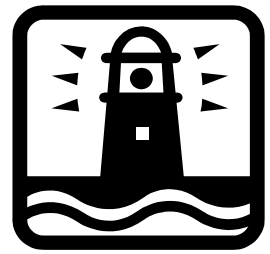


Amherst Island Beacon



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THIS ISSUE

-Ian Murray, Editor

This is the last paper-Beacon. I will co-operate with anyone who wants to download the Beacon from the internet and continue mailing out the paper-Beacon.

I am grateful to those who have come forward with offers of money and labour but so far no one has offered to take over the responsibility of continuing the paper-Beacon.

The December Beacon will be available for no charge on the internet – details have yet to be worked out. Paper-Beacon readers are encouraged to contact me before the end of November for details.

Everyone who has more than 6 months left on their subscription will be fully repaid. I will refund those with less than 6 months left upon request.

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ELSIE KATHLEEN WILLARD (nee REID)

-From the Official Obituary

Died peacefully at Kingston General Hospital on

Tuesday, September 25, 2014 in her 77th year. Beloved wife of the late Eldon Willard. Much loved mother of Janice and her husband Eric McGinn, Doug and his wife Gail. Fondly remembered by her grandchildren Ryan (Angela), Brent (Caitlin), Ashley and great-grandchildren Riley and Shay. Dear sister of Marian Glenn (late Marshall) and sisters-in-law Barbara Reid and Verna Reid (Jack). Predeceased by her brother Stratton Reid. She will be sadly missed by her nieces, nephews and extended family.



**Elsie with Barbara Reid – Oct 6, 2007
Courtesy of Janice McGinn**

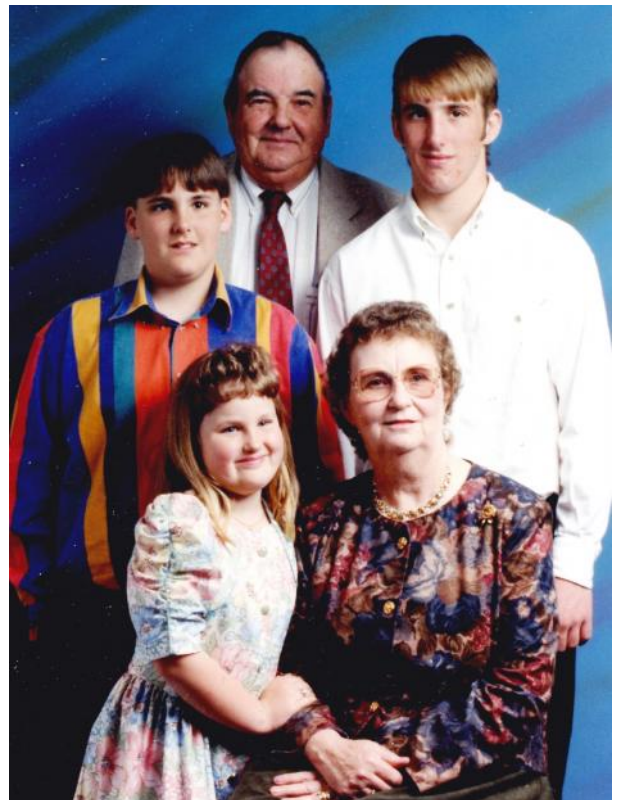
ELSIE'S EULOGY
-Ashley McGinn

Good morning. We are gathered here today to say farewell and to celebrate the life of someone very special. To one of us a dear sister, a mom, Nan, aunt, neighbour, friend. I will be sharing a combination of Aunt Marian's and my own memories with you today.

Elsie was born on December 13, 1937 to Gordon and Georgia Reid, on her dad's birthday. She was the youngest of three children; a much wanted baby sister who Marian had wished for, for many years. On that cold, wintery morning, Stratton and Marian were whipped away to their grandparent's house, and Marian couldn't wait to get to school to tell everyone that she finally had a baby sister.

Elsie attended little Emerald schoolhouse for her

first eight years. She went on from there to high school and completed grade 12. She married the love of her life, Eldon Willard, in Gananoque on February 8, 1958. They had to cross on thin ice to cars that were waiting on the mainland to get them to Gananoque. The first few years of their marriage was spent on the Front Road in the house now owned by Hazel de Haan. After a few years, they decided they would like to live in the village, so they purchased the house on McDonald's Lane, which she called home for nearly fifty years. They had two children, Janice and Douglas, and later on welcomed three grandchildren, Ryan, Brent, and Ashley McGinn. Elsie was also fortunate to spend time with her two great-granddaughters, Riley and Shay McGinn. She was very proud of all of them, and supported all of their endeavours, whether it be buying their first home or attending post-secondary education. Father Don was reminiscing the other day about how Nan had brought her iPad to church Christmas day to share pictures of baby Riley who had been born that morning.



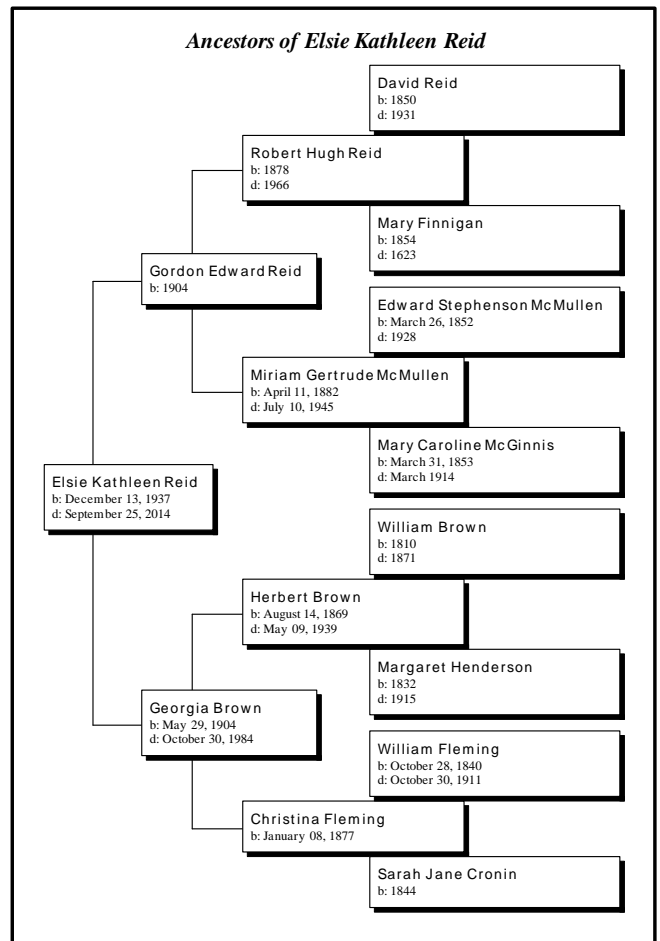
**Elsie and Eldon Willard with grandchildren
Courtesy of Janice McGinn**

Elsie and Eldon enjoyed many activities together throughout their marriage. One of their favourite hobbies was gardening on the hill on the Third Concession, where they spent many hours together. They also enjoyed traveling together, and Elsie

continued this passion after Eldon had passed away, visiting Africa, Greece, and more recently, traveling to Florida for a month each winter. Elsie and Marian traveled together to Florida for five winters and they gathered many friends and made many great memories that Marian will cherish. Even though Marian was the older sister, Elsie always looked out for her and made sure she was safe.

Elsie was very active in the small community of Amherst Island. She supported everything that was taking place, whether it was the school, the church, the Lodge, the market, or the café, everyone knew they could count on her to be there. She will leave a big hole in the community. She was well supported by her neighbours and they could usually bank on a pie or some other baked good in remuneration. Anytime I was home from school, I would usually try to call her in advance to schedule a time we could do something together as she had a very busy social calendar. We would visit for hours, and she usually sent me away with some rolled oat cookies and homemade buns, along with the promise that if I returned the containers, they would be refilled again. Needless to say, my roommates grew fond of her without having met her and the baked goods never lasted long.

The other day, one of the hospital staff asked us where Nan's favourite place would be. None of us had to think long because we all knew it was here, on Amherst Island, sitting down by the water on her property on the Front Road, on a beautiful summer day, surrounded by her family. It is very hard for us to close. We have so many cherished memories worthy of sharing. But for now, we will say farewell to our much-loved sister and Nan. Rest in Peace Nan, you will live within our hearts forever.



NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lynn Fleming

Get Well – John Mayman Sr., Jack Forester and Mary Kay Steel.

Condolences to John Moolenbeek (Laurie Kilpatrick), on the loss of his sister.

