

Amherst Island Beacon



Issue 455 BONA LIBENTER, TRISTIA MAESTITER, MALA NUMQUAM June 2016

RIP Stanley Burke 1923-2016



TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF!!!

-Janet Grace, June 1, 2016

The question rings, the interview
By Stanley Burke is nothing new.
His interest was to know your mind
To search for answers and then to find
Some common ground on which to discuss the
world.

A Western boy, Vancouver bred
An athlete, scholar, born they said
To tell a story, weave a spell
Find the truth come heaven or hell
This truth at times was hard to bear.
Sometimes his questions caused a stir
Perhaps a war he did incur
But the news was his, he didn't pause
To tell the world the facts because
It seemed like a good idea at the time (SLAGIATT)
From battles on the stage of war
To turkey farming, then the star
Of television – the news he brought
To a country that was newly fraught
With anti war, free love and flowers.
His humour found a great outlet
Defined by Easterners he met

In Newfoundland, an island fair
Where he and Peg without a care
Found their Happy Valley and Hearts Desire.
And on to Amherst, our good luck
They came, they saw and finally stuck
Their name on the mailbox on South Shore Road
And there created their abode
And here they stayed and loved and gave
A transformed farmhouse was their nest
Amid tangled web of nature's best
From deer to ducks, cats, plants galore
Their love of nature at the core
Of this amazing wild Kingdom they called home
As many know and few do not
T'was Stanley's work wherein he sought
To devise a form of world consent
One government to lead or else lament
The demise of humanity
Where people blend and nations bind
To create a world for all mankind
A dream, perhaps, but nonetheless
An aspiration, he'd confess
To see a world free of strife and hate
When God created humankind
I'm sure he had Stan Burke in mind
A man of keen intelligence
Of kind and caring countenance
A man who led the way
I'm sure that Stan is watching us
And quite perplexed at all the fuss
For after all he's home at last
And in the arms of family past
Raising a glass with brother Corny
So goodbye my friend, as you take your leave
You've left so many to bereave
Your passing, yet I humbly say
I'm so glad you passed along this way
And I knew you peace.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lynn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to Hazel deHaan, Terry McGinn, Shirley Miller

Condolences to Peggy Coulter and family, following the passing of her husband, Stanley Burke.

Congratulations to Earle and Donna Willard on the arrival of their 2nd great grandchild. Benjamin Pierce was born to granddaughter Jennifer and husband, Adam Cowin. A new brother for James, and a 2nd grandson for Chris and Michelle Willard.

Congratulations to Bruce and Carrie Sudds on the birth of Estelle. A sister for Elizabeth and Kiki.



Estelle Sudds – 3 days old. Photo by her dad.

Amherst Island Public School entertained family and friends with a student talent show in late May. We have some very talented students in our school. The program included pianists, dancers, musicians, singers, magicians, a hula hoop group and more! The very capable MCs and stage hands kept things running smoothly under the direction of Ms. Dingwall.

The Amherst Island Rec Association held their annual Fish Fry and Spring Dance. Normally held on the Victoria Day weekend, it was held a week earlier this year, so the caterers, Rodney & Diana Lloyd, could celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary over the long weekend.

The much anticipated opening of the “New Back

Kitchen” went off seemingly without a hitch. It was a busy place over the long weekend. Congratulations to all involved!



A welcome addition this year is the popular ice cream window. Photo by Brian Little

The Saturday morning market, Weasel & Easel and the Museum also opened on the May long weekend.

We have had a cool Spring, with some sunshine, but summer finally made its debut on the May long weekend! With lots of sunshine, warm weather, visitors and summer people returning. With that warm weather, came the North Shore lilacs in full bloom. The South Shore lilacs bloomed about 10 days later.

The holiday Monday afternoon exodus was in full swing by 2:00 p.m. and went on into the early evening.

Following the long weekend, the community pasture cattle arrived by the trailers full as well, causing ferry line ups and delays.

New calves, lambs, and colts are appearing in the Island fields, as well as the many goslings along the shorelines.

It's been very dry here on the Island and the grass was already turning brown, but a good soaking rain at the first of June brought back the green☺

The Amherst Island BEACON Issue 455, June 2016

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Editorial

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WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Judy Greer

The AIWI held a meeting May 18th with 14 members present at the home of Kirsten Bennick. We were treated to a presentation by Terry McGinn on Seed Saving and Propagation Techniques. There was time for questions and Terry provided good suggestions about improving individual gardens on the Island, especially asparagus which is in season. Terry will have produce and plants for sale at the Saturday market and there will be a variety of heirloom and hybrid tomatoes as well as other items. Thanks Terry!

Joyce Haines, our president, chaired the meeting. Letters of thanks have been received for donations we have made this year to the Back Kitchen and to Sand Beach. Five members also attended the Lennox and Addington Hospital Tea to receive thanks for our donation to the Hospital Auxiliary.

Joyce presented information about the organization and role of ISLE, the Student Advisory Committee, and the Island Recreation Committee which members have in the past supported. She also presented information about the Seniors Outreach Service (SOS) which is starting an overnight respite service and about their June 4th annual fundraising House Tour which this year includes homes in the Odessa area. Marilyn circulated the schedule of volunteers for the Saturday market cart and the group agreed to again have a baked goods table at the August Emerald Music Festival. Bake Sales will only be held on the May and July 1st long weekends.

Advocacy coordinator Anne Henderson has been involved in gaining provincial support for the Guaranteed Annual Income idea. Marianne and

Norma Lynn asked for members help in gathering and updating ads for the 2017 printing of the Island Phone Directory.

There will be no business meeting until the September meeting and items needing attention should be sent by email. In August we will have a picnic at the home of Lily Jozkow. A Social Hour ensued with delicious refreshments provided by Jackie Sylvester and Lily Jozkow.

The next gathering will be the public meeting on Guaranteed Basic Income for All Canadians on June 15th, 7pm at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, sponsored by AIWI. Members are encouraged to bring friends and all are welcome.



Flying Pig – by Paul Cuyler – from his show last month at the Lodge.

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From the 9th Session, May 24th, Minutes

The Municipality is required to complete an annual report for the Amherst Island Landfill Site. The 2015 report has been prepared by the Township's consultants, AECOM, Canada Ltd. and Malroz Engineering Inc.

The site was surveyed in December of 2015 and the rate of fill was measured at 230 m³/year. This is lower than the previous year and predicted quantities. The average annual rate of fill since 1998 has been 295 m³/year. AECOM considers long term averages to be a better indicator of site usage than single-year measurements.

Although single-year measurements can fluctuate significantly from year to year, usage at the Amherst Island WDS has generally been trending downward and has averaged only 200 m³/year over the past five (5) years, much lower than the predicted rate of 415m³/year. If site usage continues

at current levels then site lifespan calculations should be revisited. At the recent rates of fill the site can last for 60 more years, until 2075.

Records indicate 4,823 bags of refuse were deposited at the site. This figure includes all bags of waste, tagged or other wise disposed of at the Amherst Island WDS. The number of bags in 2015 continues a generally decreasing trend in site usage that has been evident since 2009.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bresee and Seconded by Councillor Daniliunas that Council authorize that a letter be drafted, under the signature of the Mayor, to be addressed to Samsung and the Ministry of the Environment citing the outstanding and unresolved issues required by the Township for the advancement of this project.

Motion carried

AIMS

- William Barrett



The Market Wagon, ready for another year.

The May meeting of the Amherst Island Men's Society (AIMS) took place on 14 May at the St. Paul's Church Hall.

As normal, the collection of 26 members were well

fed – this month by AIPS. Thank you.

Diane Pearce was our guest speaker, providing a comprehensive report on the opening of 'The Baxter Property' AKA 'Sand Beach.'

She covered the layout, the timelines, the developments and the costs associated with the Project. Hopefully, it will be open in August.

As much picturesque conservation area as public beach, she emphasized that "Take Out what you Take In" would be one of the guiding principles.

The membership thanked her and the other members of her teams for this initiative and voted to provide \$1000 in ongoing support for it.

Treasurer and Transportation gave their reports. We agreed to again support the annual road cleanup. Members selected different portions of AI roads to tidy up.

The signup sheet for the Market Wagon was circulated. Marc Raymond holds the master copy, so if you can't remember which weekends you agreed to, give him a call.

Peter Large gave a briefing on the AI art tour. (See ad later this issue.) This is the annual fundraiser for the Museum. AIMS agreed to donate \$200 to support this.

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING:

Capitalism vs. The Climate by Naomi Klein

- Anthony Gifford

With little hesitation, I can claim that this volume is the best single source on the topic of Climate Change, what it is, how our world has arrived at this point and the possible paths that are before us. It covers the philosophy, values and powers that have allowed/caused this crisis and challenges us to look at ourselves in a way that isn't insulting but that leaves us no room to doubt our true situation.

