

Since 1970

# Amherst Island Beacon

Issue 462

BONA LIBENTER, TRISTIA MAESTITER, MALA NUMQUAM

January 2017



## From the Editor's Desk

- Terry McGinn

Late. Late, late, late, late.

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2017.

January's Beacon kind of got away from me. The usual deadline for the Beacon is the 25<sup>th</sup>, which happens to coincide December-wise with another date of fairly comparable importance. So where I would usually have sent nagging letters to the regular Beacon contributors for their submissions in December I did not.

I should thank my lucky stars that the Beacon's

contributors are, in large part, such self-starters that they make their submissions regularly and faithfully each month without me having to nag. And I do.

The Beacon is thin this month. There are a few notable absences from the pages of the Beacon for January. It's a good time to take a break to re-charge for those who need it, and December is, generally, a busy time of year for families and a quiet time of year on the Island otherwise.

2017 as a whole, however, promises to be lively and packed to the brim. And the Beacon will be here to cover it all.

Issue 462

Amherst Island Beacon

January 2017

Published monthly, the Beacon is free for everyone and produced through the work of dedicated volunteers.

Amherst Island Beacon  
5700 3<sup>rd</sup> Concession Road  
Stella, ON - K0H 2S0  
613-888-3702  
<http://www.amherstislandbeacon.com>

Editor: Terry McGinn - [editor@amherstislandbeacon.com](mailto:editor@amherstislandbeacon.com)  
Production: Terry McGinn (temporarily)  
Submission Deadline: 25<sup>th</sup> of each month  
Provided via: <http://amherstisland.on.ca/beacon>  
and its webmaster Alex Scott

Cover photo by Mike Gifford

## Contents

From the Editor's Desk.....	1
Neighbourhood.....	2
Our Life at 20 Front Road.....	3
AIWI Report.....	3
Christmas at Tim Hortons.....	4
AIMS Report.....	5
Poetry Selection.....	6
Janet's Jottings.....	7
Bird Count.....	8
Coming Home.....	10
Baltimore is Back!.....	10
Council Gleanings.....	12
George Orwell - FUTURIST.....	12
Reasons to Buy Local Produce.....	13
Amherst Island Community Carol Service.....	15
Thank Yous.....	16
Archives.....	18

## Neighbourhood

- Lynn Fleming

Get well wishes to Dave Hieatt, Elaine Wolfreys and Rick Morgan.

Condolence to Myrna Alport and family, on the loss of her husband Sid. Condolences to Zelma (Ray) Koenders and family, on the passing of her brother.

Our sympathy to Lorna Willis on the loss of her mother, Helen Isabel Willis, in early December.

Congratulations to Larry and Sherri Jensen on the arrival of their first grandchild, a girl, just in time for Christmas. Everly Paton was born on December 14th and is the first child for daughter Dawn and husband Mike Raine.

Congratulations to Kim and Duncan Ashley, who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at the Community Centre with family and friends.

Stuart and Mindy (Fleming) Burnside were home for the holidays from Scotland.

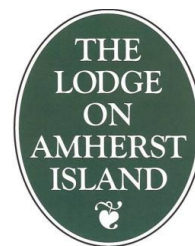
Amherst Island Seniors enjoyed a Christmas dinner and entertainment at the annual Women's Institute Senior's Dinner in early December.

A.I.P.S. students and staff hosted their families and the community for their Christmas Celebration on December 21st. This year the students put on a series of skits depicting Santa's travels around the world. Guests enjoyed a dessert bar with sweets from around the world, some of which the students help make.

A long standing Island tradition continued, with a good crowd ringing in the New Year at the Community Centre

Winter arrived on Amherst Island. We have had a couple of snowy days in December, (2 "buses cancelled" days already), but nothing really severe – yet. Even the November gales never really materialized this year. Unfortunately, mild weather and rain is forecast over the Christmas weekend, so no white Christmas this year.

Wishing everyone a happy new year, and a safe and healthy start to 2017.



A quiet, gracious setting for individuals or groups  
To meet, work, study or play.  
Rooms, Cottages, Workshops.  
Talk to us about a getaway or your special event!

thelodgeonamherstisland@gmail.com  
www.thelodgeonamherstisland.com

613.634.1388  
320 McDonalds Lane ON KoH 2So





*Sunrise on the South Shore, by Paul Juniper*

## **Our Life at 20 Front Road**

*- Sharen English*

Forty-four tundra swans, mostly mature and some immature, are making loud sounds outside my screen doors. They float in the lake, preen and eat. They make sounds of "blup and honk". I listen with delight.

It is genuinely cold now. There is a bite in the air courtesy of the winds.

David bought Kevin, the beige, short haired Chihuahua, a winter coat. It is red and black with an all weather shell. It is so cute.

Three Christmas parties are in the offing and an Anniversary celebration.

