

Amherst Island Beacon



Issue 440 *BONA LIBENTER, TRISTIA MAESTITER, MALA NUMQUAM* **Mar 2015**

The Amherst Island BEACON Issue 440, Mar 2015

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Editorial

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WILLIAM GORDON FILSON (1940-2015)

With heavy hearts the family announce the passing of Bill on Thursday February 19, 2015 at Kingston General Hospital. Bill lived his early years on the Second Concession of Amherst Island, moving to Kingston to work at Muttarts Building Supplies. Bill was an excellent wood worker and built many houses in Westbrooke and later his own home in Lansdowne. When Bill left Muttarts he and Mary bought a farm in Lansdowne.

Bill was very easy going and always willing to help a neighbour.

Bill loved farming but with declining health they

sold the farm and moved to Gananoque.

Bill is survived by his wife of 49 years, Mary Theresa Murchie, his brother Bob Filson (Bernadette) of Amherst Island, and his sister Ardeth Couvell-Dodge (Don) of Nova Scotia. Bill was a special uncle to Stephanie Filson (Todd) Lansdowne, Trina Couvell-Harper (the late Rob) Ottawa and Andy (Kate) Couvell of Vancouver, and their children and Mathew Murchie. Also survived by his brother-in-law Vincent Murchie (Bonnie) a sister-in-law Olena Lisechy (the late John) Sandra Murchie (the late Joseph). Predeceased by his parents Gordon and Ada Filson and a brother-in-law Jim Couvell.

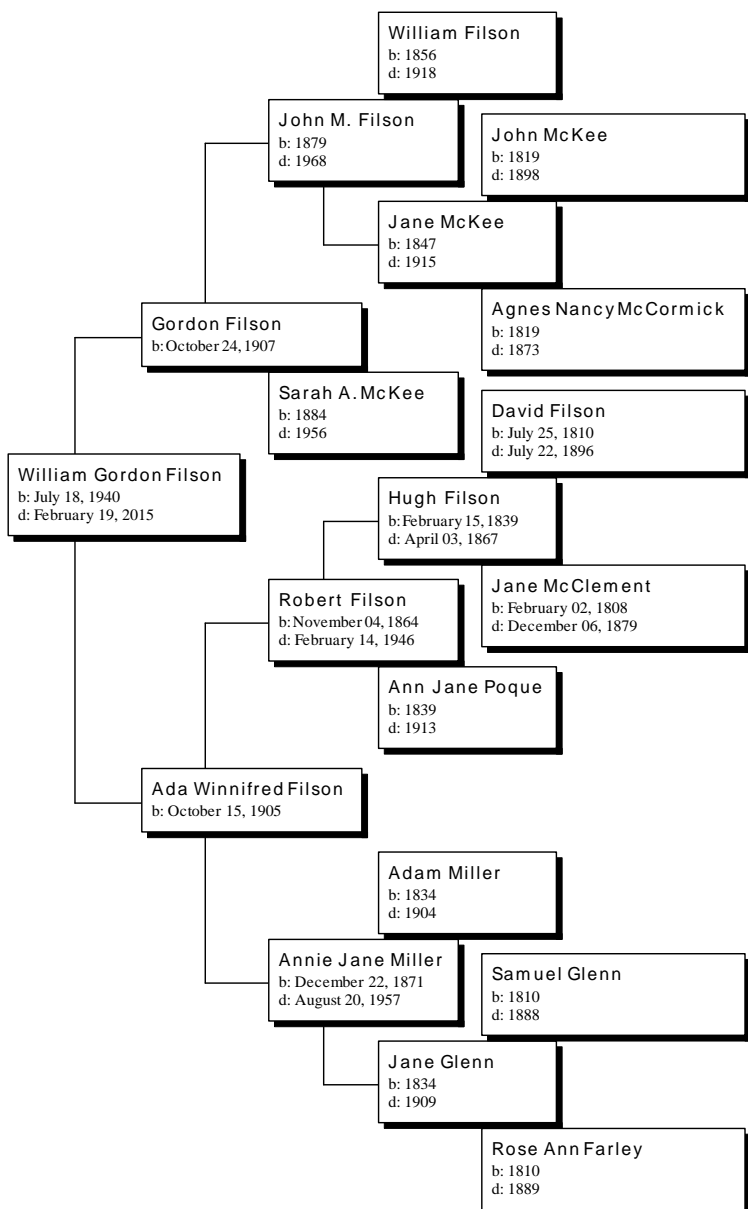
Bill struggled with congestive heart failure and recurring pneumonia lately and had spent many months in hospital.



Bill was a big man with a heart of gold. He will be remembered for his kindness, his friendliness and his devotion to his family and friends. He will live in our hearts forever.

Cremation has taken place. There will be a celebration of Bill's life in the spring in Gananoque.

Ancestors of William Gordon Filson



Tom deHaan and Gord Heasley returned to Mexico a couple of times this winter.

Joyce Reid spent some time in Arizona.

Happy 75th Birthday to Steve Street, who celebrated with an open house/dance, held in his honour at the Community Centre. The event was well attended and a great time was had by all!

A.I.P.S. students held their 17th annual Polar Bear Olympics in mid-February. After so many years of no snow for the outdoor activities, they did enjoy lots of it this year. There have been many days this winter that students were kept indoors for recesses, as the wind-chill temperatures were too low to be out in.

Despite a snow storm/blizzard on February 2nd, the groundhog still managed to see his shadow!! We've had lots of snow during the month of February, along with winds to add drifting snow to the mix – on top of setting a record for the coldest February in 115 years!! Even the ferry has been bogged down in the heavy ice and snow in the track. As per the groundhogs prediction, still more snow is forecast well into March.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Mary Kay Steel

On February 18th, 2015 the Amherst Island branch enjoyed a movie afternoon instead of a regular meeting. Some fourteen women, including three guests, gathered at the home of member Norma-Lynn Cole at 4pm on a cold and gusty winter's day. We were warm and comfortable, enjoyed chatting and laughing and watching an amusing film, and then tucked into a tasty meal. There was no pressing WI business, so we just had some fun.

Our next meeting will be held at the home of Sharen English on March 18th at 7pm; guests are welcome.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lynn Fleming

Get Well Susan Filson, Jack Forester, Lloyd Wolfreys & Susie Caughey.

Janice and Eric McGinn and Peter and Pam McCormick spent a week in Curacao in late February, and still came home to record-setting cold weather.

