

# Amherst Island Beacon



*Issue 460 There's always another boat. AUGUST 2018*

Thank You  
By Judy Bierma

Thank you very much to David Pickering for putting the Beacon together in a format we can share and thank you to everyone who sent pictures, articles and ads to put in the Beacon. Thank you so much for all your help.



Sam, (grandson of the Vanstones), "Really enjoying the Back Kitchen's Kawartha Dairy Ice Cream!"

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Aerial Photos

From Alison McDonald

We will be visiting family between July 21 and August and have a drone if anyone would like aerial photographs and video of their house/ property. \$40 for 4-5 pictures and a short video. Cash on delivery. Timing will be weather/wind condition dependent. Limited availability.

Topsy Farms

By Sally Bowen

Lots of changes are happening at Topsy Farms this year.

Christopher is retiring; he and Dianne will be moving to Burnaby, BC in the fall. We will be significantly downsizing our flock and re-evaluating our business setup.

Kyle will be responsible for the sheep with Jacob and Will and the rest of us helping as necessary. We hope that Don Tubb will return home once his mom's care is transferred.

Will is going to be responsible for machinery care.

Leah is taking over a major portion of our bookwork and backing Ian up in the Wool Shed and with inventory. Sally continues to do social media, lamb sales and correspondence.

Jake is spearheading an increasing emphasis on AgTourism at Topsy Farms.

We will continue our

- invitation to all to watch shearing
- families invited to help nurture bottle-fed lambs in spring
- families encouraged to walk 2 pet lambs during the summer on a leash, and to bottle feed

New initiatives include:

- purchase of a yurt that will provide 3 seasons accommodation
- expansion of our walking trails through the bush, past the sugar shack to the bluffs
- a series of workshops that have included Spring Birding Migration & Action Photography
- more workshops planned that will potentially

include “Peaceful Forest”, “Earth, Air Fire, Water First Nations Events” and others now in the scheming stage.

The most adventurous of all is our hosting the **Dry Stone Canada Annual Festival, September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>**. We expect about 60 wallers and students to come from across North America, and a few from England and Ireland.

We know this is the same weekend as the Harvest Fest and Amherst Island House Tour. We intend to draw more people to the Island, who will participate in those activities also, showcasing the varied spectrum of Amherst Island. This will be a free event for all, except the students of Dry Stone Canada. There will again be a kids’ workshop, using lighter materials and having fun. There will be an interactive display, helping folks learn the techniques. We’ll also invite participants to wander our trails, enjoy our beach, explore our Wool Shed, feed and walk with our lambs.

Life is not dull at Topsy Farms.

**The Amherst Island BEACON Issue 460, August 2018**

Published monthly, the Beacon is provided free through the work of dedicated volunteers.

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**Submission Deadline** 25<sup>th</sup> of mth

**Provided via:**

[Amherstisland.on.ca/Beacon](http://Amherstisland.on.ca/Beacon)  
and its webmaster Alex Scott



**Due to extremely dry conditions a full burning ban remains in effect for Loyalist Township including Amherst Island. No exceptions.**

Emerald Book Club: Now For Something Different by Judy Greer

This club uses the L&A Library Book Bag U and

has 8 regular members plus occasional addition. The July meeting consisted of a table reading of a comedic play, The Dressing Room, by local author Peggy Howlett, and was lots of fun. On the hot afternoon the group sat in the shade along the south shore with glasses of wine to loosen everyone up. By the end we were all in character. Next month we are reading Deadly Appearances by Gail Bowen, the first of her Joanne Killbourn mystery series. Gail Bowen is coming to Amherst Island Sept. 7/8 to deliver a mystery writers workshop.

UpComing Events



**Meet the Queen of Canadian Crime Fiction**

**Gail Bowen is coming to Amherst Island for Two Events!**

**Friday, September 7th 7 - 9pm**

Join Mystery Writer Gail Bowen and Author, Reviewer, Radio Personality Jack Batten for a Fireside Chat

Gail will read from her new Joanne Kilbourn novel, *A Darkness of the Heart* and *Sleuth: Gail Bowen on Writing Mysteries*

Books will be available to purchase  
Refreshments will be served  
Cost: \$20pp

**Saturday, September 8th from 9:30 - 3pm**

Join Gail for a Writers' Workshop

Space is limited to 10  
Cost: \$175 (includes lunch)

To book a spot email: [andrea@meriton.ca](mailto:andrea@meriton.ca)  
or phone 613 634-9734

Both events at: The Lodge on Amherst Island  
(320 McDonald's Lane, Stella, K0H 2S0)

