

Amherst Island Beacon



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The Amherst Island BEACON Issue 437, Dec 2014

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Editorial

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THIS ISSUE

-Ian Murray, Editor

The Beacon is now available for free on the Amherst Island web site: www.amherstisland.on.ca. I hope that those with computers will help friends and relatives without computers to access the Beacon.

A big thank you to Alex Scott and David Pickering for the internet help.

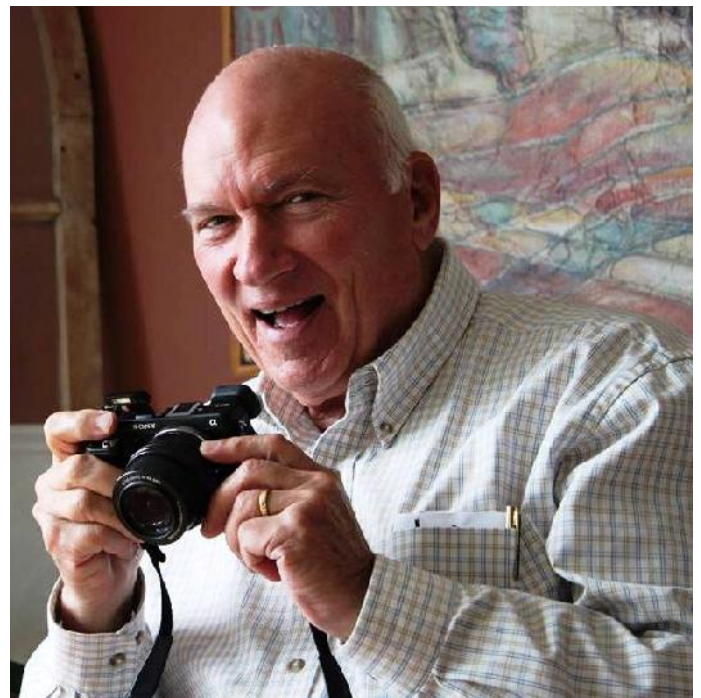
And a huge thank you to Zander who has contributed so much to the Beacon through his interviews and spiritual articles. He and Nancy have touched many lives on this Island and they will be greatly missed.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lynn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to Susan Filson, Anne Marie Hitchins and Ross Haines.

St. Paul's Church congregation hosted a going away party for Zander and Nancy Dunn. Zander was the pastor for many years at St. Paul's. The afternoon was well attended.



Zander (above) & Nancy (below) with Keith
Photos by Terry Culbert & Brian Little

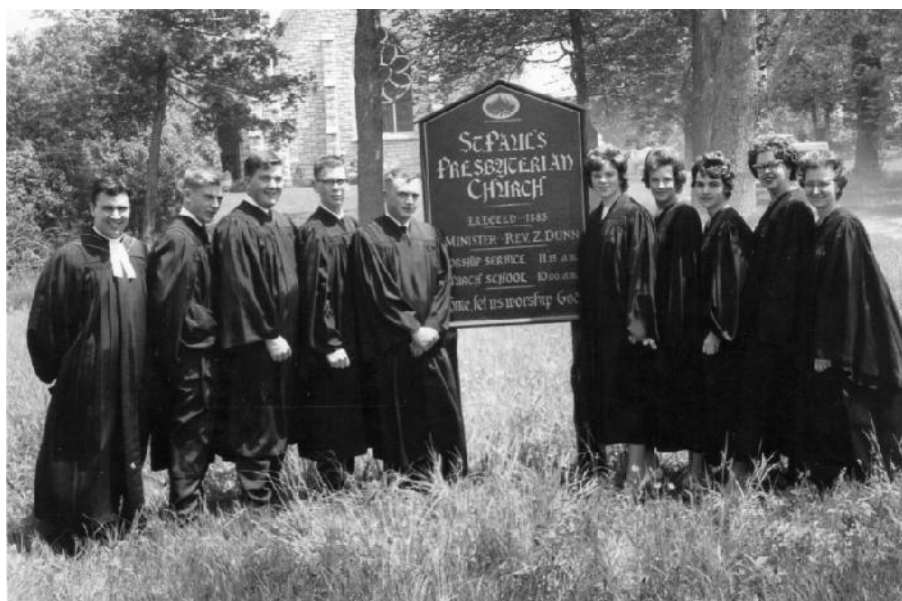




Zander and Nancy Dunn on their wedding day.

Zander Dunn was ordained in our church in 1962. We were designated a mission church and we were his first ministry. The photo below, showing the young people's group, was taken that year or the next with the choir, proudly modeling our new choir robes and our new sign.

L to R Zander, Bruce Caughey, Allan Caughey, Francis Glenn, Keith Miller, Beth Caughey, Leslie Anne Glenn, Sandra Miller, Juanita Glenn, Myrle McKee



His ministry then and lately add up to 23 years dedicated to Amherst Island.

A most sincere – Thank you.



Dick Dodds (right) with Stanley Burke.

Taken during the farewell party for the Dunns at AIPS community centre.

Photo by Brian Little

It was Christmas shopping weekend in late November, as Island businesses opened for some shopping the same day as St. Paul's annual Bazaar and Lunch.

Leslie Gavlas was off to Quebec to visit her brother, daughter and her family.

Gary and Lesley McDonald visited their daughter Alison and her husband in Newfoundland.

Happy Sweet 16th birthday, Rachel Scott!

Well we have had a mild November so far, with a couple of little snow falls that lasted no more than a day or two. It has, however, been dreary and very windy for days on end. Thanks to our ferry crews for "riding the waves" and getting us all home in the high winds. Luckily we were on the "good" side of the lake for dodging the lake effect snow that crippled the Buffalo, NY area. It is looking like rain for the near future here, with temperatures dropping in December. Hopefully we will have some snow for the holidays.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, filled with lots of family, friends and safe travels over the holidays and a Happy New Year.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Judy Greer

A meeting was held on November 19, 2014 at the home of Joyce Reid. There were 12 members and 3 guests present and it was the annual fun Crafts Night preceded by a meeting.

Normal business was conducted including the Financial Report. Correspondence was received: thank yous for donations from St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, OSPCA and from Hospice L&A.

A thank you was also received from Elsie Willard's family for our donation in Elsie's memory to St. Alban's Anglican Church. It gave us a chance to all share our memories of Elsie and what a big part of our Island community she was.

Thank yous were also received from the Caugheys and the Schrams for the Book Launch Event for Alena Schram. That event was a big success with about 60 attendees and many book sales.

As our October R.O.S.E. (Rural Ontario Sharing Education) meeting was poorly attended by community members it was decided to hold only one formal ROSE meeting annually and in the spring when the weather is more agreeable.

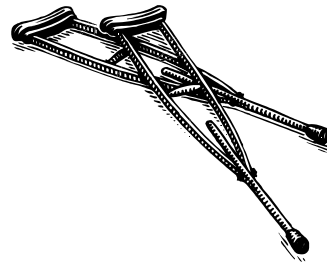
An update on the Ameriks Scholarship Fund has

been submitted to the Beacon. Andrea continues her efforts with the Ards Peninsula Community Twinning Project. AIWI members have been working towards getting Christmas lights installed at the ferry landing as the old light are not working. TransCanada has offered assistance in upcoming weeks.

The AIWI Seniors Christmas Dinner is on track for Sunday December 7th. Volunteers have been identified for all jobs and Andrea has invited Dan Simpson and friends to provide music.

AIWI will send Christmas Cards to former residents now residing in nursing homes.

The AIWI will promote more awareness of the AIWI Medical Equipment Loan Service by placing a regular ad in the Beacon and by asking CJA radio to mention it as well. Equipment requests can be made by calling Sharen English at 613-384-6535.



Aprons are still available for Christmas presents by calling Joyce Reid.

The members thanked Jackie Sylvester for her work over this summer to keep the flower beds at the dock and in the village looking beautiful. She has donated and planted bulbs for spring 2015.

The hostesses, Andrea and Joyce Reid, provided a delicious snack.

Sherri Jensen and her sister Shelley had prepared kits to do tree ornaments that looked very stylish when completed. We sat for an hour of gaiety around Joyce's table, the site of many previous craft evenings.

The next AIWI meeting is our annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner at Sherri Jensen's house, 6pm on December 10th. Instead of a gift exchange, each member should bring a donated toy (~\$10) for the Salvation Army.

HISTORY OF THE AMERIKS SCHOLARSHIP

- Judy Greer, Amherst Island Women's Institute (with thanks to all the Islanders who shared their memories and to Paul Snider, Township

Administrative Clerk.)

The Ameriks Scholarship is available for any Amherst Island resident who has lived on the Island at least 5 years and who is attending a post-secondary educational institution. Applications for the scholarship are available on-line at the Loyalist Township website and at the ferry office and the annual deadline for applications is October 31st. Awards are announced at the early November Loyalist Township Council Meeting. In 2014, 5 students received awards.

