snowy owls. About twelve of these have been seen in the open fields on the Island.

By the time this article appears, some of these migrant raptors may have moved on. This tends to happen with changes in the availability of food. If melting snow floods the mice's tunnels, the mice dig deeper, or they may drown; and if heavy crusts of ice form on the snow, they cannot be reached at all, though the birds may be able to hear them moving around. An owl does not have to be able to see the prey before

pouncing on it successfully, but it cannot pounce through ice.

Amherst Islanders are sympathetic towards the protection of all these rodent-eaters, as are most of the visitors to the Island. People have come this winter from many parts of the United States to see this conclave of owls. New York, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Florida, and California have all been represented, called in by word of mouth reports among naturalists, including rare-bird telephone alerts from centres in New York, Philadelphia and elsewhere.

We all know that people can cause damage and littering, and hope that this has not occurred on Amherst. No word has been received of any harm to the birds themselves. (Flashes on cameras, by the way, can disturb them somewhat.) So we hope that, in a general atmosphere of live and let live, all these seasonal visitors, human and non-human, as well as the residents, will pass a pleasant winter.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ROAD REPORT

- Ian Murray

The hard-surfacing of the development road with asphalt completed this project that was started several years ago. This new road should serve us well for many years. However the rest of the Island road system was of necessity, somewhat neglected over the past few years.

Last summer the road crew once again began to improve the safety and structure of the Island's gravel roads. Despite a severe shortage of gravel, I believe that some significant improvements were made.

This year a good quantity of gravel should be available to give the roads a good layer. A new sander has been ordered for the back of the newer dump truck. Enough liquid calcium chloride will be applied to control dust. The quarry by-pass will be completed and as many other improvements completed as available money allows..

\*\*\*\*\*

## ADVERTISEMENTS

SHIRLEY MILLER

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613-389-2588

FOR SALE Wooded, hilly, 4-acre-plus, waterfront lot next to the Fowler House. Ask for details. Call

Hugh & Claire Jenney 613-384-7830 for an appointment to see the property.

\*\*\*

AMHERST ISLAND CHIROPRACTIC 10650 Front Rd. 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

\*\*\*

HARTIN'S PUMPING SERVICE: Septic Pumping & Inspection 613-379-5672

\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*

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

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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](mailto: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.

\*\*\*

At right, photo by Brian Little

FOOTFLATS FARM ACCOMMODATION: [www.footflats.com](http://www.footflats.com) (613 634-1212) Goodman House (waterfront) - 4 bedrooms, 3 bath - available year round

\*\*\*

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 at 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





On the Road Again – Topsy Farms sheep drive from farm to field at Schantz' via Front Rd  
Photo by Joan Simpson



Above – Deer snacking on hay – photo by Brian Little





## **“BREAK FROM WINTER”**

### **ISLAND DANCE**

AT THE AMHERST ISLAND RECREATION CENTER  
BY AMHERST ISLAND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 22, 2014 7:00 p.m.

MUSIC BY:

JENNIFER BRANT & MUSTANG

CASH BAR

COME TO ENJOY A GOOD OLD COUNTRY DANCE

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Lyn Fleming @ 613-634-2509    Dan Simpson @ 613-389-8297