Naomi is a great writer. The book is logically laid out, but it is too long. As a reference book, it is indispensable. I love the topic but I just couldn't finish the book in the time given. But I bought one. I wish that she would write another, one of about a third of the length. On the other hand, each bit of information is well documented and worthwhile. Quite a quandary.

Every thoughtful person should read this. The title is right on. It is, without a doubt, the most important book of our generation, and the next. Our future and

those of our descendants depend upon how we react to the message this book makes clear to us. We have no excuses.

BEE KEEPING ON AMHERST ISLE

-Judy Bierma, The Cheesemaker's Daughter



I asked Mia McDonald at the Market in Stella the other day why she knows about Bee Keeping and honey making.

Mia Macdonald – Photo by Perry Macdonald

“Because my dad thinks that it’s important for the world and he thinks it’s important for me to know about it. “I was five when I started honey making. I call it bee keeping. Right now we have 5 hives. Our hives are behind Diane and Michèle’s old barn where they keep their garden.

“The bees eat honey. They make the honey by collecting pollen from the flowers. They bring it back to the hives and spit on it. A honeybee visits 50 to 100 flowers during a collecting trip. My dad told me that. When I help my dad with bee keeping I come into the yard and help him take the boxes. When we collect the honey I stand aside but when he’s just checking the bees I help him take off the boxes. I also sit on the side of the road and sell honey. I like doing that. It depends on the weekend, usually I get 3 or 4 but on Canada Day last year I sold 3 to 4 hundred dollars of honey. Usually I sell by myself but if my cousin comes over from Kitchener he wants to help.

“Honeybees have been around for about 30 million years. Honeybees help humans make food or keep food. They are big pollinators and they pollinate trees and flowers, fruits and vegetables. Honey can basically feed you and keep you alive for a long time if you only eat honey. Bees have six legs, two compound eyes, kind of like a fly’s eyes. What is really interesting is that they have 3 normal eyes like ours on the top of their heads, two pairs of wings, a nectar pouch and a stomach. So the bees’ wings can beat around 200 beats per second making that kind of distinctive buzz as well they can fly up

to six miles and as fast as fifteen miles per hour.

“A hive of bees will fly 90 thousand miles which is equivalent to three orbits around the earth to collect one kilogram of honey. It takes one ounce of honey to fuel a bee’s flight around the world. The average worker bee produces about 1/12 tsp. of honey in her life time. The reason I said her because the girls are the only worker bees, they are the only ones that collect honey and they are the only ones with a stinger. The Queen bee also has a stinger but doesn’t go out to protect her hive because she needs to be making more eggs and she needs to live longer than the other bees.



A swarm at Perry Macdonald's hives is captured for insertion in its new home.

“What I like is that the honey bees communicate by dancing. They kind of move their butts and heads to show the location of nice flowers or predators coming. Their predators are bears; they mistake dogs for bears a lot. Also what I do like is that the drone bees, the boys, are just there for mating with the Queen and have no stinger at all.

“If you want to drop by and buy some honey down by my Grandma’s, Barb McDonald’s, someone is usually there.”

I talked to Krystalin and Julia Kennedy about bee keeping.

“When it’s cold the bees sting a lot because they are so angry that it’s cold, they are used to the warm weather. The smoke calms them down and makes them feel good. Dave wears all the netting. We don’t wear the netting.”

Julia said she had only been stung once. Krystalin said when she got stung it felt like nothing. Dave has been stung a lot on the fingers and on the hands and technically it just feels like a poke. Krystalin said she might have beehives when she grows up; it depends on where she wants to live. Julia said that

she probably wouldn't have hives when she grew up.

"The boxes are painted different colours because there are different people on the Island who have their own bees. Dave made stripes, and dots and things like that. Tara was thinking of making a honey lip balm and a bath balm from the honey. Tara is also looking after the baby bees trying to make more Queen bees to make more honey.

"We sell it to the people that go to Dave's office. You can phone Dave to request a bottle for a gift for putting it on bread. He sells off the island as well as on the island. (He also sells it to Topsy Farms who have it for sale in the Wool Shed.)

"He has over 40 boxes. There are some near Owl Woods. They have rocks on them to keep the metal lids on them so that the lids stay on. In the winter he puts garbage bags over them to keep the heat in and to keep them in the hives so they won't go out into the winter and die."



David Meikle at his hives. Photo by Tara

"The coolest part about helping look after the bees is that you get to see them when they are teeny tiny and you get to taste the honey. The honeycomb, you take the honey comb and you take the knife thingy

and you pull it down the side and all the honey starts pouring out."

Julia likes honey by itself. She doesn't really like honey on anything. Krystalin mentioned that honey is good for sore throats.

Liam and Mairi help too but they weren't home for this interview.

THE ORENDA

By Joseph Boyden

- Anthony Gifford

I had not planned to read *The Orenda* because of reviews I had read describing the violence, but I am glad the Emerald Book Club chose it and I did finish it. It is an important book about the clash of cultures—European and Aboriginal in the mid-17th century—for Canadians to read and reflect upon.

While reading it, I considered two issues. The first was the quality of the novel—was it well-written, did it hold my attention. Were the characters and plot well-developed? For me, it was a yes on all three counts. I like Joseph Boyden's writing-style, and this book was no exception. I felt drawn into the lives of all of the protagonists and was fascinated by the details of their daily lives and struggles. The three-person narrative, an unusual and at times awkward approach, nevertheless carried the story forward—although you had to pay attention to who was speaking. The use of interior monologue did greatly humanize the characters, so that we could understand their motivations and reactions in a way not possible through the spoken word.

I found even the secondary characters well-developed and fascinating, their interactions showing how they lived daily life in the village, in the longhouse and on the landscape. I did wonder though why there was no mention of the matrilineal system upon which tribes at that time were organized.

The second issue was the torture scenes which have been controversial for both white and Aboriginal readers. Boyden's scenes tally exactly with literature I have from Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons up on Georgian Bay; it is based on contemporary accounts sent back to France by the Jesuits. I assumed reading those scenes that they would not have been included by an Aboriginal writer had they not been accepted by Aboriginal

people as authentic. However, to check this out, I decided to search for commentary on the issue from Aboriginal writers and historians. They range from denial of the prevalence of it, to criticism of attributing it mainly to the Haudenosaunee, to references to the equally severe Inquisition and other European tortures, to a fascinating description by Wab Kinew (in a debate about violence in the book on Q with Stephen Lewis) of how warriors expected to be tortured as a chance to show their courage as their last act before passing into the Spirit World. He noted that non-Aboriginals miss the meaning of it if they view it only from a non-native perspective. He did not, however, comment on the multiple instances in the book of the savage killing of women and children.

Stephen Lewis, in the debate with Wab Kinew, declared passionately that he felt that the extensive and detailed torture scenes would potentially damage understanding and reconciliation between non-natives and natives. Both he and Aboriginal critics have opined that the torture scenes were too detailed and showed Aboriginal people in a negative light. I do not know how to assess the issue, being too far removed from it and lacking native cultural insight into it; but I thought it was well woven into the story. I found the scenes difficult to read, but found myself accepting them as part of native life at the time.

In the end, I decided that rather than get caught up in the nuances of history and politics, I should simply admire the book for the intricately interwoven stories of the three main characters—Bird, Snow Falls, and the Jesuit priest Christophe—plus the supporting cast, set against the backdrop of two great cultures in conflict. I did feel a great sadness for the Aboriginal people, watching their traditional ways being eroded by the combination of the fur trade, disease, the availability of rifles, and missionary zeal, which wreaked havoc on their way of life and exacerbated their traditional rivalries.

Throughout, I experienced the book on two levels—it was an engrossing tale about specific fictional characters, but their story was symbolic of the great struggle of the Aboriginal people with the invaders, both religious and commercial, who in the end destroyed their culture. The Jesuits, as we experience them through the thoughts and actions of Christophe, worked tirelessly to make converts, never considering the devastating consequences for

individuals and tribes. Bird, Snow Falls and their people were the keepers of the spiritual power in humans and in all of nature—the Orenda—who lost to guns, greed and conquest.



**So now, for something completely different, we present strange going-on at Topsy Farms.
Maggi with Lili & Anneli Claire with Purl
Photo by Brian Little**

THANK YOU NOTES

A big thank you to the volunteers and staff who have worked so hard to get the Back Kitchen open for this season.



Also a big thank you to those who have donated

seed money to help get our community diner up and running.

