

Amherst Island Beacon



Issue 448 *BONA LIBENTER, TRISTIA MAESTITER, MALA NUMQUAM* **Nov 2015**



NEIL INGRAM JOHNSTON (1940-2015)

With great sadness, the family announces the passing of Neil on October 26, 2015 at Kingston General Hospital at the age of 75.

Beloved father to Candice Warren and her husband John and Leanne Primeau and her husband Wayne.

Loving grandfather to Mason, Madison and Manning Primeau.

Beloved former husband of Carolyn Johnston and partner Bernice Gould.

Dear brother of Susan McCoy, Jason Johnston, the late Carolyn Todt and the late Douglas Johnston. Cherished uncle to Eric and Ann and Kevin and Craig.

Neil will be greatly missed by many extended family members and dear friends.



BERNADETTE MARIE FILSON (1936-2015)

Died peacefully at St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital on, Monday, November 2, 2015 in her 80th year.

Beloved wife of Bob Filson, loving mother of Stephanie Filson and mother-in-law of Todd Brennan.

Predeceased by her parents William and Frances O'Connell of Collin's Bay. Dearest sister of Pat Watts of Oakville, Mary Bridgen (Late Tom) of Kingston, Sheila Simmons (Ron) of Waterloo, John O'Connell (late Vonnie) of Kingston, Judy Johnston (Alan) of London, Peter O'Connell (Aileen) of Toronto, sisters-in-law, Mary Filson (late Bill) of Gananoque and Ardeth Dodge (Donald) of Nova Scotia, also survived by several nieces and nephews.

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Editorial

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MEMORIES OF NEIL

- David Pickering

I had a chance to talk to Bernice Gould a few days ago, pictured on page 1 with Neil. We were sitting in the Tea Room, as we had many times before; but this time we were not enjoying Key Lime Pie. We were remembering Neil.

Bernice told of their FIRST customer in the Tea Room – Jocelyn Leyton, and having to quickly scribble a hand-written menu so she would have something to select from. It surprised Neil, since he didn't know they HAD a menu.

We talked about the air of the place – and how Neil was never your server, he was your host and you

were his honoured guest – and friend. His endless smile always let you know that you were welcome.

Between macaroni and cheese, and famous chocolate cake, Neil served of himself, with stories and warmth. It was very possible he would draw up a chair – and why not? You were a guest in his home. (If you were lucky – you could get Bernie out of the kitchen too – but that was more difficult.)

Neil started off in dentistry – but didn't care for it. How could you talk to someone when your hands were in their mouth? So he moved to something more suited to his gregarious nature: Marketing and Advertisement. He worked for a variety of firms, then established his own – including such names as IBM on his client list. (I don't think Neil is bound any more by the non-closure agreement. Pretty much everyone knows that IBM released a home PC.)

Neil was a proud father to two daughters. He has three grandchildren. He eventually separated, and phoned a dear and long-time friend: Bernice.

“Where the hell is Amherst Island?” (Come to think of it – I've had calls which started like that too.) But either the island, or the lady, had a certain attraction, because a few years later he was living here.

Neil quickly put his skills to work, supporting the brand-new not-yet-on-the-air radio station and establishing the Tea Room.

The Tea Room was open from 2002 to 2009. It never really made money, but for Neil it was a chance to make friends – which he constantly did. Some of these friendships have resulted in visits to Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Bali, Singapore, Macau and Mexico. The Tea Room was decorated with the results of those trips.

Now – it's closed. Bernice doesn't know yet what she's going to do, but I hope she stays. For Neil, it would be nice to think that there will be another time in the future when he welcomes me and makes me feel at home.

FAREWELL NEIL JOHNSTON

- Michèle Le Lay

Most people on Amherst Island can refer to Neil as a dear friend, a kind neighbour, a very social acquaintance but very few of us had the pleasure of having him as a colleague, I was one of them and I am honoured that Bernice asked me to celebrate and share with all, this part of Neil's life.

Ten years ago, CJAI was fortunate to be able to recruit this recently retired executive from the advertising business. Having Neil sitting on our Board of Directors propelled us up in the world, our standards had risen, this is when our meeting place changed from the functional Fire Station to the more elegant Lodge.

When Neil retired from his marketing and advertising career, little did he know that he would be tasked to bring a group of idealist volunteers back to earth. He spared no efforts to remind us that even if we had already signed up 39 members and the community expectations were evolving from being very skeptical to “let’s see if this will ever fly”, we needed a plan to pay our operation costs even though they were as low as one dollar per hour. (\$24 per day)

Neil played a significant role at CJAI even before it went ON AIR. This was a time when the visionary members of the Board were more versed in technical and programming aspects of the business and hoped that once the technical side was mastered, the money would take care of itself. There was no plan to solicit any paid advertising but instead, find local businesses and organizations that supported our goals and would accept to sponsor this farfetched project to be housed in a milk-house. All of sudden, Neil made us realize that to launch a radio station and be on air for at least 10 years, we needed to work on raising money and have an Advertising, Fundraising, Marketing and Sponsoring Plan.

As it often happens in volunteer organizations, when you have the ideas, you get the job. Neil and I were therefore appointed as the Membership, Marketing, Fundraising and Sponsorship Committee of two. I enjoyed our convivial working relationship. I looked up to him and he used to affectionately call me “Mon Petit” which would translate literally as the endearing “My Little One”!!! But really, in fact, that was his way of encouraging me to take the lead on fundraising events such as the Book Sale, the CJAI Marketing Booth at the Farmers Market and the Membership Drive while he was guiding me and monitoring the progress!

When CJAI went on air in April 2006, the sky was the limit! Under his executive leadership and the execution of the “Little One”, we had taken on the membership, the advertising, the sponsorship and were even looking into grants. He was as pleased about our undertaking as he was with his own

success with the launch of the advertising campaign for the first IBM computer. He was in his element and all of us were amazed that he was part of our team. What a bonus for a start-up venture; his vision, leadership and skills.

A few months after the launch of the station and the structuring of the Sponsoring and Membership Plan, MAD MAN Neil was head-hunted and accepted to become the Head Waiter at the Stella Tea Room where Bernice made him an offer he could not refuse! As a departure gift to the station, he made a significant donation to cover part of the operating deficit for that year. We took the money, got the message, ten years later, CJAI is still operating and deficit free!

Farwell MAD MAN Neil!!!!, You will be missed!
Au Revoir Mon petit!!!!
Michèle Le Lay,
signing off for CJAI,
Amherst Island Radio

10th Annual

“Christmas Shopping on Amherst Island” Days

Weasel and Easel

Saturday Nov 14 (10–4) & Sunday Nov 15 (1–4)

(no tax)

Topsy Farms

Saturday Nov 14 & Sunday Nov 15 (10–4)

(Topsy pays the tax)

Presbyterian Church Lunch and Bazaar

Saturday Nov 14th ONLY, 10:30-1:30 pm

at the School

Island Gallery

Macdonald’s Lane

Shirley Miller Art Etc.

