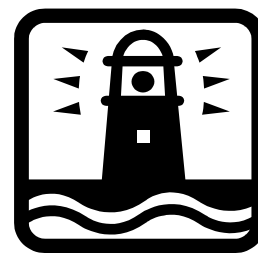


# Amherst Island Beacon



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## The Amherst Island BEACON Issue 433, August 2014

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## THIS ISSUE

-Ian Murray, Editor

The Beacon welcomes articles and photos of all Island-related events: births, deaths, weddings, anniversaries, family reunions, and so on. More of this type of content will make each issue more interesting now and in the future when today's children get nostalgic.



Saskia Wagemans – photo by Brian Little

## NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lynn Fleming

Get Well this month to Larry Fleming and Bruce Caughey

Condolences to Judith Harrower, following the passing of her daughter, Kardi Lynne Harrower in Australia.

Congratulations to Robert Eves and Melanie Fortner who were married earlier this summer.

Happy 80th Birthday to two Island ladies, who celebrated the same day in July. Barbara Reid celebrated with family and friends at an open house at the Lodge, and Caroline Ackerman celebrated at home with family (from around the world) and friends.

Happy 65th birthday to David Wemp.

My granddaughter Tia and I spent a week in

Florida visiting my mom Kay Wolfreys, my sister and her family. It was a great week, but hotter than you know where!!

The annual St. Paul's Garden Party was held the last weekend of July.

It has been cooler and rainier in late July, but the good is that everything is staying green and lush!!

Farmers are finishing up haying and working in the fields. Summer Vacation is in full swing!

Enjoy the rest of the summer - by the next Beacon, kids will be back at school already!

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## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Judy Greer

On July 16th, fifteen members and 6 guests gathered on the lawn at Debbie Barrett's home on the South Shore for the summer picnic meeting.

A small amount of regular business was conducted and for Roll Call each person was asked for a memory of a past picnic. There were some fond memories of picnics with family and friends and some memories of "unexpected happenings".

We were reminded of upcoming events such as the August 1 and 29 Bake Sales, our baking cart August 9 at the Emerald Music Festival, Kids Day at our August 2nd market, our August Outing and Jacob Murray's offer to speak at our September meeting about his trip to Ireland to the Stone Wall Conference.

The AIPS History Award, sponsored by AIWI, was given to Jack Little this year.

Our guest, Shyanne Shurtliffe, described her volunteer work at Martha's Table for which she was presented a Young Volunteer Award from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. The AIWI congratulated her on her award and told her how proud we are to have her in our community. She was presented with our food donation to take to Martha's Table and with an AIWI apron.

The picnic was a delicious spread provided by hostess Debbie and by Jackie Sylvester. Thanks to Debbie for all her effort- it was a super meeting.

The next meeting is August 20 and will be to Napanee to a Piano Museum and to McPherson House with lunch at the Riverside Restaurant (more details to follow).

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## MY LIFE AS HOST FOR AMERICA'S MOST WANTED BIRD

-Anders Bennick (story and all photos)

Each spring I haul my cleaned and disinfected Purple Martin houses out of the basement and attach them to their poles in time for the return of Purple Martins. And right on cue the first birds arrive in the middle of April having made a remarkable journey of about 7,000 km from their wintering site in Brazil in only fourteen days. Several waves of birds follow filling up my 5 houses and soon the air is resonant with gurgling and chortling Purple Martin calls in an endless joyful conversation. This extraordinary display goes on past the height of summer, but too soon for us the Martins leave in the middle of August, once more embarking on their long travel to Brazil, and we sit here bereft of their aerial display and company until next spring.

I had never imagined that I would become a Purple Martin landlord and it all came about by serendipity. About 10 years ago my wife, Kirsten took up the colourful art of tole painting and thinking that tole painting could be applied to a Purple Martin house, she bought such a house only to realize that for Purple Martins there is only one colour – white. So the house stayed in the basement for several years until I figured out how to support a Purple Martin house sitting at the end of a twelve foot long pole when you only have one foot of soil for support. The answer is: you attached it to a wooden pole anchored in the underlying rock.

Our first house was a great success. We soon had a colony of Purple Martins that obviously enjoyed the superb location right at the edge of Lake Ontario, for next year they brought all their relatives and friends; so we had a housing crisis that only could be solved by building another house. This pattern has repeated itself so by now the colony consists of 5 houses with a total of 60 nesting spaces.

Our thriving Purple Martin colony belies the fact that the population of these birds for unknown reason is in disastrous decline. In Ontario it has decreased from 25,000 in 2005 to approximately 15,000 at present. This has prompted a continental wide study tracing the migration patterns and habits of the birds that involves several centres including a collaborative effort between Nature Canada, York University and University of Manitoba. Kurt Henninge, president of the Kingston Field Naturalists and local contact for the study was

alerted to our Purple Martin colony by Janet Scott and other Island residents.

I was pleased to accept Kurt's invitation to join the study as a host of a Purple Martin Colony, and as a result, a team consisting of staff from Nature Canada, York University and the Kingston Field Naturalists descended on us July 10<sup>th</sup> with the purpose of placing transmitters on some of the birds.



The first step was after dusk to cover up the openings to the nests with cardboard so that the birds would not escape. Early the next morning, standing on tall ladders to reach the bird house (see picture #1), four screws that hold the front of the houses were removed, the fronts gently slid to one side to uncover one nest at a time so that the birds could be removed. Only two year old birds were selected for the study because they have the greatest chance of returning next year. The birds were weighed, measured and blood and feather samples were removed. The blood samples will be used for genetic studies, in particular on genes controlling the circadian rhythms responsible for the daily variations in biological processes. The feather samples will be analyzed for isotopes that can be used to delineate the geographical area where the birds were when the feathers were formed. Finally the birds were banded and outfitted with either a GPS (global positioning system) device or a geolocator in the form of a small backpack. Because

of limited battery power the GPS can only be operated 10 times a year, but they will enable the precise mapping of the locations of the birds at the time the signals are recorded. The GPS are expensive and only a limited number were available so a geolocator was attached to the rest of the birds. The geolocator will record the light level in the surroundings at specified times and this allows determination of the approximate location of the bird. An advantage of geolocators is that it is possible to obtain a large number of recordings, so the migratory route can be mapped. To retrieve the data from the GPS devices and geolocators the birds must be recaptured and the device containing the recordings retrieved.



