

Amherst Island Beacon



Issue 451 BONA LIBENTER, TRISTIA MAESTITER, MALA NUMQUAM Feb 2016



EDNA MARY MCGINN

Passed away peacefully at Helen Henderson Care Centre on Saturday, January 30, 2016, three days following her 96th birthday.

Edna, beloved daughter of the late Edward and Ellen McGinn, and cherished wife of the late Glenn Brown.

Survived by her sister Hilda Mills. She was predeceased by her siblings Iona, Leslie, Nora, Laura, Keith and Kaye.

Fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to the staff of Helen Henderson Care Centre for their dedication and also special friend Maureen Fraser for countless hours of companionship

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lynn Fleming

Get well wishes this month to Terry McGinn (Sr.), Yvonne McGinn, Laura Gartner.

Congratulations to Claude and Renee Minville on the birth of their first child, a daughter. Marianne Angèle, born January 19th (and seen below).



Don and Judy Miller and Eric and Linda Welbanks re-charged with a trip to the Dominican Republic.

Plans are in the works for the 10th year anniversary celebration of CJAI on April 1st. Stay tuned!

Seems to be an abundance of snowy owls and eagles around recently. I've seen a pair of eagles along the shore several times this week in front of the school. We have a resident snowy keeping watch on the school yard, and last week we had 15 swans in the bay in front of the school, for several days. One afternoon, I looked out in time to see a bald eagle and an immature bald eagle, circling over ducks, geese and 5 swans in the little bay. When they swooped low, the ducks flew wildly, I think hoping not to be lunch. At one point, the immature eagle swooped at the swans and one kicked up such a fuss that I think the eagle realized it might be more than he could handle.



Bald Eagle – photo by Sherri Jensen

We have had a couple of above freezing days accompanied by rain. Then freezing temperatures to ice things up again, before some snow on top – just to make it a bit more of a challenge to keep on our feet. Overall it has been a quiet winter with not a lot of snow or bad weather. Fingers crossed.

The Amherst Island BEACON Issue 451, Feb 2016

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Editorial

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WOMEN’S INSTITUTE

- Mary Kay Steel

We held our January monthly meeting on Wednesday the 20th at the home of member Liz Harrison, at 2 in the afternoon. It was uplifting to enter Liz’s warm home on a cold and windy winter’s afternoon, and the fellowship was warm also. Fourteen members and one guest (our speaker Janet Scott) were in attendance with President Joyce Haines in the chair.

We approved the minutes and the recent financial reports. Various committees gave brief reports. Under Advocacy, we were advised that our provincial organization is pressuring the Ontario government to develop more nursing home beds; we agreed to support this initiative, recognizing its urgency.

Our program of Warm Winter Walking started on January 13 at the school; this year it is held every Wednesday pm at 4 o’clock.

A committee has been established to develop a new Island directory, one of our most popular projects. Our theme will be the 150th Anniversary of Canada, and we hope it will be ready for sale before 2017.

It was agreed that we would give a donation to the School Advisory Committee for its program of providing milk for the students’ lunch hours. Several other business matters were then dealt with.

The meeting’s program was delightful: an amusing and informative presentation by Janet Scott on her recent “world” trip to some 11 countries and 4 continents, with members of her family.

Then we enjoyed our usual social hour, this time with carrot cake and other goodies. And at the same time, we poured over a table of books (free!) which members had brought to exchange with each other.

The WI’s next meeting will take place on February 17, at 3:30 at the home of Norma Lynn Cole. There will be little if any business transacted given it will be our annual movie afternoon followed by a meal. Lots of fun.

Remember, guests are welcome.

JANET’S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

February 2016

Project SNOWstorm

How did I get interested in Project SNOWstorm? The name itself is not something to get excited about and yet this study has me just bouncing in my chair in spite of my bum hip.

Most stories start “it was a dark and stormy night” but this one begins on a “dark and very chilly morning” in the studio at CJAI while on the Udder Morning Show with Dayle Gowan and Susan Filson.

Dayle read to us an interesting article about a bird research project called “Project SNOWstorm”. Dayle found this article in the recent issue of New Scientist. The project was fascinating as 22 Snowy Owls were fitted with state-of-the-art transmitters that would follow their every move.

Over the past two winters Project SNOWstorm has provided unrivalled insights into the behaviour of Snowy Owls. The tracking device designed by biologist Mike Lanzone of Tracking Technologies in Pennsylvania is solar powered and weighs only 40 grams. It is fastened to the owl with Teflon ribbon straps so they will not chafe the bird. The device uses the GPS satellite system to record a bird’s latitude, longitude and also altitude and then when the bird comes into range of a cell phone tower the data is downloaded even years after.

For a lot of the time they are in the far north,

nesting in Ungava or feeding on sea ice in Nunavut so can't always download right away. Owls like to sit facing the sun so it is difficult to get a photograph of the device and also to recharge.

Well Susan, Dayle and I discussed this article and were quite interested but not excited yet. It sounded so wonderful compared to the little tracker that Kristen Keyes fastened on a Short-eared Owl and our range was only 4 Km. We drove the roads of Amherst Island with their receiver aerial out the roof of the Volkswagen Colt or walked the fields of the Quinte Pasture as we tried to locate our owl, Stella. This was going to change our knowledge of the life of a Snowy!

Two days later I received a message from Melissa Groo who had contacted me a couple of weeks before. She is a Conservationist Photographer who loves Amherst Island and wanted to come for a visit and would be staying with me Feb. 6 to 9th. She had received a message from Scott Weidensaul of Project SNOWstorm asking her if while on the Island would she try and photograph a Snowy Owl wearing a transmitter for his study.

At the time they were following two owls on Amherst Island called Baltimore, a white male and Flanders, a darker female. Then we began to follow the blog on the computer, wondering which of our twenty Snowies might be the right one. Judy sent a photo of the owl she had taken at Pipe's on the South Shore during the Christmas Bird Count but Scott replied that it was not Flanders. They have photographs of these owls taken when they were banded.

Because Judy's e-mail includes her phone number Scott called her when Baltimore appeared to be hurt or dead. Judy was in Toronto but called me and because I couldn't drive that day, I called Bonnie Livingstone to help me look. There is snow on the ground, it is 12 below and a wind is blowing. Scott's directions said the owl was transmitting from a dead tree just west of the school.

As Bonnie said at the time "How does he know it's a dead tree, there are no leaves on the trees?" She walked around this tree and I scanned the area with binoculars hoping to find this bird. Vince Eves came out to see if we were stuck or alright and he described the recent behaviour of this owl. It would sit in that tree, hunt by the machinery and old hay bales on the ridge or spend quite a bit of time watching pigeons in his barnyard.