Second Concession

INTERVIEW WITH MARY HALL, from April 2004 Beacon
-Zander of DUNN INN

To sit down with Mary (Glenn) Hall over tea and cookies is to learn about Amherst Island. She has a wealth of stories to share. Unfortunately most of her stories are unprintable (so she contends) and she is reluctant to see them in print which only encouraged me to get her to tell me more. Some of her memories of Amherst Island brought tears to my eyes - from

laughing so hard! Other yarns evoked smiles. Mary was born on the island, left to go to work and get married and returned when she and her husband retired. She stressed that she did not want a long article all about her because she had not spent very long on Amherst Island. But her stories are certainly worth sharing.



Mary Beth Hall – Courtesy of Susan Banting

The sister of Stirling and Les Glenn, Mary was born after them, but unlike them, in the Glenn Store on October 29, 1922, and was dubbed, by her father, Hugh Glenn, his “Hallowe’en Prank.” Hugh and his wife, Florence McKee, had moved from their farm, where Tom and Rosemary Richmond live today, to purchase the Old Dominion Hotel and General Store.

The Glenn General Store was full of good things (even beer was sold there) and became the centre of activity for many kids of Mary’s age. Hugh Glenn used to get his bananas in by the crate and would hang the bunch from the ceiling. Mary was able, by standing on her tip-toes, to pick off the lowest bananas and share them with her neighbourhood

pals - people like Grant Filson and Janey and Mike Brown. Her father knew what she was doing but turned a blind eye. It was her mother who put a stop to that. Her father was very popular with the kids at Hallowe’en because he would pull fists full of candies out of the big candy jars with the metal lids and distribute them to the trick-or-treaters. And when the youngsters had exhausted their luck at the Stella houses and at other shops, they came back for more and were not disappointed.

Mary remembers fondly the Stella Cheese Factory and how, when she was about four years old, she would run to the Cheese Factory and ask for a taste of curds. The Cheesemaker, Mr. Donald White, would pick her up and hold her so she could reach into the big vat and grab a handful of curds to chew on. That was a taste treat!

Mary attended Public School No.1 about one and half miles away on Griffin Point, near the Gulf on The Front Road. The school was a brick edifice which Mrs. Maud has turned into her residence. Spring and Fall, she and Les walked to school but in the winter, when the snows were heavy, Mr. Fred Richards or her father drove her and her neighbourhood friends in a sleigh. They had warm bricks and buffalo robes to protect them from the elements. The first thing the kids did when they got to school was to vie for places around the potbellied stove to keep themselves warm in the freezing school building.

At the Christmas Concerts all the schools got together in Victoria Hall for wonderful times of sharing. Invariably Mary was called upon to do the highland fling. Her brother, Stirling, played the harmonica or the banjo. Plays, recitations, speeches, songs and games were all part of the events. There were many pranks pulled in school and Mary laughs when she recalls them. Some she felt were too embarrassing to others to share in a family newspaper. And we think today’s generation is bad!

Mary’s first teacher was Kay Heinmiller. Edith Scott taught her during her last year in public school. Mary’s last year in public school was Junior Third and she was the only student. Miss Scott encouraged her to learn the material of Senior Fourth, which she did, and got into High School having completed both Junior and Senior Fourth in one year.

Mary’s memories of high school, the old brick building in Stella (where The Back Kitchen is now),

are also full of fun and pranks. Her teachers were Alice Hogeboom and Aubrey Ramey. The other High School teacher, Evelyn Gamble, boarded with the Glenn family above the store. She was very friendly with The Rev. R.K. Earls and later played the organ at the Presbyterian Church after Mary left that job.



Bk:- Audrey McGinn, Aubrey Ramey, Jean McMaster McDonald

Fr: Marjorie Wemp Tooke, unknown, Mary Beth Hall (dark dress, white belt), Irene Welbanks Glenn - courtesy Susan Banting (Susan is Mary Beth's daughter)

The first and second forms were located on the second floor and the third and fourth forms were on the main floor on the East side of the building. Mary and her classmates, Henry Hitchens and Roger McDonald, decided to pool their resources. Mary was good at Latin, English Literature and History. The two boys excelled in Math, Chemistry, Physics etc. which didn't appeal to her. Unbeknownst to their teachers they traded their homework. Thus Mary learned the advantages of the division of labour.

Mary began her musical career by taking piano lessons from Mrs. Leach, the Anglican minister's wife. Mary was disappointed that she learned only hymns. When Edith Scott took over as her music teacher Mary was delighted to learn many other tunes. Mary, in her teens, for a time, played the organ at St. Paul's and can remember bitterly cold winter Sundays when only she and a handful of others were in attendance.



**Mary Beth Hall
Courtesy of Susan Banting**

Mary has always enjoyed music but she never felt she had the talent of her two older brothers. Music came naturally to them both. When Stirling was sent, by their mother, to take music lessons in Kingston the teacher told Mrs. Glenn, after the ninth lesson, it was a waste of time and money because Stirling, like Les, played by ear and could not be bothered to learn to read music. Stirling, who became accomplished on the banjo, saxophone and drums, could play several other instruments like the mouth organ and violin. Les was an expert on the piano accordion and played the drums in the Army Band when he was overseas.

Stirling and Les combined with their cousins, Alex Glenn and Tina (Glenn) Filson, to become known as the Glenn Orchestra, famous for several years from

the 1930's to the 1950's. Alex, who learned his music by taking a correspondence course from the U.S., took over the violin and Tina played the piano. Tina, who took music lessons in Bath, was a staunch United Church member and also played the organ at Trinity United Church in Stella. The Glenn Orchestra played for all the dances on the Island at Victoria Hall and were often invited to homes for special events. They loved to get together for "jam sessions" and entertain their friends. They knew each other's styles and personalities well and had the ability to improvise together. Sing-a-longs were popular and the Glenn Orchestra could play all the tunes. The Glenn Orchestra brought the Island together, gave life to the Island and made the Island sing.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, where she was baptized on January 21, 1923, played a big part in Mary's life. Not only did she play the organ she also attended Sunday School. She remembers three classes all of which convened in pews in the sanctuary. One class occupied the choir pews to the north of the pulpit, another class met in the cross pews to the south of the pulpit and the third class got together in the nave in cold weather and in the bell tower in mild weather. Heaven help you if you did not know your catechism!

The Rev. R.K. Earls worked diligently with the young people of the congregation and one of his interests was drama. The Drama Group at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church put on many plays - mostly comedies. The most memorable one for Mary was Anne of Green Gables in which Mary played the role of Anne. The Drama Group not only performed in Stella, they even took their plays to Bath and Odessa where they were well received. Other actors in that troupe were Garth and Keith Orchard and Chris (Orchard) Glenn who lived across from the store in the brick building. The Orchard family was also musical and often the two families would get together for sing-a-longs.