Throughout this process the birds were remarkably docile, but finally it was time to set them free and I was given the honour of releasing the first tagged bird (see picture #2).

During the day additional birds were trapped by placing a flap next to a nest opening of a bird house. The flap could be controlled by the line on a fishing rod, so as soon as a bird entered the nest a yank on the rod closed the flap and trapped the bird so that it subsequently could be retrieved (see picture #3). Thus I learned that you can also go "fishing for birds".

The whole process required a large team trapping the birds, weighing and measuring them, taking blood and feather samples and placing the tracking devices. As a result a total of 14 birds were successfully tagged and released, and soon the Purple Martins were flying back and forth to their houses as if nothing had happened.



#3



We bade farewell to our pleasant and enthusiastic team (see picture #4) and we now await its return next year so that the tracking devices can be retrieved from the birds and the accumulated data collected. Usually about 50% of the monitors are recovered.



The visit also gave me several ideas for improving the design of my houses that I can implement next winter in preparation for next year's colony.

Purple Martins are delightful birds to have around and I will be happy to share my experience as Purple Martin landlord with anyone interested in hosting these birds. They are dependent on Humans for housing so you will do them a great favour and help their survival by putting up a Purple Martin house

and they in return will add much enjoyment to your Island life.

For further information on the Purple Martin project you can contact:

Megan Macintosh

Purple Martin Project Coordinator

Nature Canada

[mmacintosh@naturecanada.ca](mailto:mmacintosh@naturecanada.ca)

613-562-3447 ext. 234

or

Kurt Henninge

Local contact for Amherst and Wolfe Island residents

[khennige@explornet.com](mailto:khennige@explornet.com)

613-876-1804

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### THE CHRIST-LIKE RABBI

- Zander of DUNN INN

I enjoy my Jewish friends because most of them are great storytellers. The rabbis I have known love to tell stories against themselves, on themselves, in spite of themselves. Their stories are filled with love and laughter ... and surprises.

I was at a conference where an older rabbi regaled his listeners with story after story. We laughed and cried at his stories. He held us spellbound with his many tales.

He told a story about a twelve-year old girl with cancer of the lymph nodes who was in the hospital for radiation treatment. Her father was an Orthodox rabbi. He was very traditional and felt it was important to obey the laws and rituals of his ancient religion.

For the Orthodox Jews, the holiest day of the year is Yom Kippur, the day of atonement for sins committed. On Yom Kippur an observant Jew does not handle money. He does not wear any leather - even leather shoes are not worn. A good Jew does not ride in a car or use electricity for any purpose on Yom Kippur.

The little girl, called Shoshana, was scheduled to undergo her eighth and final cancer treatment on Yom Kippur. The hospital was too far away for this little girl to get to by walking. Her father, the rabbi, went to see the doctor who was to administer the treatment, to discuss the whole issue.

The rabbi explained in detail the importance of Yom Kippur and how necessary it was for Yom Kippur to be properly observed. He strongly

suggested that the cancer treatment for his daughter be skipped or cancelled.

The doctor replied that the timing of each treatment was critical to Shoshana's recovery so it was important that she not miss or delay that treatment. Her father said she was not to go to the treatment. He declared that God's law superseded any and every human law.

The doctor was horrified. "Are you telling me that God's law is more important than your child's treatment? Are you telling me that God says it is more important that you observe that law even if it kills your daughter? What kind of a God would demand that of you and your daughter?"

The rabbi was offended and responded by telling the doctor the story about Abraham and Isaac. According to that story God told Abraham to take his son, Isaac, to a place of sacrifice and there slay his own child. Abraham, obedient to God, led his son to the place of slaughter. He built an altar, tied his son and laid him on it. Then he raised his knife to kill his own son. But before he could stab his son he heard God call his name and tell him that he had provided a ram to be slaughtered in place of Isaac. Greatly relieved, Abraham released his son and sacrificed the ram instead.

The doctor said the treatment had to go ahead as planned. It could not depend upon a voice from God to stop it. The rabbi said he would refer the matter to a higher authority, the chief rabbi of the city who headed their Orthodox group. The doctor was afraid Shoshana would not be allowed to get the healing she needed on Yom Kippur.

But on the morning of Yom Kippur, Shoshana was sitting in the waiting room, right on time. With her were her mother and her father.

The doctor said, "I'm surprised to see you here, Rabbi. What did the chief rabbi say?"

The rabbi told the doctor that he had written to the Chief Rabbi, describing the situation in detail. The Great Teacher himself had called him by phone and told him to order a taxi to come to his home on the morning of Yom Kippur. He went on to say that when the taxi arrived Shoshana was to ride to her treatment and that her father was to go with her.

When the rabbi protested that it was against everything he held sacred to ride a taxi on Yom Kippur, the Chief Rabbi insisted Shoshana and her rabbi father must go together to the hospital in a taxi.

When the doctor asked, "Why did the Chief Rabbi

say this?" the rabbi answered that the Chief Rabbi had insisted that he accompany his daughter so that she would know that even the most pious and upright man in her life, her father, may ride on the holiest of days for the purpose of preserving life. The Chief Rabbi said that it was important that Shoshana not feel separated from God by this breaking of the law because such a feeling might interfere with her healing.