Congratulations to Caitlin McDonald and Derrek Morris, who were married Thanksgiving weekend in Napanee.

Mark Ritchie and Cherry Allen spent 3 weeks in the Yukon earlier in the fall.

Zander and Nancy Dunn travelled to Virginia on vacation.

Happy 80th Birthday to our former mail lady, Helen McCormick, who celebrated with her family.

The annual masquerade was held at the fire hall this year, with a good crowd of young and old(er) coming out to enjoy the good times. Well done AI Emergency Services!

Elsie and Eldon Willard in Ireland.

Photo courtesy of Janice McGinn



Gary McDonald 'bandaged' in toilet paper
Photo by Alex Scott

Weather has taken on a distinct chill as we head into late Fall, although no frost as of yet. The "snow birds" are packing up, or at least thinking of packing up and starting the migration south for the winter. The cattle were moved from the community pasture recently, making things a little hectic and off schedule for the ferry for a few days. Topsy sheep have been to their late season grazing fields around the school and are already gone again.

Hoping for a quiet November weather-wise, as we have had lots of wind in October, and I am sure we can all wait until December (or later) for snow.

STOPPED SCHOOL BUS

-Lynn Fleming

This is the 17th year I have been driving school bus on Amherst Island. Just recently I had a first time occurrence. While stopped in the village to let a young student off, a vehicle approached, came almost to a stop, must have realized it was close to ferry time and proceeded to "step on it" to get to the ferry - totally ignoring the flashing lights and stop arm. Having never had this happen before, I was caught by surprise and didn't have a chance to get the license number. I will next time and I will report it.

There is a stiff monetary penalty and I believe a loss of points for ignoring a stopped bus with lights

flashing, not to mention your conscience if you injure or kill a child.

School is dismissed at 2:50 p.m. At that time there will be kids walking home, and the bus beginning it's route. Please allow an extra couple of minutes to catch the 3:00 p.m. ferry.



Cooper Wartman
Photo by Whitney Fleming

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Judy Greer

The AIWI met October 15th with 15 members present. President Joyce Haines had just returned from attending our area WI Convention in Selby. Our Provincial FWIO AGM will be held Nov. 27 and 28th in Guelph. Carol Kolga will be taking on the duties of the Good Cheer Coordinator and anyone knowing of someone needing a card should contact her. There was a suggestion that we should have a visiting function and that will be discussed at a future meeting. There is a workshop day Oct. 23 in Camden East on Upcycling and Recycling of Sweaters and T-shirts. Eight volunteers had a lovely warm day last week for their fall roadside cleanup and the next cleanup will be in the spring.

The treasurer Deb Barrett summarized a list of suggested recipients of our annual donations. Some are recurring and/or repeat donations. All suggestions fit within the mandate of the WI, i.e.

local, women, family, health. After some discussion most of the suggestions were approved and several have been deferred awaiting more information. The AIWI will also consider a funding effort for the Dry Stone Wall Project for 2015 and a committee was formed to that end. There was further discussion of our donation towards the Baxter property.

Planning for the Annual Seniors' Christmas Dinner is underway and the list of volunteers is finished. Lorna Willis has agreed to oversee work in the kitchen. AIWI will host an Island Book Launch for Alena Schram's new book, "An Opinionated Old Cow, Ruminations From the Field", on Sunday Nov. 9th, 2-4 PM at the Amherst Island Lodge. There will be refreshments, no charge, a raffle, donations, book sales, and everyone is welcome.

Our guest speaker was Megan Smith presenting the programmes at the new Loyalist Township Leisure and Activity Centre on Amherst Drive in Amherstview. The Fall/Winter Programme Guide will be revised for January depending on community response to the offerings. There is a wide variety of activities for all ages abilities and interests, and Island residents were encouraged to try them out. AIWI members suggested Island residents would be interested in programmes delivered on our island as has happened in the past.

A delicious snack was provided by Lily Jozkow and Judy Greer. The next meeting is November 19th at 7 PM.

MORE AIWI
-Liz Harrison

In response to a request from AIWI, TransCanada have generously undertaken to "light up" the Stella dock for the Christmas Season.

We would like to thank Peter Webster and TransCanada for this contribution to our community.



**Below left, Our Devil & Aboriginal Angel
Tabby Gibson and Dana McGinn
Photo by Alex Scott**

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

The Owl Woods

Welcome to Amherst Island. Is anyone visiting Amherst Island for the first time? Be careful it might be catching. I moved here 30 years ago and I am still here. Owls are one of the many species that come to visit Amherst Island and can be seen in the Owl Woods. There is not such a place as The Owl Woods located on any official map and the unmaintained road that people refer to as The Owl Woods Road is really the Marshall Forty-foot. I hope today to take you on a magical visit in words to the Owl Woods of Amherst Island. So why is the Owl Woods a significant birding area?

In the July/August 2003 copy of "Wildbird", Kevin T. Karlson wrote this article "Owl Capital of North America." and I quote: "In Ontario, Canada, Amherst Island attracts birds of prey with mild winters and abundant food. Memories of our short visit to this special location still carry a sense of disbelief. My photographs are proof that we really saw these hawks and owls, but nothing has come close to duplicating the intensity of that experience. An occasional glance at these 'owls in wonderland' always brings a smile to my face."

The Owl Woods is the only place where it is possible to see ten species of owls in one day. There are 19 different species of Owls in North America and most are living in hard to reach places like mountains or desert areas but once in a very long time ten different species can be seen here. On one occasion I met people from as far away as Australia, California and England gathered in the Pines looking at the same Boreal Owl.

We would not have this wonderful treasure to enjoy if it were not for the private land owners who recognized the value of keeping this pristine woodlot and maintaining the habitat. Mr. Stuart Miller who was the Amherst Island Roads Superintendent by day but also an avid naturalist dug ponds to provide water habitat for ducks, geese and amphibians. His sister Gwen tells me that many a time he would get her up at 5 am to go for a walk in the family woodlot that we now call The Owl Woods.

After his death Gwen and her husband Paul have continued to welcome groups to visit the Owl

Woods and meet the wildlife up close and personal. Never realizing what a difference it would make thirty years later, Rod Barr, a Supreme Court Judge, husband of Rhoda Marshall, a daughter of the Marshall farm family that had owned that property, began an extensive tree planting programme. Most of the trees he planted were eaten while young by the pesky voles or died in droughts but eventually a substantial forest of young Jack Pines took hold and today that is where we find most of the roosting owls. These trees replaced so many that were damaged and later died in the Ice Storm of '98. Stuart wanted to cut paths through the woods to make it easier for access to the owls so he and Alex Scott planned where the paths should go and removed rocks on the paths so that Alex could follow the bush hog with his riding lawnmower. Alex trimmed the edges of the openings with clippers so that nylon jackets brushing against tree branches would not scare the roosting owls. During winters of deep snow Rick Welbanks, a young man living on the South Shore, would drive his snowmobile over some of the wider trails so that we could access the woods with Cross Country skis or snowshoes. Alex began the hand feeding of Chickadees while he searched the cedars for owls and today his grandchildren and hundreds of others feed the descendants of those happy little balls of fluff.

We became lovers of the owls even before we moved to the Island because our son, as a member of the Junior Kingston Field Naturalists, took part in a banding programme at the Prince Edward Point Lighthouse. They needed a driver and once Alex met these cute Northern Saw-whets the whole family returned for the next banding and we soon went on a trip to Amherst Island to see these roosting owls.

Northern Saw-whet- The Saw-whet is a small 8" owl with warm reddish-brown above with whitish below and reddish-brown streaks. The call is like Noel's vehicle's back-up signal and is primarily heard in Springtime. It's a cavity nester and can be found just north of the Great Lakes. Marni Matthews, a biologist living on Amherst Island, found 6 eggs in a Wood Duck nesting box in 1976. I like to describe the Saw-whet as butterscotch and the Boreal as chocolate.

Boreal- The Boreal Owl is sought ardently on Amherst Island because it is so difficult to find it on its circum-polar nesting area in the Boreal forest at least 700 km. north. Birders come from around the

world in the hopes of seeing this small 10" owl. The marks on its head are more spots than streaks, the beak is bone-coloured rather than black like the Saw-whet.

Barred- This owl is more common and nests here in Marshy areas. It calls "Who cooks for you, who cooks for you all". It has brown eyes unlike the yellow ones that most other owls have. The horizontal streaks around its neck appear like a muffler and the streaks on its breast are vertical. It's about 21 inches tall. Unfortunately it likes little owls for lunch!