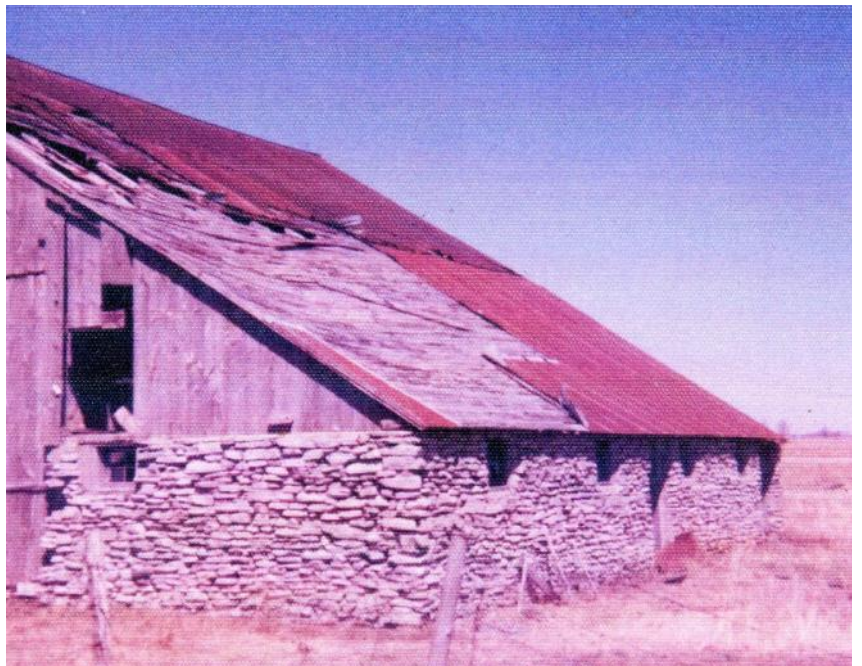
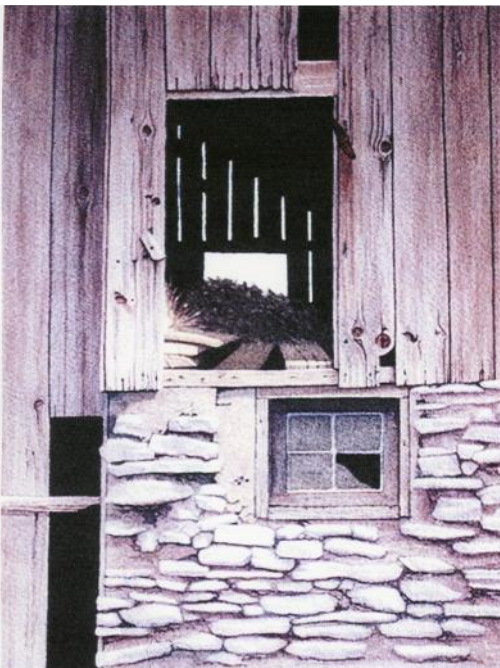
Available history of the scholarship indicates it is named for a past Island resident, Alberts Ameriks.

He and his son Emo escaped from Latvia when the Russians took over. He was an officer in the Latvian army (believed to be a Major). They are believed to have left Latvia separately but were reunited as they travelled.

The 2 Ameriks men arrived on the Island in the early 1950s and bought the Eddy Wemp farm that runs along the Upper Forty Foot and the Third Concession. Mr. Ameriks settled into mixed farming (cows, pigs, ducks) while Emo worked at a number of things including electrical work and on lake boats.



Alberts Ameriks homestead on 3rd Concession
Photos by Shirley Miller



Once he was established, Mr. Ameriks approached the Red Cross to try to bring his wife here and after some 10 long years she finally arrived. However, she wasn't happy and returned to Europe. Shirley Miller provided photos of the farm buildings (house, barn, trailer) which are now gone. Earl Tugwell, a neighbour, knew him as an honest cheerful man and other Islanders remember him as a well-respected, well-liked person who was always known as Mr. Ameriks.

Eventually Mr. Ameriks left the Island for Prince Edward County and later for Northern Ontario and Kingston. On August 1, 1990 he sent a letter to the Township of Amherst Island donating \$10,000 in memory of his old friend, Reeve Frank Fleming. The Township decided to invest the dollars and to use the annual interest to fund the Ameriks Scholarship in memory of Frank Fleming. Mr. Ameriks also donated \$2,000 to the Amherst Island Women's Institute in gratitude for kindness he received from the ladies of the Island. This money has also been invested and the AIWI adds the annual interest to the fund.

The Amherst Island Men's Society makes an annual donation to the fund and there have also been private donations to both the capital investment and to the disbursement amount. During 2014 private donations of \$600 were added to the capital fund. Receipts for income tax are available and the capital fund now stands at \$16,700. In 2014 the amount eligible for disbursement was \$3213.76 and each applicant received \$642.75.



Snowy Owl
Photo by Sherri Jensen

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

Just what are those black and white ducks.

This time of year the ducks and swans from northern breeding areas stop here on their migration south and some stay as long as we have open water. One of the best ways to see and compare the varieties of ducks is during those times when the ice freezes on the South Shore but leaves small open ponds of water here and there in the lake ice. Into these ponds come hundreds of ducks all crowded together in order to have open water available. Now comes your part! Can you identify the different ducks? Just to add a glitch to this game of "Name That Duck", the females don't always look like the males.

One of the most common is the Greater Scaup, known as Bluebill by local duck hunters. You might see 30,000 off the shores of Prince Edward Point or the east end of Amherst Island. Scaup males have dark heads and breasts, white sides, grey backs and dark sterns. Their heads are actually green but the light has to be just right to catch that. They appear to be a black and white duck at a distance. The females are easier to identify as Scaup because they have white over their bills. To me it looks like a kid took some white play dough and draped it over their bills. They are all brown. There are lesser Scaup mixed in with these black and white ducks. Their heads are more pointed at the back corner, otherwise looking black and white like the Greater Scaup but an inch and a half smaller. Some books say they have a burgundy cast to their heads. I haven't seen it yet but in Sibley's guide to birds it states that both kind of Scaup may show green or purple gloss. Scaup talk away to each other in these large flocks so ask Sharen English or Bev Harris if you can visit and listen to the "Scaup Talk". You can always say that a little bird told you! Scaup arrive in November and leave in May.

Bonnie Livingstone's favourite duck is the Bufflehead, known locally as Butterball. This is a completely black and white duck and is only 13 inches long and weighs about 13 ounces. Their heads backs and sterns are black with white sides and a white spot on the side of the head. Males during display puff up this white spot to extend to the back of their heads and females are dull all over with an oval white patch on their cheeks. They are diving ducks and bounce on top of waves like little corks. They nest across Canada Yukon to Northern

Ontario but 5 nestings have been discovered in our area and it is small enough to nest in a Woodpecker hole. Migrants arrive in November and hang out here as long as the water is open returning to the North in May.

I saw my first Goldeneye this month as they were beginning to gather. They also breed in the North and arrive here around October 20th and leave in May although a hen with chicks was discovered in the Gananoque area in 1994. Locally these birds are called Whistlers because of the whistling noise you hear when the flock takes off. Goldeneye do have a golden coloured eye and appear like another black and white duck in the lake. The male's head may show a green gloss, the female quite reddish. The male has white sides with dark back and stern and when it flies there are white patches on the wing. You may see cross black bars on this wing patch when it flies. The female has a dull brown back and sides but as the winter passes she gets a yellow tip to her beak. Flocks of as many as 3000 have been seen off Amherst Island.

The fifth black and white duck for today's lesson is called the Long-tailed Duck. It also appears black and white and hangs around Amherst between November and May. In January of 2000 155,685 were reported at Prince Edward Point. They gather in larger flocks in April as they prepare to fly north and argue about when to go as they sleep in huge rafts of ducks off the South Shore. You can hear them grumbling, "Is it time to go" and "Not yet, dear" Female Long-tailed Ducks have tear shaped white around their eyes but as the winter progresses the male gets whiter and whiter showing white right down the back of his head and darker feathers around his eye. The males have grey and white sides with black tails and breasts. They molt almost continually so birds with different amounts of darker feathers may be in the same flock. Wemp's Bay is a good place to see Long-tailed Ducks with their elegant tail feathers.

Thanks to Leslie Gavlas I have the loan of a scope and this allows you to look into a mixed raft of black and white ducks and sort them out. These are not the only ducks to see of course as three different Scoters, Redheads, Canvasbacks, three kinds of Mergansers, Ring-necked, Harlequin and Ruddy Ducks can be seen but it is a start! Before moving to the Island I knew Mallards and that was about all but thirty years of Duck watching has opened a wonderful world of colours, behaviours and sounds.