We left a note on the vehicle belonging to two girls from Trent doing a ministry study on Owl pellets as they gather data on what they eat hoping they would watch for this owl. I called Scott Weidensaul from the car and he had discovered there was a glitch in the programme and the date stamp was the same for the last two downloads so it appeared as if Baltimore was no longer moving but he was alright. Bonnie and I said good-bye to Vince with this good news and started home. Just as we passed the school I spotted an all-white Snowy perched on the top of the silo at the radio station and I am sure he was laughing at us.

Scott brought us up to date when Baltimore downloaded his next message. He spent that day on the silo enjoying the sun, spent the next night on the roof of the school and returned to his favourite tree where I spotted him on my way to the radio station on Monday morning. We still had not seen a transmitter.

Dayle interviewed Scott by telephone and it was fascinating to learn more about the project. Baltimore was trapped at the Baltimore Airport in Maryland and removed to a safe place away from the airport. Unfortunately, there was another owl called Philly and, although she was removed from the Philadelphia airport, she insisted on making her way back to the airport and was killed.

The programme began with the eruption of Snowy Owls in the winter of 2013 -14. Thirty-four owls were banded and transmitters were fitted.

Melissa Groo and Ann Pacheco arrived and our owl population went into hiding the first day. Gradually the owls reappeared but Flander's map said she had gone to Napanee while a new owl Chaumont had arrived and was located along the north-eastern end of the Island. Baltimore was still hanging out in Stella.

I introduced Melissa and Ann to Susan Filson and they tried to find her Snowy Owl that day. No luck. On Friday the girls decided to stay another day and went and met Ida, the lady who talks to Snowies.

There was a Snowy Owl in the Road's Garage area but neither Melissa, nor Ann or even Ida could spot a transmitter. They got some good photos at Susan's and out at Long Point. After a disappointing four days the girls returned to the states of New York and Connecticut to go back to work. No photograph of an Owl wearing a transmitter for Scott's study.

It was left to a longtime resident of Amherst Island

to first spot the owl wearing a transmitter. On Monday, February 1st Barb Filson phoned the radio station to report the all white Snowy Owl wearing a black bib was at her house.

When Susan drove home the owl swooped away from her showing the transmitter. Chaumont had been located and Barb had seen him with his head looking over his back. As it turned out some of Ann Pacheco's photos of the owl showed a ruffled spot on his back and Scott has identified it as Chaumont.



Chaumont by Ann Pacheco

The first photo was taken with an iPhone by Laurie Kilpatrick as she drove out of her lane and there was a female owl on a post at Plank's with the black object on its back. Scott has identified this one as Flanders. She had returned to Nut Island and hunted along the Emerald Forty-foot and then headed to Plank's.



Flanders by Laurie Kilpatrick

Of the 34 owls wearing transmitters there are three broadcasting from our wonderful island. I encourage you to Google Project SNOWstorm and see the maps and read the updates.

Baltimore spent last winter in Nunavut but this one on Amherst.

Flanders tried city lights but returned to Nut Island.

Chaumont may have been here all along but only recently got upgraded with a message from home and started downloading months of data.

It is exciting!

Thanks everyone for helping so much by reporting Owls so that Melissa and Ann could go to the sites and try to get that special photo. They want to return, perhaps when the Meadowlarks sing.

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

Moved by Councillor Ashley and Seconded by Deputy Mayor Bresee that the report from the Director of Infrastructure Services, December 1, 2015 re: Ministry of Transportation - Permission to Construct Request re: Stella Dock, be received and that Loyalist Township Council approve the permission to Construct agreement as supplied by MTO for the Hamlet of Stella, Amherst Island, as outlined in correspondence from Ministry of Transportation dated November 24, 2015.

Motion carried

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bresee and Seconded by Councillor Hegadorn that By-law 2015- 108, being a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer to execute the Community Benefit and Road Use Agreements with Windlectric Inc./Algonquin Power Co., be adopted.

Enacted and Passed this 14th day of December, 2015

From Meeting #1, Jan11

Councillor Ashley inquired about the Windlectric draft Emergency Plan and Traffic Management Plan. Staff advised that these plans have been received. Council directed staff to post these draft documents to the Township web site for information.

Councillor Ashlev also inquired regarding which approval agency has authority to regulate the installation of tile drainage on Amherst Island. Staff advised that the approval authority is the Cataraqui Regional Conservation Authority.

NOTIFICATION TO LOYALIST TOWNSHIP
RESIDENTS - NOISE BY-LAW
JANUARY 25, 2016

Dear Resident,

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is in the process of hiring a design-build contractor to perform the detailed design and construction for the ferry terminals at Millhaven and Stella.

MTO is seeking feedback regarding a noise by-law exemption from Amherst Island and Millhaven residents who live within 500m of the ferry terminals.

During the construction of the new terminals and docks, we anticipate that the majority of the construction work can occur during the day; however, there will be occasions when night work is required (when the ferry is dormant). Work activities (on land and in water) may include dredging, excavation and backfilling, drilling, and piling of steel components. Scheduling some work at night will allow the design-build contractor to accelerate the construction schedule while ensuring continuity of the ferry service. A noise by-law exemption will allow for occasional night construction work to occur between 8 pm and 7 am.

The extent and frequency of night work will be determined in more detail once the design-build contractor has been hired, and the construction schedule confirmed. Currently, we expect construction occurring between late winter 2016 until spring 2019. If you would like additional information or have any questions or concerns that should be considered by MTO and the contractor in preparing a noise by-law exemption request for review and approval by Loyalist Township, please contact Nancy Elliott, MTO Project Engineer at 613-545-4662; email nancy.elliott@ontario.ca. We would like to receive your comments by March 21 2016.

January 15, 2016

Dear Deputy Mayor Bresee,

I am pleased to inform you that your nomination of Ms. Andrea Cross and the Irish-Canadian International Dry Stone Festival, Drystone Walling Association of Canada, has been selected by our external jury and the Ontario Heritage Trust's Board of Directors to receive the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Excellence in

Conservation. Awards will be presented at the Legislative Building Queen's Park, in Toronto on February 26, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. This award recognizes exemplary contributions to heritage conservation. . . .

Please accept our congratulations and best wishes

Yours sincerely,

Beth Hanna



A.I. Sunset by Brooke Reid

AIMS MTG SAT 16 JAN 2016

- William Barrett

Nineteen members were present, enjoying a wonderful breakfast served by the Littles. Thank you.

Entertainment was provided via the airing of a DVD documentary on Snowy Owls. Fascinating and timely – given the numbers currently on the island. Who knew they would eat their siblings? Thanks to Larry for providing.

Approval of last month's minutes was done.

The Treasurer gave his report. The members committed to continued funding of the plaque at the school.

Transportation provided its report. The service is regularly used by islanders who would have great difficulty attending appointments without the help of AIMS drivers.

The February speaker (Sat 13 Feb / 8 AM) will be Alex Scott.

Discussions followed on the Café Cooperative initiative. AIMS will continue to monitor with interest.

Discussions followed on the idea of a Business Improvement Area / Neighbourhood Improvement Area / Volunteer Improvement area. Potential benefits to the island were compared. No action at this time.

