

Amherst Island Beacon



Issue 441 *BONA LIBENTER, TRISTIA MAESTITER, MALA NUMQUAM* **Apr 2015**

The Amherst Island BEACON Issue 441, Apr 2015

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Editorial

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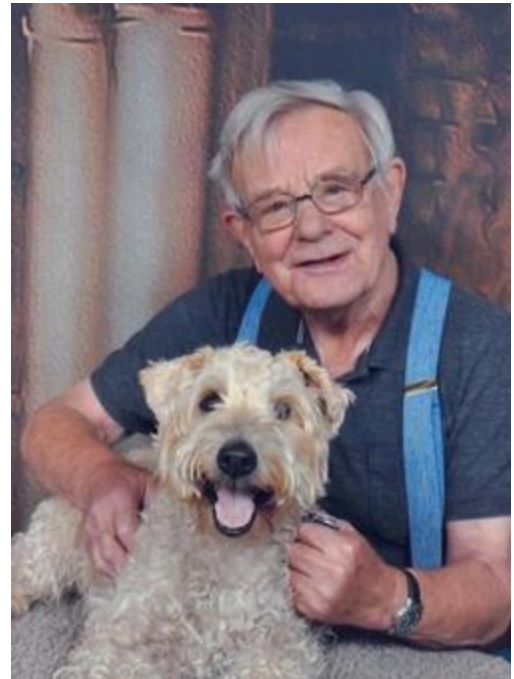
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Victor Wagemans (1933-2015)

GLENN'S STORE

-Paul Glenn



My parents, Les and Irene Glenn, opened Glenn's Store at the corner in Stella in 1948. Dad had served in the army and on return from duty had worked for

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VICTOR WAGEMANS (1933-2015)

Businessman and Farmer

Suddenly at the Ottawa Civic Hospital on Friday, March 13, 2015, Victor Wagemans of Iroquois, age 82. Loving husband of Janeen Wagemans (nee Onstine). Loving father of Ingrid Wagemans (Bruce McMinn) of Toronto and Saskia Wagemans (Geoff Jones) of Amherst Island. Dear brother of Chry Verhees of Holland, Nellie Valkenburg of Holland, Hanna Veltman (Rob) of Holland and Walter Wagemans (Sharon) of Morrisburg. Also survived by nieces and nephews.

Shell Oil in Kingston for two years. His family had previously operated a business at that location and he wanted to return.



Irene and Les Glenn
Photo by Shirley Miller

During the summer, renovations to the interior of the building were done by Dad and Max Beaubien, a local carpenter, fisherman, and ice cream parlour operator.

The store was basically the same as it is now and had shelving on all walls for groceries and household items. The area that the Post Office now occupies was originally an ice cream counter with a freezer behind and a couple of booths for sitting. The main things for sale were everyday items; foodstuffs, household supplies, fresh fruits and vegetables (when available), deli type meats, tobacco and cigarettes, candy and ice cream.

Dad also sold coal as this was one of the main products for heating homes at that time. He purchased a truck and made many trips to Kingston over the years and shoveled coal into many coal bins on the Island. He also sold Shell Oil products and was an agent for DeLaval milking machines and other equipment. Many farms on the Island had their first milking machine or cream separator delivered and installed by him.

When the store first opened, my grandmother Florence Glenn had an apartment over the store and our rooms were at the rear. Even then the floors had a bad slope to them and nothing seemed to be level. At first we heated with coal but changed to oil space heaters and finally to a furnace. The building had no plumbing until the late 1960's when a bathroom was

installed over the store and my parents moved up there where Carol and I had an apartment when first married.

Improvements were attempted to the building over the years, exterior siding, insulation etc., but the interior remained much as it was when built.

At the time of the store opening most companies delivered goods to the Island. National Grocers was the main wholesale supplier of groceries to all three stores and Coca Cola and Canada Dry delivered soft drinks. Not all things were delivered however, and fresh fruit, vegetables, meat and eggs had to be picked up at various suppliers in town. Store hours had to be flexible because the Island at that time was a community of many small farms. The first customers in the morning would be those delivering their milk to the cheese factory and the last at night would be the last person finishing farm chores.

The busiest time of the week was Saturday night as most of the farming families came to the village to stock up on supplies for the week ahead. (One didn't run to the store mid-week just to pick up a loaf of bread.) The stores were also the places where much of the socializing occurred on Saturday night as this was almost the only time people left home. One of my first jobs in the store was to dip ice cream as this was a week-end treat for many families.

During the 1950's and '60's the store was fairly busy but not enough to live on and Dad found employment as a storeman at the CIL plant at Millhaven and Mother tended the store. Business declined over the years even as the Neilson and Kilpatrick stores closed.

The makeup of the Island changed over the years as farms were sold, families moved away and others sought employment on the mainland. Ferry service improved and Island lifestyle began to change. The Post Office became the main income generator and the store continued to operate.

In 1983 my father's health failed and our daughter Annette Phillips moved to the Island to help Mother continue in the business. She began offering coffee and sandwiches and other innovations to bring in more business to little avail.

When mother passed away my sister and I offered the building for sale and ended the Glenns' era at the corner.



Prior to being a store, the building was a Hotel.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

-Mary Kay Steel

Our regular monthly meeting for March was held on the 18th at 7pm, at the home of member Sharen English, with president Joyce Haines in the chair. Only eight members were present, clearly demonstrating the penchant of Island dwellers to make all possible efforts to escape the challenging winter this year.

We heard from our various committee heads, and listened to recent correspondence.

We thanked Judy Bierma for running a successful indoor walking program at the community centre this year – it is now finished.

There wasn't much in the way of pressing business to consider. So we did some thinking ahead to our upcoming spring and summer initiatives, including our April annual meeting to take place at Leslie Gavlas' home at which we will vote on a new executive, our plans for bake sales and Island market participation over the summer, and our support for the September Dry Stone Wall Festival.

We then enjoyed a wonderful lunch and social hour, followed by one of our traditional Brown Bag Auctions. The latter involves selling off mystery packages to members, and earmarking the money raised for our international office* and its initiatives in developing countries. (*Associated

Countrywomen of the World)

As noted above, our annual meeting will be held at Leslie's home, April 15, commencing at 7 pm. There will be the election of executive officers and renewal of memberships. Guests are welcome.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lynn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to Harold Reddekopp, Ross Haines and Helen McCormick

Condolences to Saskia Wagemans (Geoff Jones), and her mother, Janeen, who recently lost their father and husband, Victor, of Iroquois.

Dayle & Elly Gowan and Diane Pearce & Michelle Lelay recently returned from 6 weeks in Mexico.

Tagget Bonham Carter and Carl Buchanan spent some time in Mexico as well.

Bonnie and Allen Caughey spent a month in St. Petersburg, FL.

Wayne and Karen Fleming re-charged with a couple of weeks in Florida prior to the Spring Break influx.

Jane McGinn spent a week in Cuba.

Alex and Debbie Scott & girls spent a few days in NYC before boarding a cruise ship to Florida and the Bahamas.

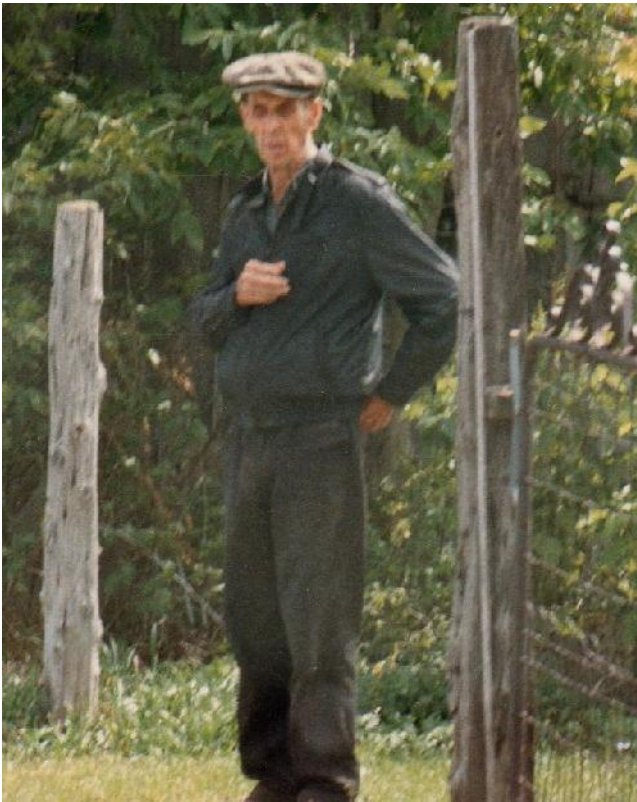
Kim and Duncan Ashley & family visited

Duncan's parents in Alabama over the March Break.

I visited my mom (Kay Wolfreys) and extended family in Orlando during March Break.

As we enter the last week of March, the weather is just now starting to rise to the freezing mark! There is still wet snow and rain in the forecast. That extra 6 weeks of winter that the groundhog promised is turning into 8 weeks!! With milder temps, comes the mud! (I personally prefer snow to mud). Starting to see lots of grass, albeit still brown. The ice breaker should be in the area around the first week of April. Once the ice is gone from the bay, we will then await the arrival of the Quinte Loyalist for a long 3-4 month (minimum) service from Millhaven to the Island.

REMEMBERING DAVID (DAVE) WILLARD - Shirley Miller



Dave retired from being first mate on lake boats about 1968. He was a very tall, very quiet man who lived alone by the ferry dock in a little grey insulbrick house. I understood that he was blind but Earle Willard said "maybe in later years but he had bought a violin that he wanted me to tune so he wasn't blind for long". Seeing him come out of his house, walk to the gate, open it and walk through closing it behind him when there was no fence on either side seemed to support the notion that he was blind.