Bird watching goes on in the winter too.

BARBARA REID: An Amherst Island Treasure
- Photo and story by Zander of DUNN INN



Barbara Reid, whom I delight to tease, is a loving woman. She confesses to many loves in her life. She loves her family; she loves Amherst Island; she loves work; she loves her church; she loves her priest; she loves Euchre (not necessarily in that order).

Barbara was born 80 years ago in Switzerville which is four miles south of Newburgh and Camden East. She was born into a family in which she had a sister one year older (now living on Wolfe Island) and a older brother who died at the age of two of a heart attack. Four years after Barbara's birth she gained another sister (now living west of Forest Mills). The first 22 years of Barbara's life were spent on the family farm.

Barbara attended Public School in Switzerville (in a one room school house) from grade one to eight and then she went to Napanee High School which she left early because her mother died and she was needed to work on the farm. Although she did well in school she liked recess and lunch time best. She remembers that her first teacher was Edna Glenn from Amherst Island who, at the end of her career, retired on the Island to live in the house where the Schrams now reside on MacDonalds Lane. When Barbara went to High School she had to walk two miles to catch a bus which came from Enterprise and which was already loaded when it reached her.

For relaxation and fun, on Saturday nights, she attended the dances at which Don Johnson's band

played in the Town Hall in Napanee. She frequently went with her cousin, Gayle Willard, and was often escorted by Howard Huff and later by George Root from Deseronto. When Gayle started going with Wilbert she persuaded Barbara to go on a blind date with a fellow named Stratton Reid from Amherst Island. After that first date she and Stratton went together for three years until they got married in St. Luke's Anglican Church in Camden East on September 15, 1956.

Before they got married Stratton often took Barbara over to Amherst Island. Stratton was an Orangeman and the Orange Lodge put on the dances in their building. Barbara's first trip to the Island took place in the winter and she and Gayle came over with Wilbert and Stratton on the ice. Nobody told her where they were going because they feared if she knew she wouldn't go. The ice was not thick enough to support a horse so the men put the two women in a cutter and pushed it the two miles across the ice. They landed at Emerald where they were met by Elmer Willard (Wilbert's brother), who took them by car to the home of Joe and Gertrude Willard (Wilbert's parents) on the Third Concession (near where the Kuti house still stands). They enjoyed a wonderful supper and then played cards before they reversed the process and Wilbert and Stratton pushed the women in the cutter back to the mainland. Barbara says that was not as difficult as it sounds because the glare ice made the trip quick and easy.

After Barbara and Stratton were married they came to live in his grandfather's old house which is where she lives today. Statton had worked for his grandfather, Robert Reid, for seven years before he bought the farm from his grandfather who had moved into Stella to live in the grey house on the corner across from the General Store. Since that time the Reids have improved and expanded the house in many ways - adding a room and changing the heating system from wood to oil to propane inside and incorporating a wood stove outside. Barbara's son, Jim, and her grandson, Brandon, keep the outside wood stove well stoked for her during the winter.

Speaking of winter, Barbara remembers the great winter-time supper parties that she enjoyed on the Island. About 12 to 14 people would gather at her place, share great food and then play euchre or visit. The parties would move around from house to house and Barbara remembers sharing happy times with the families of Doug Miller, Billy Kilpatrick,

Charley Howard, Ross McKee, Avery Brown, Dave Reid (Stratton's uncle) Estel Strain, Bruce Caughey and Garnet MacDonald. Later, when T.V. arrived on the Island those families might also watch a favourite program. Those were pleasant times of sharing and community building.

When Barbara came to Amherst Island she became a member of Christ Church Anglican in Emerald. Her son, Jim, born in 1964, was baptized there. While the minister of Christ Church was also in charge of St. Alban's Church in Stella, Barbara does not remember the two congregations ever getting together for special events.

In those days Amherst Islanders did not travel very much even on the Island. Not only that, the Islanders loyally patronized all their stores - the Kilpatrick store in Emerald, the Glenn and the Neilson stores in Stella. Stratton Reid transported, over the ice during the winter, gas, oil, animal feed and groceries to the Kilpatrick store. Barbara recalls that the best time to travel to the mainland was in the winter, over the ice because one could go at any time. She often crossed the ice to the mainland because all her relatives lived over there.

In the non-winter months the gas trucks would come over to fill up the many gas tanks and the National Grocers would send trucks over to supply the stores with food goods.

Stratton and Barbara were a team on the farm. They were up early to milk the cows and Barbara separated the milk when Stratton had to catch the 7 a.m. ferry to get to the mainland for various jobs. Barbara did most of the plowing when Stratton worked for Harold Van Alstein doing carpentry work, especially repairing and expanding barns. Like most farm wives Barbara did the work of a man, but she loved to work. When Stratton died Barbara, who used to do all the baling, was relieved of that job by her daughter-in-law, Sandra, who insisted that Barbara had too much to do.

If farming was not enough to keep her busy, Barbara also drove the school bus from 1976 to 1986. She shared the job with Shirley Miller and when Shirley quit Barbara took over all the routes. There was a time when Barbara drove the high school bus to the ferry as well as the local school bus to the Island school so she did two trips around the island every day. She gave up the school bus driving when she and Stratton gained more cows to milk.

There was a time when the senior class in the

public school would go, once a week, to the Bath school - the boys for Shop and the girls for Home Economics. In those days she and Shirley shared that bus trip week about.

The Anglican Church has always been important to Barbara and she has served it well. She was President of the Anglican Church Women on several different occasions, acted as treasurer of the A.C.W. and in 2008 was elected Warden.

When Barbara first came to the Island the Anglican Church Women were running a chicken supper every year. In those days the chickens were cooked at the homes of the women. Barbara built a concrete block pit into which she could put 120 half chickens at a time. When the chickens were cooked they were loaded into coolers where they kept hot for a long time. But not everybody could cook the chickens that well and so the church gave up on chicken suppers. Instead they moved to Turkey and Beef suppers and in all of them Barbara has been extremely active. Today she is scandalized by the cost of beef and cannot understand how anybody can afford to buy it. For all of her 58 years on Amherst Island the Anglican Church Women's suppers have been appreciated by all who enjoyed them. Unfortunately because of the declining membership the Anglicans have had to give up presenting all their suppers this year.

But the Anglican Church continues, in spite of the drop in membership and in spite of the death of one of their great leaders, Elsie Willard, Barbara's best friend. Barbara contends she loves her minister, Father Don Bailey, and she does whatever she can to support his ministry.

The love Barbara talks about most today is her love of Euchre. She began playing Euchre when she was very small. Always small for her age she was put into a high chair and from there played the game. When she moved to the Island she often went with Emily Tugwell to Euchre games at Bath and Odessa. The game in Odessa closed down but the Bath group continues. Barbara loves to play on the Island also and from September to May (except for December) 16 players get together faithfully. Barbara joins with Hazel deHann, Jim and Sandra Reid, Art and Anna Hitchins, Peter Morgan, Warren Kilpatrick, Cora McGinn, Wayne and Karen Fleming, Leslie Gavlas, John and Tessa Mayman and Kelly and Maureen McGinn.

Talk about Euchre brings back a flood of

memories for Barbara. She can remember when 28 tables used to play in the Town Hall and when the Legion, the ACW, the Women's Institute used to host games of Euchre. Every Friday night you could find a Euchre game on the island. And that is not to mention the games in private homes.

One of the ironies of Barbara's life is that Stratton did not play Euchre. On her early days on the Island she would go with Stratton to his home where she teamed up with his father and they went to town to play cards. Stratton stayed at home with his mother and visited there. Many Islanders gathered to play Euchre so Barbara considered the Euchre outings were a good way for her to get to know the people of the Island.

When Stratton died in August of 2001, many people thought Barbara would return to the mainland. She did not do so because she had come to love the Island as her home, she had her farm to work and to enjoy, all her friends were on the Island and she felt the Island was the safest place for her to live.

Barbara often rises at 5 a.m. and goes to work in her garden on the Front Road in the Spring and Summer. She considers that the best time of the day because she loves the quiet and peace that surround her then. She also enjoys the birds who join her in the morning and sing their songs to her. She even enjoys the cars driving down the road outside her house because they indicate the Island is waking up. It is then that Barbara gives herself permission to return to the house for a cup of tea and perhaps a short rest, even a sleep, before she returns to the demands of the day.

Since the market opened at the Centennial park Barbara has been a faithful seller of her own home baking (butter tarts her specialty) and vegetables and fruits when they are in season. Barbara contends that she has been gardening since she got married and figures it must be in her blood.