Two things struck me about this story. First, it reminded me of the many times Jesus broke the Sabbath law by eating and healing on that Holy Day. The Pharisees, the best of the Jews, committed to keeping the law, were scandalized but Jesus insisted that it was more important to help and to heal on the Sabbath than to keep the law. Second, I got the message that even the strictest of Jews are not inhumane people but are able to see that the laws are made to serve people and people are not made to serve the laws. To love one another is the greatest law.

\*\*\*\*\*

SHIRLEY MILLER And ARNOLD SMITH

- Sally Bowen

I had a rare, leisurely, and much appreciated visit with Shirley this month, exploring the wonders of her new book published with the best of her lifetime's work of paintings... or at least, the ones that have been photographed.

It was a joy, as she was talking so much of people and places represented by the various scenes. I do recommend the book to you, and if possible, the time with Shirley as you explore the pages.

One of the wonderful characters who came to mind was Arnold Smith, pictured here. (I've always coveted the painting she did of Arnold's Window, purchased by Joan and Doug Martin.) Story-telling commenced:





Arnold lived in a decrepit shack on the west shore on the land owned by Steve Hart who allowed him to remain. He would winterize his house by hauling buckets of lake water and throwing them at the house, building up a layer of ice as a windbreak. He had a stove that had quite a hole in it, so he couldn't build up a big enough fire to last the night. Shirley said he'd sleep with his potatoes so they wouldn't freeze. His mode of transportation was a bicycle, year 'round, so neighbours gave him an old skidoo to make winter travel easier. Instead, he hauled it inside and used it as a couch. Ralph Morrow remembered him with his dad beaching a boat, when a cotter pin broke. Arnold stuck his finger in its place – and nearly amputated it. He was always laughing and story-telling.



This is an appeal to older islanders to remember and call me with more stories of Arnold for next month. He was a wonderful character and a bit of an Island legend.

\*\*\*\*\*

## BIKER BOYZ IN ITALY

-Joyce Brown

A recent trip to Italy was an adventure for two senior citizens. Driving in a rental car on narrow, twisted roads, and fending off very aggressive Italian Grand Prix drivers made us long for the quiet country roads of Amherst Island. It was in the busy city of Como that I met my biker boyz, and proved my long-held belief that lipstick gets you anywhere.

After an idyllic week in a villa in Tuscany, we were driving to Bellagio on Lake Como. The heavens opened and raindrops the size of saucers made following direction signs difficult. After an hour of wrong turns, confusions at roundabouts, and a few raised voices, I spotted what appeared to be a restaurant with patrons inside.

Hoping for assistance, I braved the downpour and ran up the steps to what now proved to be a bar. A large, burly gentleman appeared in the doorway, waving me off, and shouting, "No, señora, no señora, not for you, señora!"

Not sure if it was my sodden, bedraggled appearance, my plaintive request for help or my lipstick, but there I was - the only woman among a dozen tough, leather clad, chain swinging, tattooed Italian bikers in their private watering hole.

One gentleman spoke a bit of English and I was able to ask directions to the nearest hotel. A loud argument in Italian was mystifying, but a phone call was made and suddenly, we had a reservation for the night in a deluxe hotel and a motorcycle escort to find our way there.

All attention returned to me. My new friends thought "the señora was pale". Would I sit down? Would I like a beer? A bottle of water was offered. A basket of bread sticks appeared. I needed desperately to use their washroom, and was led behind the bar to a lovely, marbled bathroom.

I locked the door, using a large, antique key, and you guessed it, locked myself in and could not get out! More loud arguments in Italian on the other side of the door, and a screw driver was produced. But trying not to panic, I frantically turned the funny looking key and door knob and finally the door opened. Smiles and fist pumps all around! An umbrella held over my head by my newest biker friend was a welcome courtesy as was our escort to the hotel. I will never view a biker convoy on the 401 with the same jaundiced eye again. These men could not have been nicer.

And where was my husband during these exciting moments? Watching me closely through the raindrops on the car window, wondering what the heck I was doing, but sharing my perfect faith in the power of lipstick! Or maybe it was my grey hair...?? I prefer to think the former.

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### A SOUTHERN BELLE

(In Loving Memory of Dorothy McGinn)

-Ray Feraday

They say fine ladies live in Virginia  
They have riches, beauty and poise  
They reside in beautiful mansions  
It's a setting devoid of city noise

They are gracious in manner  
Respected by the people they know  
Most caring and loving to family  
Committed but always on the go

We have such a lady on Amherst  
She's known and loved by us all  
Her works and good deeds are many  
At parties she's the belle of the ball

Our families all know who she is  
As her Dorothy mobiles fly by  
And all the single island worthies  
Crane their necks and give a sigh

Hats off to this lovely lady  
She's someone who is real  
We can't praise her too highly  
She certainly is the real deal

She doesn't need the trappings  
The bonnet, lace or frills to tell  
Like the ladies of the south  
Dorothy is our Southern Belle.

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### UPDATE ON THE SAND BEACH PROJECT

-Diane Pearce

Donations for the Sand Beach project are still being received. Thanks to everyone who has made donations so far, the total raised to date is \$13,400. We still have a ways to go to reach the \$25,000 goal so please consider making a donation, if you haven't already done so – or consider making more than one!!! Cheques should be made out to Loyalist Township. Please mark "Sand Beach Project" in the memo line on your cheque. The Township will issue charitable donation receipts for donations made. Thanks again for your support.

### Progress of Mandatory Studies:

Murray Beckel, Director of Planning and Development for Loyalist Township, provided the following report on one of the studies currently being conducted by Ecological Services of Elginburg: "An ecologist was retained to commence the Baseline Documentation Report and they need to do three site visits based on seasonal species activity. Two visits have been made, the third occurs in the early fall.

