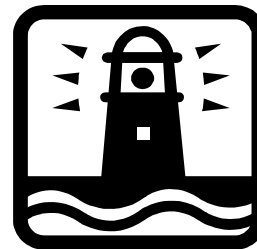


Amherst Island Beacon



Issue 465 There's always another boat. JANUARY 2019

Words from the Editor

By Judy Bierma

We are using The Beacon as a journal or newsletter of what is happening and what has happened and what will happen on the Island. It is for anyone interested in Island Happenings and what the people related to or living on the Island are doing and want to share with friends and family. It is only as good as what people submit so please feel free to send pictures and articles about what you are doing, events on the Island, people pictures, landscape pictures, poems, thank you's, ads, etc. If you miss the deadline don't worry send it anyway and it'll get in the next months. I try to send the submissions to David Pickering on the last Monday of the month and he puts it together and sends it out electronically. Please feel free to print it for your family and friends. Joan prints it for mom. My mom is the main reason I am doing this. She loves the Beacon. Every time I visited her she would ask when the next Beacon was coming out. Everyone in Adair Residence, where she lives, waits to read it and I am soooooo I started it up again. Please tell other people that it is on amherstisland.on.ca and that David has downloaded all the archived Beacons from the beginning of The Beacon there too, so you can go back through time. I am hoping to have someone take over for me in May. That will be a year that I have done it. Let's share the fun of keeping The Beacon going. I would like some children from the school to send in submissions. I don't get any news from the school and would very much like some. Thanks to all the organizations that send submissions and the people who send articles and pictures. I would also like a monthly update on CIAI and I'm working on getting someone to do that. Can you think of anything else you would like to see covered in The Beacon? I do take pics and text off Facebook with the Facebook submitter's permission.



I need someone to help me set up an email list to send out to people to notify them that the Beacon is out. We also notify people on Amherst Island Facebook Page. I have had two people ask me about the email notification. Hope you had a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Hanukah. Give me some feedback. My email is judybierma@gmail.com.

January Beacon Table of Contents

Words from the Editor	1
Merry Christmas from:	2
Passings	4
Loaves and Fishes Lunch	4
Susan Filson the Radio Broadcaster	4
Udder Morning / 150 Years of History Shows	5
Greetings from Mary Lou and Ellis Wolfreys	5
Studio Stories on Amherst Island Radio.....	5
Welcome to 2019! Happy New Year!	6
Revisiting Special Moments:	8
Goodbye from your Recreation Association.....	9
Buy a TREE – The Back Kitchen Fundraiser.....	9
AIMS Minutes	9
Christmas Pot Luck for the WI of AI	10
Ontario Government proposes hunting season for Cormorants.....	10
Lots of Deer	11
Councilman Townend.....	11
Dear friends and neighbours.....	12
Thankyou to a Local Sheep Farmer	14
Back Kitchen Fund Raising	14
Thank you	15
It's Our Moving Day.....	15
Hello Amherst Islanders, from Isobel	15
Calendar Updates.....	16
Thank you from Dry Stone Canada	16
Activities at Topsy Farms.....	19
The stress of living a Half Christmas	19
Birthdays.....	20
From Africa to Amherst Island	21
Snowy Owl Outing	21
SAVE THIS DATE	22

CAVOTEC automated mooring selected..... 23

Special Meals 23

Island in the Past..... 24

Christmas Bird Count 28

Island Friends..... 29

Advertisements..... 33

Merry Christmas from:



Talia Fleming



Cora McGinn's greatgrandchildren
Photo by Trish McGinn



Andrea Cross and Molly Stroyman



All seven from Danielle Kennedy



Leve Rosey Findlay, Susan Richardson, Carl McCrosky by Judy Bierma



**Lynn and Larry Fleming's grandson. Ice cream tastes better by the Christmas tree.
Photo by Lynn Fleming**



5 generations Carter Brown, Leslie Madden, Joan Simpson, Helena Bierma and Doris Robey



Santa and our granddaughters from Judy Bierma and Anthony Gifford



**Grandchildren of Janice and Eric McGinn.
Children of Angie and Ryan McGinn.
Proof that the kids have more fun with the box.
Photo by Eric McGinn**



Passings

It is with sadness that we report the passings of Cherry Allen and Charles Plank (Snr). Additional information on these two friends will be provided in next month's issue.

Loaves and Fishes Lunch

Once again, Janet Scott is hosting a Wednesday lunch at her home during the winter months. From noon until 2 PM, 350 3rd Conc welcomes everyone for a simple lunch of soup, sandwiches, and whatever the friends in the kitchen can prepare to help those who might not get out as often when the snow flies. Rides to and from can be arranged. Please call Janet at 613 389 4608 so we know how many to prepare for, but all are welcome.



A couple of elves visited the Udder Morning Show at CJAI. Photo by Janet Scott

Susan Filson the Radio Broadcaster

From Susan Filson

I was a radio broadcaster for what I think is about 7 years, as co-host with Dayle Gowan, the station manager, on the Monday morning "Udder Morning Show". It was and is a three hour program which repeats again in its entirety in the afternoon and the half hour birding segment repeats again on

Saturdays. To be referred to as a radio broadcaster is very special because in my wildest dreams, I never imagined myself doing that. I came in as a guest with Dayle Gowan one Monday morning in December to talk about and play some of my favourite Christmas music and I was so nervous about the idea of talking in front of a mic. I guess I did fine, as Dayle asked me if I would like to continue to come in with him going forward and something in me decided that I would. Dayle took me under his wing and mentored me and I felt very comfortable until it was time for Dayle to go South after Christmas and I would be on my own. Again, I was nervous, but it went fine and Keith Miller always made himself available to fill in with me when Dayle was away.