Tara Kennedy and Dave Meikle spent a week in Mexico re-charging.

Eric and Linda Welbanks also returned to Mexico this year to escape the cold.

Larry and Sherry Jensen spent 6 weeks in the Azores for some R&R.



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The picture above comes from Anne Henderson, showing a Snowy hitchhiker on our ferry.

David reports, "Just as we were coming into Millhaven, this predator dove down behind the boat and took a duck right from the water."

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

Spring

How do I know that Spring is coming? We don't have a Weather Groundhog like Warton Willie, or even a groundhog of any kind on Amherst Island as an indicator. I could say that I consulted Bruce Findlay about the weather but I think he too is hiding out in someplace warm as are many of our Island Snowbirds. That one day of zero on March 4th after a February of sub-zero temperatures made us all think a little about spring. Why do I say that Spring is coming? I have to admit that a Little Bird told me. Well now I may be eccentric and have been known to hoot once in a while but DO I TALK TO BIRDS ? Not really but I listen and observe.

Those noisy Starlings that so many have come to detest are telling us in subtle ways that Spring is just around the corner. Their beaks that have been dull

and dark since Fall are beginning to turn the cheery yellow of sunshine and of buttercups and their outer feathers are growing in with iridescent hues of blues and purple.

Over the silent silo of Wayne Fleming's barn can be seen a pair of Ravens circling and soaring in an age-old dance of love. Their huge wings stretched out to ride the vagrant thermals warmed by the strengthening rays of the sun. Their soft, guttural croaks are almost whisper soft in morning air. One of them has been carrying sticks to their nesting site even on those sub-zero days.

The Horned Larks have returned from points south and are already pairing in the fields west of the Stella Forty-foot. They leave the side of the road as your car approaches and immediately fly low and disappear into the melted patches. They are hanging out along the Third Concession near the Henderson Farm and fly to melted areas along the road and in Diane's laneway.

Killdeer returned to Amherst Island on March 4th. Bonnie Livingstone and Sally Bowen heard them on their bird survey and Judy Bierma and I saw one at the East end by Mark Ritchie and Cherry Allen's farm. Soon their noisy cries will be heard as the snow recedes in the pastures.

As the sun's rays feel warm on your face and thoughts of green growing things are triggered within us by Terry McGinn's reports of starting his gardening plants we plan and think of Spring but the tiny Nuthatches jumped into breeding mode and began handing each other sunflower seeds and doing a whirly, dervish kind of dance in the old tree by the feeder. Had to be love! Isn't that when we behave weirdly?

Shortly after this March Beacon is sent out the Red-winged Blackbirds will have returned and the whole Island will know it is Spring with the loud Okarees from every pasture and cattail and the peace and quiet of a winter's siesta is no more!

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From the 5th Meeting of Council, Feb9th

Amount submitted in the ferry subsidy petition: \$2,574,400.

AIMS Meeting, February 14, at 8am

- *Anders Bennick*

Chair: David Pickering

Attendance: 5 members

Breakfast: A big thank you to Peggy Edwards, Jacob Murray, Barbara Miller and their families for an excellent hot breakfast

Agenda

1. Presentation

The speaker Ashley McGinn was introduced by David Pickering.

Ashley McGinn is currently enrolled in the Compressed Nursing program at Trent University.

She recently traveled to Honduras to complete her community health placement, an endeavor that was funded in part by a grant from AIMS. Ashley prepared a slide show that portrayed the landscape and conditions in Honduras, as well as the work she participated in there.

Ashley was required to develop a health promotion project as part of her course work for the trip, which she chose to focus on developing a garden in the village of Nuevo Paraiso. Nuevo Paraiso is a project of Sociedad Amigos de los Ninos, supported by Friends of Honduran Children located in Peterborough, ON. It is home to over 100 children who are sheltered in homes with housemothers, known as Tias.

Ashley and a partner were able to implement a large garden in the village and plant several varieties of vegetables, as well as herbs and six fruit trees. Despite fluctuations of extreme wetness and extreme dryness, the garden has produced several vegetables and is being maintained by residents of Nuevo Paraiso, as well as subsequent brigades traveling from Peterborough through Friends of Honduran Children.

Ashley and the group from Trent were also involved in constructing stoves in rural schools that would be used to provide hot meals for children in an attempt to increase school attendance, through a governmental grant. They toured Hospital Escuela, the largest teaching hospital in Honduras, located in the capital city of Tegucigalpa, which provided an eye-opening experience for the group of nursing students.

Overall, the trip was beneficial for Ashley, as well as her nursing student colleagues and the people of Honduras.

David Pickering thanked Ashley for an excellent and informative talk

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as circulated.

3. Treasurer's report

In the absence of the treasurer, David Pickering reported that there had been no income or expenditures since the last meeting.

4. Transportation Report

There have been about 6 requests for transportation in the past month. These have been handled by David Pickering and Don Pepper.

5. Other business

A letter has been submitted by David Pickering on behalf of AIMS to the Township supporting the application by the Neilson Store and Cultural Centre for funds to cover the cost of an International Stone Walling Festival to be held on the Island this coming summer.

6. For Information

A group of design students from Ryerson University recently toured the island to gather information to be used in the planning of a proposed retirement residence. The visit included a meeting with Islanders at The Lodge.

7. Motion tabled

A motion was tabled to start the monthly meeting at 8:30 or 9:00am rather than as present at 8:00 am.

The motion will be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at about 10am.

LOCAL CREATIVITY

-*Sally Bowen*

To brighten an otherwise visually dull late winter Beacon, here are photos with tidbits of information from a few of our Amherst Island creative neighbours.

Victoria Cuyler has started a business from home called Black Market Bags, creating and selling bags and totes. She says, "I started making these tote bags in October and have been having a great time doing it. So far I have made about 75 Totes in total. I have made them for sale, and some for gifts. If you are interested in purchasing a Tote please call me anytime at 905.634.0628.



Samples of Victoria Cuyler's Totes



Pat Frontini's woven throws

Pat Frontini works with clay and yarn and textiles with equal facility. In her weaving, she often works with Topsy Farms yarn as the warp, with other yarns, mohair, bouclé etc in the weft. Several samples of her work are available for sale at the Wool Shed at Topsy Farms.

Lori LeBlue likes working with traditional aboriginal mediums. She created these gauntlets for Nick, using a Topsy Farms trimmed sheep-skin for the inner layer, double hand seamed with a waxed thread, then the outer layer with a deerskin hide from the reserve. She has now started another pair for a family member.