Future talks of potential interest were proposed. Dayle offered to present on the new Emergency Alerting System install at the radio station. Also discussed was AIMS itself, and how it has developed over the years. We have a number of historical records which we should be preserving.

DRY STONE WALLING NEWS

- Andrea Cross

The Dry Stone Walling Association of Canada (Dry Stone Canada) will be holding their Canada-wide annual general meeting on Amherst Island, March 19th at The Lodge. The gathering will review last year's events and workshops; present this year's workshop schedule; discuss this year's Dry Stone Canada festival, July 22, in Perth Ontario to celebrate the city's 200th anniversary; and discuss their vision of the Association's future. We expect to see many participants from last year's festival.

This year there will be two workshop weekends on the Island:

Stone Carving workshop, April 22 – 24; and, Dry Stone Wall Restoration, October 21- 23.

Norman Haddow, the Queen's Own Dry Stone Waller for Balmoral Castle Estates, has offered to run a workshop here before the Perth Festival. After that Festival the Association will run a certification course on Amherst Island. Details will be announced.



Wild Turkey in a Willow Tree
Photo by Eloise Gowan

JOBS

Join our team at
Eastern Ontario's newest start-up,
The Amherst Island Café,
a community venture.

Are you looking for a rewarding work experience this spring, summer, fall, and possibly beyond? We are hiring a Café Manager, a Team Lead/Cook and two Kitchen Staff/Servers. The Café Manager will be a registered in a post-secondary food services or hospitality program with some restaurant and/or management experience. The Team Lead/Cook is first and foremost a great cook willing to lead the Team when the Manager is off shift and registered in a post-secondary food services, hospitality or related program. The two Staffers are likely in secondary school or college preferably with some experience working in kitchens and serving in a restaurant.

We are seeking team players who are self-motivated and absolutely committed to customer service. To succeed you will need to demonstrate a flexible approach and problem-solving ability. You are ready to learn, ready to lead, and ready to lend a hand whenever and wherever it is needed from garbage detail, to scooping ice cream to cooking dinner for 50. You are a people-person who remembers details, who approaches tasks with skills and enthusiasm, whose positive attitude is obvious to customers and coworkers alike. You enjoy working with volunteers and serving customers.

If this sounds like a great fit we want to hear from you!

Please send us your resume, the job you're interested in, your qualifications, and what skills you believe you can bring to the Amherst Island Café.

Please also include a cover letter (max one page) that answers the following question: *What makes you a great candidate to work at the Amherst Island Café*

Please send your resume and letter to dpearce@kos.net.

The Café is on Amherst Island within easy walking distance to the ferry from Millhaven. Please think about where you would stay before you apply.

Deadline for submission is **February 29th**, so get that resumé and letter in!

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

ISLAND BOOKKEEPING

For simple bookkeeping, payroll, and tax preparation needs at very competitive prices. Call Renée for more information and free quotes at (613) 929-4545.

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 (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 winter 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



George and Leslie Gavlas, celebrating her 92nd birthday - photo by Ida Gavlas



Loaves and Fishes gathering at St. Paul's. Photo by Brian Little

ARCHIVES

From THE AMHERST ISLAND BEACON:

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COUNCIL MEETING for February 4th

- Christopher Kennedy

Ian Murray was away with the flu. The building inspector was not present. Brian Osborne talked to Council about the severance he wants for his property. Council asked him to come back with more complete plans. The road superintendent has been working on the road budget, as well as ploughing snow. He is considering the possibility of replacing the bridge in the village. The Reeve reported on his activities for the month. He had been to four county meetings. At the regular County Council there was a presentation on the Gypsy Moth. They are also arguing about the Health Unit Budget.

There was a meeting of the Ferry Review Steering Committee. In a verbal report the possibility of rebuilding or relocating the ferry docks was discussed. The final report may be ready by March. The ferry subsidy agreement is being checked by the lawyers.

The notice board for the Township office is finished. The Township lawyer, Mr. Radley, has not replied to the enquiries about right-of-way along the McGinn beach. Council discussed the possibility of a phone on the Millhaven dock, but decided the danger of vandalism was too great. The berthage fees for the ferry have been increased, although no work has been done to the docks for fifteen years.

The Recreation Committee is planning a family dance for March 7th. Council is working on a new Recreation By-law, containing the rules and regulations governing the Community Centre and the park. Now the by-law has to go to the Recreation Committee. A request for money from 4-H was referred to the Recreation Committee.

Council adjourned after a few minor matters were discussed.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING On Jan. 21st

- Christopher Kennedy

This special meeting was to consider compensation to Morven Construction for differences between the contract as bid, for the Miller Municipal Drain, and the actual work done. Norman Allison moved that the meeting be closed, but in a recorded vote this was defeated: Keith Miller, Chester Tugwell and Ian Murray voted to keep it open. Keith then declared conflict of interest and took no part in the meeting.

Brian Boyd, from Graham Engineering, said that the amount of rock to be excavated had changed because the engineering plans were wrong and because the Drainage Tribunal agreed that all the rock on Clare's land did not need to come out. This substantially changed the nature of the work Morven had to do. Graham Engineering recommended paying Morven \$4,240 in compensation.

Morven thought they deserved more, but Council agreed with Graham Engineering.

The other change was to the fencing, much of which the landowners did not want, although it was specified in the plans. Morven had already started the work when the change was made. Mr Boyd recommended \$500 in compensation, which Council approved.

Council then adjourned.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

Joining the many Islanders seeking solace in sunny Florida are Eldon and Elsie Willard. They are on a tour and should be back sometime next week.

Our now resident Floridians, Lyn and Larry Fleming, have been keeping in constant touch. They have recently moved to a new home where they are very happy.

As I don't have any amount of real news to give this month, and on the suggestion of my co-workers, I will fill the next inch or so with news about myself. This should also answer many unanswered questions and save me many future answers.

While on a holiday weekend in Welland about a week ago, I fell in a hole (a small hole) in a driveway. I sprained my ankle and pulled some ligaments and have consequently been using a cane. I wish to thank all our customers for their concern and would like to announce formally, at

this time, for the last time. I didn't drink a drop before I fell.

As for Max and Cara, since their new exercise program began, they seem to have calmed down considerably. I even see Doug leaving home without them from time to time.

I.S.L.E.

- Annette

Thank you to those who participated in I.S.L.E.'s annual Ham Dinner. Although the turnout was not nearly as enthusiastic as in other years, we appreciate those who supported us. Special thanks to Irene Glenn for preparing much of the food, and to Thelma Howard, Janet Scott, Caroline Yull and the senior students for their help. Also to Susan Caughey and Betty Wemp for donations.

As well as hot lunches, I.S.L.E. has instituted a milk program at the school this year to supply fresh milk to students four days a week. Thanks to Judy Miller for keeping track of the mess.