We played a lot of country music and Dayle and I would joke about it, that Dayle was not that fond of it, but he had no choice as I was always in the station before him and had it all lined up. There was usually a theme for the music, but we also had a lot of talk time. Very often we talked for 2 out of the 3 hours and we enjoyed doing live interviews or telephone interviews. I learned a lot because I researched many subjects and thank goodness for the internet. We tried to keep the show light and happy since there is enough bad news out there, and Dayle often did the Udder Morning news which was about silly things that happened in the world.

I was on the board of directors for a number of years, as secretary and I was able to keep my fingers on the pulse of what made CJAI tick. Dayle and I were very involved in the spring fundraiser for a number of years and there is one in particular that comes to mind. We had a friend, Jim who had race horses in harness racing, and one of his horses, "Big Jim" was a big winner that was boarded out for stud service after retiring. He offered a breeding to the station for our fundraiser and I was not quite sure what to do about that. We ran with it and it brought

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

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Submission Deadline 25th of mth

Provided via:

Amherstisland.on.ca/Beacon
and its webmaster Alex Scott

\$3,000 to the station. He offered it for the next year, but sadly Jim, the owner, passed away in the interim. In summary, I so enjoyed working with Dayle Gowan, and I use the word working loosely because we had so much fun doing it and seemed to click without rehearsing or too much planning. We just let each other know what guests we would like to have on and the date and time. Thank you Dayle for believing in me and allowing me to be a radio broadcaster which was never ever on my bucket list.

Udder Morning / 150 Years of History

From Janet Scott

On Monday, December 3rd. Keith Miller, due to a severe case of "Hunting Flu," was unable to co-host the Udder Morning Show so I asked Susan Filson if she could help me out. Not only did she agree to co-host but asked if she could play some Christmas Music. I was thrilled to have her help and we all know how much she loves holidays and props.

The same week our station manager asked me to do an interview with Sue Meech at Sandy Pines because she had a pair of injured Mute Swans as patients at the rehabilitation centre. Sue was far too busy at present to make the trip over between 7:00 and 10:00 AM but suggested she do a telephone interview as she had done before with Dayle Gowan on the radio. I was seeking help with the technical side of a telephone interview when Susan informed me that Dayle was coming home for Christmas and had agreed to do the interview. How wonderful it was to see the former hosts of the Udder Morning Show reunited for the morning. We had a great morning on CJAi and a very successful interview.

If you are looking for a great idea for a charity gift for a Christmas present, please consider Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre, 8749 Cnty Rd 2, Napanee, ON.

Greetings from Mary Lou and Ellis Wolfreys

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL. This year, I'll try to get my letter out more promptly. It has been a challenge for me at times. Not enough hours in a day sometimes. I also must tell you that I messed up last week on the date for the replay. Dayle likely thought I was out of my mind, but he did do what he thought was best, and it worked out, I think. Hope you all had a great Christmas, and you all have a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. Thank You All for a great 2018, in respect of our Radio Programs. Very Much Appreciated.



Studio Stories on Amherst Island Radio

By Lynn Wyminga

I know a lot of creative people living here and beyond our shores, and I love hearing about how people got started, their creative process, and their work. And our volunteer-run radio station (CJAi 92.1FM) is always looking for new shows to fill the local (and online) airwaves. So I thought it might be fun to do an interview show with a different artist or artisan on every other week. I mostly interview people in their studios, so the name Studio Stories works. The show is pre-recorded, which believe me is a blessing, because invariably during every interview I get so caught up in my guest's answers that I forget my questions, and there are some awkward pauses. Editing is my friend. We did have one live interview with CJAi Hall of Famer and photographer Brian Little, who makes it easy on us newbies. Currently Studio Stories has 14 episodes, with travels around the island (artist Shirley Miller; Mayo Underwood's claypen; blacksmith Paul Cuyler; artist Susan Friesen; photographer Brian Little; artist Chris Laffin; artist Peter Large & photographer Margaret Maloney); to Kingston (Annette Willis, rogue quilt builder of Chasing Lightning Bugs; painter Rhéni Tauchid; Sarah Hamelin of Caboose Co ceramics; Ronnie Lloyd of Sable Dog Paddles); the County (artists Barb Hogenauer & Terry Culbert); Toronto (abstract watercolourist Vera Bobson); and a phone interview to Cambridge (Joanne Jones of Mined reCreations). We talk beginnings, process, working, studio, influences and more. And the feedback I get from

my guests is, “That was fun!” I agree. We have a ton of fun, and listeners tell us they enjoy it, too. There is one more interview “in the can” but it was done in my truck on my way to take visiting Irish dry stone waller and artist Louise Fisher to her train after the Dry Stone Canada Festival at Topsy Farms, and the sound quality is very bad at times. I’m not sure whether to keep it or not, but it’s a great interview, so I’m tempted to just post it despite the terrible noise. Each episode has its own page on the Amherst Island Radio website at www.cjai.ca/studiostories or www.cjai.ca/category/almost-live-shows/studiostories/ with photos of our guest’s work, links and info. I hope to do some more interviews in 2019, but for now you can get caught up on all of the shows using the archives at <https://www.cjai.ca/podcast-main/StudioStories/>. Truth be told, I rarely listen to the radio these days, but I subscribe to podcasts, so I made Studio Stories into iTunes < <http://bit.ly/StudioStoriesCJAI> > and GooglePlay < <http://bit.ly/studiostories-on-gp> > podcasts. If podcasts are your thing, please subscribe.



Please listen to Lynn Wyminga at CJAI FM, 92.1 on your dial. Show airs at 1 pm on Fridays and 2 pm on Sundays. (Also available in podcasts.)

Welcome to 2019! Happy New Year!

From Eric Tremblay CJAI President

2018 was an amazing year for Amherst Island Radio. We had many highlights this year:

- Reaching our 12th birthday on April 1st
- Raising over \$12,000 in May

- Performing a \$7,000 upgrade to the internal computer system
- Signing Spearhead Brewing as a major sponsor (2 year deal worth \$5,000)
- Installing a new \$15,000 transmitter, and
- Surpassing our 2017 record for number of live broadcasting hours/week!