Sheep and Deer Hide Gauntlets by Lori LeBlue



Shirley Miller continues her creative work, in photography, writing and of course her painting. She says: " This is a painting I have just finished called 'Poplar Gold'. It is acrylic on canvas but I have laminated weeds and seeds to the canvas which gives it a very unpredictable surface to paint on. The result is almost abstract and depending on how the light hits it, it can look quite different. It is not in my book 'Paintings by Shirley' but one hundred pages of other pieces are.

I have perpetual calendars, hasty notes, prints and a few paintings for sale at my home. I continue to welcome students to weekly art classes in my home. Call 613 389 2588"



Jane McGinn really enjoys crocheting. She has been in a whirlwind of production, all for gifts for friends and family. She's made a Queen sized bed cover, chair backings, hats and this head and neck "Scoodie" for Carleigh.

Below, we see a ceramic work by Mayo. This 12 inch diameter casserole dish is ovenproof but can also be used for serving and salads.



Again by Mayo, the vessel to the right uses an experimental technique that results in a smooth glazed interior and a textured exterior.



PAUL'S NEW TOY

-David Pickering

In keeping with Sally's theme of 'LOCAL CREATIVITY,' we present the following.



Paul and his toy
Photo by Victoria Cuyler

Last month we gave you a fast peek at some work that Paul Cuyler had done. His 1930 Ford Model A (highly modified) is finally on the road after years of work. Victoria took a picture of him, proudly behind the wheel, and we promised we would look at this project in more detail. Here's what we found.

Paul started his project 14 years ago when he found the cowl upside down in a scrap yard. He traded a hand drill for it. Now, all he needed was frame, body, doors, windows, seats, axels, wheels, steering, lights, instruments, transmission and something to make it all go. But it was a start. Over the next nine years he gathered all of the above; putting them aside for the planned build. Part way through, he packaged everything up and moved it, along with Victoria and the entire house, to here from Newtonville.

About five years ago the final parts, the doors, were found and the assembly work commenced. Since then, the gradual build-up has moved from Jack Forester's barn to Laurie Youell's garage, to the garage beside the smithy's shop, to the Cuyler workshop. (Thanks to everyone who helped.) Paul says he really likes the old stuff and it is evident that he has enjoyed the work. He's thinking about a motorcycle in the future, and wonders if anyone

knows where he can find parts to an old Indian.

The actual car is a curious build, and I'm sure Henry Ford would be scratching his head. Paul's "go-kart on steroids" sports a 1969 327 cu in engine and a hand-made exhaust system which can be easily modified for road or racing. With about 350 hp in a 1800 lb vehicle, this oldster is much more than it looks. The suspension has also been drastically reworked. It originally sat with a 19" clearance, but the current iteration is a ground-hugging 9".

Paul says that there were four million Model A's produced from 1928-1931. Interestingly enough, after more than 80 years, there are still two million registered. He says this is because they are the easiest, cheapest and most fun to build. All parts are readily available and there are many clubs to help. He also benefitted from the guidance of a true master, Noel Hamer, who lived in Odessa and who had done more than 200 Model A's.



The "Go-kart on Steroids"
Photo by David Pickering

So what's next? Well, there's still paint and trim and such on the Model A. He's working on a 1928 Austin 7 for John Frontini (look for it rolling in the summer), and he's almost ready to do a 1930 Chevrolet Touring Car, a phaeton, which is a four door convertible. The parts are hanging on his wall ... now he just has to put them together so they look like the picture on the box. Good luck.

REMEMBERING AVERY BROWN

-Shirley Miller



Avery and his wife Annie along with their daughter Rita lived and farmed on the South Shore Road right on the corner where the Stella Forty Foot meets the lake shore. Avery was respected for his meticulous care of his machines and property.

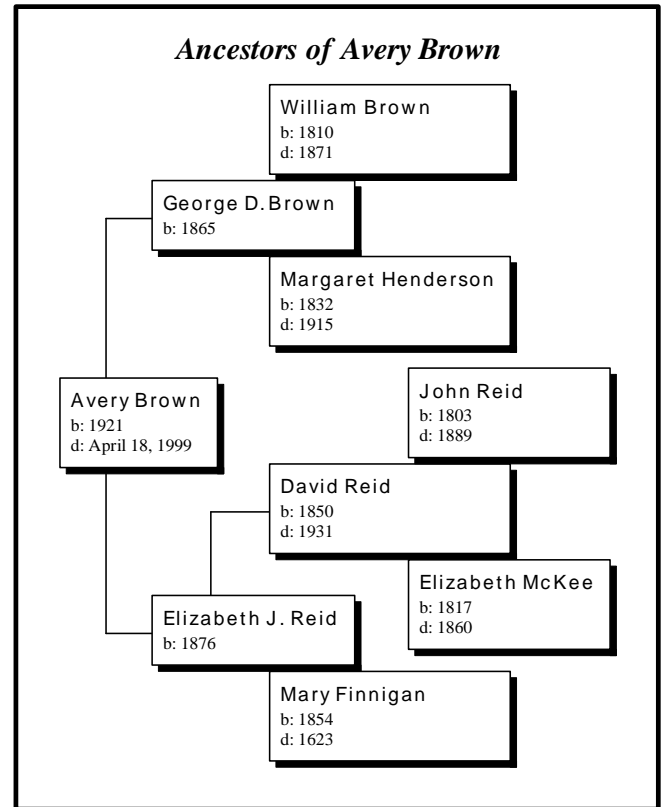
They, like most other farm families on the Island milked cows, so there was haying and crops to tend. Keith remembers his milking machine which wheezed away and seemed in no hurry to get the job done.



He also had pigs. I remember seeing the pigs on school bus trips as I passed there to pick up John and Shannon Eves. I remember the pig pen which was close to the road because the two windows were like eyes and the door the pigs used to come and go from was situated on the ground between the two windows. It gave the building an "I'm surprised to

see you" look. I think it was the two panes of missing glass that gave it that look.

An expression that Avery used to describe situations that didn't go as well as might be, seemed to me to be very useful. He would say "The pigs ran through it" and that said it all.