The Stewardship Report follows once the BDR is completed, and this likewise is to be prepared by Ecological Services."

The "Big Marsh/Sand Beach Advisory Committee" appointed by Council in May is expected to meet for the first time in early September, prior to the consultant's third site visit. Appointees from the Island include Keith Miller, Garry Filson, Dennis Baxter and Diane Pearce. I hope to be able to provide progress reports on the Committee's activities once it becomes active. Council approved the following mandate for the Big Marsh/Sand Beach Advisory Committee:

- a) To provide feedback to the Ecologist about the attributes of, and the species found on the Sand Beach property and surrounding lands so that these can be taken into consideration in the Baseline Documentation Report (BDR) and Stewardship Plan.
- b) To discuss possible uses of the land and where these should occur (and not), and management measures that need to be in place to ensure the ecological features on the site are conserved.
- c) To provide feedback on the draft BDR and the Stewardship Plan before these documents are provided to Council and the Ontario Heritage Trust.



Catherine Wemp and grandson Sam Browne  
Photo by Susan Keady



## A REUNION & A BIRTHDAY

-Suzanne Wemp

The McGinness family reunion was held on July 12 at Peter and Suzanne Wemp's home on Kerr Point Road. Family came from Florida, Manhattan, Boston, Rochester, Iroquois and more, they came from near and far. It was a double celebration as we celebrated Catherine Wemp's 90th birthday as well, which was on July 15th. A good time was had by all!

Below: Catherine Wemp with Ann Browne and Peter Wemp

Lower: McGinness Family Reunion  
Photos by Susan Keady



Descendants of John Howard McGinnis

John Howard McGinnis (1822-1869)

+Caroline Howard (1828-1904)

2.Rachel Margaret McGinnis (1848-1850)

2.Mary Caroline McGinnis (1853-1914)

+Edward Stephenson McMullen (1852-1928)

3.John Allen McMullen (1879-

3.Miriam Gertrude McMullen (1882-1945)

+Robert Hugh Reid (1878-1966)

4.David James Reid (1900-1968)

+Edna Julia Beaubien (1903-1991)

5.David "Edward" Reid (1924-

+Margaret Elizabeth Szilva

5.Beatrice Maud Reid (1926-

+Ralph Arnold Wemp (1920-

5.Kenneth Roderick Reid (1929-

+Janet "Bernice" McCormac

4.Gordon Edward Reid (1904-1926)

+Georgia Brown (1904-1984)

5.Robert Stratton Reid (1927-2001)

+Barbara Robinson (1934-

5.Marion Ruth Georgia Reid (1928-

+Marshall Foch Glenn (1918-1998)

5.Elsie Kathleen Reid (1937-

+Douglas "Eldon" Willard (1930-2002)

5.Georgia Reid

4.Robert Reid (1906-

2.William George McGinnis (1857-1921)

+Rachel Eva Howard (1873-1938)

3.Howard McGinnis (1894-1895)

3.Charles Raymond McGinnis (1896-

+Lela Laurine Taylor

3.John Maurice McGinnis (1898-1948)

3.Ethel Letitia McGinnis (1900-

+Royal Edward Wemp (1877-

4.Wallace Wemp (1923-

+Catherine Miller Filson (1924-

5.Peter Wallace Wemp (1950-

+Suzanne Kerr

5.Catherine Anne Wemp (1952-

3.William Allen McGinnis (1901-1960)

3.Marjorie Caroline McGinnis (1903-

+? Pazarella

3.Rachel Amy McGinnis (1903-

3.Percy Edward McGinnis (1904-

3.Mary Eliza McGinnis (1906-

+Tom Panzarella

3.Frederick "Floyd" McGinnis (1910-

+Mildred Georgina Wemp

3.Annie Eva McGinnis (1912-

+Kenneth Stuart Miller (1897-

4.Anna Miller (1933-

+Raymond Hennessey

5.John (Jackie) Hennessey (1954-

5.Michael Hennessey (1958-

\*2nd Husband of Anna Miller:

+Joseph Wlasuk

4.Stuart Percy Miller (1939-1999)

4.Gwendolyn Miller (1944-

+Paul Lauret

5.Paul Lauret (1965-

3.Charles B. McGinnis (1913-

3.Harold Delbert McGinnis (1914-

+Mavis Pauline McGinn (1922-

4.Robert Delbert McGinness

2.John Howard McGinnis (1859-1862)

2.Nancy McGinnis (1859-1860)





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## From MAKING CONNECTIONS THROUGH REFLECTIONS

- Ken Curran, Secretary of Dry Stone Walls Association of Ireland

While visiting West Clare (Ireland) recently to do some dry stone walling with other members of the DSWAI [Dry Stone Walls Association of Ireland] I received an email which at the time appeared to have no connection to what we were doing but the follow up communication included images and some history on the 'Amherst Dry stone walls and fences'.

Upon seeing the images I suddenly felt there was a connection between the style of wall that we were building and another style of wall thousands of miles away across the Atlantic ocean on Amherst Island in Lake Ontario, Canada.



Amherst Island Stone Fence by Andrea Cross

A number of things struck me about the images of the walls and the history behind them.

Firstly, how similar they were to what we were building in Miltown Malbay (which is an imitation of a local style). (Shown below)



Secondly, I noted how the builders of the old walls would have worked to similar criteria. As mentioned in the "Tweedsmuir" an historical record of Amherst Island, one Irish waller would build a "rod" a day for a dollar or two. This reminded me vividly of a conversation I had with one of the wall builders of Inis Oirr Island who recalled building a "tape" or sixteen feet a day for two punts. A "rod" is the equivalent of 16 feet. Both wallers were separated by nearly 3000 miles of ocean and well in excess of a century in time, with the Inis Oirr resident alive and still walling today.

Finally, I noted how they were all built by Irish people.