Wow! And we did all this as a team of volunteers - that’s impressive!

What does 2019 have in store for us? More good stuff we hope! As a Team, we need to keep doing what we are doing, because we are really succeeding. We’ve got some challenges ahead this year too:

- Rebuilding our financial “nest egg” after all the 2018 upgrades
- Signing more sponsors to the \$700/year advertising package (contact me if you have a business that is interested)
- Continuing to grow our Volunteer Team, and
- Continuing to work towards finding a new place on the Island to re-locate the broadcasting studios and the transmission tower.

Together we can do it!

Also, since it’s now January, it’s time to start thinking about the 2019 Annual Fundraising drive in May. YES - we always plan early! Let’s do two things right now:

1. We need a small number of volunteers to form the core Fundraising Organizing Committee. These individuals will take the lead in defining and organizing all the tasks required to successfully undertake our week-long fundraising activity in May. As a large Team we supported this small Fundraising Executive Committee as best as possible as they make decisions and assign tasks. If you are interested in being on the Fundraising Organizing Committee, please let me know. The first meeting will be in the next 2 weeks.
2. It’s time to start finding auction items and prizes for use during the May fund drive. Over the last several years, as a Team we have put information into a shared sheet to document the prizes that we secure as well as to document the businesses that we ask. (We don’t want to ask the same business repeatedly, so it’s important to document the ask in the sheet so we don’t become pests.)

Again, Happy New Year to you and thank you for everything that you do to sustain Amherst Island Radio as the region’s best independent radio station (and the most fun too!).

Prime Time Schedule

6AM-Midnight

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6am		Island Folk	Island Folk	Island Folk	Island Folk	Island Folk	Island Folk
7am	Classical	Udder Morning Show (Live)	Bluegrass	Rise and Shine (Live)	Island Sunrise Show (Live)	Friday Morning Show (Live)	Sally's Books
8am							Carbon and the City (Repeat)
9am	Bach's Sacred Gifts		Spiral Groove (Repeat)				
10am	Broadway SoundTrack	Cheesemaker's Daughter (Live)	Oldies and Goodies (Live)	That's Life (Live)	A Cappella to Zither (Live)	Sam's Jams	A Cappella to Zither (Repeat)
11am	Sally's Books						
Noon	Carbon and the City (Live)	I Like To Move It, Mondays (Live)	Tales from the Tarpit (Live)	Jazz Jim's Vault	Tickling Ivories		Canadian Jazz Jim's Vault
1pm				Believe (Live)	Birding		
2pm	Studio Stories					Studio Stories	Birding
3pm	Wolf's Den (Repeat)	Udder Morning Show (Repeat)	Funraising (Live)	Wolf's Den (Live)	Island Sunrise Show (Repeat)	Friday Morning Show (Repeat)	Deconstructing Dinner
4pm							Rendez-Vous de la Francophonie
5pm			Cheesemaker's Daughter (repeat)	Sam's Jams	Overtones (Live)	Eastern Ontario Playlist	Spiral Groove (Live)
6pm	Believe (Repeat)	Stonebeach Permaculture (Live)				Beacon Librivoix	
7pm	Sunday Nights (Live)	Geek Positive Radio (Live)	Tuned Up (Live)	Mixed Tape (Live)	Sam's Jams	Friday Night Show (Live)	Saturday Night Barn Burner (Live)
8pm							
9pm	Overtones (Repeat)	Eastern Ontario Playlist	Scott Jackson Show		Classical		
10pm		Radio Moo Canadian	Radio Moo Canadian	Rise and Shine (Repeat)	Scott Jackson Show	Radio Moo Canadian	Radio Moo Canadian
11pm	Celtic				Radio Moo Canadian	Friday Night Show (Repeat)	Saturday Night Barn Burner (Repeat)

Last Updated: 14 Dec 2018



Shirley Miller, Painter

Many years of school bus driving taught me that every day ordinary places that I had passed morning and night for many years could suddenly be spectacular because of the sun, a storm or the season. Special moments can happen anywhere and a camera let me take them home. If I got excited enough, a painting would happen and sometimes a poem as well. I often say "if you aren't excited how can you expect your viewer to be excited".

"I could always draw. David Wick came to the Island in the early 1970s with a night school class in watercolours, it is there I learned about real paint and paper and brushes. I have been painting ever since and had my first show in 1979. I started teaching friends about painting, but I think I have learned the most." - Shirley Miller, Artist

Revisiting Special Moments:

A Retrospective With Artist Shirley Miller

February 19th at 7:00pm

97 Thomas Street East, Napanee

It's a special edition of 'Tuesday Night at the Museum' at the Lennox & Addington County Museum & Archives in Napanee! On February 19th at 7pm, artist Shirley Miller will present her new exhibit entitled Revisiting Special Moments: A Retrospective.

Shirley is a long time resident of Amherst Island, many of her art pieces reflect the life of the island, friends, and family. Over 20 pieces of her work will be displayed at the museum from February 4 – April 6, 2019.



Admission is only \$3 and tickets are available at the door. 'Tuesday Night at the Museum' is a monthly feature at the L&A County Museum & Archives, located at 97 Thomas Street East in Napanee. For more information about a wide array of programming at the Museum & Archives, please visit www.CountyMuseum.ca or call 613-354-3027.

Buy a TREE – The Back Kitchen Fundraiser

From Sarah Vanstone

Just one month left to buy trees through the Back Kitchen fundraiser! Orders must be in by the end of January.

Visit thebackkitchen.com to get more information and to link to the online order website. Or pick up an order form at the General Store.

The trees will be delivered to the island at the end of April. These bare root trees are between 6 and 9 feet in height. Previous orders received from this nursery have been larger than the minimum and of very good quality.

Don't miss this opportunity to beautify your place and support the community café!

Goodbye from your Rec Assoc'n

Rick, Larry and Lynn

The Amherst Island Recreation Association would like to relay our thanks and our sincerest appreciation for the good will and the undying support we have received during the more than 25 years that we have had the privilege of serving the community. We have enjoyed every moment of that time; in fact, it has been an important part of our lives.