LOAVES & FISHES LUNCHES

- Bonnie Livingstone

Since late January, despite our wicked winter weather, Janet Scott and Judy Bierma have been organizing a community luncheon for all Islanders. The idea sprang from their interest in providing a venue for Islanders to get together for fellowship, food and conversation during the long winter days. During the summer, Stella's Café has been the meeting place for citizens of Stella and the outlying areas; a place where enjoying a cup of tea with Judy and Anthony is a highlight of the week or a routine part of the day. Providing an opportunity like this during the wintry days of January and February did not stop our friends Janet and Judy! They met with St. Paul's Session and got the go-ahead to use the kitchen and hall at the church to provide Islanders with a chance to enjoy a free meal and renew or make new friendships.

The delicious soup and sandwich noon-hour meals have attracted 6 to 20 people on a Wednesday afternoon, representing both newly-landed Islanders and some "old-timers", making for friendly, lively discussions with lots of laughs and smiles. Besides Janet and Judy's cooking, others have contributed soup, desserts, crackers and cheese...to make this a true community effort.

So if you haven't had a chance to enjoy this community meal, please join us at 12 noon on Wednesday at St. Paul's before your springtime efforts and obligations stop you. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to call Janet or Judy at [613-389-4608](tel:613-389-4608).

Thanks gals for this uniquely Amherst Island effort!

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

This note turned up in an old file folder: first Hydro cable to Amherst Island was laid July 6, 1938; Hydro turned on July 15, 1938; "They connected long distance at Hugh Drumgoole's, January 6, 1952"; Amherst Island Telephone System sold to Bell Canada, December 1966; and, dial service started in 1971.

I wrote the above paragraph the evening before the Hydro interruption on March 4th – the first electrical power outage for quite awhile. Fortunately, we got through a very cold February with electricity working.

One of the big changes for my family when we moved to Upper Canada from rural PEI in 1948 was electricity. It is quite a jump from coal oil lamps to flicking a switch for light. Running water, phone service, and indoor plumbing were also quite an improvement.

It was also a surprise for me when we first moved here in 1970 to pick up a phone and have an operator answer. A surprise, but not unwelcome as the telephone operators were a great source of information.

THANK YOU NOTES

Mary, Bob and Ardeth would like to thank so many family and friends for the phone calls, cards, messages of condolence, donations to the Heart and Stroke and email. Knowing you share our sadness makes this difficult time easier for us.

Garry & I thank everyone for their food, flowers, kind wishes, cards, & genuine concern for me over these past months. I am now doing much better & see the light at the end of that long tunnel of being diagnosed with cancer, the surgeries, treatments and recuperation, that take close to a year.

Special thanks to my husband and mother-in-law for taking such good care of me, our children, families, friends, the Island community & my radio family for all the love that I feel.

It is all of you that give me the encouragement to get back to that normal life once again, as a proud resident of this wonderful community that we are all so fortunate to live in.

Susan Filson

INTERNET CAFÉ

The island Internet Café is a drop-in help service offered by volunteers and supported by the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre. At the Café, residents can get assistance through tutorial, fault-finding, and advice in all sorts of difficulties dealing with the ever more complicated world of technology. We have done virus removal, computer upgrades, software instruction, web page design, file transfer and have provided recommendations as to what to buy given specific needs. We've even been known to do house calls to help set up networks or disassemble / reassemble systems when they're being moved.

We also have the capability of 'remoting into' a computer if that machine has the Team Viewer application installed and working. (It's FREE.) This means that, once connected via a password you give to us by phone, we can 'peer over your shoulder' and see what you're doing, and help to figure out what's going wrong.

During the quiet winter months, the Café is open from 9-2 on Tuesdays. (Watch for the big red and yellow sign in front of the museum.) During the summer, we'll be expanding our hours again, probably to one morning and one afternoon a week: more if there is demand. Watch for our popular breakfast hours, where we meet in Stella's Café for breakfast.

While open, we can be reached using the Museum phone. Off hours, feel free to call David Pickering at 384-6535.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Victoria Cuyler is looking for a serger in good working order. Please call 613-634-0628

Amherst Island Women's Institute Medical Equipment Loan Cupboard (walkers, canes, bathseats, commodes, raised toilet seats). Donations of used equipment in good condition also welcome. Call Sharen English 613-384-6535.

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

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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)

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

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FROM THE ARCHIVES:

Amherst Island Beacon: March 15, 1985 - Volume 4 Issue 86

Editor ... Ian Murray

Treasurer ... Lyn Fleming

Artist ... Shirley Miller

Subscriptions ... Lyn Fleming

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

- Lyn Fleming

There are presently 134 subscribers to The Beacon.

Our paper goes to various points in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, California, Florida, Indiana, and Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Denys Cadman of Austin, Texas, Mrs. Annie Hughes of Kingston and Mr F. Glenn of Gary, Indiana, were our original subscribers and are still with us.

PRICE

-Ian Murray

The reality of production costs has forced me to increase the price from the traditional 15 cents to 25 cents. A mailed subscription of 12 issues is now \$7.00.

COUNCIL REPORT for March 5th

- Christopher Kennedy

All members of Council were present. The minutes of the February meetings were adopted. In addition to the regular meeting, some members of council met

with Graham Engineering and Morven Construction about the drain.

There was a meeting with John Firth from the Ministry of the Environment. The Ministry will conduct a survey of water quality in the village this spring.

There was also a By-law Committee meeting to consider a draft Procedural Bylaw and a Finance Committee meeting.

Geoff Mathews addressed Council on the subject of drainage assessment calculations, showing Council some hydrological design sheets from the Ministry of Agriculture which he suggested could be used for the drainage assessment information.

The Reeve [Norm Allison] reported that he attended six meetings for the Township, and five for the County, last month.

Stuart Miller reported that the road crew ploughed a lot of snow last month. The dump truck is burning a lot of oil, but he hopes it will last until spring before an overhaul.

Council is planning a reserve fund for new machinery purchases.

The Municipal Dump has been surveyed. As suspected, its actual position, and the position shown on the deed do not coincide, though the area is about right. It appears that the mistake was made when A.R.D.A. conveyed the land to the Township and when Lance and Vince Eves bought the land from A.R.D.A. neither party had the land surveyed, but just used the same, incorrect, description. Council directed its solicitor to approach the Eves about quit-claims to sort out the mess.

The new Procedural By-law will take some months to complete. In the interim, Council decided to conduct all meetings using Roberts' Rules. Also, for delegations and deputations, each person will only be allowed to speak once on a topic (but may answer questions from Council), may not speak for more than 5 minutes, and only two people may speak for the same side of any topic. Written briefs would be appreciated, but are not essential.