Ian Murray

NOTICES

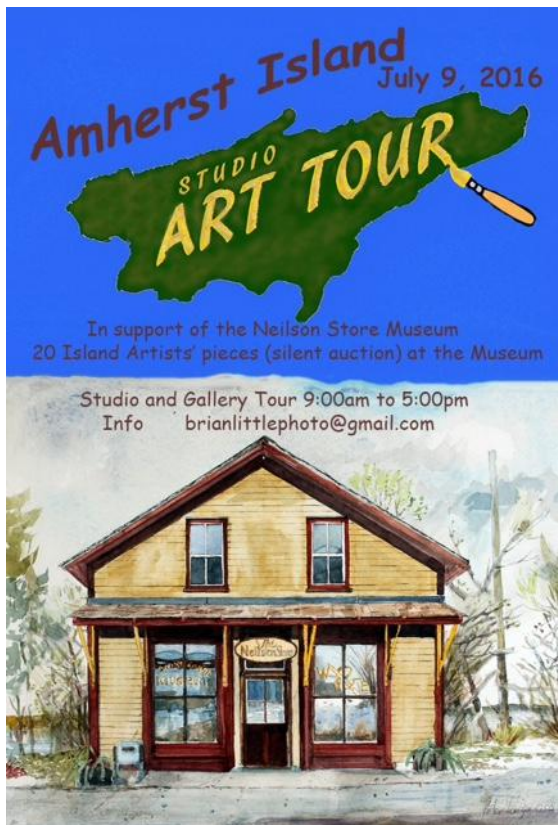
Studio and Gallery Art Tour of Amherst Island
Saturday July 9th, 9am to 5pm In support of
Neilson Store Museum with donated art pieces from
20 Island artists (silent auction) at the Museum.
Auction closes at 2:30pm Maps with Studio and
Gallery locations will be available the day of the
tour at the museum.

The Museum will be offering BBQ and drinks at
lunchtime. There is no cost for the tour and we
encourage everyone to support the Museum and
artists of the Island.

Please spread the word to mainland friends and
family.



Congratulations to Katie Little, seen above
graduating with a Masters degree from Nipissing
University. Photo by Brian Little



Congratulations to Ainsley Wronski as she
graduates from the Paralegal Program on the Dean's
List at Loyalist College. Photo by Roxanne Guttin.

The May holiday weekend saw the re-opening of “The Back Kitchen” with cake, ribbon cutting, and an assortment of dignitaries including those people who worked hard to run the restaurant over the years. Thank you to the Filsons (Susan, Garry and Barb), Anthony Gifford and Judy Bierma, Sandra and Brooke Reid, and the host of new enthusiastic people who will keep us fed.



Above, Dianne Pearce cuts the ribbon at the opening with help of Councilor Duncan Ashley. Right, Lorna Willis serves up some ice cream. Below, the menu. All photos by Brian Little



ADVERTISEMENTS

LOST: Big blue plastic barrel for garbage or recyclables lately from behind Back Kitchen. It belongs to St. Paul's. Also lost a blue bin at the Stone Wall Festival in September belonging to Stella's Cafe'. Does anyone know anything about these two blue, plastic barrels? Call Judy Bierma

WANTED: If you have any unwanted but reusable seedling trays I would be glad to have them, please. I can pick them up or I am at the AIMS Farmers' Market on Saturdays. Thank you. Terry McGinn: 613-888-3702, or terry@maplemarsh.ca

Free firewood. Willow blocks and misc wood
Contact Doug Green

Honey Bees are swarming. If you see a 'football' shaped mass of bees on a tree branch, please let me know as these swarms will likely not survive on their own. Dave Meikle: 613-328-8892.

THE BACK KITCHEN

May 20 – July 1:

Open Thurs – Sun 8 am – 8 pm

NEILSON STORE MUSEUM & CULTURAL
CENTRE &

WEASEL AND EASEL ARTS AND CRAFTS
GALLERY

Spring and Fall hours

Saturday (10 am to 4 pm), Sunday (1 to 4 pm)

Holiday Mondays (1 to 4 pm)

Summer hours (1 July to 1 September)

Saturday (10 am to 4 pm),

Sunday through Friday, 1 to 4 pm

ISLAND BOOKKEEPING

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, crutches, canes, bath seats, commodes, raised toilet seats, bath safety rails, wheelchairs). Equipment is a phone call away. Offered as free loan to any island resident. Donations of used equipment in good condition also welcome. Call Sharen English 613-384-6535.

Topsy Farms has spring 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: 613-389-7907

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

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

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

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

HELP STILL NEEDED for the Lennox and Addington S.P.C.A. Used towels and linens, paper towels and cleaning supplies, pet food 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

RAWLEIGH PRODUCTS FOR SALE

Catalogues available. To place an order call Marie Ward at 613 389-5767 or email:

bandmward@xplornet.ca

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



Topsy lambs Purl and Velvet visiting the primary class at AIPS.

Photo by Michael Murray

ARCHIVES

June 15, 1986 - Volume 4 Issue 101

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Council Report for June 3, 1986

- Chris Kennedy

Stuart Miller reported that the calcium was on the roads, and that the road crew was going to start ditching and clearing the roadsides soon. Three tenders were received for the new dump truck. An International was the lowest tender and Stuart recommended it for Council's approval. Later in the meeting Council agreed to accept the tender for \$65,000. The full cost will be paid by MTC over the next 2 years. It is not known when we can expect delivery - it may be quite a few months.

Robert Stewart, the President of the Ontario Naturalists, addressed Council on the merits of wetlands.

The Reeve reported that he had attended four meetings for the County: about the museum; about the Gypsy Moth spraying programme; discussing the Health Unit Budget; and, the opening of a new senior citizens' villa in Napanee.

Letters about reducing the size of the ferry crew were received from Ted Welbanks and George Gavlas. Beth Forester and Chester Tugwell thought that George's should be returned to him, as he had expressed himself a little more freely than Council was accustomed to.

The Reeve has talked with Canadian Transport and MTC about increasing fire safety on the ferry. Council is to meet with the four ferry captains to discuss the safety aspects of reducing the crew size. Council decided to

continue with the extra trips in the evening, and to start them on June 23rd in the mornings as well, at least until the next Council meeting. A regular schedule for departures from Stella is to be published. The extra trip costs about \$17 in fuel.

Council was shown various estimates for a bridge to the mainland. The cheapest version was \$33,000,000 (without approach work). Councilors are considering the latest version of the ferry future study report. These are available at the Township Office. [There are actually only five copies, one for each member of Council.]

Council is applying for extra money from the Province to repair the road at the Sand Beach (in front of Matthews' farm).

The Cemetery Committee minutes were adopted. A new lawnmower is being bought (\$2000).

The increase in the tax rate for this year is 6.59%.

Keith Miller has met with the Township insurance agent, but it appears Council can do little to lower the premium, which has roughly doubled since 1984, with some decrease in coverage.

PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS STUDY

Transportation to Amherst Island by Totten Sims Hijbicki Associates, "Draft" as received by Reeve & Council of Amherst Island, June 3, 1986

- Ian Murray

Unfortunately, Council was supplied with only 5 copies: one for each Councillor and one for the Reeve. I am willing to loan my copy for a few days to anyone who wants to see it - make a copy if you wish. I expect that other members of Council will do the same.

For those who are not interested in reading the report, here is my summation of Chapter 7 entitled Conclusions and Recommendations.

Docking Locations (7. 1). It is recommended that the existing docking locations be retained.

It is recommended that the existing wharves be reconstructed generally in conformance with the improvements proposed in the Public Works Canada Report (dated October 1985) "Millhaven Ontario, Stella Ontario, Ferry Wharf Improvements". This report can be seen in the Township Office. It is also recommended that remedial work be done to the wharves in the near future to provide adequate docking for both the Amherst Islander and the Charlevoix. This should not be confused with the emergency repairs to the docks that is planned for this summer. This work is only intended to hold the wharves together until something more permanent can be done.

It is recommended that each dock be provided with a paved parking area for a minimum of 20 vehicles.

It is recommended that a "ride share program be initiated". It is suggested that the desirability of providing public transit be reviewed regularly.

Ferry Vessel (7.2). It is recommended that the Amherst Islander be replaced by a vessel with the following characteristics: minimum 30 vehicles {I assume cars and pickup trucks; minimum licensed passenger capacity of 100 to 140; end loading (both ends); cruising speed to provide dock to dock crossing time of 20 minutes; minimum width of loading ramp of 4.6 m, and; absolute minimum vertical clearance of 4.1 m. It is recommended that such a vessel be put into service between 1990 A. D. and 2000 A. D. It is recommended that the trans-channel traffic be monitored to determine when the new ferry would be required. It is recommended that the Charlevoix be used in the summer {after the docks are improved} until the new ferry is made available.

Ferry Schedule (7.3). It is recommended that the present schedule of ferry departures be retained. {This was written before the "quick-turn-around" schedule was tried.}

I hope that I have done justice to the report's conclusions and recommendations. At this time, June 13, the recommendations are those

of the consulting company only. The steering committee has not approved the report. The Township Council of Amherst Island has not approved the report. Reeve Norman Allison has served notice that he intends to move acceptance of the report's recommendations at the July 2 meeting of Council.

A.I. TRANSPORTATION NEEDS COMMITTEE

- Ed Chadband - Resident

Recently; I had the opportunity and the privilege of speaking with a majority of Island Residents, concerning the lack of community interest and involvement in Township Affairs. Most individuals, with whom I spoke, had a basic understanding of the more immediate problems concerning the ferry service; such as: "quick-turn around" and the "four-man crews".