Our appreciation to the following people for their help with hot lunches - Winn and Karen Studsrud, Tessa Fabian, Anne Marie Hitchins, Judy Miller, Tracy Hitchins and Amy Caughey.

I.S.L.E.'s Annual Bingo and Euchre Night will be held Thursday, March 6 at 8 pm, Amherst Island Public School.

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Diane Gavlas

Thank-you for the generous donations received for the Heart Fund. Anyone wishing to leave donations may still do so at the store.

The February Meeting is Feb. 19th at 8:00 pm at the home of Mrs Jean McIntyre. Program is Canadian Industries.

Napanee Museum is having a St Patrick's Day Display on March 17th and in April a display of quilts.

THANK YOU NOTE

I wish to thank those people who helped me last Friday night; to the passerby who helped me out of the icy water, to the Amherst Island ferry crew for the dry clothes, coffee and warm place to stay, to Bobby Marshall for his help, to my bother Eric for making phone calls, Marshall and Marion Glenn for bringing me home, to Pat Rogers Towing and to the driver.

Thanks to those whom I have not mentioned who helped me in any way.

Your kindness will always be remembered.

Leon McGinn



McGinn / LeBlue barn on a snowy day – photo by Brian Little

MILK QUALITY CERTIFICATES

- Staff

Two Island farms received milk quality certificates at the Annual Meeting of the Lennox and Addington Milk Committee in Selby last week.

The quality certificates were awarded to Keith and Don Miller and Fleming Isle Farms for outstanding milk quality throughout 1985.

In order to receive this award milk producers are monitored throughout the year for plate loope count, somatic cell count plus their premises must pass a yearly inspection by the Dairy Inspection Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and come up with a score of 90+.

THE SPACE SHUTTLE

- Lyn Fleming

After we saw our first Shuttle launch a few weeks ago I thought of writing something for the "Beacon". Although I'm not a writer (as you'll soon find out!), I wanted to share some of the excitement with our friends and family. Larry told me that I should send something, (and to make sure I told David Wemp just what he missed last year). Unfortunately, before I got this finished, there was another launch which, as everyone knows, didn't end as well. We saw it too. So I've added a second part to this story. I hope I've been able to get some of our feelings, good and bad, across.

On Friday January 3rd, 1986 we left my parents house in Orlando, Florida, at 5:40 a.m., for the 45 minute drive to the east coast and "front row seats" to see a space shuttle take off. We sat on the beach and looked across the water to Cape Kennedy and the launch pad with the space shuttle "Columbia" all lit up and prepared to go. We had waited a long time to see this.

We had planned last year's vacation around a scheduled launch, but because of delays, we missed it. This particular launch had been postponed several times from December launch dates. Now it looked as if it was going to go at 7:05 a.m. But again the launch time was set back several times, and then at 8:45 a.m. it was scrubbed altogether. It was scheduled for other days, but delayed again and again.

Finally, on Sunday January 12/86, we got up again at 5:30 a.m. and checked the weather - it looked good! So we filled the thermos, grabbed the cameras, binoculars and radio and headed for the

coast again. We got there with 15 minutes to spare before the 7 a.m. scheduled launch. This time the countdown continued without interruption and we joined hundreds of others counting down the last 10 seconds. And then it was Lift Off! The sun hadn't yet broken over the horizon, but the shuttle rose, lighting up the whole sky, reflecting off the ocean and leaving a thick, fluffy contrail in its wake.

Everyone cheered and clapped. We watched the rocket boosters separate and tumble slowly back to the ocean, then watched for several minutes until the shuttle was out of sight. I'm not a morning person, but this was well worth rising before the sun and birds! We couldn't wait for the next launch later in the month.

The next launch was to be the shuttle "Challenger", on January 27th. Because it was scheduled later in the morning on a school day, we decided not to take Jason out of school, but to watch instead from the front yard, at home.

This shuttle was to carry the first "average" person - a schoolteacher - into space. So all the schools here had special days planned, including watching the launch from the school yard. But again the launch was postponed till the next day, January 28th. It was delayed several times through the morning, because of unusually cold weather. I was out with my sister and our two youngest children at a friend's flower shop, when it was announced that the shuttle would take off in one minute - 11:38 a.m.

My sister had seen so many shuttles take off that she never even batted an eye, but I took the kids out to watch. Then there it was, rising so slowly over the trees on a straight pillar of vapour trail. I looked around, and couldn't believe everyone going on about their everyday business, cars zoomed along the expressway, people glanced up, but kept going. This was so exciting for us to see but to most of these people it was just "another shuttle going up." I stood with kids waiting for the rumble to reach us, when there was this tremendous burst of orange and then smoke, two large objects could be seen shooting out at a crazy angle, and then the shower of debris.

I'd only seen one shuttle before, and wasn't sure what was right and what wasn't. But I felt something was wrong. It never occurred to me that the shuttle had blown up.

Maybe, like others, I just blocked that idea from my mind. (There was probably a logical explanation to what had just happened!) I went back inside to phone Larry and see if he'd seen it.

He said "something's wrong. I think it just blew up". As I hung up, someone came in the store and said that the radio had just announced that the shuttle had blown up. There was an awful silence as we all stood looking at each other and then we went back outside.

We hurried home and sat down in front of the T.V., where we stayed till late that night. We prayed that somehow the shuttle had escaped the explosion and that anytime they'd announce that the crew was safe. But deep down we knew.

Throughout the afternoon, when we looked out the front window, all that could be seen in the blue, cloudless Florida sky, were the wispy remains of the shuttle's contrail - still visible up to 4 hours after.

All of the U.S. takes pride in their space program, but the people of central Florida share a special, personal interest and immense grief. People all over the United States and the World sent their sympathies and reached out to the families of those seven brave crew members. All we can hope, is that the crew never knew or felt what was about to happen. A few weeks ago we saw one of the most exciting things when we saw our first space shuttle take off, this week we saw one of the most awful.

My dad has lived here for 17 years and has never missed seeing a manned launch. He missed this one, they were on the road in Georgia, on their way home from Canada. He says he will always stop everything for a few minutes to watch a launch. When you think of what a miracle it is every time one of these rockets lifts off a launch pad and then returns again, it's kind of hard to take it lightly!

We're sure there will be another shuttle launch - in time - and we will be out to see it.

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Beacon Notes

[Ian: Don Tubb was editor for quite a while - this is sometimes forgotten.]

So, its February and the worst of the winter is behind us.... we hope! Maybe we can start to wish for spring to show its face - even just for a few days. Council has had a very busy month with lots of important meetings. The Restructuring (aka Amalgamation) meetings will involve travelling to the mainland which is not thought highly of around here but what can you do. We had better get used to it because its pretty unlikely that Amherst Island will be the government seat for any new municipality. Not only will restructuring occur on a municipal level but rumours are getting stronger that we will be removed from Kingston and the Islands federal riding. And, it is strongly rumoured that the province will save money by piggy-backing their new ridings on top of the Federal ones. So we will have a new home on all political levels. Changes, changes and more changes... it is going to be a very interesting next few years. So without further delay, we begin with Council...

