

Amherst Island Beacon



Issue 447 *BONA LIBENTER, TRISTIA MAESTITER, MALA NUMQUAM* **Oct 2015**

ANNE-MARIE RICKERBY HITCHINS
(1951 – 2015)

Passed peacefully with her family by her side at home on Monday, September 21st in her 65th year.

Cherished wife of Garry. Loving mother of Tracy, Heidi and the late Reginald. Dearest gammy to Cole, Trent, Reece, Denver, Jade and Ryder. Predeceased by her brother Father Gregory Rickerby, her sister Donna Walsh and brother Stephen Rickerby.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Dr. C. MacDonald and Lucy, the care providers from C.C.A.C. Valerie, Wendy, Lynn and Lisa and also to our island friends and neighbours. As expressions of sympathy donations to either the Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario (U.H.K.F.) or St. Alban's Anglican Church, Stella would be appreciated.

THIS ISSUE

-Ian Murray, Editor

I hope many of our readers enjoy the archives in each issue. I find they bring back memories. They also indicate how much the Island has changed in 30 years and 20 years.

There has been a huge change in municipal governance. Each archival issue has quite a lot of Council related information. Since amalgamation, Council has little to do with Amherst Island other than listening to complaints about industrial wind turbines and, as in this issue, ferry problems. Almost all decisions involving Amherst Island are handled by bureaucrats who, in my opinion, do a competent job.

Another significant change is the amount of on-Island business interactions – check out the ads in the October 1995 issue and compare it with the ads for October 2015.

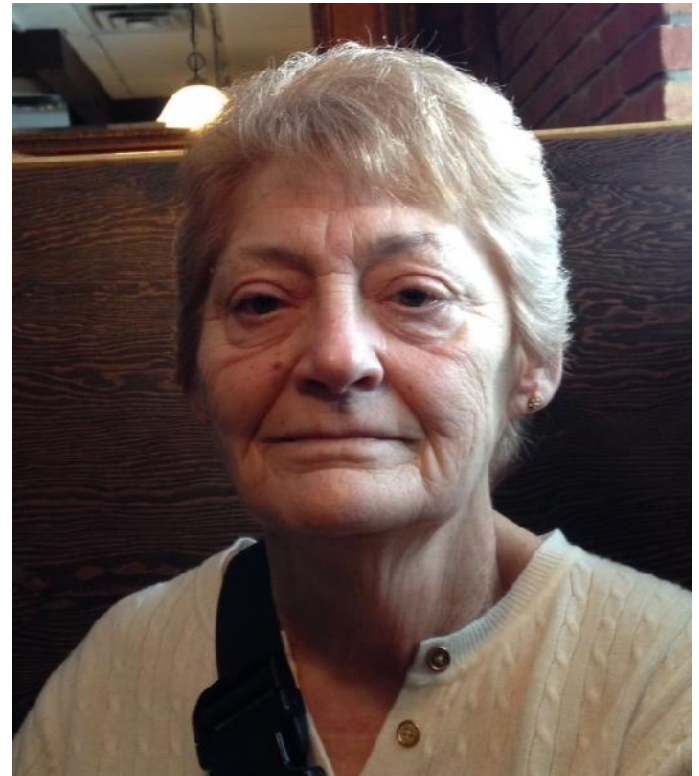


Photo courtesy of Hitchins family.

Table of Contents

ANNE-MARIE RICKERBY HITCHINS.....	1
THIS ISSUE	1
NEIGHBOURHOOD	1
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.....	4
THE LITTLE COMMUNITY OF LOVE	5
COUNCIL GLEANINGS.....	5
AIMS – 12 Sep 2015.....	6
UPDATE ON THE SAND BEACH.....	18
THANK YOU NOTES	20
ADVERTISEMENTS	21
FROM THE ARCHIVES.....	22

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lynn Fleming

Our sympathy this month to Garry Hitchins, following the passing of his wife, Anne-Marie. Our sympathy also to his daughters Tracey and Heidi and



their families.

Our sympathy this month to Garry Hitchins, following the passing of his wife, Anne-Marie. Our sympathy also to his daughters Tracey and Heidi and their families.

Our condolences also to Laura and Steve Street on the loss of Laura's mother.

September 12th was a busy weekend for weddings, as two Islanders were married.

Candace Youell, daughter of Laurie Youell and Dave Youell, became Mrs. Dibb when she married Mike Dibb in Napanee.

Janice and Eric McGinn's son Brent married Caitlin Callaghan here on the Island. The scheduled outdoor wedding had to be relocated indoors, when the weather wouldn't cooperate.

Congratulations to both couples!

Congratulations to Jim and Sandra Reid, who celebrated their 25th Anniversary with family and friends at the Community Centre.

Tom Fleming and Britney Daniels were home from Alberta to visit Tom's dad David, and sisters, extended family and friends last month.

Left: Mike and Candace Gibbs with flower girl cousin, Molly



Mike Callaghan, Ryan, Brent, Caitlin McGinn, Stacey Pascoe, Ashley McGinn, and Tracey Jacqueline

The Amherst Island BEACON Issue 447, Oct 2015

Published monthly, the Beacon is provided free through the work of dedicated volunteers.

Editorial

A.I. Beacon

14775 Front Rd. Stella, ON

K0H 2S0 (613)389-3444

E-Mail: aibeacon@topsyfarms.com

Editor: Ian Murray c/o aibeacon@topsyfarms.com

Production: David Pickering

Submission Deadline 25th of mth

Provided via: amherstisland.on.ca/Beacon and its webmaster Alex Scott

A bit of nepotism here. Congratulations to our grandson, Braden Fleming. Last year, he finished his first year of racing, 3rd in the BMX Provincials race. This year, he got off to a rocky start, breaking his arm just two weeks into the season. Following 2 ½ months off to mend and physiotherapy, he was back racing in early August. He returned to Milton for the BMX Provincials in September, this year finishing 1st in his class!

The annual barn dance was well attended once again this year, with the rain ensuring that there was no mingling outside.

The 13th annual Harvest Festival was held on a beautiful late September afternoon. Dan Simpson and friends provided the music, the brown bag auction was a popular event, as were the bale rolling, cross cut saw and nail driving competitions.



Rybka and Jessica Gavlas at Harvest Fest
Photo by Ida Gavlas



Young Firefighters at Harvest Fest
Photo by Charles Plank

The Irish-Canadian Dry Stone Wall Festival was celebrated over 3 days in September. It was well attended by Islanders and Mainlanders alike. Stone-wallers from around the world participated, building sampler walls on the Dayle Gowan farm. The grand finale was the sunset ceremony on the 3rd and final day of the festival.



The Claddagh legacy stone
Carved by Karin Sprague
To depict Irish-Canadian friendship
Photo by Vicki Keith

Another month has come and gone with no hint of the Frontenac II's return. Six months and no end in sight. The "good news" is that the contractor at fault is being fined \$1000 for each day late. However, I am sure they will make up that loss with "unforeseen circumstances" charges. And still MTO sits quietly with no official comments. Rumour tho' has it that MTO is looking for a tug boat to help our barge through the ice this winter and apparently are checking out the bubble system – which I understand hasn't worked in years. No word on how they will get Islanders back and forth during heavy fall winds tho'.

We have had a beautiful September weather-wise on the Island, although a little dry. 2 days of rain and drizzle did arrive the last few days of the month. The weather forecast for the first couple of weeks of October looks to be seasonal, with cooler temperatures and a bit of rain.



Keegan McGinn, the newest Islander
Daughter of Ryan and Angela
Photo by Judy Bierma

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Judy Greer

Thirteen members attended the Sept. 16 meeting at the home of Marilyn Pilon. The Financial Report by

Sherri Jensen was discussed and approved. Of the 250 tote bags ordered this year, 76 have been sold and they will be for sale at the Irish-Canadian Stone Wall Event. Funds were approved to repair and upgrade the WI-owned sound system used for on-Island events.

The Advocacy Coordinator, Anne Henderson, gave updates on past letters sent re: Lyme Disease treatment protocols being standardized in the province and from the government re: labelling on goods differentiating the label, "Product of Canada" (mostly Canadian), from "Made in Canada" (may have imported ingredients as well as Canadian ingredients).

There are meetings: Oct. 20 a WI Area meeting in Selby, and on Nov. 26 in Grimsby there is a Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario Annual Meeting. Our branch sends a representative to those meetings when possible.

Jackie Sylvester presented an update from the Sand Beach Advisory Committee which has held 1 meeting and 1 site visit. The property is included in the Ontario Heritage Land Trust. Work needs to be done to the property, hopefully this fall.

Joyce Haines presented an update on the Irish-Canadian Stone Wall Festival and Kirsten Bennick has been recruiting volunteers to assist in the event.

Thanks were extended to Marilyn Pilon and her volunteers for organizing an All Candidates Meeting at the Community Centre. The event was a success with approximately 80 people attending.

Planning has begun for the Annual Seniors Christmas Dinner to be held Dec. 6th and Debbie Barrett has taken the lead.

Members were thanked for their efforts in all the activities since the June meeting. It was a busy summer for everyone. We were reminded of the sad loss of longtime Life member and Past President Marion Glenn and the loss of past members, Past Presidents Vera Hogeboom and Jean Baker, the loss of our president's husband Ross Haines, and that long-time member Nancy Dunn has moved away. The meeting ended with a delicious snack provided by Anne Henderson and hostess Marilyn Pilon, and a fundraising Brown Bag Auction. Thanks to those members.

The next meeting will be held Oct. 21 at 7 PM at the home of Denise Wolfe. Guest speaker will be Judy Bierma on Cheesemaking on Amherst Island.

THE LITTLE COMMUNITY OF LOVE

Our Lord Jesus is mayor
Father Don His earthly rule
The men provide strength
The ladies are the Yule

Each and every Sunday
Christmas comes again
Love, togetherness, Jesus
A bloodless offering, no pain

Cathy and Hugh provide the flow
The congregation voices soar on high
Filled with love, rich in sound
Overflow the church then rise to the sky

There is no sect just Christians
All of the same accord
To bring love into our world
Like Jesus Christ our Lord

Jesus said and I paraphrase
"Gather together in My name;"
"And I will be with you"
Love's the name of the game

Gather together like children
No you, no them, no me
Then "Suffer the little children"
To come unto Me"

(Father Don with love to all, Betty and Ray 2015)

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From 18th Council Meeting, Sept. 14

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bresee and Seconded by Councillor Ashley that Council receive the presentation from Amy Caughey;

AND THAT staff be requested to bring back to Council suggestions related to the restrictions and volume of traffic adjacent to the Amherst Island Elementary School;

AND THAT a public meeting be held when information on roads is obtained

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Ashley and Seconded by Deputy Mayor Bresee that the Windelectric Road Use Agreement and the Traffic Management Plan be made public before adoption.

