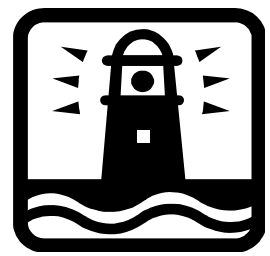


Amherst Island Beacon



Issue 463 There's always another boat. NOVEMBER 2018



Dry Stone Wall Six photo by Stone Wall Canada

Message from the Editor

Judy Bierma

Thanks for the submissions of articles and pictures.
If I forgot anything, please remind me. I will be
putting the Beacon together until May. Please
consider taking over for me then.

November Beacon Table of Contents

Message from the Editor	1
November Beacon Table of Contents	1
Our Dry Stone Canada Festival.....	2
News from ISLE	5
Janet's Jottings.....	7
Advertisements	8
Upcoming Events	9

Our Dry Stone Canada Festival

By Sally Bowen

Our Dry Stone Canada Festival built 120 feet of rock wall, bordering our laneway and barnyard, at the end of September.



Lauraellen camp to play the harp.

Photo by Sally Bowen

To prepare for it, Jake hauled about 12 tonnes of rock, thanks to loans of equipment from McCormick Construction and Battlefield Equipment Rental. Every single stone, limestone or gift-of-the-glaciers granite came from our fields, previously cleared by our ancestors. Generous donations from Island connected people and companies really helped.

The Back Kitchen and The Lodge on Amherst Island were wholehearted supporters, as was Audra McMullen, Andrea Cross and Bonnie Livingstone. Between them and our neighbours, we feasted and accommodated 92 students, wallers, and their families. MacKinnon Brothers Brewing kept the beer flowing.

Dry Stone Canada were terrific organizers, planners and helpers. Great folks.

Support from Home Hardware in Odessa and Napanee, BGM Metalworks and from Lafarge was greatly appreciated. The event couldn't have happened without a significant grant from the government of Ontario Trillium Foundation and from Miller Thompson Advocates from their food program, and Value Sciences Investment Counsel for sponsoring international guests from Ireland, Scotland, and England as well as the U.S. Shirley

Miller helped with donations of art for sale, and another Islander gave us money for tee shirts. We are grateful to them and to our local MP, Mike Bossio, neighbouring county Lennox and Addington and Lion's Club, Odessa, for donations. Loyalist Township gave us ferry and dump tickets.

That infusion of generosity, of enthusiasm buoyed us up tremendously.

The Festival Weekend, September 29 – 30 was a gigantic success. It was opened by an indigenous ceremony, acknowledging we aren't the owners of the land, just the caretakers now, and that the grandmother and grandfather stones were choosing to help. The wall seemed to "jes' grew like Topsy" as students worked with experienced wallers. The joys of reunion sparked the energy that flowed with individually-shaped, occasionally lichen-covered rocks found their perfect fit. "A rock is an unemployed stone" say the wallers. Troubadours entertained, vendors were popular as were display tents for Dry Stone Canada, The Ontario Sheep Farmers Association, and a 'thanks to the following' tent. A Kid's Walling Workshop area was safe and extremely popular.

When you come to the farm, take a look at the details of the stones outlining the magnificent bench and its backing. Check out the interplay between round and flat stones. Admire the artistry in the curve of the wall.



Dry Stone Wall Seven Photo by Stone Wall Canada

Thanks to everyone who helped us, and who came to visit and to enjoy the party.



Above
Dry Stone Wall Three
Photo by Stone Wall Canada

Middle
Something less permanent
by amateur waller
Photo by Stone Wall Canada

Lower
Nathan and Nelly demonstrating pass-
through.
Photo by Stone Wall Canada



Preparation Work – 12 Tones of Rock by Sally Bowen



Younger wallers learning the craft.



**Andrea Cross and Sophie Kiwala
Photo by Brian Little**

Amherst Island BEACON Issue 463, November 2018
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Submission Deadline 25th of mth

Provided via:
Amherstisland.on.ca/Beacon
and its webmaster Alex Scott

News from ISLE

The 2018-19 school year has begun, and so have ISLE's fundraising endeavours. Founded in 1978, ISLE (Island School Liaison Enthusiasts) is a group comprised of community members, parents and teaching staff whose goal is to offer financial assistance for extra-curricular activities (such as field trips and theatrical productions among other things). Last year, your support helped us provide the students with the cost of school buses for various trips, theatrical productions, art supplies, special lunches, outdoor playground equipment and more. We appreciate everything that this community does to help us help the students. Below is a summary of endeavours that are spearheaded by ISLE, and supported by our generous Island community.

T-shirts

At the end of last school year, ISLE had launched a new line of Island tee shirts for sale at pop-up locations, as well as the Weasel and Easel. We have heard that our t-shirts have gone to various locations including Nunavut, BC, Sarnia, Newfoundland, Indiana and England! The last of the summer stock will be for sale at the Weasel and Easel during the Christmas Shopping weekend on November 17th. Look for new stock arriving next summer. Thanks to all who supported this fundraiser by purchasing and proudly wearing an Island tee!