However; there is a more serious problem which affects all the permanent residents; and only a few know what this problem means.

I respectfully submit; for all the Island Residents, why this problem has developed, and what it means! As a result of the "survey" conducted by Totten Sims and Hubicki Associates under contract to MTC, the final results state that a new and larger (end-loading) ferry be purchased. This has been approved by MTC and the Township Council; and, apparently, it will go into effect in 1988/89. Also, new wharfs will be built, and placed in the present positions between Stella and Millhaven. The problem is; we (the ferry users) cannot afford the costs of the present ferry because the Township is cutting back on ferry crews (through attrition); and, continuing to raise the fares of the ferry. The commuters, who buy the yearly passes, have had a 300% increase in the last five years, and a 33% increase since last year. The Reeve has indicated that "passes" might be cut out completely and that general fares will increase more next year. The ferry is full during the early morning hours and late afternoon trips,

this (possibly) we can live with; but, we are having difficulty when the Seasonal Residents arrive. Even the occasional ferry user must wait for long periods, until the ferry returns. The “quick-turn-around” is an experiment to try and solve this problem. By having the new wharfs located in the present location, will mean that the ferry will still take one hour to return.

A new ferry, in the present location, will not improve the ferry service.

When, the “survey” was being conducted, there was political pressure applied to the Engineering Consultants, to a study area between Kerr’s Point and Preston Cove. A ‘Steering committee’ comprised of four MTC employees and only one Island Resident decided what they thought best for all Island Residents. The ‘survey’ is also in question because not all Island Residents responded to this important analysis. Some people didn’t even receive the all-important questionnaire! It is interesting to note that, not one Councilor depends on the ferry for commuting purposes.

This problem doesn’t just affect the commuter; it affects everyone who lives on the Island. The present ferry would be quite adequate, if it could be placed in a shorter crossing location, for the remainder of its life-span. Many people, each have their own idea where this should be; but, if the ‘survey’ and ‘study area’ were to be re-opened and expanded, the engineering consultants might be able to determine this for the good of everyone. The key, is simply “economics”! What can we get for the cheapest price, and will it be sufficient? If, each individual Island Resident doesn’t help, by contributing their ideas, in writing, to the Township Office (or, your M.P.P.) you will be stuck with exactly, what you didn’t ask for.

RESPONSE TO ED CHADBAND

- Ian Murray

I would have asked Reeve Norman Allison to reply to Ed Chadband’s article but he is not

expected back on the Island until after the Beacon should be printed. Although not as knowledgeable about the matter as Mr. Allison, I will respond to the article rather than, leaving the subject until the next Beacon.

Mr. Chadband brings up several points which I think should be considered further.

1) The “survey” formed only part of the data which made up the report. I expect that the various cost analyses and the slow change in the number of permanent residents were at least as important as the survey.

2) The report has not yet been approved by the Steering Committee, or by Township Council, or by MTC. The conclusions and recommendations from the report are, at present, those of the consulting company, Totteni Sims Hubicki Associates (1981) Limited.

3) Mr. Chadband says that “we (the ferry users) cannot afford the costs of the present ferry because the Township is cutting back on ferry crews....” I really fail to see any logic in this statement. Is he saying that an attempt to reduce operating expenses somehow will cost the user more? Perhaps more explanation is needed from Mr. Chadband.

4) I seriously doubt that anyone who can afford to drive a vehicle can claim that he or she cannot afford, at the most, \$1.50 for a round-trip ferry crossing.

Here is a breakdown of the ferry user costs over the past 6 years.

Year	Ticket	Season Pass	Spouse Pass
1981	\$1.25	\$100.00	\$ 0.00 (*)
1982	\$1.25	\$150.00	\$ 50.00
1983	\$1.25	\$150.00	\$ 50.00
1984	\$1.50	\$157.50	\$ 52.50
1985	\$1.50	\$157.50	\$ 52.50
1986	\$1.50	\$157.50	\$157.50 (+)

(* spouse pass included with season pass)

(+ spouse pass discontinued)

The increase in user charges were due to the increase in the Township’s share of the

operating costs at the same time as the operating expenses were increasing.

I believe that when Mr. Chadband speaks of a 300% increase in season passes over the past 5 years he is referring only to the season pass plus spouse pass: \$315.00 in 1986 compared with \$100.00 in 1981. How big a burden is this for a commuting couple? If 2 commuter-spouses each drove a vehicle for 49 weeks in 1986 (3 weeks holiday), 5 days a week, and only travelled on the ferry to and from work, then there would be 490 round trips at \$0.65 a day. Now I suppose that a \$0.65 a day is pretty steep if one considers that in 1981, with both spouses working, a round trip would only cost \$0.20. On the other hand, one could say that a pass is still a very good deal. Without passes, the commuting couple would pay \$3.00.

5) My understanding is that, after the first few days, that the ferry has been able to make 4 trips from 4 pm to 7 pm (not including the 7 pm trip). Despite Mr. Chadband's contention, this is less than one hour to return.

6) I cannot understand why Mr. Chadband says that a new ferry in the present location will not improve the ferry service. Is he saying that an end-loading ferry able to carry 30 cars and pick-up trucks would not be an improvement?

7) Mr. Chadband says that there was "political pressure" applied to the consultants. Can he prove this allegation? Were the politicians involved from the Amherst Island Council? Was it our MPP, Ken Keyes? Was it our MP, Flora MacDonald? Is he suggesting that there is a conspiracy?

I suspect that Mr. Chadband believes that the consultants were told by MTC or the Steering Committee not to consider relocating the wharves to the Foot of the Island nor to consider a bridge. I doubt that this happened. My guess is that the consultants just never thought of considering either case. Perhaps they should have and perhaps they have by now.

8) It is true that no Councilor is a commuter,

but Beth Forester's husband is, Keith Miller's sister is, Norman Allison's wife has been a commuter, and we all have outspoken friends that are commuters. I doubt very much if the present Council would vote differently on ferry issues if each of us was a commuter.

9) One point that I do agree with Mr. Chadband is: if you disagree with the recommendations put forward by the consulting firm then you had better let your wishes be known very soon. I suspect that only a very strong show of support for a particular proposal will have a real chance of influencing MTC.

Although I disagree with much of what Ed Chadband had to say in his article, I respect him for making the effort to awake public opinion. I believe that the community benefits when issues are brought out in the open for discussion.



Ryan McGinn, Shay and Riley feed rescued lambs at Topsy Farms

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

Welcome home to Bert Glenn and Helen Caughey (temporarily staying at her sister's in Kingston) both of whom are recovering from surgery, and to Lucille Brown who is now home on weekends.

Best wishes to Bernard Downey and Chester Tugwell, still in hospital recovering from illness. Special thoughts also to Susan Caughey, who is apparently recovering from a run-in with her truck.

Friends and neighbours of Mr. and Mrs. Cadman will be sorry to hear that they will not be returning to the Island this summer due to Mrs. Cadman's illness.

Many Islanders will be sorry to see Kevin and Lois Millen leaving the end of this month. Friends of Kevin and Lois are holding an open-house party and dance at the school, Friday, June 20, from 8 to 12:30. Everyone is welcome - ladies are asked to donate a salad. Congratulations are also in order for Lois and Kevin - they were married last Friday in Napanee.

Two members of the Amherst Island Fire Department recently attended Fire School in Kingston Township. David Fleming appeared to be a little disappointed that he spent a whole week in classroom, and was not given the opportunity to leap about burning buildings, as was John Glenn. John apparently learned many useful tricks, such as how to scale a six-story burning building. Hopefully for John, none of our skyscrapers ever burn down.

While on the topic of schools, the Glenn family wishes to express our thanks to Mac and Eleanor Freeman for their donation of the Les Glenn Award to Amherst Island Public School. The Les Glenn award will be given each year to a boy and girl who have demonstrated an outstanding level of community spirit.

A reminder that Kitsy's Aerobics Class is still on Monday and Wednesday at the school, 8 p.m. Fee is \$1.50 per class. In Kitsy's words - "if

it hurts, don't do it". My warning from experience, - It's going to hurt - believe me!

AEROBICS

- Linda Wemp

Heads up! Backs straight! Tummy's Taut!! Chins up! Smile! Such are the instructions wailed from our instructor - Kitsy McMullen. Several months have passed since she agreed to try to put some real oxygen into our lungs. Obviously - Kitsy enjoys every moment of the aerobics class - allowing our moans to go relatively unnoticed. Excessive groaning has been known to be met by directions of "double-time for you". Recently, our group, consisting of young people 3 years of age and up, teenagers, mothers and grandmothers, welcomed our first male participant.

Each Monday and Wednesday at 8 p.m., the music starts and the warm-up begins. The pace gradually increases while heartbeats are elevated and maintained - then slowly lowered to their original rate. Flanked by comments such as "Yes ma'am! Sure, one more time, easy for you to say", Kitsy jokingly continues to encourage us through our routine.