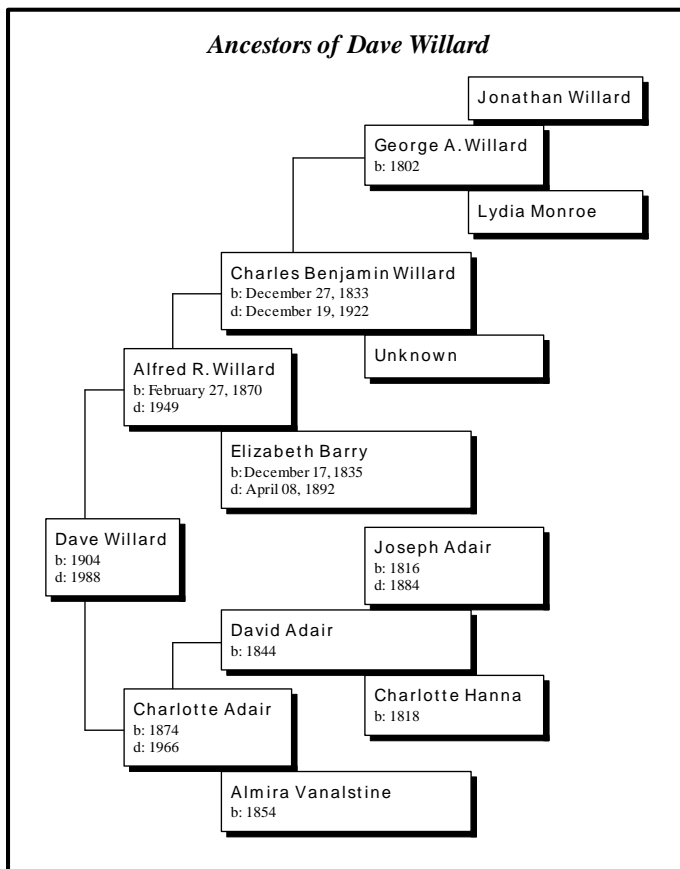
He had two brothers, John and Charlie, who were the last two captains on the lake with licences to sail schooners. Charlie ran the boat for an earlier captain, Billy Cochrane when he was not available. Billy was the only captain for many years. Dave's father and Eldon Willard's fathers were brothers. Eldon was another boat captain who worked on our boat for many years from 1963 until 1989, most of them as captain. Just a little side note, Eldon's parents, Claude and Ruth lived in the salt box house on the south shore.



Dave's neighbour when I came to the Island was Alice Comeau. She was showing us the yoke she used to carry water from the lake. She lived in a little house that grew with each new owner and, before her, Keith says Wilfred McCormick's parents lived there. Now all the buildings are gone and so far all we have to show is a washroom that is greatly appreciated when the boat is late and the wait is long. Sometime soon they say we will have end loading docks, but they have been promised for many years.



Red Breasted Merganser Female by Louise Lamarre



Charlotte Adaire (1874-1966) and Alfred R. Willard (1874-1949) Photo courtesy of David Willard



**David Willard's home as it used to be, near the ferry loading point on Stella 40 Foot.
Photo by Shirley Miller**

JANET'S JOTTINGS: NESTS AND BABIES

- Janet Scott: May 2015

Just like in our world of modern transportation, high-tech communication and stress causing decisions, the world of raising baby birds holds its own difficulties. Choosing a nursery site, decorating the room, providing the crib and supplying the babies' needs all has to happen in a matter of days not in a matter of nine months. Not only does it happen after an unusually long vacation flight but it also happens in multiples. This is high speed parenting 101.

Some birds are already paired up before making the trip North. Mother Osprey probably already suggested a Honeymoon Trip to Canada while they were cruising the Gulf of Mexico in March. For the Red-winged Blackbirds, Grackles and Thrashers courtship begins once they arrive and the males and females take separate flights. Once the ladies have shown up the courting, complete with serenading, battles for sites and exaggerated posturing has to take place. Three Grackles sitting around the rim of the feeder today were too busy sticking their beaks in the air, hissing and inflating their bodies to actually have time to eat. The courtship of the Red-breasted Mergansers requires the male to inflate the feathers on his head and make them stand up like a spiky Mohawk hairdo and then throw his head backwards on his shoulders while swimming. Don't try this at home without Doctor Dave on speed dial! The quiet, timid Thrasher of late summer is sitting on the highest top of a tree singing all the melodies of other birds that he can remember in double phrases in order to woo a Mrs. Thrasher. Mrs. Robin wants to get the nursery built right away so they both lug building materials to three or four sites before they actually decide on the one she really likes. This preferred nest must be woven and reinforced with mud and then Mrs. Robin rubs her breast around and around inside the mud lined nest until it is shaped to her specific satisfaction. You will see female robins with this muddy worn patch on their breasts from finishing the nests. The Red-winged blackbirds choose a site and guard it ferociously with loud Oka-reeing and pitched battles for many days until the females arrive but at some unspoken signal they all take a break with cessation of hostilities and go off to feed, returning to the sites again to go through all the posturing again. Peace talks, perhaps?



Male Cardinal
Photo by Louise Lamarre



Red-Bellied Woodpecker
photo by Louise Lamarre

Nest building continues and labour is fast with four eggs laid in this nice mud shaped bowl that Mrs. Robin made or the 12-15 eggs in the beautiful feather lined grass nest that Mrs. Mallard has created: must be water access. She pulls her own feathers from her downy breast to create this hollow, domed with long grasses that she can camouflage. Mrs. Mallard is a single mom and must raise her 15 young which require sitting on them for about 26 days. Dad would be no use with his bright rust and green colouring: he would just attract predators. No walkers or jolly jumpers are required for these babies. As soon as they are all hatched they head for water imprinted with mom's distinctive call and although covered in down, they are able to swim like bobbing corks after her.

Now what are we going to do about diapers? Mother Osprey expects Father to fish, guard and fetch the diapers. As the babies grow he brings wet cattails with mud dripping from their roots to the nest to line it. This cools the nest, moistens it and ornithologists say this natural remedy kills mites and disinfects the nest. The Common Grackle likes to remove fecal sacs regularly and deposit them in a water source. Tom and Jackie on the South Shore had this diaper disposal going on in their beautiful water garden. Robins also carry the fecal sacs away and this not only keeps the nest clean but it hides the nest from predators. Mother Killdeer doesn't worry about diapers. The whole family up and leaves home as soon as the babies hatch. They are called precocious nestlings and feed themselves right away. Mother shows them where and how to look for food. Don't remove a cute little baby killdeer from its natural environment. You won't be able to feed it. She doesn't build a nest either but squats among gravel or stones that will camouflage her eggs and then both parents take turns sitting on them for 24 days.

Feeding the newborn is always a complicated issue. Bird babies have no teeth and grow quickly so constant feeding schedules are necessary. Pablum was invented in the last century but mother birds such as Rock Pigeons and Mourning Doves have been grinding up grains in their crops and regurgitating a baby cereal for centuries. Mother and father Herons have to carry a regurgitated fish soup from nearby feeding grounds to their young sitting in nests high above the marsh. Seed eaters such as Sparrows feed their young high protein insect diets.

College or University is not on the bird parents' list of priorities but after this frenzied child rearing marathon they launch their kids in flight school and from then on you learn in the School of Life.

NEWS FROM THE CAFÉ

- David Pickering (email: pickerin@kos.net)

This month starts what we hope will be a continuing set of articles from your hosts at the INTERNET CAFÉ. Bill Barrett and I have been trying to render assistance and answer questions for about a year now, and we hope to continue to do so. Our hours will be expanding again once more people come back (including Bill). Once we have decided what those hours will be, we'll be sure to publish them in the Beacon and place them in the display case at the door of the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre. (NSMCC)

Recently, the editors of the Beacon approached us and asked if we would like space here to perhaps reach more people, and to answer the most common questions. Bill said he was interested, as am I, and we'll probably be swapping back and forth in the coming months.

Common Question 1: Can I get a cup of coffee here? (You would be surprised at how often this happens. Once it was by an OPP constable.) The answer is 'sometimes.' Bill has been known to bring in a small carafe, and if you ask nicely he might share.

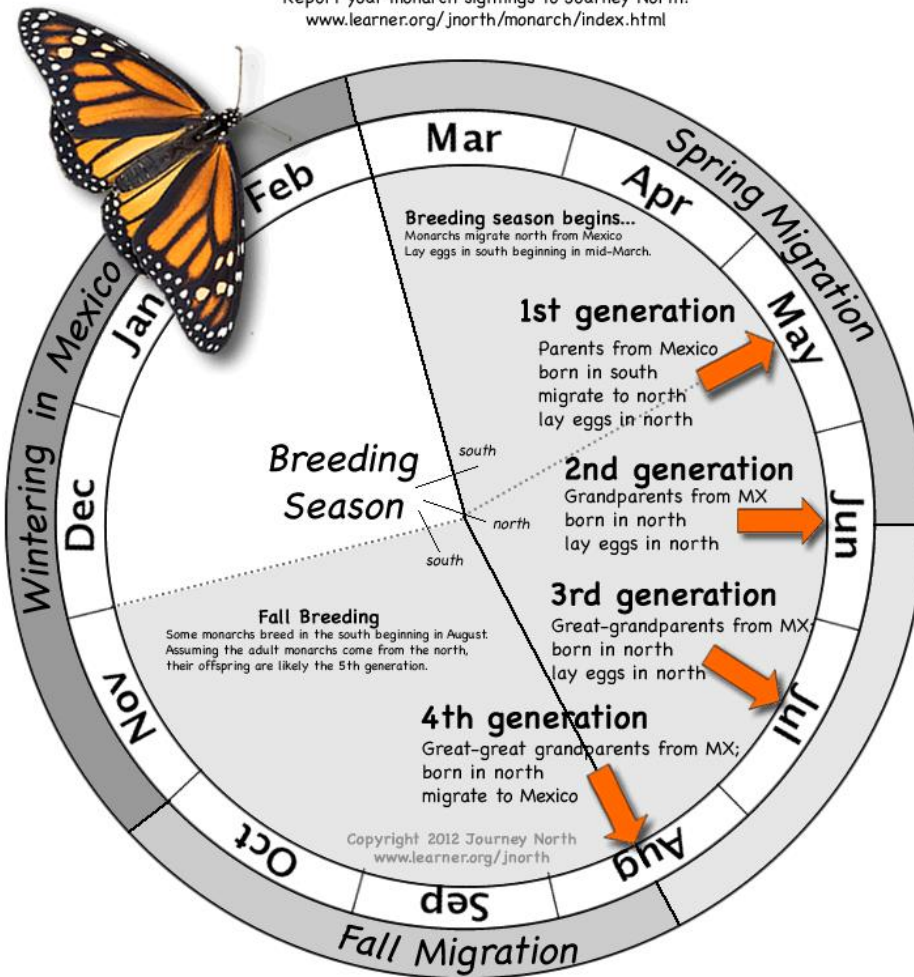
Common Question 2: How much do you guys charge? We're volunteers – hosted by the NSMCC. We appreciate it you want to drop a donation into the box on your way out. Every toonie helps.

Common Question 3: Who can answer my question? Depends on the question. I know PC's pretty well, and networking. Bill is the expert on all things Apple and Google. So it depends on your equipment and software.

Common Question 4: What kind of things do you guys do? I guess – pretty much anything we can. We provide tutoring on devices and programs. We help set up accounts and networks. We show you how to use what you have. We provide advice on what you might need. We've repaired stuff, removed viruses, done the occasional house call, written web pages; it's been challenging – and fun. So – if you have a question – either stop by or e-mail us – your answer might be seen in a future issue of the Beacon.