Motion carried

From 19th Council Meeting, September 28

From the Unsafe Commuters Using Vehicles on the . . . Ferry Report:

The crew determines that a driver is acting in an unsafe manner and not following the directions of the ferry staff during any time when using the ferry, the crew member must report the incident to the ferry captain immediately. The ferry crew is responsible to document the incident with all the details in the occurrence log book in every case. If the crew member is not able to resolve the matter, they will escalate the situation to the captain.

The captain then has the following procedures available to him to protect the crew, the public, and Township property.

Step #1

The captain provides a verbal warning to the ferry user and outlines the expectation when using the ferry service. The captain is required to document the incident and advise the ferry user that the warning will be documented in case another incident takes place in the future. The documented warning is then forwarded to the Public Works Manager.

Step #2

If the behaviour of the ferry user does not change after the verbal warning and another similar incident occurs, the captain must immediately report this incident to the Senior Captain and the Manager of Public Works, and document the incident. An investigation will take place. If the investigation determines that the ferry user's behaviour was unsafe, then the CAO and the Public Works Manager will determine what corrective action, if any, is required, depending on the severity of the matter. Corrective action may include a written warning and/or walk-on or passenger service only for a period of time.

At any time if the Ferry Crew thinks that the public is in imminent danger or that criminal activities may be taking place, they may call 911 and report the ferry user to the proper authorities.

This policy was adopted by Council.



Jeff, Hudson, Stephanie and Cooper Wartman
Courtesy Lynn Fleming

AIMS – 12 Sep 2015

Chair: Hugh Jenny

Secty: Anders Bennick

Attendance: 15 members

Breakfast: A continental breakfast was prepared by members. Thank you Bill Barrett for a tasty breakfast.

1. Minutes of the last meeting as printed in “The Beacon” were approved.

2. Stone Wall festival.

Anthony will coordinate local transportation.

Members were urged to sign up as volunteer drivers.

There will be a shuttle bus on the mainland from the festival parking lot at the former Invista site to the ferry.

There will also be a bus on the island running from the ferry to the festival site in Emerald.

Members were encouraged to sign up as volunteer greeters of festival participant at the mainland ferry dock.

Brian Grace reported that he would donate the stones from the foundation of an old barn at the Neilson house to the festival. There was a discussion of how to get the stones loose and

transported to the site where the festival wall will be build. Various members suggested willingness to help and offered advice.

3. Auction update.

The Labour Day auction was a great success, in no small measure due to the help from members of AIMS as well as non-members. A note of thanks has been send to all who contributed to the smooth running of this event.

The auction netted \$3900. The money will go towards Amerik’s Fund that support post-secondary studies by island students as well as to other community projects.

Later in the meeting Alan Caughey provided a background on Amerik’s fund; how Amerik came to the island from Latvia and settled here. He set up the fund to express his gratitude for all the help he received when he first came to the island.

It was agreed that the auction should be an annual event. A number of suggestions were made on how to improve the auction.

4. Transportation committee

In the absence of David Pickering, Don Pepper provided a report.

5. Welcoming committee

Anthony Gifford will prepare a welcoming packet to be given to new residents of the island. The packet will include information on the various island organizations and activities. He will present the packet at the next meeting.

6. Updates on the flu vaccination project and light bulb disposal were postponed to the next meeting.

7. AIMS T-shirts

It was agreed that Don Pepper will order 20 T-shirts of various sizes.

8. Ferry landing clean-up.

The membership thanked John Wright and his helpers for cleaning up the beach. There was a discussion of the possibility of extending the beach and whether this would interfere with the location of a temporary ferry dock.

9. Upcoming speakers.

Tentatively: Marcus Berman in October, Bruce Sudds in November and Alex Scott in December.

10. Selling corn at the Emerald Music Festival.

Anthony Gifford reported that the sale raised \$40. Thank you Anthony.

11. Donation

It was reported that Doug Lamb donated \$200 to AIMS in September. The membership expressed their gratitude to Doug.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45am.

HARVEST FEST

The 13th annual Harvest Festival was held at Reidview Farms on September 26. On behalf of the Organizing Committee we would like to thank all the people who attended for their support, the vendors for their produce, art work and other items, the local farms that provided equipment and livestock for display and Dan Simpson and his group "The Islanders" for their music.

The brown bag auction was a big success and new children's activities were added. Keith Miller was a big hit again this year with his apple press.

The County 4H group had a calf show and thank you to Mike Walhout for judging.



Mike Walhout and calf
Photo courtesy of Janet Scott



MUSIC by The Islanders at Harvest Fest
Photo by Charles Plank

The Amherst Island Recreation Committee also had a successful barbeque.

As usual all proceeds were divided between the County 4H to help with expenses to attend the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto and the Amherst Island

Public School.

Hope to see you all next year on September 24, 2016



**IRISH-CANADIAN DRY STONE FESTIVAL
BY DRY STONE CANADA & AMHERST
ISLAND – September 25th – 28th, 2015**

-Diane Pearce

It's hard to imagine that anyone on Amherst Island missed the transformation last weekend of the Gowan property north of Amherst Island Public School from a relatively empty field to a site for celebrating and practicing the ancient art of dry stone wall construction. If the advance promotion, the gradual accumulation of stone and the few advance workers (primarily, the designer, John Bland) preparing the site over the previous couple of weeks were not sufficient clues that something big was about to happen, the activity that began in and around the school on Friday and then the cadre of paying student wallers (32) and assisting wallers (4) and the 3 instructors – Patrick McAfee (the lead), Sunny Weiler and Ken Curran of the Dry Stone Walling Association of Ireland and Norman Haddow (the Queen's Own Dry Stone Waller for Balmoral Castle Estates in Scotland) who began work in earnest on Saturday morning, and the crowd of

observers that started lining up along the roadside shortly thereafter, certainly made it clear that a major Island event was brewing. And brew it did, until the sun set in splendour and the full moon and lunar eclipse graced the skies on Sunday night.



Previous page (top) The 'mothers' are in place for Feiden wall, with batter frames in background.

Photo by Brian Little

(lower right) Norman Haddow, Queen Elizabeth's 'dyker' (waller) at Balmoral Castle.

Photo by Brian Little

From Friday until Sunday, the Community Centre and school grounds were set up as a display area and a lunch and snack station for the wallers across the road. The kitchen was abuzz with volunteers setting up and serving huge pots of soup and chili, salads and desserts organized and prepared by Lorna Willis and Saskia Wagemans. In the village, visitors stopped in at the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre and some took part in guided walking tours of historic Stella. Anthony Gifford and Judy Bierma reopened Stella's Café "Under new, very old management". Music began on Friday at 5 p.m. at the Emerald Music Festival Site with performances by "Seventh Town", "Turpin's Trail", "The O'Shraves", then "Cyril and Blackie" finished off Friday and Saturday evenings in fine Irish style. The nights were clear but chilly, encouraging the audience to keep warm by dancing up a storm. The Little family provided a barbecue for the crowd.



Island Feasting with Saskia Wagemans



The Café reopens for a major event.

(Both photos by Brian Little)

The festivities resumed early on Saturday. While the stone wall building got underway in serious fashion on the north side of the road, in the school grounds, Rhode Island stone carvers, Tracey Mahaffey and Karin Sprague, demonstrated their skill while working on commemorative stones to be included in the stone walls. At the south end of the school grounds, renowned waller John Shaw-Rimmington, showed kids of all ages how to build walls – and arches – with potatoes*. The serious fun began when Rick Mercer, of CBC TV's "The Mercer Report" arrived to learn the fine art of potato wall building. John and Rick traded quips before Rick interviewed Finn Varette and Nathan Murray and entertained all on-lookers before heading to the north side of the road to learn how to build walls with a more lasting material. Mr. Mercer and his crew made their trip to the Island a full-day event, arriving at 9 a.m. and leaving on the 5 p.m. ferry. We're all looking forward to seeing which 7 minutes of filming will be shown on a future Mercer Report.



Rick Mercer with John Shaw-Rimmington by CJAI

The always successful Harvest Festival at Reidview Farm was a stop-off point for many Stone Wall Festival attendees who headed up to the Emerald Music Festival Site in the afternoon to see performances by the Kelly School of Irish Dance and to hear afternoon performances by Mark McGreevy, “Seventh Town” and our own Steve Kennedy’s “Turpin’s Trail”. Meanwhile, back at the Irish Walling Construction Site, the careful and artful laying of stones continued under beautiful sunny skies, in front of a crowd of admiring on-lookers and, I suspect, up against the deadline for the day – the arrival of the dignitaries.



Sophie Kiwala MLA for Kingston and the Islands
Photo by Brian Little

The grand event of Day 2 took place at 5 p.m. with the Irish piping-in of the distinguished guests: the Irish Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Dr. Ray Bassett and his wife, Patricia Bassett; the Honourable Michael Coteau, Minister of Tourism, Sport and Culture for Ontario; Deputy Mayor of Loyalist Township, Ric Bresee, celebrated author,

Jane Urquhart; and Amherst Island Women’s Institute President, Joyce Haines.



Rick Brisee, Deputy Mayor of Loyalist Township
Joyce Haines, Pres. of AIWI
Honourable Michael Coteau,
Minister for Tourism, Culture & Sport for Ontario
Photo by Vicki Keith

Arionna Wronski and Bronwyn Godden represented the youth of the community. The Ambassador spoke fondly of the enduring ties between Ireland and Amherst Island represented by the Island’s original stone walls and he, Arionna and Bronwyn laid a time capsule in the new wall being built. Minister Coteau acknowledged the beauty and heritage of Amherst Island and his Ministry’s significant financial support of the Festival as a generator of tourism development on the Island. As a monarch butterfly flitted by, Jane Urquhart spoke about the uniqueness of Amherst Island and read a passage from her novel “The Stone Carvers”, before laying a stone that reads “Remember them”, a quote from her latest book. Deputy Mayor Bresee brought greetings from the Township and congratulated Andrea Cross for organizing such a successful event. Joyce Haines spoke about the role of the Women’s Institute in Canada and abroad, then laid a stone carved “Ards” and announced the twinning of the Amherst Island Women’s Institute with a Women’s Institute in the Ards Peninsula in Ireland, the birthplace of many of this Island’s early settlers.