It is obvious that our instructor is truly interested in her endeavour and has a thorough understanding of what she is doing. It is rewarding to watch our group grow in numbers as new members join in and original ones continue to return.

Keep up the good work Kitsy - we're having a ball.

Everyone welcome to join in Monday and Wednesday night 8 pm at the school.

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Diane Gavlas

The June meeting will be at 8:00 pm at Leslie Gavlas's home. Program is Agriculture and the Dairy Princess will be our guest this month. Feel free to come to the meeting, absorb some W.I. ideas and join in.

On July 14th the Blind Friendship Club is

coming for a dinner sponsored by the W.I.

July meeting is hosted by Diane Gavlas on the 16th at 8:00 p.m. The program is Consumer Affairs.



Downtown Stella in the Spring

TO ALL BEACON READERS

- A. Bruce Caughey

The following has come to my attention this a.m.: I understand that during the trial period, presently in effect, of a revised p.m. ferry schedule in an effort to relieve congestion and long waiting periods, in order to board the Amherst Islander, the Manager posted a sheet in the pilot house of the Amherst Islander on which the public could register their complaints or suggestions, rather than expressing same to senior crew members. Among those expressions made, which were required to be signed, was one which stated "place the crew on 1926 wage scale and require them to work 24 hours per day, ABC" - Since these are my initials and it may be coincidental?, as there may be many people with the same initials, I would like to inform the Public that it was not me who wrote this comment nor did I have anything to do with the proposed change in number of crew members on the Amherst Islander, which has caused so many "scowling" countenances as well as outbursts of profanity and criticisms, following consideration of this matter by municipal Council. I have not enjoyed the

privilege of being in the pilot house of the Amherst Islander since previous to my accident on August 21st, 1985.

Since someone has raised the question of 1926 salaries and work load of crew members, it might make an interesting subject for comparison, as in that period we were served by the Steamer Brockville, then the coming of the Amherst Islander 1 in 1929. Like many other phases of the work place, there would certainly be an interesting comparison - Thanks somebody for suggesting it!

AUDITORS' REPORT

- Thorne Riddell

We have examined the consolidated balance sheet of the Corporation of the Township of Amherst Island as at December 31, 1985 and the consolidated statement of operations for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, these consolidated financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Corporation of the Township of Amherst Island as at December 31, 1985 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies prescribed for municipalities in Ontario applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

[There are two other letters saying much the same regarding the "trust funds" and the balance sheet for the Glenwood and Pentland Cemetery Committee.]

MORE ON THE AUDITOR'S REPORT

- Ian Murray

You can see the Township's Financial Statements for 1985 at the Township Office.

I think that the finances of this Township continue to be quite sound. There is a healthy

capital reserve and, with the (usually) prompt payment of our ferry and road subsidies, our borrowing costs have remained low.

In, 1985, the Township spent \$1,084,771:

Current Operations

General Government... \$20,336

Fire... 5,099

Protective inspections... 1,931

Roadways... 111,225

Street lighting... 591

Ferry... 702,725

Garbage disposal... 3,632

Cemeteries... 3,859

Parks and recreation... 2,989

Planning and zoning... 1,144

Capital operations

General government... 3,975

Fire... 1,687

Roadways... 52,326

Ferry... 10,888

Miller Drain... 161,524

Recreation... 840

Note that the costs shown for the Miller Drain will be recovered, including interest, from assessed property.

Here's where the money came from.

Property taxes... \$45,778

Ferry revenue... 64,732

Grants... 953,112

Investment income... 7,867

Interest and tax penalties... 3,394

Special charges... 12,533.

Also, \$104,731 went to the School Boards and \$9,737 to the County.

BASEBALL

- Sally Bowen

Amherst Island is fielding two baseball teams this summer, the Peewee team (13-14 year olds) and Mites (8-10 year olds).

The Mites have played two games so far, winning one against Selby 22 - 18 and losing one to North Fredericksburg 14 - 13. Their next three games will be at home, June 18, July 3 and to-be-decided. Watch for a schedule at the

store, and do come and enjoy the games.

At "press time", I was unable to reach anyone who could report on the Peewee's success.

Would anyone volunteer to be sport's reporter?

SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC

- Sally Bowen

A most successful Sunday School picnic was held at the Presbyterian Church on June 8. Kids raced, hopped, struggled on 3 legs, popped balls in boxes, tugged on ropes, and generally had a wonderful time.

Ribbons flapped on proud chests everywhere. A very generous potluck luncheon was more than adequate to meet the competitors' appetites.

The church was then filled to capacity to watch the entertainment. The Trinity Theatre Company, with director Alan Richardson came from Toronto. The three skits were informative and clever and fun. The children made enthusiastic animal noises during the story of Noah, pulled for the good with the skit on David, and all appreciated the history of Amherst Island presentation.

Thanks to Susie Caughey and all the other organizers.

NOTES FROM OUTSIDE

- Dale C. Jones

I read with interest the various points of view on the viability/quality of life of the Amherst Island community. The Island has been a part of my family since my grandfather, George Bilkey, settled on Long Point in the mid 1920's. My family, the Jones, still enjoy the atmosphere of Amherst and still spend considerable time at the cottage originally built by my grandfather as a home when he was fishing commercially. The rest of the year, his family, which included my mother, Helen Jones, resided in Napanee.

I've seen dramatic changes over the past 25 years I can remember. The Island community

has changed greatly with the loss of population, the decrease in agricultural activity and the almost disappearance of the commercial fishing industry.

I remember the Welbanks bringing in 1200 lb of whitefish at a rip when I was young. I'd rush down to the dock on Long Point every day to see the catch, especially the odd ones like the rare sturgeon whose primitive form always excited my imagination. On occasion I would spend a day "getting in the way" when Howard would allow me to go out on the Lake with them. I've never lost my great respect for the sheer bravery of fishermen who challenged the Lake's often unpredictable storms.

My mother could never understand my attraction to this - she gets seasick on the Ferry and abhors fish!

Stella has contracted visibly - I recall visits to the Cheese Factory, Neilson's store, and many stops at Glenns' where Les and Irene would serve my young self with such patience as I spent a whole dime.

In, spite all of the differences, the essence of the Island remains in the close-knit quality of the community and the more relaxed pace of life. I may live in a large urban area (Mississauga, pop. 500,000) but my personal values reflect the 17 summers on Long Point.

Thank you, Amherst Island.

DEAR BEACON EDITOR

In regards to last month's issue, I, like most people am interested in knowing who has applied for a building permit and for what purpose. However, I don't believe we need to advertise to the general public just how much the permit was for.

The builder should be allowed some privacy.
Thank you.
Dianne Marshall

Dianne:

Chris Kennedy and I have discussed this and agree with you.

Thank you for your comment.
Beacon Editor.

THANK YOU

To my Family, Relatives, Friends, L.O.L. members, Clergy, Church ladies, neighbors and Boat Pals. I express my gratitude for your visits, cards, treats and phone calls while in Hospital and at home.

Special thanks to Grace and Vincent Eves for responding quickly to a call for help when I got home.

What would you or I do without Friends or loved ones?

Bert Glenn

TO THE BEACON STAFF:

Congratulations on surpassing the 100th edition mark!

The Beacon has become part of our community and, as such, is probably somewhat taken for granted. Please know how much we look forward to and enjoy each edition. With the many commitments you have to home, work and whatever else, each issue is a tribute to your perseverance and dedication to the cause. Thank you for the contribution The Beacon, makes to our community.

Diane Pearce

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL:

The Anglican Church Women are holding their Annual Strawberry Social at the Amherst Iand Public School on Saturday, June 21st from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Admission \$2.00.

Everyone Welcome.

A.I. SCHOOL OPERETTA

- Beth Forester

An invitation is extended to everyone in the Community to join us this Thursday evening, June 19, 7.30 p.m, in the school gymnasium. The Primary and Junior Classes will be performing the Operetta entitled "The Early

Bird Catches the Worm".

If this time is not suitable for you, you would be welcome to join, a class from Central Public School for the dress rehearsal at 11 a.m., Thursday - or two classes from Bath Public School on Friday morning at 11.

The students have worked hard on this production and I know you'll find their efforts rewarding.

A free will offering will be taken.

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STOP THE PRESS

- Chris Kennedy

At a Special Meeting on Wednesday, 19 June, Council discussed the ferry funding. Allan and Cathy Glenn had received a letter, with a copy to the Township, saying that the ferry funds have now been restored to last year's level. Council therefore passed a resolution removing all the interim ferry fare increases, from 6:00 a.m., Thursday morning, June 20th. The last ferry will be restored from Saturday, June 22nd. Jim Whitton voted against this, preferring to wait until the official

announcement was made by the province and the financial details of the ferry budget could be considered.

Council then passed a motion deploring, the Provincial government's handling of the whole ferry subsidy fracas and their lousy communication with the Township Council.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

- Don Tubb

A Special Meeting of Council was held on May 29, 1996 with all members of Council present. It was held to consider a request from County Council that all municipalities indicate their preference for either a one or two-tier restructuring model within the County. After an open discussion by all, Council passed a motion to go with the two-tier model.