The Monarch Butterfly Annual Cycle

Report your monarch sightings to Journey North!
www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/index.html



MONARCH BUTTERFLIES - Sally Bowen

Deserving of their name, Monarch Butterflies are wonderful examples of this type of insect. Large and colourful, they have fascinated children and adults for generations. Additionally, with bees, they are one of the major families of pollinators and are essential for maintaining the functioning of our farms and gardens.

As the chart to the left indicates, the Monarchs who arrive here mid-summer are the second, third or even fourth generation of butterflies of the initial Mexican migrants.

They have been badly battered in numbers in the past few years, especially due to broadcast pesticides, destruction of habitat and drastic climate conditions.

Their over-wintering numbers were the second lowest on record (showing a small rise from the previous winter's all time low.)

Initially, when the monarchs arrive, they require milkweed. These are the host plants necessary for laying their eggs and providing nutrients for the emerging caterpillar.



Monarch Caterpillar

(The milkweed also provides a mild toxin that protects the caterpillar from predators.) Amherst Island has a relative abundance of milkweed plants in fields where pesticides are not broadcast. However, the searching butterfly can always use



more. Look for varieties of *Aschlepias* in the neighbourhood greenhouses (Burt's Greenhouse near Wilton [<http://burtsgh.com/>] carries them), or plant one of the millions of seeds available to you in the fields. Beware though, our native field ones have very energetic root systems that can be difficult to control, though they have a glorious perfume. Seek a corner of your garden that is less tamed, more jungle, for these.



**Welcome this
Monarch
chrysalis to
the Milkweed
in your garden**

But when the glorious chrysalis completes its cycle, and the vulnerable Monarch emerges, it now needs nectar plants. Many of these are similar to flowers also needed by our vulnerable honeybees, and can be readily planted. William Dam seeds catalogue this year included a list of 40 nectar-bearing flowers, pollinators appropriate to this area ideal for bees and butterflies.



Topsy Farms gives away free Zinnia seeds in the spring at the Wool Shed and has some Verbena seeds and may have a few *Tithonia* plants for sale in later June. Look for *Rudbeckia* and perhaps Basil plants for sale at the AIMS table once again this year from Topsy.



**Monarch on *Tithonia*
Photo by Vicki Keith**

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

-Ian Murray

From the 6th Session of Council, March 9

The operating budget for the ferry is 2.68 million \$ - an increase of 1.04 thousand \$ over 2014; the labour component is 1.99 million \$, with goods and services at 0.69 thousand \$.

Council approved the following: that “Loyalist Township staff continue to support Waterside Summer Series during 2015 with the understanding that Waterside Summer Series members will demonstrate their intent to become self-sufficient by applying for their own charitable organization status, opening their own bank account, obtaining their own insurance coverage and providing for all other business needs to become independent from the Township by the end of 2015.”

KLASSENS LEAVE AMHERST ISLAND

- Carol Glenn

On March 29, the congregation of St. Paul's along with family and friends bid farewell to Harry and Annemarie Klassen. During their 2 year interim ministry at St. Paul's, they became near and dear to us and were an important part of our Island community. Although it was hard to say goodbye, we wish them peace and happiness as they retire to their cottage in Arden.



Annemarie and Harry Klassen
Photo by Michèle Le Lay



Snowy
Photo by Sheree Girty of Sewickley PA

EMERALD ASH BORER

- submitted by Deb Barrett

Loyalist Township residents are asked to be on the look-out for the EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) and, as a precaution, to follow the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) recommendations to slow the spread of this invasive insect. The CFIA website has a useful Q&A on this subject.

In response to "What can I do to help?" the answer is:

- Do not move the regulated materials
- Buy and burn firewood locally
- Report signs of EAB infestation to the CFIA

Regulated Materials: ash nursery stock, ash trees, ash logs, ash wood, rough lumber including pallets and other wood packaging material from ash, wood, bark, wood chips or bark chips from ash trees and firewood of all tree species. These orders extend to vehicles that were used to carry any of these items. Movement of these materials from regulated areas is permitted only if the materials have been treated to kill or remove all life stages of EAB and if written permission has been obtained from a CFIA inspector.

For more information about EAB please contact the CFIA at 1-866-463-6017 or check

www.inspection.gc.ca/pests

THANK YOU NOTES

Laura and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dan and the rest of the band for the superb music. Also the rec. committee for all their help.

We want to thank all our friends & neighbors for the food, cards and gifts, and for making my 75th birthday so special.

Stephen and Laura Street

DRY STONE FESTIVAL

The Irish-Canadian Dry Stone Festival dates are September 25 – 27, 2015. There will be many related events in a variety of venues on the Island and most will be free. Irish musicians and dry wallers will be among our visitors. Watch the Beacon each month for details and updates

Descendants of Charles Benjamin Willard

1	Charles Benjamin Willard	1833 - 1922
	+Elizabeth Barry	1835 - 1892
2	George A. Willard	1856 - 1857
2	Nelson B. Willard	1858 - 1859
2	Jane Willard	1859 -
2	Eunice Willard	1861 -
	+John Walmsley	
2	Charles Heman Willard	1863 - 1939
	+Elizabeth Ann Bray	1864 - 1932
3	George Nelson Willard	1889 - 1983
3	Charles Henry Willard	1891 - 1914
3	Herman Willard	1894 - 1935
	+Viola Eliza Wemp	1899 -
3	Ellen (Nellie) Willard	1897 - 1897
3	Margaret Edith Willard	1898 - 1972
	+Clifford Arlington Sudds	1897 - 1947
4	Willard Arlington Sudds	1923 - 1999
	+Margaret Hogg	1923 -
5	Brian Sudds	1948 -
	+Jennifer Wittek	
5	Heather Sudds	1952 -
	+Gil McElroy	
4	Lawrence Andrew Sudds	1926 - 1975
	+Teresa Mary McMullin	1930 - 2015
5	Clifford Edward Sudds	1951 -
	+Jennifer Leah (Lee) Filson	1949 -
5	Laurie Sudds	1955 - 1990
	+Perry Bienias	
4	Gerald Dorlan Sudds	1930 -
	+Geraldine Leveque	
5	Gerald Ian Sudds	1954 -
5	Gloria Elaine Sudds	1956 -
5	Allen Arlington Sudds	1957 -
5	Sheila Darlene Sudds	1959 -
5	Lisa Marie Sudds	1962 -
5	Paul David Sudds	1963 -
4	Doreen Lillian Sudds	1930 -
	+Ron Edmund Halal	
5	Rhonda Elizabeth Halal	1962 -
5	Anthony Maurice Halal	1963 -
3	Joseph O. Wilbert Willard	1901 - 1975
	+Florence Gertrude Corke	1911 - 1965
4	David Earl Willard	
	+Donna Ellenor Strain	1943 -
5	Christopher David Willard	1960 -
5	Laurie Dawn Willard	1964 -
5	Steven Willard	
4	Wilbert George Willard	1930 - 2010
	+Gayel Victoria Peters	1935 -
5	David Richard Willard	1955 -
5	Diane Gayel Willard	1958 -
5	Sandra Nannet Willard	1959 -
4	Charles Reginald Willard	1932 - 1956
4	Elmer Garnet Willard	1934 -
	+Wilda Ellen Sayeau	
5	Barbara Ellen Willard	1960 -
5	Garnet Reginald Willard	1961 -
5	Dale Lawrence Willard	1962 -
	+Bonnie McGinn	1952 -
5	Margaret Anne Willard	1965 -
5	Charlene Thelma Willard	1966 -
4	Doris Edna Willard	1942 -
	+Nelson Wilfred Eves	- 2002
5	Sherry Eves	
5	Rick Eves	
5	Connie Eves	
5	Randy Eves	
5	Bernice Eves	
5	Reg Eves	
4	Dorothy Anne Willard	1942 -
	+Edward "Kaye" McGinn	1936 -
5	Karen Anne McGinn	1960 -
	+Ted Welbanks	
5	Marlene Mary McGinn	1962 - 1962
5	Vernon Kaye McGinn	1963 -
	+Dorothy Reynolds	

WILLARD FAMILY OF AMHERST ISLAND

- Ian Murray

Dave Willard loaned us a photo of his great-great-uncle Alfred R. Willard & his wife Charlotte Adaire. I thought some of our readers might be interested in a "descendent tree" of the Willard family.

Two branches of the Willards, Charles Heman & Elizabeth Ann Bray and Alfred R. & Charlotte Adaire, still have representatives living here. These people are shown in bold italics.

Please let me know of errors.



**IF YOU SEE THIS DOG ALONE,
HE'S A RUNAWAY
FROM 9000 2ND CONCESSION**

We, David Baker and Birthe Jorgensen, wish to thank all those who came out on a sunny but bitterly cold March 22 afternoon to help us search for the scamp, Rasmus, our 14 month old runaway Cairn Terrier. Rasmus managed to slip away on his leash while David lay prone but uninjured on some black ice. One quick glance and he decided this was no time to play the Littlest Hobbo. Rather, it was a great time to head off in search of adventure and explore everything around him. Just as dark approached, he turned up in our tumbledown 1960 Rambler trailer, with his leash preventing his escape. Thank you so much to all who assisted us. We were amazed at how quickly the news of his escape as well as his return travelled over the island, and are once again grateful to have found Amherst Island over 40 years ago.

3	Robert J. Willard	1905 -	
3	David Andrew Bray Willard	1908 - 1972	
	+Violet Pultz		
4	Betty Willard		
	+Chris O'Hara		
	5	Dale O'Hara	
	5	Vicki O'Hara	
	5	John O'Hara	
4	Ronald Willard		
	+Marlene ?		
	5	Denise Willard	
	5	Catherine Willard	
	5	Kelly Willard	
	5	Keith Willard	
4	Shirley Willard		
	+Roger White		
	5	Ronald White	
	5	Wendy White	
	5	Susan White	
	5	Alan White	
2	Mary Elizabeth Willard	1865 - 1901	
	+[1] Henry Eves	1867 -	
2	Ellen Willard	1866 -	
	+John Eves	1865 -	
2	Eliza Willard	1868 - 1877	
2	Alfred R. Willard	1870 - 1949	
	+Charlotte Adair	1874 - 1966	
3	Charles Willard	1895 - 1965	
3	John Willard	1896 - 1977	
3	Frederick Willard	1898 - 1916	
3	Marion Willard	1898 - 1995	
	+James (Jimmie) Eves		
4	Norman Eves		
	+Olive Lewers		
4	Harvey Eves		
	5	Patricia Eves	
	+Mr. Johnson		
4	Wilmer Claude Eves	1920 - 2003	
	+Laura York		
	5	Syvia Eves	
	+Joe Quigley		
	5	Dennis Eves	
	5	Marion Eves	
	+Ray Battiston		
	5	Barb Eves	
	+Greg Mousseau		
4	Isabel Eves		
3	Hiram R. Willard	1899 - 1922	
3	Claude Willard	1901 - 1985	
	+Ruth McCormick	1904 - 1965	
4	Douglas "Eldon" Willard	1930 - 2002	
	+Elsie Kathleen Reid	1937 - 2014	
	5	Janice Marie Willard	1959 -
	+Eric Robert McGinn		1957 -
	5	Douglas Brian Willard	1963 -
	+Gail ?		
4	Verna Willard		
	+Jack Reid		
3	Jessie Willard	1902 -	
	+? Ellerbeck		
3	Dave Willard	1904 - 1988	
3	Annie Willard	1906 - 1990	
	+Joe Clyde		
3	Dorothy Willard	1908 - 1987	
3	Jenny Willard	1910 -	
3	Monroe W. Willard	1913 - 1929	
2	Victoria Willard	1873 -	
	+[1] Henry Eves	1867 -	
2	James Willard	1875 - 1875	
2	John Murray Willard	1877 -	
	+Nellie Harrison	1880 -	
3	Esther Willard		
	+Stuart Kilpatrick		
3	Mary Willard		
2	Betsy Willard	1879 -	



Snowy
Photo by Sheree Girty
of Sewickley PA



Snowy
Photo by Sheree Girty
of Sewickley PA

SHEARING AT TOPSY FARMS

14775 Front Rd, Stella (Amherst Island)
**MONDAY & TUESDAY, APRIL
20TH & 21ST**
CHILDREN WELCOME
PETS ARE NOT INVITED
NO FEE

Viewing space is limited; PLEASE book
a viewing time.