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

- Chris Kennedy

Amalgamation Meeting: January 25th, 1996

About fifty people attended the amalgamation meeting with Arnold Adams, deputy reeve of Ernestown. He explained that Ernestown had pulled out of talks with Kingston City because Kingston was only interested in joining with Amherstview and did not want the rural parts of Ernestown Township. He explained that Ernestown was looking at a 40% reduction in municipal grants, and the Council wished to see if there were savings to be made by joining with other townships. Ernestown is interested in exploratory talks, so that people have some facts and figures on which to base a decision. Until these are available Mr. Adams said that he had no opinion on whether amalgamation would be a good idea or not. Several people from the audience then spoke.

People raised several points: would we have as good service if we were part of a larger township; will we be forced into amalgamation by the province; will there be job losses; will our taxes go up or down? Nobody knows the answers to these questions until there are many more discussions.

The overall impression I got of the amalgamation business was that almost nobody wants it but local councils feel that they should talk about it in case

the province comes along with a big stick and forces municipalities into it.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

- Don Tubb

Budget

January 30, 1996

All members of Council were present. Reeve Ashley was welcomed back by all. Before the budget deliberations began, several other items were dealt with in short order.

The Clerk-treasurer updated Council on the Back Beach. Our lawyer, Larry Levine, has received a copy of a letter from Mr. Matthews to Mr Marshall in the Provincial government. The letter urges the government to complete their part of the agreement. Mr. Levine thought that this delay would not jeopardize the agreement.

An invitation was approved to invite Federal, Provincial and local area municipal politicians to attend a meeting (8:00 p.m., March 8, 1996, at the school, if available) concerning the docks. Also present will be representatives of Federal and Provincial ministries.

Councillor Woods was voted the Ferry Manager's honorarium for last month. He accepted it with reluctance.

- Councillor Scott gave an update on the defibrillator. Ours should be here within a month and training in its use will be proceeding in February.

In a closed session, a recommendation was passed to proceed with the land purchase for landfill site expansion if the Ministry of the Environment approves. Council then proceeded with the budget... We left the last meeting with Council asking all departments to produce budgets that were 80% of last year's budgeted amount. This in order to reduce the budget by \$24,000 or thereabouts which the Province won't be sending us this year.

The Emergency Response Team submitted a budget of \$2,200 (80% of 1995's \$2750). To achieve this, they will not purchase any new equipment or training materials.

I must have blinked but I didn't hear the Cemetery budget being submitted, however, at the recent Public Meeting, Mr Caughey did mention that they managed to produce a budget following Council's request.

The Fire Department submitted a budget of

\$25,800 which is equal to \$100 per household for 258 Island households (actually its 261 this year). The Fire Chief said that he went to zero budget process - that is, he figured out what the minimum was that would run the department for 1996. This amounted to \$21,460 with the remaining \$4,340 going to the Firehall repayment. Within the budget, there were 7 options presented to reduce the budgeted amount. Of these Chief Scott wrote, "I do not agree with any of the following, and they could have a direct impact on the safety of the members of the department and the community." Some of the options were: to eliminate the honoraria (\$4,150 saved); not to safety check, maintain or insure Truck #4 - the pumper (\$2,400 saved); pull out of Mutual Aid (\$430 saved); all the way down to eliminating the department (\$25,000 saved). After some discussion of this budget document plus a letter from Ian Murray as President of the Fire Fighter's Association (advocating no budget reduction), Council accepted them for future consideration.

The Public Works Superintendent did not present a written budget because he wasn't clear what Council was asking for. Superintendent Miller said he felt a 20% reduction of the grant portion could be achieved by a 36 hour work week with time off in lieu of overtime plus the resulting reduced machine time. If Council wanted more reductions, he said he would do his best to comply. He asked for Council's input as to how clean he should be keeping the landfill site and what were other priority items.

The Clerk-treasure was not able to do a General Administration budget because of her heavy workload. She did not seem particularly hopeful that a 20% reduction could be practically achieved in this department as many of the costs are beyond easy control.

The other departments were then gone through one by one by examining the Budget Summary for the year past. While not in a lot of detail, the emphasis was to look for potential savings. It does not appear that many departments can be easily reduced by Council's desired 20%. [It is worth emphasizing that making up for a \$24,000 shortfall in Provincial funding is Council's initial goal in this round of preliminary department budgets.]

Environmental Concerns may well require extra money to be spent if the landfill site is expanded. - Emergency Planning already must absorb a 50% increase for the 911 dispatch service, and may have

to purchase and put up road signs not to mention the individual identification signs.

Back Beach had a budget of \$10,000 for professional fees. Council's initial thought wise to leave it alone, just in case.

Planning may need a larger budget this year if the Official Plan needs to be reviewed.

The Clerk-treasurer asked Council to think about Animal Control as she questioned its cost/benefit. And the list goes on...

One surprise for Council was a \$70,000 overexpenditure on the ferry operation. This was largely extra fuel costs for the Frontenac II which was kept longer than normal because of the dock construction. Some of our portion of this money may well be recoverable but funding arrangements are not as clear anymore with the new government re-arranging departments so there is no firm answer out there yet. Two rumoured changes have proved false... first, the Province will allow counties to levy separately for roads, and; second, there had been a suggestion that funding for ferry expenditures would not be available until March or April which would have really put us behind the 8-ball. This has been cleared up so we will be getting our monthly checks.

So, that's where Council stands now... the budgets have, in large part, been submitted and they will be considered. The next budget meeting date will be set at the February council meeting. The submitted budgets show a saving of about \$22,000 which goes a long way towards the \$24,000 needed.

Just in case anyone was unclear of how much tax the Township collects, look no further than the 1995 numbers:

County... \$43,000
Public School Board... \$242,000
Separate School Board... \$18,000
Amherst Island... \$166,000
Total Collected... \$463,000

If you add this up, it doesn't... that's because of a wild card called the Telephone Tax which is either (and I'm not sure which) a tax to provide counselling for unwanted telephones, or a tax in lieu of providing cellular phones for a protected walrus mating area (a mandated requirement of the Free Trade Pact - it is amazing what you find in the fine print).

AMALGAMATION MEETING

- Don Tubb

The Beacon will be following the amalgamation talks between the Island and several surrounding municipalities. These talks are important because we, as Islanders, may soon lose what control we have over our local government, the services provided, our taxes, etc. Consider our situation now with the influence 400 Island voters would have within a municipality of 20- 30,000 people. Our relative control now starts to look pretty good.

As will be apparent soon, I was not impressed with what transpired at the meeting but I wasn't surprised having been forewarned. So, this item will be divided into two sections: first what happened and second, some impressions.

The facts...

On January 31, 1996, a joint meeting of area municipalities was held at North Fredericksburgh Community Centre.

