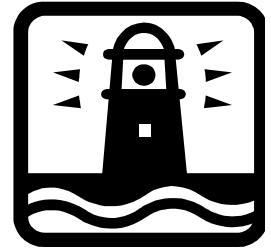


Amherst Island Beacon



Issue 450 BONA LIBENTER, TRISTIA MAESTITER, MALA NUMQUAM Jan 2016

MOOLENBEEK, JOHN MICHAEL



Suddenly on Friday, December 25, 2015 at the Ottawa Heart Institute surrounded by family and friends at the age of 51 years.

Predeceased by his mother Barbara Moolenbeek (née Stangoe).

Cherished son of John (Laurie Kilpatrick),

beloved brother of Philip (Guylaine Paré), Craig (Michele) and step brother of Kristan Klimczak (Matthew Pollack) and Jon Klimczak (Mansum Yau).

Proud uncle of Nicholas, Ryan and Eric.

He leaves to mourn his aunts, uncles, cousins, his many dear friends, especially John, Michelle (St-Pierre) and Vincent Pumphrey.

In memoriam donations to the University of Ottawa Heart Institute or Canadian Diabetes Association are appreciated.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lynn Fleming

Congratulations to Laurie Youell on the birth of her first grandchild, a girl. Olivia was born to Laurie's daughter, Shannon and her husband just before Christmas. Olivia is the first great grandchild for Freda Youell.

Well over 100 people rang in the new year at the Community Centre on New Year's Eve. Following an evening, of dancing and socializing, prizes, and of course food & drink, the crowd circled the gym to celebrate the arrival of 2016.

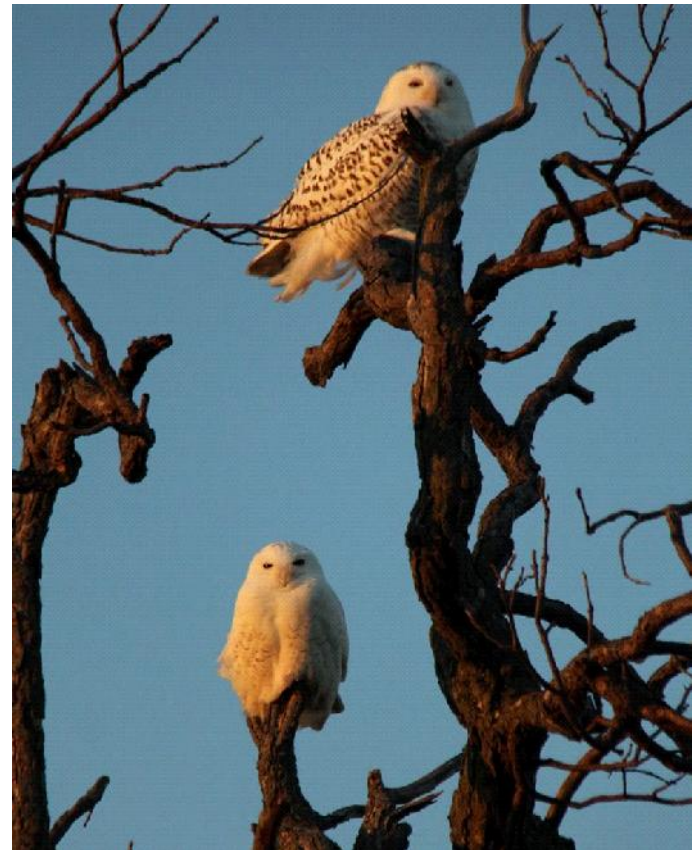
A.I.P.S. students and staff held their annual Christmas Celebration for their families and invited

guests on Dec. 16th. 130 people enjoyed a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, followed by a play, performed by all of the students.

Leslie Gavlas spent time in Quebec with her daughter and family over the holidays.

Well, after a beautiful fall, with above normal temperatures right up to and including Christmas, we got a couple of inches of snow between Christmas and New Year's. However, we also got a rude awakening to start the new year, when temperatures plummeted to a minus 27 wind-chill!

Wishing everyone a safe, prosperous and happy New Year for 2016.



Snowy Owls are back – 24 November 2015
Photo by Brian Little

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Mary Kay Steel

Our December meeting really wasn't a meeting, although we did a tiny bit of business. Some sixteen of us gathered at member Sherri Jensen's home for a grand Christmas party on December 9. It was a pot-luck supper – a tradition on our Island - and we did a fine job of it. We played a few games, had too much food and enjoyed a lot of laughter. We also gathered Christmas gifts for children of the less fortunate.

Judy Bierma is organizing our usual Winter Walking Program, at the Community Centre, for the first week of January, probably on Wednesdays at 4pm. Watch for a flyer.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 20th, at the home of Liz Harrison, at 2pm. Janet Scott will come to speak on some of her recent travels.

Guests are welcome.

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SYRIAN SUPPORT	

Crafters on Amherst Island have responded generously to the appeal for hand-produced items for the refugees expected soon in the Kingston region. The organizing group met at Topsy Farms to sort and package the almost 200 items received so far. The January deadline is extended if anyone still wishes to contribute. Contact Sally.



Amherst Island donations in foreground of some donations for refugees.

Photo by Margaret Maloney

LOAVES AND FISHES LUNCH

Join us at St. Paul's every Wednesday (12-2) for a free lunch and some chat. A simple lunch of soup and sandwiches will be served. All are welcome.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH SAND BEACH?

-Diane Pearce

December 2015

Progress has been made since the last update:

1. The Advisory Committee met on September 30th and December 9th.

2. As recommended by the Committee, the Township applied for an Ontario Heritage Grant to assist with work plan items, most of which will be completed prior to the opening of the Beach to the public. We hope to get 50% funding for the demolition of the cottage and outbuildings, removal of old and installation of new gate and fence, supply and installation of signage, place a gravel parking lot marked by cedar posts, install protective matting at dune access location and a raised boardwalk access

near the viewing platform and construction of the viewing platform itself. If the application is successful, more preparatory work could be completed sooner than would be case if only Township funds were used. We hope to know in January if the grant has been approved.

3. Monitoring - The Committee accepted the monitoring agreement entered into between the Kingston Field Naturalists (KFN) and the Ontario Heritage Trust for the KFN to complete the annual formal monitoring.

The Committee was tasked with recruiting volunteers to assist with the more regular informal monitoring activities and a number of names were put forward. The Recreation Director will consult with the Ontario Heritage Trust representative to finalize the role of volunteers, then training will take place to ensure that monitoring and reporting will be done in accordance with the Stewardship Plan.

Thanks to everyone who has indicated an interest in being a Sand Beach monitoring volunteer. You will be contacted directly in the New Year. If you are interested and have not been contacted yet, please get in touch with one of the Sand Beach Advisory Committee members shown below.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact the writer, Diane Pearce (dpearce@kos.net), Recreation Director Andree Ferris (aferris@loyalist.ca) or any of the Advisory Committee members: Jacob Murray, Allen Caughey, Gwen Lauret, Jacqueline Sylvester and Terry McGinn.

Loyalist Township is still accepting donations to the Sand Beach Fund. Although there have been many generous donations, large and small, we are still trying to reach the \$25,000 goal. Please remember that you will receive a charitable donation receipt for your contribution. Make cheques payable to Loyalist Township Sand Beach Fund. Thanks!



BEGINNER'S NEEDLE FELTING WORKSHOP

**Contact Sally
613 389 3444**

**Thursday, February 11th
9:00 – 11:30 am
All supplies included in \$30 fee.
Learn to create your own needle-felted
creature in a morning.**

JANET'S JOTTINGS - THE XMAS BIRD COUNT

On Monday, December 28th, 2015 about 28 avid birders took part in the 115th annual Christmas Bird Count. Here on Amherst Island it was our 25th time participating in this winter phenomenon that has turned out to be the world's longest continuing citizen-run scientific survey. Volunteers all over North and South America spend hours in all kinds of weather counting and documenting bird species over a three-week period around Christmas and New Years.