Call **613 389-3444, 888 287-3157**

info@topsyfarms.com

THE [WOOL SHED](#) WILL BE OPEN

www.topsyfarms.com



Shearer at work
Photo by Don Tubb



Snowy
Photo by Sheree Girty of Sewickley PA

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 We have walkers, canes, crutches bath seats, commodes, raised toilet seats and bath handles. Donations of used equipment in good condition also welcome. Call Sharen English 613-384-6535.

Topsy Farms has a shipment of fresh frozen lamb cuts, which arrived mid-March.

ISLAND BOOKKEEPING

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

SHIRLEY MILLER

Paintings, Prints & Art Classes

613-389-2588

AMHERST ISLAND CHIROPRACTIC

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

HARTIN'S PUMPING SERVICE: Septic Pumping & Inspection 613-379-5672

BETTY'S HOME COOKING My Market Goodies are available! Plus if you want a full meal to go... a few days notice and your cooking for company is over. Call Betty 613-389-7907

CHILDCARE Looking for a local reliable childcare professional? Recent Early Childhood Education graduate, Brooke Reid is available to look after your children whenever needed. Registered with the College of Early Childhood Education First Aid/ CPR certified. Contact Info: Home: 613-389-4484, Cell: 613-484-9046

GODDEN'S WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE We would like to thank our faithful sausage customers on Amherst Island for their continued support of our product. Flavours include: Salt & Pepper; Honey & Garlic; Sundried Tomato & Oregano; Hot Italian; Sweet Chili & Lime; Maple Breakfast; and Salt &

Pepper Breakfast. Now selling packs of 4 sausages!! See more at thewholehogblog@blogspot.com; Facebook, "Godden's Whole Hog Sausage"; or, follow us on "Twitter @Godden Farms". Please call ahead for large orders, 705-653-5984. With Sincere Thanks, Lori Caughey & Family.

FOOTFLATS FARM ACCOMMODATION:

www.footflats.com (613-634-1212) Goodman House (waterfront) - 4 bedrooms, 3 bath - available year round

HELP STILL NEEDED for the Lennox and Addington S.P.C.A. Used towels and linens, paper towels and cleaning supplies, pet food, kitty litter, dog and cat toys are always in demand; Canadian Tire coupons and pop cans. Leave items on my porch: put pop cans in large container and other items nearby. Thank you for helping to support our animal shelter. Further information needed? Call Freda Youell – 613-384-4135.

ISLAND YOGA Call Taggett for more information at 613-888-5156

POPLAR DELL FARM BED & BREAKFAST

3190 Front Rd, Amherst Island Welcoming guests for over 30 years. Also, Cottage Rentals and Godden Sausage sales. Call Susie @ 613-389-2012

TOPSY FARMS WOOL SHED

613-389-3444 Wool and sheepskin products including yarn, blankets, crafts, and individual photos, books and booklets by Don Tubb. Open weekends and most weekday mornings. **new:** wool and yarn nesting materials for birds for sale in convenient suet cages.

RAWLEIGH PRODUCTS FOR SALE Catalogues available. To place an order call Marie Ward at 613-389-5767 or email: bandmward@xplornet.ca

STELL'S CAFÉ will be open again this season under the new management of Sandra Reid and family. Opening day will be Thursday, May 14th at 9AM, continuing through the long weekend. See next month's Beacon for more details.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

AI Beacon: April 15, 1985 - Vol 4 Issue 87

EDITORIAL POLICY

- Ian Murray

We, the Beacon Staff, do not alter material submitted to the Beacon without asking the writer's permission. Obvious spelling mistakes are (hopefully) corrected but no changes are made to grammar.

COUNCIL REPORT for April 2

- Christopher Kennedy

All members of Council were present, Bhowani Harbann, the Napanee Beaver reporter, was also there.

Stuart Miller said that a lot of gravel will go on the roads in the next month. The dump truck is having a rebuilt engine and rebuilt clutch. Several new culverts are planned.

Council has been negotiating with M.T.C. for a larger ferry. The request has now reached the desk of the deputy minister. The ferry crew is to continue with their medical examinations.

The Township has received \$66,500 from M.T.C. as the regular road grant allocation. The Township is asking for more money for a culvert made necessary by the Miller Municipal Drain.

The Township was concerned that steel tracked vehicles for the drain might be moved along the paved road. The Council passed a Bylaw stating that all steel tracked vehicles must be moved on rubber-tired vehicles, or planked under the supervision of the Road Superintendent when on the Township roads.

Council is going to advertise for a part time ferry hand. Kees Kort has been hired to help the Township in negotiations with the ferry crew's union. The Reeve, Chester Tugwell and Ted Welbanks will be on the negotiating committee.

Council considered the 1985 budget estimate. This is available at the council office in detail. The overall increase has been kept to 4.01%, thanks to hard work on the part of the Finance Committee, headed by Ted Welbanks. The fire budget and road budget have been increased to pay for 2-way radios.

The Cemetery Committee asked for \$1,500. Council is to discuss a detailed budget with the Cemetery Committee.

The new Building Bylaw received its first and second reading with the third reading expected at the next regular meeting. Anyone interested should attend.

The Recreation Committee minutes were adopted. They are giving the men's ball team \$500 and the Squirt and Pee-Wees teams \$100 each.

The Grace Eves family has said that it does not think that Graham Engineering is justified in charging \$1800 to prepare and explain the figures on drainage assessments, and the Eves do not want Council to pay Graham for the assessment calculations. The Hydrologic Design Sheets that Geoff Matthews presented at the last council meeting have been sent to Graham Engineering for comment.

The Council endorsed a letter from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture condemning the Ministry of Natural Resources' attempts to protect wetlands in the Province without compensating the owners of the wetlands.

The Township insurance agents sent the Township disturbing news on liability insurance. Apparently the Township is liable for damages for almost everything that happens in the Township for many years after the event and for vast amounts of money. This will obviously be reflected in insurance rates.

Ian Murray, Norman Allison and Diane Pearce are to attend, at the taxpayers' expense, a seminar on effectiveness in meetings. Larry Fleming and Ted Welbanks did not approve of this expenditure.

Council then adjourned.

FINE FEELINGS

- Shirley Miller

Because it was close to Easter, I started to think about the Easter story with all the terrible pain and sorrow. Then the Resurrection and all the joy, hope and the legacy for all of us of love and forgiveness no matter how great our sins.

The story has always been the same but I have heard it with different "ears" at various stages of my life.

As a child it was all mixed up with pink and mauve, white lilies and new clothes. Easter bunnies chocolate eggs and hot crossed buns. I didn't hear the part about the suffering. The part about forgiveness I did not hear because I didn't need it ... yet.

Easter is a promise of new beginning for "fine feelings".

What do I mean by "fine feelings"? How about warm bread and fresh jam or cozy corners to sit and visit - time given with love - friends, etc.

By painting what I see around me, the beautiful places and beautiful faces I have tried to capture some "fine feelings".

If we want to grow "fine feelings" we must be careful to get good seed. We should attend as many meetings on the care and culture of "fine feelings" as possible. It will help us to recognize an enemy that could wipe out our entire crop or leave our fruit bitter and twisted.

The seed from a crop of “bad feelings” will spread far and wide. They don’t need care or cultivation. “Bad feelings” will try to grow on every path we travel through life.

About 2000 years ago an association was started for the propagation, preservation and appreciation of “fine feelings”. Due to lack of dedication and misinterpretation of the “growers manual” the meetings are sometimes poorly attended and quite often reduced to innocuous social gatherings.

Why? Because in our society nearly all our failures are subsidized and if our conscience should bother us we soothe it by doling out a bit of money. There really is little demand for conscientious growers of “fine feelings”.

We are in danger of losing our ability to feel fine.

We don’t always appreciate being tired and sore after a job well done. Too often we only notice those who get paid more and don’t have to work as hard.

If we had a good supply of “fine feelings” we would glow with pride, satisfaction and thankfulness that we were able to do a good job.

The more we cry for help, the more helpless we feel and the price we pay for that help is often our pride.

That must be why God has offered to help us help ourselves. So we can keep one of our “fine feelings”. “Fine feelings” spread slowly but surely and are such fun to share. On the Island “fine feelings” grow everywhere. There are big ones, little ones, some are so fine they bring tears to my eyes. Some have been very delicate but through time have become my most precious possessions.

Like all crops they have bad seasons when seeds are slow to germinate and “fine feelings” must be kept inside for fear of inclemency.

Deeds grow from feelings. Let’s keep them fine.

LETTER FROM A. BRUCE CAUGHEY

May I again use your columns for lines of communications?

I would first of all like to compliment Chris Kennedy on his “council reports.” You seem to be able to give our readers a very good coverage of what goes on in Council. This is a service that has been undertaken by several people, ever since the “Beacon” was first published. It was an idea conceived by Glenn Shiel, then Principal of Amherst Island Public School and I remember the contributions made by Marj. Aitken in an effort to keep people informed of Council decisions as her husband Vince occupied the “Reeve’s Chair”, followed by the Sylvesters who diligently and conscientiously attended Council meeting. Of course we all have the privilege of attending meetings of Council to listen, to observe and to comment, but we do not do so, as we usually have other

commitments or else we do not wish to have our presence misconstrued as being there in a critical frame of mind.