Although she does not brag about her family she is obviously proud of her son, Jim, his wife, Sandra, and their two children, Brooke and Brandon. She pointed out that Jim, who works on the ferry, is a great help to her and runs the farm efficiently. Her daughter-in-law, Sandra is a great cook and took over the Stella Cafe before it finally closed for this year and did a super job of presenting good, nutritious food. Barbara is pleased that Brooke did so well in becoming a Child Care Specialist and that

Brandon, who has a job with Bob Hunter, wants to become a heavy machinery operator.

In 2006 Barbara faced a traumatic medical problem. One day she felt a pain in her ankle and that acute pain did not diminish. The next day her doctor discovered that she had a clot in her leg. A day later the doctor announced that he had to operate to amputate her leg above the knee in order to save her life. While Barbara lamented the loss of her leg, she was grateful that the doctor's quick action had succeeded in preventing her death. Today she will tell you that she is strong in her arms and she considers it was better that she lose a leg than an arm. She rejoices that she can drive her van because her right leg was spared. Moreover her van is equipped with a lift device to allow her to raise her scooter into the van so she can be self-sufficient.

Barbara does all her gardening off her scooter which was given to her by Rick and Carol Morgan when Rick could not longer use it. Barbara continues to be grateful to the Morgans for their gift because without it she would be very limited. With it, she can get around well and produce miracles - or at least, good vegetables for Island consumption, so we all benefit.

Barbara is no stranger to physical problems because she has had two bowel operations and had vein work done on her leg from 2000 to 2006. But as she will tell you she has been O.K. since then. Barbara has no self-pity and when she ever feels down she simply works on a jigsaw puzzle or plays a game of solitaire.

Barbara Reid is no ordinary woman. Not only is she a woman who loves many things and people, she is an example of the power of hard work, the value of friendship, and the importance of determination and devotion. She is also a modest and humble woman who seeks no praise but rejoices in the loves in her life. She probably would not agree but she is one of the treasures of Amherst Island.

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From the 22nd Meeting of Council, Nov. 10th:

The following applicants receive \$642.75 of the donations and interest accrued from the Ameriks' scholarship fund:

1. Ashley McGinn, Trent University;
2. Benjamin Whitton, University of Western Ontario
3. Anna Elizabeth Albertan, Georgian College

4. Daniel Little, Carleton University

5. Katherine Little, Nipissing University

The following motion was passed: that the "Ontario Heritage Trust Easement Agreement, be received and that By-law 2014, being a by-law to authorize the Mayor or designate and the Chief Administrative Officer to sign an easement agreement with the Ontario Heritage Trust for the Baxter/Sand Beach property, be approved."

I have been told that we will have to make do with the Quinte Loyalist ferry for about 3 months next year starting as soon as this ferry can make it here in the spring. This is bad news for just about every Islander and also for many mainland service providers.

AIMS MEETING November 8th/2014

- David Pickering

Chair: Larry Jensen

Secretary: David Pickering

The meeting started with breakfast. Thank you to Brian, Eva, Jack and Angus Little for providing the breakfast.

20 members were in attendance.

The meeting started with deep thought on the nature of pain. Comparisons followed. If one hurt more, or the other hurt less, we wouldn't have a population problem. (Ask Larry)

Our feature presentation was given by Brian Little who gave a brief overview of some of the basics of good photography.



While Brian is the guy to talk to, some of his high points are listed below:

- a) Hold the camera firmly; keep it steady and squeeze the trigger. Don't 'hit' it, just touch it so the camera doesn't shift.
- b) Consider your shutter speed. A slow shutter speed brings more light, but moving objects will be blurred. This is fine for moving water, but not for a sprinting runner. You can get more light through a fast shutter by using a flash, but this works very poorly in distance shots. Remember that the landscape shot setting will typically turn the flash off.
- c) Closer is better. When shooting wildlife, take the first shot, move closer, take a second one, move closer. If the animal leaves, at least you have the prior shots. Do this only up to a sensible point. Remember that alligators run faster than you, and you are soft and chewy in the middle.
- d) Look at the FULL picture – not just your point of interest. Consider your composition. Is the background appropriate or distracting? Can it be reduced or eliminated through changing the line of sight or the focus?
- e) Consider the light. What is the best direction to use? Is there enough? Do the shadows enhance or detract?
- f) Consider the weather. It provides many options in both light and content.
- g) When photographing people or animals, ensure that the eyes are in focus. They are critical.
- h) Flash is always an option – know how to use it correctly.
- i) Remember that you can use the camera vertically OR horizontally. Different scenes require different framing. If your point of focus is tall, consider turning the camera on its side.
- j) Plan – direct – compose – have FUN with your scenes. It will make the images much more precious to you in the end.

Thank you Brian, for a very useful lesson.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the Beacon.

A 'thank you' was passed to Carl for his talk on Sailing which was presented last meeting.

The treasurer gave a report on expenses paid out since the last report. Payments had been made in support of the retirement facility survey, the Honduran trip, refund for previous breakfast expenses, and a payment to the school for today's breakfast. Still outstanding is ferry tickets for the transportation people. Generally, we're still sitting okay.

The transport coordinator gave a report. Only two trips have been requested this month, though there is ongoing support to Islanders being provided on an unofficial basis. For those who are doing that – a sincere thank you.

The Parade of Lights was discussed. It was recommended that gifts be prepared from Market stock and handed out during the parade. This was approved. David Pickering will arrange to wrap the items. Brian Little said he would find out the date of the parade.

Next Year's Auction. Not much has been done in support of the auction as of yet. The committee members are starting to look at sources for auction items. A storage location will also be required until September. Does anyone have spare space?

Retirement initiative. Work continues on a possible retirement residence on the Island. Properties are being considered and there is a good chance that students at Ryerson will be aiding us in the design work. Monique Mitchell is the professor in charge and she may be coming to the Island with students during the month of February. More details will follow. There will probably be a need to hostel students for a few days.

Don Pepper announced that profits from the fall fair amounted to \$41. Thank you to him for manning the table.

Anthony Gifford announced that he will be holding a book launch party on the 29th of November at Janet Scott's place. All are invited.

Larry Jensen reminded people to listen to CJAI. It's a good station which is kept on the air through the volunteer efforts of a great number of Islanders.

Discussions followed on how to attract new membership from recent arrivals to the Island. There may be potential men who are not aware of AIMS. Anthony Gifford volunteered to make contact with these new households and present to them information about the Island and the services on it. Consideration was made on whether this should be done in conjunction with the WI.

The Treasurer asked if AIMS had any written guidelines as to how they should spend their funds. David Pickering offered to write up a draft document for consideration and discussion at the next meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 09:45.



Jacob Murray,
bringing down the star from the silo at the dock
for some much needed repair by Bruce Burnett
Photo by Brian Little

THE HATBOX BABY -Zander of DUNN INN

According to the story a woman was called home, just before Christmas, to talk with her ailing mother. Her mother gave her a stack of old newspaper clippings about “The Hatbox Baby” of 1931 who had been found in the Arizona desert on Christmas Eve. The newspapers described the discovery of the six-day old girl as a miracle. She was swaddled in old cotton wrappings. A hatbox was her crib. The miracle was that she had not been devoured neither by coyotes nor had died in the cold.

The woman could not understand why her mother had given her those newspaper clippings to read. Her mother explained, “It’s you, Sharon. You were that baby in the hatbox and we found you on Christmas Eve.”

At sundown on Christmas Eve, 1931, an Arizona couple was driving home across a barren stretch of desert about 40 miles out of Mesa when they developed engine trouble. While the husband worked to repair a broken fuel line, the wife walked away from the road, wandering under the glittering stars and over the rocks. She saw a clump in the bushes. As she drew nearer she saw it was a hatbox, its top not closed. When she opened the box she discovered a baby girl inside.

The astonished couple took the baby to the Mesa police. The police took the baby to a home run by “Ma” Dana. The “hatbox baby” became big news on the radio on Christmas morning. Many people wanted to adopt her. The woman who had found her had never been able to have a baby of her own so she figured God had led her to find the baby, so that it might be hers.

But, of course, legal procedures had to be followed. By the time the court date arrived two months later, over 200 couples had signed up to adopt the baby. The woman who had found her prayed and prayed. The night before the hearing it rained so hard the bridge into town was washed out and all the roads were flooded. Only one other couple was able to get to the court house - and since they already had an adopted child - the judge awarded the child to the couple who had found her.

The baby, now grown into a woman herself, pondered the story her mother had told her. She went over the newspaper clippings again and again and wondered why her birth mother had left her in a hatbox in the desert to die. She needed to know more about what had happened.

She began to investigate and learned “Ma” Dana was dead. But the deputy sheriff was still alive. She went to visit him. He remembered that Christmas Eve in 1931 very well. He said, “Not a Christmas Eve goes by that I don’t think of it. For years folks wondered what happened to the hatbox baby, and now here you are! Mesa was a small town then, and the people here all fell in love with you. They showered you with gifts.”

