

Amherst Island Beacon



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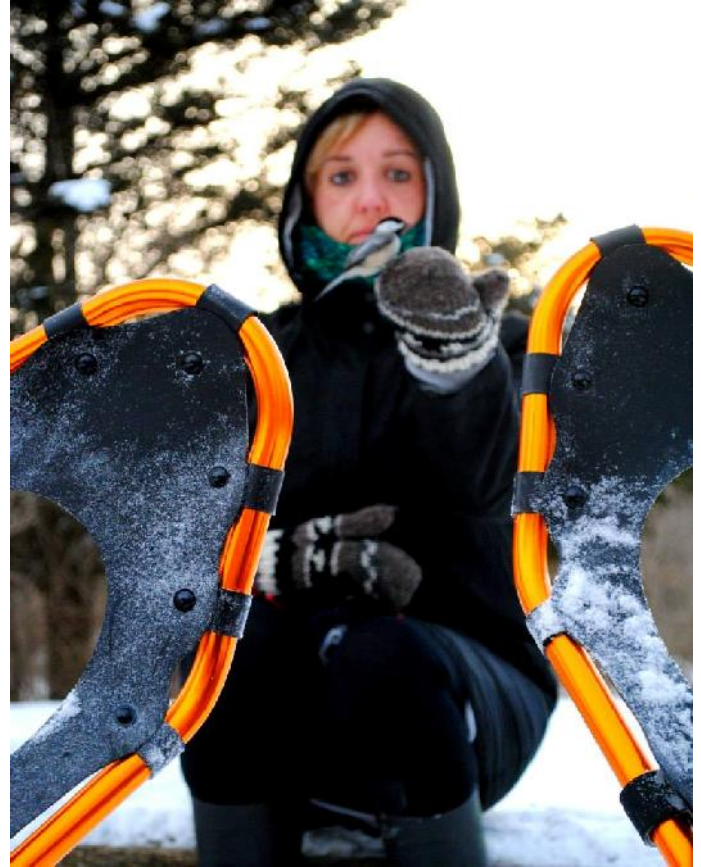
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Snowshoes and Chickadees in Owl Woods

Blythe Koreen

Photo by W. Grant Fleming

THIS ISSUE

-Ian Murray, Editor

It has taken a long time for our mailed subscriptions to drop below 100. Fortunately, our e-mail subscriptions are now over 50.

GREGORY ALLAN HUDSON

Greg was born January 15, 1947 and died suddenly at home on January 31 this year. He leaves behind his wife Donald and other family members.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lynn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to Sally Bowen, Maureen McGinn

Lots of travellers to warm locations this past month.

Warren and Laurene Kilpatrick, Gary and Lesley McDonald and John and Laurie Moulenbeek were off on their annual Caribbean cruise, enjoying some sunshine and warm weather.

Dayle and Elly Gowan and Diane Pearce and Michelle Lelay spent a few weeks in Mexico.

Also escaping several days of snow and wind, were Eric and Janice McGinn and Peter and Pam McCormick who spent a week in Playa del Carmen, Mexico.

Zander and Nancy Dunn soaked up some heat on a Caribbean cruise.

Kelly and Maureen McGinn returned to Curacao, off the coast of Venezuela for their vacation

Bonnie Livingston did some tropical bird watching in Costa Rica.

As well, there are many Island snow birds who are nesting in various southern locations.

The mid-winter dance held in February, unfortunately, was poorly attended. It is frustrating and disheartening for the people who put these

functions on, not to be supported by their community. The 50-60 people that did attend, had a great evening, with live music, catching up with neighbours, lots of laughs and of course a good old Island "lunch".

A.I.P.S. held their 16th annual Polar Bear Olympics, which this year coincided with the Sochi Olympics. The day started with their own opening ceremonies, complete with their team country's flag, and cheer. Students participated in their own version of Olympic sports, with lots of snow for a change to make them fun! The day ended with the closing ceremonies and the presentation of the Polar Bear Trophy.

It has been a long, old fashioned winter here on the Island. We have had lots of snow and wind this year, with 6 snow days since November 27th, when the school buses didn't run. It has been a lot of years since we have had this kind of winter. Personally, I feel that if we are going to live in Canada in the winter, then we should have snow too. There is nothing worse than a dreary, grey and wet winter. However this winter has gone on long enough and I am even looking forward to milder Spring days. The ice has been thicker than in recent years, as well, making for some slower ferry crossings.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Mary Kay Steel

In February what better thing to do than to play hooky? And that's what the WI did, in the midst of a fiercer than usual winter on our beautiful island. We gathered, some fourteen of us, on the afternoon of February 19th at Norma-Lynn Cole's home for a movie and supper - no official meeting at all! The movie was The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, and though most of us had seen it a while back, it was worthy of a second viewing and many chuckles and smiles were noted among the members.