Present were Council members from five area townships (Adolphustown, Amherst Island, Ernestown, North Fredericksburgh and South Fredericksburgh) with Reeve Ashley, Councillor Woods and Councillor

Scott representing the Island.

Also present were several Island residents, Clerktreasurer Pearce, and a Ministry of Municipal Affairs representative.

After an hour and a half of discussion, a resolution was passed to have the municipalities provide financial information to the MMA which will give some indication of the level of saving if this group were to amalgamate. The South Fredericksburgh Reeve said that providing their information would be dependent on Council's approval.

Several other municipalities will also be requested to provide the same information including Bath, Napanee and Richmond. I don't know if Camden East and Newburg were also included as those names were being suggested but may not have made the resolution.

Once MMA has had time to do the analysis, another meeting will be called which will be again held at the North Fredericksburgh Community Centre being centrally located within the area.

The meeting was told that the Provincial Government has no guidelines to help groups of municipalities figure out if what they are trying to do is acceptable to the Province but it is presently writing the regulations under

which these new municipal areas will operate.

Some impressions...

to paraphrase several comments);

none thought amalgamation was a good or necessary idea;

some representatives wanted to limit discussion to the integration of services, common problems and common goals rather than amalgamation;

animosities between various participants were evident and these may threaten the effectiveness of the process; if not the process itself;

- finally, it was obvious that each council will work to maximize benefits for their municipality while minimizing negative effects (which is only natural as each council was elected to represent that municipality only... so we could easily end up with the group not working towards a rational and fair new municipality).

Whether this group of municipalities will or can work together is an open question because South Fredericksburg is already talking with Bath. South Fred's Reeve made it clear that he (personally) was opposed to attending this meeting while they are talking to Bath. This other set of talks may be one of the reasons why Bath did not attend the meeting. There is considerable uncertainty about everything because the make-up of the group may change with the possible inclusion of Napanee, Richmond Township, Camden Township, Newburg and Bath... that has not yet begun to play itself out.

No details were discussed about what could be shared, rationalized or eliminated. It was pointed out by Ernestown representatives that they have variable mill rates depending on the level of services provided to that area. The implication is that each region of this municipality would be expected to pay its own way. One exception to this area by area self-sufficiency was that the Ernestown industrial park would be supported by all because it is 'for the good of all' (sort of a quote from Reeve Gilmore).

No one wanted to eliminate the County, or County Council rather: L&A would just have fewer townships. And, no one at this meeting expressed a desire to have amalgamation talks at the County level - ie have the county as one municipal region. This option was, however, brought up by a couple of members of the audience.

So what can we expect from a group of municipal representatives who are very reluctantly doing something they don't agree with, for which there

are no rules or even guidelines, and who bring baggage to the table? Your guess is as good as mine.... I'm not optimistic that much constructive will be accomplished until one or more of the above conditions changes.

ACW Sponsoring a Beef Dinner

Saturday, March 23,1996

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Tickets

Adults \$10.00

Children 4-12 \$5.00

Pre-schoolers free

Euchre starting at 8:00 p.m.

HELP - WE NEED OUR HOME BACK!

Do you knit, do you sew, do you paint, do you carve, do you have a hobby that needs a venue to be seen and sold?

Let's for a group to sell our wares in downtown Stella. Phone Shirley Miller at 389-2588.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

-Don Tubb

Budget

February 15, 1996

This is definitely the last council report for this Beacon... too many as is. And they don't get any better...

Council met to discuss various items, one of which was a very nasty shock from MTO. Are you sitting down?

The Township has received its monthly payments for the ferry operation but instead of getting \$89,700 for each month, we got \$76,300 which is a 15% decrease. When contacted by the Clerk-treasurer, a MTO representative told her that this was an interim decrease which might change when the Province sets its budget in the spring. The Clerk-treasurer thought that a change for the better would be in the class of a 'miracle' and that there was a good possibility that it would be worse. This means that we will have to raise another \$171,582 if the 1996 expenditures are as predicted. In the past, these seem to have been quite accurate. So, instead of \$127,102 we are now responsible for \$298,684 (perilously close to 25% of operating costs).

Council discussed this but made no decisions

except to ask for suggestions from a committee called the Pro- Action Strategy Committee. It is composed of two members of Council, two captains (one is the Senior Captain) and four union members (one from each crew).

They will be asked to make recommendations to Council by the next Regular Meeting. A decision by Council is needed as soon as possible because the ferry has been operated since the start of the year as if we were still getting 90% subsidy meaning that we have to pick up the extra in the remaining 10 months... if it stays at 25% for our share.

I think we need a blank line or two to give us a breather...

The landfill site expansion is going ahead with no apparent major problems. That's all I can report... specifics were mentioned but I did not have the documentation to make sense of them.

Council then proceeded to consider the 1996 budget. The Clerk-treasurer distributed a draft budget as a starting point for Council. It was gone over line by line with the Clerk-treasurer explaining the ins and outs of each section (and there are lots of ins and outs to be explained). The bottom line of that document was a 5.63% increase. To cut a long story short, Council members then proceeded to try and find savings which they did.

Council passed a resolution that the landfill site be closed on Saturdays henceforth or soon;

Council passed a resolution to reduce the Firefighter's honoraria by 20% (a saving of about \$800);

Council re-worked the remuneration for the Livestock Valuer who instead of \$1,000 flat fee will get \$25 per call. Council will be examining whether they can charge a user fee to recover this cost;

In conjunction with the above, Council also passed a resolution to pay the Dog Control officer a flat fee of \$1,000.

One of the big items affecting the budget this year is the landfill site expansion. The estimate is that our net cost will be around \$18,000 which is a pretty big chunk of cash.

The Clerk, as requested, has reduced the General Administration budget estimate by 20% across the board but looked to Council to figure out how this could be achieved. It is difficult to reduce each division (ie hydro, heat, telephone, general supplies, maintenance, etc) by 20%. Council noted this point and will look for what savings can practically be achieved. It became evident as the evening wore on that not all figures were included in the budget estimates. These will be picked up the next time around. So, that's where we stand... a start, but more work to do yet which means that until next time, bye, bye....



Mute Swans – photo by Eloise Gowan

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

Best wishes to Lloyd Wolfreys, recovering from broken ribs after a fall at work. Best wishes also to Dick Shurtleff, Vaughan McMullen and Reeve Duncan Ashley, all recovering from various illnesses and/or broken bones.

Former Island resident Jean Wires passed away earlier this month. Our sympathies to her son David, and family and nephew Peter Coulson.

A combination of flu and red measles vaccinations has really thinned out school attendance this week. More than one-third of the students at AIPS were either at home or sent home last Monday.

Speaking of vaccination - a round of applause for Earle Willard and his crew for pulling back into the dock last Thursday for the school bus. All the Island kids from JK to Grade 8 had been bussed to Bath for this vaccination. The bus arrived back at the dock just after the ropes were untied and this thoughtful crew went back into the dock for those kids. Many thanks. (And no we won't expect you to do the same for all of us).