However, all good thing must come to an end. Therefore, as of January 1st, 2019 we will cease all operations.

We would very much like to pass this opportunity on to someone else. It's time for new and fresh ideas. So, if any individuals or groups in the community have an interest in taking over and continuing the Recreation Association, or some or all of our events and commitment, we would like to hear from you.

Our fund raising efforts throughout the year all go toward Canada Day. This includes the fireworks, flags in the Village, a free hotdog and drink for everyone, among other things. We are happy to pass on information, advise and help with the transition to new members, or a new group.

If you or your group are interested, please get in touch with one of us. Again, **many thanks** for the support we have received over the years.

Rick Bedford (613 389 8434) or Lynn or Larry

Fleming (fleming.48@hotmail.com)



While the Open Studio date has passed, Lynn says, "Just email lynnskids@gmail.com or call/text 343-989-1550 to set up another time. 8790 Front Road. Lots of hats, dryer balls, some ornaments, and clearance on the tea & coffee cosies!"



AIMS Minutes

By David McGinn

14 community minded men sat down to a full breakfast provided by Beth Forester and Jill and Anna Walhout (ISLE).

David Pickering reported that our finances were in good shape.

Moved by Dayle and seconded by Brian that the November minutes be accepted. Carried

Kirk Corkery generously agreed to be our secretary while Hugh is away for four months.

Dayle's request for donating money to help the newly formed Agricultural Society was discussed at

great length. Mark Raymond moved that AIMS support the newly reinvigorated AG committee to the tune of \$500.00. carried.

Hubert Groot, Treasurer for the St. Alban's Anglican Church read out the following letter: Gentlemen, You may be aware the St. Alban's has recently started a building fund campaign...There are many repairs needed ... such as the leaking clock tower, reinforcing and repairing the beautiful stained glass windows.

We hope that AIMS will be able to add to our building fund to help us ensure that this historic building and one of the jewels of the Island can be preserved for future generations.

Your help will be greatly appreciated not only by St. Alban's, but by all Islanders who take pride in the Island's history. Richard Lapointe and Dave McGinn volunteered to help Hubert take down the chimney in the Spring.

Moved by Marc Raymond and seconded by David Pickering that we donate \$500.00 to the St. Alban's Church building fund. carried unanimously.

Kirk Corkery's motion to adjourn at 10 AM passed unanimously.

Many individual meeting followed re. the removal of the St. Alban's Church chimney and our Labour Day Auction.

Christmas Pot Luck for the WI of AI

From Sharen English

On Wednesday, Dec. 5th, 2018, 10 members of the club gathered at the home of Liz and Bill McKee, to celebrate Christmas. The house looked gorgeous with a beautiful tree and some decorations on the walls. We all brought an unwrapped toy. Sherri Jensen will take them to an appropriate place for drop off and delivery to a child needing a Christmas gift. The food was splendid at the gathering and we all sat in the living room and talked. It was a very pleasant evening.



Ontario Government proposes hunting season for Cormorants

Double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) populations declined significantly in the Great Lakes from the 1950s to the 1970s primarily due to environmental contaminants affecting reproduction. Their numbers began to increase rapidly from the 1970s to the early 2000s, with the latest information indicating Great Lakes populations have since stabilized or declined slightly.

There continues to be concerns expressed by some groups (commercial fishing industry, property owners) and individuals that cormorants have been detrimental to fish populations, island forest habitats, other species and aesthetics.

To respond to these concerns, the Ministry is proposing to create a hunting season for double-crested cormorants in Ontario. This new population management tool would allow persons who hold a small game licence to hunt these birds.

The following regulatory changes are being proposed to create a hunting season for double-crested cormorants beginning in 2019. We will:

List the double-crested cormorant as a "Game Bird". Hunters would be required to have an outdoors card and small game licence to hunt double-crested cormorants, similar to other species of game birds.

Create an open hunting season for double-crested cormorant from March 15 to December 31 each year across the province.

Create an exemption allowing small game licences to be valid for double-crested cormorant hunting in central and northern Ontario from June 16 to August 31 each year.

Establish a bag limit of 50 cormorants/day with no possession limit.

Prescribe shotgun and shot size/type requirements consistent with migratory bird hunting regulations outlined in the federal Migratory Birds Regulations. This would include use of shotguns that are not larger than 10 gauge, that cannot hold more than three shells and use non-toxic shot as described in the migratory bird regulations.

Allow hunting from a stationary motorboat.

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act currently prohibits anyone who kills game wildlife (including game birds), or who possesses game wildlife killed by hunting, from allowing that meat to spoil. Via this posting, the Ministry is also consulting on a

proposal to amend the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act to add provisions so hunters could allow cormorant to spoil. This proposal would add provisions to the Act, so that persons who lawfully hunt (or possess) cormorants could be exempt from this requirement and would be subject to conditions that require the person to retrieve and dispose of the carcass. Should this proposal proceed, it may be accompanied by regulations to implement the exemption and requirements.

To accompany the proposed hunting seasons, the Ministry will implement a cormorant monitoring program to assess population status and trends. Monitoring of cormorants will allow the Ministry to assess the impacts of the hunting season and to adjust cormorant hunting regulations, if necessary, to address any concerns about population sustainability.



Lots of Deer

From Terry McGinn

We don't let anyone hunt on this 20 acres and I think the word is out! They travel back and forth from the Big Marsh to the marsh behind the house every day, but sometimes they take a few minutes for a snack and to relax in the open yard for a while.

The Beacon congratulates **Nathan Townend** on taking his seat on the Loyalist Township Council.



Nathan Townend being sworn in as Amherst Island representative at the Inauguration meeting of Loyalist Township Council

Photo by Michele Le Lay

Councilman Townend

Your Worship, fellow members of council, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, It is a signal privilege to stand in this assembly.