Cheese

A huge THANK YOU to all of you who continue to purchase your cheese from us. Just through our cheese fundraiser, we can provide the students with the cost of buses for such things as traveling to the Outdoor Education Centre, theatrical productions, as well as end of year field trips. Wilton cheese has been an ongoing fundraising endeavour for many years now. Each month we offer cheese from Wilton Cheese Factory for sale to Island residents. Cheese is ordered monthly, picked up fresh in the morning and delivered to the school for evening pickup. You receive local cheese at a factory rate (less than the grocery store), and the profits go to support the students at Amherst Island Public School. Ordering is as easy as emailing or phoning. And now cheese is available year-round. We also take monthly standing orders, so you only have to order once per year. If you would like to be on our monthly email list - which sends out an order and pickup reminder (2 emails per month), let us know at amherstislandisle@gmail.com or by phoning 613.888.5726.

Magazines - Get your Renewal Code

Last year, our Fall fundraiser involved the sale of magazine subscriptions at fantastic discounts. For those of you who are ready for renewal, or who would like to browse titles, simply go to www.qsp.ca and click "Shop", then use the code 5013917 and you will have access to the various titles they offer.

Upcoming - 3rd Annual Christmas Tree, Wreath and Planter Event

Over the past 2 holiday seasons, we have offered Christmas trees, wreaths, and planters for sale to island residents. The trees are beautiful Nova Scotia balsam firs, ranging from 6 to 9 feet, and have had rave reviews from those who have purchased in the past. The wreaths come with a simple red bow, or you can choose a decorated option (with decorations hand-made by the AIPS students). Additionally, a hot seller (in limited quantities) have been the planters, which are hand-made by students from Kindergarten to Grade 8.

Look for a flyer coming in your mail after Remembrance Day, which will outline the options and prices. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we would love for you to be a part of it! Thank you to all of you for everything you do to support our endeavours and the students of Amherst Island Public School.



Maeve and Anna enjoying a game of chess with the new life-sized chess pieces purchased this year

Community Senior's Christmas Dinner

Saturday December 1, 2018

Arrive at 4:00, dinner at 5:00

More information to follow

Christmas Shopping

ON AMHERST ISLAND

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17 & SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2018

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BAZAAR

Saturday ONLY 10am-2pm
Community Centre (Public School)
Free Admission. Hot lunch 11am-1pm \$5 (<age13 \$3).
Bake sale, crafts, book & treasures tables.
Raffle & silent auction.

WEASEL & EASEL

Saturday 10am-4pm, Sunday 1-4pm
5220 Front Road (in Neilson Store Museum)
Fine art, photography, pottery, quilting, weaving,
jewellery, handcrafts, Shane's Apiary Honey (from
Island hives) & Christmas items. Tax Free.

CHRISTOPHER LAFFIN'S STUDIO

Saturday ONLY 10am-4pm
4950 Front Road
Realistic paintings and drawings.

LARGE & MALONEY STUDIO

Sunday ONLY 10am-4pm
9820 Front Road
Fine art & photography.

SHIRLEY MILLER'S STUDIO

Saturday & Sunday 10am-4pm
4505 Second Concession
Local fine art.

TOPSY FARMS WOOL SHED

Saturday & Sunday 10am-4pm
14775 Front Road West
Wool bedding, blankets, throws, comforters, mattress
pads & pillows. Yarn & handcrafted wool products.
Washable sheep & lamb skins, sheepskin mitts and
slippers. Fresh frozen lamb cuts.
Amherst Island Raw Honey. We pay the tax.



www.facebook.com/XmasOnAmherstIsland



Our first Snowy this season

By Woody Woodiwiss

The Autumnal time of year is such a joy to walk or stroll through the many wonderful birding sites on Amherst Island. The shorelines share a wealth of sandpipers, herons, swans, ducks and gulls while the marshes and wetlands are inhabited by rails, coots and ducks of an amazing variety. You can drive quiet roads (except at boat time) and scan hayfields and meadows for the migrating grassland birds such as: Meadowlarks, Starlings, a few late warblers and flocks of mixed blackbirds. These same fields usually present the birder with a wonderful chance to view and compare the many raptors that visit our island. This year is different from the past two years. Keith Miller, who is a man kind enough to survey the local vole population for me, has informed me that there are an abundance of “microtus pennsylvanicus” which are like Happy Meals to our raptor population. This tells me that the raptors will find food when they and the owls return to our Island in November. I am already seeing Snowy Owls, five reported, Short-eared owls thanks to Dan Wolfreys, numerous Northern Harriers patrolling the fields, supported by Keith Miller. Birding groups have spotted American Kestrels and a Cooper’s Hawk and Susan Filson reported a Saw-whet Owl. A Great Horned Owl was seen and rescued by Barb

Filson and Susan Filson. Turkey Vultures are circling and riding the thermals high above the Island. Perhaps it is the cruising Northern Harrier with that white rump flash that catches your eye. They have nested successfully on the pasture lands on Amherst in other years and seem to have been very successful this year. The male Northern Harrier has pale grey wings and back with black wing tips and a longer tail. His under parts are white and he is smaller than the female. The female Northern Harrier shows the same white rump patch but is brown above, white below with lots of brown streaking on the breast and flanks. The young are cinnamon brown below and resemble the female. They have streaking on the upper breast and will gradually fade to a creamy buff breast by spring. Harriers are low level hunters and cruise back and forth across a field in a leisurely manner, only to drop suddenly on unsuspecting prey. They are 43 to 58 cm (17 to 23 inches) in body length and have a wingspan of 97 to 122 cm. (38 to 48 inches) in length.