**Doug Bell, MC, Dry Stone Canada, Jane Urquhart, author of 'Stone Carvers'
Danny Barber of Smith & Barber who carved the 'Remember Them' stones (Photos by Brian Little)**



Joyce Haines, laying the ARDS WI stone with Patrick McAfee, Norman Haddow and Sunny Weiler



**John Crowe, early Island wall builder, honoured.
Ards stone carved and sent by Ards W.I. via Ken Curran
Photo by Brian Little**

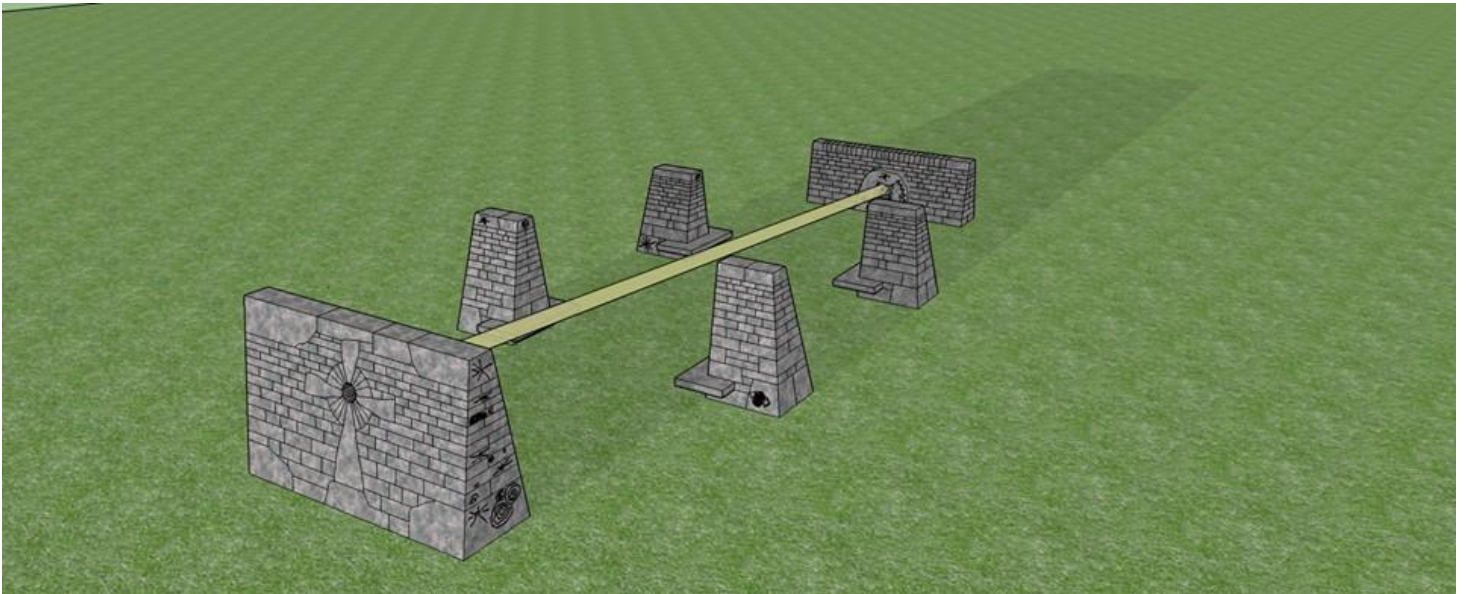
After the sun set and the visiting dignitaries and the wallers were, once again, treated to a magnificent meal prepared and served at the Lodge by Lorna Willis, Saskia Wagemens and their team of volunteer servers and clean-up crew, music and dancing continued at the Emerald Music Festival Site.

Day 3 – The wall building and other activities continued all day Sunday under the beautiful autumn sun. The student wallers, with their expert instructors, worked diligently to finish the Feiden (traditional Irish sampler wall.) The real challenge was for the professional wallers from Ireland, Scotland, the USA and Canada to finish the “solar feature” in time for a few final speeches from Dry Stone Canada President, Andre Lemieux, Dry Stone Walling Association of Ireland President Sunny Weiler, and greeting from Sophie Kiwala, MLA for Kingston and the Islands. There was also a huge

thank you to Andrea Cross – all before the sunset. The large crowd, gathered for the speeches and the sunset event, watched as the sky darkened and the clouds moved in. At the last moment, to the sound of "Here Comes the Sun", the clouds parted and the sun shone through, hitting the Claddagh Stone with precision.

John Bland designed and planned the solar alignment, following the Ancient Mystical Mayan and Celtic Lunar Solar Stone Calendars of Early Civilization. These words are his:

“The Amherst Island solar feature has without a doubt been the greatest challenge of my career from both a design and layout perspective. The challenge of the design was to align the sun with an aperture (celtic cross) and a target (Claddagh stone) at a pre-determined time and space without any prior observation.



(top) Design – Dry Stone Canada
(middle) These are called 'batter frames' - Dry Stone Canada
(bottom) Finished – Dry Stone Canada

I spent many months working on the design and a lot of time pacing around my house trying to think of what I could be missing. There are a lot of site requirements and a lot of moving parts in attempting a project like this. The site had to be perfect in terms of having a line of sight to the setting sun...and it was: the lower the angle the better, in order to cast longer shadows. The sun also seems to have less intensity which can provide a light effect that is softer and more colorful to look at during events. At the same time the sunlight had to be strong enough to be able to cast a beam of light that was highly visible on the Claddagh stone. We didn't necessarily need level terrain but it was nice and level which made things a lot easier. Layout was a challenge...many string lines, many batter frames, all of it had to be very precise. The team of guys that worked on the project in my mind are all superstars, the kind of guys that show up on day one not knowing what to expect and after a minute of walking around the work site just get it and know what to do. It was a great collaboration from all the dry stone wallers as well as people of Amherst Island to make it a success!

Irish waller, Dom Keogh, who paid his way over from Ireland to volunteer for 3 days of hard work and great companionship, left this parting message:

“And so it ends. Even though it lashed out of the heavens today, and the copes were tough to find, it was still very hard to leave the site and the island today! What an amazing weekend. I knew no one going out there, and I've come back with a load of new friends and had a hand in creating a magnificent structure for Amherst Island. Yesterday was just one of those brilliant days. We got the cross and wall finished with pure single minded determination, then just before the sun was ready to align with the chamber in the cross for 6.30pm, as John Bland had expertly set out, there was cloud cover!!! We were all feeling that it might not happen, then Robert Watt sang "here comes the sun", and the clouds parted and the beam of sunlight poured through the chamber to illuminate this carving, and John's very very proud head! Everyone felt how special the moment was, especially those of us who had a hand

in building it. Then to top it off, we all returned to the site that night to watch the lunar eclipse, sitting on the benches and among the walls we had all worked on. I can't thank Andre Lemieux enough for everything he did for me, I couldn't put my hand out for a second before a hammer, a plate of food, or a beer was put into it!! And the rest of the lads - Kenny Davies, Menno Braam, Torben Larsen, Jacob Murray - to mention a tiny few for making me feel so welcome and giving me a pain in me sides laughing. I know I'll end up saying "limestone is like a mushroom" to someone at home and they'll think I've lost the plot! And a special thanks to Sunny Wieler and Ken Curran for the craic, and doing us proud as ambassadors for the Dry stone wallers of Ireland. I thought music festivals were hardcore, not a bloody patch on a Stone fest!!! Same amount of drinking, but then ur up at 7am building all day!! :) I'm fried, inside and out! :))”

In addition to the professional instructors already mentioned, other professional wallers who donated their time for this event included: John Scott (Professor of Dry Stone & Masonry at Algonquin College Perth Campus), Doug Bell (The Master of Ceremonies), Jared Flynn and Mike Murphy (Stone Trust Vermont), Dan Pearl, Scott George and Brian Mulcahy (NY State), Jane Wooley (Executive Director of the Stone Conservancy Kentucky), Hillary Dees (New Hampshire), Chris Barkley (Victoria BC), Dale Thomas (Stratford On), Scott Young (Montreal area), Kenny Davies (London), and Karl Kaufmann from Connecticut, Danny Barber (of Smith & Barber stone carvers who are working on the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa), Bobby Watt and his wife from Quebec (he sang a couple of songs including "Here Comes the Sun" and John Bland (designer of the Celtic structures) from Montreal, Andre Lemieux, President of Dry Stone Canada, Eric Landman and his two sons from Grand Valley Ontario region, Bill Jeffers from Toronto, Menno Braam, and Margot Miller, and so many more!!

The attendance over the 3 day festival is estimated to be about 1,200 - including all the folks above.

Former Amherst Island resident, John Munro,

helped organize and run the music events at the Emerald Music Festival site, hosted by Dan and Joan Simpson, and run by MC Gord Miller. John provided these comments:

“One week ago today was the start of an awesome weekend event that took place on Amherst Island, the Canadian/ Irish International Dry Stonewall Festival. I can't remember seeing Islanders as excited as they were on this weekend. I would describe the excitement in the air as palpable. Debbie Barrett described the new sampler walls and the sun shining through the specially designed hole in one wall creating a beautiful image on a distance wall as “magical”. All the wallers, both professional and new students, did an outstanding job! All the bands and the Irish dancers were terrific. I took the opportunity to get to know members of many of the bands, not just as musicians, but as everyday people who love music. A big thank you to all the Islanders who took wallers, performers and other special guests into their homes and extended such great hospitality to everyone. I heard many positive comments from wallers and performers about the wonderful hospitality from the community. Many wallers commented that this was the best Dry Stone Festival they had attended. Most of that had to do with the great folks in an awesome community who provided a great big Amherst Island welcome!!!”



It's not possible to thank everyone who made the Amherst Island Irish-Canadian Dry Stone Festival such a huge success – so many volunteers helped in so many ways – but we must thank Andrea Cross for her vision, her indomitable spirit and optimism and her incredible ability to ‘get the job done’. Congratulations, Andrea!

And thanks to Dayle and Eloise Gowan who made their land in the village available for this amazing event.

(Disclaimer: The Beacon staff asked me to write this article but I'm sure I missed important items and people who made event happen. I hope those who experienced it firsthand as wallers, cooks, music fans, dancers, traffic directors, Island “Uber” drivers, servers, etc., etc., will send their own stories to the Beacon. The photos by Brian Little and others tell the real story. DP)

Patrick McAfee wrote this to Islanders, describing the details of the student or 'Feiden' wall.

“First of all thank you for the hospitality shown, it was a pleasure to be invited and part of the festival that was so well received by all.

I promised I'd send you an explanation of the wall type built close to and parallel with the road so here goes:

Your stone type is similar to the Karst limestone pavement found on the Aran Islands off the west coast of Ireland and in the Burren, County Clare so it seemed natural to build a wall type found there. To begin we set out and built a Feidin wall consisting of upright stones stood on end or on edge called 'mothers' with small stones laid as a double wall between called 'children'. Finally the wall was topped with stones laid on edge as a single wall and referred to as 'fathers'.