My family and friends will be able to attest that for me to swear an oath of allegiance to the sovereign as an elected official, within a municipality that bears the name Loyalist, means I could not conceivably be more myself, than I am at this very moment.

My personal affinity for monarchy aside, like my colleagues no doubt, I take seriously the enterprise of rituals such as the taking of this oath. We live in a time where the attendant formality of public ceremony is sometimes regarded as void of substance or even superfluous. But as a former student of religion I am keenly aware of the power behind symbols. A symbol is never, just, a symbol. And so, an oath of allegiance to the sovereign is in reality an oath of allegiance to the institution of The Crown, which is itself the edifice of our constitution, our political way of life. And so this oath embodies a veritable promise to uphold and to honour all that which we hold dear as the heirs of our great democratic establishment.

Sure, the day to day of our business may seem far less grand in scale. But I believe that affirming the larger context for what we do is absolutely necessary, to always remind ourselves of the importance of what we do, and who we do it for. We do not simply return value for money to ratepayers. In our albeit measured way, we imagine, and we

strive to see justice and meaningful prosperity; a better life for those who have entrusted us with their democratic prerogative.

It is by way of such thinking that I stand in complete humility before the good people of Amherst Island who have put me here. Indeed The Island is a distinctive place, with an un-sung but distinguished history, rich in the nobility of its inhabitants, who have, over these past few centuries, built a life amongst its discreet woodlands, on its squall beaten shores, atop its sandy loam, or beneath its murky clay.

Amherst Island has hitherto been served by my venerable predecessor, Duncan Ashley, a man whose career in municipal politics begins and ends in two different centuries, and spans several decades. Much was deservedly said of Duncan during his final meeting on Loyalist Township Council. But additionally I am further, personally grateful to Duncan for his willingness to support me, and gift me his confidence in my endeavor to walk in his footsteps as a voice for Amherst Island.

Duncan's personal support of his successor speaks highly of his own character and altruism, but also stands as a hallmark of how Islanders place a higher value on the integrity of our community.

For whilst an acclamation would in other places potentially indicate apathy, in the case of Amherst Island, with its vibrant citizenry, it is an indication that recent divisions and discord will not prevail in weakening our traditionally robust representation. Put simply, my uncontested elevation to this office is a result I take absolutely no credit for, it is entirely a reflection of Amherst Island's ability to give more or less uniform consent, so as to ensure our voice on council is strong and together going forward.

I vow to defend and strengthen that.

To the people with whom I share the privilege of this office, I extend my hand in sincere friendship. It is my earnest desire to forward the progress of Loyalist Township in a spirit of openness and optimism. I can assure colleagues of my intent to work together wherever possible, and to remain always gracious in moments of disagreement and dissent.

I implore staff to issue patience with my inexperience, and thus to afford me grace in my learning.

I truly look forward to this term, and I humbly submit what I can to the cause of making better this

Township, and speaking boldly for the noble people of my beloved Amherst Island.

Dear friends and neighbours,

By Nathan Townend

Let me begin by wishing everyone a happy and prosperous 2019, and also express my heartfelt gratitude for the kindness and support many of you have conveyed to me as I have taken on the role of Councillor for Ward 1 – Amherst Island, in Loyalist Township. In particular, I would like to personally thank my predecessor Duncan Ashley for availing himself to me as a prized resource of institutional knowledge, experience, and wisdom, not to mention his being a great source of personal encouragement and confidence.

I would like to also take this opportunity to share with you some of my hopes for how we can connect in what promises to be a busy and exciting year.

Loyalist Township Council is currently facing a number of vital decisions around issues ranging from support for a “Sustainable Community Center” to opting in or out of cannabis retail. Immediately following the Christmas break, Council will also be moving quickly into budget season, followed in the spring by a review of the municipality's strategic plan. All of these various issues demand broad public input, and I trust Islanders will lend me their opinions as these items arrive at Council.

On that note, it seems appropriate for me to set the tone for how I hope our communication can unfold in the coming term. From the outset, my preferred method of communication is one on one contact. In my experience, personal interaction maximizes effective sharing of information, and leaves far less room for misunderstanding. Additionally, it provides me with the opportunity to get to know people better – something that makes the job very worthwhile – so I encourage Islanders to take advantage of my weekly office hours which will be held at The Lodge in Stella. The hours will be subject to change seasonally, as farming dictates my day to day work life. Any and all changes will be well advertised, but for now and during the winter months, I will be available between 10 am and 1pm, and again at 5:30pm until 7:30pm every Wednesday at The Lodge. I will also be available by appointment if those times are inconvenient for anyone. Please be encouraged to email or call to set up a date and time to meet.

I am also available by email. I intend to be a reliable

respondent, and for that reason I want to set reasonable expectations for reply, given that I am not always “at my desk” and email volumes can at times be quite high. Therefore, Islanders can expect email responses to their initial correspondence with me within 48 business hours. If anything is time sensitive, I encourage Islanders to call me on my cell.

So, on that note, Islanders can obviously also telephone me. I must declare that farming and cellular devices do not tend to have a compatible relationship, so my phone is often deposited in a safe location and not therefore on my person. So, if my phone goes to voicemail, be assured I do retrieve my messages and, just as with email, I will personally call back within 48 business hours. I would also be very grateful if Islanders would preferably call before 6pm in the evening.

Lastly, there is social media. Admittedly social media is not my preferred method of communication. For one thing, it is incredibly difficult to distill important information and analysis in “status” format. Moreover I have found social media can be a very hostile environment, which is not favourable to constructive debate and discussion on critical issues. Therefore I will graciously decline potential provocations to debate on any and all social media platforms. That said I am aware that social media still presents some key opportunities for limited forms of communication with constituents, and accordingly I will have a Facebook account (separate to my personal account) that I will use to post relevant information and announcements pertaining to Township and Island specific information, events, etc.

I also plan to issue four (quarterly) “reports” per year that will include pertinent highlights from what work has been before Council. However I encourage all Islanders to regularly follow Council agendas and minutes which can be found on the Township’s website.