According to the old man, folks from miles around brought shawls, dresses, booties and a jeweler sent a ring and a locket. He said, “In a way it reminded us of that first Christmas. You were a gift to all of us.”

The woman said she felt hurt and rejected by her parents who dumped her in the desert, not caring whether she lived or died.

The deputy sheriff shook his head. “No way. You were clean, in a tidy, flowered sleeper, with a blanket around you. You were in good shape; you’d been well cared for, and it’s clear you couldn’t have been out in the desert for long.”

The old man continued, “There are many questions about where you came from and who your parents were. People wondered if your parents were hiding in the sagebrush to make sure somebody picked you up. But of this I’m certain: the baby put into my hands was clean and well-cared for - and was meant to be found and given a good home.”

That woman returned home rejoicing. She had not been abandoned. She had not been left in the middle of nowhere. She had not been neglected.

None of us is ever abandoned by God. All of us are presented to God. All of us are royally accepted by God. All of us are loved by God. That’s what Jesus came to tell us. That’s what Christmas is all about.

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

I have just read a 1968 interview with Ralph Nader. His work on behalf of consumers of automobiles, x-rays, meat, fish and many goods and services has been extremely useful. Very few people have had such a positive impact on each of our daily lives.

Nader: “Is there anything exciting about being mutilated in an auto crash? . . . I find it difficult to visualize a time when many people will be lamenting to their psychiatrists, ‘Doctor, there are no more unsafe cars, diseased meat, air and water pollution or radiation over-exposure around. Life has lost all its zest.’”

I believe that we live in a much safer world than when I was growing up in the ‘50s. On our farm, and on the neighbouring farms, there were no safety boots, dust masks, hearing protection, safety glasses. There were no seatbelts in our cars and pickup trucks – air bags were not even a science fiction concept. We did have first aid available as my mother was a registered nurse. A team of trained first responders summoned by a 9-1-1 call was not even a dream.

The first ear protection I ever saw on a farmer was here on Amherst Island and worn by one of the Fleming boys – now standard equipment for most farmers.

My mother was one of the first workers for the

Workman’s Compensation Board in Malton in the early ‘50s. Before that, there was little help for an injured worker who didn’t have family support.

Some things do improve over time (my body and brain, not included.)

BOOK LAUNCH

-Claire Jenney for AIWI



The Opinionated Old Cow

Alena Schram

Photo by Woody Woodiweis

On Sunday afternoon, Nov. 9th, friends and supporters gathered at the warm and cozy Island Lodge to hear local author Alena Schram read from her recently published book, “The Opinionated Old Cow, Ruminations From The Field”.

Women's Institute Member Judy Greer welcomed the crowd and introduced Alena who retired from her role as Ambassador's wife to Ethiopia and Zimbabwe and fetched up with her husband John to live on Amherst Island in 2006.

She began writing humorous pieces on contemporary life for many Canadian newspapers and magazines as well as the International NY Times. She stresses that she will not write about Amherst Island as there are just too many opportunities (Church Fish Fry, WI Seniors' Christmas dinners) for a peeved reader to pass her a little poison---perhaps in the turkey gravy?!

The author then regaled us with two hilarious readings, one of them on colonoscopies that, should any of the assembled crowd be in need of one, would find him or her, the only person in the waiting room wearing a smile (and little else!).

Her book is dedicated to John who gamely accompanies her through each and every column and

who remains, throughout, every inch the diplomat!

Following the reading, WI President Joyce Haines thanked Alena and her delighted fans.

While refreshments provided by WI members were served there was a raffle for two books donated by the author as well as a book signing.

The afternoon was over far too soon but those who bought books had a very enjoyable evening to look forward to.



Alena with Susie Caughey and Susan Freisen

Photo by Woody Woodiweis

LATE NOVEMBER

- Sharen English

I am home from the Galapagos and Ecuador. I was gone from Nov. 11 to the 19th.

What a grand time! I hope it is on your bucket list.

Before I left I popped in to Paul, The Blacksmith's workshop. It was a pleasant experience with chatter and smiles.

Amherst Island is covered in a fine layer of snow and the air temperature and high winds tell me it is winter.

40 Tundra Swans are here on the 30th of the month. I open my screen doors to hear them babble and hoot. They do this all day and night. What a joy to hear and see.

The rest of them are probably at Commodore's Cove on King St. in Kingston. My friend on the mainland lives there and we exchange emails about their location. They go back and forth from here to there.

Christmas is coming and three parties are pending for me to work at or attend.

Fun times.

David calls it "The Silly Season".

The ferry bobs up and down and side to side. The waves have been high many times since I have been home, on Nov. 19.

The South Shore waves are noisy and high, and they are lovely to watch.

I am going on the radio to talk about birds. It always turns out fine, but I get nervous before I go on the air. Susan and Dale, the hosts, are very friendly and helpful so "There is nothing to worry about, Sharen." says me to me. Janet Scott, who normally does the radio show is taking her cruises and trip of a lifetime. We are all so happy for her. Her descriptions on Facebook Chat sound like a teacher teaching. We feel like we are there. She is enjoying herself immensely.

There are lots of birthdays in my family in November. I send the people cards.

Men show me their beards for Movember. Good for them, raising money for Men's health.

When I drive around the Island it is quiet. People are indoors. The trees are barren now.

There are 1000 sheep near the Ritchie and Allen property. They elicit a peaceful feeling in me as I drive by.

I have attended 3 book launches. They have been successful, interesting and a time to socialize.

This has been an eventful November for me.

How has your November been?

THANK YOU NOTES

We wish to express thanks to all who so generously donated their time, talents and treasures to the St. Paul's PCW Christmas Bazaar.

Special thanks to everyone who attended to browse, eat lunch and share a visit with friends.

Your support is what makes this event so successful.

St. Paul's PCW

Topsy Farms sends grateful thanks to Islanders who have visited the Wool Shed and sent many of their visitors to us for entertainment and chat and sometimes for purchases. Your support throughout the year is really appreciated.

From the Loving Spoonful

Thanks to ALL of the donors from the Island. You helped create many hundreds of meals for those in

need in Kingston. Meals were made from your produce at women's shelters (Interval House and Dawn House) in the Youth Shelter, at homeless shelters and at hot meal programs including Martha's Table, St. Vincent de Paul, Lunch by George, the Gathering Place and the Salvation Army Bread of Life. Thank you!

(A story might be a good way to tell about your impact. Here it is.)

Loving Spoonful drivers never see the youth at the Kingston Youth Shelter. We only drop off at the door, giving the youth their privacy. But one day, as one of our drivers was finishing her delivery and walking back to her car, a youth ran out onto the front lawn, yelling, "Thank you for saving our lives!"

That's your produce! Appreciated even by teens in moments of crisis.

Mara Shaw

Executive Director

Loving Spoonful



Reserve and Preserve Volunteers

ISLE CITRUS ORDER

Thank you to everyone who supported our citrus order fund raiser. We would also like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding following a couple of changes in pick up dates and times, due to circumstances beyond our control! We are thankful our order eventually made it through the "epic" snowstorm south of the border!

Thanks to David Fleming for helping with

delivery, to customers waiting and some of our parents and students (Stephan, J.P., Finn & Devin), who helped unload and sort the order once it made it to the school! A special thanks to Barry and Rebecca, who helped unload, sort and carry fruit to customers' vehicles.

Members of ISLE

DO YOU LOVE TO LEARN?

-Carl McCrosky

Would you like to really understand how computers work?

I am not talking about learning how to use the latest release of Windows, or how to fix your home network. I am not talking about learning how to use computers at all. No, I am talking about understanding the fundamental ideas from physics, mathematics, engineering, and computational science which underlie all modern computing devices.

There is a deep beauty in this combination of ideas, which you can discover by taking a free course, which I hope to give on Amherst Island. There will be no exams, grades, or programming assignments. There will be a continual examination of new ideas, from which you can learn what you wish. You will be given a free copy of my e-book, "The Beauty of Computing", and encouraged to read two chapters before each class.

The course will be open to anyone who is interested. The only prerequisite is that you want to learn. I love these ideas and I love to teach.

If you think you might be interested in joining me in this course, email me at Carl.McCrosky@gmail.com, or call me at 389 4334.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

Amherst Island Beacon: December 1984 - Issue 83

Editor ... Ian Murray

Treasurer... Lyn Fleming

Subscriptions ... Lyn Fleming

Price 15 Cents

THIS ISSUE

- Staff

A lot of time has been spent trying to improve the quality of the Beacon after last issue's poor appearance. We want you to be able to read it.

We have obtained a manual from the Gestetner Company, as well as paper, ink and new stencils.

The stencils are specifically designed to work from a computer-type printer.