Your allusion in last month’s coverage to the discussion between our Road Supt. and Council concerning the ageing pieces of road equipment interested me and certainly reactivated a concern that I have long had on this matter. I have a very good memory concerning the efforts that, over the years, have gone into solicitation that has lead to the procurement of road equipment and I hope someday to properly record “in my book”, the details of such endeavours by so many people.

Snow removal is one of our greatest concerns and a substantially costly part of our road maintenance. This is a program that was initiated through the efforts of the late Robert J. Brown and Donald E. Miller, then members of Township Council, who, in the face of strong opposition to the proposal, persisted, and eventually made purchase of our first dump truck, followed by purchase of a Frink snow plough, which I think still is in operation. The dump truck was a “leftover” of the Second World War, still in crates awaiting shipment overseas when hostilities ceased in 1945.

Opinions were expressed by those in opposition to the proposal to the effect the “you could never keep roads open on Amherst Island, why it drifts right from the Ducks across the lake”, well that was 1946 and in the intervening almost forty years we have enjoyed the privilege of using our automobiles during the winter and who would tolerate not doing so now?

Winters seem to go in cycles and this year we again experienced what we seem to think is “an old fashioned winter” and again those of us who live in “the back concessions” see the roads piled high with snow and the “corners” in a very treacherous, dangerous condition with visibility very limited and an apparent inability to push back those banks any further. The slightest wind conditions produce endless drifting and one’s life is in jeopardy as you venture out in drifting conditions and especially at those intersections of main roads, e.g.: The Stella crossroad and the Third Concession or Second Concession. (I started to write this article back sometime ago, when the roads were piled high with snow and drifting conditions were at their worst, conditions are much different, as I will try to conclude my thoughts.)

Down through the years, we have experienced some very adverse weather conditions which have produced very bad road conditions - I do not find it too difficult to remember our Third Concession being snow-blocked even for travel by horses and sleighs, our neighbourhood lived with these conditions for a week or two, then some of our enterprising farmers laid out an alternative route, through fields which necessitated having agreement among neighbours to make openings in “line fences” so that this temporary road could be mapped out. Agreement on this was forthcoming from everyone and we used this

route until mother nature again restored our road conditions for travel.

I also have very vivid recollections of more recent times when piling snow, driven by strong winds piled our concession road, which at this point was a mere "canal", high with snow. Does anyone remember the movement of some 20,000 plus pounds of milk by snowmobile in to Stella cheese factory or the fact that our Island School was closed for a period of three weeks?

Our Reeve, Vince Aitken, faced with the constant phone calls of disgruntled ratepayers and the resignation of our road crew and after careful consideration decided, after having seen the results of an emergency trip to the Island, previously, of equipment, in the way of a very large snow blower, the property of Canadian Forces Base, Trenton, approached M.T.C. with a proposal of purchase of a piece of snow blowing equipment to be used in conjunction with our present Case tractor. This required some "arm twisting" but Vince succeeded and you remember how we waited in anticipation of this "Sicard" plow being transported across the Bay by sleigh and patiently waited while our local garage men arranged and constructed harness for its attachment for the tractor, only to find it was completely inadequate, due to being underpowered and mounted on a very small tractor, by today's standards.

I still am of the opinion that Snow-Blowers are a very excellent piece of equipment and I remember three Third Concession farmers, some years ago, using their small blowers, on comparatively small tractors, successfully opened our Third Concession road in one day, when it was hopelessly blocked with snow and no other piece of equipment could be used.

In years gone by we have resorted to the use of large "Michigan" loaders, on a custom operated basis to clear corners etc. where the visibility was nil. I also remember persuading my father, when he was Reeve of the Municipality, to try erecting snow fence in areas that were subject to severe drifting - this worked very satisfactorily in preventing the formation of huge banks, but of course necessitated the erection of it every Fall and the removal of it every Spring, plus the storage of it during summer months. This programme was eventually discontinued and the materials loaned or stolen?

What I have been trying to say concerning snow removal simply leads me more convincingly than ever to the desirability of blower equipment, by which the snow is blown into adjoining fields and there-by is not the cause of accumulations along the roadside which gathers the drifting snow each time the winds blow - one has only to see the result, on the Front Road, of a built up road level combined with surfacing, which prevents any significant accumulation from the plowing operation.

Of course those of us who have lived for some four generations on the "back concessions" cannot ever hope

to enjoy the above advantages and can only hope for some improvement in snow removal programmes and equipment.

I have been very interested, in recently appearing ads, in farm periodicals of a new 200 series tractor produced by Versatile, a Canadian Company, based in Winnipeg, Manitoba - this series is available in an 85 H.P. or 100 H.P. model, it is four wheel drives with the same size tire equipment front and rear and is advertised as very "versatile", in that it operates at the same road speeds, either forward or backward, with excellent visibility by the operator. In ads, during winter issues, it has been featured, showing snow blowing equipment in use.

I first was aware of the existence of this Company some 17 years ago when on a trip to Western Canada and was much impressed with many of the Company's engineering features. When considering purchase of new equipment, I think it would be well worth investigation. In my opinion, in the past, there has been too many mistakes made in purchase of equipment for specific purposes, eg.: a weed-control program was introduced many years ago, which resulted in the purchase of a fairly expensive piece of sprayer equipment, which was used for a few years, then left to freeze-up and became unusable and eventually disappeared - this was followed by a large rotary type mower, of offset mounting type, for use with the Case tractor - a few more years of use and it disappeared to be replaced by a sickle blade mower, use of which manages to keep a swath of perhaps some 3 feet in width cut, on a semi-annual basis, while our roadsides revert to a deplorable condition with brush, trees and weeds. A year or two ago I saw an excellent piece of equipment in use in the Township of Kingston on a very moderate size tractor, being of the offset flail type, it was clearing the roadside right up to the fence lines. I certainly do not mean to be over-critical, but I am very concerned that we the tax-payers of Amherst Island get the highest possible value for our dollars expended, and what produces more complaints today than road conditions - Have you ever heard the question "Why don't they do so or such"?

Reply to Mr. Caughey's Letter
- Ian Murray, Road's Chairman

Mr. Caughey has pointed out several errors that he believes have been made over the past decades in the purchase of road equipment. This may be true, but perhaps he'll agree that the major purchases - the road grader and the 2 dump trucks - have proven to be sound investments.

I think that Mr. Caughey has made a sound observation when he speaks of the value of blowing snow away from the road. However, I find it unlikely that a municipality of our limited resources could justify spending \$60,000 on a tractor to blow snow. A possible solution might be for an owner of one of the very large farm tractors to buy a

large snow blower and then contract with the Township to clear snow.

The Township now owns enough gravel to last through 1986. This will provide the next Council with the opportunity to make significant progress in ditching and brushing the roadside. A good brush clearing machine of the type described by Mr. Caughey might be worth buying at that time.

I think that there is a tendency by Islanders to compare our roads with those that they travel on to Kingston or to Napanee. Why not try some of the backroads? My own observation is that our roads are about the same as country roads everywhere, some are better and some are worse. When I consider the quality of work that our road crew does, in all seasons, considering the resources available to them, I am well pleased.

To those who say "Why don't they do so or such?" I say that it is very easy to criticize, it is harder to understand and to improve.

To those who sincerely want to help improve the municipality, there is a municipal election next fall in which there will be 5 positions to be filled.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

Congratulations to Eric and Janice McGinn and Ryan, and to the Vrooman family on the birth of their sons this month.

Congratulations also to Ellis and Marylou Wolfreys, who celebrated their 25th anniversary recently. An open house and party were held in Harrowsmith for Ellis and Marylou, with Ellis' brothers as surprise guests. Many Islanders turned out as well to help celebrate.

Another success was the Recreation Club's dry dance, held last month. Thanks to the support of the Island, particularly the young people, the Rec. Committee even managed to come out ahead. It was good to see some Island spirit for a change.

The Island will be losing another familiar face this month as Joan Neill prepares to move away, but take heart! Looks like Phil Silver is planning to move back again to the village this time.

And speaking of hot air - or winds, rather, aside from causing an almost unprecedented amount of seasickness last Saturday, winds tore Ross and Lois Evans' satellite dish out of the ground.

John Glenn won a 24" color TV at National Grocers last week. He was also appointed to the Fire Department.

SCHOOL NEWS FOR MARCH & APRIL

- Trudy Strain & Ricky Welbanks

Classes resumed on March 18 after a much needed March Break. Much needed because the senior and junior rooms were writing exams and giving speeches the week before.

Gordon Trousdale gave a very funny speech on his sister and was victorious. Penny Thornhill presented an "eye-opening" speech on the "Struggles of Life" and was runner-up. Other contestants were: Steven Ward, Jake Lewis, Trudy Strain, Donnie Miller, Shannon Eves, Sherry Ward, Michael Strain, Amy Caughey, Chad Miller and Jeff Forester.

On March 27th pictures were taken by Mr. Ralph Kingston.

During the course of March and early April our school had to say goodbye to 3 students. They were Gordon Trousdale, Ricky and Crystal Bedford. We wish them the best of luck in their new schools.

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Diane Gavlas, Public Relations

This month is the beginning of the year for the W. I.

New members are desperately needed to keep a worthwhile community-oriented organization helpful functional and actively involved.

The April meeting at the home of Mrs. Irene Glenn is the election of officers and reports from convenors. I hope to see new members join us this year.

Mother's Day will be here soon so we'll look forward to your support at the Ham Dinner.

Thank-you for the financial support from other groups and volunteer helpers at the senior citizen's dinner again this past year.

We look forward to a good year as a community organization.

THANK YOU LETTERS

The members of Bath Co-operative Nursery School would like to thank all the people on Amherst Island who contributed in any way to the success of our recent dance in South Fredericksburgh.

Hopefully, this may become an annual event. Thanks to the support of you and all the others who turned out to help us celebrate the beginning of Spring, we are assured of having enough money to be able to keep our school going for another year.

We would also like to say a special thank you to Phil Silver, who tended bar the entire evening free of charge.

The support of all of you is greatly appreciated by all of the students and their parents.

Thanks.

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to Relatives, Friends and Neighbors for their many acts of kindness and consideration when I was in the hospital again in early March.

Thanks for the flowers, treats, cards, phone calls and visits at the hospital and at our home.

Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Helen Bulch

To all the wonderful people of Amherst Island.

Mary Lou & I would like to thank you all very much for the lovely gifts and cards that we received at our 25th Wedding Anniversary. Also many thanks to those who visited in the afternoon, and attended the dance in the evening. We really did enjoy & appreciate your company, and hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

We would also like to thank our children, Roberta and Ernie Rider, Mark Wolfreys and Fiance – Patti Pennell, Danny Wolfreys, Jacqueline and Jim Potter, and Philip Wolfreys, for making that special day, and will always be remembered by us both.

We'll see you all at our 50th.

God bless you all.