Short-eared Owl- Amherst Island is one of the few places where this endangered 15" owl is found both winter and summer. It nests in the fields, right on the ground, and is crepuscular which means it hunts the hour after dawn and the hour before sunset. This friendly fellow barks rather than hoots. It is tawny coloured with dark wrist patches on the light underside of the wing and flies like a moth.

Long-eared Owl- The 15 inch warm butterscotch coloured, slender owl is usually shy and retiring. Its rusty red-brown facial discs are prominent and under the wing are dark wrist patches. It roosts during the day and hunts at night emitting horrible shrieks as it flies. It nests here in the Owl Woods and sometimes gathers in winter with as many as 30 roosting by day in the Pine Forest on Barr's property.

Eastern Screech- We did not feel that Screech Owls were nesting here until the KFN BIoblitz of 2009 discovered a Screech Owl in The Owl Woods in June. They had been regular nesters just across the water at Parrot's Bay. They are night hunters about 8 and 1/2 inches and come in gray or red morph.

Snowy Owl- This heaviest of all the owls is most easily recognized because of its white colour. This owl nests on the tundra in the Arctic but comes south to find food in the winter months. A Snowy Owl can eat 10 voles a day so the years that 25 Snowies stay at least 5 months here they require Amherst Island to supply about 37, 500 voles (*Microtus Pennsylvanicus*). They are diurnal and relatively common having been seen every year since 1979. They usually perch on elevated poles so they can survey the surrounding grasslands.

Northern Hawk Owl- The N. Hawk Owl is an elusive and rare visitor but when one arrives it tends to pick a territory and stay there for awhile. The last one that came in 2011 hung out on the South Shore for about 8 weeks and became so predictable that we

could just tell birders the house number and they could see it. It is 16 inches and looks like a long-tailed Boreal but has a smaller head than its shoulders hence the name Hawk.

Barn Owl- In 1976 there were several sightings of Barn Owls in the Kingston area. One spent August in a barn at Eves' marsh on Amherst Island and a pair laid eggs in Fleming's barn on Amherst Island in early August. The five young that hatched were banded by Ron Weir in November 1976 but were all found dead by December 1976. Syke Fleming told me that there was a lot of snow that winter and that they were unable to find enough food to survive. Barn Owls have light, heart-shaped faces and brown eyes.

Great Gray Owl-The tallest Owl in North America is the Great Gray. It is very tame and exhibits a white bowtie below its very circular facial discs. In the owl invasion of 1993-94 Alex and I walked from the church on the Stella Forty-foot to the Owl Woods and saw 23 Great Gray Owls in one day. It was 23 degrees below so I wouldn't recommend this walk in mild weather, too wet.

Great Horned Owl - a 22 inch owl showing prominent tufts. Nests on Island and is most shy. Fears man and uses old Red-tailed Hawks' nests or broken stubs for sites. This one hoots. One roosted in a broken stub at Raymond Wemp's and he probably knows more about this shy species than anyone else on the Island.

Before leaving the Owl Woods don't miss an erratic rock in the North-west area. Erratic rocks are glacier-borne blocks of stone which can be as large as houses. A famous example in Ontario is the Bleasdell boulder in Glen Miller in Hastings County. It weighs in at 2000 tonnes and stands approx. 7m. high and is one of the largest of its kind in N. America. Okatoks Rock in Alberta is another such rock. In the Owl Woods our erratic is not as big but it can hold 11 Kindergartners. Erratics are not the same composition as the surrounding rocks.

Thank-you to the Barr family and the Laurets for their continuing welcome to those who love Nature. Please treat their properties with the respect that they deserve.

**Callum McDonald
Lobster in a Pot**

Photo courtesy of Chelsea McDonald



**Rosie McDonald
Photo by Alex Scott**



AIMS Meeting October 11

- Anders Bennick

Breakfast: Many thanks to Bill Barrett and David Pickering for a tasty continental breakfast

Attendance: 16 members

Chair: Bill Barrett

Agenda

1 Presentation

Bill Barrett introduced the speaker Carl McCrosky who talked about circumnavigating the North Atlantic on a trip that took more than a year. The boat was a Hallberg named Arioso and the permanent crew was Carl and his wife Leah, but in addition various people including family and friends joined for different legs of the trip so the total crew was usually 3 or 4 people.

Starting in Virginia they followed the inland waterway reaching Georgetown and Charleston in South Carolina before setting sail for Bermuda. They did not stay long in Bermuda but continued on to the Azores where they visited several islands including Flores, São Jorge, and Terceira, enjoying the pastoral nature and unhurried lifestyle of the islands. From there it was on to Bantry Bay on the west coast of Ireland.

They stayed several months on the west coast visiting places such as Skellig Island, the Burren and Galway. They hiked extensively wherever they went and enjoyed the beauty of the landscape. In Dingle they came across a rowing club, which impressed them so much that they decided to try and start a similar rowing and sailing club on Amherst Island.

Sailing down the west coast they passed Fastnet rock on the way to Kinsale on the south coast and then they set course south crossing the English Channel to France where they landed at Aber Wrac'h in Brittany. Sailing around Brittany they crossed the Bay of Biscay and reached Ribadesella on the north coast of Spain. Then it was on to Porto in Portugal followed by a trip up the river Guadalquivir to Seville before they left Europe for Tangier. The next destination was Madeira and the nearby island of Porto Santo followed by Las Palmas in the Canary Islands. Now it was time to cross the Atlantic in a westward direction and eventually they landed on Beef Island in the British West Indies.

From there it was onto Florida and up the Intercoastal Waterway to Virginia, the final destination and conclusion of the circumnavigation.

Anthony Gifford, a fellow sailor, thanked Carl for a wonderful presentation.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as circulated.

3. Treasurer's report

The treasurer reported the bank balance and announced a \$500 donation from Doug Lamb. A card was circulated for members to sign thanking Doug for his generous donation.

The support voted for Ashley McGinn at the last meeting has been paid.

4. Transportation Report

There have been 1-2 requests per week for transportation to medical appointments.

5. Parade of Lights

The committee organizing the AIMS float at the parade (Marc Raymond, Brian Little and David Pickering) would like to have AIMS members on the float.

6. Next years AIMS auction.

The committee organizing this event suggested that the proceeds of the auction should go towards a special project such as repairing the skating rink. Other ideas would be welcome.

7. Update about retirement suites project.

Hugh Jenney reported that a recent survey indicated sufficient support to continue the project.

The next step is to find a suitable parcel of land. A general meeting to discuss the plans will then be called.

8. New business

a. Kevin Archibald announced that St Alban's Church Women will no longer put on a Turkey supper due the age and small number of people able to prepare the dinner. He called on younger inhabitants of the Island to take over community tasks currently performed by an aging part of the population.

b. Anthony Gifford suggested that AIMS should support events such as the Emerald Music Festival. Bill Barrett responded that the steering committee wishes to establish written guidelines for charitable support by AIMS. A proposal will be brought to the next meeting.

c. Future AIMS breakfasts will be prepared by the senior class in support of their annual trip.

9. The meeting was adjourned at ~10am.



Julia 'Juba' Kennedy
Photo by Alex Scott

THANKSGIVING

-Zander of DUNN INN

On October 5, I attended worship at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Kingston and picked up a great idea. The minister suggested his parishioners submit the names of Kingston citizens who are at work for good in the city and the world and for whom they were thankful and to explain why they were thankful for them. Then he, The Rev. Dr. Andrew Johnston, would write a letter to that person on behalf of St. Andrew's Church to express the congregation's gratitude for his or her work, leadership, kindness, example, etc.

That led me to consider that I should write to family and friends to express my thanks for the many and varied ways in which they had enlarged and benefitted my life. So I took some time to write thank you notes to a few of the people who were close to me and who had blessed my life by their actions and their friendship. I thought that would be my way of sharing and celebrating Thanksgiving Day. It didn't cost me anything because I sent my letters via the internet - no paper to fold, no envelopes to fill, no stamps to lick.

For most people it is difficult to find the time and make the effort to write letters so I did not expect I would hear from many of those to whom I expressed my gratitude.

Of course, I could not mention all the ways in which those people had affected my life for good, but I tried to highlight a few, especially those items they might not have considered before.

I was surprised by the responses I received.

Almost all of those who replied stated that they had never received such a letter before and were very grateful that I had written to them.

One friend said he was amazed. Another stated he was deeply moved. A woman told me my letter had caused her to weep. All of them thought it was a good idea and they felt better for receiving their letters. My wife was so shocked by the kind things I said about her and by my thanks her for her love that she rewarded me with a kiss!