Following the movie we tucked into a fine meal, organized by Jackie Sylvester with the main course from the kitchen of The Little Red Hen, Saskia. Jackie prepared two marvelous and tempting desserts. It was a fine afternoon and evening, with time to catch up on news with friends and to share

ideas about the Institute's work. And Norma-Lynn is a great hostess.

Our next meeting will be held on March 19th at Nancy Dunn's home at 7pm. Guests are welcome.



Immature Cooper's Hawk
Photo by Lyndsey Murray

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

The Question of Baiting:

Recently I was blessed to have a wonderful photographer, Melissa Groo visit and stay with me through three of those windy, snowy days at the end of January. Mayo Underwood had suggested that Melissa contact me regarding the Owls of Amherst Island. As we were snowed in and it was impossible to see across the road, let alone photograph across a field, we spent a lot of time just talking.

One of her first questions was, "How come you don't like photographers?" Now this came out quite

straight forward and I had to stop and think. This was a guest in my home and I had hoped that she felt welcome and wanted. I had not realized that I had been so outspoken on the subject of photographers harassing the owls that she had heard that I didn't like photographers. Well like in any generalization of likes and dislikes there are exceptions and I must clarify that it's not all photographers of nature that I dislike only the ones that harm or might potentially harm a living creature with their practices.

If you repeatedly photograph a resting Owl with a flash camera then you are causing a reaction in very light sensitive eyes over and over again to the point that you may cause discomfort and pain or inhibit its ability to catch prey in order to keep itself alive. If you break off what you consider a useless branch in order to improve your photograph of a roosting Saw-whet you may have ruined its camouflage and exposed it to the next hunting Barred Owl that passes. If you use a squeaky gadget to disturb the sleeping owl then you have burned up energy that now it will have to replace with hunting longer possibly into the daylight hours when it becomes the prey!

We on Amherst have seen most of these behaviours and perhaps I have become hardened to photographers but I must say not all!

Another question that Melissa brought up was the much debated question regarding baiting. Why am I so against baiting the Owls with pet store or laboratory raised mice by photographers visiting Amherst Island. There are all the usual reasons such as:

1. Making Owls dependent on man -They still hunt between influxes of photographers so this is not a problem here. One photographer told me that I bait birds at my birdfeeder so that I can see them better so how is this any different?
2. Bringing them out closer to the road- Photographers carry a lot of equipment and they don't want to trek across snow-covered fields. There's not much traffic on Amherst Island so here it is not such a problem but these owls have crossed major highways to get here and still have to return home. We don't want them to get too used to roads.

3. BUT..... my major concern is the danger of pet store mice spreading diseases to our local rodents. We live here in an isolated ecosystem. *Microtus Pennsylvanicus* is the basis of so many food chains here on Amherst. Coyotes, Raptors, Great Blues, Weasels, even farm pigs eat voles. Voles swim but not 4 km. to the mainland so we have a captive, inbred population. If a virus or infection of any kind were to be spread to our local voles, which would have no immunity to it, the population could be wiped out. The chances are probably very unlikely but Europeans wiped out First Nation Peoples with Red Measles and Small Pox. Maybe it wouldn't be as devastating as Emerald Ash Borer or Gobi Fish but we don't know and I don't want Photographers to experiment with my beloved Amherst Island.

Take care where you walk and leave the soil as you found it.

Melissa Groo is featured in this month's Smithsonian magazine. She does not bait and indicates that on her photographs as well as encouraging other photographers to do the same. Check out her sites, you'll be amazed at her photographs.

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From the 2 Session of Council, Jan 27th

Dennis Baxter attended the Council meeting regarding the Township's purchase of the Baxter property.

"Mr. Baxter noted that the property has been kept as a sensitive wetland by his family and is acknowledged by the Conservation Authority.

. "There are five property owners who have rights-of-way on the property purchased by the Township and Mr. Baxter wishes to know how these rights-of-way will be protected.

"Mr. Baxter expressed concerns about impact on wildlife, vandalism, trespassing and public alcohol consumption on the property. Who would be responsible for the maintenance of the road which includes snow removal? How will we assure access by emergency service vehicles? Also, he wants the property fenced at the Township's expense.

“Mayor Lowry acknowledged the issues identified. The Director of Planning and Development Services, Mr. Beckel advised that a baseline documentation report has to be completed and advised that the Planning Department will recommend that Council establish an Advisory Committee to comment on the Stewardship Management Plan

“Deputy Mayor Bresee asked if these rights-of-way are dedeed. Mr. Baxter advised that they were and the road was built by his father.

“Councillor Ibey requested clarification from the Director of Planning & Development services regarding the rights-of-way.

“Mr. Beckel advised that the Township purchased the land subject to the rights-of-way.