Thank you, Mary Lou & Ellis Wolfreys

25th WEDDING CELEBRATION

On Sat. March 30th. 1985, Ellis and Mary Lou Wolfreys, Amherst Island, celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary (3 days early) with many friends and family from near and far!

They started their special day with an open house at the Golden Links Hall, Harrowsmith. Many of their good friends and neighbors from Camden East to Desert Lake to Sydenham area and from Napanee to Kingston, dropped in as well as their friends and neighbors from the Island.

They were then treated to dinner by their children in Verona with about 40 family members and friends.

Then it was back to the Hall for an evening of dancing, visiting, and a cold buffet.

There were many old friendships renewed, and many relations getting reacquainted. Ellis and Mary Lou's mothers, Mrs. Mabel Wolfreys and Mrs. Edna Montgomery, both of Toronto, arrived during the afternoon. Among the surprises planned for the day were the secret arrival a few days earlier of Ellis' brother Art and his wife Kay of Orlando, Florida; and brother-Howard of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Although Ellis had heard rumors that Art was here, he never actually saw him until Saturday at the hall. He had no idea Howard was here until he met him on the road on the way to the open house.

Ellis' other brothers Don (and Ethel), Fenelon Falls; Ernie (and Betty), Toronto; Lloyd (and Elaine), Amherst Island and Leonard (and Doreen), Millhaven along with Mary Lou's brother Charles Montgomery of Toronto and sister Joan Sikora of Toronto made it in for the big day.

Many nieces, nephews and their kids, from Toronto, Lindsay, Richmond Hill and Amherst Island also attended.

Some special out-of-town guests were Mary Lou's maid of honour Linda McGuffin and her husband and daughters Lori and Lisa of Newmarket, who after losing touch for years arrived to surprise Mary Lou; Ellis' aunts Elsie Jeffries, Cobourg, Hettie Bunting, Toronto, Lili Webb, Toronto, and Uncle Bert and Aunt Bertha Webb, cousin Ronnie Webb with his wife Lynn, and daughter Cathy, all of Toronto. Son-in-law Jim's parents, Rev. & Mrs. Dave Potter, Orillia.

Probably the most special guest of the day (and the one who threatened to steal the show!) was their first grandchild Jocelyn Potter, daughter of Jim and Jacquie of Petawawa.

The special day was planned and arranged by Ellis and Mary Lou's kids - Roberta and husband Ernie Rider; Mark and fiance Patti Pennell; Danny; Jacquie and husband Jim Potter; and Philip.

A super day they'll always remember!

I.S.L.E.

- Annette

Thanks to all the mothers and fathers who have helped us out with the hot lunch program again this month; Shirley Miller, Betty Wemp, Lyn Fleming, Marjorie Baker, Bob Horth, Wenn Studsrud, Susie Caughey and Janet Scott.

Thanks also to those who helped make our bingo/euchre night a success.

Congratulations to all the winners, too numerous to mention.

AI BEACON: April 15, 1995 - Vol 4 Issue 207

BEACON NOTES

A big thank you to Peter Trueman for his recent article in the Whig Standard written about the Amherst Island Beacon's 25th anniversary. Peter's last sentence is: "Amherst Island continues to be a special place and the Beacon continues to reflect it".

In an effort to reflect the Island better, we've made a few changes up here. Sally and Ian are now responsible for "hustling copy" getting more articles from Island residents and thereby covering more events. Chris will do the 'Letter Home' and most Council meetings. Caroline will continue typing. Dianne will continue with her recipe column. Don, after carrying the brunt of the work for a

long time, will only be involved in layout and getting the printing done in Kingston. This will still take Don a lot of time but much less than before. He'll also be reporting on the occasional Council meeting.

This 25th anniversary edition will be sent to all households on the Island as a gift.

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

The First Edition is still a very interesting read. It was issued Thursday, April 16, 1970. Following are some excerpts for those who do not have a copy.

From Council Corner by Marj. Aitken:

Council meets in the school through the kind permission of the Board of Education of Lennox & Addington.

A new building by-law is in effect for Amherst Island.... Keith Miller is chairman of the Twp. Building Committee and Bruce Robinson is building inspector. With some of the island properties now under subdivision, this firm by-law of building regulations will be of much help to all property owners.

Plans for some adequate fire protection for the Township are going ahead under the leadership of Glenn Sheil. A tank truck has been bid on and this bid hopefully will be accepted, and money set aside to remodel the township hall to house it and other equipment. Your cooperation in this effort will be expected.

Clinton Kilpatrick is chairman of the Road Committee. The crew, under Stuart Miller's direction, are making progress with repairing the damage to the roads that the long winter made....

Ralph Wemp, chairman of Township parks and the maintenance of the dump and opening township roads that have been closed in the past years, reports work on these assignments progressing. When the dump is pushed back, your co-operation in keeping it reasonably orderly would be appreciated.

Council was sorry to accept the resignations of two who have served the Island well - Tina Filson, who kept the road books and Albert Mulders, who is leaving the ferry captain's job to farm. Both are wished well in the future.

Reeve Vince Aitken has contacted the Bell Telephone, re the poor service, many times through the winter, with disappointing results.

From AMHERST ISLANDER
by Genevieve Fleming:

When the secondary school students were ready for school on January 5th the ice wasn't safe yet for travel so they took along their bags and stayed in Napanee....

January 13th was really cold and the road supervisor took his men out to measure the depth of ice and they decided it was safe enough for ski-doo's so they put in the familiar cedar trees making a road across to Ellismere and wisely placing a sign on the first tree out from Stella, stating the road was for ski-doo's only and those who travelled otherwise did so at their own risk.

The weather was ideal for making ice ... and in a day or two a few folk began crossing with old cars.

On January 15 the ferry made only three trips and on the 16th she tied up at Stella. Cold weather continued for nine weeks and we had a perfect highway.... On the morning of March 31 [the icebreaker] returned At 9:30 p.m. the Amherst Islander loosed her moorings and set out on her first trip of the new season, but ill fortune awaited her for she had only sailed a few hundred yards when a gasket blew on the water pump. [Repairs were made and regular service started the following day.]

The next few days were really busy. Feed trucks, oil trucks, gas trucks, cream trucks, cheese, repair men, soft-drink trucks, hydro trucks, real estate agents, income tax consultants, students, teachers, drovers, preachers, all hurrying to come and go, and we Islanders are happy to once more be able to come and go in safety....

Spring has come again - it surely must be Spring for today I saw three robins and two meadow larks and the geese have flown north.

From STELLA CHEESE FACTORY:

A sigh of relief swept over many milk producers this evening when it was learned that Mr. Tugwell would continue operations at the cheese factory. He plans to purchase milk from the Milk Marketing Board.

From AMHERST ISLAND ATHLETIC CLUB
by Bruce Robinson:

The new executive is as follows: Pres. Bruce Robinson; Sec.-Treas. Allan Glenn; members at large, Earle Tugwell, Dave Kerr, and Paul McCormick, and the group at the meeting agreed that we should invite two members from the ladies' softball teams to become part of the club's executive.... Valerie Filson and Anne McCormick [were] designated as representatives.

From STELLA HOCKEY TEAM
by James Neilson:

The rewarding part about the whole season for me, in my position as coach, was the wholehearted cooperation from the boys, their willingness to learn and try and their dauntless effort.

*From OUT OUR WAY
by Marion S. Fleming:*

The welcome mat is out to Mr. and Mrs. Ian Murray. They recently moved into the Presbyterian manse, and I am sure Randi will find it more enjoyable teaching with less commuting time involved....

Steven Richard, infant son born recently to Capt. and Mrs. Earle Willard

Mr. Garry Hitchins was recently married at Stratford, Ontario, to Miss Anne-Marie Rickarby, in St. John Anglican Church.

*From EDITORIAL
by G. F. Sheil:*

It is our ambition that the "Beacon" will, in large measure, become an integral factor to Amherst Islanders - and to this end, we have directed our efforts. With this in mind, the "Beacon" will attempt to communicate to the people of Amherst Island the news, information, and developments which are pertinent to our municipality.

Your suggestions, involvement, and encouragement are invited and welcomed for the success of the "Island Beacon".

The final page is a cartoon by Shirley Miller in which Reeve Aitken is shown, on the left, dreaming of the Amherst Islander being pulled through the ice by a tug. On the right, Minister Gomme [Dept. of Highways] dreams of pulling the plug on the Island.

The First Edition was truly an issue to remember, and re-read.

Memorandum of Meeting With Harbours and Ports and MTO April 6, 1995

-Diane Pearce, Clerk-treasurer

In Attendance: Marie deSouza and Scott Walker, Harbours and Ports.

Rick McLuckie and Roger Horizon, Ministry of Transportation

Sr. Captain Earle Willard

Reeve Ashley, Councillors: Fleming, Scott, Whitton and Woods.

Subject: Repairs to the Stella Dock

Marie: The Tender will be called early in July and close near the end of July. Construction to start by August 15th. It is expected to be a 2 - 3 month project.

The work will begin on the west side leaving the front face free for docking of the Frontenac II until sometime after Labour Day. The work on the west side will take approximately one month. The Amherst Islander will be brought back into service and docked against the newly repaired west side.

The specifications will indicate that construction on the front face is not to begin until after Labour Day.

The specifications will call for transportation of material by barge. It is expected that most of the work will be done from a floating plant.

Environmental approval is required but no problems are anticipated. The end-loading potential of the dock will be assisted by the repairs but not facilitated. No dredging is planned.

The existing dock is in an accelerated stage of deterioration. The funds have been allocated. Estimate of work: \$375,000.

Estimated cost of end-loading facility is \$300,000.

Rick: No room for MTO to participate in the project because no dredging is planned. Main advantage to the Province would have come from dredging, environmental approval and fish compensation agreement done by the Feds. \$300,000 for end-loading docks is not available.

It is expected that the Frontenac II operating as a side-loader will address the needs of Amherst Island beyond the year 2000.

COUNCIL REPORT April 4, 1995

- Don Tubb

All members of Council were present for this meeting plus the Clerk-Treasurer, the Building Inspector, two delegations, and several members of the public.

This was my first meeting with this Council so there was interest on my part to see how this Council functioned as a group. After the usual preliminaries: adoption of March 7th minutes; approval of agenda; disclosure of interest (Councillor Woods on any item concerning Lot 8, South Shore Concession, and Reeve Ashley in matters concerning the wages and benefits of the purser position on the Ferry), the meeting began with two delegations:

- First up was John Gerretsen (provincial Liberal candidate) who asked a leading question, "How can Queen's Park serve you better?". He was then given a quick but complete course in ferry fees and landfill sites. He did not commit his party to any position but listened.

- The second delegation (Lynann Whitton and David Fleming) outlined the Emergency First Response Team's fund raising campaign for the purchase of a defibrillator. Council agreed to help by advancing the initial capital to purchase the merchandise the EFRT wish to sell (roughly \$2600). The council members were impressed with the detailed plan laid out by Lynann and David.