That reminded me that we do not say "Thank you" enough. Each one of us has many people in our lives to whom we are indebted for many things but we forget or neglect or refuse to thank them. Why? It only takes a minute to mention to others one thing for which we are thankful. The value of that action is beyond reckoning. Spirits are lifted, smiles are produced, good thoughts are generated, hearts are warmed simply when we say "Thank you."

It is easy to say, "Thank you" to your host for a pleasant evening. It is easy to say, "Thank you" to a friend who gives you a gift. It is easy to say, "Thank you" to a co-worker who performs a task for you, and we should say thank you verbally for those things.

It is even more meaningful when we make a phone call or send an e-mail or mail a card of thanks later, to the people to whom we wish to show our gratitude. I remember how I looked forward to getting a phone call the next day from a friend whom we had entertained for supper. I was always impressed with those people who sent me a card or an e-mail declaring their gratitude after I had done something for them. One piece of advice my father gave me when I started in the ministry was to collect and keep all the letters or cards of thanks sent to me so that I could read them over again and again when life in the church got me down. He said those notes of thanks could make all the difference in the world. I believe that's true because I hear so much these days about young ministers who leave the ministry

because they are depressed by the unkind ways in which their parishioners treat them. In fact, a movie about “clergy killers” has recently been produced to warn us all about those in the church who never say “thank you” or display their thanks but abuse ministers instead.

I have always been fortunate to serve in churches where the people showed me their thanks and appreciation in many different ways. One woman brought a cake to the study one day as her way of saying “Thank you” for the time I had spent visiting her in hospital when she was sick. A man brought to me, from Ireland, in response to a sermon I had preached on St. Patrick, a picture booklet on the Book of Kells which is a sacred relic in that country. A couple whom I had married returned to visit me in the church and then insisted on taking me out for lunch because they wanted to thank me for officiating at their wedding which they declared had blossomed into a wonderful marriage.

If the thesis of the film about “clergy killers” is true then people can die inside (and perhaps outside) if they are not thanked. If my experience is worth anything it proves that when we say “thank you” we help people live well.

I also believe that when we say “Thank you” to the people in our lives we are also thanking God. God works through people so in thanking people for the things they do for us we are thanking God through them. Of course, atheists will not agree, but whether they agree or not I hope they will continue to thank the folk who do good things for them. Their thanks may not lead them to believe in God but their thanksgiving will contribute to world peace. To them I say, “Thank you.”

LIFE AND FOOD IN THE ARCTIC

-Christopher Kennedy

As one of the Back Room talks put on by the Neilson Store Museum, Amy Caughey gave a fascinating presentation to a full house on life and food in the Arctic. Amy spent fourteen years in Iqaluit, in Nunavut Territory, working for the Government, most recently as a nutritionist. Iqaluit is on Baffin Island, in the eastern arctic.



Happy Thanksgiving
Pricey Pumpkins in Iqaluit
Photo by Amy Caughey

She described how the local population is changing from the traditional diet with a lot of meat, such as seal, whale, caribou and fish to one with food from southern Canada, much of it highly processed. The original diet, obtained from the land and sea, was very healthy and contained all the nutrients needed to sustain them. She did say, however, that some of the ingredients, such as maktaaq, or whale blubber, she did not particularly enjoy. The imported diet is often unbalanced, and very expensive, and is leading to many health problems, such as an increase in malnutrition and diabetes.

Amy also talked about some of the social problems coming from the changes from a traditional life of hunting and trapping to a settled life with modern conveniences and influences. The changes seem likely to continue, with more mining and oil exploration coming into the north all the time. Managing these very rapid changes without causing huge disruption to people’s lives seems to be very difficult

Amy illustrated her talk with a slide show, and described the beauty of some of the Arctic. I found it absorbing to hear about the Arctic from someone who lived and worked there for fourteen years, and seemed to have a real empathy for its people.

LOST PILGRIMS

- Peggy Edwards

After five years, Lost Pilgrims, self-proclaimed singers of the “sad” song, returned to Amherst Island, bringing their own twist to an eclectic mix of bluegrass, country, folk and rock. The St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church fundraiser’s intimate crowd swayed and tapped to such songs as Neil Young’s “Harvest Moon”, and Irish traditional song “Whiskey in the Jar”. Lost Pilgrims’ playlist also included a few of their own original songs, introducing each with their personal connections and inspirations. All four members, including Amherst Island summer resident, Stephen Kendall, shared vocals and accompanied with guitar, mandolin, banjo, bass, and whistle.

Originally inspired by the soundtrack to “O Brother, Where Art Thou”, and years of playing together at a family Presbyterian Music Camp in the Muskokas, Lost Pilgrims have played regularly together for more than ten years. Members of the band included Stephen Kendall, Hugh Donnelly, Scott Cooper, David Linderman, and sound and equipment manager, Ian MacCready.

ALL HANDS ON DECK WHEN ISLANDERS MAKE 911 CALL

-Alena Schram

“The pain’s coming every three minutes.”

Under different circumstances, I’d be starting to boil water and tear rags. But this isn’t some poor woman in the final stages of labour. This is my husband John, struggling with what he’s been insisting for the past 8 hours are ‘just gas pains’.

And now it’s 2 a.m.

My mind rockets back to our years in Africa when John would occasionally wake up at night and ask plaintively, “Is your stomach upset too?” Never good news.

Instantly I’d fire up the mental jets and calculate backwards the time needed to get him to Johannesburg, our nearest medical evacuation centre: an hour to contact the insurance company and arrange for the medevac plane; two to five hours – depending on which country we were living in at the time – for the flight to arrive from South Africa; 20 minutes by car from our house to the airport; and then the long trip back to Joburg, followed by an ambulance dash to the hospital.

“Are you having a heart attack?” I’d snap, Nurse Ratched-like, my blood congealing with anxiety as I assessed the seriousness of the possibilities. And John, curiously comforted by my question, would snuffle something like ohfurheavenssake and promptly go back to sleep, leaving me with enough residual adrenalin coursing through my body to power the Queen Mary. It was always an unfortunate interruption in an otherwise sound night.

But we don’t live in Africa now. We live in Canada, 22 kilometers from the Kingston General Hospital. On Amherst Island, and dependent on a ferry.

I dial 911, nervously aware that the ferry crew, all fellow Islanders, have just tied up for the night and are probably already asleep. Is this serious enough to get them up again and back on the boat for, I wonder?

But within seconds the island’s volunteer First Response Team pulls into the driveway. Out of the vehicles stream Vicki, Mike, Laird, Andrew, Alex, and – stepping down from her truck with gravitas – Maureen. According to local wisdom, if you’re really sick, you want to see Maureen at the foot of your bed. An experienced nurse, her sensitive, capable skills are the crux of our emergency services, and her humour defuses the tension of even the most serious situations.

“Do we really need to call out the ferry and ambulance?” John asks hopefully, his complexion a distinct ochre against the white pillow. “Can’t Alena just take me to the hospital herself?”

“Not unless you want to go by canoe,” says Maureen, “with a flashlight.” Lake Ontario can be such a nuisance. “And what if you stop breathing while she’s driving? Which would you want her to do first: step on the gas? phone for an ambulance? or pull over and give you CPR?”

John ponders the choices, eyes closed.

Laird is already on the radio, declining more help (“we’ve got a crowd in the bedroom; no more needed”). Someone has fixed the oxygen mask over John’s nostrils. Alex, our Island’s fire captain, checks vitals and radios them back to the KGH. We are in good hands.

Suddenly John opens his eyes and spots a hole in one of his socks. “I can’t go to hospital like that!” he announces, pain momentarily forgotten. John is the embodiment of dignity. If a thief ever tried to break into our house in the middle of the night, John would

be there to greet him in his dressing gown, hair and teeth brushed, and smelling of aftershave.

Alex reports the ferry crew is back on board and heading for the mainland dock to collect the ambulance already waiting. And KGH is poised for the patient whose pains are coming every three minutes.

Normally the ferry takes 19 minutes to make the crossing. Tonight it seems to take just five. Before I have time to rifle through John's sock drawer, the ambulance is in front of our house and a gurney is being unloaded onto the lawn.

There's no time to primp. I grab my purse and keys, and squeeze our car out of the tiny garage, trying hard not to disgrace myself by running one of the side mirrors into the door frame again (we are the only people I know that shop for a new car with a tape measure). I follow the ambulance – John tenderly stowed inside -- onto the ferry.

The captain has the engine running, the crew has untied the ropes. They're ready to go. On daytime emergency runs, one space is always cleared for the car carrying the patient's family, but tonight I've got the run of the thing. It looks like the deck of an aircraft carrier.