I have had three days of luck in a row. I won a Poinsettia at the Womens' Institute Christmas/Holiday Dinner on Sunday. I won a gift certificate from a gift store on Monday, on the Udder Morning Show on CJAI. I won a pretty decorative tea towel at The Womens' Institute Pot Luck Dinner on Tuesday.

David spends his time reading, on the computer, watching T.V. and doing volunteer work as well as taking care of Kevin. Kevin and he lie on the bed or couch. David pats him. Kevin is a nervous dog and David is his comfort. They make a pretty picture.

I play Canasta and Mah Jong on Thursday and Rummoli on Wednesdays.

I am preparing and looking forward to my upcoming trip.

It's our Tenth Anniversary on Dec. 24. Gary and Susan were married in our living room when they lived here. They married on Dec. 24. David and I were married in our living room on Dec. 24. We did not plan it to be the same day, it was a coincidence. I hope the next owners of this house get married in this living room on Dec. 24. I may put it in the MLS listing.

It's snowing now.



*A little hula for your Christmas at the AIPS pageant,  
by Brian Little*

## **AIWI Report**

*- Mary Kay Steel*

We held our annual Christmas Potluck meeting on December 6th commencing at 6pm at the home of Liz Harrison. Actually we really didn't have a meeting; it was a dinner and party! It was well attended with some fourteen members and two guests present. President Joyce Haines and hostess Liz led the festivities. Everyone contributed some of their wonderful cooking or baking and a good time was had by all. As well, we each brought an unwrapped toy and these were delivered to Bath for its toy drive.

Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday January 18th at 2pm, again at Liz Harrison's home; we'll have a book exchange and talk about our Tweedsmuir history books. Guests as always are welcome.

## Christmas at Tim Hortons

- Anthony Gifford

It's almost ironical that our usual 'Christmas' stuff is based on tradition, sentiment, nostalgia and family, while the stories in the two gospels warn precisely against these things, shouting out to us that all these things keep us from finding the newness that God has to offer us.

I love the family and traditional as much as the next person and rarely search for anything new at Christmas. I was lucky this year, lucky to be in an unusual spot (for me) and so 'something new' was hard to ignore.

Judy and I were in Toronto for the Christmas weekend, bouncing around between family and friends. It so happened that for a few hours on Christmas morning we were 'between' engagements so, of course, we went to the only place opened in that part of town, the local Tim Hortons. We had books along, naturally, so we went in and took our coffees to a table and spent a couple of hours reading and people watching, sitting next to a window which looked out on the Drive Through.

It was fairly crowded inside - fairly young adults to seniors. Two women with a child each, several languages being spoken and a very accepting and laid-back atmosphere. Many of these people knew, or at least had seen each other before. They were probably on their own and this was their Christmas morning 'out'. It was NOT a depressing picture. At one time I rose and led the people in giving the staff a hand in thanks for them being there to serve us all and to wish them a Merry Christmas.

Meanwhile, just outside, there was a steady stream of cars driving in for a quick fix, The cars, as far as I counted, had only one person each, and there were no smiles. They were all in a hurry to go somewhere. To a family gathering?

To pick up a 'shared' child? Who knows? At any rate, there was a huge difference, it appeared, between the attitude of those outside in their cars (mostly quite new and expensive) and the much poorer and supposed 'lonely' people inside. Sitting where I was, I was greatly gifted with the understanding that the story in Luke was right, that the poor shepherds are much more likely to hear the angels than are the rest of us. We who supply the meals for the poor, whether at Christmas or throughout the year, rarely in our business and 'good works' even come close to the realities that God has for us. We're just too busy driving around, grabbing our coffee on-the-go. We may feed the poor, but how often do we eat and live with them, really sharing our lives?

In this culture of ours what is based on material wealth it is nearly impossible to hear this truth. I hope and dream of some people starting to intentionally trying to live in a Way that we know brings us life. It will be such a huge step of faith. But so much needed. Until then, the angels sing in vain.



*Some Christmas decor produced by the Island students, by Chelsea McDonald*





*27 made it for the Fleming Family Christmas, this year hosted by Wayne and Karen. Stuart and Mindy Burnside were home from Scotland. Barbara Jancour, from France, also spent Christmas with us. We were missing Tom and Brittany Fleming, of Cold Lake, Alberta. Photo courtesy Lynn Fleming*

## **AIMS Report** - Nathan Townend

The meeting began with a welcome by Hugh Jenney who thanked ISLE for breakfast.

Speaker: Mike spoke to us ardently about the importance of preserving our (Canadian) supply management dairy system. Mike structured his talk by addressing a recent critique of supply management submitted to the Whig Standard by a member of the public. Referring directly to the article in question, Mike spoke about the common misconceptions concerning the “subsidized” nature of the dairy system. Mike went on to number the benefits of having a supply management system, in relation to the producers, processors suppliers, and consumers. Mike’s talk perked much interest, and inspired a lively discussion period with numerous questions.