The Rev. R.K. Earls also played an influential role in Mary's life. She remembers how he entertained at the manse during the war, many British airman of the RAF who had been posted to the flying school in Kingston. She sometimes was asked to help serve food to the men who enjoyed their "home away from home." When the Presbyterians put on their famous oyster suppers, Mary's father would order in a wooden barrel full of small square crackers to

accompany the meal. Who could forget how good they tasted? Not only did Mary help serve but she also was expected to do a recitation along with other young people. A dance would break out in Victoria Hall after that!

Mary's father was also important in her life. He was rather deaf and so often did not go to church because he could not hear the sermon. When she and her mother returned from worship he would ask, "Who wore the new clothes today, Florrie?"

When Hugh Glenn died, Mary and her mother were alone in the store. Les was overseas with the Army Service Corps and Stirling had set up his own garage in the house where the Whittons live today. So Florrie Glenn rented the store to Henry McGinn and moved with Mary to Kingston. It was in Kingston that Mary graduated from the Metzler Business College and got her first job at ALCAN.

There she met her future husband, John Hall, a Queen's student, working in the same plant for a few months. They were married by The Rev. R.K. Earls at St. Andrew's in Kingston on the morning of May 18, 1946 and went to John's Queen's convocation that afternoon. They began their honeymoon in the evening. They moved from Kingston to John's work with DuPont in Prescott, Montreal, Shawinigan, Toronto and Ajax. When John retired in 1977, they returned to the Island and rebuilt the cottage on the property now owned by Brian Epperson and Charlotte Sheng at 2150 Front Road. John got into everything, as did Mary (although she says she gave up curling, golf and bridge when she returned to the Island).

Mary devoted much of her time to The Presbyterian Church Women of St. Paul's. She and John also enjoyed winters in Florida.

Three deaths in the family deeply affected Mary. The first was the death of her dear brother, Les, in 1983. When she visited Les in the hospital she went in a sombre mood because she knew he was dying of cancer and wanted to give him support and love. She was completely disarmed when Les, thin to begin with and thinner as the result of his illness, introduced her to his nurse who he said would take him out on Hallowe'en as a skeleton and shine a flashlight through him to scare all the kids. She had come to cry with her brother; instead he made her laugh even in the face of death. The sudden death of her oldest brother, Stirling, in 1984, was a terrible

blow for her and for every one. Mary and Stirling were close so when he died at home unexpectedly, of congenital heart failure, she was shocked and shaken. The death of her beloved husband, John, in 1993 led to Mary's departure from the Island.



Mary Beth and Joh Hall
Photo courtesy of Susan Banting

ISLAND POLL RESULTS

-Courtesy Brian Ward

Mike Bossio 116 Daryl Kramp 86 Betty Bannon
56 Cam Mather 10

Total 268

[Editor: Island voting at the several advance polls is not known.]

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lynn Fleming

Get well wishes this month to Susan Filson

Condolences to Bernice Gould, following the passing of her husband Neil Johnston. Our sympathy also to Neil's daughters and their families.

Our sympathy to Bob Filson, daughter Stephanie and son-in-law, Todd Brennan, following the loss of their wife and mother, Bernadette after a lengthy illness. Condolences also to Bernadette's extended family here on the Island and off.

Larry and I were happy to welcome a new grandson in time for Thanksgiving. Hudson Hartley Grant was born on October 6th, to our daughter Stephanie and her husband Jeff Wartman. Big brother Cooper is thrilled with the new addition to the family.

Tom and Jacquie Sylvester spent a couple of weeks in Newfoundland this fall.

Thanks to the Amherst Island Emergency Services for hosting another fun and entertaining Halloween Masquerade at the Fire Hall.

Well it was hard not to be part of all excitement of baseball this fall, whether you are a fan or not. The Toronto Blue Jays made it to the playoffs, & *almost* made it to the World Series, and in so doing brought the country together to cheer them on, even overshadowing the election campaigns for a new prime minister. In the end, the Blue Jays didn't quite make it, but we do have a new prime minister in Ottawa.

Well we are almost through the first week of November, and another return date for the ferry has come and gone.

After a week of high winds and a lot of rain to end October, this week has been a beautiful, sunny and warm (16-17C) way to start off November. There are still some leaves on the trees, and the grass is still green. Snow birds are making plans to head south, while the rest of us settle in for what is predicted to be a milder winter this year.



Wolfe Islanders left this thank you card hanging in the cabin of the Frontenac II. They wanted us to know that they appreciate the use of our boat. Thanks to Sarah Balint who initiated the project.



This painting, by Daniel Fowler, was presented to the Amherst Island Museum by Paul Moody, 20 October 2015

The watercolour was done in 1875, was given to Paul and Vivienne Moody of O'Drain's Point, Amherst Island by Honor (Bonnycastle) de Pencier in 2006. It shows a view looking west close to the old village of Emerald. Honor de Pencier is a direct descendant of LtCol Sir Richard Bonnycastle (1791 to 1847), who is Commanding Officer of the Royal Engineers in Upper Canada and oversaw the planning and fortification of Fort Henry and other gun emplacements and Martello Towers to protect the City of Kingston from the Americans. Probably, this included the gun battery built then at the northwest corner (Pig Point) of Amherst Island.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Judy Greer

A meeting was held October 20 at the home of Denise Wolfe, with 14 members and 1 guest present.

Judy Bierma made her excellent presentation to our group, Cheesemaking on Amherst Island.

The business meeting included a financial report and a report from the Good Cheer Coordinator.

Yesterday Joyce Haines and Liz Harrison attended a District and Area meeting in Selby and brought

back information about restructuring of our parent organization.

Thanks were expressed to everyone who volunteered for the Dry Stone Wall Festival. There have been good sales of our Tote Bags and our aprons were popular with visitors so a few more have been ordered. Volunteers were requested for a weekend gathering of wallers at the Lodge Oct. 24 and 25. Volunteers were also requested for our WI County Rd. 4 roadside cleanup project.

Planning is ongoing for the December 6th Seniors Christmas Dinner.

A committee has been struck to work on a 2017 Island Directory with a focus on Canada's 150th Anniversary.

There was discussion about Christmas lights at the ferry dock and about a possible island Christmas Festival of Lights.

Treasurer Sherri Jensen led a discussion on our groups finances and considering donations we wish to make in 2015. Our ongoing interest in the international KIVA organization focuses on the employment of women and on food security. Fourteen other allocations were made.

Thanks Denise for hosting our meeting.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday Nov. 18th at Joyce Reid's house. Visitors and guests are welcome

STONE CARVING WORKSHOP

Dry Stone Canada held a Stone Carving Workshop at the Lodge October 24th and 25th. The 14 people (full capacity) included many islanders. Instructors were Karin Sprague and Tracy Mahaffey. Each student chose one or two words to carve. The stone was Indiana limestone brought from Montreal by John Bland, designer of the Celtic Cross structure.