It began in 1900 when a gentleman named Frank Chapman began the idea of "Count not Kill" over the holiday season. It had been considered a sportsman tradition to have competitions among your guests to see which group could kill the most birds over a holiday. He suggested that they count the birds instead and a tradition evolved.

Five years later he was one of the founders of The National Audubon Society and the word "birding" itself was not coined until 20 years later. From a small group of bird enthusiasts, it has grown to over 60,000 participants in 2160 different circles. Last years' count tallied 2319 species and 55,951,707 birds.

**Seen left – a Snow Bunting
Photo by Judy Bierma**

The list included 175 species of Hummingbirds for example which boggles the mind of one used to seeing only the Ruby-throated in our region. There are now more counts taking place in Columbia than in any other country other than United States and Canada. The Caribbean and Latin American counts add significant numbers of species to the overall count.

Over the years a few Island residents have braved the elements to help with the Christmas count but usually it is members of the Kingston Field Naturalists and their friends or friends of friends that have come to the Island each year for the Christmas Bird Count. This year Judy Bierma, Sherri and Larry Jensen, Bonnie Livingstone, Sharen English, David Pickering, William Barrett with cheering support from Deb were Islanders brave enough to join us and a special thanks to Deb & Bill Barrett, Judy Bierma, Sally Bowen, Bonnie Caughey, Sherri & Larry Jensen and Eloise & Dayle Gowan for their delicious contributions to our food offerings and for helping with set-up and clean-up. We know that the participants really appreciated the muffins, bread and soups that you provided.

The temperature was minus 16 with a cold wind blowing but no snow until that night. A travelling bird enthusiast Zeke from New Hampshire and his partner Rebecca who usually join us were kept home by the serious weather report. Another regular, Rob Worona, was here from Calgary, the farthest participant, again. Some birders from Bath joined us this year and that was great to have close neighbours helping us out.

In total we had 28 counters, none lost or misplaced and counted 51 species of birds and 3,940 birds. The 20 Snowy Owls were a great find.

It was a great day and thank-you Islanders for your support with birding sightings, permission to go on some land areas, yummy muffins for our breakfast and a big thank-you Amherst Island, the greatest place in the world to live.

AIMS MEETING, SAT 12 DEC 2016

- William Barrett

Nineteen members were present. A fine breakfast was presented courtesy of William Barrett – thanks.

Our presentation was by Michael Steeves who gave us a memoir of his life – so far. He and his wife Elena are welcome additions to the island.



The treasurer gave his report. We're healthy right now, but annual dues will be collected starting in January. Please be prepared.

The transportation co-ordinator gave his report. Seven trips were supported this month. Members were asked to register if they felt they could occasionally assume one or more of the support tasks.

The CFL light bulb recycle bin has been established at the store. We've already had to empty the bin once.

Thank you Larry, for organizing the lunch at the Legion. Fifteen people attended. Future events are anticipated.

The grant submission is in which supports the hanging baskets and Museum garden. Thank you Dayle. Now we wait to see if it is funded.

Bruce (Sudds) gave an overview of the not-for-profit organization which is trying to ensure a café exists on Amherst Island in 2016. I'm sure AIMS and most of the Island wishes them well in this endeavour.

Gardiner discussed the AI cooperative, and what might be next for it. Since much of the efforts is tied up with haskap berries, the co-op is largely dormant until a marketable crop is available.

Marc asked if there was an interest in pursuing a Business Improvement Area on AI. He will continue to investigate.

It was mentioned that Don Bailey had asked if there was interest from AIMS about providing support to a Syrian family. We await additional information.

With Hugh Jenney heading south, Don Pepper is taking over as Chairman for AIMS.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Excerpt from Queen's University:

AWARD PRESENTATION: KATHY REED

Kathy has worked at Queen's since 1976 and in her current position as Research Ethics Coordinator for the Health Sciences and Affiliated Teaching Hospitals Research Ethics Board (HSREB) for close to 25yrs. She embodies the Mission of the Vice-Principal (Research) Portfolio, to "facilitate ethical research and scholarship at Queen's by providing leadership, support and services," in short, "Helping people achieve excellence in research and scholarship".

In her position as the HSREB Ethics Coordinator, Kathy is the nexus between faculty, staff, medical residents and students, and the Health Sciences and Affiliated Teaching Hospitals Research Ethics Board members. As the HSREB Research Ethics Coordinator since its inception, Kathy has seen a steady increase to her workload to currently managing close to 4,000 active files per year (an increase of 250% over the years). She remains undaunted and her enthusiasm for her job undiminished. She is always happy to go the extra mile to assist and work with researchers and staff to ensure that they understand the research ethics process. Kathy has had a positive impact on every researcher involved in the Health Sciences who has ever conducted research involving human participants at Queen's.

Kathy has a wealth of institutional knowledge and appreciation of the evolving regulations and how they impact the research ethics review process. Her



value to the HSREB, University Research Services, and Queen's University cannot be overstated. Her experience and expertise ensures Queen's University remains in compliance with a myriad of external regulatory bodies.

As many know, Kathy Wemp Reed is the fourth child of five, of Ralph and Beatrice Wemp.



Islanders at the Community Café Planning Meeting

Photo by Brian Little

COMMUNITY CAFÉ MEETING

- Katie Little

On the afternoon of January 9, 2016, forty-three enthusiastic Islanders gathered together at the community centre to discuss revitalizing the Amherst Island Community Café. Last fall, Judy Bierma and Anthony Gifford asked if the community would be interested in making the café a volunteer-operated establishment. Since the November meeting, a steering committee made up of Lorna Willis, Ian Murray, Bruce Sudds, Michèle Le Lay, and Diane Pearce has worked determinedly to set the café project in motion.

At the January 9th meeting, the steering committee presented their vision for the café. Their plan is for the Amherst Island Community Café to be a volunteer operated restaurant that aims to serve good quality food, support local growers, hire and train local students, and promote and host local events.

The key to a volunteer-run café is volunteers! And when it comes to volunteers, the more the merrier! If you can only volunteer for a few hours a week, no problem! No experience necessary! There is a job for every person, every age, every ability, and every time availability!

The steering committee has organized the work that needs to be done into seven sub-committees: Administration, Food and Menu, Facility and Landscaping, Marketing, Staffing, Training, and Opening and Service. At the meeting, volunteers were invited to join the committees that peaked their interests. Volunteers hurriedly spread out across the gym to start sharing their ideas. After an hour of brainstorming, everyone re-grouped to discuss next steps. Over the next few months these committees will work to complete a long list of tasks so that the new and improved, non-profit, volunteer-run will be open to serve Islanders and Island-visitors between the Victoria Day long weekend and Labour Day.

As the meeting ended the sense of optimism and enthusiasm, both for the café and for the community, was unmistakable. Just as a family gathers in the kitchen to eat, it is the hope of the café group that the Island community will gather together at the café to eat and visit with friends and neighbours.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer and were unable to attend the January 9th meeting, please contact amherstislandcafe@gmail.com.



December 2015

Photo by Brian Little

POEM

- Sharen English

The Island is brown and warm.
The people here are warm too.
'Tis the season to make much ado.

Parties abound
with joyful sound.
The house is quiet
only pets and David are around.

This time of year makes me reflect
on the things that I respect.
Love, generosity, kindness and peace.
Wishing that war everywhere would cease.

To you my friend
I wish you a happiness that will never end.

MEDIA RELEASE

Clarence Kennedy Elected 2016 Warden of the
County of Lennox & Addington

[Clarence Kennedy is a former principle of AIPS.]