I begin by apologizing to everyone for calling them out.

"Don't even think about it," crew member, Dan, answers. "That's what we're here for."

We reach the Millhaven dock in no time. The crew races to lower the ramp and the ambulance turns into Bath Road with me in pursuit, heading to the hospital's Emergency Department, where the medics will take control.

Our indomitable first responders and ferry crew – the night's heroes – return to their beds, their pagers perpetually activated in anticipation of the next call-out.

And I sit in the emergency waiting room and think again how fortunate we are to have them all: minor disagreements, major feuds, even the acrimonious wind turbine issues that have riven our tiny population into two camps – none of this matters to them. They are one of the bonds that hold our Island community together, in good times and in bad.

Postscript: Privacy legislation – and John's dignity -- prevent me divulging why he was a guest of the KGH. But I can reveal that he had brand new brown socks awaiting his return.



The old boat lives on!

Our former Amherst Islander is seen here being refit in Honduras for use as a supply ship between mainland Honduras and the island of Roatan (and some other smaller islands). It is now known as the Maria Conchita!

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

From Better Farming Magazine Nov/14 Issue

1) Ontario Wildlife Compensation Program Statistics, April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2014: Livestock animals killed by predators: Coyotes, 6636; Wolves, 1394; Ravens, 44; Eagles, 1. (This is not the complete list.)

2) "In Ontario, the 'right' to produce for the specialty chicken market . . . is assigned to the specific farmer the [Chicken Farmers of Ontario] board granted it to. Unlike quota held by conventional chicken farmers, the right can't be traded, transferred or rented. . . . Farmers must reapply for their right every year . . ."

[I am not making this up.]

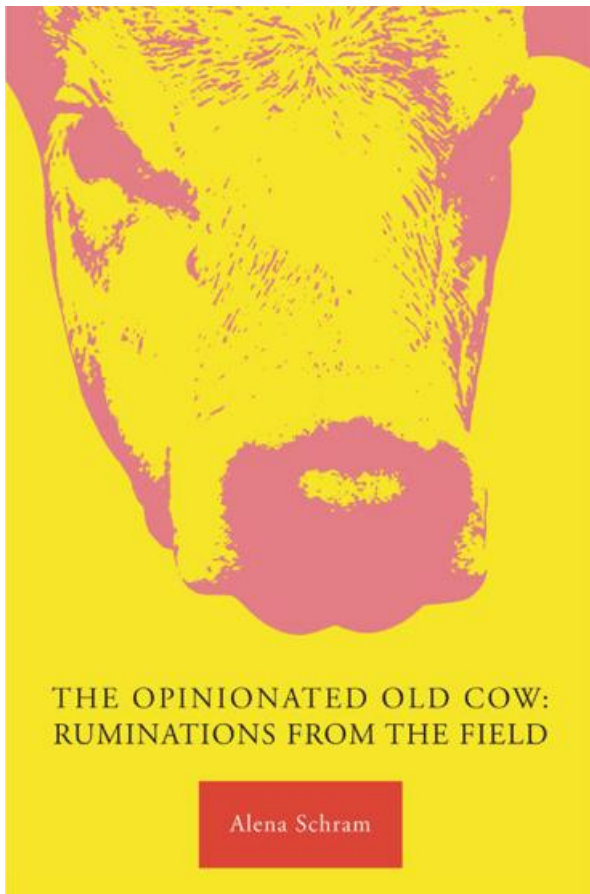
DOROTHY MCGINN

-Liz Harrison

It's almost one year since Dorothy died and she is still missed down this end of Concession 2. From the beginning she and Kaye were welcoming and helpful, generous with produce from their garden and the kitchen. Sue's favourite was the oatmeal bread which every year was delivered to our door just before Christmas. There was always a cup of tea

and sweet treat to be shared while chatting at the kitchen table. "Dropping in" was encouraged. Sometimes she and Kaye would sit on "McGinn's Landing" and Dorothy would play the accordion which I think was a gift to her from Kaye.

Dorothy was a woman of many talents who did well at whatever she set her mind to, and a really good and thoughtful Amherst Island neighbour to us and our family.



The Women's Institute of Amherst Island invites you to a book launch

The Lodge on Amherst Island

Alena Schram (aka the Opinionated Old Cow) grew up and attended university in Toronto. She has spent a lifetime trailing her husband John, a retired Canadian ambassador, around the world. Together they served in seven overseas capitals and raised three children. Still married to each other (and in perpetual, perfect harmony), they live on an island in Lake Ontario, where Alena spends her time writing about – and alienating – her family, friends, and neighbours. Her columns have appeared in Canadian newspapers and magazines as well as the *International Herald Tribune* (now the *International New York Times*).



Alena Schram is a resident of Amherst Island. Her book, “The Opinionated Old Cow: Ruminations from the Field”, has now been published. For those who missed the book launch on Nov 9th, the book is available for download from Amazon and Indigo. Hard copies can be acquired directly from the Author.

BACK ROOM TALK - Friday 17 October
-Beth Forester and Alena Schram

Janet Kellough is a novelist, storyteller, playwright, folklorist, performer whose Loyalist/Scots-Irish forebears have been linked to Prince Edward County for some two hundred years. It is this very connection that gives each of her six – soon to be seven – locally-based books credibility and a sense of intimacy, and that made her Back Room talk so delightful and compelling.

Her three novels in the mystery series based loosely on the autobiography of Thaddeus Lewis, an itinerant “saddlebag” Methodist preacher in Eastern Ontario in the mid-1830s, are rich in the history of the region, and filled with painstaking research, local lore, and piquant gossipy tidbits.

“On the Head of a Pin” tells the story of a serial killer in Demorestville, and his heinous crimes – several revealed only on the gallows -- which pre-date Jack the Ripper. “Sowing Poison” is a gory tale of “murder, mystery, and mysticism” and set in Wellington. And “47 Sorrows” is the harrowing account of the 9,000 to 10,000 immigrants that came to the Kingston area after the potato crop failure in Ireland in 1847.

Forced by the Great Famine to flee their homeland, these men, women, and children spent weeks and even months making the Atlantic crossing below decks in crowded “coffin ships” where lice spread the deadly typhus amongst the hunger-weakened passengers. Those that survived and made it down the Rideau Canal as far as Kingston were housed in

fever sheds and nursed by the Sisters of Hotel Dieu (or more accurately, the RHSJ or Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph) who, despite being a cloistered order, voluntarily tended to the sick newcomers, thus setting the groundwork for the establishment of Kingston's hospital.

Janet's storytelling performance for the spellbound Back Room audience was as captivating as her novels: she managed to combine historical background information with an innate sense of mischief, as she told of shipwrecks in the so-called Marysburg Vortex ("more dangerous than the Bermuda Triangle and right off Amherst Island") that not only brought schooners to grief but was known to spirit away socks, homework, and husbands – along with their cars and bank accounts!

And she ended the evening with a delightful yarn that incorporated bird imagery to hilarious effect, including the Irishman, Bob O'Link.

An array of refreshments, both fattening and otherwise, capped a very fine evening.

SENIORS' HOUSING

-Hugh Jenney

Thanks to the 10% of Islanders who responded to our questionnaire which we tabulated September 30th. Nine people answered yes to downsizing in the near future. Ten people are waiting before committing themselves and nine people said no to downsizing.

The nine yeses translate into six units as do the ten who are not quite ready yet.

We feel encouraged enough to press ahead to find a suitable location near enough to the ferry to be within walking distance.

We will be calling a general meeting of all those who showed an interest, once we have more solid information on a suitable location.

Meanwhile feel free to communicate your ideas to any of our committee members: Hugh & Joyce Groot, Hugh Jenney, John Moolenbeek and Don Pepper.

WOOLY BULLY RACES

-Sally Bowen

The turnout for the Woolly Bully races in August was significantly improved from the previous year. Also, the money raised over-costs was greatly increased from the previous year.

This year the grant to the public school is going to be \$750. reports Joe Duvall, the main organizer.

Congratulations and thanks to the organizers.



Jessie Vega petting Kevin Bacon

Photo Whitney Fleming

FALL

-Sharen English

The leaves are orange, red, yellow, brown and green and many of them are on the ground.

Some still cling to the trees, making driving around the island a beautiful sight.

We had an infestation of flies and beetles that made me want to move back to Toronto.

The bugs got in the house and I vacuumed them every few hours.

"Gross". I cringed. "I want to move back to Toronto."

The white caps of the waves are very pretty when the wind is strong.

I saw a large line-up of gulls on the water, so lovely to look at.