“Elna Licharson applauded the Township for purchasing this land. She explained the property has a very fragile environment, with a sand dune and wetland. She expressed concern about how to get the public into the property without using the rights-of-way, where will people park on what is now a single lane right-of-way, garbage collection, road maintenance, washroom facilities and charging admission.

“Ziya Erkan read a letter that was forwarded to residents by Diane Pearce that appears to be in contrast to the Mayor's statement of conservation. Mr. Erkan expressed the concern about trespassing on private property. Mr Erkan also asked if the property is going to be rezoned as he believes that this land is currently zoned as agricultural.

“Mr. Beckel advised that the property is currently zoned shoreline residential and environmental protection.

“Moved by Councillor Ibey and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bresee that the presentations of Dennis Baxter, Elna Licharson and Ziya Erkan, concerning the Baxter property on Amherst Island, be received. Motion carried.”

From the 3rd Session of Council, February 10th

Please refer to the Council website for the 5 page Stewardship Plan for the Sand Beach. The purpose of this plan is an attempt to satisfy all interested parties: the government related agencies who put up money; the adjoining landowners; those possessing

right-of-way rights; environmentalists; Islanders and mainlanders who hope to use the beach; and, Council members who bear the responsibility of making it all work as well as possible.



Another Good Coyote
Photo by Shirley

AIMS Meeting, February 7 at 8am

- Anders Bennick

Breakfast: Thank you to Betty Wemp, Jane McGinn and crew for a tasty and elaborate breakfast.

Attendance: 11 members.

Chair: David Pickering

Agenda

1. Presentation.

This was in the form of an interview by Zander Dunn of Allan Glenn and Keith Miller about times past on the island. The interview was recorded for later broadcast on Amherst Island Radio.

Allan and Keith were both born on the island (1938 and 1940 respectively) and they went to the same Island school. People did not travel much in those days because the roads were bad and few people had cars. As a result when Keith started school there were children there that he had never seen before. Popular games were baseball, fox and hounds or just throwing a ball over the school. The school also put on plays and on occasion the players would bring the performance to the mainland.

Social life included supper parties, card games and events such as church suppers, dances at Victoria Hall and the New Year's dance. TVs were rare and the few people that had them would invite neighbours over to watch hockey games.

Telephone services were primitive, a concession road shared one party line, so you could listen in on other people's conversation, but it was also useful because you could for example find out if the veterinarian was on the island. The lack of telephone service did however save Keith's leg. When he was 16, a tree fell on his leg which was broken badly. When he was taken to the hospital the doctor thought it would be necessary to amputate the leg. Due to the poor telephone service it was not possible to phone his family on the island and get permission to do the amputation. When another physician saw Keith the following morning he decided that amputation was not necessary, so because of the poor telephone service Keith still has two legs!

The ferry ran only 3 times a day and if you had to get to the mainland after hours, you were out of luck. This happened to Allan's mother who went into labour after hours and had to be brought to the mainland by a boat where she safely gave birth to Allan. Because of the few ferry trips a day, transport to the mainland became much easier in the winter once the bay had frozen and you could cross to the mainland any time you wanted on the ice. Crossing on the ice could be perilous. On one occasion Allan and his wife with their small child drove by car across the ice, but had to stop because of a pressure ridge in the ice and walk the rest of the way. Returning with their shopping to the car sitting on the ice, Allan's wife who was carrying their child fell though the ice up to her neck, but Allan managed to pull her out saving the life of his wife and their child.

On another occasion the front wheels of the car Allan was driving across the frozen bay went though the ice, so a team of horses had to be fetched to pull the car back on the ice.

The coming of the new ferry and more frequent trips had a great impact on the social life because now it became possible to go to the mainland and return later in the evening. Consequently there were fewer social events on the Island.

At that time there were 20-25 farms on the Island and everybody farmed. This included milking the cows by hand in the morning and then taking the milk to the cheese factory. Besides farming there were other sources of income. Before the St Lawrence Seaway was built the swamp supported a large population of muskrats. By trapping muskrats you could sell their pelts at \$6 apiece to furriers, so an enterprising farm boy could earn a small fortune.

The Island was a very tight knit community, in fact Keith felt that he had not one but 18 mothers. All families were close and it is impossible for new people to grasp the tight social network that existed on the island.

One of Allan's memories is of Zander when he first lived on the Island. Allan was going to teach Zander to water-ski which resulted in Zander going through the water like a torpedo!

Many changes have occurred on the Island. Allan feels that we have to accept these changes and he is glad that people like Zander have come to Amherst Island.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

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

3. Membership list.

David Pickering will update the list and bring it to the next meeting for scrutiny by the members.

4. Donations.

David Pickering will bring a list of potential donations to the next meeting for discussion and approval.