Lennox and Addington County Council is pleased to announce that Clarence Kennedy, Reeve of Stone Mills Township, was elected as County Warden for the year 2016, at Council's Inaugural Meeting on December 9, 2015.

Warden Kennedy began his municipal service as a member of the Township of Stone Mills Committee of Adjustment in 2003, a position he served in until he was elected in 2010 as a Councillor representing the Camden Ward of Stone Mills Township. In 2014 he was elected as Reeve of the Township.

Warden Kennedy worked for thirty-three years for the Lennox and Addington County Board of Education which through restructuring became the Limestone District School Board. As an educator, Warden Kennedy served in a number of leadership

roles in many of Lennox and Addington's school communities. He has also served as a Director and Chair of the Board for a local Mutual Insurance Company.

Warden Kennedy and his wife Rose Marie reside on their family farm at Enterprise where they operate a cow calf operation with their son Ted and his family. Warden Kennedy is pleased that daughters Amy and Lana and their families also claim Lennox and Addington as home.

CONTRIBUTION

- Brian & Brenda MacDonald
Kingston Chronicle, June 6, 1829
Column 2, 3rd item from bottom

NOTICE.

WHEREAS several depredations respecting Saw Logs have been committed on the Isle of Tanti, every person or persons who may hereafter be found offending in taking Logs or Cord-wood without a permit will be prosecuted with the utmost rigor of the Law. **RICHARD HITCHINS**

Isle of Tanti, 6th April, 1829.



Redtail Hawk
Photo by Bonnie Bailey

ISLAND TOUR WITH KEITH MILLER

-Judy Bierma

I went on an Island Tour with Keith Miller last month.

I won it at a Silent Auction and was so glad I did.

We started at the head of the Island where Chris Kennedy and Dianne Marshall live and Bruce and Carrie Sudds.

There is a lot of history on this Island and Keith can give you an amazing tour and tell the history of most houses on the Island and the history of farms and barns and buildings that used to stand on the Island.

We drove down Front Road with Keith pointing out where the Emerald Cheese Factory was, MacDonald's farm, Lulu Strains, etc. and we covered the whole Island.

Keith has a volume of information to share with the people he takes around on his tour.

It took about 4 hours and was very enjoyable and I learned lots of history about Amherst Island and about people that are living here now.

THANK YOU NOTES

I would like to thank all my market customers and those who came to the farm also to all I baked for through the winter months.

I will bake for anyone again this winter and expect to see everyone next May at the market.

I wish everyone a Happy Healthy New Year.

Barb Reid

We thank-you for the many kind and caring expressions of sympathy during this difficult time.

With Appreciation, John, Laurie and Family





Anna Hitchins and Keith Miller at the New Year's Dance
Photo by Joan Simpson

A great time was had by all who attended the New Years celebration at the A.I. Recreational Centre. More than 120 people danced and visited the night away to music by Country Rhythm. Great job by the Amherst Island Rec. Association with the bar. Thanks to all the volunteers for their help in keeping an Island Tradition alive.



Country Rhythm at New Year's Dance
Rick Henderson, Dan Simpson, Sheila Bedard, Jake Carl and guest performer Keith Miller
Photo by Joan Simpson

From the New Year's Dance Committee

A special thank you to Dan & Joan Simpson, Judy Bierma & Anthony Gifford, Bonnie & Al Caughey Linda & Eric Welbanks, Judy & Don Miller, Rick Bedford, Barb Laing, Cherri Jensen, Also Laura & Stephen Street.

Thank you to Betty Wemp for setting up & supplying tea & coffee & her sister Sandy for the excellent job on the flyers & tickets. Also Duncan Ashley for his input & supplying two books of ferry tickets a gift certificate from Schell's Market & Metro. Also thanks to Tom Sylvester for calendar & Larry Jensen gift. From Metro for door prizes.

Special thanks to COUNTRY RHYTHM Dan, Rick, Sheila, Jake, Keith for the excellent music. Also a Thank you to the rec committee for supplying the hall & doing the bar.

We all thank everybody who came out and helped us bring in the NEW YEAR & hope to see you next NEW YEARS.

Have a happy 2016.

OWL HOOT CAMP



Barred Owl on Eloise and Dayle Gowan's dock.

Photo by Eloise Gowan

(She also took the wild turkey picture on pg 7)

Below: John Brennan, Devin Forester, Anna Walhout, Hailey Shelley, Coulton Forester, Nathan Archibald, April Allen, Mary White in a Photo by Judy Bierma



Thank-you to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church for providing a perfect site for our two-day camp held on December 29th and December 30th on an Owl theme.

Mary White and Tessa Mayman worked their usual magic and came up with at least 15 owl craft ideas including the sweetest little luminaries that decorated the sanctuary while the play was being performed. They were ably assisted by Hannah Norton, Rebecca Scott and Allan Glenn who helped with senior crafts.

Lively music sessions were provided by Beth Forester with marching and rhythm instruments.

A little play about birds visiting the Nativity was created and performed by the 11 campers with help from Carol Glenn, Jay Brennan and Janet Scott under the direction of John Brennan and Emma Cabral.

Bonnie Baker, Gail Haggette and Annette Phillips gave of their time to make sure we were fed and to top it all off all parents and families of the campers were invited to a Pot Luck supper for our closing.

We had a great time!

Judy Bierma

ADVERTISEMENTS

HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE FOR RENT by the week or weekend. Contact Jan Sydorko at 519-451-1197 or email michael.sydorko@sympatico.ca

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.

Amherst Island Women's Institute Medical Equipment Loan Cupboard (wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, bath seats, grab rails, 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; great raw honey by bees (with help from Dave Meikle and Kyle Murray).

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: January 15, 1986 - Volume
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COUNCIL REPORT for January 7th, 1986

- Christopher Kennedy

Before the regular meeting, Council met and
approved the rezoning of Bert Nesbitt's land.

Keith Miller was away at the Dairy Herd
Improvement Association Annual Meeting, as he is
the Director for Lennox and Addington.

The minutes of the Dec. 3rd and Dec. 20th
meetings were approved. At the Dec. 20th
meeting this year's ferry rates were decided. The
rates are mainly unchanged, but the spouse's pass
has been abolished.

The Building Inspector reported that one permit
was issued in December, for Dave Willard to build
a sheep shed. Only 19 building permits were issued
in 1985, down from 26 in 1984. The capital
investment figure was way down, partly because
no houses were built on the Island last year.



Goldfinch
Photo by Judy Bierma

Stuart Miller reported that the road crew had
ploughed snow for most of December. It was the
worst December he could remember. Fortunately,
there had been no major breakdowns (famous last
words!) The radio telephones in the vehicles have
been a great help.

Dr. Osborne approached Council to enquire
about rezoning his waterfront property (next to
Bruce Caughey's). Bruce Caughey Jr. spoke to
Council about the ferry pass system. He suggested
that economies could be made by reducing the
crew to four and giving more administrative
responsibility to the captains. He thought that the
Island residents should pay one fee and visitors
another.

The Reeve had been to two county meetings, one
to elect committees and the other to hear from the
employees at Venture Trans at Millhaven about
saving their jobs.

The Ferry Negotiating Committee had two
meetings with M.T.C. about the new ferry
agreement. The negotiations continue, but it looks
as though the agreement will be generally similar

to the present one. It would run for four years, with the Township paying a slightly higher percentage of the costs, going to 10% by 1989 (up from 8.5% in 1985).

The Coast Guard is still working on the regulations for dangerous cargoes.

The Township lawyer is to work on the right-of-way along the beach by Art McGinn's.

The Future Needs Study Steering Committee on the ferry is continuing its deliberations.