The Amherst Island walls date to the 1840's and 50's. Irish immigrants (many of whom came from Ards Peninsula) are accredited with having brought with them the skills, knowledge and heritage to build the walls. The bedrock is close to the surface on Amherst and farmers were constantly removing rocks as they ploughed the soil (nothing new there for the west of Ireland farmer).

Consequently, the Irishman's heritage and experience lent well to the circumstances, which it appears gave rise to the plethora of stone fences and walls in this area of Canada.

A feature of the style of many of the walls both in Amherst and Clare is the lack of a batter [a slope built into both sides of the wall for stability]. Most of the walls in and around Miltown Malbay and on Amherst were built almost vertical, which could tend to shorten the life span of a dry stone wall. This lack of batter was noted by dry stone experts John Shaw Rimmington and Matthew Ring on a visit to Amherst - "However, the island has a unique aspect to it lending to this being less of an issue; the bedrock is very close to the surface suggesting less impact from frost. Besides this, the stone itself is unique in that it has an almost sand paper texture giving an extremely abrasive surface. These two items have definitely led to a longer life span for the walls regardless of the vertical batter"

Indeed these factors would play a part in adding longevity to the unbattered walls on Amherst. The Liscannor stone (whilst not sandpaper-like) does have the textured surface (for which it is famous) to add to its abrasiveness. The landscape in Miltown Malbay is somewhat more varied ranging from very shallow topsoil over bedrock (similar to Amherst) to areas of raised bog.

Therefore, the lack of a batter could probably have a less detrimental impact on the lifespan of the Clare walls for similar reasons to those found in Amherst. I would guess that many of the walls I saw in Clare could date from anything between 80 to 200 yrs ago. Local knowledge is often the best source for dating. I would guess though that the builders of these walls were working to a *style* and at a *daily rate* that necessitated expedience. In other words, the more they built and the faster they built it the more they were paid. A battered wall is no problem on the straight but add a turn or a curve and it is slower to build than a vertical one. It is possible the builders went straight up both (in both countries) because it was the fastest way and it was the way they knew.

According to Matthew Ring, author and stonemason, the Dry Stone Wall Association of Canada, Amherst Island has one of the most significant concentrations of historic dry stone walls anywhere in Canada

(source: <http://www.dswa.ca/story/amherst-island-a-canadian-dry-stone-historic-site>)"

For anyone living here in Ireland there are plenty examples of areas such as Amherst Island. Sadly, I feel, many of the walls here have not received the same care and attention as those in Canada. Of course, our respective histories and consequently perspectives differ.

Yet perhaps we could take a leaf out of the Amherst Islanders' book when it comes to maintenance and repair? It would be nice to see some more maintenance and repair of collapsed walls in and around community spaces where we can all enjoy them and not have them replaced with a mortared wall, a block wall or even by no wall at all.

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#### ADVERTISEMENTS

Amherst Island Summer Store hours:

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 9-11:30am; 2:30-5:00pm

Thurs: 9:00 am - 11:30 am; 3:30 pm - 6 pm

Sat: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Sun: closed

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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

\*\*\*

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](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.

\*\*\*

**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  
\*\*\*

#### **LOVING SPOONFUL**

Food drop off has begin on Thursdays at 5750 Front  
Road (Jean Tugwell's former home). Please bring  
any extra fresh produce for delivery Friday morning  
to folks in need.

\*\*\*

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

Summer hours (1 July to 1 September): Sunday  
through Friday – 1 to 4

Fall hours: Saturday (10 am to 4 pm), Sunday (1 to  
4 pm) Holiday Mondays (1 to 4 pm)

\*\*\*

#### **WEASEL AND EASEL ARTS AND CRAFTS GALLERY**

Summer hours (1 July to 1 September): Sunday  
through Friday – 1 to 4

Fall hours: Saturday (10 am to 4 pm), Sunday (1 to 4  
pm) Holiday Mondays (1 to 4 pm)

\*\*\*

#### **RAWLEIGH PRODUCTS FOR SALE**

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

bandmward@xplornet.ca



**Topsy Farms announces that  
foster lambs Fuzzy and  
Caramel will be staying with  
us for the summer, for the  
entertainment of your  
grandkids. Please give us a call  
to let us know you are coming.  
Even as the lambs grow, they  
are always delighted to visit  
and to suck on a bottle.**

**The photo shows Erica and  
Jessie, David and Paula Pike's  
daughter and granddaughter,  
cuddling Fuzzy.**





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613.634.1388

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#### THANK YOU NOTES

Francis and I would like to thank our friends and relatives who came to Glenwood Cemetery on June 14, for the internment of our youngest brother, Murray Gordon Glenn.

It was a beautiful day, a bit cool, but we were very glad to have all of you there with us, to observe our "Memories of Murray" service, on that afternoon.

We would also like to thank the Presbyterian Church Women for the beautiful luncheon that they served in the Church Hall for the reception following our service. Again, thank you all.

Juanita Glenn

\*\*\*

We would like to thank our family and friends, St Alban's, St Paul's and the Women's Institute for the surprise 40th Anniversary Party held at the Lodge in late June.

Our kids and grandkids, Jason, Ange, Tia & Braden, and Jeff, Stephanie & Cooper put together a great celebration. Our thanks to our many extended family and friends - old and new - who came out to

celebrate with us, and who helped in any way.

We were happily surprised to see my nephew Stewart and his wife Monique, from Florida, family from western Ontario and friends and family that we just don't see as much as we would like.

In this small community, and this day of Facebook, and with young grandchildren, (who were in on it from the start), I am more surprised that we had no idea!!

Special thanks to Duncan for your heartfelt words when presenting the Township certificate, to Dan Simpson, Richard Henderson, Allan Caughey, Keith Miller, Anthony Gifford and my uncles Lloyd and Ellis Wolfreys, who provided the music throughout the evening, and to Molly for making the Lodge the perfect setting for these family gatherings.