THE NAKED TRUTH

-Zander of DUNN INN

I have decided there is something new under the sun. At least it is new to me. The naked bodies of some students at Napanee High School are being flashed on the internet. When I was in high school I never had to face anything like that. I wasn't tempted to have my body photographed for all to see, nor was I asked to look at the bodies of my classmates, male or female, in pictures or movies. We didn't have computers, the internet or face book and it simply never occurred to us to display our naked bodies for everybody else to look at.

I suspect many of the young people who had the photographs of their bodies shared with other youth

did not intend for that to happen. They may have wanted only their girl friends or boy friends to see them in all their glory. The trouble is that nobody can now stop those pictures from going all around the world. Those pictures can be accessed by people nobody ever imagined would get to see them. What may have started out as a lark - a joke, a response to a dare, an experiment, an expression of love - may now become a nightmare. Those pictures may haunt family, friends, schools and churches and may prevent young people from getting jobs, police clearances and passports.

While I feel sorry for the young people who meant to have fun or who tried to shock their friends, I am more concerned for our society which sends our young people mixed signals every day. On the one hand, we are told that our bodies are beautiful; on the other hand, we use our bodies (especially female bodies) to sell products. If our bodies are beautiful why do so many people get upset when those bodies are exposed for all to see? If our bodies are beautiful why do we use them to promote other things?

I believe God made our bodies beautiful and blessed most of us with healthy bodies. It is good to rejoice in that. Think of only one part of the body - the hand. It is a marvel of engineering and power. Our hands allow us to perform amazing tasks, to feel many sensations, to signal many expressions. I could go through all the parts of the body to exclaim about how wonderful they are.

But some parts of our bodies are private (some call them "our privates"). We are not to be ashamed of them; nor are we to flaunt them. They are unique to us and we are to keep them to share only with special loved ones in loving ways.

I know that in our modern movies we increasingly see nudity. I am not referring to pornography, but to the main stream movies which are screened in our theatres. Sometimes the nudity in those movies is to shock; sometimes, to build suspense; sometimes, to express love. I think those occasions of nudity can be legitimate for the purpose of the story involved. But, as everybody knows, nudity is not nearly as sexy or intriguing as bodies provocatively dressed. When people are nude, there's nothing more to see. When they are sexily dressed there is everything to anticipate.

That's what saddens me about what some students at Napanee High School have done. They may think they have shown everything. But they don't realize that they have not shown anything about their personalities. We are much more than our bodies and our bodies are not the most important thing about us.

The other day I saw a video about amputees - people missing parts of their bodies. What came through in that video was that those people were not limited by what they lacked. They were caring, brilliant, loving, hopeful, humorous, insightful people who brought out the best in other people using the skills they had developed.

God has given us bodies through which to develop our personalities. Some people are not satisfied with the bodies they have. Others enjoy showing off their bodies. But when the emphasis is only upon the body, then the personality suffers.

I am sure the young people of Napanee High School are better than what a few of them have done. They are gifts of God to our society. I am sure I would enjoy getting to know them even without seeing them naked. I hope for their sakes that the results of what they have done will not depress and ruin them so that they cannot use all the other gifts God has given them to do good.

For all of us, there is a lesson to be learned. Relate to one another in modesty, using the mind, the spirit, the heart ... in and through the body. If we use only our bodies to speak for us, we are not being honest. We are not telling the whole truth about ourselves and we are selling ourselves short. Let's not allow our mixed up society to push us into revealing too much and too little of ourselves.

How ironical that Matthew Fox, a Christian leader, in talking about mysticism, points out that we are not to flee the body but to find "the essence and the heart in the body, the moral outrage in the body, our connection to the earth in the body, our sexual powers in the body, our voice in the body, the right and left brains working in tandem in the body and our connection to the cosmos in the body." That's how important the body can be.

CHEESEMAKER'S DAUGHTER

-Judy Bierma

It's that time again. I'm in the Bahamas and finding it hard to think about my time on the Island in the sixties. I just listened to a motivational talk on You-tube that Deb Kimmett did. She offers this on-line course on writing every January and I take it. It's so much fun. The first year there was a student from China and one from California and me in the Bahamas, one in Toronto and we would meet on the internet Sunday mornings at 9 and Deb would do a talk and suggestions on how to write and we would write. It's such a great time. After writing for 7 or 10 minutes we would share our writings. I really looked forward to that time. It's February now and even in the south because we're here for 4 months or 3 things slow down and the same things happen each day unless I have the energy to change them.

You know how you do things that take a lot of effort to do but make great memories. This Thursday I went to Ruby Swiss, a restaurant, where I meet with 8 or so other people who are blind or are partners to a person who is blind and we sit around a big table covered in a clean white table cloth. Set up for a meal and we partake in Braille. I do the instructing but they all help each other with the different dot combinations that make up words and letters.

It's a great time to gather.