The Council received information on Bill 309, concerning waste oil disposal. This bill says that if you produce waste engine oil, even from your own vehicles, you must either license your facility as a generator of liquid waste and all material must be manifested off your property, or have a written agreement with a licensed Part V hauler. I'm sure that everyone on the Island will be rushing out to comply with this.

The Sanitation Committee will try to get more money to continue improving the dump.

Assessment notices will be going out soon. Council discussed the parking problems on the Stella dock, so the snow plough and school bus can have room to turn.

After a few more minor matters, Council adjourned.

COUNCIL MEETING, December 20, 1985

- Tom Sylvester

Council met in special session to consider the existing ferry rate structure, ferry use and 1987 ferry Revenue shortfalls.

The M.T.C. ferry subsidy rate will drop to 90.5% for 1987 from 91.5% in 1986. This 1% drop is significant when the size of the ferry deficit is considered. There may be dramatic changes to the ferry rate structure for 1987 to cover the Township's share of the projected deficit.

The pass system will be under review. Once again the ferry use increased while revenue actually decreased in 1985.

There were slight changes in ferry pass policy:

1. The pass holder must be driving the vehicle unless "incapacitated."
2. Passes apply to only one vehicle space; an additional charge will apply if a pass holder with, say, a trailer behind his vehicle prevents another vehicle from boarding the ferry.
3. A student pass can only be issued for a full time

student and if the student's parent or guardian has a pass. The name of the institution must be specified.

Council will welcome suggestions for the Revision of the ferry Rate Structure for 1987.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

Congratulations to Lorna Seaman and Jim Barbro, who were married at the bride's house just after Christmas. Very best wishes.

Welcome to Jennie McCormick, a new addition to the village. Jennie moved last week to the trailer across from Glenn's Store.

And Bon Voyage to Jack and Madlyn Kerr, who left last week for a few months in sunny Florida. Also to John and Mary Hall, who are heading south the end of January.

A reminder that Winn's Aerobics classes are now underway, every Monday and Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the school. Men in leotards welcome.

And as for Max ... Most of us were sure Max was going to another home after eating the Driver's seat belt out of Doug's truck just before Christmas. However, Doug softened and instead of selling Max (or paying someone to take him) a large wire cage was installed in the dining room, where Max now spends a good deal of his time. And since Max's owner suggested more exercise for the dog, Doug has now taken to jogging him along beside his truck on a leash. Aside from eating the carpeted floor of his cage, the exercise seems to have calmed him down some.

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Diane Gavlas

The regular monthly meeting will be on January 15th at 8:00 pm. Mrs. Phyllis Strain is our hostess.

Mrs Anna Hitchins is on program with world affairs. Roll call is "An Event in the World Today".

New members are still welcome to join. Hope to see some soon.



House Finch
Photo by Judy Bierma

RANDOM NOTES

- Ian Murray

Chris and Randi Kennedy have both seen Halley's Comet in the past week.

The Island received excellent service from Pringle's of Napanee when the transmission disintegrated on the dump truck that has the snow plow mounted on it. The damage occurred on a Thursday morning and by evening two of Pringle's men had returned from Thomasburg with a transmission from a wrecked truck. On Friday the transmission and drive shaft were replaced and by evening the truck was plowing snow.

The road crew have just acquired a snow blower and they report that it works very well.

When you hear of something related to Council business that may affect you, why not contact the Clerk or one of members of Council to find out what is actually happening? Also, don't forget that Council Meetings - regular, special and committee - are open to the public. The only exceptions are meetings, or parts of meetings, that deal with personnel matters, labour relations and negotiations, property purchases, litigation and contract information. This does not mean that Council is going to include you in any discussions, although the Chairman may allow you to address Council, but you do have the right to hear what is being discussed.

I continue to be amazed at some of the rumors that circulate within this community. The inventiveness of some and the gullibility of others always surprises me. I sometimes think that I should print a separate page of The Beacon, containing

the monthly supply of rumors, silly and sane, together with all the gossip, malicious and otherwise. The main reason that I do not do so is that I hate the thought of dignifying the drivel that is passed around the Island as "information". I would also be ashamed for someone from "off-Island" to read some of the things that are repeated over here.

I am not against rumors; it is a good way to hear what is going on. What I am against is the mindless acceptance and repetition of nonsense.

I am also not against gossip. Discussing the doings of our neighbours and friends is one way in which community norms are formed and perhaps altered. It is also one way in which children can learn what their parents and other adults consider to be acceptable and unacceptable behavior. What I am against is the needless and irresponsible character assassination that some people take such obvious pleasure in spreading.

NOTICES

If you need a babysitter for children ages 3 and up, call Sherry Ward at 389-5767. I am twelve years old.

The I.S.L.E. Ham Dinner will be on Wednesday January 29 at 12 noon at the school. The cost is \$3.75 for adults and \$2.00 for children.

A note to all girls and boys who played on the Mite baseball team. Please return sweaters either to the store or to me as soon as possible. Thanks, Reta

THANK YOU NOTES

Many thanks to the Amherst Island Youth Group for delivering our Island Christmas Cards to our doors along with their own cheery "Season's Greetings".

Your presence, helping hands and cheerful faces add a real bright spot in our community.

Best wishes to your group for 1986!

Jean Tugwell

Once again, I would like to say thanks for all the nice cards, phone calls and visitations when I was in hospital and after I came home. The Women's Institute, P.C.W., A.C.W. and Legion represent a lot of good wishes. Thanks a million.

Earle Tugwell

My sincere thanks to the senior men's baseball club for the award recently presented to me. I have enjoyed working with the team and hope to continue doing so.

Doug Wilson

On behalf of all of us who use the Island roads, I would like to congratulate the snow removal crew for their excellent work. They have cleared the roads under the worst weather conditions, worked long hours and rescued stranded vehicles in the process. It must be very difficult to keep going through the night in a blizzard especially with old and worn-out equipment.

Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Randi Kennedy

We would like to thank all of our good friends, family and neighbours for the cards, money and especially the great going away party!! It was so unexpected and a total surprise. Special thanks to Pam, Annette, Phil and Debbie, and anyone else who was involved in the conspiracy!!

Thank you also to the A.C.W. for the beautiful earrings, the A.I. Men's Ball Club for the great desk set, and to Mrs. Forrester and the primary room for Jason's going away party.

Everything was deeply appreciated and will never be forgotten.

The weather has been cool at night since we arrived in Orlando - but always sunny and warm through the day. We hear youth weather has been a bit cooler and whiter! We're easing into city life - it's a big change from Amherst Island! The biggest problem so far has been resisting the urge to wave to ever car you meet on the road!!

Thank you all again. Happy New Year to you all.

Larry, Lyn, Jason and Stephanie Fleming.

AMHERST ISLAND COMMUNITY SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Susan Caughey

The boys and girls of the community Sunday School have been busy supporting an international project known as "Sleeping Children around the World." The idea, founded by Murray Dryden (Ken and Dave's dad) has been in effect since 1972. The non-profit organization is run by nearly 80-year-old Mr. Dryden and volunteers from the Dryden home in Islington, Ontario.

A cheque has recently been sent from the

Amherst Island children to purchase three slumber kits. Kits include an air mattress, pillow, sheets, pajamas, and blankets or mosquito netting where needed. They are delivered personally to the children in India, Pakistan, Haiti, the Philippines, and Jamaica by volunteers from Ontario. Everyone who contributes a kit receives a colour photograph of the child receiving the kit. The mother and child who receive the kit also receive a photograph. Mr. Dryden says it may be the only photograph the mother has of her child.

People have asked the Drydens "why bedding, why not food?". "Have you involuntarily ever been without a bed for a period of time? We feel that a comfortable bed for a few hours each night takes the mind off a child's problems, such as hunger and it conserves energy for the challenges of the next day. There is no one else with such a program," says Mr. Dryden.

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BEACON NOTES

Thank you for your thank yous.