This model would reduce the number of municipalities within the County to four, with Amherst Island being amalgamated with Bath and Ernestown. The other groupings would be:
- Adolphustown, North Fredricksburgh, South Fredricksburgh, Napanee and Richmond;
- Camden East, Newburgh and Sheffield; and,
- Kaladar, Anglesea & Effingham, Denbigh, Ashby and Abinger.

The one-tier model would have all 13 municipalities within the County amalgamated into one municipality - in effect the County would be the only government within L&A.

No details were available on how either of these options would work, nor are they likely to be available in the foreseeable, future. This vote is not the final vote on any option as we may yet be grouped in with Kingston, etc. for an area-wide restructuring. We won't know the fate of those talks until near the end of June. So, perhaps next month, we will have some hard information for you. The vote for the two-tier model was non-unanimous.

HELP

Council has been wrestling with how to make the ferry operation better. We thought

that we could help by asking our readers for suggestions. So far we have come up with

1. a car wash while you ride the boat (the crew has lots of hoses and mops),
2. a microwave cafe featuring eggs fried right on the deck of the Frontenac II,
3. a Dutch auction for the last spot on the boat,
4. video gambling and games in the passenger cabins,
5. rough weather trips will be charged double (better than an amusement park ride),
6. pay to be 'Captain for a Trip' so you can order the crew to push off in mid-channel the car that outbid you for the last spot,
7. shuffleboard courts for rent,
8. day-care (nice controlled atmosphere),
9. trips with 10 or more people could be rowed,
10. movies shown in fast forward so you can see an entire feature movie in 14 minutes (for those with short attention spans),
11. rent the boat for a scenic moonlight cruise or as a sunset duck-hunting platform.



Yummy dessert from the Back Kitchen
Photo by Brian Little

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

- Don Tubb

June 4, 1996

Delegations: The Union Representative, Bob Marshall, spoke to Council expressing various concerns of the crews. He was asking Council to back off a bit on their rather literal reading of the rules - basically asking for some flexibility which, he thought, would create a

more positive management/worker relationship. Several members of Council spoke in reply, saying that there had been abuses of the rules in the past and that policy would not change until a new agreement was reached. Council thanked him for his input.

A second delegation, Amy Caughey, then addressed Council. Her concerns were two-fold: first, students beyond secondary school were being required to pay the \$1 walk-on fare; and, second, the elimination of the 1:30 a.m. boat would be a major factor in young people leaving the Island. A lengthy discussion ensued. She was not aware that the increases in fares and reduction in service were temporary measures in response to the temporary hold-back of the ferry subsidy - if the subsidy is restored, then the old fare structure and schedule will be restored too. Once this was cleared up, the discussion came to a quick end.

Fire Department: The draft By-law to Establish and Regulate the Fire Department was discussed briefly Lynann Whitton, the Emergency First Response Team coordinator, said that she accepted the draft as written (in a letter with the agenda, she said that a by-law will be drawn up for the EFR team). This By-law was to have been passed at the end of the meeting but was missed, so it wasn't until the end of the Special Meeting on June 6, 1996 that it came up and was passed. The Fire Department is getting some help with its training. Two members of the Ernestown Fire Department will be coming over to lead the training (at no charge except that the Township will provide them with ferry tickets). Dick Shurtleff has been approved as Deputy Fire Chief.

Public Works: The Public Works Superintendent Stuart gave his monthly report. He reported that the gravel has been mostly spread and that, with the good weather, the calcium has been spread. The crew is behind on the landfill site cleanup but will get to that soon. Upcoming is roadside grass cutting and fencing the south end of Stella 40'. Council will check with the Island's lawyer to find out what

access is required for lots siding on the Stella 40' when there is frontage on the South Shore road. The intent is to limit these lots to one access off the South Shore road. The Public Works crew will also be installing No Parking signs on the south side of the North Shore Road between the Back Kitchen and the Township Office, this in response to letters from Caroline Yull and Helen Trotter.

The Docks: Harbours and Ports has been in verbal contact with the Township saying that they intend to divest themselves of all federal docks that they can. Apparently, there are some docks in the far north that they must hold on to. Council will request that their position be put in writing. Their position is that our docks fall under the definition of a remote dock; therefore, they must also remain under Federal control.

The Boat: MTO has asked us if we want to paint the Frontenac II while it is here. Council was not enthusiastic and was leery of this job becoming part of the boat's operating costs, for which we would then be responsible. They will ask more questions of MTO before deciding.

Captains who make emergency runs or who have to take the boat out at night because it cannot be held safely against the dock are being requested to inform the Senior Captain as soon as is practical.

Abandoned Vehicles: There was a discussion of abandoned vehicles on the dock (this, by the way is a regular once-per-council occurrence). This time Council is asking the captains to pass on complaints to the Township Clerk, who will deal with them appropriately.

Road Allowance Closed: The Committee of Adjustment has recommended that a portion of the unused road allowance in front of Lot 23, Concession I (to the west of Ken and Ann Albertan's) be closed and then deeded to the landowner in order to get enough setback from the present road for the new house going up. The Committee also requested Council to develop a policy 'regarding the use of existing non-travelled road allowances' which was

tabled 'for future consideration'.

Landfill, Site: The Clerk-treasurer mentioned that the Development and Operations Plan and the Hydrogeological Study 1996 were available. Council members didn't exactly come to blows over who would be first in line to read these documents.

The Budget: The budget was passed. It is just about as it was when we last left it. Council decided not to increase the reserves, the following being their thinking:

- each percent of tax increase yields about \$1,700, therefore a small percent increase (like 2 or 3%) would not yield much money for capital purchases, and
- if we are amalgamated, it will make no difference to the new municipality (either the combined municipality of Amherst Island / Bath / Ernestown or the Regional Kingston area).

This has the ring of pragmatism to it. In the end, Township expenditures are \$1,606,027 and revenues are \$1,437,166 leaving us to raise \$168,861.

The End; Council dealt with a number of other issues and then went into closed session to review performance evaluations before adjourning.

Donnie Miller and Chad Miller and Family are pleased to invite our friends and neighbours to join us in celebrating the 25th Wedding Anniversary of our parents Donald and Judy Miller.

Amherst Island Public School

Saturday, June 22

8 pm to 1 am

Dancing 8 to 1

Cash Bar

Buffet

Everyone Welcome

No gifts please.

The A.C.W. will be holding their Annual Chicken Bar-B-Q on Saturday, July 6, 1996

from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

Tickets - Adults - \$8.00

Children under 10 - \$3.00

Advance Tickets only;

These will be on sale after June 17, 1996.

THE DEFINITION OF A CANADIAN

- Campbell Hughes

"A Canadian is someone who drinks Brazilian coffee from an English teacup, and munches a French pastry while sitting on his Danish furniture, having just come from an Italian movie in his German car. He picks up his Japanese pen and writes to his Member of Parliament to complain about the American takeover of the Canadian publishing business."

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

- Don Tubb

June 6, 1996

A Special Meeting of Council was held in the Community Centre to discuss the County-wide restructuring and to deal with one unfinished piece of business from the June 4th Regular meeting.

All members of Council were present along with the Clerk-treasurer and about 28 members of the interested public. Yes, that's right... a rather small turnout by Island standards.

Reeve Ashley opened the meeting with a review of restructuring to date and one interesting titbit of gossip.... there are persistent rumours that our ferry subsidy will be returned to its previous funding level of 90%, but nothing official has been received by the Township as yet.

The Reeve said that Council had voted to support tentatively two-tier municipal government on the County level and, to the amazement of many, this was passed at the County Council. This meeting was to get feedback from the public and, if there was no general disagreement, to formally vote to support this option.

The floor was opened to questions and

comments. One of the virtues of a smaller meeting is that everyone gets an opportunity to speak, which may have been the case here. The most important point to come out was Council's feeling that two-tier county government was the best of a bad bunch of options we were being forced (by the province) to choose between and that we were voting on something for which few details exist as to how it would function. In trying to construct a county option, the municipalities were trying to avoid being sucked into the black hole of Kingston city/township dominated government. There is no guaranty that this L&A two-tier county model would be acceptable to the Minister.

The questions were wide-ranging and Council did their best to answer; but without details, it was difficult. In the end, Council voted unanimously to support the two-tier option which groups us with the Village of Bath and Ernestown

Township as one municipality. The motion read:

that, on the condition that the following proposal be presented to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing prior to June 15th, 1996, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Amherst Island hereby supports the resolution passed by the Council of the County of Lennox and Addington on May 31st, 1996 to submit a municipal restructuring proposal for Lennox and Addington County based upon a two-tier model that includes the County and four restructured local municipalities to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Al Leach; and further, that any restructuring model adopted for Lennox and Addington County be based upon savings for municipal property taxpayers.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

Congratulations to Kim and Duncan Ashley on the birth of their first child, a son, Gavin Mitchell. Congratulations also to Bob and Ann Turner on their new grandchild.