The blue of sunset is my favourite colour of the sky. The water and the sky accentuate the different blue colours they display.

5000 sheep graze in the rain and a shepherd dog curls up in a ball to keep warm.

There is mud everywhere, my shoes, car and clothes.

Pumpkins and squash are being harvested. I give some to my friends.

David is boiling a pumpkin and has the intention of making pie.

I had a visitor who enjoyed the peace and beauty of the island.

That makes me feel good.

I do still miss Toronto, mostly the plays and my friends and family, but I know if I moved there I would miss the water and the pastoral scene here.

The people are friendly here too.

THANK YOU NOTES

We wish to express our most sincere thank you to family, friends and neighbors for all the support, cards, phone calls and food we received during Mom's recent illness and passing. The generous donations to St. Alban's Church and the Kidney Foundation and beautiful flower arrangements very much appreciated. Special thanks to Father Don Bailey for all his support and the very personal service, to the pallbearers, and to Cathy Glenn for playing the organ. To the ladies of St. Alban's, friends and Amherst Roofing for lunch at The Lodge.

Also to Molly and her staff for the use of The Lodge for the reception, one of Mom's favorite places.

Sincerely

Janice, Eric & Family

Doug & Gail

We would like to express a world of thanks to our friends and family for honouring us with their presence at our 25th Anniversary party. It was very humbling to be enveloped by so much love and support. Many thanks for the kind wishes, the great food, and the bottles of champagne. We feel blessed and filled with gratitude for finding Amherst Island, our forever home!

Éva and Brian Little

I would like to thank all my market and farm customers over the past year and all who helped me at the market. I will take baking orders as usual throughout the winter. Thank you.

Barbara Reid. 613 389 0675.

NOTICES

LOOKING FOR NEW I.S.L.E. MEMBERS

We are currently looking for some new members. We would like/need a couple of school parent members, as well as another one or two community members. There isn't a lot of time commitment involved. We try to do 2-3 fund raisers per year, and hold 45-60 minute meetings 6 or 7 times per school

year. Most work involves an hour or two of coordinating and sorting fund raising items. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Lynn at the school. 613-389-4582.

ISLE has been a part of the AIPS family and the community since the late 1970's. During that time, all money raised by ISLE has gone directly to the students, over the years paying for computers, audio/visual equipment, library books, literacy, and math instructional supplies, phys-ed and art supplies, bussing, field trips and so much more. If you have a few hours a year to volunteer, please consider our group.

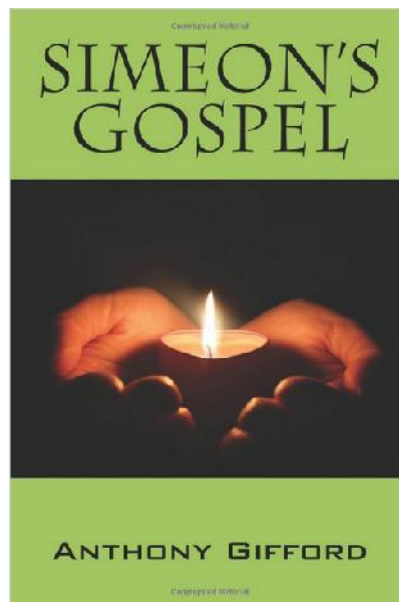
FOUND -

A Kodak camera at Glenwood Cemetery with over 300 photos of tombstones on it.

Contact Allan Glenn at 613-389-0214.

INVITATION TO AN OPEN HOUSE

A party will be held in appreciation and celebration of Zander and Nancy Dunn. Come Saturday Nov 22nd from 1-4 PM at Amherst Island Public School. There will be a presentation at 2:30 PM. Please bring good wishes, stories, poems and photos. There will be refreshments provided.



Anthony Gifford invites family, friends and indeed all island residents to a party in celebration of the launch of his book Simeon's Gospel.

350 3rd Concession Saturday Nov 29th 2 to 4 PM.

Using a background of both history and theology, Anthony tells the story of the gospels, seen through the eyes of Jews who knew and followed Jesus of Nazareth, rather than the perspective of later gentiles who came to view him as God.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Amherst Island Winter Store hours:
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri
9 am - 11:30 am; 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Thurs:
9:00 am - 11:30 am; 3:30 pm - 6 pm
Sat: / Sun: closed

In reaction to reduced demand, the Internet Café will only be open Tuesday, from 9 AM to 2 PM, at the Neilson Store and Cultural Centre. Watch for the yellow and red sign.

For Sale

Large capacity dryer Inglis made by Whirlpool, works great. \$100 obo. If not satisfied I'll return your money. Bob Filson 613 389-9222

ISLAND BOOKKEEPING

For simple bookkeeping, payroll, and tax preparation needs at very competitive prices. Call Renée for more information and free quotes at 613 389-0652

SHIRLEY MILLER

Paintings, Prints & Art Classes
613-389-2588

AMHERST ISLAND CHIROPRACTIC 10650
Front Rd. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. For appointments call 613 328-8892

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

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

HELP STILL NEEDED 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. Leave items on my porch: put pop cans in large container and other items nearby. 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

ISLAND HONEY Topsy Farms is carrying Amherst Island Raw Honey and (for the first time) honeycomb made from Island flowers.

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 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



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FROM THE ARCHIVES:

From Issue 82, November 1984

THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray

Madlyn and Jack Kerr have moved to Belleville for the winter and have left the production of the Beacon

to myself and my various friends until they return to the Island in the spring.

The Kerrs have published the Beacon for the past 81 issues except for the occasional period when Kathy and Alan Glenn did the job.

Putting out this issue of the Beacon has been somewhat of a challenge. The Gestetner 360 is a fiendish device.

Helping to produce this issue: Sally Bowen, Christopher Kennedy, Randi Kennedy, Ian Murray, Leah Murray, Lorna Seaman and Don Tubb.

In the next few weeks, more Gestetner stencils, ink and paper will have to be ordered. This will give me a chance to see if the price of the beacon must be increased or not.

COUNCIL REPORT For Nov 13th 1984

- Christopher Kennedy

Geoff Matthews discussed with Council the different resolutions applying to building permits for farmers. In order to clarify matters council is drafting a resolution making it completely clear that all farm buildings require permits and they must all be paid for. Two building permits were issued last month: to Bruce Caughey St., for work on the barn in Stella and to K. Hogeboom for a garage.

The Reeve had a busy month. In addition to the regular county meetings and two banquets, he attended a four-day meeting of the association of Municipalities of Ontario in Orillia, five days on Emergency Planning in Arnprior, a three day workshop in Gananoque, campaigned for Warden, and went to Oakville for the birth of his grandchild.

Work is progressing on the toilets at the docks.

Council received an engineer's recommendations for replacing the bridge on the 3rd concession road. A single steel arch set in concrete, costing about \$32,500 is suggested. If approved, MTC will pay the total cost. Council looked at the picture in the Napanee Beaver of

the collapsed bridge up Highway 133 and decided to contact MTC to find out how to get our bridges checked for load limits.

The Township grader (with driver) can be rented, at the discretion of the Reeve or the Roads Chairman, for \$50/hr., with a minimum charge of \$50.

Chester Tugwell has been looking at other local Township dumps. There is an article elsewhere in the Beacon describing the results of his visits.

The Recreation committee bought two volleyballs and two basketballs.

Council discussed a letter from Betty and David Wemp about ownership of the beach south of Art McGinn's. The Nut Island Shooting Club claims it, but it may be public property. The clerk will investigate the matter.

Council is calling tenders for the Miller Municipal Drain. No grounds were filed for appealing the 3rd reading of the by-law within the required time, so it appears that it can proceed.

The Island Agricultural Society had a meeting on Nov. 1. Council is asking to be kept informed of what is happening so that the status of the fair ground can be resolved. Bruce Caughey, Jr., is the secretary and Harry Filson is President.

Billy Neil is still trying to sell his property, and council gave him another month to sell or comply with the zoning by-law.

Syl Apps has written to council concerning vandalism to his property. The damage was apparently caused by people not from the Island, but Mr. Apps was annoyed and upset that this stupid action could happen on the Island.

A lot of other reports, letters, guidelines, recommendations and so on, come into the township office, mostly from other branches of government. They are all very important to somebody, no doubt, but Council only has time to glance at them, or the meeting would never end.

SOCIAL NOTES

-Annette Phillips

The past couple of months have been overshadowed by the illness and loss of several Island friends and neighbours. To the families of Madeleine Glenn, Gordon Reid, Brian and Marie Ward, and David and Betty Wemp: condolences and sympathy.