So in a wall you have a family, each with a job and them all together protecting the land and the animals from the wind. The tradition on the Aran Islands was to remove the higher points of the natural Karst limestone pavement to build walls. Sand and seaweed was then carried from the shore to make the land.

Andrea is seen left – trying to keep control of one of our honoured guests.

Photo by Vicki Keith



Photos courtesy of Dry Stone Canada



I noticed when digging foundations on Amherst that what looked like a similar limestone pavement was reached at about 18 inches or 450mm.

The first lift or base of the feidin wall attempts to prevent the migration of rabbits from field to field. The second or last lift being perforated with holes slows down the speed of the wind rather than attempting to stop it which is more effective than a solid wall.

We built a small length of a vertically wedged wall to demonstrate another wall type. This style is used in single walls, to face ditches and as walls alongside estuaries and as sea defence walls. The one we built is as a retaining wall. This wall type is wedged tight one stone against the next and so is effective as a retaining wall and also to resist scour from flowing water at its base where that occurs. There are few slip planes as would occur in walls with stones laid on flat and also the predominance of

vertical rather than horizontal joints means it sheds water quickly.

A 'gap' built of small rounded stones was included in the wall to represent a gate type still used in places. The gap is built, demolished and re- built as needed to allow animals in and out of fields. This was the job of a young boy.

Lastly a stile was incorporated near the gap, projecting stones to allow a person access to a field without having to demolish a gap."

*[Sally Bowen: The 2 tons of potatoes, still in great shape, were donated by Dry Stone Canada to Loving Spoonful in Kingston. Recycled grain bags were filled by volunteers and then hauled by Mary White to supply 26 Kingston groups – hot meal programs, shelters and pantries. Many thanks.]



Kenneth Curran and John Bland starting to build within batter frames

Photo by Sunny Weiler



Celebrating – above

Andre Lemieux, John Bland, Sunny Weiler, Kenneth Curran and Dom Keogh and Doug Bell

And below

Tracy Mahaffey, Patrick MacAfee, Jesse Landman, Robert Watt, Andre Lemieux and John Scott

You guys did MAGNIFICENT work. A heartfelt thank you from Amherst Island

Photos by Vicki Keith



UPDATE ON THE SAND BEACH

September 2015

-Diane Pearce, Chair – Sand Beach Advisory Committee

I've heard two questions very often this past summer: What's happening with Sand Beach? and When is Sand Beach going to be open?

This update is intended to answer the first question and provide a hint for the second.

The Stewardship Action Plan Summary was reviewed and the Committee determined that the first priority was to complete the protocols required to allow the property to be opened for controlled public access as soon as possible. The two highest

priority work items are the safe removal of existing structures and the installation of comprehensive signage. The Committee also decided that a site meeting was needed before a course of action could be determined to achieve the first two priorities.

Budget – Council approved a \$15,000 Capital Budget Allocation for Sand Beach improvements in 2014. A balance of \$6,500 remains after the expenditures of \$4,000 for the survey and \$4,500 for the DSS. With the 2015 budget allocation of \$25,000, \$31,500 is available. It is expected that removal of existing structures in accordance with Ministry of Labour regulations will be costly.

The agreement with the Ontario Heritage Trust requires that monitoring takes place to ensure that the ecological integrity of the property is maintained. Formal monitoring is to be done at five year intervals at an estimated cost of \$2500 each time. Informal monitoring will be done more frequently by trained volunteers. The Committee will talk to members of the public about becoming volunteers for informal monitoring. Kurt Hennige

offered to discuss the volunteer program with the Kingston Field Naturalists.

A site visit was arranged and took place on August 19th. Barbara Heidereich, Natural Heritage Coordinator from the Ontario Heritage Trust, attended the site meeting and offered many positive comments and suggestions.

Other action items from the meeting were:

A recommendation that staff prepare bid documents for the demolition of the cottage by licensed contractors and seek timelines from the Engineering Department (for this work to be completed).

A recommendation that the Director of Recreation Services request appropriate signage examples from the Ontario Heritage Trust before the site visit takes place.

The next Committee meeting will be on September 30th at the Municipal Building in Odessa.



Jake Murray, Island Liaison, Ken Curran, Jordan Landman, Marc Emerson. Photo by Brian Little.



John Shaw-Remmington, John Bland (designer of Ocular Wall) and Karl Kauffman Photo by Brian Little

THANK YOU NOTES

I would like to thank all my customers, the members of AIMS and the WI, and everyone who came out to the Saturday market this season and helped make it a great one.

I will continue to update my blog and website at “maplemarsh.ca” through the fall and winter.

Thank you, Terry McGinn

We all have our reasons for living on Amherst Island. Most of us fell in love with its picturesque beauty and the abundance of wildlife. We quickly learn it is the loving caring residents who make it what it is. I would like to thank all our friends and neighbors for the visits and get well cards while in hospital and, here at home. A special thanks to all who helped Laura rearrange the house and loan of equipment so I could get home sooner. Very special thanks to the mystery persons who cut the lawns and other jobs YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

Laura and I can not express our gratitude enough. Thanks. Laura and Stephen Street.

MUSEUM AGM

The Board of Directors for the *Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre* invites you to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held on: Tuesday, October 20th at 7 pm in the Back Room of the Neilson Store Museum. Light refreshments follow.



Museum display - Andrew James (from Twitter)

ADVERTISEMENTS

Metal rack for half ton truck in good condition - just needs new paint. Unused for years. Send email for pictures. Best offers considered. Hugh Jenney 613 384 7830

Island Gold 100% Pure Raw Ontario Honey. Please call Perry at 613 371 8118 or email Islandgold@rogers.com.

NEILSON STORE MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTRE

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

A list called "Friends of the Museum" has been initiated for those who are willing to help the Neilson's Store Museum with occasional special events, setting up, baking, cooking, serving food, clean up etc. If you would be able to make yourself available, please contact Bonnie Livingstone at 613 389 8516 or by email: bonnie.livingstone@gmail.com.

WEASEL AND EASEL ARTS AND CRAFTS GALLERY

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

STELLA'S CAFE

Café staff would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the course of the season. It is closed now after the Labour Day weekend

WANTED:

***Loving Spoonfuls Pickup and Delivery: Mary White will be gathering all fresh food donations on her front porch (5750 Front Rd on the corner) on Sunday evenings, for delivery on Monday mornings. Pantries, food programs and shelters may be eating your gifts by noon. Sally 613 389-3444

Amherst Island Women's Institute Medical Equipment Loan Cupboard (walkers, canes, bath seats, commodes, raised toilet seats). Donations of

used equipment in good condition also welcome. Call Sharen English 613 384 6535.

Topsy Farms has a summer supply of fresh frozen lamb cuts.

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 now include: Salt & Pepper; Honey & Garlic; Sundried Tomato & Oregano; Hot Italian; Sweet Chili & Lime; Maple Breakfast; and Salt & Pepper Breakfast. Now selling packages of 4 sausages!! See more at thewholehogblog.blogspot.com; Facebook, "Godden's Whole Hog Sausage"; or, follow us on "Twitter @Godden Farms". Please call ahead for large orders, 705 653 5984. With Sincere Thanks, Lori Caughey & Family.

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

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

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

POPLAR DELL FARM BED & BREAKFAST
3190 FRONT ROAD, AMHERST ISLAND
Welcoming guests for over 30 years. Also, Cottage Rentals and Godden Sausage sales. Call Susie @ 613 389 2012

TOPSY FARMS WOOL SHED 613 389 3444 Wool and sheepskin products including yarn, blankets, crafts, and individual photos, books and booklets by Don Tubb. Open weekends and most weekday mornings.

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



**Legacy stone carved by Tracy Mahaffey
of Rhode Island**



**Two spectacular stone carvers
Karin Sprague and Tracy Mahaffey
Photos by Brian Little**

FROM THE ARCHIVES

From THE AMHERST ISLAND BEACON: October 15, 1985 - Volume 4 Issue 93

APOLOGIES

- Staff

Our sincere apologies to the Bulch family for omitting the names "Dave and Louise" from the family list on the Thank You Note in the September Beacon.

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Diane Gavlas

The October meeting will be on Oct 30 at the home of Genevieve Fleming. Mrs Anna Hitchins had a program on Citizenship. Roll call is "What makes a good citizen?" A meeting on "Foods in the Microwave" will be held in Napanee at 7:30 in the

Trinity United Church on Oct 23. The November meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Georgie Allison. Program will be an address by our District President Mrs Lyle Smith. Pot Luck Supper 6:30 November 20.

We'd like to thank all those people who were so generous when we canvassed for the cancer fund.



Rick Mercer and Judith Harrower by Brian Little

LIBRARY NEWS

- Diane Gavlas

Donna Willard, I'm sad to say, no longer has enough time after the 12th to stay on at the library. She is occupied with children at the school. I will miss her but welcome my new help when he or she had been selected.

SCHOOL NEWS

- Shannon Eves & Reg Hitchins

Jamie Miller and Hugh Filson were elected as the new head persons.

Ruth Scott was elected Primary representative, Jeff Forester Junior representative and Shannon Eves was elected Senior representative.

The students' council is planning on having several trips throughout the year.

On Sept. 30 some of the junior and senior students participated in a soccer tournament at Tamworth. We'd like to say we won all our games but the truth is we tied 1 and lost 2. On behalf of the students who attended Reg and I would like to thank Miss McRae for coming with us.

THE SINKING OF THE WOLFE ISLANDER

- Shannon Eves

*Sadness filled the captain's eyes,
As he watched his ship go down,
He watched the great, black bow
With its patches of rusty brown.
Now as the sun slowly sinks,
He thinks....
He thinks of his beloved ship,
That fate has taken away,
For he knows that nothing,
On this earth, is ever here to stay.*

THE WOLFE ISLANDER II

- Mike Strain

*One grey morning she sat there with boats
surrounding
People thinking of her pounding.
They lowered the ramp
Soon she was damp
People had to cry
They didn't want the boat to die
Some were sad
But others were mad
Some were mad as a wild boar
But I'm glad it's gone because it was an eyesore
Now divers go down and come back up
They say it is happy as a new born pup
I'm glad it's happy.*

COUNCIL REPORT

- Don Tubb

Chris Kennedy was not able to attend this month's Council meeting. For some unknown reason, I volunteered to take his place. Mercifully the meeting was relatively short and there were no contentious issues.

All members of Council were present along with the Road Superintendent and the Building Inspector. The minutes of the September 3rd meeting were

adopted and the agenda with its addendum were also adopted with no additions or alterations.