Lastly, over the course of 2019, I intend to make my way around the Island to personally visit as many groups and individual residents as I can. I feel this is a useful way for me to provide everyone ample opportunity to express their concerns and aspirations to me in a comfortable, open, and confidential way. I will be proactively reaching out to people, but I encourage anyone who would like such a meeting to contact me to set one up, whether it is for you as an individual, a group of friends and neighbours, or a

more formal organization. I enjoy coffee and tea. I also like a beer or a wee dram. Whether you like the formal setting of an office, or the comfort of your own kitchen, I just want to engage meaningfully with YOU, however you are comfortable.

I sincerely hope to make Islanders proud by making a meaningful contribution to the work of progressing Loyalist Township, and likewise to be an attentive and fair representative for Islanders themselves. I look forward to working with you and hearing from you!

Your servant,
Nathan



Congratulations to Anna Townend as well. We all ask your patience in the years to come. Here is Nathan’s wife at the Dry Stone Wall Volunteer Appreciation Party. Photo by Brian Little

Birds of Amherst Island



Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre

Photographs - Sherri Jensen

This wonderful display of Island Birds is available for sale at the Neilson Store. The photos and composition were all done by Sherri Jensen and donated as a fund raiser for our museum. Please contact any of the museum staff if you would like a copy. Rolled prints are \$10.

Thankyou to a Local Sheep Farmer

On Mon. the tenth of December, our PECFN birding group was rescued by a local sheep farmer (didn't get his name) with his huge tractor when we were stuck in a very deep icy water ditch on the Owl Woods road. We would like all of Amherst Island to know how much we appreciated his help and how we feel about the generosity of your fellow Amherst Islanders.

Sandra Dowds

PECFN

Back Kitchen Fund Raising

When you're thinking about what to do with your donation dollars this Christmas. Think local; think impact. Think The Back Kitchen.

The Back Kitchen is a not-for-profit, community-owned, volunteer-led restaurant on Amherst Island that works hard year after year to provide a place for Island residents to meet to eat, to give local students good jobs and skills and training close to home, and to be a positive space and influence in the community.

The Back Kitchen offers catering, sit-in eating, and take-out dining. The Back Kitchen gives local residents who have a recipe they want to bring to the community as a guest chef a place to do so. The Back Kitchen and its volunteers work tirelessly toward these goals and many more all throughout the year.

Amherst Island would not be the same without The Back Kitchen.

This year, we are continuing our capital drive to enhance the kitchen, improve its accessibility, and enable us to purchase the property and building and ensure its continued existence.



Back Kitchen with proposed ramp

**Loyalist Township – Notice of Public Hearing
Monday 14 Jan 2019 at 6 PM**

In the Odessa Municipal Office

The township requests to reduce the flood plain setback from 15 to 10.5 metres and the top bank setback from 15 to 7.7 meters to allow for the erection of a privy at the Sand Beach Area

Thank you

From Peter Wemp's family

We extend our heartfelt thank you to our family, friends and neighbours for their support during the loss of Peter, husband, father, grandfather, brother, son-in-law and uncle. We appreciate the kindness in visits, food, cards, and thoughtful words. Thank you for donations to Heart and Stroke and Amherst Island First Response. Special thanks to Sam for his touching eulogy, Bob, Sam, Kate and Garry, our pallbearers, Nathan and Jason for their music, and Dominic for leading us to the gravesite with his bagpipes. Thank you to Nadene Grieve-Deslippe for her heartwarming service, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church for their welcome and wonderful reception. Our sincere appreciation and thank you to the Amherst Island First Response and the guidance and support of The Wartman Funeral Home.

Suzanne, Lindsay, Sarah, Ann, Bob and families



Farewell to the Sudds Family

It's Our Moving Day

By Bruce Sudds

It's our moving day so I wanted to thank you all for allowing us to be part of this community. It's hard to find a place where people look out for each other and actively show their caring for one another, but we have it here. It had been a long time since I found a community and I fumbled it at times but was always trying to contribute to it and those contributions were accepted and so was I. That meant a great deal to me as I came here a little wounded and I leave here a little better. Thank you. Ellie moved here only knowing life in Toronto and quickly fell in love with the natural world and the energy her peers and elders spent in teaching and playing with her.

Kiki loved her teachers, the staff and her fellow students here. When we dropped her off at school, we always felt so confident that she would be challenged and supported.

Estelle was born here and seems to carry the calm and ease of the island in her.

We refuse to sell our house and we plan to spend as much time as we can here. So, I also refuse to say goodbye, just, see you soon, and one final thank you. A great portion of our hearts will always be here.

Innocence

By Patrick Kavanagh

They laughed at one I loved-
The triangular hill that hung
Under the Big Forth. They said
That I was bounded by the whitethorn hedges
Of the little farm and did not know the world.
But I knew that love's doorway to life
Is the same doorway everywhere.
Ashamed of what I loved
I flung her from me and called her a ditch
Although she was smiling at me with violets.
But now I am back in her briary arms
The dew of an Indian Summer lies
On bleached potato-stalks
What age am I?
I do not know what age I am,
I am no mortal age;
I know nothing of women,
Nothing of cities,
I cannot die
Unless I walk outside these whitethorn hedges.

Hello Amherst Islanders, from Isobel

From Isobel Cummings

My schedule has opened up recently and am available for hire. I am a Red Seal trained Chef with 32 years experience and an Oxford trained (accredited) Sommelier. I previously owned and operated a European Bistro in Toronto, which was sold 3 years ago to come to Kingston. I came here to care for my aging parents.

This past Fall receiving one of the best food reviews of my career on your very own Topsy Farm, I've fallen in love with this island that I now call home.

Below are a few menus for you to peruse through. All ingredients are locally sourced and each menu custom designed to your needs. I love working with wild game ... so perhaps a few hunters would be willing to trade some of their catch.