Various letters about the drain were received and filed. Council has received a letter from Graham Engineering stating that it will cost \$1800 to prepare and release the drainage assessment calculation, and that they would not release the figures without their engineer present to explain their rationale. Council is therefore writing to Eves

to ask if they wish to have the figures released, given the cost.

Council went into a committee of the whole. It was decided to ask Peter Radley, Township lawyer, to address councillors on the legal niceties of their office. There was some debate about whether the public could also hear his words of wisdom, since we will be paying for it.

Council then adjourned.

ISLAND NOTES

- Annette

The Island Recreation Committee, a long-time sponsor of many successful community events, is trying something different this month. The committee is holding a dance March 23rd, which they hope will attract families, rather than just a select few. Like the Legion's Masquerade Dance (which, due to lack of Island support, was nothing short of a disgrace) there will be no bar. That, however, does not necessarily mean there will be no fun.

The Recreation Committee is trying to do something the younger kids can join in on. It would be a shame to ruin an entire evening because adults

refuse to attend a dance where liquor is not sold.

Keep Friday, March 23 open - \$3 for adults, \$1 for children. Music is by a top disc jockey and refreshments will be sold.

A welcome home is in order for Helen Bulch, who spent most of the last two weeks in hospital. Also to Myrtle Veech who, thankfully, received a clean bill of health.

Condolences to Bonnie and Lawrence Baker, Connie and Tessa, who lost most of their home and possessions in a fire a few weeks ago. Thanks to the kindness of newcomer Marguerite Tennier, the Baker's have a place to stay until their home is rebuilt.

While most people have spent the past months digging themselves in and out of snow banks, several neighbours have escaped to warmer climes, or simply taken refuge in the city. Among these has been Vera Hogeboom, who at least missed last week's snowstorm while visiting Arlene Earls in Kingston.

Word is that Art Ackerman and Caroline Morrison are finally considering a return to the north after spending the winter in Mexico. We'll probably be seeing them sometime in April.



Winter Photo by Brian Little

Paul Eves and Cindy Crampton are planning to be married April 23 in Brampton. Best Wishes.

A spelling gremlin entered the Beacon's computer last month, erroneously reporting Wilfred Miller's children as Harold, Tom, Keith Rosemary and Claire. As most everyone knows, Claire goes by the alias Elaine Wolfreys. Sorry Elaine, and a wish for a speedy recovery following your surgery.

LIBRARY NEWS

- Diane Gavlas

The Library would like to give a special thank-you to Mrs. Randi Kennedy for the slide show for the community. Her time is greatly appreciated.

Thank-you to all who came out for the Festival Brass and Slides of L & A County History. It is good to see people out and enjoying what the library can provide. Once again the Amherst Island Women's Institute has shown itself community minded by providing the squares and cookies for your coffee break.

Thank-you to all those members from the library and members of the community.

I'm sure most of you have noticed an enlargement in the library. I apologize for any dust and inconvenience but it will be well worth it when we get reorganized.

Thank-you to our local Council, Reeve and Municipal Clerk for the enlargement and putting up with my questions and requests. I'm sure most of the library patrons agree with me and I hope they are telling you they like the renovations.

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Diane Gavlas

The February meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Jean McIntyre. Our guest speaker (in his own home) gave us not only an informative but interesting history of Ireland and some slides from their trip there.

The March meeting will be a week early at Mrs. Phyllis Strain's. Tweedsmuir History is the programme and everyone is to bring a small antique and its story. A St. Patrick's Day card and something green for lunch is also requested.

A TRIBUTE TO NEIGHBOURS

- S.A. Miller

Neighbours are very much a part of Island life.

During the past month or so two of our neighbours have been especially on my mind.

On January 22, A. Bruce Caughey celebrated his 75th birthday. Soon after I heard he will retire as president of the Amherst Island Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He will remain as a director but he has been president for 22 years, vice president for 13 years and has served the company for 46 years in all. Often at great expense of time and energy with little reward except for the keen interest he has in the company and people everywhere.

For more years than many of us can remember, Bruce has been a very admirable ambassador for our Island and a very capable leader in many community endeavors. Far too often we have taken him for granted.

He has a remarkable ability to remember names and events. He also has the ability to relate the past in an orderly and colourful manner.

The quality of our present time is enhanced by remembering the past. We get a sense of security and long term purpose when we remember all the people and events that have made this community a very special place to live.

On behalf of all your friends and neighbours - Congratulations Bruce and thank you for all you have done and all you will do in the many years ahead that we hope to share with you.

*Please Mr. Caughey never grow old.
Keep telling those tales that need to be told.
Keep on reminding us of our past
Until we begin to remember at last.
Your service and caring have not been in vain.
This community owes a great deal to your name.
Indeed you are known, both near and afar
By many who know the great man that you are.*

*As you retire as president of the MFIC
You pass on to us a true legacy
Of long years of service and diligent care
In fact without you. I doubt t'would be there.
I know of the sadness you must feel in your heart
To see all the changes that time doth impart
To see the new faces, bid farewell to the old.
But time we can neither halt nor hold.
I wish I could visit your memory awhile.
See the faces, hear the voices and the tales without
guile*

*Round the stoves in the old stores the tales we would hear
I would love to be present at the old Island fair.
I wish I could witness progress arrive
Be part of the good life for which we all strive
Feel the feeling, share the caring, help make a quilt
Feel the foundation of love on which our Island was built.*

*Bruce, you and you only, hold the key to our past,
You have the power to make it all last.
So write it or tell it but get it all down
For there is none other as able as you are around.*

On February 15, 1985, Harry Ernest Fleming passed away after a lengthy illness that plagued the last years of a greatly shortened life. What he and his family suffered during that time we can only guess.

*Farewell Neighbour
A neighbour passed away today,
Here ends his years of toil.
Why is it that we fight so hard
To stay upon this soil?
Why is it that the loved ones cry?
Why do I feel sad?
God has promised perfect peace.
We really should be glad,
Time will pass the grief will fade.
We will not be alone.
For God will send another hand
To help us with our load.
The memories of better times
Grow with each passing day.
In this illusion we call life,
We each our part must play.*



Winter Photo by Brian Little

Thank You Notes

We would like to thank all of our good friends and neighbours who sent cards, food, and helped out so much after the passing of our dear father and grandfather, Harry Fleming.

Thanks to Barb Filson and Lois McCormick for the dinners they sent, and to the A.C.W. for their visit and goodies.