Councillor Murray declared a conflict of interest concerning a resolution to Graham Engineering for some fencing work on the A.R.D.A. property.

The Road Superintendent's report was then delivered. The road crew has been mainly working on the 3rd Concession culvert which is now operable but the guard rails have yet to be installed. As the Township is short on 2" rock fill, Council recommended to the next Council that another 1000 yards be crushed to be used to raise the approaches so as to eliminate any blind spots.

As there were no delegations or deputations, Council then proceeded to receive the month's correspondence.

There were two items of unfinished business. The first concerned the survey of Lot 66, Con III, which has not yet been done. The second item was a search for the Centennial Park lease which now appears not to have been registered. The Clerk will continue looking this month.

The Committee reports were the next item on the agenda. The ferry report led to a by-law being passed authorizing a referendum to get the voters opinion on who should operate the ferry. The question to be voted will be circulated to all of the registered voters. Also a letter will be sent to M.T.C.

agreeing to their request to negotiate the new ferry agreement with the next council.

With Councillor Murray not present, Council passed a resolution instructing Graham Engineering to proceed with the arrangements for fencing the drain on the A.R.D.A. property in accordance with a decision of the Ontario Drainage Tribunal.

A notice was received from Bell Canada concerning some damage to an aerial cable apparently caused by a dynamite blast.

Volunteers from the Council were solicited to walk the drain with the contractor and the inspector during the final inspection.

A motion was passed to approach the contractor involved in the Municipal Building renovations to correct a continuing noise problem with the library during Council meetings.

A Radio Committee was formed to sort out the installation details of the two-way radios which have been ordered.

Also a motion was passed to purchase a frequency converter for the mainland school bus so it can be patched into the frequency that will be used by the island radios.

The meeting was then adjourned.



**The O'Schraives
Playing live on CJA1
Photo by Eric Tremblay**

NEW PARKING AREA A.I. SCHOOL

- Chester Tugwell, Chairman, Rec. Committee

The additional parking space at the school is now useable. The Recreation Committee would like to see it used to its fullest and suggested that simple guidelines be published. For most efficient use, then, cars should be parked as closely as safety permits, front-end in to the existing farm fence on the East side.

Like procedures should be carried out on the West side facing the new chain link fence. The centre area of course should be kept clear. It is estimated that the new area will safely park 30 to 34 cars.

COMMENTS

- A. Bruce Caughey

(1) My highest commendation to our municipal road committee, our road superintendent, the contractor and engineering firm for the standard of work carried out in the installation of the new bridge over the Third Concession creek, which is now practically completed. I do hear some questions as to the height of same, but have patience, when money and material is available, the grade level will be reduced by completion of same on the East to Tom Miller's gate and West to the former road allowance. Installation of guard rails will no doubt also be completed.

I am particularly pleased that no unfortunate accident occurred, during this extensive construction, this was due to the excellent detour road which was provided and the extensive marking system that warned of the approach to construction work.

We realize that this has been a very expensive project, but fortunately has been covered by the very generous subsidization provided by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. We also remember that it was the recognition of the need for this bridge that was one of the reasons that MTC favoured the designation of the Third Concession Road for use of the Development Road Grant in 1979, a decision, which was reversed by Municipal Council and realized to the Front Road by that body.

(2) I wonder how many Amherst Island folk experienced a feeling of sadness as the Wolfe Islander II was scuttled and sent to the bottom of the St. Lawrence to provide entertainment for a scuba

diving club, on Saturday Sept. 21st last. Her final plunge, resembled in my mind, the description given us, in book form of the sinking of the "Titanic", April 14th, 1912, as she made her final plunge to the ocean floor, bow down and her stern raised high. As the stern of the Wolfe Islander disappeared in a matter of seconds, her name "Wolfe Islander of Kingston" stood out so clearly and ironically the last vestige of the noble old ferry to vanish from sight was the after flag staff with the Canadian flag fluttering from the same. To me this symbolized the original purpose of this ship, constructed in Collingwood as part of the Canadian War Effort in World War II, for use as a coastal freighter in the China Sea.

The demise of Wolfe Islander II brought many memories and sympathetic understanding on my part for the residents of Wolfe Island who had such a struggle to obtain this boat in 1946 for use as a ferry. We "Sister Islands" shared the same problem at the close of World War II, both of our ferries were antiquated and inadequate wooden boats which had served their purpose and it was the hope of we Islanders that somewhere in the "left-overs" of our war effort would be found hull, suitable for conversion to ferry uses. Every effort was made to research such possibilities but the political intricacies of our War Assets Disposal Corporation combined with an unfavourable feeling, on the part of the then Minister of Highways (Hon. George Doucette, M.L.A. from Lanark) toward subsidization for ferry service to our Islands created a momentous problem.

The Wolfe Islander I had been condemned for further use and Reeve John Keyes and his Council were struggling desperately to find an alternative service. As a very inadequate substitute, "someone" came up with two "troop landing craft" for improvised ferry service. I will never forget being at the Clarence St. dock in Kingston when one of these crafts came in, loaded with Island people, I could not but wonder, how long before a tragedy would happen, if use of these "punts" was continued. Information had come through of the existence of four partially completed coastal freighters at the Collingwood Shipyards and the possibilities of conversion of one of these into an automobile ferry. The Wolfe Island Council were keen on an arrangement of this kind but could not receive assurance of payment of subsidy by the Ministry on

such a proposal, with the Island tax-payers being obligated for the balance of cost.

I am not completely acquainted with the political manoeuvrings of that era, but I always understood that the Premier of the Province found it necessary to “go over his Minister’s head” and grant approval of payment of the required subsidy in order for the construction work to proceed. I am amused when I think of the acquaintanceship and friendship that I later enjoyed with the late Hon. George Doucette, through Mutual Insurance circles, before his sudden and untimely death. In conversation, George never failed to relate to me how “he” had given this boat to the Wolfe Island people. At any rate I remember vividly, of a summer day, watching anxiously with binoculars for the passage of the new Wolfe Islander down the bay, after her trip from Georgian Bay, under command of Capt. James Haylock, to be arriving at a predetermined hour in Kingston for commissioning. One could only gain a bird’s-eye view of the new ship but I remember a slight twinge of envy as one compared her broad deck space with our Amherst Islander of the time which carried 5 to 7 cars. In more recent years, when the late Wolfe Islander II became our “back-up” boat, how delighted we were to see her approach, as our Amherst Islander had sailed away for dry-docking for repair’s etc. so necessary in maintaining a boat. True, there were problems in maintaining a schedule, in the first of these experiences, due to the fact that her steering mechanism made her a rather “cantankerous old cuss” to handle at docks, but once our ferry crews became acquainted with these intricacies, maintaining a schedule presented little problem and we appreciated her additional carrying capacity, as well as the fact that she was so readily available. Can one ever forget those days and years that we endured without such a back-up service?

(3) During the past week, my friend, Hugh Kerr of Newburg, made his annual trip to the “Big Marsh” to pick cranberries. Hugh reports that the cranberry crop is practically nil and over the past three years there has been substantial deterioration in the crop due to the “taking-over” of the previous spacious cranberry bog by tag alders, wire grass and ferns.

This is probably due to the marsh never having been “burned off” in many years which seemed to account for a continuous propagation of the cranberry crop. Oh for our old friend, the late George N. Willard.

Hugh also reports that he never experienced less water in the marsh during his many years of picking cranberries there. This is somewhat astonishing to me, in view of the fact that water in the marsh has been damned back during the construction of The Miller Municipal Drain, since last summer.

(4) It was with sincere regret that we saw the Hereford Herd of Vince and Marg Aitken, “Tante Hereford Farms”, leaving the Island, for dispersal at an auction facility at Lindsay.

Since the organization of this farm operation some 20 years ago, the Aitkens have specialized in the breeding of top quality Herefords and their cow calf operation had been highly successful as well as providing Amherst Island with a real “show place” for the farming industry. While we understand their future plans are not completely definite and are more or less of an “experimental” nature, they do propose to sample life through the winter months in Florida, Arizona, and California.

The Aitkens’ efforts, since becoming Amherst Island residents, have not been confined wholly to the operation of their farm project. Vince served this Township as Reeve very capably for 5 years and in 1972 served the County of Lennox and Addington in the Warden’s chair. Marg was a very interested member of the Amherst Island Women’s Institute.

May I express, through your columns, my deepest appreciation for the wonderful kindnesses that have been shown me during the past weeks since I suffered the fracture of my left femur.

It is only since I suffered this unfortunate accident that I have a full appreciation of the many services available and for the good people who maintain them.

To the member’s of the crew of the Amherst Islander, who are so co-operative and efficient, to the Ambulance attendants who displayed such care and competency and to the many doctors, nurses and staff of K.G.H. who made my stay there as pleasant as possible but particularly to my many, many friends who called on me, sent cards of well wishes and brought me so many treats, both while in hospital and since my return home.

Experiences of this kind give one a completely different perspective of life and really make one truly appreciative of one’s neighbours and friends.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

Steve Spence and Lorna Wright (South Shore) are set to take the plunge next month. They will be married November 16 in Perth. Laurene Kilpatrick will be Lorna's matron of honor and Steve is having a friend stand up with him. The rest of the wedding party will be comprised of Lorna's three sisters and Steve's three brothers.

In other marriage related news, Tony and Penny deHaan managed to survive their first year effective the end of September. Many congratulations.

Best wishes to Gordon Glenn, recovering from illness in Kingston General Hospital. Also to Kathleen Wemp who spent several days in Napanee Hospital earlier this month. Mrs Wemp is now recovering at Lenadco, and may even make it to the Island for holidays at Thanksgiving.

More news in the Wemp family - Neilson Wemp of British Columbia and his daughter Brenda, of Ottawa, will be visiting with family here over Thanksgiving. And finally in the Wemp family, Ralph and Bea are off to the sunny south later this fall. They will be spending several weeks in Florida.

Due to a mix-up over last month's column, I neglected to write about George Mygind's prizewinning cabbage. Mr Mygind was given an honorable mention for his 10-pound red cabbage by the Kingston Horticultural Society in late August. Congratulations.

Parents are reminded that all girls aged 6 to 12 are invited to come out and join Girl Guides and Brownies. Janet Scott and myself meet with both groups at the school on Mondays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

A late Bon Voyage to Chris and Randi Kennedy and Shirley Miller, who are vacationing in Europe. Also traveling this month are Henry and Anna Hitchins, sightseeing the Canadian West.

And finally, in this instalment of my monthly feature - Max goes to the dog show.