Your life changes drastically when you go blind. You can't drive anymore. Some friends who used to visit don't come by anymore because they are uncomfortable with your blindness. You're not as independent as you used to be. You can't work. It's hard to be helpful because you can't see what needs to be done. These people are a huge support to each other. We tell jokes, laugh, talk about the past and just be there for each other. The Braille is important too. With Braille there is hope that they will be able to read again, to read their Bible. The people I work with are very religious and it's very, very important to them to be able to read their Bible.

I have ordered 4 Bibles from the Bible Association in the US and they send Bibles free, Bibles in Braille. It's 17 volumes, about 4 feet high when stacked on the floor. It was so warming to see their faces when I presented them with their Bibles. Vanni

took hers home and put it under her bed so it was close to her and she could touch it.

It's a very special network they have and the time is very precious to them. Carolyn the owner of the restaurant is in the class too and she always gives all the people a take home supper of Bahamian fare, rice and peas, chicken and coleslaw. Last week she gave us homemade bread.

What a special time it is to be with these people. This week I was really tired and didn't want to make the 45 minute bicycle ride to Ruby Swiss but I knew once I got there I would be glad I went. They had big hugs for me and many compliments and warm fuzzies. The time with them makes great memories even though sometimes I'm tired.



Perhaps this will help Judy's memories.

"The island horse-drawn school bus"

Courtesy of Lyn Fleming

A PROBLEM WITH PETCOKE

-Liz Harrison

Those Islanders who were fortunate to attend the presentation by Lafarge Environmental and Public Affairs Manager, Rob Cumming, learned that some of the fuel currently burned by the company includes petcoke. I really had no idea what petcoke was until I received my February edition of the CCPA Monitor. CCPA is the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and their magazine is always an interesting read. Neighbours of Lafarge, such as Amherst Island residents, might be interested in learning more about this substance which can constitute up to 99% of the fuel used by Lafarge.

Petcoke (petroleum coke) is a powdery, waste product remaining from refining all oils. While the process of refining conventional oil produces only small amounts of petcoke which are typically consumed within the refinery itself, the pollution problems are particularly associated with the ever increasing amount of coke produced from processing tar sands crude. The New York Times reported in May 2013 “that the small grains and high sulfur content make it largely unusable” except as cheap and dirty fuel. The burning of bitumen petcoke emits huge volumes of soot and greenhouse gases. For this reason its use is limited in the U.S. which no longer allows any new licenses that permit burning the fuel. Canada and other countries however burn it in coal-fired power plants, cement kilns and paper mills because it is 25% cheaper than coal. High sulphur petcoke when burned as a fuel creates particulate matter PM2.5 and PM10 which can lodge in the lungs and endanger human health.

Residents of Windsor have yet another concern and formed a group called Windsor On Watch (WOW) after spotting black clouds of powdery petcoke blowing their way from the huge stockpiles around Detroit and Chicago. There has been a large increase in the production of the waste since U.S. refineries expanded their processing of tar sands bitumen. Currently, Marathon Oil’s Detroit refinery alone is producing 1720 tons of petcoke daily. Ontario Environment Minister, Jim Bradley, has called the situation of the airborne petcoke drifting towards S.W. Ontario “unsatisfactory” and Premier Kathleen Wynne was criticized for not raising the

issue at the recent meeting of Great Lakes Governors. Rob informed me that petcoke used at the Bath plant comes largely from the Port of Chicago and recently from Joliet, PQ.

In conclusion I will add following extract from his e-mail

“Both coal and coke are carbon intensive fuels. While our test work indicates that they perform well and safely in our process - and are in abundant supply - we also realize we need to do our part to reduce carbon emissions and that means finding alternatives. The low carbon fuels project that we discussed back in January is really our main response to this specific part of the challenge. Over time, if we are successful, we can replace imported fossil fuels with local, low carbon fuels not only here but also across the industry. We need to proceed cautiously and with partners but I’m hopeful that we can reach our 30% replacement target by 2020. We’ll need to do more work after that to go beyond 30% but we’ll cross that bridge then.”

He notes also that no changes have been seen in particulate or sulphur emissions when using either petcoke or coal and that cement kiln processes are unique in that sulphur in fuels get incorporated into the product and are therefore less sensitive to sulphur content. In addition the coal and coke are ground to an even finer product to improve their performance.

And as a postscript I would like to note that all the information about petcoke in the paragraph (apart from Rob’s submission) was part of a much longer and chilling article about the politics, production, misrepresentation and profits associated with this product which appeared in the February edition of the CCPA Monitor.

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

-Janet Scott

A wonderful talk and slide show was presented Friday, February 21st by Margaret Maloney and Peter Large as part of the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre’s Backroom Talk series.

Peter showed us sketches and art pieces that he had made of the wonderful animals they saw on their Namibian Safari and Margaret showed us some of the thousands of fantastic photographs that she took on the trip. We got to appreciate the size of these animals, the difficulties they face during the dusty,

dry season and learned of the hierarchy at a watering hole.