Anytime this month I would expect the Rough-legged Hawks to appear. They are 21 inches in length, a wingspan of 53 inches and weigh 2.2 lb. They are mottled brown on the back with a white tail showing a dark band on the trailing edge. Their heads are lighter than the rest of the body and across their lower belly is a dark belly band. One birder gave me an interesting clue to help me tell them from the local Red-tailed Hawk when you can just see the back. The Red-tailed Hawk looks like it’s wearing a “hoodie” and the Rough-legged Hawk looks like it’s wearing a “sweatshirt”. When the Rough-legged hawk soars it can stay in one place, hovering as it hunts. Then you can see dark wrist patches part way along its wing. Red-tailed Hawks are 19 inches long, have a wing span of 49 inches and weigh 2.4 lb. Red-tailed hawks do not always have red tails as this characteristic comes as it ages. Just to make identification more interesting the Rough-legged Hawk comes in a dark phase where it is chocolate brown all over and doesn’t show the wrist patches but instead a two-toned under wing. We will be watching for them as they migrate south, riding the northwest winds down from the Arctic Tundra hoping to feed and rest on Amherst Island. Recently a Red-tailed Hawk took Nathan Townend’s reference to Free Range Chickens as FREE and helped himself to a delectable chicken dinner. Here on the island the farmers have allowed the

hedgerows to remain and these are such a wealth of habitat for nesting and feeding birds as well as other wildlife. This time of year, the hawthorns, scrub trees and Prickly Ash may be filled with twittering Kinglets, both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned. Kinglets are about 10-11 cm. (4 to 4 1/4 inches) in size and are busy feeding on late fall insects as they prepare to migrate on to warmer southern climates. A few have been known to stay into the winter. They will be heaviest in migrating numbers in late October. The Golden-crowned shows a black and orange striped head and two wing bars, the Ruby-crowned rarely shows its red head patch but does exhibit a prominent white eye-ring. Watch for these little fellows along the Marshall Forty-foot or in the brushy ravine on the west side of the Lower Forty-foot. American Tree Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos are feeding and twittering in every brushy patch and pile. They will stay with us for awhile, flocking along the roadsides.

Please keep on telling, phoning and reporting interesting bird sightings as that helps us all to better understand and enjoy our feathered friends.



Photo by Woody Woodiwiss

Advertisements

COMPUTER REPAIR/UPGRADES, new installs, virus/Malware removal. Island References. Bruce MacCrimmon – 613 453-0505
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 Rent: Room with kitchen privileges. Features include private bath, private TV room, excellent home gym and unlimited Wifi. Call Dave at 613 530 4859.

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; 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

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

LOCAL WILTON CHEESE AT FACTORY PRICES FROM ISLE

Each month ISLE offers cheese from Wilton Cheese Factory for sale to Island residents. Cheese is ordered monthly, picked up fresh in the morning and delivered to the school for evening pickup. Look for a flyer this month which will include varieties and

prices.

To order or for info, contact us at 613.888.5726 or by email at amherstislandisle@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

From Deb Barrett

Sunday November 4

2:00 am Daylight Savings Time ends "Fall backward"

Tuesday November 6 at the Museum

7:00 pm Annual General Meeting of the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre Museum

Sunday November 11 at the Cenotaph by the AI Community Centre

10:30 Assemble for the Remembrance Day Service

Sunday November 11 at the Museum

2:00 to 4:00 pm Susan Pasternak's story "1918 - The Boy Soldier from Hillier"

Set to music and tells the incredible story of 13 year old boy soldier Robert Clarence Thompson

Monday November 12 at the Municipal Offices in Odessa

7:00 pm Final Meeting of the Outgoing Loyalist Municipal Council

Wednesday November 14 at the Museum

7:00 pm Annual General Meeting of Amherst Island Radio (CIAI)

Saturday November 17 at the AI Community Centre

10:00 am to 2:00 pm St. Paul's Lunch and Sale. Lunch begins at 11. Find books, treasures, silent auction, baked goods, treats, great soup and pie!!

Saturday November 17 and Sunday November 18

Christmas Shopping on Amherst Island. Artists and Artisans Galleries, Topsy Farms, Weasel and Easel open! See

www.facebook.com/XmasonAmherstIsland

Wednesday November 21 at The Museum

7:00 pm Women's Institute Monthly Meeting
Guests and visitors welcome. Please contact Andrea Cross if you would like to attend.



Photos by Brian Little





Faces of Amherst Island
Photos by Brian Little



Photos by Brian Little



Photos by Woody Woodiuss