The written material is typed on a word-processor and is printed on paper. Following proof-reading and, after corrections have been made, the ribbon is removed from the printer and the impressions are printed directly onto the stencil surface.

Helping to produce this issue: Sally Bowen, Viki-Jo Detlor, Christopher Kennedy, Randi Kennedy, Ian Murray, Leah Murray, Rick Tait and Don Tubb.

COSTS OF PRODUCTION

- Ian Murray

Well, as near as I can tell, 15 cents per issue should cover the Beacon's cost of production but does not provide for any buildup of funds for equipment replacement or repairs. The wear and tear on the Topsy Farms computer system are pretty negligible and there is a second Gestetner for parts. So, the price of the Beacon continues at 15 cents an issue.

When and if a significant expenditure is necessary, the Community could be asked to provide the money - perhaps through the Recreation Committee.

COUNCIL REPORT FOR DECEMBER 4TH

- Chris Kennedy

All members of Council were present. Before the general meeting a public meeting was held, which considered and approved an amendment to the zoning by-law requested by Duncan Marshall and Syl Apps.

The minutes were read and approved.

Geoff Matthews and the Eves family, Grace, Lance and Vince, appeared as a delegation concerning the building by-law. Geoff spoke on the subject. There was some correspondence about building permits for farm buildings. It appeared that although Council had passed a resolution saying that all farm building permits would be charged for, there was no by-law stating that farm buildings required a permit. Council therefore decided that all fees charged for farm buildings should be refunded. Council discussed for some time a sample bylaw for building permits.

The Reeve [Norman Allision] reported on his activities for the month.

Larry Shea had requested priority for his milk truck on the ferry. Council refused this, as they felt it

would set a precedent, with people trucking livestock, or other commercial trucks, also requesting priority. Priority is only given to emergency vehicles, everyone else is on a first come first served basis. Ontario Hydro was upset about the condition of the wiring on the Island dock, and some repair work is to be done.

Various minor matters concerning roads were dealt with. Council is going to ensure that Diane Pearce has time to go through old Township records to see if it can be established that the road through Lots 66/67, Concession 3, was a "public highway". They are also still trying to establish if McGinn's beach, claimed by the Nut Island Shooting Club, is public property.

The new arrangements at the dump seem to be working quite well. An attendant will be there two half days a week to help keep it tidy. The more careful people are in tidy use of dump, the less it will cost us on our taxes.

Council considered, partly "in camera", the alterations to the Township offices. Nothing has been decided, except that the proposed alterations are very expensive.

The only fire recently was Lawrence Baker's truck.

Grace, Lance and Vince Eves had written to Council requesting a public hearing before debentures were issued for the Miller Drain. It is apparently up to the Ontario Municipal Board and not Council to decide whether a public hearing is called. The closing date for tenders for the drain is December 17th, 1984. They will be opened at a meeting open to the public at 8 p.m. on December 17th.

Billy Neill said he would move out of his cottage (garage) by the end of December.

Council received a letter from W Bruce Caughey, Secretary-Treasurer of the Amherst Island Agricultural Society, outlining their recent activities.

Council decided to postpone discussing a report on open meetings and access to information to a later date, as it was already after 11 p.m. and time to adjourn.

SOCIAL NOTES

- Annette Philips

As a special tribute to those who have served their communities, the Province of Ontario took Sunday, December 9, to pay tribute to 1,984 people across

the province.

As reported in, earlier Beacons, Amherst Island's nominee was Irene Glenn. Mrs. Glenn, along with approximately 90 others from the Kingston area, were presented with a gold-on-nickel Bicentennial Medal. The medal was awarded by the Attorney General, Roy McMurtry, and MPP Keith Norton. The ceremony at City Hall was followed by a luncheon at the Harbour Restaurant, courtesy of Reeve and Mrs. Norman Allison.

Following lunch, Barb McDonald and Diane Pearce made a rather quick trip to pick up the first decent Christmas tree they could find. Both families are celebrating Christmas early as they will all be away over the holidays. Barb and Sarah leave next week for Singapore; Jeff and Jennifer will be travelling to Florida, and Diane is going on a skiing holiday – south of the border, I believe.

Many new residents have come to Amherst Island again this month. Steve Spence has moved permanently to the South Shore; Alice Pitt and M. J. Wass have rented Louise Seaman's house; and Marguerite Tennier, a weekend resident, bought Evelyn Tayler's house in the village. Harold and Shirley Belmonte have also taken up residence on the Island, up the Front Road. With the new influx of Islanders, there are always those moving to the mainland for the colder months. Sam Reid and Jennie McCormick have joined this group, moving to Millhaven to stay with Wilda Willard.

The Women's Institute held their annual Senior Citizen's Dinner Saturday December 8. A success as usual, most Islanders and many non-Islanders turned out for a delicious meal and some outstanding entertainment. Among those attending from off the Island were Arnold Smith, Kathleen Wemp, Madge Robinson, Reta Miller and Gordon Glenn.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

THANK YOU

I wish to express my thanks to friends and neighbours for your visits to the funeral home and funeral. For flowers, donations to the heart fund and all the sympathy cards.

Your kindness will always be remembered.

Madeline Glenn

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace.

Wishing all a Joyous Christmas and the blessing of health and happiness in 1985

Norman and Georgie Allison

The History Book Committee Of The Council Of The County of Lennox and Addington Requests the Honour of Your Presence At A Reception To Launch "The Smiling Wilderness: An Illustrated History of Lennox & Addington County"

By Frank B. Edwards

Published by Camden House Publishing Company Publishers of Harrowsmith and Equinox Magazines.

To Be Held At The County Court House 97 Thomas Street East, Napanee Wednesday, December 19, 1984 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Special Guests Will Be Frank B. Edwards Author of "The Smiling Wilderness" & James Lawrence Editor & Publisher, Camden House

Refreshments Will Be Served

[Editor's Note: This is the book that Randi Kennedy went all over the County to collect photographs for.]

DUMP RAMBLINGS

-Councillor Chester Tugwell

If your dump was animated and could communicate, I'm sure that it would be sending thanks and Seasons Greetings to those 95% of users who are trying to improve its usefulness. It undoubtedly would also say to the other 5 per cent, "Please have a heart, give me a break and treat me right".

A few days ago, John Firth, the Senior Environment Officer from the Abatement Section, visited the site and was more than pleased. He even took photos from a positive rather than a negative angle for possibly the first time. He passed on his thanks to you, diluted a little perhaps, with the wish that the fine co-operation would continue.

One cannot spend several days voluntarily dabbling in the work of a dump attendant without coming up with different ideas and impressions. Although it is frustrating to find garbage in the wrong area, it sometimes has a humorous side. For example, it was noted that a normal bag of garbage had been wrongly returned to the Metals and Furniture Department and in this bag with a split side could be seen a Pamper box and two empty Bacardi Rum bottles. My crazy reflections ranged from - "What a kid" to "Mother and baby doing

well”.

In the past when we have had to hire Peter and his not-too-big bulldozer, half the entire area of the dump had to be cleared. This was always done professionally and at a fee far less than an outside contractor would have charged. Unfortunately, in a few days after bulldozing, most of the cleared area would be receiving garbage, with preference near the entrance or on the ramp. The new concept is to consolidate the different types of garbage into small areas far from the entrance and to burn as much as possible. Bulldozing will still be required but less frequently and for smaller areas. From fooling around at the dump, I concluded that anyone with a determined purpose, with a good wheelbarrow, with a barn fork, with some diesel oil and of course matches could, in eight hours a week, keep the dump in a satisfactory condition. This was recommended to Council and it was decided to implement the idea on a trial basis. Vaughn McMullen has agreed to give this a shot and his weekly wage will be equivalent to the cost of one hour of bulldozing. Seemingly, it will be more effective if the eight hours were broken into four hours on Wednesday and four hours on Saturday, depending on winter weather.

Here, and this should have been done in the beginning, I want to thank Stuart and his road crew for their quick response to the request for preparation of the turn area. It all happened in a matter of hours. This willingness to get on with it is quite amazing because over the years many of their efforts to help improve the dump have been exercises in futility because of uncaring users. There is the story that a few years ago the crew erected a strip of snow fence at the dump only to have it vanish in thin air - or did it fall on the sides of a duck blind?

During snow storms and icy conditions the dump road, ramp and turn area will receive last priority from our road crew. However, they will attend to it in due course. The prudent dumper should keep his garbage until tomorrow or even later in order to save a wasted trip or possible mishap when such conditions prevail. As it becomes available, Stuart will stockpile earth near the turn area. When the burnt refuse reaches the level of the turn area on the south side, it will be covered with earth. Over a period of time, this will make the turn area larger and the throw area steeper and higher. Gravel will be added as required after the earth becomes stable enough to support private vehicles.