Treasurer’s Report: David updated members on the current account balance (\$2,700.00) and concluded that AIMS continues to be in a good financial position.

Golf Shirt Report: Brian indicated that he would look closer at tendering an alternative supply contract for T-shirts, given that the supplier solicited by Don Pepper was deemed to be rather expensive.

Scrap Iron Report: It was decided that it was not feasible or beneficial to pursue this venture, at this time.

Flower Basket Report: Dayle offered thanks to Bill Barrett for all his watering efforts.

Amerik Fund: The current status of AIMS financial support was given by Hugh Jenney and David Pickering.

## Poetry Selection

- Bruce Sudds

### *At The Quinte Hotel*

by Al Purdy

I am drinking  
I am drinking yellow flowers  
in underground sunlight  
and you can see that I am a sensitive man  
and I notice that the bartender is a sensitive  
man  
so I tell him the beer he draws  
is half fart and half horse piss  
and all wonderful yellow flowers  
But the bartender is not quite  
so sensitive as I supposed he was  
the way he looks at me now  
and does not appreciate my exquisite analogy  
Over in one corner two guys  
are quietly making love  
in the brief prelude to infinity  
Opposite them a peculiar fight  
enables the drinkers to lay aside  
their comic books and watch with interest  
while I watch with interest  
a wiry little man slugs another guy  
then tracks him bleeding into the toilet  
and slugs him to the floor again  
with ugly red flowers on the tile  
three minutes later he roosters over  
to the table where his drunk friend sits  
with another friend and slugs both  
of em ass-over-electric-kettle  
so I have to walk around  
on my way for a piss  
Now I am a sensitive man  
so I say to him mildly as hell  
“You shouldn’ta knocked over that good beer  
with them beautiful flowers in it”  
So he says “Come on”  
So I Come On  
like a rabbit with weak kidneys I guess  
like a yellow streak charging  
on flower power I suppose

& knock the shit outa him & sit on him  
(he is just a little guy)  
and say reprovngly  
“Violence will get you nowhere this time chum  
Now you take me  
I am a sensitive man  
and would you believe I write poems?”  
But I could see the doubt in his upside down  
face  
in fact in all the faces  
“What kind of poems?”  
“Flower poems”  
“So tell us a poem”  
I got off the little guy but reluctantly  
for he was comfortable  
and told them this poem  
They crowded around me with tears  
in their eyes and wrung my hands feelingly  
for my pockets for  
it was a heart-warming moment for literature  
and moved by the demonstrable effect  
of great Art and the brotherhood of people I  
remarked  
“-the poem oughta be worth some beer”  
It was a mistake in terminology  
for silence came  
and it was brought home to me in the tavern  
that poems will not really buy beer or flowers  
or a goddam thing  
and I was sad  
for I am a sensitive man

Find more at: <http://www.alpurdywashere.com/>



*Kiki Sudds, by Mike Gifford*





*Winter, briefly, by Dave Rattray*

## **Janet's Jottings**

*- Janet Scott*

### **The Christmas Bird Count**

On Friday, December 30, 2016 about 30 avid birders took part in the 116th annual Christmas Bird Count. Here on Amherst Island it was about our 25th time participating in this winter phenomenon that has turned out to be the world's longest continuing citizen-run scientific survey. Volunteers all over North and South America spend hours in all kinds of weather counting and documenting bird species over a three week period around Christmas and New Years. It began in 1900 when a gentleman named, Frank Chapman began the idea of "Count not Kill" over the holiday season. It had been considered a sportsman tradition to have competitions among your guests to see which group could kill the most birds over a holiday. He suggested that they count the birds instead and a tradition evolved. Five years later he was one of the founders of The National Audubon Society and the word "birding" itself was not coined until 20 years later. From a small group of bird enthusiasts it has grown to over 60,000 participants in 2462 different circles. Last years' count tallied 2106 species and 68,753,007 birds. The list included 175 species of Hummingbirds for example which boggles the mind of one used to seeing only the Ruby-throated in our region. There are now more counts taking place in

Columbia than in any other country other than United States and Canada. The Caribbean and Latin American counts add significant numbers of species to the overall count.

Over the years a few Island residents have braved the elements to help with the Christmas count but usually it is members of the Kingston Field Naturalists and their friends or friends of friends that have come to the Island each year for the Christmas Bird Count. This year 29 birders from the local area and two visiting from New Zealand helped us. I have been very fortunate that back in 2001 Bonnie Livingstone came on board to partner with me on this exciting day of the year. Without her help and the assistance of long time, experienced birders like Kurt Hennige, Paul Mackenzie, Peter Good and Gaye Beckwith who have done this many times and with the assistance of new birders like the young ten year old who came for his second visit to help out with the Amherst Count. The weather was co-operative -3 with a -8 wind chill factor caused by gusts up to 48 km/hr. The birders love to come because we feed them. Knowing that there is no place on the Island to even get a hot coffee we decided to always provide lunch. Is that not the Island way? Bonnie Livingstone is famous for her delicious chilli and Elly Gowan's bread delights the birding enthusiasts. Sally Bowen welcomes them in the morning with muffins and coffee cake to have with hot coffee or tea.