Thanks to everyone who provided pictures from times gone by, it has been fun remembering. It meant the world to us, and has created another great memory.

Larry and Lynn

\*\*\*

I would like to thank everyone who came to my

80th Birthday party for cards, gifts, and donations to St. Alban's Church.

Thank you to Molly for the Lodge and to Lynn Fleming for the beautifully decorated cakes and last but not least, to Jim, Sandra, Brooke and Brendon for giving me such a lovely party.

Thanking you all again

Barbara Reid

\*\*\*

Thanks to all the organizers and volunteers of the Super Heroes Church Camp at St. Paul's. The range of activities was impressive, the cost was minimal and the kids had lots of fun.

A doting Grandma

\*\*\*

I would like to thank friends and family for the calls, visits, cards and food following my recent mishap, while Lynn was away. I am sure grateful to still be on the "green side".

Larry Fleming

\*\*\*\*\*

## WOOLY BULLY RACES

The event will be staged from Dave Willard's homestead on the South Shore Road Sunday, August 17th.

The start time is 9:20 a.m. for the 10k and 5k races, 9:25 a.m. for the 1 kilometre children's run.

Runners will follow an out and back course along the South Shore Road with the start and finish at the Willard homestead. Registration and related details can be found by going to [www.eventsonline.ca](http://www.eventsonline.ca) and searching for the "Wooly Bully Races" on their home page.

Net proceeds will be directed to the Amherst Island Public School to assist with their yearly extracurricular activities.

**ENDORSEMENT:** The "Wooly Bully Races" are endorsed by Loyalist Recreation Services Dept., Amherst Island Recreation Association and Island School Liaison Enthusiasts.

We would really like to see as many children as possible participate in the 1K event, designed for 5 to 12 year old youth.

For further information contact Joe Du Vall, [joe@runottawa.ca](mailto:joe@runottawa.ca) or via phone, 613-292-7102.



The CLIC Photo Show is an annual juried exhibition that takes place in Picton late July into early August. Entries are judged from photographers from across Eastern Ontario. This year my photo "Lotus Light" in the "Altered Reality" category received honorary mention. Woody Woodiwiss

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

*From Amherst Island Beacon: August 15, 1984,  
Issue 79}*

### REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 7

- Chris Kennedy

All members of Council were present. There were also about 25 other people there. Some were people whose land is being assessed for the municipal drain; some were other Island residents, and there were several people from the mainland.

At Lance Eves' request, Council first dealt with, several matters of routine business, to give everyone a chance to arrive. Four building permits were issued last month; to Belmont for a garage, to Luscombe for siding, to Topsy Farms for a barn addition and to Plank for a garage and two additional bathrooms. Council looked at plans for improving parking for the ferry on the Millhaven side, and for the installation of a toilet. Bell Telephone will not install a telephone on the dock unless there are 10 to 15 calls a day from the phone.

The Reeve reported that he had been to thirteen additional meetings for the township, and three for the county. Several meetings concerning alterations to the dock for the Charlevoix were held. No decision has been made about how best to proceed. If the present dock is used for end loading, it may not be strong enough to hold the ferry in a high wind.

Then the drain was considered. The Beacon has intentionally avoided the arguments about the drain, not wishing to become involved in what has become a very serious fight on the Island. Other local papers have given people every opportunity to air their views in numerous articles and letters to the Editor. What follows is intended to be a neutral report of the arguments put forward by both sides, which probably means that no one who was there will agree with it.

At the Divisional Court hearing on July 12th the appeal against the drain was dismissed with costs awarded to the appellants. Council was therefore considering the third reading of the Bylaw for the Municipal Drain. This authorizes the drainage work and lists the assessments which have been revised now that the Eastern Ontario Subsidiary Agreement has expired. The Reeve asked if the delegation could appoint two spokesmen, but it was explained, that there were several delegations, and about six people

spoke at different times.

Lance Eves asked Council members if they understood how the assessments were arrived at, because it was not clear to him. Members of Council were unclear on how the calculations were made, not expecting that this would be brought up. They asked Lance why he was bringing this matter up at so late a date in the proceedings. Lance said that he had brought it up several times before but had never obtained a satisfactory answer. Council said that, although previous Councils may have considered the matter, it was the first time it had been brought to this Council's attention in the twenty months they have served, and asked why Lance had delayed so long. Ian Murray said that as a member of Council, he did not feel competent to pass an assessment until he understood how the figures were produced, and wanted expert advice on the drainage law before making a decision.

Grace Eves deplored the damage the dispute was doing to the community. Dave Feraday asked that Council not pass something that they did not understand, particularly given the large assessment to his family. Council again asked why the matter had not been brought to them before.

George Gavlas asked why he was being assessed when the drain was no closer than half a mile to his property, and that he could not afford it.

Clinton Kilpatrick objected to the drain because any future drain joining this one would have to be a drain designed by an engineer, which he said will be expensive.

A gentleman from the mainland commented on the cost of a municipal as opposed to a private drain, in his, township. Other people feared that other Municipal Drains will follow this one, and they will all be too expensive.

Geoff Matthews said that Council had, the option of defeating the bylaw.

Council thought that the appellants have had their day in court and lost and further delays would not help. It was time to get on with the drain. They therefore passed the bylaw 4-1. The delegations expressed their anger and disappointment and departed. Later in the meeting Council considered a letter from Imants Americks, and will see if anything can be done to help with his assessment. This had been accidentally omitted in the heat of the argument.