Last month, we at the Beacon's publishing offices received many thank yous for the volunteer work bringing the Beacon to press each month. It is these occasional thank yous that lift our spirits and encourage us to continue. This in turn has led me to think about all the people in our community who volunteer their time and energy to make this a better place to live. Sitting down one night I started to do a mental list of all the people on Amherst Island who contribute to the community in some way. The list is endless and there would never be enough room to include everyone. However, I would like to take this time to express my appreciation to all those who volunteer their time and energy. Thank you.

Dianne Marshall... [for all of US]

As you can see, we have re-vamped the Beacon because we have a new program (WordPerfect for Windows 6.1) plus a new font package (that's print styles for us computer illiterates). Hope you enjoy our newest look?!

We are late getting to press this month because of two important Council meeting which, we thought, should be included. Reports on these follow directly after....

Regular Council Meeting

- Chris Kennedy

January 9, 1996

Ralph Woods was away on holiday. The Reeve did not attend the meeting, so Alex Scott was elected to chair the meeting in the Reeve's absence. The minutes of the previous month's meetings were approved.

I asked Council what was happening with the Back Beach agreement, which still needs the final signatures. Council has no new information and so I will ask again about the matter at future meetings.

There is no funding available for a household hazardous waste collection day, so Council will not pursue the matter. The Provincial Government has cancelled all waste management grant programmes.

Stuart Miller reported that the Public Works Department had come in under budget for 1995 despite the snow in December. Stuart hopes the crusher will be here in February.

When the Amherst Islander came back in December the Public Works Department had to rent a hoe-ram to dig out the ramps, which were frozen solid, and it is estimated the total cost will be around \$4000. The docks are at the moment federally owned, but under the new National Marine Policy they will be transferred to the province or the municipality.

Alex Scott presented to Council a draft by-law to establish and regulate the Fire Department, and a report and plan for the department. In 1993 the Fire Department responded to eight calls, in 1994 fifteen calls and in 1995 five calls. In 1996 Alex wants particularly to emphasize fire prevention. The By-law will be discussed at the next regular meeting. Anyone who wishes to see it should go to the Township Office.

The budget for this year is going to take a lot of work. The ferry operation has not been touched, yet. Apart from the ferry, in 1995 the Township will

receive \$24,302 less in Provincial money, or 21.86%. [Staff: For more on this year's budget, see the next report.]

Council has received the Building Inspector's annual report. In 1995 three permits were issued for new houses, seven for renovations, one addition, two new garages, three decks, two chimneys and a boat house.

Ernestown wants to meet with its neighbouring municipalities, Bath, North Fredericksburgh, South Fredericksburgh, Adolphustown and Amherst Island to discuss possible boundary restructuring. Council decided not to discuss any reply to the letter until the Reeve was present.

Lyn Fleming made a motion, and it was passed, that any time there is a disruption to the ferry schedule the ferry captain be required to notify the Township Office.

Council adjourned just after 9.30 pm.



Northern Harrier female
Photo by Bonnie Bailey

Township Of Amherst Island Notice Re Bag Tags

The price of garbage bag tags has been increased to \$1.50 effective Saturday, January 20, 1996. The maximum number of tickets that may be sold to each household before the effective date is twelve (12).

Council has taken this measure in response to decreasing grants to the municipality from the province.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

- Don Tubb

January 15, 1996

Sit down and strap yourself in 'cause it is going to be a bumpy ride for the next year or two... not only did the budget process get underway but there was talk of amalgamation, ferry docks, Bill 26, landfill site funding, the Back Beach, etc. We do live in interesting times.

The Reeve was absent but Councillors Fleming, Scott, Whitton and Woods were present along with the Public Works Superintendent (Stuart Miller) and the Clerk-treasurer (Diane Pearce). No members of the public were in attendance other than this reporter.

Reeve Ashley has apparently informed the Township that he does not know when he will return (because of health reasons). So, the first significant item of business was to elect as Acting Reeve, Councillor Woods. The Reeve's responsibilities were delegated among the Council members as follows:

- landfill site expansion will be handled by Acting Reeve Woods and Councillor Fleming;
- the Ferry Committee will be handled by Acting Reeve Woods (already sitting on the Committee) and Councillor Whitton; and,
- all members of Council will participate in amalgamation discussions.

The Clerk-treasurer gave an explanation of the 1996 Municipal Block Grant Calculation which leaves the Township with 21.86% less from the Province, amounting to about \$24,000. [Part of this money is that which the previous government committed itself to paying us for the paving last year. The present government (through MTO) will pay us only about \$23,400 out of the \$31,500 owed. This amounts to \$8,100 an additional amount that the Township will have to pick up.]

The Clerk-treasurer then went on, saying that there may be budget ramifications from Bill 26. She has been told that this bill will eliminate the County's authority to have a Road Levy meaning that this money will have to come from the General Levy. For us, it could mean a 30% increase in the County levy. This, of course, is not set in stone as Bill 26 is not passed, let alone in force.

By the way, I am limiting the number of figures I put in this article because they were coming fast and furious, and because there were few exact figures available, so... you know... don't quote me. And, it should be pointed out that the initial Township department budgets are a first try only - not to be confused with what will eventually emerge as the budget.

A general discussion of what direction Council wanted to take in budget deliberations was interesting. While no Council member committed him/her-self to a fixed philosophical position, the general leaning appears to be for Acting Reeve Woods and Councillor Fleming favouring significant budget cuts while Councillors Scott and Whitton lean towards a mix of cuts and tax increases. All appear to favour more fee-for-services and higher rates for those already in effect.

Council decided the following:

- that the next budget meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 30, 1996 in the Council Chambers,
- that, at this meeting, all departments will be asked to submit a budget that is 20% less than last year's budgeted amount,
- that the cost of tags for garbage bags will go up from \$1.00 to \$1.50 effective January 20, 1996, with households being limited to buying one sheet (12 tags) only between now and then,
- that all Township services will be examined to see what is a fair fee (for example - Animal Evaluators, Building Permits, Dog Licenses, etc),
- that members of Council will take a 20% cut in pay, down from \$100 to \$80 per meeting (which, by the way, was already down from \$125 not too many years ago).

In other business, Council has received invitations from both Bath and Ernestown to their separate restructuring talks. Council members expressed no particular interest in attending beyond the negative one that if we don't do something, someone else will decide our fate for us (ie the Province). No positive points (ie to the Island's benefit) were mentioned as possibly coming from restructuring. Council decided to invite the two parties over to the Island for a presentation during a Public Meeting. At this point, Council members appear to lean towards Ernestown if for no other reason than the Millhaven dock sits in Ernestown Township. Acting Reeve Woods said that the Island should be looking for a ward system where there is the possibility of the Island having its own representative.

That brings me to another point mentioned... apparently there will be a transfer of the docks from Federal to Provincial or municipal control. No information was available to know whether the Province will accept them.

To continue the water theme.... Council asked the Clerk-treasurer to contact our lawyer and find out

the legal status of the Back Beach agreement, as it stands now. Is it in enforce or enforceable despite not being signed by both parties?

Just as an aside, there is apparently a good possibility that Amherst Island will be shifted to another Federal riding... one Council member said it was a done deal while another said it was not but rather that Ernestown would be shifted.

Council has received a proposal from the Manley Insurance Group for the Township's group insurance which is significantly less costly (for what, apparently, is the same or better coverage). London Life, our present insurer, will be asked to re-examine our policy costs.

The briefly mentioned item about the Acting Reeve and Councillor Fleming dealing with landfill site expansion is a priority item because the Township stands to lose the money (reportedly about \$30,000) available for this as of March 1996. Not only that but funding for landfill site studies will dry up at some not too distant future date. Perhaps the report on the Landfill Site Public Meeting will provide some answers.