*Finches by Dave Rattray*

In total we had 31 counters, none lost or misplaced and counted 50 species of birds. It was a great day and thank-you Islanders for your support with birding sites, permission to go on some land areas, yummy muffins for our breakfast and a big thank-you to Keith who gave us our laugh of the day with his plastic Owl with

Hi written on it to greet Bonnie Bailey and her team working the Second Concession. Many of you were quick to let us know which feathered friends were frequenting your feeders and we thank you for that significant help. Thank-you Amherst Island, the greatest place in the world to live.

## Bird Count

December 30, 2016

Horned Grebe - 2  
Canada Goose - 1367  
Snow Goose - 1  
Tundra Swan - 48  
Mute Swan - 5  
Gadwall - 4  
American Black Duck - 51  
Mallard - 155  
Greater Scaup - 1  
Long-tailed Duck - 9  
Bufflehead - 41  
Common Goldeneye - 294  
Common Merganser - 63  
Hooded Merganser - 1  
Red-breasted Merganser - 1  
Duck species - 4  
Bald Eagle - 15  
Immature Bald Eagle - 5  
Red-tailed Hawk - 3  
Rough-legged Hawk - 4  
American Kestrel - 2  
Merlin - 3  
Hawk Species - 1  
Wild Turkey - 7  
Gull species - 2  
Ring-billed Gull - 13  
Herring Gull - 33

Great Black-backed Gull - 4  
Rock Pigeon - 91  
Mourning Dove - 116  
Snowy Owl - 1  
Red-bellied Woodpecker - 5  
Downy Woodpecker - 15  
Hairy Woodpecker - 3  
Northern Flicker - 1  
Northern Shrike - 1  
Blue Jay - 83  
American Crow - 17  
Common Raven - 20  
Black-capped Chickadee - 136  
White-breasted Nuthatch - 24  
Winter Wren - 1  
American Robin - 363  
European Starling - 1106  
Cedar Waxwing - 5  
American Tree Sparrow - 48  
White-throated Sparrow - 2  
Dark-eyed Junco - 31  
Snow Bunting - 625  
Northern Cardinal - 6  
Red-Winged Blackbird - 1  
House Finch - 28  
American Goldfinch - 53  
House Sparrow - 119



*The Neilson Store Museum and Cultural  
Center's*

# *Back Room Talk*

*Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.*



*The Martha's Table Experience by Shyanne Shurtliffe*  
*Shyanne will speak to us about the framework*  
*of Martha's Table as well as her experiences at the*  
*charity organization.*

*Light snacks and refreshments provided.*  
*Donations greatly appreciated.*



**Brian Little**  
**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
**613-389-3111**  
**brianlittlephoto@gmail.com**  
**www.brianlittlephoto.com**

• Portraits	• Landscapes	1355—2nd Concession Stella, ON, K0H 2S0 Gallery visits by chance or by appointment.
• Weddings	• Wildlife	
• Slide Shows	• Photoshops	
• Greeting Cards	• Photo Restoration	

## Coming Home

- Elena Moffatt

Leaving the Netherlands in December to come home for Christmas was both sad and exciting. It was sad to say goodbye to my friends and classmates but obviously very exciting to see my family and friends. I was lucky enough to spend three whole weeks at home and it was glorious. Unfortunately my extended family wasn't able to come to Kingston for Boxing Day dinner due to poor weather, but we were able to eat all the food by inviting some neighbours over.

I was even able to spend some quality time on Amherst Island! It was so nice to be back on the boat and the Island. Spending time with Craig and his family and being able to see so many familiar faces at Lorna's New Years party was so much fun. And after just having arrived back in the Netherlands, I'm excited to say that I'll be back in just three short weeks to start my internship at Bread and Butter in Kingston!

My internship for school will be five months long and I've been tasked with both managerial projects and some practical baking shifts. I'm looking forward to being able to get some real, professional experience with baking to prepare myself for (hopefully) going to college for baking and pastry arts management in the fall.

I'll need to be going back to the Netherlands at the end of June to defend my thesis and graduate, but I'm thrilled to be able to spend a solid five months at home in one place.

The rest of this month brings exams and presentations to finish up the semester. I recently had my last class of my degree program which felt like a relief. I'm looking forward to no longer having to deal with the stresses and frustrations of my school, which is partly the reason why I was looking for an internship in Ontario.

I think the next few months are going to be fantastic what with being home and what I'll be learning at Bread and Butter. I'm excited to seeing how it all plays out!



*Ring in the New Year, courtesy Joan Simpson*

## Baltimore is Back!

- Terry McGinn

The annual bird count which took place this past December 30<sup>th</sup> included a single snow owl. Janet's report, found on page 7 of the Beacon, doesn't mention him by name but it could have been the most famous snowy owl of them all (probably): Baltimore.