Margaret gave us a fascinating glimpse of museums, mosques and markets in Namibia and Union of South Africa and both were so gracious in responding to the barrage of questions about their trip. If you missed it I recommend you catching it if they show it again at another venue.

We had a full house and the museum once again thanks all those who donated so generously to our day to day costs. Thank-you Margaret and Peter for your wonderful talk.

Just a reminder that the museum will be reopening on the long weekend in May. We had over 1000 visitors last year, were you one?

St. Alban's Anglican Church

Beef Supper

March 29: 5pm-7pm

Take-outs available

Adults - \$15

Children 5 to 12 \$7

Under 5 - free

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - March 6th

- Chris Kennedy

All members of Council were present.

Ed Chadband, the building inspector, reported to Council on a seminar he attended on the new building code, in Ottawa. Several changes apply to renovations. Ed Chadband has the details if people need them.

The Reeve reported on the meetings and functions connected with the County he attended in the previous months. He keeps busy with a long list of committees, several of which I had never

heard. The County Council's work seems to extend into many different areas, all run by committees.

There was considerable discussion about finding a larger room for the Public Library. Diane Gavlas joined in. The County Library Board and the School Board are negotiating about using space in the school. Diane was wondering if old people would find the school too far from the village. Anybody with an opinion should contact Diane or a member of Council.

Council is still discussing with the Federal Government about the dock, payment for and alterations to and so on. So far the Federal Government have sent a man to look at it.

Council received and filed several letters about driving the ice, and also a copy of the coroner's report on the recent accident near Wolfe Island.

There is a hold up in the plans for crushing gravel as McKendry's cannot move their equipment now until the beginning of May because of half-loading on roads. They have said they will supply gravel from elsewhere until they crush.

The report on the dump has been finished. If the Township wishes to continue using the dump, the report recommends that a tall fence to catch blowing refuse be put along the east side; that the large pond on the south side be removed; that the old automobiles and stoves etc. be removed and no more put in, (incidentally old cars have been banned for several years); that a proper system for covering the garbage be introduced; and that any run-off should be checked to make sure it is not polluting. If the dump is not improved, we are liable to have some extremely expensive solution imposed on us from outside.

Council has received enquiries about the St. John's Ambulance Resuscitation course (CPR). Council said they would pay if some members of the fire crew wanted to take the course and the Workmen's Compensation Board would not pay. People interested should contact Rick Tait at 389-3444.

The Council is trying to find the best way to put washrooms in the Municipal building. One possibility is to turn it into a Heritage Building, when all sorts of grants become available for improvements. The first step is to commission an architect's report, which they did.

The Solicitor-General is very keen that municipalities organize for Emergency Planning for major disasters. Some of Council wondered how relevant this was to Amherst Island, so they decided to contact other local councils, to see what they are doing, if anything. . . .

Council decided to send most of the old council records to the County Archives, where they will be open for study. Diane Pearce is to prepare a list of papers to go.

Council decided that Ducks Unlimited should be asked not to survey the Big Marsh until the Drainage matter is resolved. They have written to the Toronto lawyer handling the drainage appeal to ask him to speed up matters if possible, but the case will probably not be heard before fall.

Birdwatchers have paid about \$2000 in ferry fees this year. It would be interesting to know how many times we have pushed them out of the ditches. . . .

After receiving various pieces of correspondence, Council adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

REEVE ALLISON REPRESENTS WARDEN AT L&A COUNTY MUSEUM ON HERITAGE DAY FEB. 20, 1984.

In designating the L&A County Museum to be the official Regional Repository for papers relating to the County, Reeve Allison said:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to represent our Warden this Heritage Day and to have a part in the paper elephant activities which have been organized by our Museum staff led by Jane Foster.

It is my pleasant duty to officially designate the Lennox and Addington Museum as the official Regional Repository for papers, documents, etc. relating to the County.

Not only do we have a building well equipped to fulfill this function, as it has light, temperature, and humidity controls as well as smoke and intrusion alarms, but we have an up-to-date computer and competent staff to undertake this new work, as you may have discovered. As you look round the facilities here today you may be surprised at the quantity and quality of the donations already made.

One advantage of a regional repository is that old papers don't get thrown away or fall into careless hands. A few years ago when some old shipyard

offices were being demolished in Kingston, an early minute book of the Kingston St. Andrew's society, of the time Sir John A. MacDonald was president of the Society, was found in the rafters of the condemned building.

Fortunately the importance of the minute book was recognized by the finder and returned to the society. I might add these old minutes still make interesting reading today. So it is not difficult to see the advantage of having a regional repository where private citizens and all kinds of businesses or other organizations can deposit their old records with confidence, in a safe and secure place from which they can readily be made available to researchers and other interested persons who otherwise would not know that they exist. In this way local history can be preserved and promoted among the younger generations.