For anyone who hasn't been following this story, Max and Cara are Doug Wilson's infamous Dobermans. This month, Max has been invited to participate in Kingston dog show. Max's father was apparently a champion show dog in his time, and has passed on not only his award-winning genes, but his favorite hand knitted sweater to Max. After eating Doug's glasses last month, it was debatable

whether Max would live to see October, but he has (so far) and we wish him success.

LEGION NEWS FOR OCTOBER

- Caroline Yull

On Sunday, Sept 8, Branch 539 hosted our Zone Rally, with an address by our Zone Commander, Don Wood. The women of the ACW provided a lovely supper which received many compliments, and for which we'd like to thank them.

Friday, Oct 25, is the date of the annual Hallowe'en Masquerade, so all you ghosties and goblins get ready! It will be from 7 - 11 pm, with the same disc jockey we had last year, A. Wills, who was a good entertainer. This year we'll have soft drinks for sale at a reasonable price, and of course, prizes as usual. So come on out and join the "hoot"! Admission: Adult, \$3.00; High School; \$1.50; Younger, Free.

We have received our consignment of Jubilee Tulips, and Tom Miller, Chester and Earle Tugwell have planted 100 around the cenotaph. Look for a lovely show of red tulips next spring.

P.S. Many thanks to Chester and Tina Tugwell for hosting our Oct 10 meeting. Our usual haunt, Lloyd Wolfreys' garage workshop, is temporarily out of commission with a sore floor. Hope all's well there soon!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A neighbour, knowing of my family's interest in Amherst Island, recently gave me a copy of the Amherst Island Beacon, so I thought if you are trying to trace some of the history of the Island, my in-laws could give you quite a lot of information.

My Mother-in-law is a direct descendant of the original owners of the Island and was born at the Anglican Rectory. Her family's ownership of the Island gradually dwindled through the years and ended with the sale of Farnham to Syl Apps.

Did you know that Amherst Island was once won in an Irish card game?

Sheila D. Murphy,

THANK YOU NOTES

We wish to thank our friends and relatives for the beautiful cards and gifts that we received on the

occasion of our fortieth wedding anniversary.

Henry and Anna Hitchins

I would like to thank the Amherst Island Women's Institute for presenting me with a life membership pin and corsage at our 85th anniversary tea and I am very pleased to have been a member for thirty nine years. I have enjoyed working with each and every one of you and also with the ones who have passed on. Although our membership is getting smaller we hope we will be able to keep on going for many years and it is really an honour for our organization to celebrate their 85th anniversary.

Thanks again, Thelma Howard

Would some group or individual be interested in organizing a meet-the-candidates night for those seeking election to the Township Council and to the School Board? I organized and paid for the past 2 meetings but, as I am seeking re-election to Council, I do not feel that it is appropriate for me to arrange this political meeting.

Ian Murray



Glenn Mack at Horse Pull at Melrose Fair - by Judy Bierma

From THE AMHERST ISLAND BEACON: October 15, 1995 - Volume 4 Issue 213

95th ANNIVERSARY TEA

The Amherst Island Women's Institute invites all our friends and neighbours to join us at the Amherst Island Community Centre for an Afternoon Tea, Saturday, October 21, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

We do hope to see you all there.

COUNCIL REPORT October 3, 1995

- Don Tubb

Chris was unavailable to report on Council this evening so it was between me and 'Lucky' the dog as to who would go. She declined saying that her shorthand still looked like doggerel. This left me as the chosen one and, if I might add, I could not have been chosen for a better night. Council was brief (done by 10 p.m. or so) and Councillors were to the point and non-combative with their comments.

There was a Closed Session of Council before the

Regular Meeting began at which it decided to accept an offer of purchase for the Old Firehall and property. There was also a Closed Session of Council after the Regular meeting to discuss 'temporary employees'. [Presumably the two Job Postings are the result of this meeting.]

Stuart Miller, Public Works Superintendent, gave his monthly report to Council. There were the usual items plus completing the bus shelter on the mainland dock for the school children. He also talked about the quarry at some length. Apparently he was to have a tender ready to be issued for this meeting but has discovered a problem at the quarry. Where the next crushing is to come from has much deeper soil over it than was previously found - like maybe 10-12' of overburden. It might be possible to work around this section but Stuart invited members of Council to come and have a look so they can discuss their options.

The bottom line is that crushing is not expected to take place until very late in the year. Council then proceeded into Committee of the Whole for the rest of the meeting. First up was the Smoking By-law for the ferry. The Clerk gave a verbal report of phone conversations with both representatives of the Coast Guard and MTO. From the information received, she had then prepared a draft by-law for Council's consideration which they passed. This by-law is printed later in the Beacon. It defines the areas where smoking will be permitted which are:

- on the Amherst Islander: - within vehicles, and - the outside deck around the passenger cabin.*
- on the Frontenac II: - within vehicles, - on the upper passenger deck, and - outside the captain's cabin.*

No smoking is permitted within any of the enclosed spaces of either ferry nor will it be permitted on the vehicle decks. The Reeve will discuss enforcement with the Captains. Several options were tossed around like keeping the ramp up and calling the OPP, using the Bylaw enforcement officer, or simply throwing people overboard but nothing was decided during the meeting.

From what was said, it appears that enforcement will be an ongoing problem where John Q. Public is concerned. Certainly there is recourse for employees to enforce the by-law within their enclosed work spaces.

In other ferry news, two compact life jackets will be

purchased for the crew to use when lowering the lifeboats. And, the Amherst Islander will be brought back a little early so the corner of the Amherst Island dock can be done before the boat has to start tying up on the west side. [By the way, progress seems steady on the west side re-building.] There was also some information about liability insurance which seems just that and not anything that needed Council's attention.

Council also received a letter from the Ministry of the Environment about our landfill site. It is a report of an inspection made in September, 1995 and ends by recommending the following: "It is acknowledged that the best solution to the Amherst Island waste problems would be to seek expansion to the existing waste disposal site, provided questions concerning leachate production are resolved and appropriate buffer land is obtained. The District should encourage this option and support the municipality's application for Ministry funding." This is good news.

The old firehall has been sold for the sum of \$25,000 with a closing date of December 8th. The new firehall has a projected completion date of October 15th with an official opening to be announced after that. Some bad weather has delayed the project a bit so the original date could not be met. An extra allocation to the original estimate is being made so gutters can be installed (\$600).

The Recreation Committee report was brief and accepted by Council. It has bought 66 used chairs from Kingston General Hospital. Plans are proceeding with Oktoberfest. Future events are being looked into - dance classes for children, line dancing classes, plus Euchres and Bingos. The Committee also donated \$50 to the EFRT fund.

The mapping of the Cemetery is proceeding. The trees are going to be looked at to see which need removing or trimming plus an assessment of the headstones will be done (repairs).

The report on our financial situation was next. The Clerk gave a brief overview of the budget, basically saying that it looked pretty much on target with only a couple of items running higher than projected. These (building inspection and bank charges) do not seem to involve major amounts of money.

While no official information was available, Councillors engaged in a bit of speculation regarding the Conservative government's

announced 20% cut in grants to municipalities (with a further 20% possible for the next year). These reductions would be applied, it was thought, to not only the general municipal grants but also to the ferry subsidy. With no official announcement or even any way to confirm this, Council was left with nothing to act upon and so quickly left this very scary subject.

A letter will be sent to our police liaison person about the on-going problems with speeding in the Village and the lack of respect for the Stop signs. By-the-by, the OPP sent Council a Police report which stated that 'no criminal occurrences were reported on the Island during September' and that there was a September 3rd property damage accident; a vehicle patrol for 2 1/2 hours on September 14; and a marine patrol on September 29.

Council then rose and reported before going into closed session.

*2nd Annual Oktoberfest Dinner And Dance
October 21st at The Community Centre
From 6:30 p.m. to 1:00 am.*

*Dinner: Sausage, Ham, Salads and More
Catering by Pineridge Barbeque Company
Door Prizes*

*Country Music provided by The Rock & Roll
Cowboys (Tim Hallman's Band)
So slip into those dancing shoes and come on out
Tickets: Dinner \$8.00/plate
Dinner & Dance \$25.00/couple
You can get tickets from:
Adam Miller 389-2588
Lynn Fleming 634-2509
Rick Bedford 389-8434*

*Lennox & Addington
Historical Society Lecture
Early Residents of Amherst Isle
Thomas Sylvester
October 25, 1995 7:30 p.m.
L&A County Museum
97 Thomas St., Napanee*

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

Congratulations to Llew and Caroline on the birth of their daughter, Fae Charlotte MacArthur. Fae

was born at K.G.H., September 21, weighing in at 8.9 lbs. Mom and baby are in excellent shape.

Welcome to new residents Paul and Nancy Henshaw who purchased Phyllis Strain's house. Nancy is the sister of Barry Gartner. The Henshaw's are permanent residents.

Best wishes to Paulette Apps, suffering from a broken ankle. Janet Bews is in hospital, and had to have surgery for a broken hip after she fell at home.

Error in last month's column - Peter Truman's new series on Canadian Parks will be shown on the Discovery Channel, not A&E.

In the "really neat news that you don't hear very often" department:

- Betty and David Wemp have won a trip for two to the Barbados in November. The prize was from a CFLY phone-in contest.

- Those who bought chocolate bars from Doug Gavlas will be pleased to hear that Doug was the top chocolate bar seller at NDSS and took first prize of \$250.00. Way to go Doug!

- Ryan McGinn has been selected for the Greater Kingston Minor PeeWee Hockey Team. Ryan is now playing AAA - the best class of hockey in his age group. His team is under the auspices of the Kingston Frontenacs. Good work Ryan!

Probably not news to everyone, but it is to me: Jennifer Pearce and Greg Bell are engaged and planning a June wedding. Congratulations.

And finally, our sympathy to Anna Hitchins and family on the death of Anna's sister, Helen Glenn.

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Freda Youell

Our September 20th meeting was held at the home of Jean McIntyre and we were pleased to welcome another new member. After the usual opening and business reports, our plans for the 95th Anniversary Tea to be held on October 21st at the Community Centre from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. were discussed. We then had the roll call which was "Memory of an early car ride" and we all had some nostalgic stories of our trips and experiences of car rides which were then a treat and not the norm as it is today. This was to have been followed by Mr. Bruce Caughey Sr. giving us a talk on the "History of Transportation on Amherst Island" but unfortunately he was unable to attend. We hope to

have this rescheduled for a later meeting. As Leslie Gavlas had the Tweedsmuir Book with her, she gave us a talk on its origin and contents. This book will be on display at the Anniversary Tea. Finally, before heading home we were served an enjoyable late lunch by our hostess. There will be no monthly meeting in October as we are having the celebration on the 21st and we hope to see all our friends and neighbours there. Come along and see what the Women's Institute is all about and enjoy the tea and good company at the same time. The November 15th meeting will be at the home of Leslie Gavlas at 8:00 p.m. with the scheduled speaker being the Agriculture Dairy Educator.