While other snow birds are flying away from Amherst Island when December rolls 'round it seems that this is the place to be if you're Baltimore. According to his transmitter, which

he has been wearing for more than two years now, shows that Baltimore returned to the island on December 28<sup>th</sup>, just in time to get counted.

Baltimore is one of the 40 or so owls that have been tagged and are watched by Project SNOWstorm. And he is, by their own admission, a “first among equals” in their program. With tens of thousands of data points showing his travels since having been tagged as a juvenile in Maryland during the winter of 2013-14 the folks at Project SNOWstorm think Baltimore may be the most studied snowy owl ever.

His story certainly is interesting.

Baltimore has visited Amherst Island nearly every winter of his life. Having confirmed visits in both early and late 2015 and 2016.

Tracking Baltimore seems like an exercise in excitement and worry. Since the transmitter that Baltimore is equipped with relies on cell phone reception to transmit its data, as one can imagine with a snowy owl, he spent a lot of time outside the signal's range.

So they wait, and hope, and trust in the wiles of the snowy owl that we've all become so captivated by. And Baltimore never disappoints.

In March of 2016 Baltimore disappeared from the shores of Amherst Island. His transmitter sent no updates on his whereabouts or his status, those at Project SNOWstorm knew only that wherever he was there was no cell reception.

There was no way to tell if it was because he flew north, or because he got eaten and his transmitter destroyed. Such is the reality of

tagging and tracking wildlife. Mother Nature has little fealty to a happy ending.

But Baltimore came back. And with him he brought a wealth of data – and an answer to his disappearance.

During his time away he racked up about 15,000 data points, he returned to the same place where he spent the summer of 2015, and he may have taken a mate. It will take time to analyze all the data.

As to his March disappearance, that's a little more straightforward: Baltimore boogies! When they looked at the data from March it showed that Baltimore headed north travelling more than 550km in less than two days. That makes it no surprise that he left our rural cell phone networks in the dust.

What the future holds for Baltimore no one can know, but it is nice to be able to share his journey and learn a little something about him, and the species, in the process.

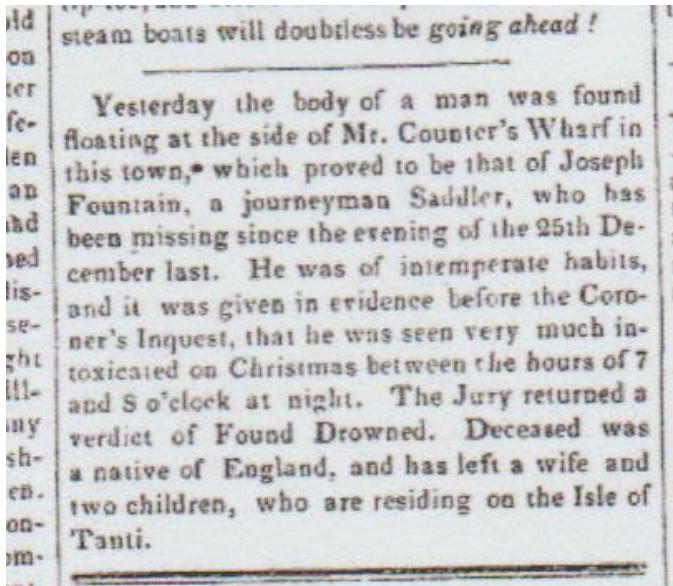
I am looking forward to the next installment of Baltimore's story, and you can find that, and information about other owls in Project SNOWstorm at their website:

<http://www.projectsnowstorm.org/>



*Baltimore in 2015, courtesy Project SNOWstorm,  
photo by Chris Hudson*





*An 1836 news clipping from the Chronicle & Gazette,  
courtesy Ian Murray*

## **Council Gleanings**

*- Ian Murray*

### **From the 21st SESSION of COUNCIL November 28, 2016**

"Councillor Ashley offered congratulations and thanks to Council, senior staff, the Ministries and members of the Public regarding the long awaited announcement of a new ferry for Amherst Island and for the proposed construction of new end loading ferry docks at Millhaven and Stella.

### **From the SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING December 5, 2016**

This was a public meeting regarding Loyalist Township's Official Plan. "Moved by Councillor Ashley and Seconded by Deputy Mayor Bresee that the correspondence from Topsy farms (Chris Kennedy) re: Township of Loyalist Official Plan Review, be received for information."

[Chris was objecting to the inclusion of a walking trail across 4 privately owned properties]

## **George Orwell - FUTURIST**

*- Ian Murray*

It is 70 years ago, more or less, that Orwell wrote 1984 and much of what he wrote about is still relevant.

In the world of 1984 there are 3 superpowers – today we know them as Russia, China and the USA. These powers skirmish away in a state of perpetual warfare that is un-winnable.