Some time ago the Neilson family of Amherst Island donated the ledgers from their now defunct general store which had existed for 100 years, and more recently the village of Newburgh has transferred their pre-1930 records to the care of our new repository. We trust many others will follow these examples.

In conclusion let me say that I feel that the County can be very proud of having an institution of this size and quality within its bounds



R to L – The Wolfreys Boys
Don, Art, Ernie, Henry, Lloyd, Howard, Leonard
(Ellis not yet born) courtesy Lyn Fleming

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Lulu Strain P.R.O.

The January meeting was held at the home of Georgie Allison in the form of a pot luck supper. After a delicious meal a short business meeting was held at which we decided to take donations for the Heart Fund at the ham dinner providing the ISLE Committee was agreeable, and to donate the 4-H Club and the ISLE Committee hot lunch fund for the school children. A game of Trivial Pursuit followed which was much enjoyed by those present.

On February 15th Phyllis Strain was hostess and nine members and one guest were present. Mrs. Allison, president, opened the meeting with the Ode, Mary Stewart Collect and Oh Canada.

The minutes were read and financial statement given by Phyllis Strain, secretary-treasurer. A very good amount of money was collected for the Heart Fund and thanks to the many who donated so generously. Marion Glenn, District Director, gave a report of the meeting she recently attended in Napanee.

The roll call was "Ways (new) that a family's life may be strengthened" and many ways were suggested. The Family Affairs Convenor, Jacquie Sylvester showed a movie based on family and quite a lively discussion followed.

Lunch was served by Genevieve Fleming and Lulu Strain.

To all Institute members: The next meeting will be Monday March 19, 1984 at Jane Miller's at 8:00 p.m. instead of Wednesday. Remember we're all to bring a little green lunch.

YOU KNOW YOU ARE ON AMHERST ISLAND WHEN:

- Your birthday is June 23rd and you are the New Year's baby
- you get a wag of the tail from every dog you meet for you know them all by name
- you go out jogging and every car that you meet stops and offers you a ride.
- you have a flat tire on the South Shore and the news gets back to the village before you do.

- you see cars by the side of the road from Florida, Alabama, Alaska, New York, etc. and the owners are out looking for Gray Owls

CARD OF THANKS

Ross and I would like to express a big "Thank You" to the people of Stella for making us so happy to be new residents of the Island.

Moving to Stella from Toronto was a bit frightening at first but not for long. You have all been so patient in answering our questions - and I know we've asked a lot of them - I'm surprised you don't hide when you see us coming.

We would like to say a special thank you to our neighbours, Harry and Barbara Filson. Without their help we would be 'lost'. We hope to return your kindness in years to come.

Ross and Lois Evans

More FROM THE ARCHIVES

Amherst Island Beacon

Issue 194 March 1994

BEACON NOTES

This vanilla version of the Beacon is what happens when Don is too busy to do the production work. His business is very demanding right now and he knows that he'd better take advantage of the work while it's there: the phone can become very quiet.

Caroline Ackerman did the typing, Ian did the pushing, Sally did the proofing, Chris will do the stencils, and Don gave advice. Whoever is around will do the collating and stapling. Leslie will, as usual, handle the subscriptions and the money. Glenn's Store will handle direct sales. Did anyone get left out?

Oh!

Thanks to everyone who sends in the written material. When the material dries up, the Beacon will be history.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

Welcome home to Nessie Welbanks, who spent the winter in Kingston after recovering from knee surgery.

And welcome back to Art Ackerman after a winter in warmer climates.

Our sympathy to Caroline Ackerman on the loss of her father last month.

Congratulations to Kaye and Dorothy McGinn (and, of course, Vernon and Dorothy) on the birth of their new grandson/son last week.

Best wishes to Henry Hitchins, who spent some time in the hospital last month, and to Coralie Marshall who was also in the hospital.

We all felt badly for Doug Wilson when his poor Lee passed away a couple of weeks ago. He has now replaced him with a she-Doberman, Leah. Welcome to the village!

I.S.L.E.

-Don Tubb

Actually this is from the staff who somehow blew the ISLE article last month. Not only were there several typo's missed but an entire line went missing which left ISLE not taking credit for the playground at the school.

We are sorry for this and have no explanation for how an entire line vanished into the black hole of the hard disk never to reappear.

4-H News

- Lori Caughey, Press Reporter

Measuring, cutting, quilting, and stitching is how you will find the "sewing with Susie" 4-H Club on Wednesday nights.

Our Club consists of 7 senior 4-H members, lead by Susie Caughey. All members congregate at the Caughey's home off the bus on Wednesday evenings. Our supper is provided by our mothers.