Many Township Dumps do not have pest control. Apparently, regular and complete burnings tend to keep the rats under control. We pay Burtons \$60.00 for one quick trip a month to the dump or \$720. annually. John Firth is checking with the appropriate department to find out what correct action can be taken to decrease or eliminate this charge with a view to directing any savings towards the wages of our part-time worker. You will be kept advised.

Simple as it may seem, there is a right and wrong way to burn the dump. First it must be prepared. All strays and mavericks must be placed on the main pile, the higher the better for the most intense heat to burn wet garbage. During burning, the burner will have to encourage fringe areas with a splash or two of diesel oil. When properly done, very little except cans and bottles should remain. This all takes time and, even in low fire risk periods, should be attended. The dump will be burned on Wednesday and Saturday each week and it seems logical to request that the setting of dump fires be left to the worker on duty who has time to do the job properly and safely.

Signs can never give complete directions for every item of garbage and in some cases your discretion has to be the guide. One friendly user suggested that a miscellaneous sign should be put up for hard to categorize garbage. Remembering that hitherto the whole dump area was miscellaneous, the suggestion was graciously accepted but with the proviso that the directional arrow would be pointing straight up.

The instinct to follow the leader is strong in all of us but please don't let this influence your good dumping practices. For example, if the ramp should ever be blocked on your arrival at the dump, please keep the garbage in your vehicle and contact one of the following: Stuart, Vaughn, Diane or anyone on Council. The ramp will be cleared as soon as possible.

In closing, I must admit that until recently, I had the same pessimistic views as held by so many Islanders about any dump improvements. However, the recent cooperation of so many toward the dump project that Council is undertaking has bulldozed away all pessimism. It's going to work! Thank you and happy dumping in 1985.

[Editor Nov/14: Chester did amazing work turning our disgusting dump into a modern land-fill site.]

Amherst Island Beacon: December 1994, Issue 203

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BEACON NOTES

-Don Tubb

Cold enough for you? This must be our just desserts for such a spectacular fall. And, I guess all that white stuff is supposed to put us in the festive mood. I'll reserve judgement on that until we get closer to the holidays but in the spirit of the season, we all wish to all our loyal readers (and the not so loyal ones too), a fine holidays and the best for the New Year.

We do have the usual news and views to serve up to this month. The special of the month is a continuation of our cub reporter's items that they wrote at the school. The veteran Council reporter was hard at work trying to get things right as we don't have our own built in checker anymore in ex-Councillor Murray. Oh well... I guess we'll just fly by the seat of our pants a little more than usual.

So, what else is happenin' in this happenin' place? Well, I can't think right now but it'll come to me eventually so I'd better just move on and try and put this baby to bed. Still can't think of anything else for here so.... Merry Xmas And A Happy New Year

COUNCIL REPORT: December 6, 1994

- Chris Kennedy

Council report for the first regular meeting of the new Council.

For those with a short memory the new Council consists of Lyn Fleming, Alec Scott Jr., Jim Whitton and Ralph Woods, with Duncan Ashley as Reeve. Keep this list so you know who to thank or who to complain to.

First the Reeve and then Council made the Declaration of Elected Office and the Oath of Allegiance, which states that they will be honest and upright and bear true allegiance to the Queen. Then the Reeve made his address to the new Council. It

was short and sweet.

Duncan Ashley first listed his appointments to the Council Committees:

Ferry Manager- Ashley; Public Works- Scott & Whitton; Recreation- Ashley & Fleming; Fire-Fleming; Emergency Measure- Ashley; Cemetery-Woods, Ameriks Trust Fund- Woods; AD Hoc Social Contract- Whitton & Woods.

Jim Whitton put forward a motion that Duncan Ashley not be Ferry Manager, because his wife works on the ferry. Duncan said that he felt that he could avoid conflict of intent on any issue involving the Collective Agreement with the union and pointed out that the previous Reeve had avoided conflict even though his father was Senior Captain. Jim's motion did not receive a seconder, so was lost. Then in a recorded vote it was decided unanimously to add a second member of Council to the Ferry Committee. The actual appointment will have to wait until the Procedural Bylaw is amended.

Then in a recorded vote Duncan Ashley was appointed Ferry Manager, with Whitton voting against. The other committee appointments were approved.

Stuart Miller reported that the Road Crew was ready for snow. The Public Works department should come in under budget this year.

Our Ferry, the Amherst Islander, has come back with anti-freeze all through its boiler system so ship keepers will not be required on a regular basis in cold weather. Only on very cold nights will the captain decide that someone should keep watch. Council will advertise for two positions for ship keepers, applications are to be in by Dec. 23rd. Council decided not to hire another part time deck hand for the moment.

Since the small ferry is back it has often been full, and the Clerk will write to M.T.O. that it is not adequate to handle regular commuter traffic.

There is no funding this year for repairs to the Stella dock. Our M.P., Peter Milliken, will be requested for help in receiving funding for next year. Harbours and Ports will be requested for a meeting in the New Year to discuss the plans for the Stella dock.

The Clerk put out the 1995 Ferry Estimates. There are large increases in Workers Compensation charges, Insurance and Berthage fees, and Council can do little to reduce these.

Money is included in the estimate for passenger shelters on the docks. The Public Works department was asked to recommend a plan for the shelter on the Millhaven dock.

The Fire Chief or Deputy Fire Chief will be requested to attend Council meetings to keep Council up to date on the Fire Department.

The Recreation Committee is looking for new members. Anyone interested could call Duncan Ashley or Lyn Fleming.

The Township Back Beach lawyer has finished his work, so he will be paid as soon as the signed agreement is returned by the Hunt Club.

The meeting was not over by 11 p.m., curfew, but Council decided to continue to finish up routine business. With the new members of Council and a new Reeve feeling their way through the business the meeting was quite slow and cautious, but they are ably guided by the Clerk/Treasurer.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

Sincere best wishes to Jack Kerr, currently in hospital recovering from a stroke. Best wishes also to Art McGinn and Margaret Blenkinsop, both recovering at home after a stay in hospital. Susan (Mrs. Art) McGinn and Chad Miller are both laid up with broken arms.

Congratulations to Bonnie Azuley and Jan Sneepe on the birth of their fourth child, a boy.

Welcome to our new Island residents, Mr. and Mrs. David Youell, Candace and Shannon. They recently purchased Shirley Halferty's house and are now fulltime Islanders.

Sincere sympathy to the families of John Drumgoole and Mavis McGinness (Art McGinn's sister), both of whom passed away this month.

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Leslie Gavlas, Secty

I have been directed by the Women's Institute to thank all those who helped us make a success of the Seniors' dinner on Friday, Dec. 2. We are very grateful for the on-going financial support of the Orange Lodge and the Canadian Legion, and for the donations received from private individuals. Thanks go to Susie Caughey for organizing those pleasant young ladies who served and cleared the tables.

Finally, we are most grateful for the work of those ladies who worked in the kitchen, preparing and serving food for the girls, directing their activities, and finally tackling that least welcome chore, the washing up!

Without the help of all these volunteers it would be impossible for the Women's Institute to stage this supper as most of us are Seniors ourselves. So Thank You all, and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

THANK YOU NOTES

To all who made our 40th Anniversary very special, our heartfelt thanks. Debbie and Phil for their thoughtfulness in having a party and for all their hard work putting it together. Dave and Karen for their help and our beautiful cake. Our foster daughter Laura, for being here with us. All our nine grandchildren and everyone else who helped; thank you for all the lovely gifts and cards. Also for coming and helping us make a wonderful memory.

Lovingly

Tom and Audrey Miller

Ralph Woods would like to thank all the residents of Amherst Island for your support and confidence on November 14th. I promise that I will represent all the people to the best of my ability.

Sincerely

Ralph Woods

Amherst Island Councillor

Gordon Reid and family wish to thank all their friends and relatives for their presence and the lovely cards and gifts brought to Gordon's 90th birthday celebration on December 11th at the home of Stratton and Barbara Reid.

It was a memorable experience for Dad to re-new acquaintances and see so many of his old friends. It was also a pleasure to see so many relatives and friends from the mainland. Thanks also to those who helped with food and serving. Beautiful memories for everyone.

The "Reids"

I would like take this opportunity to thank everyone who gave me their support and encouragement during the recent election for Township Council by signing my nomination papers

and voting for me. I hope I will be an asset to Council and if I can be a help to anyone, please feel free to call me.

Lyn Fleming

A very sincere thank you to the following: those kind people who sent cards, letters, flowers and gifts during my illness. To Tena Tugwell and the Ferry Crew for getting me over to the mainland. To the A.C.W. and the P.C.W. for their calls and goodies. We are surely blessed to be living on this beautiful Island, populated by so many kind and caring people.

Thanks to the A.C.W. for the delicious lunch, served following the service.