No firm date was set for a Public Meeting to discuss the new Fire Hall. Councillors differed on what information they should have before calling a meeting but all agreed that the budget process needs to be started and the preliminary drawings received from the consultant. At a

later point in the meeting, there was more discussion of the proposed Fire Hall with the Reeve talking about the technicalities involved in selling off the existing Fire Hall and property. Before the Township can get any firmer sense of the property's value (beyond the appraised value of \$20,000 to \$25,000 as reported by a Councillor), it has to be declared surplus. Once it is declared such, the Township is more or less committed to selling it and to building the new Hall. The Clerk pointed out that it could always be declared needed or un-surplus or something... I didn't catch the exact word but the intent was clear in that the Township isn't committing itself to a sale until it agrees to a deal.

By the way, just in case anyone wasn't clear on the reason to sell the existing property - it is to pay for the Township's share of the \$81,000 infrastructure grant. [Staff: More information and opinions concerning the proposed Fire Hall will follow in this issue.]

A few items of interest came up for action from a Ferry Committee meeting (March 29, 1995):

- Council will sponsor only full-time employees to go to the Marine Emergency Duties course and thus part-time employees will have to pay their own way if they wish to attend,
- Council will inform the Ambulance Service that they will not get priority for space on the ferry and the ferry will not be held when it is bringing people home (this applies to commuter runs both morning and afternoon), and
- Helen Trotter is now a permanent member of the ferry crew having successfully completed her probationary period.

An application for a \$80,000 supplementary road subsidy was approved. This would cover the estimated cost of paving 1.4 km of the Front Road west of Stella.

Councillor Woods wanted to make sure that the soft spots going up the hill from Eves to Gavlas' is taken care of whether this means better ditching or a better base for the road. He would like the County Engineer to get involved.

A discussion centering around the definition of a 'barn' was set off when Ida Gavlas asked Council to settle a disagreement between her and the Building Inspector. In the end, Council decided to declare Gavlas's now levelled building a barn and, to return the \$25 demolition permit fee.

In response to a news release from the County which stated that there would be no increase in County property taxes in 1995, the Clerk pointed out that Amherst Island's share was an increase of 3.4% over 1994.

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-****

Stag Party for Rick Wellbanks

Saturday, May 6th 8:00 p.m.

A.I. Community Centre

Cash Bar

FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETING

April 12, 1995

- Ian Murray

The fire fighters met with Chief Silver and Deputy Chief Kennedy to discuss several issues of concern to the well-being of the department.

Strong support was expressed for the dedication and leadership of Chief Silver. In order to allow Chief Silver to concentrate more on leadership, various fire fighters have taken on responsibility for training, equipment maintenance and financial matters.

Chief Silver and Ian Murray, representing the fire fighters, were requested to meet with Reeve Ashley to improve communications with Council.

It was felt that we have a strong core group of committed people upon which to build an effective and efficient department.

EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONSE TEAM

The Emergency First Response Team (EFRT) would like to thank the Bath Lions Club for the Pancake Brunch done on our behalf. Proceeds from the Brunch totalled \$452.00 and more than 100 people attended.

Thanks also to the individuals who have made private donations: Helen McCormick; Larry and Lyn Fleming; Caroline Yull.

Cost of Defibrillator: \$7,400.

Money raised to date: \$1,185.

(Donations to the EFRT Defibrillator campaign will be gratefully accepted at Glenn's Store, or at the Township Office. All donations are receipted and are tax deductible).

Coming up: T-shirts and leather strap caps on sale at Glenn's Store May 1.

Check out our blood pressure clinics the last Sunday of every month from 2-4 pm at the school. Cost to be \$1.00. EFRT members will take your blood pressure and maintain a confidential file for your information.

New phone directory. EFRT Fundraisers are updating the Island phone list and changing the format to a booklet. We are currently selling Business advertising

space to offset printing costs. Deadline to the printer is set for May 1. New books should be available by May 15. Thanks to Don Tubb for the project.

Watch for the EFRT Newsletter next week with information on these and other EFRT Projects. Our thanks to the community for your support of our fundraising effort to date.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

Following a brief pep talk by one of your esteemed editorial staff earlier this month, I consider myself properly reproached for letting my poor column suffer from lack of attention. This has been a slow, downward process over the past five or six years, where we have gone from a true Island information column to a record of births, deaths and weddings.

The following column, then, will be an indication of the way I will proceed in the future. If you don't like it, please say so. If you have any suggestions, please submit them, and if anyone out there is interested in calling "The Neighbourhood" your own, please, please speak up. I have written this column for about the last 10 years, and a new columnist is long overdue for this space.

Anne-Marie Hitchins is currently in hospital where she will undergo gall bladder surgery Thursday. Anyone wanting to reach Anne-Marie with Easter greetings can contact her at KGH - Connell 974. Best wishes Anne.

Susan Caughey has been laid up in bed with multiple cow injuries - she was kicked in both legs. While no bones were broken, Susie has been ordered to stay off her feet. She was unfortunately unable to attend the shipping away of the cow yesterday. Speedy recovery Susie.

Dorothy Kilpatrick has undergone heart surgery in an Ottawa hospital. At the time the column is written Dorothy has been transferred out of ICU to her room and is in stable condition.

Those who remember former Island residents Bert and Mary Nesbitt (parents of my brother John's wife), will be sorry to hear that Bert has inoperable cancer. John, Maureen and their three children just came back from a two week vacation where they spent a week in Banff with Bert and May. Maureen says he is very weak, and that the best the doctors can do is manage his pain. I have their address at the store if any of their friends wish to contact them.

We have several new Island families that I don't think have been introduced in this column yet. Frederic Mahood and Christine Quinn have moved into Doris Henderson's house on the Front Road. They have a preschool daughter, Fiona.

Richard and Donna Thompson purchased Brian and Wendy Burke's house (village side of Mark Ritchie's

sheep farm). They have been living here most of the winter.

And while they aren't new residents, Rick Welbanks and Laura Wemp (next month to be Laura Welbanks) are new additions to the Head of the Island - they recently moved into Millicent Harrison's house (which was Peachy Eve's house).

Vernon MacCrae and Charlotte Reid (past Kay and Dorothy's) kind of moved in last fall, then spent the winter in Florida, and now are officially unpacking.

Welcome home to all the snowbirds, all back with the exception of two couples. Hope you enjoyed your winter - we're always glad to see you because we know it means warm weather is on its way.

Laura Anne and Richard Jason together with their parents Mr. & Mrs. David Wemp and Mr. & Mrs. Ted Welbanks invite you all to share in the joy of celebrating their wedding at our open Dance on Saturday, May 20th, 1995 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight.

Come and have fun.

LETTERS TO THE BEACON

The letter from A. Bruce Caughey last month prompted 3 replies. Since there is considerable over-lap in the 3 letters, staff (with each writer's permission) have edited as follows:

From Alex V. F. Scott, Councillor and former Deputy Fire Chief

Over the last couple of months a few concerned taxpayers have made some comments about the proposed fire hall for Amherst Island. After some thought I decided the best way I could inform the taxpayers about this project would be through a letter to the Beacon.

I would like to start by first explaining where this money comes from, provide some background information on the project and the steps Council has taken so far.

After the Liberals swept to power last year, they setup a program called the Canadian Infrastructure Program. They allocated each province in Canada a percentage of the six Billion Dollars the Liberals put toward this program. One condition of the program was that to receive your allocation of the funding, the province and the municipality had to put up an equal amount.

The Island's allocation was \$81,100; of this the Federal Government's share was \$27,033, the Provincial Government's share was \$27,033, and the Township had to come up with \$27,033. As for newspaper articles saying the Island had been awarded \$81,100, in fact the Island is receiving \$54,066 from the other two governments and the building won't be built before June....

In response to Mr. A. Bruce Caughey's letter in last month's Beacon, the Canadian Infrastructure Program was setup to get the economy growing again, and to provide jobs to the local economy. Whether or not this will/has worked is still open to debate.

During a meeting on April 6 with MTO and Harbours & Ports Canada, the infrastructure money was offered to MTO for one end-loading dock to be built on the Stella side during the construction work taking place this fall. I received a call from MTO on April 12, and was informed that at this time, they don't have the money to proceed with the end-loading docks. The current estimate is around \$300,000 for an end-loading dock on the Stella side.

Mr. Caughey also mentioned the fact that the fire department has purchased cast-off equipment from other fire departments. I wasn't quite sure what his point was here, either we should not buy any used equipment or we should only buy new equipment. I'll assume since a new pumper runs around \$150,000 that he would prefer that the fire department not buy any equipment. I don't believe that this option is acceptable.

Council has not made a final decision on the new fire hall. The decision won't be made until after a public meeting and the budget has been looked at. Council will not commit to this project unless we can afford it. We have taken the step though of hiring a consultant to help Council come up with some estimates as to the possibility of selling it, to help pay for the new building.

We hope that with the sale of the old property that the Township can recoup our costs for a new one.

From Chris Kennedy, Deputy Fire Chief

The present buildings are barely adequate. We can just squeeze all the trucks in, but there is nowhere to train, no water to clean up with, not even a toilet. Most important of all, the one shed is built on mud sills and is slowly sinking into the ground.

As long as we keep cutting bits off the bottom of the doors it will last a few more years, but soon it will have to be replaced or have major work done on it. But then the money from the Infrastructure programme will be all gone, and I cannot see governments handing out money like this again....

The Infrastructure programme covers two-thirds of the cost of a new building, and the Township has to come up with the other third. Council has got an appraisal of the old buildings and by selling them, most, if not all, of the Township's share should be covered. Any shortfall will be covered out of the regular fire department budget.

The end result should be that the tax-payers of Amherst Island will have a fire hall that will last for at least the next fifty years without any increase in property taxes to pay for it. Sounds like a bargain to me. If we turn it

down we will have to replace the old building a few years down the road and pay for it out of our property taxes.

From Ian Murray, Volunteer Fire Fighter and former Reeve:

Over the years Bruce, you and I have been on the opposite sides of several issues and I'm afraid that this is another time that we are going to have to disagree. I will say that, although we have often disagreed, I have always respected the fact that you are willing to take a position on matters of controversy. I have never doubted that you care deeply about this community.

... One of the very first things that I did when I became reeve was to complete the Emergency Plan for this municipality. In doing so, 2 emergency scenarios struck me as a real possibility here.

The first emergency that I imagined was a grass fire similar to the one that threatened Odessa several years ago. We often have very dry summers, we get a lot of strong winds, and there are a lot of overgrown fields and shrubbery here.

The second scenario also involved fire and wind: a fire starting at either end of Stella could sweep through the village if unchecked by fire fighters.