Council are required by their insurance agents to



*put a clause on the ferry tickets disclaiming all responsibility for everything that happens on the ferry. This is largely meaningless, and a letter elsewhere in the Beacon will explain this.*

*The gravel crusher is due at the end of the month. McKendry's have been held up in Sydenham township with a larger order than expected, but will come as soon as they are finished there. Council cannot get too fierce with McKendry's as they are the only firm that replied to the tender. Council is to ask Totten Sims Hubicki to prepare a plan for rebuilding a bridge on the third concession.*

*Council is sending a letter to the Amherst Island Agricultural Society asking what, if anything, they are doing, particularly with regard to the Fairground, which is tax exempt.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Important Notice re Bicentennial Photo Album. This is the last reminder to anyone who missed being contacted or has not yet made an appointment to have their family photo taken to be included in the community album, as explained in a notice included with your tax bill. Some appointment slots are still available. If you wish to participate, contact Anna Hitchins (389-0482) or Madlyn Kerr (389-0386). Those who have made appointments, please check your date and time so you won't forget.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*The Amherst Island Bicentennial Committee would like to thank those organizations who helped financially and with other support for the bicentennial celebration.*

*Amherst Island Mutual Fire Insurance Co.*

*Anglican Church Women*

*Driving Club*

*Firemen's Association*

*I.S.L.E.*

*Legion Branch 539*

*Orange Lodge*

*Recreation Committee*

*Women's Institute*

*We would also like to thank all the individuals who helped out in numerous ways, particularly George Gavlas for building the barbecue, Thelma and Charlie Howard for providing the stage, Chester Tugwell for providing the P.A. system, and all those who participated in the parade and the rest of the celebrations and made the day enjoyable for everyone.*

*I would like to thank the committee who planned*

*the celebration and the telephone directory.*

*Elsie Willard, Secretary*

*Warren Kilpatrick, Treasurer*

*Caroline Yull, Parade Mistress, Entertainment.*

*Jeff Pearce, Children's Races*

*Leigh Miller, Children's Races*

*Debbie Bedford, Barbecue*

*Rick Bedford, Dance*

*Anna Hitchins, Telephone Directory Chairwoman*

*Madlyn Kerr, Telephone Directory*

*Jean McIntyre, Telephone Directory*

*Norm Allison, Reeve*

*Jacqueline Sylvester,*

*Chairwoman, Bicentennial Committee*

\*\*\*

*We wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Vernon and Karen for the celebration held in honour of our 25th wedding anniversary. Thanks to all who helped in so many ways with the evening preparations and the ladies who helped provide lunch.*

*Many thanks to Lucille Brown and Sherry Eve for their cake decorating skills. Also thanks to Doug Wilson for bartending. A special thanks to each and everyone for their attendance and for the generous cards and gifts we received.*

*Kaye & Dorothy McGinn*

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Amherst Island Beacon: August 15, 1994, Issue 199}*

*WE ERRED....AND STAND CORRECTED....*

*In the July Issue we reported the Senior Captain's new rate as \$24.48 when it should have been \$24.28. Also, in Reeve Willard's letter, we reported the total money to be raised for Amherst Island Township purposes as \$614,140 when it should have been \$164,140. We regret any inconvenience caused.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*COUNCIL REPORT AUGUST 2, 1994*

*- Chris Kennedy*

*The lawyers are still working on the Back Beach agreement.*

*The Ferry crew shop steward, Bob Marshall, requested a meeting with the Social Contract Negotiating Committee about the recent wage negotiations. The Township's labour lawyer has said that in his opinion Council has been acting within the terms of the Social Contract. Council requested that any further concerns be brought to Council's attention by the legal department of the ferry union,*

## *O.P.S.E.U.*

*Council refused a request from Legion Branch 631 (Collins Bay) for donations and help with fund raising. Council does not consider its duty to distribute public funds to any charity.*

*Three building permits were issued in July; to Keith and Shirley Miller, for an addition to their home; to Vince Aitken, to repair fire damage to his workshop and to Shirley Halferty for a deck.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## *SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING July 25, 1994*

*- Don Tubb*

*A Special Meeting of Council was held this evening to discuss changing the ferry schedule. All members of Council were there as were: the Assistant to the Clerk-Treasurer (Ida Gavlas), Mr Roger Richards (an administrator with the L&A School Board), our representative on the L&A School Board (Bruce Caughey), about 30 interested members of the public, and, last but not least (in my eyes for sure) reporters for the Napanee Beaver and the Beacon.*

*This discussion of changes was prompted by a request from the L&A School Board for the 7:50 a.m. boat to leave 10 or 15 minutes earlier so it would better accommodate the new school starting time of 8:15 a.m. This was the 4th meeting on this subject and Reeve Willard opened the meeting with a proposed schedule which follows:*

*Leaving Times: A.I. & Millhaven*

*6:00 a.m., 6:20, 6:50, 7:15, 7:40, 8:10, 9:00. 9:30.*

*As you might expect, this prompted a lot of discussion for the next hour or so with at least 60% of the people present speaking on the subject. Protests of this schedule, of the School Board's attitude (or, more correctly, perceived attitude), of whether anything other than a one hour schedule can be maintained and of just about everything you can imagine were discussed.*

*About a half dozen other schedules were proposed with none meeting everyone's criteria but in the end Council decided on the following:*

*Leaving Times: A.I. & Millhaven*

*5:55 a.m., 6:20, 6:45, 7:15, 7:35, 8:15, 9:00, 9:30.*

*The above schedule will be in force starting on the first day of school this year (Tuesday September 6, 1994) and the same schedule will run seven days a week all year long.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## *THE NEIGHBOURHOOD*

*- Annette*

*Best wishes to those who have been in hospital this month - Kaye McGinn, Irene Glenn and Anne Marie Hitchins. All are recovering at home.*

*Best wishes also to Lillian Miller who broke her wrist in a fall.*

*Our sympathy to Jean McIntyre on the recent death of her brother-in-law in England.*