Additionally, volunteer wallers (seen below)

returned to Amherst Island to rebuild another significant length of stone wall on the north face along the Second Concession. Of special significance; a memorial stone for Anne Marie was included. (See page 13)

Drystone Canada plans to have at least two stone carving workshops at the Lodge on Amherst Island next year. For information contact Andrea Cross at Andrea@meriton.ca



Garry Hitchins, Eric Landman (project coordinator) and Garry's nephew Cole discuss the work on his wall.

Photo by Roxanne Gutin



Gord Halifax, Benoit Schryer-Lefebvre, Sean Donnelly, Sean Patrick Sullivan, Patty Keon, Hilary Martin, Eric Landman and John Bland work on Garry Hitchins' wall



Above left: Cherry Allen at workshop

Above Right: Karin Sprague, instructor

Top: Barbara McDonald, Diane Pearce and Elaine O'Sullivan

All Photos by Brian Little

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From 19th Council Meeting, September 28

“Moved by Councillor Ashley and Seconded by Councillor Danilunas that Council Rise and Report in Open Session, and that Council bring the draft Windlectric Road Use Agreement into Open Session along with the proposed haulage route maps, and that staff be directed to post both the draft Road Use Agreement and the proposed haulage route maps to the Township webpage and to invite the public to submit their comments for a period of time.”

Allowing the public comment on these 2 documents resulted in a LOT of correspondence and a LOT of Island residents appearing at the 20th Council meeting. The correspondence and the responses from Loyalist staff may be accessed on Loyalist Township’s web page.

**

Councillor Ashley congratulated Andrea Cross in pulling together a successful Irish-Canadian International Dry Stone Festival, on Amherst Island, September 25 to 27, 2015

**

Councillor Ashley expressed his condolences to the family of Garry Hitchins on the recent passing of his wife Anne-Marie.

From the 20th Council Meeting, October 13th

See above.

From the Seventh Session - Economic Development & Planning Advisory Committee - Nov 2, 2015

Councillor Ashley expressed condolences to Bernice Gould and the family of Neil Johnston, a resident of Amherst Island, on his recent passing.

MINUTES FROM AIMS

10 Oct 2015

By Bill Barrett

1. A thank you was delivered for the breakfast. It was decided to explore an alternative to continental for next month.

2. A presentation was given by Marcus Bermann with an accompanying slide show giving the

highlights of his life in progress. The introduction was done by William Barrett and the thank you was done by Anthony Gifford.

3. Don Pepper moved to approve last meeting’s minutes. Anthony Gifford seconded and it was carried.

4. The treasurer made his report. There was only one applicant for Ameriks scholarship money this year despite an allowance for 5. Dayle moved that all the AIMS contributions to Ameriks this year be made to principal since the interest in the fund could handle the pay out. This was seconded by Brian Grace and carried.

5. Hugh Jenney and Anders Bennick passed thank you statements to Rick Vanstone, Carl McCrosky and John Harrison

6. Don Pepper reported for the transportation initiative. There were 7 trips last month.

7. The T-shirts have arrived at a cost of 285.15 for 24 units. Don Pepper moved to pay the bill. This was seconded by Kevin Archibald and carried.

8. Anthony Gifford laid out the material to be provide in the welcome package. Contents confirmed.

9. There was a slide show presented by William Barrett on CFL Light bulb disposal. The post office has agreed to allow the recycling bin outside. Moved to proceed by Larry Jensen, seconded by Bruce Steeves & carried. William will go ahead with plans.

10. William presented a report on the plans for the flu vaccination clinic on the island. There are 31 potential patients identified. Date has been for 6 Nov. Moved to proceed by William Barrett seconded by Brian Little. Carried. Bruce Burnett and William will confirm plans.

11. A group photograph was taken with a minimum of fuss.

12. Speakers for November (Bruce Sudds), December (Jay Brennan) and January (Brian Steeves) have been confirmed.

13. New Business:

- The fire crew asked if AIMS was interested in participating in the Parade of lights – no interest was expressed.
- The fire crew asked if AIMS was interested in participating in a Community bonfire with

chili and hot chocolate. We're interested.
Moved to proceed by Brian grace, seconded
by Larry Jensen. Carried.

- c. Treasurership was passed from Hubert Groot to David Pickering during the time he is south. Complete.
- d. Larry Jensen proposed a members' dinner at Clarke's on the Bay. Those interested will be contacted after a date is set. (It happened – and it was great. Highly recommended – DAP)
- e. William Barrett talked about a library feasibility study. Bruce Sudds and David Pickering have expressed interest in helping.
- f. The grant application for the 2016 flower baskets and museum garden has to be prepared. Dayle will show William what needs to be done.

14. Don Pepper moved to adjourn, seconded by Brian Little and passed.

TO THE AIMS MEMBERSHIP

On the 14th we knew that timing for resources, facilities and food support, is tight what with the Bazaar starting at 10:30. When the memorial service for Bernatte was announced for 12:00 too many things are happening at once.

Collectively we, AIMS, chose to delay the November meeting until the 21st; same time, same place and everyone a lot happier.

If this causes you a problem, say a conflict of time commitments please let me know so we can adjust the breakfast numbers. We are planning a hot breakfast.

I hope you'll agree the delay is warranted.

Regards,
William

STELLA'S CAFE COOPERATIVE?

-Anthony Gifford

An Invitation To Dream, Discuss and Plan

Six years ago, when Judy and I bought the cafe, we knew that it was not a money-making business. We felt that a meeting/eating/sharing place was necessary for any community, that we couldn't imagine living anywhere without one. So we did it. We had no concrete plans on how long we would run it ourselves and always had the goal of involving

as many others as possible – to make it a real community effort. We knew that in the long run, it would only continue if it were some kind of co-operative enterprise.

We ran it for five years. Sandra Reid took it on this last summer. And a great thanks to her and family for keeping it open for us.

This last week-end, after the STONE festival was over, a dozen or so friends were gathered informally at the cafe, just talking and sharing stories of the event, and of the great time the cafe had had, about a dozen volunteers that had worked there and the good time it had been. The idea of a community driven cafe came up and ideas were thrown around.

No salaries but for the teen age people who need jobs.

Profits to go to island causes?

Different ways to organize?

Operating at first on just a year basis to see how it goes?

Questions, questions, questions. Possible answers to everything.

Judy and I don't need any money up front. We'd gladly turn it over to a group on a yearly basis, or any combination. What we want is for there to be a cafe/community building in the village, a place to welcome off-Islanders and to 'just drop in.' Anything we can do with that property to help this along is great with us. Eventually we'll need our investment back, but not in the near future.

If you're interested at all, join with those dozen originals at the old Fleming farm 3500Third Concession at 7 P.M. Tuesday, November 10.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD REVISITS AMHERST ISLAND

-Sally Bowen

Heads turned on the ferry when the older gent in the passenger seat of a car seemed familiar.

A life-sized, wool needle-felted Sir John A. MacDonald came to Amherst Island for the first time in over 120 years, to visit the Wool Shed at Topsy Farms and to tout the material from which he's made.