"Though our paths may be rough and stony,

Or dark and dreary the road

The fact that God has made it so

Should help us bear the load."

T. N. Graham

As neighbours are being remembered, a welcome should be extended to the new families who have given up the city for the pleasure of Amherst Island and the twice-daily panic to catch the boat. The Wood and Scott families have both taken up residences on the South Shore this month, while earlier in the school year we were joined by the Cunninghams on the Front Road and the Studsruds in the village. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Duncan and Mr. and Mrs. Brian Kemp and family have also moved to the ranks of permanent Islanders.

Rick Tait has 'swooped down on the Island again following a four-month sojourn to the barren north. After a full summer studying the feeding habits of birds - if there are any up there - Rick has flown south to Topsy Farms to hibernate and play basketball.*

And although not a full-fledged resident of Amherst Island, a very special welcome to Elise-Marie Allison Walsh, born November 5 in Oakville, Ontario, weighing 6 lbs 12 ozs. Parents are David and Margaret Walsh. Elise is a second grandchild for Reeve and Mrs. Norman Allison.

Our world travellers this fall have been, among others, David and Betty Wemp who spent a week in Florida. Also Ralph and Bea Wemp, who left sometime ago for Florida - or so they said - and haven't been heard from since. And of course Heather Welbanks, who returned just last week from her yearly pilgrimage to Flinton. This is a big event for Heather, and is planned to coincide with the larger yearly pilgrimage to Calabogie.

In closing, for those who follow the deer reports, this year's score was as follows: Paul Glenn, 1; Eric Welbanks, 1 and Ronnie Miller 1 (by accident).

THANK YOU NOTES

We would like to thank all those who brought food to our home and the many acts of kindness in the recent loss of a loving mother and grandmother. A Special thank you to Warren Kilpatrick and Steven Brown for helping with chores and milking. And to Shirley Miller for looking after the bus. Your help was very much appreciated.

Thank you all again. Stratton, Barbara & Jim Reid

Gordon Reid and family wish to extend our sincere thanks to our dear friends, neighbours and for their

kindness and support during the loss of a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Georgia Reid.

Special thanks to Madelyn Kerr and the Presbyterian Church Women for donating their time to prepare and serve such a delicious lunch after the funeral. We are very grateful for the beautiful cards, flowers, donations to St Paul's Memorial Fund and Heart Foundation. Thanks to Mrs. Beth Forester and choir for such beautiful music during the funeral.

We express a very special thanks for the many gifts of food which kept arriving at our door-steps. We really can't put into words our true appreciation, and we will be forever grateful to each and everyone of you.

Gordon Reid and Family

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to our good neighbours, dear friends and relatives for the many kindnesses shown to us at the time of Mother's death. A special thanks to all those people who brought such delicious food to our door, and for the beautiful. Sympathy cards we have received. It is a real comfort to know there are so many caring people who are always there in time of need.

Sincerely, Elsie, Eldon and Doug Willard

We wish to express our thanks to all our relatives and friends and neighbours for your welcome visits to the funeral home at the time of our loss of a dear father and grandfather Harold Ward.

Your thoughtfulness and kindness was greatly appreciated.

David & Betty, Robbie & Laurie Wemp, Brian & Marie, Steven & Sherry Ward

A very sincere thank you to my relatives, friends and neighbours who have sent cards, visited me, brought treats and helped in many ways, while in hospital for knee surgery, and since returning home.

Nessie Welbanks.

We wish to thank all our friends, neighbours, and relatives for their cards, flowers, donations to the Heart Fund, and donations of food, during the loss

of our brother Stirling. Your acts of kindness will always be remembered.

John & Mary Hall

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Diane Gavlas

The August meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Georgie Allison. The program for the evening was citizenship. Roll call: If you had to leave Canada which country would you move to and why?

Mr. Norman Allison told of the oil fields in the Middle East while he was there as an engineer.

The Sept. meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Genevieve Fleming. Program was Canadian industries with a guest speaker, Mrs. Debbie Collins from the Child Care Resource Centre. Mrs. Collins spoke on child day care.

Negotiations were initiated to move the Minute Books from the W.I. to Napanee Museum so they can be properly preserved.

In October there was no meeting.

AN ISLAND DOCTOR

- Sally Bowen

Amherst Islanders are fortunate to have a resident doctor who plans to build a practice on the Island. Dr. Alex Scott and his wife Janet moved here in October with their five children, Alex and Kathy (who commute to Frontenac High School) and Jamie, Sarah and Ruth (who attend the Island public school). They live in the former Coulson house.

The family has had contact with the Island for several years. Janet first visited the home they now live in, 15 years ago. Her Father, Rev. Ritchie, was a temporary minister at St. Paul's Church in the winter of 1976. Janet and Alex are keen bird watchers, and have visited the Island for years. When they had to leave their rented Kingston home, our Island was the place they wanted to live.

Dr. Scott was a resident of KGH and Hotel Dieu, then started a practice in Kingston. After several years, he and Janet decided that home and family were more important than working all the time. Janet no longer worked at her job, a teacher for slow learners. Alex cut his costs by closing his office and became that rarity today, a house-call doctor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anyone who wishes to participate in the annual Amherst Island Pheasant Shoot on Sunday, December 16 at the Nut Island Shooting Club, call David Trussler at 389-****.

LIBRARY NEWS

- Diane Gavlas

Tracy Hitchins won the draw for the reading club this summer so she received an autographed book from Lyn Cook, "The Secret of Willow Castle". Mrs. Cook presented the book to Tracy and to kids from other county libraries at Napanee Public Library on October 13th. There was a small party including Highland dancers and Mrs. Cook told of her books and herself. There were refreshments.

NEW DUMPING PROCEDURES

-Chester Tugwell

Under strong direction from the Senior Environment Officer of the Abatement Section, your Sanitation Committee is trying to improve our dump to pass government inspections. In order to do this the full cooperation of all users will be necessary. Failure could result in the hiring of an attendant, placement of a chain or gate at the entrance and restricted use. The sketch below [not shown], which is a take-off from the Sheffield Dump north of Tamworth, is self-explanatory.

The principle is to separate the refuse into smaller, separate areas so that burning will be more effective. Another concept is to keep all dumpings as far back as possible and, of course, the ramp and turn area will have to be kept clear at all times. New gravel will be placed on the ramp and turn area to lessen the risk of tire damage from glass and nails.

It is requested that all papers be placed in tied garbage bags to keep paper dry to assist in fuelling regular burnings.

Rough signs will be placed to guide users in the beginning and your observance of these is a must if the project is to work. Our dump is one of the last in the area that can be used daily without restrictions. Failure to clean up our act now to government satisfaction can only result in one thing - higher taxes for an increased sanitation budget.

[Ian: Chester's efforts lead to the well-managed site that we have today.]

From Issue 202, November 1994

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BEACON NOTES

-Don Tubb

What a race for Councillor!! There were only 42 votes separating the top and bottom vote-getters. We'll have more on this later but for now simply leave it with - Congratulations to all who ran and good luck to those who won.

In other news (for those off the Island), we still have the big boat... the weather continues to be spectacular... we still have the big boat... the roads are in good shape... we still have the big boat... I'm at this instant being bombarded by a stock broker who is trying to sell me 10,000 shares of a company which makes cd-roms - opps, the line went dead... and finally, we still have the big boat.

For the first time in a very long time we have some new correspondents - the public school children whose news stories will be published over the next few months.

We're going to be full this month so we had better get started...

Your New Council Is...Reeve Duncan Ashley

Councillors Lyn Fleming, Alex Scott, Jim Whitton, Ralph Woods

(more coverage later in this issue)

COUNCIL REPORT November 1, 1994

- Chris Kennedy

All members of Council were present, with Jim Whitton and Ken Albertan, council hopefuls, in the audience.

Stuart Miller reported that the Road Crew is busy ditching and working on some culverts. Stuart also reported that bus shelters for the docks would cost about \$2,000 each, not installed, and he needed advice about where the one should go on the Millhaven dock. He suggested that one not be put on

the Stella dock until the dock work is finished. Council decided to refer the whole matter to the new Council.

Helen and Noel McCormick were given permission to run a water line across the carpark by the ferry to a shorewell. The details are to be worked out with Stuart.

Council has received a petition of 61 names, asking that the Frontenac II be kept as long as possible, even if it costs an extra 50 cents. Traffic so far has been sufficient to cover the extra fuel costs, so Council decided to notify M.T.O. that we would like to keep it until the December regular council meeting when it will be reviewed. M.T.O. has proposed to Council that the ferry subsidy agreement be reviewed for another year under the same terms as before, with the Township paying 10% and M.T.O. 90% of the operating costs.