Welcome home to Janet Grace and family, and welcome to our new village resident, Jillian Watters, a house mate for Fred Werthman. John and Maureen Glenn have also moved back to this area and are living in Collins Bay. Their two youngest children, Mallory and Mitchell, will be attending school here until the end of June.

Two summer residents have had their cottages broken into in the last few weeks. Stolen items included chainsaws, tools, liquor and other miscellaneous items. I also read in last month's Beacon where someone had stolen wood from Mary McCollam's place. If anyone out there knows the culprits (and somebody must) please call the police. This is Amherst Island for crying out loud, things like this should not happen here, and the people who are responsible should not be welcome members of this community!

My great-grandmother, Kathleen Wemp, passed away last week in her 103rd year. It amused me to have people drop in or call to ask about arrangements for David's grandmother, or Kathy's grandmother or Jean's mother. The Wemp connection is a huge one and I thought it would be interesting for those of you who don't know us (yes, I'm a Wemp too), to see how many Island people this family encompasses. Here goes:

Kathleen and Arnold Wemp

Ralph (son) and Beatrice Wemp:

David and Betty Wemp:

Rob Wemp and Heather Young,

Chris and Nathan Maleska;

Laura (Wemp) and Rick Welbanks.

Marie (Wemp) and Brian Ward;

Stephen and Sherry Ward.

Joyce (Wemp) and Grant Titley;

Stephen and Tina Titley.

Kathy (Wemp) and Stewart Reed;

Donald, Christopher, and William Reed.

Maureen (Wemp) and Andy Tasker;

Jennifer, Heather and Geoffrey Tasker.

Helen Wemp (daughter) and Donald Miller

Carol (Miller) and Paul Glenn:

Annette (Glenn) and Bill Phillips;

Shawna and Torri Phillips.

Cheryl Glenn (deceased):

John and Maureen Glenn;

Leslie, Mitchell and Mallory Glenn.

Sandra (Miller) and Glenn Filson:

Todd and Andrea Filson;

Cameron and Tyler Filson

Kim (Filson) and David Redden;

Alexandra Redden

Donald and Judy Miller;

Donnie and Chad Miller.

Neilson (son) and Jean Wemp (British Columbia)

Brenda Wemnp.

Jill (Wemp) and Paul Stringer;

Kirk, Brent and Nicola Stringer.

Keith and Margot Wemp;

Derek and Casey Wemp.

Derrick Wemp (deceased).

Marjory Wemp (daughter) and Renshaw

Tooke (deceased) (Hamilton)

Toni and Elaine Tooke (deceased);

Janet Tooke.

Jean Wemp (daughter) and Earle Tugwell

Jeffrey Tugwell (deceased).

[Staff: a late note] You won't see Christie Grange at the Back Kitchen anymore; she's off to Toronto to a new job and then college in the fall. Two new faces will be Jessica Garrett and Heather Maleska.

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Freda Youell

On May 22nd, at the home of Helen Lamb, we started our Meeting with the Ode, Collect and National Anthem, followed by the usual business matters and reports. Anna Hitchins gave us a special report of the District Annual Meeting which she attended accompanied by Leslie Gavlas and Jean Baker and we moved on to discuss Fund Raising. The W.I. will have a sale table at the Community Flea Market being held on June 15th at the Back Kitchen and judging by the success of this event in 1995 it should be a fun day for everyone with lots of bargains to be found.

Our members were relieved to hear that even though Jean McIntyre will be living off the Island she will not be leaving our Branch and will be hostess for our September Meeting. Jean has been a good friend and loyal member for so many years - she would have been greatly missed had she decided to transfer.

After a tasty lunch served by our hostess we had our plant exchange which gets more interesting each May. I had vowed not to put in a garden after the rabbits and voles ate my last year's efforts but I had to change my mind when I saw the variety of healthy specimens to choose from.

Thank you to all of our friends and neighbours who supported our Mother's Day Ham Dinner - your continued support of this event is very important to our Branch and, as always, you did not let us down.

Congratulations to Sandra Reid who was the winner of the lovely Afghan and to Elsie Densem, the lucky Grandma who went home with the flowers.

The June 19th meeting will be at the home of Freda Youell at 8 pm.

Jackie Sylvester's home will be our gathering spot for our usual meeting and we plan to watch Peter Trueman's Park Video.

A great chance for you to join us as a guest and - who knows - you may decide to become a member!

TOM FRENCH

Lives Lived

by Carmen Pajak

[Excerpt from the Globe and Mail - April 22, 1961]

Few people have the courage to change their lives. Fewer still have a gift that allows them to reach out and touch the lives of others. Thomas Harold French - humanitarian, leader and friend - had that gift and gave it with tireless energy.

Tom French was one of the most respected men in Canada's correctional system. Known as a straight shooter whose philosophy in life was "truth and honesty". Tom was the driving force behind the reintroduction of inmates into society.

Tom is best known for his work connected with St. Leonard's Society (Windsor), which establishes half-way houses and helps offenders and ex-offenders with their transition from prison back into the community. In 1990, he began an inmate service out of Kingston known as the Life Line Inreach. Inreach goes into federal institutions in Ontario to conduct interviews with men and women serving life sentences. Together with his partner and best friend, Russ Elliott, Tom acted as a mediator between inmates and their case-management teams.

Because lifers have long incarceration periods, they are often ignored by institutional programs until much later in their sentences. Tom inspired lifers to take responsibility for their own sentence management so they could reach the goals of their treatment plans. Inmates could call his home at any time to ask for help or just talk with him.

Tom's vast knowledge of the prison system came from his experiences both outside and inside penitentiaries. His young adult life was spent in and out of provincial institutions. Often, he would decline a lawyer at his hearings, insisting on representing himself. Tom's brilliance in the courtroom soon earned

him a reputation for being a charismatic debater. Crown attorneys used to sit in just to hear him speak.

Very little stood in Tom's way, including the limitations of a Grade 3 education. He taught himself how to read and figured out the Criminal Code and law strategies to help him in his defence. But in 1976, at the age of 32, Tom received a life sentence for second-degree murder with a possibility for parole after seven years.

That sentence got Tom's attention. He decided to channel his energy toward personal change. In his eyes, you were either straight or you weren't; there was no middle ground. Tom was granted full parole on April 9, 1986, and spent the next three years in a halfway house.

Tom's wish to help others like him caused him to take action while still in prison. In 1978, he started the first John Howard Society chapter inside a Canadian Penitentiary. He later joined the organization known as Help, which was run by ex-offenders, and by the year it closed, 1989, he was the director.

Tom's accomplishments earned him the respect and admiration of inmates and correction officials alike. In 1993, he received the Queen Elizabeth 125th Commemorative Medal for outstanding performance toward his community, comrades and country.

Tom was, however, most remembered for his honesty and the special way he had of treating everyone on the same level, inmate and official alike. His friends would refer to his honesty as being "Frenchized", leaving Tom to exclaim, "If they don't want to hear the answer, they shouldn't ask the question": His commitment to his work never faltered, even when a motorcycle accident took his leg in 1987 and put him in a wheelchair.

Tom died of a massive coronary at the age of 53. He leaves his wife of 25 years, Gloria, as well as a son and daughter. To honour him, several institutions in Ontario flew their flags at half staff the week of his death, something never done before.

AMHERST ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL Torch Run

For the past two years the students at A.I.P.S. have participated in the Torch Run of the Special Olympics.

In order to raise money, students go around their community and ask for donations from people.

First we ran in the school yard. Then, two representatives from our school, Ryan and Andrew, took the torch to Bath Public School and handed it off.

On April 10, 1996, five representatives from our school went to N.D.S.S. for the regional Torch Run.

We ran about 1.5 kilometres from N.D.S.S. to the newest Giant Tiger Store.

We were pleased to represent our school and to present a cheque for \$785.75 to Constable Stanley.

We all try to help out in this once a year event. We would like to thank our community for their generous sponsorship.

Sincerely,

Samantha, Kyle, David A., Whitney and Morgan.

SCHOOL CONCERT - Andrew McDonald

On Tuesday June 4, 1996, Amherst Island Public School presented the production The Wizard of Emerald. It was based on the book by L. Frank Baum called The Wizard Of Oz.

With a lot of help from Mrs. Cathy Glenn and the teachers and staff, the kids wrote, raised and produced the whole thing. Some of the challenges we encountered were changing from one costume to another in a minimum amount of time and making props. Some of our favourite parts are when The Good Witch of the North Shore did the Tango and the Tin Purser sang "I Feel Good" by James Brown. It was a great success. Wait 'till you see what we

do next year!