Creator Gesina Laird-Buchanan of Napanee, said he took the fleeces of 8 sheep, and 3 months of intense work to create.

See picture at end of this issue, and watch for more in The Scoop.



The Vicki Keith motivated Thanksgiving Plunge was again celebrated (?) this year. Pictured are Ali MacKeen, Lorna Willis, Eva Little, Saskia Wagemans, Vicki Keith, Michèle LeLay, and Sally Bowen. Already out of sight, Diane Pearce. It was witnessed by 6 men and boys and Katie Little whose used taking a video as an excuse. 'Maybe next year' regrets were sent by Bonnie Caughey, Bonnie Livingstone, and Sarah Vanstone.

LYME DISEASE AND BLACK-LEGGED TICKS -Sally Bowen

The tick season is NOT finished.

Hunters are encouraged to take tick lifters along with their ammo when they head to the bush. Don't be macho. If you find an embedded, engorged tick, lift it out gently (don't squeeze mouth parts with tweezers or fingers). You are encouraged to go to your doctor or emergency services and ask for a single dose of the appropriate antibiotic. Within 72 hrs that's all you'll need.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to our amazing first response team, here on Amherst Island for coming to me on Sat., Oct. 24th and the mainland ambulance attendants even commented on our great team.

Also thank you for all your thoughts and concerns for me over that following week while I was in hospital, and as always, my husband Garry was by my side.

What I was diagnosed with is fascinating now to me, and all the markers mimic a heart attack, but it is called Takotsobu Cardiomyopathy and it is totally treatable and typically triggered by stress.

Again, what a wonderful place we have the good fortune to live in. Susan Filson

"It was unbelievable what they did" said Garry Hitchens about the volunteers who came to work on his wall, the weekend of Oct. 24 –25. Several experienced stone wallers took down an unstable section of the north stone wall on the Second Concession, and entirely rebuilt it. Even more important to Garry was the stone, carved with Anne-Marie's name by the instructors, Karin Sprague and Tracey Mahaffey at the Stone Carving Workshop at the Lodge, built carefully into the new section of wall.



Garry and his family express heartfelt thanks to the volunteers for their work, to the organizers who planned it, and to the Amherst Island community for their generous practical and emotional support during this difficult time.

FROM JUDY AND ANTHONY at STELLA'S CAFÉ – THANK YOU

Over the four days of the STONE FESTIVAL, thanks to the the wonderful volunteers, nearly four-hundred people enjoyed the warmth, smiles, food and good company of Amherst Island at STELLA'S CAFÉ.

To Janet Scott (Irish Stew, pies, trifle, Death by Chocolate), Joyce (Dutch Pears) and Hubert Groot, Judy Greer, Beth Forester, Diane Pearce, Norma-lynn Cole (tarts), Leslie Madden, Helena Bierma, Bernice Gould (wonderful soups) and Keith McIlwaine, a huge THANK YOU for your time, food, support and good humour that made the four days a wonderful time to remember.

The wallers were amazed. Rick Mercer said he'd be back, when he didn't have to make the next ferry.

What a great way to end the café season!



Thank you to the good public health care folks from Napanee (seen here as they drive away) who spent a day on the island administering shots and advice.

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

It must be fall: leaves going or gone; scads of cluster flies; and, the annoying ladybugs.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Please come and help us bring in the New Year 2016. Enjoy good music and fun.

Where: Amherst Island Community Center

Time: 7pm to 1am

Music By: Country Rhythm

Tickets: \$10.00 per person

Advance tickets only

Cut off date for tickets December 20th

Light lunch will be provided.

Cash bar by A.I.R.C.A.

For Tickets Call: Sherri Jensen 613-305-3451 or

Judy Bierma 13-985-1029

We Hope To See You There.

COMPUTER REPAIR/UPGRADES, new installs, virus/Malware removal. Island References. Bruce MacCrimmon – 613 453-0505

bruce.maccrimmon@hotmail.com

Island Gold 100% Pure Raw Ontario Honey. Please call Perry at 613-371-8118 or email

Islandgold@rogers.com.

LOVING SPOONFUL sends thanks to all the Island gardeners who donated produce from their gardens for those in need in Kingston. Sally

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 fall lamb 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 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 and toys, kitty litter, are always in demand; Canadian Tire coupons. We are glad to accept pop cans, beer and LCBO containers too. 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

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

AMHERST ISLAND BEACON: November 15, 1985

- Volume 4 Issue 94

Published Monthly, Stella, Ontario, K0H 2S0

Editor ... Ian Murray

Treasurer .. Lyn Fleming

Subscriptions ... Lyn Fleming

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COUNCIL REPORT For Nov. 5th, 1985

- Christopher Kennedy

Before the regular council meeting there was an application to rezone as residential part of Lot 15, North Shore Concession. This was passed without protest.

Only the Reeve, Chester Tugwell, Ian Murray and the Clerk were at the regular meeting. Ted Welbanks and Larry Fleming were otherwise engaged. Ted sent a letter thanking Council and Diane, in particular, for an interesting and enjoyable term in office.

The minutes of the previous meetings were adopted.



Morning's Grace by Brenda VanAlystine

At a special meeting in October it was planned to install four two-way radios, two for the road crew and two for the fire department. They will experiment to see if a base station is needed.

Three building permits were issued in October, to Thornhills for a garden shed, to F. Welbanks for an addition to a machine shed, and to the Presbyterian Church for repairs. Council rescinded the latter building permit as it was felt that the work did not warrant a permit. The Road Superintendent was deer hunting and there were no delegations.

Council discussed the damage to the dock caused by the Charlevoix, which is apparently not too serious. One claim for damages to a vehicle on the ferry was rejected, and one honoured. Council ordered that no parking be allowed on the east side of the Stella dock to allow for snow plowing and the school bus turning. Tommy Miller was congratulated for obtaining his 3rd Class Engineer's papers.

A survey done on the bridges on the Island showed that the bridge in Stella is in rough shape, and work should be done on it next year.

The Recreation Committee is planning to start volley ball on the first Tuesday in January.

The accounts were approved. No great increase in ferry expenses is expected for next year.

The Drain is almost finished, just some tidying up needs doing.

Council adjourned at 9:30 pm.

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Diane Gavlas

Thank-you again for the generous response to the canvass for the C.N.I.B. Total donations were \$527.05.

The Nov. meeting, Wed. Nov. 20th will be held at the home of Mrs. Georgie Allison. Pot Luck dinner at 6:00 pm. The District President Mrs. Lyle Smith will give an address to our branch.

Once again we will be pleased to host the Senior Citizens Dinner on Dec. 7th at 6:00 pm.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

As mentioned last month, the Jazzercise class will be starting fairly soon, probably within a month. Details are still not finalized. However, everyone

who signed the list at the store will be contacted by phone.