Accommodation is available at The Lodge. Call: 613 634-1388  
Book Early

**Kids Day at the Market**

Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> @ 10-11:30am

Facepainting, Games, Races, Tug-of-War

Loyalist Township Play Trailer

Prizes, Treats

Everyone Welcome Sponsored by AIWI



# Upcoming Events

## EMERALD MUSIC FESTIVAL



**THE WESTERN SWING AUTHORITY**

**12675 FRONT ROAD  
AMHERST ISLAND  
ONTARIO, CANADA**

**August 10, 11, 12, 2018**  
Friday \$15 / Saturday \$30 / Sunday \$15  
Weekend Pass \$50 includes rough  
camping (wristbands must be worn)  
Children under 12 FREE  
(must be accompanied by adult)



**THE REASONS**



**BEARTRACKS**



**COUNTRY SPICE**



**Jacob Murray**



**Mellow Lily**



**Don Cochrane**



**THE MONARCHS**

**Friday, August 10**  
**6pm - Midnight**

Mellow Lily  
Rick Storms  
Country Spice  
Open Mic  
The Monarchs

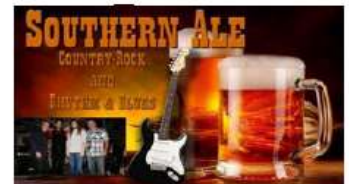


**Saturday, August 11**  
**Noon - Midnight**

Jacob Murray  
Perpetual Emotion Quartet  
Handsome Molly  
Southern Ale  
\*\*\*\* SUPPER BREAK \*\*\*\*  
Beartracks  
The Western Swing Authority  
The Reasons



**The Group of Two**



**Sunday, August 12**  
**10:30am - 4pm**

Anthony Gifford  
The Group of Two  
Don Cochrane  
Beartracks  
Emerald Kitchen Party

**Line-up subject to change without notice**

**"NEW" End loading ferry system**

Food Venues  
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For more information  
call 613-389-8297  
or visit our website  
[www.emeraldmusicfestival.com](http://www.emeraldmusicfestival.com)

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FACEBOOK





AUGUST 19, 2018 AMHERST ISLAND

**COME RUN THE WOOLLY**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 19, 2018 ON HISTORIC AMHERST ISLAND**

The 10K is event 10 in the 2017 KRRA race series.

Race 3 of the Tri-Island Series

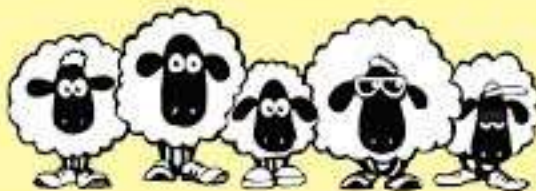
**[www.krra.org](http://www.krra.org)**

Discover our course along the shore of Lake Ontario.

**10K/5K RACES & 1K FUN RUN FOR KIDS**

to register go to

**[amherstisland.on.ca](http://amherstisland.on.ca)**



## St Paul's Cleanup

By Andrea Cross

On the morning of Saturday July 7th, volunteers appeared at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church to help clean up both inside and outside in preparation for the 70th Annual Garden Party which will be held this year on Saturday, July 28th from 11 am - 3 pm.

We accomplished lots while having a good time ...wrapping up the event with a delicious lunch prepared by Carol Glenn.

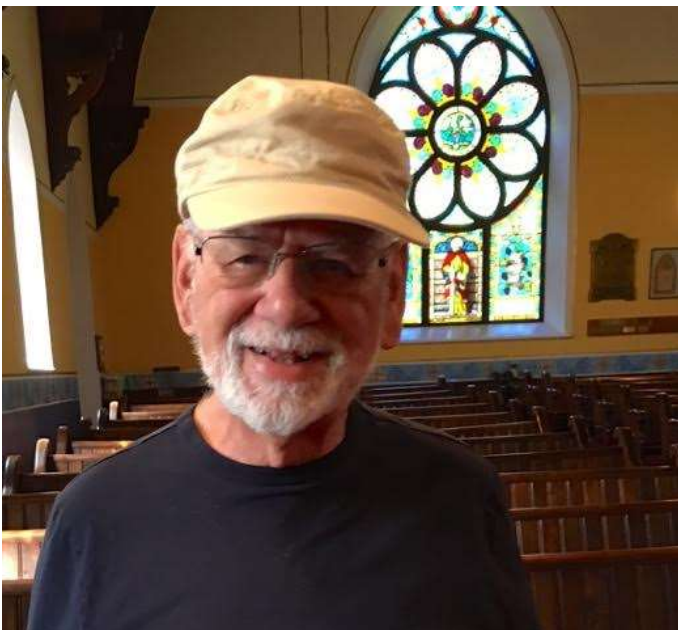
Here are some photos of some of the volunteers in action.