THE WIZARD OF EMERALD

June 4, 1996

A.I. Public School

- Caroline Yull

After weeks of intense work by various committees of the Island school kids, the wonderful story of the Wizard of Emerald unfolded on stage at A.I.P.S. on Tuesday, June 4. There was a tremendous crowd, with the gym almost full. Time story had certain resonances of a movie I personally have watched more times than I care to admit, but with a distinctly Amherst Island twist. Jokes about news travelling faster here than on the Internet got huge laughs, as did several hilarious dance numbers. The sets and costumes were particularly good, but the real stand-out was the choral singing - I've never heard the children of our school sing together as a group as well as these children did in this show. It's a difficult thing to organize, especially in such a short stretch of time, but with many hours of practice with Miss Sidorchuck, and of course, Cathy Glenn at the piano they really pulled it together. All in all, it was a terrific show. We also heard Cathy's piano students playing their pieces - once again, there seems to be a crop of truly musical types among them. Many thanks to all involved for such an entertaining evening.

P.S. - The next night in the very same locale, family and friends of local 4-H members attended the very first ever 4-H Achievement Night on Amherst Island. The food (potluck) was wonderful as always, and the 4-H members entertained us all with songs, games and presentations about what they'd been doing in 4-H. It was very impressive, and everyone enjoyed themselves. One of the most impressive aspects, at least for me, is the evidence of the many hours dedicated to our kids by 4-H leaders Freda Youell and Susie Caughey. This was Freda's first 4-H experience, although Susie has been involved

for many years, and both show such enthusiasm and joy in their work with the 4-H members. It was a lovely presentation, enhanced by Beth Forester's piano playing.

P.S. - A little hint to organizers of kids programs: what with dance class Monday night, The Wizard of Emerald Tuesday night, 4-H Achievement Night Wednesday night, and track and field try-outs Thursday at school, some of the kids were toast by the end of the week - all these events would be more enjoyable for kids (and parents too!) if they were spaced a little wider apart.

[Staff: amen to that]

LETTER TO THE EDITOR - June 7, 1996

-Anne Cox

On June 4th I had the privilege of attending the A.I.P.S. presentation of "The Wizard of Emerald". Having previously attended many public school concerts, recitals, assemblies etc., I came to the Island that night, I must admit, out of a sense of love and duty to Shawna and Torri. You can only imagine my surprise and pleasure as I watched this exceptional production. I realize that much of the credit in any school event is owed to the teachers, parents and advisors but, as I understand it in this case, most of the credit should go to the students. It was very easy to forget that we were watching public school children. Except for the diminutive size of some of the cast members, I could easily have thought that I was watching a play by high school students.

I have found this show very well adapted from the original to suit the Amherst Island theme. It was well choreographed, the costumes were good (right down to the continuity of costuming when different actors played the same role), the smallest children were charming and most of all the enthusiasm and professionalism of the actors was wonderful. I clapped, I laughed, I cried - what a gamut of emotions those kids put the audience through.

Heartfelt congratulations to everyone

involved in the production of "The Wizard of Emerald". This excellent show should have been taken 'on the road' to show the children in large communities what can be done by so few children with such big hearts.

Thank you for a great evening.

[Staff: Could we please have more letters from our readers? This was a real treat.]

ISLAND HISTORY

Politics is boundaries and vice versa

- Thomas Sylvester

Our Minister of Municipal affairs, Al Leach, has counselled local politicians to ignore the boundaries in the amalgamation discussions. The obvious concern of the Island is where will we fit in? Perhaps I can reassure readers by reporting how we got here, and demonstrating the transient nature of boundaries.

The concern whether the Island was located at the source of the St Lawrence River or the bottom of Lake Ontario was the barrier to Loyalist settlement in 1784. Contemporary American maps illustrated the eastern edge of Lake Ontario as the chain of islands off Point Traverse (pointe a traverse), locating our Island on a head pond of the St Lawrence. The colonial government decided to not allow settlement of any islands in the St Lawrence River (or its head pond), until the international boundary was established.

The county system that was inaugurated in 1792 placed Amherst, Wolfe and Howe Islands in the distinct entity "Ontario County." These island townships were unsettled private estates. They were called townships because a convenient term was required when the region was being discussed in electoral units.

Chief Justice Elmsley, Sally Bowen's ancestor, (Elmsley was Benjamin Hahlowell's son-in-law I don't know if Sally is related through Elmsley or just directly to Hallowell and yes, this is very important stuff) proposed in 1798, "to throw the county of Ontario which consists wholly of Islands, and extends from the mouth of the Gananoqui to the entrance of the Bay of

Kinty into the several counties on the mainland, to which those Islands are wholly or in greater part opposite. The only one of those Islands which is at all settled at present is the Isle of Tonti or Amherst Island. Should the other Islands never be inhabited, this change can never prove inconvenient? Should they ever be settled, it will be much more convenient for those who live on them to resort to the Towns on the Main, than to any Town that may ever be formed on any one of them. The settlers on the Isle of Tonti do now, and will always find it more convenient to resort to Adolphus Town, or even to Kingston, than any part of the County of Ontario, which is sufficiently central for the site of a County Town."

The Bay of Quinte physically united the Island with Ernestown, Bath and all the other Quinte settlements. Marine transit, fluid or frozen, was the exclusive mode of transportation. The early residents of the Island merely lived across the street from Bath. Consequently, much of the early Island political administration was indistinct from Ernestown's.

The municipal government was the Midland District Council 1788-1849. Its boundaries included all of Frontenac, Addington, Lennox, Prince Edward and Hastings Counties. The Council met quarterly and in the 1830's met on the Island on several occasions. The reform of municipal government after the Upper Canada Rebellion led to the abolishment of the district councils and the establishment of township municipal government in 1850.

The united counties of Frontenac, Lennox & Addington were partitioned in the 1860's. The secession of Lennox & Addington County was motivated by one candidate who was defeated by a used car salesman in a Frontenac election. An impassioned speech from that era still exists. The speech, I believe by our MP, advocated the status quo, that Amherst Island should remain in Frontenac County.

Boundaries are just as flexible as the very

reasons they were made. Now let's see and be involved in where our community, is going.

THANK YOU NOTES

The family of Kathleen Wemp, express sincere appreciation and thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindnesses shown at the time of the loss of our mother. Special thanks to the A.C.W. for the lovely lunch, St. Paul's for the use of their hall, Cathy Glenn, organist, and Rev. Chris Davis for visits and comforting message.

Some of the members of the Recreation Committee have put a lot of work into recent projects, and deserve a big thanks.

They are; Roxanne Wolfreys for her organization of the Bingos, Lyn Fleming and Roxanne Wolfreys for their work on the Euchres.

For work on the Fish Fry I would like to thank, Larry and Jason Fleming, Roxanne and Val Wolfreys, Rick Bedford, Hans Kraukhis, Lynn deHaan and a big thanks to Lyn Fleming.

Job well done gang.

Adam Miller

A LETTER HOME

While sitting outside gently swinging and sipping my tea, I couldn't help but admire the persistent determination of the swallows. They love to build their nests above our doorway and garden. The mess is incredible and I have to admit (only to you) that I try to knock the nests down before any baby birds show up. Does this deter them? No way! Two days later there is another nest bigger and better than the first. I do my thing and a couple of days later they have done their thing again. I think they know that I am going away for a week and I can guarantee that they will eventually win the war of the nests. I shall return home to baby birds peeping over the nest edge and mom and dad will spend much of the summer swooping down on my comings and goings. Just like last

year. Will I ever learn?

The Island is beautiful this time of the year. The grass, bushes and trees are all lush and green. The spring flowers are in bloom and the strong smell of lilacs is everywhere. The lilacs on the North Shore are beginning to decline, however, the South Shore lilacs are in full bloom. I suppose their colder climate delays their flowering a week or so longer.

This rain which is making everything so green has been a bit of a curse to the farmers. Most have managed to squeeze getting their seed onto the fields during the few dry days we've had. At this point the land is far too wet to make hay and so we wait impatiently for dryer weather before cutting can begin. Always a worry when you have so many hungry mouths to feed next winter.

The coyotes have been very busy developing their taste for lamb. From one end of the Island to the other they have left evidence of their nightly raids. We did see a large coyote and pup running through the fields the other day. Unfortunately, they are very fast and smart and head for the fence rows making it impossible to follow.

Not much has happened on the Island. There are two new houses going up and a couple of places have been sold. It's always sad to see old neighbours leave but we're always interested in the new ones moving in. And so the cycle continues.

The sun is starting to set and I have been reminded that I still have to pack. I'll write when I get back.

All my best.

ANCESTORS OF KATHLEEN DOWNEY NEILSON

Kathleen Downey Neilson (b: June 12, 1893 in Amherst Island; m: June 02, 1913; d: June 05, 1996)

James S. Neilson (b: 1846; d: 1916) {father of Kathleen Downey Neilson}

Ida L Roddick (b: 1867; d: 1941) {mother of

Kathleen Downey Neilson}
Thomas Neilson (b: 1798 in Ireland) {father of
James S. Neilson}

Eliza?? (b:1805 in Ireland) {mother of James S.
Neilson}



Goodbye Stanley