In other sports, adult mixed volleyball will be starting the first Tuesday after New Years. Volleyball will continue every Tuesday at 8 pm. through until spring. Age is 20 plus.

Tickets are on sale now for the New Year's Party. They are available from Al Caughey, Harry Filson and Jack Forester. A reminder also about the Baseball Dance November 23.

Best wishes to Kenneth Miller, recovering from surgery at Friendship Manor in Kingston. Kenneth is doing very well according to reports, and is expected home in a few weeks. Best wishes also to Kathleen Wemp, still at Lenadco and feeling quite a bit better lately.

Congratulations (?) to the Miller hunting party who managed to land one 90 lb buck on their annual hunt. The honour goes to Paul Glenn, who also saw and missed one other. Condolences to all the wives who were just itching to cook all that good venison. Better luck next year.

After taking second prize in the dog show last month, Max appears to be getting too big for his sweater. While Doug was kind enough to help Glenn's Store while our truck was out of commission, Max did him the pleasure of chewing up his air hose. Later, in an attempt to escape Doug's wrath, Max chewed apart the fence surrounding his yard. Tune in next month to see if Max is still alive or if he has met an unpleasant end.

Many thanks to Doug from the staff of Glenn's Store for all his help over the past few weeks.

LEGION BRANCH 539

A very successful Hallowe'en Masquerade was held Friday, October 25. Prize winners were: Best children's costume: Jeff Forester and Chad Miller - a 2-hole out house

Funniest costume: George Gavlas - a barrel, boots and not much else

Best Hallowe'en Costume: Marie Ward - a terrible witch

Best Overall Costume: Betty Wemp - Pizza Pie-Man.

All manner of outrageous spooks were seen to say nothing of the dozen or so Rambo look-alikes.

Poppy Day on Saturday, November 2, was a great success. Branch 539 would like to thank all Island residents who contributed so generously again this year.

This money, our Poppy Fund, allows us to give prizes in our annual essays and poems contest, to provide comforts for ill veterans in hospital, and to contribute to disaster-relief funds for communities stricken by unforeseen troubles, among other things.

Sunday, November 10 was the Ecumenical Church Service for Remembrance Day. Although it was a dirty day out, quite a number of people came out to hear some timely words on the pressing need for a personal commitment to keeping the peace on the part of each of us, and on the meaning of the deaths of so many fine young men during the wars. Many thanks to Rev. Lindsay MacIntyre, Rev. Clarence Babcock, and our own Pastor, Rev. Norman Allison.

LETTER OF THANKS

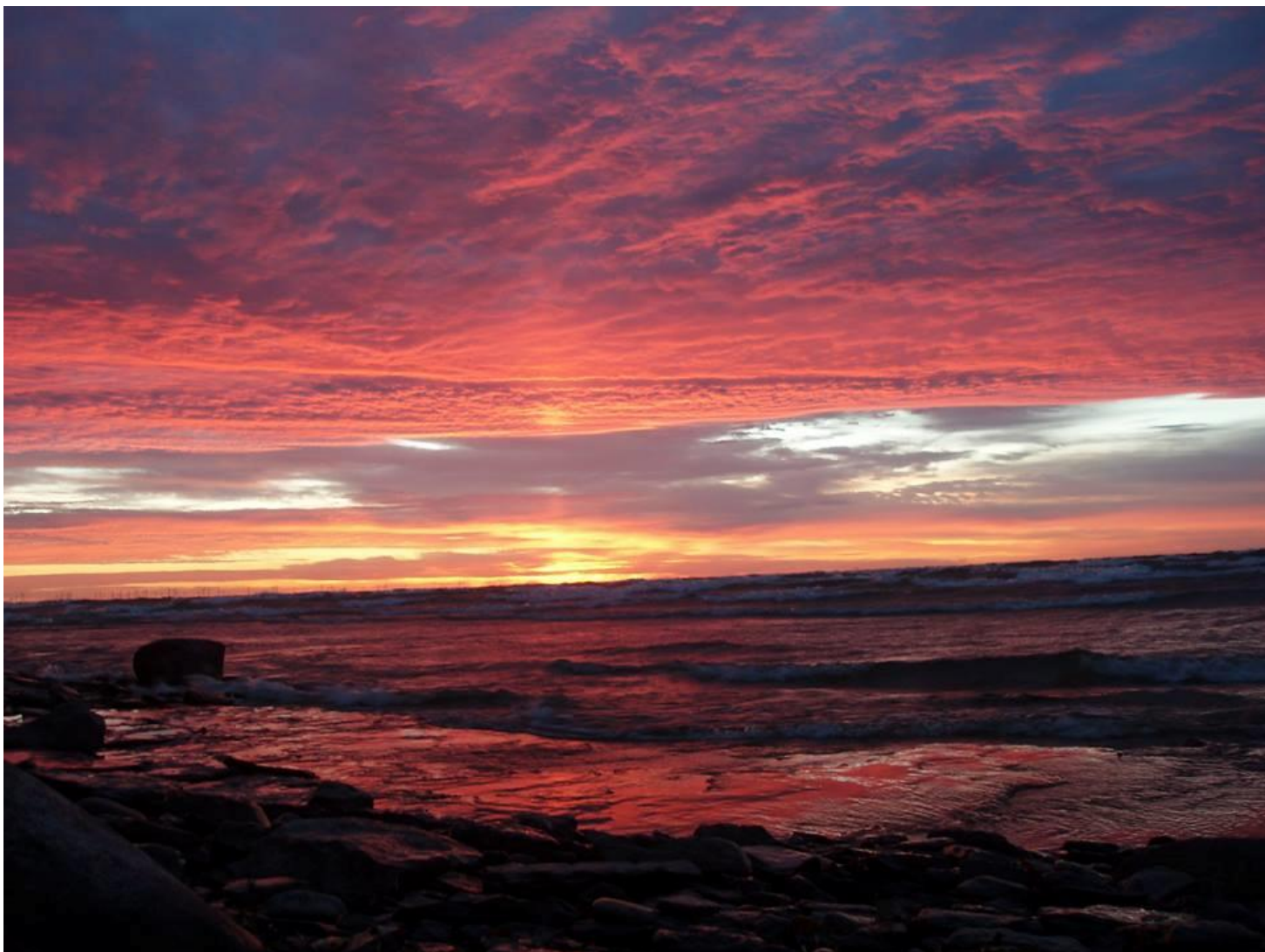
I would like to thank my friends, neighbours, relatives, the A.C.W., P.C.W., Amherst Island W.I., Branch 539 R.C.L. for cards, gifts, flowers and visits after my recent accident. A very special thanks to Doug Wilson for the use of his truck to keep our business going.

Irene Glenn.

NOTICES

The Amherst Island Driving Club New Year's Eve Dance tickets are now on sale for \$35, from Harry Filson, Al Caughey or Jack Forester. Dinner is at 7 pm.

The Amherst Island Men's Baseball Team has a Fund Raising Dance on Nov. 23. \$10.00 per couple. Buffet. Dancing 8 to 1. Contact Jack Forrester.