The Township may have a deficit at the end of the year. Expenses, except for the Back Beach are about as budgeted, but revenues are down, as "miscellaneous grants" from the province, a catch all category, are down. The actual figure for the deficit will not be known until all the figures for the Back Beach are in.

The final draft of the Back Beach agreement has been received. Council studied the few minor changes from the previous draft and, in a recorded vote, passed it unanimously. At last! There is still surveying and routine legal work to be done, and paid for. The gist of the agreement is that the beach is jointly owned by the Township and the Hunt Club, with the Hunt Club using it during the hunting season, and the Township the rest of the year.

The Dog Control By-law has been brought up to date. The Dog Catcher and By-law Enforcement Officer, John McGinn, is responsible for ensuring that all dog licence fees are paid.

Leigh Wemp was granted a severance on the plot of land with the old Wemp Cairn on it, along the Front Road. The land was severed to the Wemp Family Trust on condition that it never be built on.

Council dealt with a few routine matters and then adjourned, or perhaps that should be folded or resigned, since they will not pass this way again.

CONTROLLED DEER HUNT

November 21-24

*'Oh... one last thing... be careful out there.'
(Hill Street Blues)*

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

Congratulations to Alan Kidd and Judy Roberts on the birth of their twin girls, Eva-Helene and Anna-Louise. The girls weighed in at 6.5 and 6.11 pounds and were sent home within a few days. Judy is recovering quickly.

We were sorry to hear about the loss of fellow Islander Marj Aitken last Thursday. Marj had been ill for several years, and passed away at Providence Manor. Funeral services were held at Providence Manor as well. Our sympathy to Vince and family.

Very best wishes to all those sick, injured or in hospital this month: Bruce Caughey Sr., Llew McArthur, Art McGinn, Margaret Blenkinsopp, Marilyn Eves, Bill Phillips, and Mark McCormick.

And a happy First Birthday to the village's most personable baby, Benjamin Whitton.

New Year's Dance

Music by Ann Banks

Full Course Meal

Dancing from 8:45 p.m. to 12:45

\$40 per couple

Tickets available from:

Garry Filson

Jack Forrester

Allen Caughey

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

-Jean E.S.McIntyre

The October meeting of the Women's Institute was held at the home of Jackie Sylvester. The meeting was opened with the Ode, Collect & O Canada. Our programme for the evening was International Affairs.

The speakers were Allan & Cathy Glenn who with slides and a video spoke to us of their trip to Australia and New Zealand. Hearing about these countries first hand always makes them more interesting and it was a good meeting.

After lunch a business meeting was held and we closed with the singing of 'The Queen'.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

After another successful Halloween masquerade, with a good time had by all, we would like to thank

the following people: our judges Freda Yuell and Peter Trueman; Rick Bedford for donating his time and providing the music; all those who helped in the kitchen; and the many hands of Legion members.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Brownies and Guides for planting the tulip bulbs around the cenotaph. Good work girls. Also thanks to the school children and all who attended the Remembrance Day Services.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Seniors! Veterans! Convalescents!

Don't forget our Meals-on-Wheels service starting Monday, November 21. Once a month to start, until we see if numbers warrant running it more often. Only \$3.00 per dinner.

To order call Audrey Miller at 389-0105.

"90th" BIRTHDAY

The family of Gordon Reid are inviting you to help them celebrate his "90th" Birthday. This celebration will take place on Sunday, December 11th from 2-4 p.m. at the home of Stratton and Barbara Reid.

THANK YOU NOTES

My sincere thanks to all those who came to my assistance one morning at the Millhaven dock. The V.O.N., Lynne, Dorothy, ferry crew and anyone else than may have helped in any way at the time.

Thanks to P.C.W. and A.C.W. for their goodies and calls since. I appreciate it very much. Thank you again to everyone.

Emily Tugwell

A warm thank you for the kind expressions of sympathy on the death of my brother Ernie last month. Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated.

Lloyd Wolfreys and Family

Our Poppy Campaign was a real success, and your excellent support is very much appreciated by members of your Legion Branch 539.

Your Poppy Chairman Tena Tugwell

Gary, Susan and Kristy would like to thank those that supported us during our first season. The Back Kitchen will be back in April next year.

BEACON AWARDS

1) Taylor-Kidd Blvd. - this has saved Islanders thousands of hours of travel already.

2) Consumers Report's Movie Lists. Real, though finicky people write in with their opinions of movies in the theatre and on video. A good indication of whether a movie is worth watching. Some movies are really liked that the critics hated.

40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Family and friends of Audrey and Tom Miller are invited to join in the celebration of their 40th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, Nov. 26, at 7 pm. at the Community Hall.

Best Wishes Only Please.

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS

Experienced and certified babysitters available on Saturday, December 17th from 9:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Amherst Island Community Centre. \$10.00 for the day, \$5.00 for each additional child.

Each child must bring their own lunch; drinks and nutritious snacks will be provided. Send your child for a fun day of crafts, games and activities or just excellent care. Ages from birth to 8 years old. Proceeds for the 1st Amherst Island Pathfinders. (We want to travel.)

PRINTS FOR SALE

"Morning Run"

Signed, numbered prints of a painting by Fred Werthman depicting the Amherst Islander and Tug in the ice of the North Channel. This painting has the ferry still in her original black and white paint scheme. Available from Phil Silver or David Fleming for \$25.00 (unframed). A great Christmas gift.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November 16... W.I. Meeting at Jane Miller's – Topic 'Cultural Activities'

November 21... Meals On Wheels First Delivery

November 21... Controlled Deer Hunt Starts

November 24... Controlled Deer Hunt Finishes

November 26.. P.C.W. Xmas Tea & Sale from 1-4 p.m. at the Community Centre
 November 26... Audrey & Tom Miller's 40th 7:00 p.m. at the Community Centre
 December 1... Winter Parking Regulations Start
 December 2... W.I. Senior's Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 December 4... St. George's Boy's & Men's Choir 11 a.m. at St. Alban's Church
 December 6... Inaugural Council Meeting 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers
 December 11... Gordon Reid's 90th Birthday 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Stratton & Barbara Reid's
 December 14... W.I. Meeting at Anna Hitchins' - Christmas Dinner (6:30 p.m.)
 December 17... Babysitting Service 9:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at A.I. Community Centre
 December 25... St Paul's Presbyterian Church Morning Worship at 11 a.m.
 December 25... Christmas Day

THE ELECTION VOTING RESULTS

Reeve: Ashley, Duncan 158 58.5%; Caughey, Allen 108 40.0% spoiled or blank 4 1.5%

Total 270 100.0%

Councillor: Albertan, Ken 168; Fleming, Lyn 190; Scott, Alex 188; Whitton, Jim 210; Woods, Ralph 170.

Total Votes 92; spoiled or blank 1

STUDENT COUNCIL FORMED

- Wendy Fleming

On Monday, October 17, 1994 at Amherst Island Public School, the senior class decided to create a student council. There were two representatives from grade 8, one from grade 7, two from grade 6, one from grade 5 and one from grade 4. The representatives are as follows:

President - Nate Maleska

Vice-President - Bonnie Marshall

Treasurer - Wendy Fleming

Secretary - Shawna Phillips

Other members are Andrew McDonald, Brent McGinn and Mindy Fleming.

So far, the student council has only put together one activity. It was a Haunted House for the senior class. It was held on Tuesday, October 25, 1994. After the Haunted House, some students also tried some different finds of meat such as heart and tongue and some different fruits such as pear, apple and papaya. Over all, the day was fun.



Graham McKee & tombstone

Photo by Alex Scott

EDMONTON vs AMHERST ISLAND

- Sara Pollock

Big, lots of people, kindergarten to grade 6, 11 classrooms, an animal centre, big gymnasium, huge library, 5 soccer fields, 3 baseball diamonds, a big park and a little park. That was my school in Edmonton, Alberta. It was way different from here.

Small, jr. kindergarten to grade 8, 43 people, 3 classrooms, 1 baseball diamond, 1 soccer field, 1 park, basketball nets. This is the school on Amherst Island.

They are so different but I like them both. A.I.P.S. is much more friendly than the school in Edmonton. For example, Wendy Fleming called me and invited me to her house. And she didn't even know me! Another thing I like about A.I.P.S. is that it's so small that everybody knows everybody. Also, you can have a friend in a different grade and be in the same class.



Rebecca Scott, Megan Ashley, Jacob Welbanks
Photo by Alex Scott