WHAT IS THE TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY?

This is a question I have been asked since, as Curator of the Amherst Island Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History Book, I have been approaching people for various information regarding the Island history. It was Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of our then Governor General, who suggested that the Institute Branches undertake to compile ongoing histories of their local communities. This idea was quickly adopted and our history compilations were named in the honour of Lady Tweedsmuir.

Not having been born and raised on the Island I find there are many areas about which I know little or nothing; hence I have asked for historical information not covered by our Tweedsmuir Book to date. (I have other queries to make and plan to approach many other people!) An item in the Whig Standard some months ago by Morrison Scott recounting an experience in crossing the ice back from Millhaven has suggested that this area of the Island History should not be neglected! I am asking you, the readers of the Beacon, to share your experiences on the "ice bridge", both good and bad. Maybe an experience of mine can prime the pump?

I believe it must have been in February of 1962, a year when ice conditions were very good. Myrtle Veech and I were to attend a 4-H Leader's Training session in Napanee, but the morning found us facing a heavy snowfall. Nothing daunted, I asked my husband to put chains on the car, and we started off following Art Drumgoole who was travelling with horse and sleigh to fetch the Island mail. The trip was uneventful though we did pass one or two abandoned cars. At the Millhaven side Art whipped

up the horse to get through the heavy snow-drift and I gunned the car to follow. I finished up with all four wheels off the ground!. After they stopped laughing three or four men shovelled me out of my predicament, and Myrtle and I were among the very few 4-H Leaders to reach the Training session. I do hope this will jog some memories, and that you will share them with us. The present generation of Islanders have no idea of conditions before the Bubble System!

Leslie Gavlas

c/o Amherst Island Beacon Stella, Ontario KOH 2S0

I.S.L.E. News

The representatives of ISLE, the teachers and students of Amherst Island Public School would like to thank the community for their support of the October Muffin Drive.

Thank you to Mrs. Faye Wemp for donating the ice to keep our drinks cold for the Barbecue preceding the Parent/Teacher night at the school.

Your 1995/96 I.S.L.E Representatives are as follows:

Ann Albertan (chairperson),

David Willard (treasurer),

Allan Glenn,

Cathy Glenn,

Karen J. Fleming, and

Keitha Smith.

Miss Sidorchuk will act as secretary. Our student representatives are: Sara Pollock and Kyle Murray with back-up representatives Bonnie Marshall and Andrew McDonald.

Thanks again

I.S.L.E. will again sponsor cheese sales as a fund raising effort. Students will assist by taking your orders or you can order through any I.S.L.E. member. Additional information will be mailed to you, along with the first order form.

The committee, the staff and students of A.I.P.S. would very much appreciate your support.

LETTERS TO THE BEACON

To the Editor

- George Gavlas

Did you admonish me, after Ms. KIA, for not sending you enough to print? But I did send you

stuff. I have sent humour. I have sent editorial comment, I have sent letters directly to you, and you have not printed any of it. I know you only print good news and recaps of last month's weather or like the P.Q., the upbeat side of controversial issues. But you must remember Amherst Island is a tiny place and only so much bliss abounds. I could have told you that I bought an Oldsmobile and it has air and a power seat and an 8 track player and Keith Miller said where did you get the big ugly car and I said from a big ugly car salesman and we put an air conditioner in the dining room window because the heat was bothering the dog but he died anyway and then the other one died and we miss them both terribly but who besides me gives a... [expletive deleted]?

It's not that nothing happens on Amherst Island.... Many topics could spawn a good deal of discussion: the ferry dock, fire hall, smoking on the boat, sale of Township sheds and associated real estate, but the Beacon is not a forum. Even internally generated comment masquerades as Ms. KIA disguised as anonymous submissions from fictitious retired teachers and subsequently disclaimed.

This being the case you will have to accept the fact that you must continue to fill your own pages.

Don't think you will print this either.

REPLY

- Ian Murray

First off George, I want to say that we are quite willing to print material that you send us: provided that it is factual, non-personal, not too mean-spirited, and fit to print in a newsletter read by all ages.

Our recollection is that the material that you have sent us so far has been in the nature of tirades which do you little credit. We would be embarrassed to print such articles. (The only exception to this has been a short bit of obscenity which was certainly funny but not suitable to share in a community newsletter.)

I believe that a review of past Beacons will show the fair-minded reader that we have often acted as a forum for opinion - most recently regarding the new fire hall. A certain amount of Council coverage is not particularly good news. And there are deaths and illnesses: hardly good news.

What we do not print, and have no intention of

printing, are articles dealing directly with unpleasant happenings in the personal lives of our neighbours. We do not mention marital problems, court cases, illegitimate births, brawls, nor any such matters. Such events certainly add spice to daily life. However, we believe that it would only cause harm and bad feelings when written up in a community newsletter. As you say, Amherst Island is a tiny place: there is only so much room for bad feelings.

The Beacon welcomes articles dealing with the ferry dock, the fire hall, smoking on the boat, sale of Township property, and so on, provided that the material is factual and not written with a mean spirit.

[I edited George's letter a bit and will discuss this with him over the phone.]

[Ian, October 2015: I apologized in the next Beacon for using "mean-spirited" and "tirades".]

ISLAND GARDENS

- Sally Bowen

We have had a wonderful, prolonged autumn, with fall flower gardens blazing colour, and vegetables and fruits still slowly ripening.

I picked a full shopping bag full of broccoli just after the Thanksgiving weekend, and there is lots more coming. (If yours has flowered, just pick everything off. The plants may again produce for you.) Some Islanders enjoy tomatoes so much, they take the special care it requires to ripen green tomatoes indoors. The most successful method I've heard is to choose green tomatoes with no blemishes or frost spots, wrap them individually in newspaper, store them at room temperature, and check frequently. When they are pink, put them on a windowsill to continue ripening. (I've got the green tomatoes to donate if anyone wants to try this.)

People are digging their carrots and potatoes now, spreading them out for a few days to dry the mud, then brushing them off and storing. Potatoes do best in bins in cold rooms - someone told me they put theirs in plastic milk cartons first, thus letting more air circulate. Carrots are most often diced, blanched and frozen. I grate the misshapen ones with the food processor, then freeze them in measured amounts for favorite recipes. Dorothy McGinn stores her carrots in dry sand in bins in the basement. This can be very successful for carrots and for beets too. (It doesn't work if the carrots already have the tiny black lines

indicating carrot worm - it just keeps chomping.)

I believe squashes taste better if they are harvested after a few quite cold nights - the gamble is hard frost spots will shorten shelf life considerably. It is best to cure them after picking by leaving them in quite a warm place for a couple of days, then storing cool.

It can be an active time for flower gardeners too. Any bulbs or corms etc that are not winter hardy should be brought indoors now. Any indoor plants you put out in the spring should come in before frost too. (For some reason it's easier to remember to put them out than bring them back in.) There is still time to plant lots of spring bulbs. White Rose and what used to be Kingston Co-op have lots of choices left, if you haven't ordered through catalogues.

It is easy and satisfying to "force" some of these bulbs. Buy the ones that indicate they are good for forcing, plant them in pots with a lot of peat in the mixture, water once, then store in a cool, dark place. Once the shoots are up a couple of inches, move them to the light, and enjoy late winter flowers.

Asiatic lilies are one of my favorite garden flowers. In rich deep soil the bulbs multiply energetically. If you have a neighbour with a thick bed, they might donate a few bulbs carefully removed from the edges. This is the best time now.

Please remember the Partners in Mission Food Bank if you have more fall food than you need. Duncan and Coralie Marshall will still deliver for you, from the 10 am ferry, Thursdays.

ISLAND HISTORY

-[a description of the talk Tom Sylvester gave in Napanee, "Early Residents of Amherst Isle"] -

The early community of Amherst Isle was very different from the other Cataraqui settlements. The Crown planted the Loyalists in organized townships on the mainland in 1784. Water was the only form of transportation and the Bay of Quinte linked all of these Cataraqui settlements.

The highly prized water-front frontier of Amherst Island must have tantalized potential settlers. Sylvester has researched the origins of the government policy reserving all islands. The Island never was a Loyalist settlement. It was not designed and regulated by government, nor did it respect regimental boundaries.

Consequently, no government sources exist for the settlement of Amherst Island. The Crown granted the entire Island to Sir John Johnson in 1788 and was not involved, nor interested, in any of the subsequent business. The absence of a recorded lot system, usually developed by Crown Survey, created considerable confusion in the County Land Registry Office. Further, three-quarters of the Island was occupied by tenants; their leases and names were never recorded in the Land Registry.

Anyone researching the early community of the Island or simply tracing family roots has had to rely on a composite or alternate, scarce, sources. Sylvester has compiled community lists using contemporary sources, including: resorted land Registry lot abstracts, available rental lists, church registers, and various government records where people happened to state their address as Amherst Island.

Sylvester's text is composed of sequential lists of Island residents, pre-1800 to 1865. Initially, the Bay of Quinte so linked Amherst Isle with Ernest Town that often the latter was the address used, the Island was merely the other side of the street. The Island had become insular by 1865, since the relative importance of marine transportation had reversed.

Sylvester presents some analysis of Island settlement, land policy and the management of the estate. Three examples are presented to disprove any preconception that the early residents were dull or unmemorable.

The first civil servant of the Island had a life track-record of deserting the army and two successive families.

Another family illustrates the rich sources still available. The axe-murder of Thomas Jackson, 1816, was just the beginning. His significant estate was left to his daughter. The young heiress married by age 13, died at a suspiciously early age. A previously unsuspected murder was investigated.

Thirdly, a brief-lived financial dynasty of mortgage lending in the Bay townships is reconstructed.

Sylvester is still having difficulty completing this book since the nature of the subject is infinite. He wants to complete it to continue on to three other history manuscripts.

Clearly his presentation will dwell on the process and joy of historical research.

4-H News

Our Name: the Tootie Frooties

Members: Leader Susie Caughey

Co-Presidents Kristy Grange and Heidi Hitchins

Secretary Stephanie Fleming

Treasurer Wendy Fleming

Social Convenor Jill Caughey

Phone Convenor Nathan Maleska

Reporter Scott Marshall

Every Thursday after school, we all meet at the

Caughey's and cook up the yummiest things

imaginable. So far, we have prepared:

Tomato Brushetta

Restuffed Potato Skins

Sangria Punch

Minestrone Soup

Baked Apples with Maple Sauce

Fresh Fruit Crisp

B.T.O. Pizza

Rutabaga Au Gratin

Apple Sauce and

Cranberry Streusel Coffee Cake!!!