Special thanks to Pam, Annette and Lois for taking such excellent care of Jason, and Stephanie for several days and nights. It made things a bit easier to know the kids were well taken care of and were happy.

Its nice to have so many good friends.

Thanks again to everyone!

Larry, Lyn, Jason and Stephanie Fleming

I would like to thank my relatives, friends and neighbours for cards, flowers, gifts, phone calls and visits while I was a patient in K.G.H.

Your thoughtfulness was certainly deeply appreciated.

Sincerely Elaine Wolfreys

The family of the late Harry Fleming wishes to say thank you to all our friends, neighbors and relatives for the love and sympathy extended to us in our time of bereavement.

Thanks to the Amherst Island Ferry crews and ambulance attendants; the Graham A. Stein Funeral Home for their kindness and care, to Mrs. Turpin for the quiet music; Reverend Lindsay McIntyre for his message and prayers; Shirley Miller for the beautiful poem she composed on hearing of Harry's death; Winnifred and Ray Jamieson who hosted our family and friends after the Funeral and Shirley Saunders, Shirley Donovan and Eileen Lyman who prepared and served the lunch so graciously and to all who sent food and came to visit Harry during his illness.

Special Thanks to Reverend Norman Allison for his visits and to all who called at the Funeral Home, for the beautiful floral tributes and the many friends who made donations to the Cancer Fund; to all who phoned from far away places and to all who sent cards and have shown in so many ways that they cared.

Your deeds of love and kindness meant so much to us and will always be remembered.

The Fleming Family

On a bumper sticker seen in Los Angeles last summer:

"Keep The Foreigners Out Of The Olympics!"

SILVER ANNIVERSARY

To the friends and neighbours of Ellis and Marylou Wolfreys; you are cordially invited to an open house to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. It will be held by their children at the Golden Links Hall, Harrowsmith on Saturday, March 30, 1985 from 1-3 pm.

Your attendance would be a cherished gift.

QUINTE PASTURE ANNUAL REPORT - 1984

- Ian Murray

There were 633 head of cattle on the Quinte Community Pasture in 1984. There were 2 deaths, 39 cases of pink eye and 89 treatments for hoof rot.

Horseflies continue to be problem.

Soil samples indicate that soil phosphorous levels have improved due to fertilizer applications. However, despite considerable calcium top-dressing, there is still a pH problem.

On a cash flow basis the pasture had a net return of \$4200 in 1984 (no capital or interest costs). Mr. Hermans of OMAF said that, due to the increased cost of the Miller Drain, there would likely be no surplus left in the Capital Development Fund.

In an effort to increase the carrying capacity of the pasture, plans have been made to increase the number of fields with New Zealand electric fence.

I.S.L.E.

- Annette

Card sharks and bingo buffs, this is your chance.

The I.S.L.E. Committee will hold its Annual Bingo and Euchre night Wednesday, March 20 at the school.

Admission is free; 10 cents per card for Bingo and 50 cents for all the Euchre you can play. Prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be available.

I.S.L.E. is still looking for used dishes and cutlery for the students to use on hot lunch days. The committee has been getting tremendous support this year from community members who donate food, milk and their time to prepare and serve the meals.

Thanks this month to Phyllis Strain, Bob Horth, Janet Scott, Debbie Bedford, Karen Fleming, Barbara McDonald, Audrey Miller, Syke Fleming and Anna Hitchins.

With much regret, the I.S.L.E. committee is saying good-bye to Debbie Bedford this month. Debbie has been instrumental in organizing most I.S.L.E. functions over the past several years, and has held most offices, including Chairman. Thanks, Deb.

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BEACON NOTES

-Don Tubb

*I kind of liked last month's issue - nice and sharp.
It did cost somewhat more than we thought - \$113*

for 300 copies. That cyphers into \$0.38 per copy printed and because we will likely only sell about 275, it really means over \$0.40 per issue.

Obviously, we cannot operate at a loss so we have got to make a decision – do we go back to the Gestetner or raise the price? If anyone has any comment, let us know. Personally, I'm leaning towards a \$0.50 per issue price. We will lose some money on our subscribers for a while but we can absorb that until they renew.

We can always go back to doing the production ourselves but printing it in town does save Chris 3 to 4 hours of tinkering, cajoling, tolerating and just plain fighting the 'beast of the west'.

It also saves collating and stapling (that part is worth 1/2 cent per copy or \$1.50 for the print run which is a really good deal).

When we collate and staple, anyone and everyone who is around gets into the act from us at Headlands to anyone who has dropped in for coffee. It takes about half an hour for 4 people - 2 collating and two stapling.

Enough about the Beacon.... Super weather for March break and for the lambs which grow on mother's milk and sunshine.



Winter photo by Brian Little

COUNCIL REPORT MARCH 7, 1995

- Chris Kennedy

Ralph Woods was away in China.

The Reeve [Duncan Ashley] at the start of every regular meeting declares his conflict of interest with regard to any matter relating to the wages and benefits of the pursers on the ferry.

The Roads Superintendent reported that the expenses for this February were about \$9,000 less than for last year, no snow, but that the frost was coming out of the roads for the fourth time this winter, so it was hard to keep them smooth.

News of the regular Roads Subsidy from the province has been received, and Council will apply to the Ministry of Transport for a supplementary budget to repave the Front Road for one mile east and one mile west of the village.

Jim Whitton spoke to Council about people speeding through the village and failing to stop at the Stop sign in the village. It was decided to send round a notice by householder mail requesting compliance with the law.

The Island has received formal notice that the ferry subsidy this year will be 90% of the total eligible costs, as in previous years. With a Provincial election due I suspect that we will not hear too much more about ferry fees for a few months.

Council has received a letter from Dick Dodds complimenting the crews on their handling of the ferry during the windstorm on January 5th.

The Township has to have a Health and Safety Committee for the ferry, and to have two people trained to be on it, one from labour and one from management. These people have to take a course in Kingston, that costs over \$1,000 each, and they have to be paid while they take it. This is a Ministry of Labour requirement, and Council has no option in the matter.

Some members of Council were confused as to whether the new Fire Hall has been officially decided on. At the moment no final decision has been made.

There is a grant available from the Federal/Provincial infrastructure programme for two-thirds of a total cost of \$81,100. A consultant

engineer has been hired to draw up plans to see what can be built for this money, and Dave Hieatt has been asked to give an opinion on the sale value of the old fire sheds. It is hoped that enough money will be raised from selling the old buildings to pay the Township's share of the new building, so that no money will have to be raised by taxes for this project. When all the facts and figures are in Council proposes to hold a public meeting before making a final decision.