Winning is not the object. The object of the warfare is to use up the wealth that technology produces without raising the general standard of living. Orwell contended that "if leisure and security were enjoyed by all alike" the general populace "would sooner or later realize that the privileged minority had no function, and they would sweep it away".

\*\*\*\*\*

"When I think of antiquity, the detail that frightens me is that hundreds of millions of slaves on whose backs civilization rested generation after generation have left behind them no record whatever."



*Judy Bierma's granddaughter, Loa, at the St. Paul's  
Christmas pageant, by Mike Gifford*

## Reasons to Buy Local Produce

### - Gardening for Market

1. Locally grown food tastes better. Food grown in your own community was probably picked within the past day or two. It's crisp, sweet and loaded with flavor. Produce flown or trucked in from California, Florida, Chile or Holland is, quite understandably, much older. Several studies have shown that the average distance food travels from farm to plate is 1,500 miles. In a week-long (or more) delay from harvest to dinner table, sugars turn to starches, plant cells shrink, and produce loses its vitality.

2. Local produce is better for you. A recent study showed that fresh produce loses nutrients quickly. Food that is frozen or canned soon after harvest is actually more nutritious than some "fresh" produce that has been on the truck or supermarket shelf for a week. Locally grown food, purchased soon after harvest, retains its nutrients.

3. Local food preserves genetic diversity. In the modern industrial agricultural system, varieties are chosen for their ability to ripen simultaneously and withstand harvesting equipment; for a tough skin that can survive packing and shipping; and for an ability to have a long shelf life in the store. Only a handful of hybrid varieties of each fruit and vegetable meet those rigorous demands, so there is little genetic diversity in the plants grown. Local farms, in contrast, grow a huge number of varieties to provide a long season of harvest, an array of eye-catching colors, and the best flavors. Many varieties are heirlooms, passed down from generation to generation, because they taste good. These old varieties contain genetic material from hundreds or even thousands of years of human selection; they may someday provide the genes needed to create varieties that will thrive in a changing climate.



*These ladies are dressed to party at Lynn's House Warminga (see what I did there?), by Brian Little*

# **The Back Kitchen**

-- Amherst Island --

## **Annual General Meeting**

Everyone Welcome!

Sunday, January 22

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Backroom, Neilson Store Museum

~Agenda~

2016 Financial Review

Lessons Learned, Plans and Ideas for 2017

Election of Directors

Note re: Election of Directors

Currently there are two vacancies on the Board of Directors.  
Please let us know if you are interested in serving by emailing  
[backkitchenai@gmail.com](mailto:backkitchenai@gmail.com) or calling 613-389-1005.



## Amherst Island Community Carol Service

- Anthony Gifford

On the afternoon of December 11, many 'islanders', friends and family gathered at St. Paul's Church to take part in and enjoy a Community Carol Service. The wonderful time was the results of planning and invitation on the parts of Janet Scott and Carol Glenn.

Many of the favourite Christmas carols were sung by everyone, songs which were the background to 'performers', young and older, who portrayed the traditional Christmas Story.

The event had no rehearsal so many of the details were addressed and solved on the spot. Choices were made on the fly, such as, 'Do you want to be a sheep or a cow?' It was a great time.

Thanks to the many adults for their time: Janet Scott and Carol Glenn for the organizing and gathering; Beth Forester for her talents on the keyboard; Mitchel Morgan-Bursey, Margaret Mooney, Karen Fleming, Judy Miller and Susie Caughey for their readings; Anthony Gifford for the song he shared; Allan Miller for his piano solo; Barb McLeod-Miller for her work on the props; Susan Morgan for the goodies; Joyce Haines for her work in the kitchen; Judy Bierma for her shepherding skills; Tessa Mayman and Mary White for getting the 'animals' in shape and organized; and Jay Brennan for his work as M.C.

A special thanks to all the kids who brought it to life. This was a unique effort and time, proof that the Spirit of Goodness is alive and well on Amherst Island.



*The New Years crowd at the Amherst Island Community Centre, courtesy Joan Simpson*

## Thank You

The crew at Topsy Farms is very grateful for the work done on our new Wool Shed by McCormick Excavating and Rob Miller.

Noel, Zack and Peter did an amazing job moving the old Wool Shed to its new location.

Rob Miller also did a great job as foreman of the project and creator – along with Peggy Edwards – of the display furniture.

Also thanks to our friend and neighbour Keith Miller for gifting us with the sign that now hangs above the new Wool Shed's entrance. And to Perry McDonald for his carpentry help.

Finally, a big thank you to the Amherst Island community for on-going support during a difficult year.

Ian Murray

---

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank all who bought tickets; also thanks to Country Rhythm for the great music,

Lenard Watson & son for doing our bar, also advice from Rick Bedford.

Door prize donors Tupperware by Carrie Pereira, Ferry tickets by Loyalist Township, Emmons & Mitchell, & Amherst Roofing.