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Freda Youell

Our January meeting was held at the home of Irene Glenn and we were pleased to welcome our guest speaker Chris Kennedy who presented each of us with a book by Jeanne Benoit called "Cooking Lamb for Sheer Pleasure". As we had already exchanged our own favourites during Roll Call I'm sure that we can all serve lamb a different way for many weeks to come. When our guest started he stated that he wasn't good at speaking to groups - he then proceeded to explain how he became involved in sheep farming, the different countries he had been to, finding out the methods used and how Topsy Farm is run, with such enthusiasm that the opening remark was proved totally wrong. We were treated to a very informative talk which covered all areas of sheep farming, after which our hostess served a lunch before we started on our Brown Bag Auction.

This, as always was a lot of fun, and those Brown Bags can be very deceiving. (Anyone in the market for a three-headed burger flipper) Our February 21st meeting will be at the home of Helen Miller at 8 p.m. and a previously cancelled guest, the Dairy Educator, will be our speaker. We would, as always, enjoy your company so please try to join us.

ISLE

Cheese sales are the only on-going fund-raising activity by I.S.L.E. and we are appreciative of the support you have given the effort. Please continue to do so and new customers would help to keep the sales level stable. Also, please try to remember to pick up your order. The sales and pick up dates are listed monthly in the Beacon.

I.S.L.E. supports many school activities such as swimming excursions, sports trophies, bringing in performances or speakers, purchasing computers and library books and making hot lunches weekly. Help to do this is reaching a dangerously low level and the committee is in need of new members. Consider helping by joining I.S.L.E. The meeting time can even be changed to accommodate your working schedule. To encourage reading and keep it affordable, ISLE is sponsoring a book trade/sale on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 1:00 p.m. in the school gym. Anyone with books their children have outgrown, or wanting some new children's/adolescent's titles, may join us that day and take part. Please price your own books. Bring them to the school on February 22. The price categories are \$0.25, 0.50, 0.75, 1.00. Leftover books will be donated either to the school library or a local charity. Now's your chance to clear some space on those overloaded bookshelves! For more info., call Keitha Smith at the school, 389-4582, or Caroline Yull at 384-4071. All are welcome -you don't need to have a child in the school!

LETTERS TO THE BEACON

-Ellie Cochrane Moore

The January issue just came and I'm beginning to understand how folks get into keeping track of roots. This one is sending me scrambling for some of Mom's old records.

I'll take the easy one first. The Grandma I referred to was not Annie Fleming Cochrane. Annie died in the fall of 1943 before I was born and not even aware that I was on the way. I referred to my other grandmother, Eleanor (Ellie) Glenn Strain, who lived with us and died in January 1947.

The house I remember Aunt Mary and Uncle Dave Filson living in without electricity was not the house in the village. They lived on a farm out on the north shore beyond where the Pollock family is now. (I called Madlyn to make sure my memory was correct because I wasn't very old at the time.)

Again, thanks for the memories,

[Staff: Dear Readers: please do not hesitate to question historical information that we print. And if you feel like adding more facts or contributing your own memories, that would be great.]

ISLAND HISTORY

SCHOOL SECTION NO. 1 - 125 YEARS OLD

- Gertrude Maude

School Section No. 1 was built in 1871 on the west bank of Preston Cove, one of five one-room schools on the Island. It seems an unlikely place to build a school - so close to a bank that drops abruptly to the water - such a headache for the teacher! I understand, however, that the land, on which it stands, was donated by the Preston family who owned the farm there. That may explain the unusual location. It was built of red brick with a belfry (long gone) at the front and a large chimney at the back. A woodshed was built across the front entrance. A box stove was placed just inside the front entrance with stovepipes extending the full length of the building to the chimney at the back. It seems very typical of the hundreds of one-room schoolhouses across Ontario at that time. Crystal-clear drinking water for the school came from a spring on the property. A number of large maple trees planted by the first pupils still stand.

After the one-room schools were closed on the Island this building was used as a cottage. My husband and I bought it in 1957 and it has been used as a cottage ever since. It was badly in need of repair back then and we started patching and that is still going on.

Over the years we have had numerous visitors interested in the school - former teachers & pupils and the children and grandchildren of former teachers & pupils. We've heard many stories from these people - e.g. how the schoolboys used to make skis from barrel staves and scoot over the bank and out on to the ice; how one of the first teachers (male) and the senior boys saved a cow that had fallen through the ice into the bay. I am sure many more stories could be told by islanders born and raised here.

The patching-up job which Clare and I started in 1957 has now been passed to the younger generation. I am confident they will preserve School Section No. 1 for a while longer.

LOVE LETTERS

- Thomas Sylvester

Valentine's Day may be past, most of us have shelved the promises and affection of the day until '97 or the millennium. But our ancestors loved for the year, their lives, and even longer. Forty love letters dated 1818-1821 of one betrothed couple were recently donated to the Lennox & Addington County Archives. The Island connection of the lovers-correspondents Mary B Swetman and Thomas Nash was that their families immigrated to Amherst Island in 1821. Five families of Friends, or Quakers, from the Bristol area, England, joined their resources and chartered a vessel to Montreal. Their surnames included Boone, Lamson, Moffat, Nash, Shephard and Swetman. They collectively bought 500 acres, sometimes known as the Rev John Stuart plot (Lots 23-27, Concession I or west of Wolfreys to Whittings). The Island Quaker community lasted for ten years before moving on to Prince Edward County and points west. Their descendants include Jane Foster, manager of the Lennox & Addington County Museum. We should pity Jane who was willing to book time off, to read these letters in her work place!

The collection of love-letters record the trials of Mary's health. Thomas had proposed by November 1818, "her illness [tuberculous] was her only damper." The letters record she was prescribed pills with essence of English Poppy. Mary succumbed to the disease by Christmas 1819; yet their professed love would bring them together after this world. One particularly interesting letter was, "An Inventory of the Valuable Relicks of Mary B Swetman," listing 33 items, 14 named books and 4 larger items.

Thomas Nash, the devoted suitor married Hannah, Mary's younger sister. Thomas and Hannah lived on the Island into the 1830's. Their six children and 23 grandchildren were listed in Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte, 1904.

Obviously, the collection of letters were cherished by one of the immigrants, carefully preserved in a victorian letter folder, and then apparently forgotten in a mainland attic for numerous generations. How many other attics contain Island history treasures? Island history is an ambiguous marriage of myth and facts. These letters are particularly valuable since they obviously document the writers' contemporary thoughts and experiences. Their information has not been reinterpreted or misrepresented by story telling or subsequent writers.

The January Beacon printed an excerpt from the W I Tweedsmuir Book which repeats the myth of the meaning of the Iroquoian name for the Island, "Kaounesgo." The First People's experience with the Island related to marine contact, decidedly not to viewing the land from an elevated tractor cab. They would never have described the Island as "the drowned land or land under water." The Iroquoian meaning is, in fact, "big long island": a very appropriate, descriptive name for our Island. This myth was first recorded by Canniff, and sequentially repeated in Herrington, Burleigh, Hogeboom and Wilson (see p2, Sylvester, Amherst Island: a Detailed Survey...).