I am available every weekend (this month) and everyday over the Christmas including New Years.
 I work with German precision and care. Your every need anticipated so you can focus on your guests and family. Your soirée or intimate dinner ultimately everything you've envisioned
 I look forward to hearing from you.

Feast Catering	
By Rutile Cummings	
	
Menu	
Mixed Spring Greens with a Elderberry balsamic dressing	
Or	
Butternut Squash Soup with Pernod	
Beef Wellington in Demi Glaze	
Or	
Slow roasted Beef Tenderloin in a Cipollini Beef Gravy with Horseradish or a Mustard cream sauce	
Or	
Berbere (Ethiopian Spiced) marinated Beef tenderloin with Tandoori Shrimp	
(Starch Side Options to Beef Main Dish)	
Confit Fingering Potatoes with fresh Thyme and roasted Garlic	
Or	
Herbed Butter roasted baby Potatoes	
Or	
Garlic and Truffle Smashed potatoes	
(Vegetable Side Options to Beef Main Dish)	
Italian EVOO & roast garlic drizzled Rapini	
Or	
Oven Roasted Heirloom Carrot and Beet Medley	
Or	
Buttered English Beans	
Wild Blueberry Pavlova	
Or	
Roasted Walnut butter stuffed Crepes on Crème Fraiche	

Remember as days get colder animals are attracted to the warmth of cars so check wheel arches or other hiding places.



Calendar Updates

By Deb Barrett

Sundays January 6, 13, 20, 27

10:30 am Worship at St. Alban's

11:00 am Worship at St. Paul's

Tuesdays January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

9:00 am to Noon Internet Cafe at the Museum

David Pickering invites you to bring your computer, iPad, tablet, PC, and connectivity challenges to the Internet Café. Learn how to set up and use the toys you got for Christmas. You decide what problem you would like to solve. Please donate a toonie to the Museum. Note: No Internet Cafe on New Year's Day. (Hey – there most certainly WAS!)

Wednesday January 16 at the home of Elena

7:00 pm Women's Institute Monthly Meeting

Guests welcome. Please contact Joyce Haines if you would like to attend.

Thank you from Dry Stone Canada

to Amherst Island Volunteers and Billet Hosts!

From Andrea Cross



Hilary Martin, copresident of Dry Stone Canada, thanking the AI volunteers and billeters.

Photo by Brian Little

On Monday, December 3rd, Volunteers and Billet Hosts gathered at The Lodge. Dry Stone Canada wanted to thank these volunteers and recognize their

significant contribution towards making Dry Stone Canada's 2018 Festival at Topsy Farms such a success. Co-President of Dry Stone Canada, Hilary Martin, was there from Toronto to gratefully thank the amazing Amherst Island volunteers, along with Molly Stroyman, Jacob Murray, and Andrea Cross. Brian Little produced a lovely DVD of the Festival cut to music, which was playing throughout the evening for people to see. Five copies of this production were given away to lucky winners whose names were selected from a list of all volunteers and billet hosts.

The following are notes from Hilary's presentation:

"To start I'd like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee Peoples. And I want to give a nod to Queen's University and the Royal Military College of Canada over in Kingston for posting their land acknowledgements and showing their commitment to acknowledging traditional territories.

Thank you to Sally Bowen and Jacob at Topsy Farms for connecting with Paul Carl and Ertha Carl to acknowledge the land and do a beautiful blessing to start the 2018 festival.

We had 70 wallers and 20 students and 12 carvers at the festival this year. A great mix of international experts and professionals, folks from across Ontario and Quebec, local wallers that we've trained through our workshops here over the past few years, and those totally new to walling. Along with a slew of non-walling volunteers and supporters who were part of the festival. Thank you for hosting us in your community for this international event.

Andrea Cross pointed out to me yesterday that on November 28, UNESCO moved to acknowledge drystone walls as part of the world's intangible heritage of humanity.

Paraphrasing their announcement:

<<The art of dry stone walls and the way they are built is a technique dating back to prehistoric times, a living one, meaning still in use, and showing the harmonious relationship between humans and the natural world. It's fundamental to maintaining the environment and landscape.>>

Our festival is part of this international acknowledgement and practice. I'm grateful to the folks of Amherst Island for being so willing to support. Through the generosity of food, shelter, and human relations. All through the festival and in the

time following, people would take me aside or send a little note, or I'd hear through someone, how welcome people felt. Thank you for opening your homes to our walling community.

We thanked our sponsors many times during the festival and through the website with their logos and names. They are important. And I'd like now to name some of the people that you might not have heard and were also important. These are volunteers who gave their time coordinating the site, the build, hospitality, the children's area, and many other parts of our festival. They are:

Jake Murray, Renee Nadeau, Eric Landman, John Bland, Bill Jeffers, Teri Lee Barbisan our registrar, and Peter Mitchell. Our children's area was headed up by John Shaw Rimmington and Doug Bell. Our workshop instructors were Kenny Davies, Menno Braun, Norman Haddow, and Danny Barber.

Our international and expert guests were David Wilson, Ken Curan, Sunny Wieler, Louise Price, Nick Aiken, Brendan Stewart from the University of Guelph.

Thanks to the Topsy Farms team: Jacob, Sally Bowan, and Ian Murray. I know more members of your family were involved but I worked mostly with you three. Thanks to Andrea Cross, Bonnie Livingstone. Bonnie you are the reason we are here tonight thanking the billet hosts. Thank you for connecting us all with such care. Thanks to Molly Stroyman, Victoria Cuyler and the team at The Lodge for being home base for us and hosting our talks. And thanks to Lorna Willis and her team at The Back Kitchen. Again, many folks commented to me that the food was amazing and a real part of the festival.

Finally, I'd like to thank Jacqui Jeffers, our Hospitality Coordinator for the festival. She worked closely with Bonnie, and did a lot of behind the scenes work, wrangling data and details. And she did a great job. So thanks to Jacqui, and thanks to all of you for coming tonight. I'm grateful.