With these 2 scenarios in mind, I visited (then) Fire Chief Gavlas in his work shop. He told me bluntly that on a good day, with the level of fire fighter training and the equipment available, he was confident that the department could contain a small grass fire and that was about it. He told me that our department was comparable to other small rural municipalities who have not yet had a serious fire. After the serious fire, the municipalities usually improve their department to a standard that would allow them to enter a mutual fire protection agreement with other municipalities.

He explained to me that if we up-graded the department to mutual aid standards then the Bath and/or Ernestown Fire Departments would come to our assistance if they were needed. This is what was required to get us into the mutual aid club: a fire truck capable of carrying water and equipment, and able to pump 840 gallons of water per minute; 4 bunker suits (a provincial requirement); and, pagers for the fire fighters.

I took this information to Council and was able to get the funds. I think that the money that was spent to get this municipality into the mutual aid system has been well-spent and that the municipality has been well served in the acquisition of needed equipment.

Fire Chief Gavlas, I believe, made a good purchase with the yellow truck. I also believe that Fire Chief Silver made a good decision in obtaining a newly reconditioned pumper truck (the red one), with at least \$2000 worth of equipment included, for a total price of \$11,000. I don't

think that you could get a good used 3/4 ton pick up truck for that amount of money.

You, Bruce, may disparage these men for buying "cast-off" equipment, but I praised them then, and I praise them now, for carefully spending our tax money. By the way, the April 4 issue of The Heritage contained an article lauding the Ernestown Fire Department for purchasing a used vehicle. Ernestown is, as you know, a far larger and wealthier municipality than Amherst Island.

ISLAND GARDENS

- Sally Bowen

Crocuses and snowdrops and blue scylla are out, tulips and narcissus leaves are well up and many Island gardeners are eager to get earth under the fingernails once again. A hint to reduce "gardeners nails" - scratch a bar of soap before getting into the earth.

I've learned something new. Barbara Reid and Kaye and Dorothy McGinn plant potatoes early. Barb's went in March 28; the McGinn's planted Sebasgos in early April. Both gardens have high areas that are reasonably dry in the spring. That is the key factor for eating spuds in late June/July, more important than heat they say.

Because we've had an early and dry spring, quite a lot of folks have started their first spring outdoor planting. George and Ida Gavlas last year had a wonderful late crop of peas, accomplished simply by taking the lawn mower through the remains of the spring crop, then plowing it under. George is pretty sure the fall crop will have self seeded too. He allowed some lettuce and some spinach to go to seed in the fall, and is expecting them up soon.

Garnet MacDonald has a strain of very tasty lettuce that self seeds nicely. He says he always ends up with more than he can eat.

Some of the cold hardy seeds that can be planted anytime you find a slack space between visitors and jobs and showers are peas, lettuce, spinach, and also sweet peas.

Irene has been working on the earth texture of her flower beds for some time, as she says the village soil is hard clay. She bought one of the first composters provided by Council, and likes the results. She throws all non-meat kitchen scraps, some green grass and dry leaves into it, and lets it sit for a year. If the summer is very dry, she sprinkles it with water occasionally. She also uses two big tires to compost big stuff that might be slower to break down - cabbage leaves, apples etc, and layers it with earth and leaves. Once a year these are dumped out into a big hole and mixed with old manure. She is pleased with the result.

Irene has one perennial bed that is a constant reminder of islanders. "Whatever someone gives me, I stick it in."

My garden too: Hank's poppies, Jean Baker's white violets, Mrs Sylvester's sweet williams, Leslie's cone flower, Shirley's iris, Lynann's poppies - my friends are in my garden.

This column can be a way to offer any extra seed or roots to others. (I have extra annual poppy seed. That can be sprinkled now, anytime.)

You know that wonderful hill of orange Oriental Poppies facing the ferry dock on the mainland? Lyann Clapham decided she wanted lots of those, so she started seed indoors one spring, planted them out in peat pots (they don't flower the first year), then transplanted them, as they were too thick. Apparently the only time they are dormant enough to transplant is in early-mid August. They looked beautiful the second year.

Two requests: Diane Hieatt has asked people who enjoy the summer music festival to please plant some extra cutting flowers. Everyone enjoyed her bouquets last year but she needs more gardens to raid. I would also ask people to plant a little extra for the Food Bank in Kingston. I will have some free tomato plants for people who will donate a portion of their produce.

MARION E. MCGINN (1899-1995)

Marion E. McGinn of Amherst Island died at Extendicare Nursing Home March 1, 1995. She was 95. Marion McGinn was the daughter of Robert Smith and Annie Smith (nee Wemp).

The wife of the late Charles McGinn, she was married in 1917 at the age of 18. She was born in 1899 and lived on Amherst Island all her life till moving to Extendicare Nursing Home in 1990.

She had a family of 8 children: Leona, Donald, Mavis, Brice, Arthur, Annie, June, and Johnny. The grandmother of 138 grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Mother-in-law to Mary, Delbert, Susan, Emmet, Junior, and June. Sister to Mildred, Maurice, and Arnold. She was a Roman Catholic.

WELCOME to the New Anglican Minister for Bath & Amherst Island - Reverend & Mrs. Davis and their family.

Letter From the new Anglican Minister:

The Davis family look forward to joining your community. First things first - we should introduce ourselves. Christopher (Chris) comes from Hamilton, and Winsome comes from Jamaica. We met and married at Seminary in Vancouver, where Jonathan (13) and Lydia (11) were born. The ministry has taken us to Montreal, Quebec's Eastern Townships, James Bay, and Land O' Lakes (1 1/2 hours north of Kingston).

We have enjoyed every place we have lived, and look forward to making new friends on Amherst Island. An Island sounds intriguing! Our guess is that you have a strong sense of community. No doubt being surrounded by Lake Ontario makes for a unique lifestyle as well.

We will start tasting it for ourselves on Sunday, July 2, when we participate in our first service at St. Alban's.

We look forward to meeting some of you then.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THEIR 25TH

- A "devoted" friend

A very enjoyable party was held on April 1st to honour the occasion and celebrate the 25th Wedding Anniversary of Garry and Anne-Marie Hitchins. (Their anniversary was really April 4th.). What a wonderful crowd! They even ran out of chairs!

It began with a beautiful roast beef dinner for approximately 57 family and friends served by the A.C.W. Guests arrived from Stratford, London, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Sherbrooke, Quebec, to support the happy couple.

After dinner an overwhelming crowd of well wishers just kept coming and a good time was had by all. We wish them many more years of "wedded bliss" and in 25 years, if they decide to celebrate again, hopefully many of us will still be around to help.

Even in the '90's Amherst Island is still a very caring and supportive community, and this proves that Garry and Anne-Marie are very much a part of it.

God Bless you both.

THANK YOU NOTES

We wish to thank all the A.C.W. members and those who provided lunch on the day of Marion McGinn's burial. Also we would like to thank Mrs. Helen Caughey for the plate of home baked cookies, Dorothy McGinn for the delicious scallop potatoes, and Betty Wemp for the lovely bread buns.

Great thanks to our Community Centre.

Sincerely, The McGinn Family

The McGinn family would like to thank Geoff Matthews and Margaret Stevenson for the ascension music and words from "The Rose" in the sending off of Marion McGinn.

The McGinn Family

A special thank you to Ray and Zelma Koenders for all the generous help and kindness and also for all those who sent the sympathy cards.

Thanks also to Father Peterkin and Sister Hammond for Mass.

Thanks again

The McGinn Family

A LETTER OF APPRECIATION

- An "appreciative" A.C.W. Member

Congratulations goes out to all members and associate members of St. Albans A.C.W. for one of the most successful beef dinners ever. It was held on Saturday evening March 25th.

Approximately 285 people came out to enjoy good food, meet and greet old friends who they probably hadn't seen since the last "dinner". It was a joy to see so many "main-landers", as we refer to them, especially those who support us from our adjoining parish of Bath.

Some of these people who support our "Feasts" probably grew up on the Island, and it is an opportunity for them to return to renew old acquaintances.

Once again it is a joy to see so many people come together in the '90's, in supposedly a time of restraint, to enjoy an evening of good food, friends and fellowship. I think this proves that a combination of "Island hospitality and good old-fashioned country cookin," pays off.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Ryan McGinn, son of Eric and Janice. His essay has won first prize at the District Level - Napanee to Cornwall to Deep River - in the Royal Canadian Legion Poster and Essay contest.

The next level is for the whole province.

Good luck Ryan.

BEACON AWARDS

- Jacob Murray

The Greatest Band in History award goes to Moist for their stunning performance at the Juno awards.

Well this is how I, and half the population of Canada, saw it.

They were amazing!

After performing their hit single "Push" they got (at least in my opinion) the greatest amount of noise from the crowd. Actually, the Tragically Hip may have got a little more but they were away playing on "Saturday Night Live" so I'm not counting them.

Moist won the Best New Band Award but they lost the Best Single Award to Jann Arden. Moist also won three Canadian Rock awards, the night before the Junos, for Best Vocalist, Best Keyboard, and Best Video.

Best wishes to Moist, especially to AIPS graduate Jeff Pearce, on behalf of the senior class at Amherst Island Public School.

Caroline Yull nominates this as the Best Refrain From A Country & Western Song:

Hey blame it on your

Lyin' cheatin'

Cold dead beatin'

Two Timin'

Double dealin'

Mean mistreatin'

Lovin' heart.

Loyalist College Presents

Water Colours on Amherst Island

July 3 - 7

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fee: \$84 (Seniors \$33.25)

Phone Shirley Miller at 389-2588.

A LETTER HOME

-Don Tubb

In March I really thought that spring had sprung.

We had some beautifully warm days, I saw a robin on the 13th and heard a killdeer during the night on the 14th, two sure signs of spring.

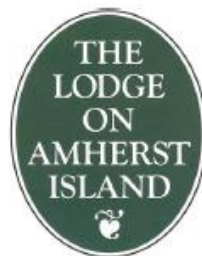
The next day the icebreaker went up to the cement plant. This year the ice never really moved out, it just sort of broke up and hung around until it faded away near the end of the month.

Then, wouldn't you know it, it turned cold again at the start of April, just when we had booked in the shearers. I could see the look of resentment on the ewes' faces as the wool came off. Still, they could all find shelter and seem none the worse for it. Busy time, and it is always a treat to watch good craftsmen like the shearers plying their trade, and the price of wool is even up a few cents.

Today it is raining, for the first time in a month it seems. Rain is the water that falls from the sky, in case anyone has forgotten what it looks like. This has been the driest spring I can remember, but perhaps the warm rain today will bring on the grass.

I see Keith and Don have the duals on their big tractor, and I am sure the seeder is greased and ready to go. The lake is still quite low and I bet some people's wells are too.

Rumour has it that the Big Ferry will be coming soon. Those in the know say to expect it as soon as it is seen steaming up the bay. Perhaps we should hail that as the first sign of summer.



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