THANK YOU NOTES

The family of the late Thelma Howard wish to extend heartfelt thanks to friends, relatives, and neighbours for cards, flowers, food, charitable donations, support and kindness during the loss of our mother, Thelma. Thank you to the staff of Davies 3 at K.G.H., pallbearers, Reverend Barry Van Dusen for his visits and funeral service. Everyone's thoughtfulness during this difficult time has been greatly appreciated.

Bob and Valerie Howard

I would like to thank my many friends on Amherst Island for all the get well wishes and visits and goodies during my time with the broken ankle. I would especially like to thank the A.C.W., P.C.W., and Women's Institute for their thoughtfulness. We appreciated your visits. All are welcome to visit anytime.

Sincerely,

Ray and Zelma Koenders

I would like to thank family, friends, neighbours, P.C.W. and Legion for cards, visits, well wishes and goodies given to me while I've been recuperating from my fall. A special thanks to Larry Fleming and Roxanne for taking me to emergency.

Thanks again
Lloyd Wolfreys

EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONSE TEAM REPORT CARDIAC DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

- Lynann Whitton

The cardiac defibrillator has been ordered and is on its way, and on February 3rd the EFR team had

a training course to learn how to use it. The training was organised through the Regional Base Hospital and two instructors were on hand to 'put us through our paces'. Initially, we were taught the emergency procedures for dealing with a cardiac arrest (when the heart stops): the protocol involves a three person team - one person doing resuscitation, one on chest compressions and the third in charge of defibrillation. We also learned how to use the defibrillator to monitor the hearts of patients who are not in cardiac arrest. While the obvious use for the monitoring capability is for patients who are experiencing chest pains, we can also use it in many other situations - for example, those involving an unconscious casualty, patients having breathing difficulties or suffering from a stroke, to name a few. It was a very interesting and informative training course. We would like to offer Huge thanks to our instructors - Mark Halladay (Halladay Emergency Services) and Bill Barrie (Base Hospital Regional Training Coordinator). Both of them donated their services Free Of Charge to help us get our defibrillator programme underway - normally the charge is \$60 per instructor per hour (and they were each here for 9 hours!).

The defibrillator should be here within the next couple of weeks, so we should have it in the van and ready to go by March 1st. We would like to conduct a series of public information sessions on CPR and the cardiac defibrillator, and will be contacting various groups on the Island to arrange times for a presentation.

Thank you again for your support!

AMHERST ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

- Ian Murray

Deputy Chief David Fleming is currently taking the Trainer/Facilitator course with the Ernestown Fire Department. This course is put on by the Ontario Fire College and consists of 3 days of classes. Upon completion, David will be able to conduct training modules for our department which will meet provincial standards. He will also be able to certify those who pass each module.

IN OTHER NEWS...

Island Farms Receive Awards

Three Amherst Island dairy farms received certificates of merit for milk quality. These awards are given for maintaining Grade A farm premises

and producing milk of above average quality. These producers are Lance and Vince Eves, A. Bruce and W. Bruce Caughey, and Keith and Donald Miller (the 12th quality certificate for the "Millers").

BITS AND BITS

Farewell to the stately tree that graced the lakeside by the former Doug Miller farm - more recently owned by Neil Babcock and Hank Bauer, and presently owned by Steve Street. This tree was a local landmark and will be missed by many local residents. It came down in the high wind a few weeks ago - the wind that closed the ferry channel.

Congratulations to Brian Tobin on his \$53,134 annual pension from the federal government. This certainly must sweeten the pot that the new Newfoundland premier has to dip his beak into.

No joke: ballroom dancing is an Olympic sport. Judged sporting contests are bad enough in themselves, but ballroom dancing is going a bit too far.

A LETTER HOME

The sun is shining, the kids are in school, my little dog is at my feet and all is well in Paradise. This winter's weather has had me as confused as the sheep. For several days in a row, it pours rain, then overnight the temperature drops 30 degrees F. Mother Nature is having a great deal of fun with us this year. The Ferry has had the occasional difficult day getting across the Bay. I've heard that there are a few people driving the ice, but not me! Do you remember the days when one never thought twice about it? At that time everyone drove the ice especially when the Ferry was taken out of service during the winter. However, there was always the occasional scary crossing and many of us have become more cautious with age. The early lambers are taking it easy during the last weeks of pregnancy. However, there is the occasional ewe lambing before the March 5th official date. It seems a ram has been wooing the girls on moonlit nights when the shepherd wasn't watching. One more thing to keep us humble!

The Island has been all abuzz about amalgamation, cutbacks and dump negotiations. There seems to be about one public meeting a week. No decisions have been reached but we are all curious as to how this will affect us as a

community and individually.

The Amherst Island wildlife is flourishing. We've seen several large groups of deer grazing. I saw 2 close up the other night. In fact, they were 5" from my front bumper. The voles and rabbits have been happily nibbling away at the greenery. I can hardly blame them as their instinct to survive is simply kicking in. I'll try to remember that this spring when I find a dead bush or two.

The sun is setting, my tea is almost done, and it's time to say goodbye for now.

Write when you can.

Events Calendar

Feb 20 Amalgamation Meeting 8:00 p.m. at AICC

Feb 21 AIWI meeting at Helen Miller's at 8 p.m.

Feb 22 ISLE Book Fair 1 p.m. in the gym

Mar 5 Regular Council Meeting 8:00 p.m.

Mar 23 ACW Beef Dinner 5 -7 p.m.

May 4 Anti-Rabies Vaccination MOn. Garage 5 - 6:30 p.m.

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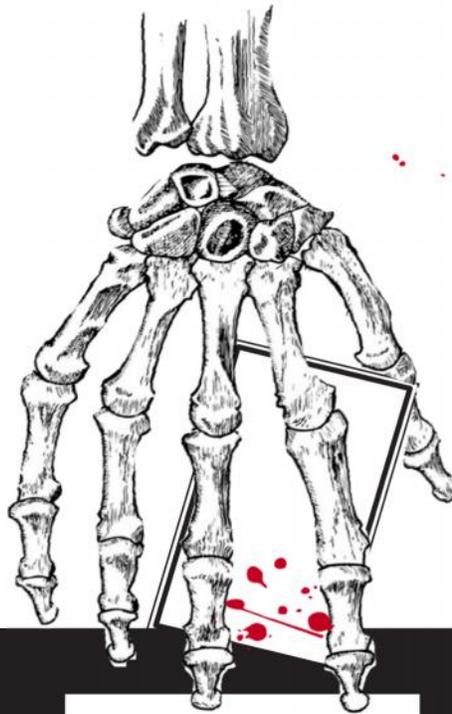
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