The achievement night will be held at Selby School.

All of the 4-H clubs in the county will meet together. Two Clubs are asked to tackle a segment of the schedule (food, skits, etc). Our club is going to prepare a skit. We give great thanks to the A.I. Women's Institute for their sponsorship of our club.

THANK YOU NOTES

We wish to thank family friends, and neighbours for sharing our 50th Wedding Anniversary celebrations, and for all the best wishes, beautiful cards and gifts that we have received.

Many thanks to the A.C.W. for the delicious meal that they served. Also thank you to Steven Willard for acting as Master of Ceremonies and to Dorothy McGinn for the making and decorating of the cake. A thank you to the Brown Orchestra for providing us nice music for the evening.

Sincerely

Henry and Anna Hitchins

Now that I have my cast off and can write, I would like to thank all my relatives, neighbours and friends and especially my taxi people. Also the A.C.W., P.C.W. and Loyal Friend for their gifts, food and candy.

I didn't think I would keep my sanity, but I did.

Thanks again to all.

Marion Glenn

Thank-you to all the people who bought chocolate bars from me to support Napanee District Secondary School.

Douglas Gavlas

FRANK FLEMING

- Ian Murray

At the end of this month, post-secondary students from Amherst Island will receive a small sum of money from the "Ameriks Scholarship Fund in Memory of Reeve Frank Fleming". The Beacon staff thought that it would be a good idea to do an article on Frank Fleming.

I contacted his son, Arthur Fleming, and he sent us a package containing Frank's photo, an article on his being elected Warden of the County, and an obituary.

Frank was in his last year as purser when I first came to the Island. I doubt that I ever said more than good-day to him when he took my ferry money. I have often wished that I had taken the time to get to know him. During the time that I represented the Township at the County, I often looked at his photo - the wall facing the Amherst Island chair was lined with photographs of all the previous County Wardens - and wondered what he would make of the current meeting's agenda.

Frank was Reeve from 1952 to 1963 and County Warden in 1956. He was the son of Samuel Fleming and Eleanore Jane Beaubien. He farmed where Annette and Bill Philips now live. When I came to the Island, he and his wife, Marion, were living on the property now owned by Hugh Filson. Frank Fleming was much respected on the Island and I have often heard what a fine man he was.

A LETTER HOME

We've had a glorious start to Fall. The leaves are changing colours and the nights are cooling down. One night the tail end of hurricane Opal hit. We had about 2 1/2" of rain and the Ferry crew had to stay on all night to make sure she stayed tied to the dock. Other than a tree or two down, we got off pretty easily. I slept through the whole thing and awoke to

a rather pleasant morning.

The deer have started appearing a few at a time. Nothing like the numbers a few years back. At that time I hardly went up or down the road without seeing ten to twelve deer quietly grazing the hay fields.

Repair work has started on the west side of the Stella dock. There's a crane, a backhoe, 2 trailers and lots of stuff piled here and there. A regular beehive of activity. Driving onto the dock can be interesting as you weave your way through the construction site.

We've just finished spraying all our trees as the vole numbers seem to be on the rise again. After all the destruction they caused 2 years ago I hope we can prevent any more damage. Those furry little critters ate trees, shrubs, bulbs and anything else they could get their little teeth into.

Shearing is now over and as I predicted, we all collapsed afterwards. I suppose the next job will be spreading manure. It's our chance to put some goodness back onto the land. Having 2 tractors and spreaders working helps to get the job done reasonably fast. The rams are now visiting the March lambing ewes, the details of which I'll leave out. Our spring lamb crop will tell whether the courtship was a success or not.

I'm sorry the Back Kitchen has closed for the season. We celebrated an anniversary and 2 birthdays there. We enjoyed eating at the picnic tables while Stella went by and it was a great place to sit and visit. Burgers and Fries and wonderful homemade pies will sound pretty good when next May rolls around.

I want to share one last human interest story. A few weeks ago a Seagull was attracted to the glitter of a fish lure in the water on the Millhaven side. It managed to hook the lure through its beak and foot. After struggling for quite some time it managed to wash up on the shore. Two Amherst Island crew members donned heavy gloves and while one held the Seagull the other unhooked the beak and foot. The Seagull flew off for another day of fishing. A happy ending always does the heart good!

I want to take this time to thank you for the bright red long underwear. I'm sure I'll be using them soon and often.

All our best to all of you.

ZEBRA AND QUAGGA MUSSELS

- Ian Murray

I have twice visited with the 2 environmental scientists who have been taking mussel samples from in the shore just east of the Roman Catholic Cemetery. At my request, they sent me a package of information on the mussel problem. The following information is from this material.

Both mussels come from the Caspian Sea area of Russia and they have set about colonizing suitable habitat since canal building in the late 1700s gave them the opportunity. They reached the Great Lakes in the 1980s and the shore of Amherst Island sometime in the early 1990s. This year they are very populous and are in the process of becoming very significant. There are physical differences and varying habitat preferences between the mussels, but to the layperson the differences are not very important. They are both going to cause us a lot of problems.

In addition to cutting the feet of swimmers, the mussels disrupt the aquatic food chain by removing nearly all the small particles in the water. What they don't eat they convert into loose pellets called pseudofeces that are ejected and accumulate among the shells of the colony. Thus there is little food left to support fish that are sought by the commercial and sport fisheries.

The filtering action of these mussels is very likely to remove most of the pollutants from the water. In the short term, this could be good news. However, as those fish and waterfowl that are able to eat the mussels increase in numbers (due to the abundance of mussels) the concentrated pollutants will enter the food chain causing health problems to organisms higher up the chain - including humans.



Patrick MacAfee, head waller by Vicki Keith

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Oct 21... Oktoberfest Dinner & Dance at the Community Centre from 6:30 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Oct 21... W.I.'s 95 Anniversary Tea at the Community Centre from 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Oct 25... L&A Historical Society Meeting Tom Sylvester talking on 'Early Residents of Amherst Isle'

Oct 27... Legion Masquerade 7:00 p.m. doors open with judging starting at 8:00 p.m.

Oct 31... Ameriks Scholarship Fund application deadline

Oct 31... Township Job Postings Deadline at 4 p.m.

Nov 4... Legion Poppy Day

Nov 5... EFRT Pancake Brunch at A.I.P.S. from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Nov 15... A.I. Women's Institute Meeting 8:00 p.m. at Leslie Gavlas' home

Nov 17... ISLE Cheese Lovers Order deadline for pickup Nov 22

Nov 25... St. Paul's Christmas Tea & Sale at the A.I. Community Centre from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

FOR SALE / WANTED

Pumpkins For Sale - Call 389-4856

One baby crib, like new, only used for the last run of grandchildren. Paid \$128 for it, asking \$75.

Call Beatrice Wemp - 389-2594

Boating and fishing season is just five months away. Don't delay! Look at my 9.9 Mercury for sale at \$980. Easy interest free terms might be arranged. All attachments and instructions available. Chester Tugwell 389-5569

Anyone interested in buying Amway products, or viewing Amway catalogues please call and I will be glad to talk to you. Darrell 389-7742

Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning Reasonable Rates and Carpet Cleaner for rent \$10/day Annette 389-0417 or 389-0512

For Rent St. Alban's candelabra Contact: Caroline Yull at 384-4071

Albertan Homes Homes built or renovated. Ken Albertan at 389-2662

Baby-sitter & Mother's Helper Light yard work & housework. Call Stephanie at 634-2509

Babysitter

*Certified by the Red Cross Babysitting Course
Call Jessica Gavlas at 389-3199 evenings and weekends.*

Babysitting

Call Bonnie Marshall

*Certified by the Red Cross Babysitting Course at
389-0554 or 389-4070*

Babysitting

Kelly at 389-2404

Bulldozing Done

\$30 / hour plus fuel

Call Llew at 384-4071

Carpet Cleaning

Carpet & Upholstery cleaning.

Contact Scott at 389-4872

Cisterns Filled

Call Llew MacArthur at 384-4071

Clothing Repairs and Alterations

Drapes Made and Altered

Contact Tena Tugwell at 389-5569

Computer Assistance

*Can help to build computer skills on many
programs.*

Call Jan at 634-1995

General Contracting

New construction & renovations

Contact Rick Bedford at 389-8434

GLM Construction

General Contracting & Renovations & Designs

Contact Gary McDonald at 384-1456

Glenn's Store 389-0417

Movies Pop Candy Crafts

Post Office Hours

Mon - Fri 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Mon - Fri 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

House Cleaning

Professionally trained house cleaner.

Call Laurel at 384-6617

Island Financial Planner

Metropolitan Life Representative

Sherry Ward at 389-6918 or 544-7200 (office)

LIN-SAR

Mechanical - Peter Wemp

Heating and Cooling

Sheet metal fabrication and installation.

Office: 475-5467 Home: 478-5417

Painting Classes

Call Shirley Miller at 389-2588

Picnic Tables & Weather Vanes On Sale

Call Keith Miller at 389-2588

PJ Coleman Genealogical Services

For more information,

Contact Penny Coleman at 384-6091

Printing

A complete printing and design service.

Contact Peter Morgan at 384-4102

Portable Welding

Call Noel McCormick at 389-5172

Propane for Sale

Co-op Propane available at John McGinn's

*Barbecue tanks 20 lbs, also 100 lbs and larger
quantities can be arranged.*

Call 384-3047

Property Maintenance

Yards cleaned, grass cutting, basements cleaned.

Call Mike Horth at 389-2916

Pumps Of All Kinds

Rural Water System Maintenance

Call Tom Miller at 389-0105

*Shorewell Maintenance
Call Warren Kilpatrick at 389-4078*

*Visitors Welcome at
Watercolours Et Cetera
3rd Concession (389-2588)
If we are home, we are open.*

*Voice Lessons - Bel Canto style
For serious students 15 yrs & up
Call 384-8599*

*Whig Home Delivery
If you would like the Whig Standard delivered to
your home, please phone Jim or Sandra Reid at 389-
4484.*

*Winter Storage for Boats, RV's, etc
Call Vince Aitken at 389-5546*

*Yardwork
Samantha and Sara Pollock will do yard work.
Phone 389-9977*

Pumpkins For Sale 389-4856

*Royal Canadian Legion Branch 539 Masquerade
Friday October 27th
Doors Open 7:00 p.m.
Judging Starts 8:00 p.m.
High School Students and up... \$3.00
Up to Grade 8... Free
Prizes
Games
Dancing*



**The High Cross in evening light
Photo by Sunny Weiler**