Dump tickets Keith Miller (aka Dr. Love) bird house by Creative Gifts, gift basket by Foodland, gift certificates by Topsy Farms, & St. Louis. Betty Wemp donated tea & coffee, napkin holder unknown. We want to thank Sandra Eastlake for flyers & tickets.

We thank the following committee members Linda & Eric Welbanks , Judy & Don Miller, Carol & Paul Glenn, Judy Bierma & Anthony Gifford , Joan & Dan Simpson, Betty & David Wemp, Duncan Ashley, Barb Laing .

On behalf of Laura & myself: thank you all for making it a wonderful evening.

Stephen Street

---



Thanks to the minister and congregation for the generous gift of extra donation envelopes. They enable me to give away thousands of flower seeds loved by bees, birds and butterflies to Wool Shed customers.

Sally Bowen



In December ISLE held its first Christmas Tree Extravaganza fundraiser. We sold beautiful Nova Scotia balsam fir trees, wreaths and holiday planters made by AIPS children. We want to thank everyone from our community and beyond for their support. We look forward to next year!

ISLE

Thank you to friends and neighbors who sent cards and notes following the death of my mother. A special thank you to Kiki, Nathan, Mikey, Estelle and the grown-ups who Christmas Bombed my house. Such a comfort to be hugged by this Island.

Lorna Willis



*Friends gather to send off 2016, by Brian Little*



*Christmas pageantry, by Brian Little*



*Wreaths awaiting collection at the school, photo by Chelsea McDonald*



## Archives

*January 1987*

*Issue 108*

**A.I.P.S.**

My Christmas Holiday

- Heidi Hitchins

My Christmas holidays were excitingly fun. On my holidays I played and played with my Popple. Then I got tired of playing. I thought about school a lot. I skated with my brother and sister. My family went to Elsie's house. I took my Popple.

\*\*\*\*\*

My Christmas Holiday

- Jessica Gavlas

My Christmas holidays were great because my family got lots of presents and had fun. We had a good Christmas dinner too.

\*\*\*\*\*

Holidays

- Kelly Baker

My Christmas holidays were nice. Do you know why? Because I did millions of things! I went to Grandma's.

\*\*\*\*\*

On My Holidays

- Angela Fleming

My Christmas holidays were happy because people came for dinner. It was beautiful because my Mom decorated my house. It was fun because I got to go places.

The Snow

- Kevin McCormick

I am very glad the snow is here because now I can have lots of fun skiing and crashing into my sandbox, which now is my snowbox. Mark and I can make lots of things in the snow. We can even make chairs out of snowballs. There hasn't been too much snow this year.

If there was 7 feet of snow I could make an underground fort. It would be really neat! So let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

\*\*\*\*\*

Winter!

- Ruth Scott

Winter fun is here,  
In the snow we play,  
Nice nice Winter is nice,  
Toboggans are fun, to slide on,  
Every year there's usually snow,  
Right Right yes that's right  
there's usually snow oh don't you know!

\*\*\*\*\*

My X-Mas

- Jamie Silver

My Christmas was wonderful! It was fantastic! My whole family was there, and we had a great time. We opened the presents first, then we played with them and we went to my Uncle's place for lunch. I had a terrific Christmas! I wish it was Christmas everyday.

Snow

- Jason Silver

Please God Make It Snow

I hope it hurries up and snows.  
Please God make it snow. I won't  
ask for anything else in my whole  
life so please God make it snow.  
Oh my gosh! I think I just saw a  
snowflake! I did! Thank you God.

Ten Hours Later

Please God make it stop snowing!  
It's five meters high! Please God  
make it stop snowing.

\*\*\*\*\*

Spruce Goose

- Lori Caughey

My name is Spruce and I'm a little  
goose, Spruce is a weird name for  
a goose...

Don't you agree?

I'd like to change my name to  
Bruce!

But... My mother said "Spruce is  
simply an ordinary name for a  
goose, and that's all there is to  
it."

So my name is still Spruce!

I live on Amherst Island.

Im staying for winter this year.

I heard the weather would be good

So far it's been clear!

And... my name is still Spruce.

My mother is leaving without me  
she said "it just won't be the  
same without you about me!"

So she left me a lunch and a  
letter.

Spruce - Be Good

And please, please Don't change  
your name to Bruce.

Love - Mommy

\*\*\*\*\*

Planes

- Jeff Forester

Swiftly flying through the air,  
the pilots guide the planes  
through rain or fog. The pilot is  
the most important person, or  
persons, on the plane.

On a passenger plane there are  
three pilots, and on a single  
plane there is only one.

There is another kind of plane it  
is a helicopter. They are really  
neat! I really like planes and so  
should you!