The members are:

Amy Caughey - Treasurer

Lori Caughey - Press Reporter

Angela Fleming - Vice-President

Jessica Gavlas - Telephone Convenor

Kristy Grange - Secretary

Heidi Hitchins - Recreation Committee

Each member is working on a club project. They include skirts, ruffled pillows, quilts, horse blanket, curtains and numerous small projects. We are all having a wonderful time following the 4-H motto - "Learn to do by doing!"

"NEW LEASE ON LIFE: LANDLORDS, TENANTS AND IMMIGRANTS IN IRELAND AND CANADA."

Written by Catherine Anne Wilson

- reviewed by Thomas Sylvester

All February I was running to my mail box, hoping Catherine's book had arrived. The Island should be proud of Catherine's book. This book has doubled the published historical material on Island history. Further, the quality of her research has established a new standard.

The papers of Robert W. Cumberland and B.C. Burleigh record the intent to write the Island history. Catherine's book will be the reference book used by default.

It is important to remember the origins of Catherine's book. Back in 1982, when there was the opportunity of government money for youth employment, a Beacon reporter at Council meeting thought "why not"? Within two days, Ian Murray and Sally Bowen initiated a youth-employment Oral History project for the summer of 1982.

Island students Bev Wemp and Pauli Bulch were hired, supervised by a promising Cathy Wilson who was starting a Queen's University History masters program in the Fall. (I regret to have forgotten the name of Cathy's partner.) Cathy doubted, early in the project, if there was enough material for a master's thesis.

They drove around in a clunker Fury car and, perhaps in spite of that vehicle, recorded a significant bounty of information. Approximately three dozen interviews were compiled and indexed.

The Oral History project served the Island well - one third of the Islanders interviewed have since passed away.

Catherine completed her MA in (Island) History in 1984. She had the good fortune to discover the Irish descendant of the Island Estate owners six months previously. As might be expected, the Landlord's records were more extensive and in better condition than the similar contents of Island tenants' basements.

Her intuition sent her off to those forgotten records. Her doctoral research has repatriated a wealth of detail of Island history. Her extensive research in Canadian primary sources has identified

references and techniques that had been figuratively forgotten in basements.

Dr. Catherine Wilson's PhD has been available for viewing at Queen's University since 1990. It was written to the strict requirements of a thesis, although fascinating to read.

"A New Lease on Life" is an extensive revision of the manuscript presented as how she wanted to tell the story. Excellent additions include maps, illustrations, an appendix of Amherst Island Immigrant Families from the Ards and a detailed index.

The first part of the book delves into the Island estate landlords. The second part of the study follows more than one hundred tenant families who, between 1820 and 1860, migrated from the Ards Peninsula in County Down to Amherst Island, where they rented land.

Catherine's research both supports and contradicts the oral histories I have heard around kitchen tables.

Anyone interested in Island history should read the book and then gather around the kitchen table once again.

This book is available at Glenn's Store: \$39.95.

FERN & DAVE WILLARD'S DINNER & DANCE - Staff

As advertised in last month's Beacon, and as mentioned in the front page of the Whig-Standard (with an accompanying colour photo), the Willard family said thank you to their Island community and to their off-Island friends and relatives for the help received over the past 4 years by holding a free dinner and dance.

An estimated 170 people enjoyed a good meal and a pleasant evening. The ISLE bar cleared over \$600.

Irene Glenn and Alex Scott, Jr., each won a copy of Cathy Wilson's new book.

Dave followed up the celebration the next morning by shooting a coyote threatening his sheep flock.

THANK YOU NOTES

Special thanks from the Township Roads Department to all those people who contributed to the very interesting card and gift. We appreciate being appreciated.

I would like to thank the A.C.W. and the Amherst Island Institute ladies for their cards and P.C.L. for the lovely pie and card by Beth and Margaret. Thanks so much.

Bill and Lucille Brown

I would like to thank my family, friends and neighbours for their phone calls, cards, visits and gifts during and after my short stay in hospital.

Henry Hitchins

I would like to thank those who were so kind and offered their condolences on the recent death of my father.

The cards and goodies were much appreciated.

Caroline Ackerman

BEACON AWARDS

The coveted Pyramid Scheme Of The Month Award goes to Canadian Ostrich Hatching Ltd. for their offer that arrived in the mail last week.

For the mere investment of \$70,000 for 20 two-month old chicks, the smart farmer could "probably" have birds valuing \$720,000 in 4 years time.

"All you need to start, is a barn and after three years an incubator, hatchery and enough space for the breeders." It is not mentioned that gullibility is another essential ingredient, but one has suspicions.

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Ice Dog on South Shore
Photo by Matt Herrington
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ADVERTISEMENTS

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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

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.

FOOTFLATS FARM ACCOMMODATION:

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



Blakey Boy (Left) and Blythe at Ted and Karen's farm
Photo by W. Grant Fleming

It's been a long and harsh winter folks, but
Take Heart !!

On March 20th at 12:57 PM EDT



Photo by Brian Little