**Carol Glenn**



**Laurie Kilpatrick**



**John Moonbeck (above) ^ Mike Walhout (below)**





**Lucas Walhout**



**Nathan Townend**

**Nathan Townend**



**St. Paul's Cleanup**

Letter Regarding Museum Public Dock

Thank you to Liz Harrison

Dear Ms. Ferris:

I have just visited the Stella Dock on Amherst Island (behind the museum) to see whether the missing ladder had been replaced. That is a popular swimming place, but the deep water means a ladder for climbing out is a necessity.

Imagine my surprise to discover that not only is the ladder still missing but docking a boat at the dock is forbidden while investigative measures are in place to repair the dock. The ladder has been missing since May (possibly earlier) and I assume that the dock has been deemed dangerous since that time too.

While serving at the market on a Saturday morning or being with my grandchildren while they are swimming there I have been delighted to meet all kinds of pleasure sailors who dock in in the bay. Sometimes it is their first time on the island but more often than not it is a regular venue. The loss of that facility this year will be devastating for local businesses who look forward to and plan for the presence of boaters. I have heard that a Kingston company that rents boats to tourists has removed Amherst Island from their list of recommended destinations.

This is an absolutely unforgivable situation that should never have been allowed to happen. Please oblige me with an explanation and an estimated time for completion of the repairs.

Sincerely: Liz Harrison

With reply as follows:

Good afternoon Liz,

I just sent the below message out to other concerned residents.....

*Thank you for your questions and concerns regarding the closed dock at Stella Bay. It was brought to our attention in June that the ice over this past winter has caused significant damage to the dock which has resulted in the dock being deemed unsafe. The ladders have been removed and signage posted to ensure usage is restricted until repairs can be made.*

*We are in the process of discussions with specialized contractors who deal with dock repairs. We are investigating the most efficient and effective repair as we acknowledge and appreciate the impact and consequences of this dock being closed on the local small businesses on the island.*

*Also, please understand there are external agency*

*approvals (CRCA) required for this work to proceed and we are working with them to get approvals as fast as possible.*

*I really do understand that this is not good for all of you but please trust we are prioritizing this project to ensure it can be completed as soon as possible.*

*I will update you all when I have more information.*

*Thank you for your patience.*

Unfortunately, the safety concerns with the dock can also impact swimmers which is why the ladders have not been put back on and the signage is restricting boats from docking AND swimming. There are dangerous bolts sticking out just at the water level that could seriously injure swimmers. The lack of ladders was to ensure no swimming could take place.

I sincerely apologize for the timing of this – I know there could not be a worse time but please trust we are moving on this as fast as we can.

**Andree Ferris**

**Director, Recreation Services**



**Stella Dock – Photo by Ida Gavlas**

White Sails Red Sails

By Judy Wamberra

The kids were gathering stones. Over here were all the dwarfs in the world. And over there they saw a gnarled, pimpled rock. “That is Daddy,” said Adam. “He is the troll of the beach.”

James stood on the porch, enjoying the water. What a fine day it was. The water sloshed over the awkward rocks and slobbered up to the shore. How he loved this place! To bring up his kids on this gentle island, the water surrounding them like a huge blue blanket, protecting them from all the evils that lurked on the other side, the confusion, restlessness, crowding of the mainland, and who knows, beyond the small town where the ferry land, who knows really is going.

I am getting out of control, he said to himself. Julie, he knew was inside the house, getting the food and gear ready for the trip. Here he was, free to smell, listen, let his limbs expand to enter all the air, the trees, the gentle sand, the water a mere leap from the



porch.

He looked down at the beach. The boys were doing something with the stones by the beach. Piling them up, creating fortresses, goddesses, magic elephants.

He could vaguely hear Adam. Something to do with hairy trolls. Oh kids and their amazing imaginations. He let his arms stroke the polished rails of his pine porch.

As his arms lay on the rails, a strange feeling ran through his body. The first feeling was a need to sleep. Here it was mid-day, they were on their way to another island, a ferry boat ride away, the adventure of the weekend and he feels tired? He held on to the railings as hard as he could. The drowsiness was like a huge fog that was climbing up his legs, his middle, his arms, like, well, something to cover him, a blue, why blue, blanket, to take him away.