\*\*\*\*\*

Snow

- Chad Miller

The crisp winds blow  
The falling snow  
to form a fluffy drift  
Many children will play  
In the drift every day  
They know it is God's gift  
The whistling breeze  
slides through the trees  
And makes a joyful call  
Come join the fun  
it's for everyone  
Because it's winter after all.

\*\*\*\*\*

Goose

- Amy Caughey

I am a Canada goose,  
I love the warm  
But to my surprise,  
Amherst Island had a storm!

To get down south  
Is a long long way  
So I decided  
What the heck, I'll stay!  
In the harbour I stayed  
The lake did not freeze.  
Then summer came,  
And I flew off in the breeze.  
The nice warm summer breeze.

\*\*\*\*\*

If I Were A Goose

- Sarah Scott

If I were a goose I wouldn't be  
cold, because there's not much  
snow, I would have been told.

I'd be very surprised that there  
wasn't much snow, and up I'd fly,  
up, up and go.

I'd scan the whole island to see  
if it was true, and sure enough  
the water was still blue.

So I think I'll stay here in this  
nest of mine, then I'll leave when  
I think it's time.

\*\*\*\*\*

Snow

- Tracy Hitchins

The way the snow falls  
Just catches my eye.  
So soft and light  
On the ground  
Hurrah!  
Catching snowflakes  
on your tongue Mm... mm... mm  
That's my favorite  
So let's go get some.  
The snow is here  
I hope it will stay  
Now let's wish  
and pray!

What The Blue Jay Has To Say

- Laura Wemp

One winter day,  
The Blue Jays did say,  
Snow snow I want snow.  
I want a storm, but I don't want  
the wind to blow.  
I want to see the skiers ski,  
Way down that steep hill you see.  
And that's why the Blue Jays say,  
I want it to snow today.

\*\*\*\*\*

Love

- Sherry Ward

Peace is a 5 letter word,  
That some people say is absurd  
A lot of people ignore the facts,  
And other people know the impact.

\*\*\*\*\*

Field Trip To Kingston

- Sherry Ward

On Thursday, December 11, the  
students of A.I.P.S. and staff  
went on a field trip to Kingston.  
We all went on, the 10:00 boat.

Our first stop was at the  
Catarauqui Town Centre where the  
Primaries saw a puppet show and  
visited Santa Claus while the  
Juniors and Seniors were busy  
doing various activities. At about  
12 noon we met at the food  
counters and ate in various  
places. By this time everyone was  
almost ready to leave, but a few  
of us just had to go into 501  
Video and spend some money.

Then we got on the bus and were  
off to see Sleeping Beauty at the  
Grand Theatre. This was  
beautifully acted out and was



great for the Primaries. The Seniors and older Juniors looked at the technical aspects of the performance while the Primaries looked at the story.

Then we caught the 3:30 ferry home and were all very pleased with how the day turned out.

**January 1997**

**Issue 228**

### **News Flash**

The Province Announces They Are Getting out of the Ferry Business

Minister of Transportation, Al Palladini, announced today, January 15, that subsidies for ferries will be stopped and the responsibility for ferry costs will be transferred to the municipalities. He said, "By this time next year, municipalities will be fully responsible for ferries and highways that clearly serve local needs."

Our Reeve, Duncan Ashley, was interviewed on CBC's Radio Noon show (Ottawa) along with the Reeve of Wolfe Island, Jan Hasselaar.

- When asked what went through his mind when he heard the news, Duncan said, "I guess I can do little more than echo Jan's comments. If you want the math as far as we're concerned you're looking at 1.25 million (dollars) spread among 260 households. And, that works out to almost \$5,000 per household. Again... staggering... It really pulls the plug on the community."

- When asked what this will mean to the ferry service, he responded, "Well, it's hard to say right now. I think we're a long way from being finished with this battle and I'm sure Jan feels the same way. If it were to be implemented as they wish next January, I think you could just take Amherst Island off the map. There's no way anyone could, afford to live over here. There's no way anyone would wish to purchase or develop property over here. I think the last guy leaving will have to just shut out the lights."

- When asked whether Amherst Island could expect to receive help from our amalgamation partners, Duncan said, "We're amalgamating with Ernestown Township and the Village of Bath, and in our agreement, partially the same rational as in Mr Hasselaars' (amalgamation agreement), that we were not going to open the door to the Province to say here (are) willing partners to take on provincial responsibilities."

The first opportunity for Amherst Islanders to meet with Council members may be on January 16th after a Restructuring Committee meeting. Perhaps there will be more details on whether the municipality will be responsible for all ferry costs (drydocking, etc) or if we will be required to purchase the ferry, the bubble system, etc.

# Amherst Island Beacon

Whether every month or only once in a while  
**The Beacon is looking for contributors!**

Have a submission, idea, or other content? Send it to:  
[editor@amherstislandbeacon.com](mailto:editor@amherstislandbeacon.com)

<http://www.amherstislandbeacon.com>

---



*New islanders Ross Stuart and Darlene Martin, photo by Brian Little*