Finally, there were two closed sessions... the first with the Public Work's superintendent which produced no recommendations, and the second at the end of the meeting about which I have no information as I did not wait.

Township Of Amherst Island
Notice Of Public Meeting
Dear Residents of Amherst Island

On Thursday, January 25th, 1996, Arnold Adams, Deputy Reeve of the Township of Ernestown will be in attendance at a public meeting. This meeting will take place at the Amherst Island Public School at 8:00 p.m. This is concerning the possible amalgamation of Amherst Island with Ernestown and other municipalities in the southern portion of Lennox and Addington County.

We invite the residents of Amherst Island to attend for an informative exchange of ideas.

Yours truly,
Ralph T. Woods
Councillor and Acting Reeve

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
- Chris Kennedy
January 16, 1996
Public Meeting
Waste Disposal Options

About 20 people attended a meeting to hear David Malcolm of Malroz Engineering outline the options for waste disposal on the island. The present dump is, technically, full. It may not appear to be so, but only about half of the dump is actually licensed as a landfill site and if the garbage in the unlicensed area was moved to the licensed area, the licensed area would be full. This, one might think, merely requires some paper work to licence the unlicensed area. But no. The Ministry of the Environment wants more hydro-geological studies, a buffer zone to be acquired, and other conditions to be met before they will approve an increase in area.

David Malcolm outlined 5 options for the Township.

1. Do nothing
2. Expand existing site
3. Close present site and open new site
4. Close site and truck garbage off Island
5. Incinerate (not allowed under present regulations)

These options were discussed at some length. Doing nothing is the cheapest but the Ministry of the Environment could padlock the dump tomorrow and we could be up the proverbial creek. There is some money available until March 1st to expand the existing site and this seems to be Council's preferred option. Council will have to move fast to beat the deadline. A new site is very expensive and there are no grants available. Closing the dump and trucking off the Island leaves us at the mercy of truckers and landfill site owners.

We will keep you posted on future developments.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

Best wishes to Marion Glenn who broke her heel in a minor fall, and to Zelma Koenders who broke her ankle in a grocery store parking lot.

Art McGinn was in hospital for a few days but is now back at home. Don Gregg had hip replacement surgery last week and was recovering well last time we heard.

Happy Birthday to Tena Filson (Harry's mother), who turns 95 this month.

Happy 30th Anniversary to Glen and Sandra Filson, January 15th.

Finally, sad news that Thelma Howard, a lifelong resident of Amherst Island, passed away on Friday, January 12th.

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Freda Youell

The first week of December was a busy one for the W.I. starting with a combined Meeting/Xmas Party on the 5th. Our hostess was Anna Hitchins, who along with Jean McIntyre and Marion Glenn, put on a full turkey dinner and delicious desserts to start the evening. It must have taken a lot of work to put it all together and our appreciation was evident by the way we filled (and emptied!) our plates.

A short meeting starting with the Ode, Collect and National Anthem followed and plans for the upcoming Seniors Dinner were finalized.

Soon it was time to start the party and Helen Lamb read a story telling of the origin of the Salvation Army Kettles, after which Helen Lamb and Leslie Gavlas who were in charge of Entertainment, had us playing games before we exchanged gifts.

We were fortunate to have Cathy Glenn join us for the evening and she kindly played the piano for our carol singing and what we lacked in unison we made up for in enthusiasm.

The Seniors Dinner on the 8th was another success with a turkey dinner with all the trimmings followed by Xmas pudding and delicious fudge. We can't take All the credit for this event - the members of the 4H Club helped from start to finish, setting up, serving, clearing dishes and, the heaviest job of all, putting the tables and chairs away at the end of the evening. As a fairly new resident I am constantly amazed at the willingness and politeness of the young people in this Community and we would like to sincerely thank them for the help they gave us.

Entertainment was provided by tenor Fredric Mahood accompanied by Ted Brown on the piano and "Camden Express". Both, as always, delighted the audience with their songs and step dancing.

The January meeting will be at the home of Irene Glenn at 1:30 on the 17th and there will be a brown bag auction as well as our usual business and the program on Sheep Industry Practices by Chris Kennedy.

Visitors would be welcome so please join us if you can and bring along your favourite lamb recipe to share.

DANCE

February 17

Winter Blah's Dance (Post Valentine's Day)
Music by Rock and Roll Cowboys (Tim Hallman)
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
Dancing 8:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.
\$20 per couple
Tickets from any Legion member

COOK'S CORNER

- Dianne Marshall

The recipe for this month is for those who have cooked turkey tucked away in the freezer. The mere mention of turkey at this time make some of you shudder. However, on a cold February day you may just appreciate a nice hot bowl of Creamy Turkey Soup with bread fresh from the oven.

1 large onion, chopped
3 stalks of celery cut into 1/4 inch pieces
6 tablespoons butter or margarine
6 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon each of dried thyme, savory, and parsley flakes
1 1/2 cups milk
4 cups cubed cooked turkey
5 medium carrots, cut into 1/4 inch pieces
1 to 2 cups of turkey or chicken broth
1 package (10 oz) frozen peas

In large kettle, saute onion and celery in butter until tender, about 10 minutes. Stir in the flour and seasonings; gradually add milk, stirring constantly until thickened. Add turkey and carrots. Add enough broth until soup is of desired consistency. Cover and simmer for 15 minutes or until vegetables are tender.

6-8 servings (2 quarts)

EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONSE TEAM REPORT

Thank You! The EFRT fundraising group is ecstatic to announce that the Defibrillator Campaign is officially complete! The Defib has been ordered and should arrive by the end of January. Training date for the team has been confirmed for February 3rd.

It is impossible to thank each individual contributor in the Beacon without sending it over its required mailing weight. Suffice it to say it would be nearly impossible to find a single person in this community who has not made a contribution to the Defib in one way or another. The total amount raised was just under \$10,000. (We would like to mention that a \$500. donation

from the Driving Club was what finally topped up the campaign).

So on behalf of the EFRT Team, we would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the community of Amherst Island. Your support of the Defib Campaign has shown that there is tremendous support of, and appreciation for the work of the EFRT Team; that is something that any amount of money can't buy.

Lynann Whitton, EFRT Team Captain, is preparing an information package which she would like to present to local service groups over the next few months. This program deals with the Defib and its relationship to CPR and other factors. Lynann will be contacting service groups over the next few weeks. The EFRT Fundraising Group is planning a community information night in April or May, once the weather warms up.

Again our thanks.

Annette Phillips

Sue McGinn

Laurie Youell

EFRT Fundraising Group

[Staff- And many thanks to the Fundraising Group for the effort and time invested in this worthwhile project.]

AMHERST ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

- Ian Murray

In 1996, the fire fighters will be studying and practicing the "basics". We will be working with the "Essentials of Fire Fighting" - a comprehensive text book with an accompanying work book. The book is very well written with clear explanations (and illustrations). This is a good time to join up and learn along with the rest of us. The next meeting is on January 22 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact me or any other member of the fire department.

Fire Chief Alex (Sandy) Scott is now vice-president of our mutual aid group. This covers the counties of Frontenac and Lennox & Addington and includes the City of Kingston. There are over 900 fire fighters involved in this mutual aid area. Congratulations Alex.

LETTERS TO THE BEACON

From A. Bruce Caughey...

Your article regarding the post cards in the last issue of the Beacon interested me.

1. Re Aunt Sarah and James Murray: Aunt Sarah

was one of the Montgomery family, a sister of William, John, Mrs. John Miller (Annie) and Margaret, who married John Taylor. Their mother was a Cochrane, a sister of Robert Cochrane who lived on the present Woods farm on the south shore where Stanley Burke and Peggy Coulter presently reside.