Sunrise on South Shore
Photo by Tracey Mahaffey (stone carver)

ELECTION RESULTS

- Diane Pearce, Clerk

Ferry Question - "Are you in favour of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Amherst Island requesting the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to assume total responsibility for the operation of the Amherst Island Ferry?"

Number of votes for Yes 48

Number of votes for No 87

Total number of eligible voters:

Resident 281

Non-resident 222

Total 503

Total number of votes cast 135.

ELECTION NOTES

- Staff

The voter turn-out was unusually low on the Island.

This is probably due to the acclamation of the 1985- 1988 Council. Norman Allison is serving a second term as Reeve. Chester Tugwell and Ian Murray are back again as Councillors. Beth Forester will serve for the first time and Keith Miller is back on Council after 14 years.

SCHOOL REPORT

- Adam Miller

The 11th of the month was Remembrance Day: which is when we give a thought to the men, women and children that lost their lives to war.

This year at the school the children followed Mr. and Mrs. Tugwell to the cairn where we took time to remember the dead.

Afterwards the Tugwells shared some stories from the war.

The week of the 11th to the 15th was exams for some of the students at Amherst Island Public School.

*AMHERST ISLAND BEACON: November 15, 1995
– Volume 4 Issue 214}*

Amherst Island Beacon

Issue 214 November 1995

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COUNCIL REPORT November 7, 1995

- Beacon Staff

All members of Council were present for the regular meeting.

After the reading of the minutes Council proceeded into closed session to discuss personnel matters.

Applications for the Winter Works crew were reviewed and the following applicants have been hired to work as required. Kerry Hogeboom, Adam Miller, Dan Wolfreys, Garnet Willard, Larry Fleming, Reginald Hitchins, and Jeff Forester.

A letter was received from John Nixon resigning as Deputy Fire Chief. David Fleming has been appointed to take his place.

There will be an official opening of the new Firehall on December 2, 1995.

Council discussed the cemetery perpetual care investments and other Township investments. It was decided to leave them as they are at present and that a representative from the Royal Bank would be invited to attend the next Cemetery Committee

meeting to discuss the investments. It was also suggested that the Ameriks Fund be invested in the Public Sector Group of Funds' money market fund for a three month period subject to the Funds historical rate being higher than the Royal Bank's rate. Councillors Woods and Fleming asked Council to approve a By-law to authorize the investment of Township funds in the Public Sector Group of Funds. A recorded vote was requested by Councillor Scott. Councillors Whitton and Scott against. Reeve Ashley and Councillors Fleming and Woods for.

Efforts to expand the land fill site are continuing. Council has received approval for the grants requested for: leachate monitoring; public consultation; design; and related work.

The Ameriks Fund Awards in memory of former Reeve Frank Fleming will go to Amy Caughey and Lori Caughey, University of Guelph; Tracy Hitchins, Loyalist College, Belleville; Chad Miller, Trent University, Peterborough; Jason Silver, Algonquin College, Ottawa; Steven Ward, Queen's University, Kingston; and Steven Willard, University of Windsor, Windsor.

After discussing some general business matters Council adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

Former Island resident and Presbyterian Church Minister, Norman Allison passed away last week. Sympathy to his wife Georgina and family.

Former resident, Thelma Howard is currently in hospital in very serious condition.

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Freda Youell

The rainy weather certainly did not help dampen the attendance at the October 21st Anniversary Tea. Many guests helped us to celebrate an enjoyable afternoon which started off with punch being served and the signing of the Guest Book before getting settled at the tables. Our President, Jackie Sylvester, gave a welcoming speech after which everyone sang the Ode. Marion Wannamaker, the President of the Lennox and Addington District, gave congratulations and greetings as did our Reeve, Duncan Ashley. The 'Hymn of All Nations' beautifully sung by Laurene Kilpatrick accompanied

by Cathy Glenn on the piano came next and then Anna Hitchins gave our Branch History. "Tea With A Tenor", Fredric Mahood and his accompanist Ted Brown, entertained with a trio of songs. Afterwards our Birthday Cake, cleverly decorated by Karen Fleming, with our Crest set inside an outline of Amherst Island was cut and the W.I. Grace was sung.

We were honoured to welcome Nellie Neilson, our oldest member who joined the Island Branch some 60 years ago, especially as she had made the trip from Toronto to be with us. We were also pleased to welcome the following Visiting Past Presidents - Georgina Allison, Ena Baker, Phyllis Strain, Reta Miller, Vera Hogeboom and Diane Ida Gavlas. We took the opportunity to take a group picture of All past Presidents who were at the Tea as well as a photo of our present Members - these will be a great addition to the Tweedsmuir Book.

Jackie Sylvester read a very much appreciated letter from Chester Tugwell who, along with his congratulations, recalled how much the Women's Institute's efforts during wartime helped the Servicemen know that they were not forgotten. During the tea, Fredric Mahood sang for us again and the afternoon took on a very congenial air with a lot of table hopping to chat with our visiting W.I. Branch members from Maple Leaf - Maple Ridge - Grandview - Tamworth - Hawley - Victoria II Camden East and Roblin. To all of them and our friends and neighbours that came - thank you for your good wishes and comradeship which made our Anniversary Tea a truly memorable occasion. The November 15th meeting is to be held at the home of Leslie Gavlas and the guest speaker will be the Agriculture Dairy Educator.

I.S.L.E. NEWS

It has been noticed that one of the members of I.S.L.E. has not been mentioned in the October Beacon and also all the Island mailing for the cheese. Don't forget to get your orders in soon. That member is John Pollock, sorry John!

The 1995 I.S.L.E. member roster is as follows: Mr. John Pollock, Mr. Allan Glenn, Mr. David Willard, Mrs. Cathy Glenn, Mrs. Karen Fleming, Mrs. Keitha Smith, Mrs. Karen J. Fleming and Mrs. Ann Albertan.

The student reps are: Sara Pollock and Kyle Murray; student backups; Bonnie Marshall and Andrew McDonald.

Thank-you to Mr. Dick Dodds for donating a chair and couch for the library.

AMHERST ISLAND FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

- Ian Murray, Pres.

On behalf of the Association, I wish John Nixon and his family best wishes on their return to the mainland. Thanks for your work with the Fire Department, John. We'll miss your cheerful willingness to pitch in whenever needed.

All the equipment has been moved into the new Fire Hall. Chief Scott and others have been working hard at setting things up and putting the finishing touches to the building's interior.

We hope to see many of you at the Open House on December 2.

The Fire Department is just like fire insurance: it's an expensive waste of money, until it's needed; but when it is needed, it's Really needed.

LETTER TO THE BEACON

- Ellie Cochrane Moore

Enclosed is my subscription renewal for the year. After 29 1/2 years I've divorced and moved closer to my work head quarters. I'm all settled and happier than I've ever been in my life.