The First Response Team asked for its own budget this year, rather than being an adjunct of the Fire Department. This budget is to cover costs such as C.P.R. recertification, workers' compensation and some training materials etc. The First Response Team is working on acquiring a Cardio Defibrillator and Council discussed the project and gave its encouragement.

W. Bruce Caughey has been reinstated on the Cemetery Committee. Council requested the Cemetery Committee to bring up to date the master plan of the Cemetery and that a copy of the up-to-date plan be kept at the Township Office.

Council considered the first draft of the budget for 1995. This did not look too disastrous for our taxes, but there is a lot of work to do on it yet. The bill to finish the surveying and legal work on the Back Beach is estimated at \$10,000, down from about \$25,000 last year. Insurance rates are up over 30%, which will not help. Of course, the Township is only responsible for about 30% of your property taxes, the County and the School Board decides on the other 70%.

[Staff: To clear up the confusion in some people's minds, the Beacon is an independent newsletter. We publish what we think is relevant to a community newsletter and often include notices for Council. However, Council does not tell us what to print, or what not to print.]

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

[Staff: Annette is not available and so we will stand in for her.]

Jim McMullen had back surgery this month and now is home recovering.

Margaret Blenkinsop was also in hospital but has

returned home.

Lucille Browne is still in hospital. A speedy recovery to all.

LETTERS TO THE BEACON

[Staff: We received a copy of a letter sent to Council from R.A. (Dick) Dodds and reprint the body here.]

Dear Reeve Ashley & Council:

This is a belated letter of commendation and appreciation for the efforts of the ferry crews who were faced with the major windstorm on January 5, 1995.

I had occasion to use the ferry twice that day and although I shall never forget the crossings, I must say I shall never forget the work of the two crews. Safety was their prime concern.

Both Earle Willard and Doug Shurtliff (last trip) piloted the ferry skillfully and the crew members were most efficient and sensitive to the needs and safety of the passengers.

We have always been impressed with the service on the ferry and the cheerful manner in which we are greeted, but on January 5, 1995 the crews were exceptional.

Thank you.

Sirs:

It was with some surprise that on a recent Sunday morning's newscast that I heard the announcement that Amherst Island was going to get a new fire hall at a cost of \$82,000 to be completely built by June next to be built on Lot 1. Later I read in "The Heritage" glowing commendations by our Reeve, along with our M.L.A. and M.P. for this constituency getting such generous consideration.

For many months, the media has provided us with nothing but concern concerning our horrendous indebtedness and of the steps that are being taken to clear this. Now I wonder where this money is coming from? A year ago now, there was great consternation being expressed concerning the payment of ferry fares on the Wolfe Island and Glenora ferries, a matter that our then Reeve chose not to be involved in and only two of our members of Council chose to support. Now, with a Provincial Election in the offing and the Premier of our Province bringing his cabinet to Kingston for a regular constituted meeting, bringing with them

"bags" full of handouts, not once did I hear "Ferry Fares" mentioned, or if it was, our media chose not to mention it.

In a conversation with Peter Milliken, M.P. for Kingston and the Islands, last summer, I inquired if he was doing anything about the provision of "end-loading facilities" to better accommodate the operation of the Frontenac II. His reply, of course, was evasive, emphasizing the problem as being the ownership of the docks was with the Federal Government and the use being by the Provincial Government. I learned lately that a substantial increase has been made in the rental imposed upon use of the Millhaven and Stella docking facilities. Is this correct?

Now, our two Governments have combined to substantially support construction of a new fire-hall, which I question whether this is a priority?

Substantial amounts of money have been expended in the acquisition of cast-off equipment from other municipalities and I note, from time to time, the appeal for more members of the Community to serve on our "Volunteer department". Where have all those hardworking, dedicated people gone, who were the nucleus of the department in its initiatory days? Why have they declined to serve?

Doubtless, I will be considered "old fashioned" and a "grouch", but I feel impelled to express my views.

Sincerely, A. Bruce Caughey

You are invited to join in the celebration of the 25th Wedding Anniversary of Anne-Marie and Garry Hitchins on Saturday, April 1, 1995 at the Amherst Island Community Hall, Amherst Island Public School.

Dancing: 8 pm until Midnight

Best Wishes Only Please

ISLAND GARDENS

- Sally Bowen

"I grow a garden because I like to eat" says Earl Tugwell.

Many Islanders are gardeners. Some grow mainly flowers, others only grow vegetables. There are huge plots and little ones. I propose to write a column for the next few months, talking about Island gardens.

You see, it gives me the excuse to go visiting and ask lots of questions. I'm hoping the column will be an easy way for some people to tell their neighbours about extra plants or seeds they might have to share. (I have enough Johnny Jumpups (Violas) in May to empurple half the island as an example.)

Most people I've suggested the idea to so far have said they "don't do anything special", but most have figured out effort, or cost-saving, methods, have favourite varieties to suggest or practical tips to share.

This is about the time of year some Islanders start indoor seedlings. Marion Glenn says "Whatever I want in my own garden I start." She finds that mid-March is too early for most planting, and that mid-April does fine with her setup.

Barbara Filson says she generally starts hers "too doggone early", and uses a diary to keep track of last year's results. She starts her own seedlings because "it costs too much to buy them". She goes together with a friend when ordering, to share delivery charges and to share packages when only a few seeds are needed.

Tom Sylvester's parents and Tom and Jackie manage a huge garden area between them. Jackie emphasizes not starting seedlings too early also. She will start just a couple of early tomatoes at the beginning of March, then she and Mrs. Sylvester will begin the slow growers such as eggplants, peppers, leeks, onions, celery and parsley in mid-March. They start their own because they get better quality – they have so much more variety to choose from in the seed catalogues than in local bedding plant sales.

Timing depends on how warm your space is too. The year we switched from a wood stove to a wood furnace with good vents, and put new storm windows on, my starting date should have been put two to three weeks later. My overgrown leggy specimens that year proved the disadvantage of starting too early.

Next month I plan to talk about techniques used by a variety of Islanders for starting indoor seedlings. I also want to talk to a few who do a good job of starting the outdoor planting early.



Winter photo by Brian Little

Open Bridal Shower to be held for Laura Wemp on May 6, 1995.

Place: Amherst Island Public School (Lunchroom)

Time: 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Refreshments to be served.

Everyone welcome.