The John Taylor Farm is Lot 1 on the South Shore Concession. Their family was as follows:

(a) Rubie

(b) William (Bill)

(c) Raymond

(d) Albert

(e) Alice

a. Rubie married Herbert Lindsay, they had two sons, both deceased, they removed to Portsmouth where Herb worked for the City of Kingston and Rubie was a dressmaker.

b. William was born in the First World War after which he married Margaret Smith. They had a family of one son and two daughters. The son met a tragic death while hunting on Lake Ontario. I think his body came ashore on the South Shore of Amherst Island. Daughters, Sylvia, who is deceased and Yvonne who lives in the Sydenham area. She had one son who is a Minister in the Beaches J Presbyterian Church, Toronto: Reverend Drew Strickland.

c. Raymond who was a sailor on the Great Lakes, a long time member of the crew of the Steamer Harvey H. Brown. He married an American girl and lived in Port Clinton, Ohio. He was killed in a car accident in that area.

d. Albert, who later in life married Evelyn Wemp. He died very suddenly in Bath where he operated a service station and is buried in Glenwood Cemetery.

e. Alice married Leonard Compeau. She had one son Bruce, presently residing in Ampah. Alice and Leonard resided in the Myles Hutchings house, which they later sold and removed to Kingston. Both are dead, buried in Glenhaven Memorial Gardens.

2. Re the card signed "Mollie". This was Mary Cochrane, always known as "Mollie". This card must have been written before she was married to Alexander McCormick and they lived next door on what is now the Frontini farm, which then belonged to my grandmother, Mrs. Robert Filson. My father and mother farmed this farm for some 8 years before purchasing the Caughey farm where we reside and my parents tried to sell this farm to

the McCormicks but they could not be persuaded and instead moved to the Front Road to the farm where Leonard McCormick resides, from Alex's uncle, George Beaubien in 1922.

This was an extremely hot summer and Alex had gone down to the bay for a swim in preparation for attending a school picnic on Kerr's Point. When he did not return someone went to the shore where Alex was found dead, presumably of a heart attack. Robert was too young to be able to take over the farm so it was sold to Hugh McCormick and family and Mollie and her young son moved to Kingston, where they resided with Mollie's aunt, Mrs. Hugh Fleming in an apartment at the rear of the "Dolan Harness Shop" on Princess Street. Robert enlisted in the Armed services during World War II and served throughout. I have lost track of his family any further than I have related except that "Mollie" is now deceased. I remember receiving an inquiry several years ago from a funeral home regarding a burial plot in Glenwood Cemetery. Unfortunately, Mollie had buried Alex in the McCormick plot and no other grave remained in this plot. I expect that burial was made in Cataract Cemetery.

I hope that this may provide answers to some of your queries.

From Ellie Cochrane Moore....

My December issue arrived today and was a wonderful holiday treat - just the reason why I look forward to getting it.

Many thanks for including Bruce Caughey's history of the fire department. For some reason I never was aware of Estel's role in it before. Morrison Scott's history of the mud house was fascinating, as was my first tour of it as a child. Being from Buffalo, I just couldn't imagine such, yet it was a thing the family just always knew. The history of electricity on the Island was also great. Thanks again to Bruce. I remember being quite impressed when we visited Uncle Dave and Auntie Mary Filson because they didn't have it. Lots of facts that my parents knew probably just never got mentioned because they didn't seem important to them or else I didn't listen because I was too young to care.

One thing that struck me about the electricity story was the trips across the frozen bay with Art's horse and sleigh. One indelible memory I have is of the trip across the bay with Uncle Tom's sleigh and I believe more than one horse for Grandma's funeral

in January of '47. I was not yet three and it made an impression.

It was also nice to read Hazel Reynold's letter and know she is doing well, not to mention Morrison who was one of the babies born on the Island the same year as Mom, 1901.

The mention of the I.S.L.E. cheese sale caused me to wonder if anyone could tell the history of the cheese factory. I remember touring it as a child and we always took a wheel of that wonderful cheese. It had to be the best ever!

Thanks for keeping Amherst Island's history alive along with your accounting of current events. [Staff- Ellie is the daughter of Edna Strain and Sam Cochrane. Uncle Dave and Aunt Mary were Dave Filson and his wife Mary (nee Fleming) Filson. They were Ed Filson's parents and lived one house east of Glenn's Store. Art was Arthur Drumgoole who used to bring mail across the frozen bay with his horse and sleigh. He lived in the house now owned by Allen and Bonnie Caughey. Uncle Tom was Tom Cochrane who lived where the Pollock family is now - the former Veech place. Grandma was Annie (nee Fleming) Cochrane.

The Beacon staff very much enjoyed this letter and hope that more people will write us.]

WINTER'S SWAN SONG

- Alex and Janet Scott

Last week, just before the lake froze, the South Shore was visited by two large swans. These were Mute Swans, not the Tundra or Whistling Swans that are more commonly seen here in small numbers in the spring and autumn.

The Mute Swan is a native of Eurasia, but was brought to North America to grace parklands and other public areas. Over the years some of these birds escaped and now live in a wild state. It is non-migratory, although it can fly quite well, and in Ontario it is mainly found around the Great Lakes where there is some open water all winter. They are most commonly found in our area at Perch River N.Y.

It is slightly larger than the Tundra Swan, with an orange bill which tends to point downward from a gracefully curved neck, as contrasted with the Tundra's more horizontal black bill. The Tundra Swan also tends to carry its neck much straighter.

What promised to be a good year for hawks and owls has deteriorated badly with December's winter storm that followed several inches of snow

with rain and freezing temperatures resulting in a crust of ice 5/8 of an inch over the whole Island. While there are still a few hawks and owls around they are down in numbers and having a hard time. Even the Great Horned Owls are frequently seen hunting in the daytime.

One Owl to watch for this winter is the Great Gray Owl. This is our largest owl, over two feet in length, and several have been seen already this winter both here and on the mainland. Peak numbers of these owls tend to occur in February so there is a good chance of seeing more, particularly if the weather moderates.

The good news is, by the time you are reading next month's Beacon, the first spring birds will be arriving! Watch for increasing numbers of Horned Larks on the roadsides about February 12, and Crows about February 18. Both these species are present in small numbers now, but will be the first migrants to return in spring.

HISTORICAL TID-BITS FROM W.I. TWEEDSMUIR BOOK

- Alice E. Hogeboom (Mrs Clarence Hogeboom)
How Did the Island Get its Name?

Our Island, like most of Canada, was first inhabited by Indians who gave it the musical and descriptive name, Kaounesgo. This name meant "the drowned land" or "land under water". Why such a name should have been given is very hard to see unless, perhaps, the first Indians did land near the marsh and the name given to that part of the Island was given, eventually, to the whole place.

The first explorers were French. LaSalle, one of their foremost workers, with his right hand man, Tonti, explored the land around our Island. LaSalle claimed much of this land as an estate for himself. The estate included part of the mainland, Wolfe, Howe and Simcoe, Brother and Amherst Islands. It was the first land ever claimed by a white man in what is now Ontario. To honour Tonti, LaSalle named our Island after him. Tonti had lost a hand. To hide his defect he wore an iron hand covered by a leather glove. Of course, the Indians did not know this and one blow from Tonti's iron fist was enough to discipline any of the superstitious savages. And so Isle Tonti got its second name.

While the French owned Canada they did not try to make any settlements in what is now Ontario for very obvious reasons. They were interested only

in hunting and trapping; and, of course, lack of roads and the density of its forests made settlement next to impossible. Only some very vital event would make settlement come about. That event came after the British took Canada from the French. In fact, it was another war; this time the American colonies to the south declared war against Britain. Some of the colonists refused to fight the Mother Country. After the war they found that living in the States could be very uncomfortable for those who remained loyal to England.