He wanted to call out, to beg Julie to come to him and say this was all nonsense. "Julie," he called. Only his voice came out as a pathetic mouse squeak.

"Julie, Julie!" Again and again he splattered his voice against the front window panes.

Julie was sitting in the car with the kids. She looked at her watch. "What in the world is he doing?" She looked at her watch again. "The ferry has just arrived at the dock. Its white sails are fluttering in the wind."

She muttered out loud. "The ferry's white sails are fluttering in the wind. And here we are, just sitting here, sitting and sitting and listening and listening."

"And the flag is at half-mast!"

Adam exclaimed. "How do you know that?"

They heard a great roar from the back of the house.

"Nothing," said Julie. "Just wishful thinking."

"Mom. What's going on? I am afraid!" Adam stood up on his seat, trying to see the back of the house.

Alex suddenly appeared. He was charging down the back steps. He was holding a pair of sewing scissors in his hands. They could just see him vanish under the porch, slashing and chopping. The scissors flashed in the air. His voice was totally unrecognizable. "And you, and you, you little fake bugger, watch me, watch me."

Julie got out the car. She ran around the house. Alex was piercing the ground with the scissors. The little nettles shutter like frightened birds under his blows.

Julie crawled under the porch and put her arms around Alex. She slowly dragged him to the grass. She patted his hands, his bloody face. "This is nothing to do with nettles," she said gently. "It looks like angio edema to me."

"What are you," he weeps. "Some bloody nurse."

Both of them smile.

Julie went into the house. She brought him ice, antihistamine, hand lotion and a small tea cup of vodka.

He closed his eyes. Two garter snakes dribbled over his shoes. "Bloody things, bloody stinging nettles, I am going to get you, I am, I am."

Julie took some of the ice and finished the vodka. "I think I will lie down," she said

"White sails in the sunset," she murmured, "White sails."

"They are red, they are red," he murmured.

The children waited in the car.

\*\*\*

*This little story has been brought to you by  
The Nettle Society of Eastern Ontario. We  
are also members of the SPCP. We are hoping  
you take with you a short message: facts are  
quite different from demented fantasies.*

.....  
Waterside

By Ann Adams

Waterside Summer Series continues the 25th  
fabulous season with two remaining concerts  
Sunday July 29 at 7:15 and Friday August 10 at  
4:15.

July 29 features The Rolston String Quartet; most  
recent winner of the Banff International String  
Quartet Competition!

And the last concert of 2018, on August 10, features  
a trio: Jonathan Crow, violin; Philip Chiu, piano; and  
Gabriel Radford, French horn.

Online ticket sales at [www.watersidemusic.ca](http://www.watersidemusic.ca) or  
telephone: 613-384-2153





Waterside pictures by Ann Adams

### Amherst Island Looking Back

By Shirley Ann Miller

Finally finished a painting of the old Fleming place. I tried to make it like it was when I first knew it, before the trim over the windows was removed for the beige siding and brown trim. The holly hocks are in memory of Gen, she first got me interested in growing them.



Old Fleming place – painted by Shirley Miller

### The Painting Group

By Shirley Miller

On Friday May 11 our art group had a farewell party for Eleanor Trueman. She has been a faithful participant in our group which is so much more than art classes since 1990. We will miss her greatly. Her wisdom and grace have enriched all our lives. She and Peter were Islanders for many years before moving to Kingston and now they are heading to Toronto nearer family. We took a picture of all of us that could be there, a fine group of friends they are.



My wonderful painting group at Shirly Miller's

## Advertisements

COMPUTER REPAIR/UPGRADES, new installs, virus/Malware removal. Island References. Bruce MacCrimmon – 613 453-0505  
[bruce.maccrimmon@hotmail.com](mailto:bruce.maccrimmon@hotmail.com)

Amherst Island Women's Institute Medical Equipment Loan Cupboard (wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, bath seats, grab rails, commodes, raised toilet seats). Donations of used equipment in good condition also welcome. Call Sharen English (613)384-6535.

Topsy Farms has fall lamb frozen lamb cuts; great raw honey by bees (with help from Dave Meikle and Kyle Murray)

SHIRLEY MILLER Paintings, Prints & Art Classes  
613-389-2588

AMHERST ISLAND CHIROPRACTIC Front Rd.  
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. For appointments call 613 328-8892

For all of you cheese lovers out there, ISLE has some good news for you! We'll be continuing the cheese orders throughout the summer! All profits go to support the school. To place your order please email [amherstislandisle@gmail.com](mailto:amherstislandisle@gmail.com) or call/text Chelsea at (613) 888-5726.