*A 90th birthday party was held at Peter and Eleanor Trueman's last month for Louise Seaman. Congratulations!*

\*\*\*\*\*

## *AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE*

*- Jean E.S. McIntyre*

*The July meeting of the Women's Institute was held on Wednesday, July 20th. at the home of Mrs. Marion Glenn.*

*The meeting opened with the ode and collect and O Canada. After the business meeting, the President Mrs. Jean Baker gave an account of her visit to the Queen Charlotte Islands and some history of the Haida Indians who inhabit that area. She also showed slides which showed some of the lovely countryside of the Queen Charlottes. A very interesting and informative evening.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## *FOOD BANK*

*- Sally Bowen*

*Duncan and Coralie Marshall regularly transport donations of fresh food produce to The Partners in Mission Food Bank. Please take any extra food you might grow to the 10 am ferry on Thursday mornings. Earl Tugwell will drive Thursday August 25. We aren't sure of a driver for September 1st so call me if you have food.*

*If you expect to be away on holidays and your garden needs to be picked, call me for help at 389-3802.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## *NAPANEE INTERVAL HOUSE*

*Keith Miller was the proud recipient of an award for 100 Volunteer Hours for Lennox and Addington Interval House last month. Keith helps women move out of the shelter to set up their first apartments with their kids. He also does general repairs in the House. Keith says some of the women start with only three or four boxes of clothes and basic supplies. They often have no beds, minimal bedding*

*and few or no appliances.*

*Keith is appealing on their behalf to Islanders. Basic household items such as appliances, furniture, kitchen supplies and bedding are desperately needed. No clothes please.*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **THANK YOU NOTES**

*To The First Response Team:*

*A sincere thank you on your fast arrival at our cottage after the 911 call when Peter Duff was injured while sail-boarding. It is very comforting to know the team is available in time of emergency.*

*A special thanks to Jeff Millard for his rescue of Peter from the water.*

*Peter & Jill Duff / Flora & Jim Scott*

\*\*\*

*Beth & Jack Forester wish to say thank you to relatives, friends and neighbours, who helped them celebrate their 25th Anniversary. We sincerely appreciate your attendance at the party, the gifts, cards, and good wishes from so many people.*

\*\*\*

*Lorna and I wish to thank your Island friends for their presence and the lovely cards and gifts brought to my ninetieth birthday celebration at the Trueman home on July 31st. The Women's Institute catered with delicious food, sending three of their members, including the president to assist in serving. The day was perfect and the party wonderful. The Island spirit of friendship is a splendid thing to experience and made it a memorable day.*

*Louise Seaman and Lorna.*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **GRADUATION CONGRATULATIONS**

*(from the August 10th Napanee Beaver)*

*Chad Miller - 89%*

*Son of Donald and Judy Miller, organized and participated in numerous athletic and musical activities at Ernestown Secondary School. He represented the school in provincial and national competitions and headed the Intramural Committee. In 1994-95 he will attend Trent University in the*

*Education programme on a scholarship.*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **BEACON AWARDS**

*To the Ontario NDP we give the it's A Good Idea but Lets Not Over Do it Award. While it may be debatable how effective controlling ammunition will be in reducing crime, it hardly seems worth the effort to lump BB's in with all other types. Apparently you will have to be 18 years old and with photo I.D. (and presumably with a legal BB gun) before you can buy a pack. I mean.. How many violent crimes are committed with BB guns where the gun is loaded and used?!*

\*\*\*

*This is not an award but simply a comment from a non-fan with respect to the fight between the NHL 'old timers' and the owners over the pension fund. "Why do the NHL owners and hacks always come off looking so sleazy?"*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **A LETTER HOME**

*When we left you last, we were about 2% done with making hay. We are both pleased and displeased to say that we are now around 90%. At this rate, we expect to finish November 24th. It's been quite a summer with no long hot sunny period so we can get really cranked up. Instead we've piddled along and, in fact, I don't think that we've baled a hundred large round bales in a single day yet.*

*On the coyote front, we think that mamma coyote has brought her pups out and is teaching them to hunt. We had 4 killed and 4 wounded in one night a week or so ago.*

*Renovations proceed apace with two bedrooms now in progress but the biggest change around here has been the new machinery work shop. This allows us to work all night as well as in the daytime. Aren't we lucky?*

*Actually, it has been nice not to be fixing machinery, in the driveway as our equipment had long ago out grown the garage.*



# FANTASTIC ISLAND FIESTA!

Wrap up report.

## AT THE NEILSON STORE MUSEUM AND AROUND AMHERST ISLAND

The Fantastic Island Fiesta Fundraiser, held by the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Center on July 12, 2014, was great fun. There were approximately 60 people who paid their \$20 for the day and over 54 who participated in the workshops. We took in over \$2800 and thanks to the generosity of so many, the day's net balance was over \$2550. The Board of Directors wishes to thank everyone who came and supported the Museum from the participants and the workshop presenters, to the Silent Auction donors for their generous items and the pie-makers who made and donated their wonderful pies, to the terrific entertainers who performed during the lunch break, to the photographer who travelled around all day taking pictures and to all who gave of their time and skill to make this event fantastic.



Diane Pearce teaching at her home. Photo by Michèle La Lay



Above: Pat Frontini teaching spinning and weaving at the Museum

Below: Shirley Miller demonstrating watercolours in her home.

Photos by Michèle Le Lay







offers

**Scrap Happy Class  
With  
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**Sunday, August 24, 2014  
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We can show you how to turn scrap glass into a beautiful window. No grinding, foiling or soldering. This course is perfect for the seasoned stained glass artisan or someone who has never done glass before. It is a form of recycling, from scrap glass, glass globes and old window frames and modern metal frames. You can hang your completed project inside or outside.

**\$150.00  
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Evening Opening Reception  
7pm-9pm  
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**Come enjoy some  
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