England, to show her gratitude, offered these loyal people refuge in Canada. These United Empire Loyalists became our first settlers. With settlers in Upper Canada, a Governor was appointed in 1792. This Governor, Colonel John Graves Simcoe, changed many of the French names to ones of English origin. He changed the name of Isle Tonti to Amherst Island; Amherst was a British general of that period.

MUSTY PAPERS

- Thomas Sylvester -

Islanders have been politely asking when will my book(s) be finished and what sort of stuff can be all that interesting on "old musty papers." I have had a great deal of luck stumbling on material particularly relevant to Philip Gillesse's research on boats & small craft. The memo reprinted below is significant in recording that residents had either craft or access to boats to transport their surplus flour. In fact, the memo details the preliminary exchange of agricultural products between Upper Canada and the United States:

Navy Hall 31st July 1793

Full permission may be given to the Inhabitants of Upper Canada to exchange their Flour at Oswego, in Boats or Craft (bone fide) Their property for the following enumerated Articles Viz. Masts, Yards, Bowsprits, Spars, Planks, Boards, Knees, Futtocks, or any kind of Ship Timber; Hoops, Staves, Shingles, Clap Boards, Trees Wood, Lumber, Pitch, Tar, Turpentine, Tallow, Hemp, Flax, and every kind of Naval Stores, Seeds, Wheat, Rye, Indian Corn, Beans, Pease, Potatoes, Rice, Oats, Barley, and all other Grains, Butter, Cheese, Honey, Horses, Neat Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Poultry, and other live Stock and like Provisions and Fresh Fish, & whatsoever is of the Growth of the United States, and Gold or Silver Coin or Bullion.

Signed E B Littlehales

Military Brigade

Obviously, Thomas is enjoying himself which is the primary reason he is still looking for more, rather than committing himself to write.

Next month for Valentines Day: Love letters of Island immigrants 1818 - 1821.

OBITUARIES

THELMA JOSEPHINE HOWARD

- Staff

Thelma Howard died on January 12 in Kingston. She was born Thelma Josephine Glenn on March 14, 1921, at the house now occupied by Marshall and Marion Glenn. Her parents were Robert D. Glenn and Olive Kathleen Henderson (aunt to Albert Henderson). She had two older brothers Gordon and Marshall. She attended SS#5 public school - now owned by Bruce Caughey.

Thelma married Charles (Charlie) Benjamin Howard and they lived at the corner of the 2nd and the Emerald 40'.

Thelma was a brave person who was always cheerful regardless of life's trials. She worked as a Red Cross Homemaker from the mid-70s through the mid-80s. The Beacon staff remember her kindness to our friend and neighbour Charles Densem.

Surviving Thelma are: her brother, Marshall; her son, Robert, and his wife, Varlerie; her niece, Juanita, and nephews, Francis and Murray.

Her family requests that any donations in her memory be made to the Kidney Foundation or to any other charity of your choice.

MARION ELLEN EVES

- Staff

Marion Eves passed away peacefully and full of years on December 27, 1995. She was born Marion Ellen Willard on April 17, 1898, in a house that used to be on the property now owned by Elsie Densem - Lot 6, Con. 1.

Her parents were Alfred Willard and Charlotte (Lottie) Adair. Marion attended SS#5 on the third when her family lived on Nut Island. Alfred, Charlotte and family eventually moved to Stella and lived in the house that was purchased from the Dave Willard estate for a ferry parking lot. Alfred fished in the summer and drove a stage in the winter. He is remembered as being a fine hand with horses.

It was a large family with Marion having 11 brothers and sisters: Charles (1895-1965), John (1896-1977), Fred (1898-1916), Hiram (1899-1922), Claude (1901-1985), Jessie (b.1902), Dave (1904-1988), Annie (1906-1990), Dorothy (1908-1987), Jenny (1910-) and Munro (1913-1929). Fred and Marion were twins.

Charlie and John both became captains on lake boats, married and lived in Kingston. They later became pilots on the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Fred died in the First World War.

Hiram became a sailor and drowned on the Great Lakes.

Claude married Ruth McCormick (sister of Leonard), a teacher. They farmed next door to Avery Brown and later moved to Kingston. Claude is Eldon Willard's father.

Jessie married Melville Ellerbeck and lives in Kingston.

Dave, a bachelor, sailed the Great Lakes in the summer and returned home to the Island for the winter.

Annie married Joe Clyde. They owned Clyde's Dairy in Kingston and also had a large farm on Counter Street. She was a very stylish lady - loved big hats - and travelled all over the world.

Dorothy is remembered as "a real character". She married Mr. Laffrenier.

Jennie married Ford Kerr and had a large family. The girls became teachers. The boys were mechanics: they formed Kerr Bus Lines.

Munro died of meningitis while a high school student.

Marion married James (Jimmie) Eves. He was an older brother of John Eves (grandfather of, among others, Lance and Vincent Eves). James was a sailor but later farmed on the Third and the South Shore. Marion lived in Stella for a while and eventually left the Island to live in Kingston. Her children were: Norman, Harvey, Wilmer, and Isabel. Marion lived a long and useful life. She enjoyed good health and had a sound memory into her 98th year.

Marion is survived by: her sisters, Jessie and Jenny; her children, Harvey and Wilmer; and numerous grandchildren, nephews, nieces and other family members.

ALICE ELIZABETH WHITE, R.N.

- Staff

Alice Kearney died January 1, 1996, in

Amherstview. She was born Alice Elizabeth Kearney on Lot 25, Concession 1, in the house now owned by Rick Bedford. She married Arthur White, a brother of Mrs. Madeleine Glenn of Stella. She is survived by: her brothers, Arthur, Gerald, and Donald; her sisters, Jean, Edna, Laurine, and Mary; and, her son, Donald.

[The Beacon would appreciate more information on Mrs. White and on the Kearney family.]

Apology: The December Beacon incorrectly identified Hazel Reynolds as an aunt of Dorothy Willard.

Hazel Reynolds is an aunt of Donna Willard.

THANK YOU NOTES

I wish to thank my many friends, neighbours and relatives for their kind visits, phone calls, cards, deeds of kindness and concerns. And especially for the food treats brought to our door and mail box since breaking my heel on Dec. 30th. Marshall adds his thanks too.

Two and a half months looks like quite a while to be chief cook and bottle-washer.

Marshall and Marion Glenn

A LETTER HOME

Happy New Year! New Year's Eve was a quiet event at our house. We had dinner with friends and after saying good bye to them, slipped into bed long before 1996 had a chance to be rung in. I trust there were many others still awake and partying to do the welcoming of the New Year and that Father Time did not feel neglected.

Christmas on the Island is always a family time with church Carol Services, friends and family visiting and, of course, lots of food. I think that, like the turkey at dinner, we tend to stuff ourselves until we can hardly waddle around. Fortunately, the weather has provided a great source of exercise. We've been cross country skiing and there has been enough snow to toboggan. However, the Island is a little short of hills. I saw all the Kilpatricks skating on the Bay. They had a large patch of ice cleared of snow and they seemed to be having a good time even if I could only see a group of black spots whizzing around.

I like living on the water. An old aunt of mine used to say that being able to see the water was like having company. There's always something interesting happening either with or on the water.

Yesterday we saw a large white swan swimming among the ice flows at the Stella dock. How it got there and why it was there I have no idea. I only hope it survives.

The cold temperatures have caused the ice to come to stay earlier than it did last year and at this point the Amherst Islander seems to be making the trips reasonably on time. Yes, that's right the little boat has come home for a while. The dock repairs are about done except for finishing touches and cleaning up loose ends.

The farm is quiet this time of the year. There's mainly feeding, machinery repair and all the odd jobs we never seem to find time to do during the other 10 months.

We want you to know our thoughts were with you during the Holidays and we wish we could have been there to celebrate. Maybe next year! This will give us all something to look forward to.

Our best wishes for 1996.