Since so many of your readers are my family members you may feel free to print this news if you care to.

Thanks to all of you for the great work keeping the Beacon going. The Island will always be home to me and I like to hear what's going on.

RETRACTION

In the October issue of The Beacon, a reply to a letter to the Editor was printed which contained the words "mean-spirited" and "tirades".

The Beacon retracts those comments and apologizes for any damage to the reputation of Mr. George Gavlas.



Shoes? It's only November! George Gavlas at his mechanic's shop.

Photo by Vicki Keith

THE AMERIKS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- Leslie Gavlus

The October article on Frank Fleming was very interesting, but I believe a companion article on Alberts Ameriks is called for.

I never met Mr. Ameriks, so I contacted his neighbour, Earl Tugwell, and this is what he told me. "Mr. Ameriks, and his son Emo, escaped from Latvia when the Russians took over. He was an officer in the Latvian Army, a Major I believe. He bought the Eddy Wemp farm that runs along the Upper Forty Foot and did mixed farming, cows, pigs, etc., for quite a few years. As a neighbour I knew him as a very honest and cheerful man. He did bring his wife to the Island at one time, but I understood that she didn't like it here and eventually went back to Latvia."

The rest of the story I got from Irene Glenn, who has kept in touch with Mr. Ameriks over the years.

Mr. Ameriks and Emo had left Latvia separately, but were reunited as they travelled. Earl said he remembered Mr. Ameriks stating they had met while both were hiding in a ditch. They arrived on the Island in the early 1950's and the father settled into farming while the son worked at a number of things, spending some time on the lake boats. Once he was established Mr. Ameriks approached the Red Cross to try and bring his wife here, and after some 10 long years she finally arrived but was not happy and returned to Latvia. Mr. Ameriks left Amherst Island for Prince Edward County, then retired to Elliott Lake for a time. He returned to Kingston for medical reasons. About this time he sold some land on Amherst Island and on August 1, 1990 he sent the following letter to the Township of Amherst Island:

"Dear Sirs,

Enclosed please find a money order in the amount of \$10,000.00 which represents a donation I wish to make to the Township of Amherst Island. This money is donated in the memory of my dear friend, Reeve Frank Fleming.

I am sure you will put the money to good use.

Alberts Ameriks".

The Township decided to invest the money and use the annual interest from the investment to fund the Ameriks Scholarship Fund in Memory of Reeve Frank Fleming. Mr. Ameriks also sent \$2,000.00 to the Women's Institute in gratitude for the kindnesses

he had received from the ladies of the Island. This money has also been invested and, to date, the women have voted to add the annual interest to the scholarship fund.

I trust this small tribute to Alberts Ameriks will interest those students who have benefitted from the Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Ameriks has returned to Latvia and, as far as Irene knows, he is well and happy.

WINTER IS FOR THE BIRDS

- Alex and Janet Scott

Do the birds know something we don't? As we sit here writing this, snow is drifting down, the first flakes of an expected 30 cm, perhaps the prelude to a real winter. Already we're seeing species we haven't seen in several years. Last weekend there were large flocks of winter finches including Redpolls, Pine Grosbeaks, and Pine Siskins. We've had Evening Grosbeaks and Goldfinches at the feeder.

Cardinals on the other hand are moving northward throughout all of eastern Canada as this formerly southern species continues to expand its range. Last weekend we had seven of these bright red birds at our feeder, and more in the surrounding woods. And Owls!! Already there have been three of the very rare Boreal Owls from the far north, the first on October 31 (very early), and two more on November 13. Most birders and listers would give their eye teeth to see even one of these. Every year the Boreal has appeared this early has heralded a massive owl invasion of several species including the Great Gray Owls of 1978-79 and 1983-84. The small Saw-whet Owls have also been abundant - at least 16 daily in early November as they migrated south to the upper states. At last count there were still six to eight of these "cute" little owls in the Owl Woods to the north of the house. Another surprise visitor to the Owl Woods was a Barred Owl with its chocolate brown eyes staring at us from the branches of one of the great white pine trees for several days in October and November. Resident owls in this famous woods also include two Great Horned Owls, about 25 Long-eared and a few Shorteared Owls. We have yet to spot a Heffalump however, but we did see some tracks several days ago in the first snows.

Large numbers of Rough-legged Hawks have also begun to appear to feed on what appears to be a bumper crop of meadow voles. These large arctic birds visit us yearly to join the local Red-tails and Harriers and are typically seen over Island fields as they hover like “hanging bananas” as Janet likes to say. So get out your winter boots and snow shovels, and don’t forget to fill your feeders. It may be a long winter. A little chickadee told me!

MISCELLANEOUS

from the Economist, Oct 28/95

The largest island in a lake is Manitoulin Island (1068 sq.mi.) This island itself has a lake of 41.09 sq. mi. [Amherst Island is 25 sq. mi.] on it, called Manitou Lake, which is the world’s largest lake within a lake, and in that lake are a number of islands.

In Great Britain and Ireland, there are 5 indigenous tongues known besides English: Cornish, Scots, Gaelic, Irish Gaelic, Welsh, and Romany (gipsy).

The most overworked word in English is the word “set” which has 58 noun uses, 126 verbal uses, and 10 as participial adjectives.

In English, the most frequently used words are in order: the, of, and, to, a, in, that, is, I, it, for, as. The most used in conversation is “I”. The commonest letter is “e” and the commonest initial letter is “T”.

A LETTER HOME

The Fall seems to be making up for the very dry summer we had. The last month it seems to have rained every other day, all the ponds are filled up and you need rubber boots to cross the fields now. Then we had a lot of wet snow, just to make everything sloppy, and remind us to finish putting up the storm windows. Another sign of late fall is when all our friends and neighbours disappear for a week or so, “Off to the hunt camp” we are told. I heard a discussion on the radio the other day as to whether going deer hunting was a legitimate excuse for missing a week of school. On Amherst Island I think I know which way the vote would go.

At the farm here we know winter is coming when we start getting the sheep ready for the late breeding. The ewes are on the last green grass

around, and will soon get some corn, and the rams are already being fattened up ready for work. This Sunday some new blood should arrive on the farm, four Charollais rams and a Texel ram. The Texel is an international traveller, as his sire lives in France, his dam in the Isle of Man, in the Irish Sea, and he was born in Ontario, as a transferred embryo. This is all a way of bringing in new genetics without bringing in new diseases. The real test of all this will be next May, when we hope the lambs start appearing.

We still have the big ferry. The rumour early in the fall was that it would go when the workmen started on the face of the dock, but they seem to have put out bumpers and to keep right on working. Perhaps M.T.O. will forget that we have the big ferry and leave it here all winter.

It has been quiet here since I last wrote, but the Christmas carols are starting in the stores, so life will get busy again soon enough. Bye for now.



See page 12 on the return of Sir JAM



Everybody waits when we have the small ferry. Thankfully, it's over for now.
Congratulations to the crews, who performed brilliantly.