GODDEN'S WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE Thanks to 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](mailto: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](http://www.footflats.com) (613 634-1212) Goodman House (waterfront) - 4 bedrooms, 3 bath - available year round

AMHERST ISLAND Welcoming guests for over 30 years. Also, Cottage Rentals and Godden Sausage sales. Call Susie @ 613-389-2012

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

RAWLEIGH PRODUCTS Serving your family with pride since 1889. Catalogues available. To place an order call Marie Ward at 613 389-5767 or email: [bandmward@xplornet.ca](mailto:bandmward@xplornet.ca)

Volunteers needed at The Back Kitchen

Hey!

Know what's hotter than a humidex of 38 degrees? The feeling in your heart when you've done some volunteer work for The Back Kitchen.

I can't say enough about the folks who have helped us get this far into the season. We couldn't have done it without you. Through the lunch rushes, designing and executing menu specials, to the supply pickups, taking the garbage to the dump, getting the front lawn looking beautiful and keeping it that way, we would be nowhere without all the people who give their time to The Back Kitchen!

Thank you!

Yesterday (Sunday) was officially the half-way point in the BK's 2018 season. We've got 83 days to go. That will pass so quickly, but there's also a lot more work to be done.

Please, if you have time, consider coming by the BK and signing up for a shift. If you are going into town and can do a pickup, please drop me an email or call the restaurant (613-389-1005) and ask what you can grab for us, if you've got an idea for a Sunday dinner we'd love to have you. If you can pick up garbage on your way by on a Wednesday, or weekend, we would be oh, so grateful!

Again, I say thank you to everyone who has given their time to the BK so far this year! Without the support of this community on both sides of the counter this endeavour wouldn't be able to thrive like it has been.

*Terry*





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## The Simplistic Goal of Joy

By Anthony Gifford

Every second we change – at least a portion of our bodily cells change, and experience changes our brains and feelings. Every minute, hour, day, year, we become something new. And much of us dies. We shouldn't brag about being Constant, if we're wise. Only a true fool denies change

My spiritual journey is just that, a changing and winding path that is often a 'hoot' to look back on. Over the years it has become increasingly simple. Now it is easily stated in an echo of a phrase attributed to Jesus, "My goal is that you may experience my joy. May my joy be within you as God's Joy is within me."

To Albert Einstein, the rock-bottom question was "Is the Universe a 'good' or an 'evil' place, or do we exist with no morals or purpose? In his experience, he knew that it was 'Good'. JOY is good, if it brings no evil. Humour is Holy. This has become how I see the world: if something brings tears, don't do or support it. If it brings laughter and joy, it is Holy and Good. It's as simple as that.

Instead of a God/Forgiveness of Sin vs. Devil/Heaven and Hell scenario, I find it much more helpful to use a 'laughter-gage to check for things deeply spiritual. If it doesn't make me smile, it doesn't hold me for long.

This is brought to mind again as I watch one of the most 'Holy' of TV shows, *Just For Laughs – Gags*. How can we not be better-off in every way after watching this? The show (even re-runs) brings out all that is good and possible in our humanity - crosses all races and boundaries. It makes fun of all that is traditional and small, bringing out the 'bigness' and wonderfully positive and common

traits of all people.

When I get discouraged by the 'big picture' of the many ways we're hiding and increasingly lonely, this show is often a needed and easy 'fix'. Where most of standard TV fare brings me down, this is truly an upper.

For each of us, it's good to identify those places that feed us and help us keep our heads together. What brings you JOY? What fills your 'barrel' so to enable you to fill and help others? What people build you up and what others (even 'friends') suck it out of you? If we don't see to it that we grow in LOVE and JOY, why live anymore? As long as we're changing anyway, we might as well change for the good, for our good, for the good of those around us and even, the Universe.

Anthony Gifford, still trying to 'feed the Good Wolf'.

Thanks.



Photo by Brian Little

People of Amherst Island



Ali McCormack by Brian Little  
Ian Murraya by Brian Little  
Archer McGinn by Valerie Wolfreys  
Kiki Sudds at Carboard Wars by Brian Little





**Jack Little by Brian Little**

**Jane Grace by Roxanne Guttin**

**Peter Large at Carboard Wars by Roxanne Guttin**

**Leah Murray by Brian Little**







**Jacob, Boudicca and Freya**  
**Photo by Erin Leydon**

**Nellie (the lamb) taking Dylan for a walk**  
**Photo by Audra McMullen**