May God Bless you

Merry Christmas to All

Margaret Blenkinsop

The "Friends of St. Alban's" would like to thank everyone who supported our Summer Concert Series - we sold out for every concert! We would also like to thank the ladies of the community who supplied a lot of the goodies we all enjoyed during intermission; the people who helped move furniture and the organ back and forth every week; Larry Fleming, for keeping the grounds in top shape; and everyone else who helped make our series a success.

A special thank-you to Cathy Glenn for the generous loan of her piano and of course the performers for donating their time and talent.

Most recently we welcomed the St. George's Men and Boys Choirs during Sunday Service. Again, they sang to an almost "full house"!

Plans are already in the works for the next summer's series!

We hope to see you there!

I wish to extend my deep appreciation to the many friends who took time out from busy lives to visit me when I was confined to hospital on two recent occasions.

To the Members of Burleigh L.O.L. #482 for their delicious fruit platter, to the representatives of both the P.C.W. and A.C.W. for their calls and the treats that they brought with them. To Revs' Young and Dunkin for their visits in the hospital and to Rev. McIntyre for his calls at home. To the McDonalds and the Morgans for the delicious food that they

showered upon us, on my return from hospital.

I am assured that the diet of some 18 pills per day will restore my breathing problem.

Your many "get well" cards were also much enjoyed.

A. Bruce Caughey

*THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
LEGION REMEMBRANCE DAY COMPETITION
- Leslie Gaviias, Youth Education Program
Branch 539 of the Royal Canadian Legion is proud to announce the winners of the 1994 Remembrance Day*

Competition for poster, essays and poems:

Black and White Poster - Grades 4,5 & 6

#1- Mindy Fleming, #2- Samantha Pollock,

#3- Ryan McGinn

Coloured Posters - Grades 4,5, & 6

#1- Shawna Phillips, #2- Andrew McDonald,

#3- Shannon Baker

Black and White Posters - Grades 7 & 8

#1- Jessica McGinn, #2- Jacob Murray,

#3- Scott Marshall

Coloured Posters - Grades 7 & 8

#1- Sara Pollock, #2- Wendy Fleming,

#3- Jacob Murray

Essays - Grades 4, 5 & 6

#1- Ryan McGinn, #2- Kyle Murray,

#3- Andrew McDonald

Essays - Grades 7 & 8

#1- Jacob Murray, #2- Stephanie Fleming

#3- Sara Pollock

Poems - Grades 4, 5 & 6

1 only- Samantha Pollock,

Poems - Grades 7 & 8

#1- Bonnie Marshall, #2- Scott Marshall

Other participants

*Helen Bell-Smith, Brent McGinn, Alison McDonald,
Nathan Maleska, Mark McCormick.*

The judges were Jean and Ross Comepeau of Kingston and Audrey and Tom Miller, Stella. The level of excellence of the submissions was exceptionally high and this gave the judges much difficulty. All the students are greatly to be congratulated.

The first prize winners in all categories have been forwarded for the Legion Zone Competition.

Congratulations to us for making it through another year with 12 issues printed and distributed. We have started planning for Issue 1000 which will happen in 2062 but can't come up with a theme. If anyone has any to share, we'll be glad to listen.

A LETTER HOME

-Chris Kennedy

Well, we've got the Amherst Islander back and the line-ups too. You know... I always welcomed the sight of our boat when we had the Wolfe Islander II and Upper Canada as spares but the Frontenac II has really spoiled me. Oh well, where are those audio books?

We had a rather nasty wind storm at the end of November which tore off part of Stratton and Barbara Reid's barn roof. It didn't blow it off but rather left it like a half opened can of sardines - with one corner peeled back.

The sheep are all put away for the winter so farming has become rather less hectic. We got really good prices for our lambs this fall, so we're feeling all right and knocking on wood at the same time - can't be too careful with fate's fickle finger.

Any day now we'll be getting the furnace hooked up in the new shop and then, by golly, we'll really have something... a spacious and warm place to work for the first time since 1974. That's when the red barn burned down.

Times up so... Merry Xmas to all and see you next year. All in all, this one's been pretty darn, good.

ERNEST APPS AND THE RADAR OF MATAPAN

- written and submitted by Stanley Burke

Remembrance Day is a good time to draw attention to a strange oversight in recognizing outstanding service in the Second World War. I refer to the action of Kingston-area resident Ernest Apps, who was the key man in one of the critical battles of the war. In the Battle of Matapan in 1941 in the eastern Mediterranean, he was the radar officer who detected three Italian cruisers, which were sunk in the principal action of the battle.

Apps, in the battleship Valiant, provided the range and bearing - or distance and direction - of the enemy ships, permitting the British fleet to move in to gunnery range. Then, as Apps noted in his diary at the time, Royal Navy battleships fired six broadsides with 15-inch guns and, as he said, it was

"all over in five minutes. They never knew what hit them."

This was the key action in a battle in which one battleship was put out of action and four cruisers and 10 destroyers sunk. The battle changed the balance of power in the Mediterranean because, prior to Matapan, the large Italian fleet had to be presumed a potent fighting force and the freedom of action of the Royal Navy accordingly limited. The victory proved British superiority and freed significant forces for essential action such as the support of the offensive base in Malta and the subsequent offensive against Rommel in North Africa.

Matapan was historic in another sense, because it was the first naval battle in which radar was used for gunnery. Apps, as radar officer, proved the effectiveness of the new invention. During the battle, in addition to detecting the opposing fleet, App's radar provided range and bearing to the British guns so that, when the ships arrived in firing position, virtually all that remained was to order Open Fire.

Following the victory, decorations went to App's commanding officer, to the ship's gunnery officer, to the officer in charge of the gunnery control system and to many others throughout the fleet. One went, interestingly, to a midshipman who played a relatively insignificant role, simply ordering searchlights trained on the bearing indicated by App's radar. Then, when ordered, he had the lights switched on. He was a certain Prince Phillip of Greece, nephew to Admiral Lord Mountbatten, later to marry Princess Elizabeth.

But why was the key man overlooked?

Because he was a Canadian?

Because the navy did not want to publicize radar?

Perhaps, but a medal could have been issued without mentioning radar.

Because senior officers dismissed radar as gadgetry, preferring to think of this victory as achieved in the old Nelsonian tradition?

But there is one other possible explanation that's intriguing.

Apps had drawn the ire of his commanding officer because he was in love with a French girl, whom he intended to marry. His captain, pacing in his cabin, had angrily said that no British officer should marry a foreigner. Apps replied that he was not British

and refused to break off the relationship. The Captain then made preparations to have him returned to Britain.

Through a Canadian in the British consular service in Alexandria, the couple then managed to arrange a civil service. The marriage being a *fait accompli*, the captain relented and allowed Apps to remain with the fleet, where he continued a career filled with drama. For example, his ship, the Valiant was next to the battleship Barham when she was sent to the bottom by a German submarine with a loss of 800 men, one of the worst losses of the war.

As Apps says, "It could have just as easily been us." Apps was one of close to 100 Canadians who served as radar officers in the Royal Navy and received little recognition for their services. The Royal Air Force had recruited virtually all the young electronic engineers in the U.K., so the Navy looked to Canada and, in the early years of the war, virtually all RN radar officers were Canadians. They served in 76 battleships and cruisers. Four were killed, one was captured by the Japanese, many had ships sunk under them. Many were engaged in vitally important operations. They were involved, for example, in the sinking of the German battleship Bismark and Scharnhorst.

Along with Apps, another Kingston-area man who served as a RN radar officer was Able Trousdale of Sydenham. He agrees that Canadians did not receive the credit they deserve for naval services. Both Trousdale and Apps come from distinguished families. The Trousdales are a leading family in Sydenham; the Apps have long been prominent in Kingston.

Ernest's brother Syl Apps became noted as a hockey star, cabinet minister and businessman. Ernest had a distinguished engineering career and now lives, happily married to Paulette, in a beautiful home on Amherst Island. A modest man, he has never asked why his conspicuous service was overlooked.

It's not too late. Someone should see that recognition is given.

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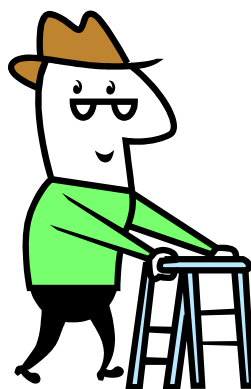
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Thank you in advance.

Ida Gavlas

Topsy Farms has a new shipment of fresh frozen lamb cuts, just arrived in December.

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bandmward@xplornet.ca



Tim Gushue (currently serving) and Stanley Burke (retired), both in uniform and medals after the AIPS Remembrance Day Ceremonies.

Photo by Brian Little

Stephan McGinn with 2 day old piglets and mama Sally.

Photo taken by Sally Bowen at Nick McGinn's and Lorie LeBlue's.