Contact: Sherry Ward at 389-6918

EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONSE TEAM CARDIAC DEFIBRILLATOR FUNDRAISING

Since its inception in 1991, the Emergency First Response (EFR) team has proved to be a valuable asset to the Island community. Over the last 4 years we have operated quietly but effectively, responding to more than 35 calls ranging from cuts and bruises to heart attacks.

We have worked closely with the Ministry of Health to try to make ambulance service to the Island more efficient, and we were instrumental in establishing the helicopter landing pad (next to the new Township shed).

So what's up?

The EFR team would like to purchase a Cardiac Defibrillator, a device which can be used to restart the heart of a person in cardiac arrest. . . .

So what are we waiting for? Money!! The cost of a cardiac defibrillator is around \$10,000. So the EFR team is launching a Major fundraising effort, which Annette Phillips will be co-ordinating. Bath Lion's Club has already donated \$500 to the cause, and they are also helping us to kick off the campaign by holding a Pancake Brunch this Sunday (March 19th) at the school, from 11 am to 2 pm. The cost is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children, with 75% of the proceeds going to the Cardiac Defibrillator fund. So come along, eat your fill of pancakes and sausages, and support our cause!!

See You There!!

OBITUARY

[Staff: We received the three following obituaries that we think all appeared in the Whig Standard over the last month.]

VINCENT P. MCGINN

Vincent P. McGinn of Kingston, Ontario, died at St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital on January 27, 1995. He was 74.

Mr McGinn was the son of Henry and Helena

McGinn and was born on Amherst Island. He attended Amherst Island Public School. Mr McGinn resided in Kingston for 30 years and previously lived in Cornwall and Oshawa. He was a Veteran of the Second World War, drove Colonial Bus and Charlton Transport, and had been retired from the City Parking Lots for 10 years.

Mr. McGinn was Roman Catholic and his special interests were at home with his family. He is survived by his wife Audrey, daughter Elaine Sillett, Kingston; son Terry and wife Roxanne, Edmonton; five grandchildren Daniel, Angela, Bryan, Kirsten and Stefan; sisters Helen Lutz, Kingston; Serena Trent, Lindsay; Eleanor Taggart, Wolfe Island; several nieces and nephews; brothers Angus and Mike, Kingston; and Dennis, Amherst Island.

He was predeceased by brothers Stanley, Emerson, Neil and Leo and by his sister Olga.

The Funeral was held on January 30, 1995 with Monsignor Clement officiating. Interment: Cataraqui Cemetery.

ROGER DUNCAN MCDONALD

Roger Duncan McDonald of Kingston and Tiffany Crescent, Ottawa, died at Queensway Carleton Hospital, Nepean, on February 4, 1995 from a sudden heart attack. He was 73.

Mr McDonald was the son of Florence and Edwin McDonald and was born on Amherst Island. He lived in Kingston while attending Queen's and he grew up on Amherst Island. He was with the R.C.A.F. for over two years as a radio navigator and then was a Research Scientist. He had been retired 10 years.

Mr. McDonald attended Public and Continuation Schools on Amherst Island, Napanee Collegiate and Queen's University. He attended Kanata United Church (where funeral service was held), he was a Charter Member and was active in several church committees.

He was involved with American Society for Metals, Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario and various community organizations. His special interests were family, friends, curling, music, genealogy, reading, church and community affairs.

Described by family as a gentle man of compassion and integrity.

Mr McDonald is survived by his wife Marion (Gilbert), children Alison, Bruce, Douglas,

grandchildren Sarah and Geoffrey Williams, all of Ottawa; brother Garnet McDonald, Amherst Island; and sister Doris Henderson, Kingston. He was predeceased by his parents.

The funeral was held on February 8, 1995 with Rev. Peter. Lougheed and Rev. Kenneth Robinson officiating. Interment at Glenwood Cemetery, Amherst Island.

MARION E. MCGINN

Peacefully at Extendicare Kingston, on Wednesday, March 1, 1995, in her 96th year, beloved wife of the late Charles McGinn, loving mother of Donald and his wife Mary of Cobourg; Arthur and his wife Susan, John and his wife Jane, all of Stella; predeceased by Leona McGinn; Bryce McGinn, Jane Gibson, Annie Ferguson and Mavis McGinness. Fondly remembered by her several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; predeceased by her two brothers and one sister.

Interment St. Bartholomews Cemetery, Stella. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.

THANK YOU NOTES

I wish to express my thanks to relatives, friends, neighbours, Amherst Island Women's Institute, St. Alban's A.C.W., and St. Paul's P.C.W., for the cards and phone calls of sympathy after the sudden loss of my brother Roger.

Garnet McDonald

We wish to thank all those who helped provide lunch on the day of Roger McDonald's burial and especially Anna and Henry Hitchins for opening up their home on that day. It was greatly appreciated.

We also thank those who sent cards and letters of sympathy.

The McDonald Family

A note of thanks to the various persons and groups on the Island that came to my aid after my automobile accident on February 3rd.

Special thanks to Harry and Barbara Filson, and the Emergency First Response Team, for their efforts immediately following the accident and to Maureen McGinn for following the ambulance to the hospital.

The baked goods and best wishes of the women of the P.C.W., A.C.W. and W.I. were also greatly appreciated.

Thanks also to Susan Sedore and Garry Filson, and to Hans and Hazel, for offering the use of their vehicles in spite of my recent driving record.

Sincerely, Reeve Duncan Ashley

A LETTER HOME

-Don Tubb

So, what does spring bring? Lambs, lambs and more lambs... floods of lambs, avalanches of lambs – nay lambalanches. It also brings long days of too much to do in too short a time, and too little sleep for complete rest so there is the slow but inevitable running down of body and spirit.

On the other hand, it brings coffee and lunch breaks with better than average treats plus the 'miracle of birth' keeps us going. A mixed time as you can see.

I have no idea what shape we'll be in next month but for now, we're hanging in there. We do have to pace ourselves as there is no break in the farm work until the snow flies again.

Rumours of spring abound... The first sighting, reported to us, of a robin on February 22 by Eleanor Trueman. Obviously a mutant if he thinks it's really time to stake out his territory. We hope he has a warm home to snuggle away in and lots of worms in the freezer.

Our recent blessing of warm weather has done the snow in - quickly, painlessly and hopefully for the season. Next we wait for the ice to go out of the channel and the sound I wait for all winter - waves which, for me, is the official beginning of spring.