Thank You Amherst Island !



**Sally Bowen and Andrea Cross at the Dry Stone Wall Volunteer Appreciation Party
Photo by Brian Little**

Have you seen a wild turkey? We want to know about it!

Why?
Using data collected from eBird and iNaturalist between December 1 2018 and March 31 2019, we aim to estimate the size of Ontario's wild turkey population.

What do we need from you?
Ontario-wide wild turkey observations!

Report your flocks using eBird or iNaturalist

 Add observations to eBird using the mobile app or at ebird.org

 Add observations to iNaturalist at inaturalist.org or by joining the Ontario Wild Turkey Count in the app or on your computer

Jenn Baici, PhD Candidate
Trent University, ENLS
jenniferbaici@trentu.ca
wildturkeycount.wordpress.ca




**Only on Amherst do you have to stop to let a
Pheasant cross the road.
Too funny from Norma Lynn Coleson**

Activities at Topsy Farms

From Sally Bowen

The Scavenger Hunt is as reported, now on-line for reservations at
<https://topsyfarmsontario.myshopify.com/products/scavenger-hunt>

The event will take place Sunday, February 17, 2019 at 1 - 3:30pm. The cost is \$35/family.

Catch the 12:30 ferry from Millhaven (please arrive early, the boat can be busy). The cost is \$9 round trip/car. Meet at Topsy Farms, 14775 Front Rd.

Spend a few hours exploring the farm, meet some animals, and challenge yourself to find unusual items and complete a Herculean task! This activity is for children ages 4-12 (must be accompanied). Please dress appropriately for being outdoors in cold weather. Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase.

The other activity on Family Week is "A Farmer's Firearms Basics Course". Details are here:

<https://topsyfarmsontario.myshopify.com/products/a-farmer-s-firearms-basics>

Monday, February 18th, 2019

1 - 3 pm, \$30/person, adults and children 10-16

BB guns with pellets will be used in a safe, controlled environment, with farmer/hunter/First Responder Jake Murray as instructor.

We will set up 2 galleries with tin can targets. Jake will teach the handling and loading of guns, safety practises and rules, and will give each person several opportunities to shoot.

The stress of living a Half Christmas

By Anthony Gifford

I know that when given half a glass of beer, it's far better than nothing, that if we're only content with the 'whole thing', we're rarely a happy camper. This usually works fine for me. But not at Christmas.

Don't get me wrong – I simply LOVE Santa, Rudolph and the whole family scene. But it really has nothing to do with Jesus of Nazareth, and I can't get it out of my head (and heart) that following him should have something to do with the season.

Christmas is billed as being 'the best time of the year.' There's nothing wrong with having a good time, even a best time. But all of those timeless stories in Luke and Matthew have nothing to do with 'good times.' In fact, all of those stories are definitely PG 14. There's nothing cute and cuddly about any of them. We make children's stories out of them so that we won't be challenged. We have succeeded.

Our Christmas is about gifts, giving and receiving. And that's great too. But Jesus was about Sharing, and that's Sooo much more. Sharing is something that's not over when the day is done and the presents are unwrapped. Sharing is a Way of life, not just a celebration that comes and goes, prepared for and then over with.

I guess the main reason for my funk is that Christmas is the closest we get to what is possible and we're so content and self-congratulatory with the 'half glass.' This is no surprise: where can we witness a 'full glass' of loving sharing in our society? Not churches. Not anywhere! We have really no places where we can see real Sharing happening. Monastic orders are not in fashion except for a place to 'retreat' and gear-up for another run at our realities. Sharing was what hippies tried, sixty years ago, or what Communism was all about. We have been raised with the knowledge that sharing goes

against our national and personal identity. So we've taken Jesus away from Sharing, and our Christmas is what we've gotten.

It's better than nothing, I guess. But it's still a sad shame that we're so content with our false assumptions that there's nothing more.

But again, there's always next year! May it be happy, challenging, eye-opening and lead us to a fuller glass.

Birthdays



Kyle Murray by Brian Little



Jim Reid



Mairi Happy Birthday from Steve Kennedy

**Intelligent, witty, well-read, athletic, loving, patient- just some of the billion words we could use to describe this gorgeous birthday girl!
Happy birthday Mairi!!**



Carol Glenn (photo by Maureen Glenn)



Photo from Lynn Wyminga's phone

From Africa to Amherst Island

From Janet Scott

Kurt Hennige a member of Kingston Field Naturalists took a group of visitors from Millhaven Inn to see their very first Snowy Owl. Coming from Africa it was a thrill for them. Sudan and Ethiopia do not have these Arctic feathered friends that have become so familiar to us. Thank-you Amherst Island for welcoming these visitors from so far away.



Not like Home !

Snowy Owl Outing

Saturday, February 9th, 2019, 9 am – 1 pm, \$35

Tour leader – Janet Scott, Amherst Island's own "Bird Lady"

Catch the 8:30 ferry at Millhaven (please arrive early, the boat can be busy). The ferry is \$9 round trip/car. Meet at Topsy Farms, 14775 Front Rd.

Ride the school bus to visit the locations Janet knows where Snowy Owls may regularly be seen. The bus will stop for photographs. Janet will discuss other raptors and owls, and the conditions that lead our Island to be a mecca for these birds.

Information about "Operation Snowstorm" will be

offered. (We will not be visiting the presently inaccessible 'Owl Woods' – not a Snowy Owl habitat).

The bus will return to the farm by noon, allowing time for warm food and drink purchase, washrooms and the opportunity to browse the Wool Shed before leaving for the 1 pm ferry.

To register:

<https://topsyfarmsontario.myshopify.com/collections/frontpage/products/snowy-owl-outing>



Baby Snowy



Photo by Brian Little

SAVE THIS DATE

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
71st Annual Garden Party

The event will be held on Saturday July 27, 2019 at
11 am. Please plan to attend!!



Last year's Garden Party
Photos by Amy Caughey



CAVOTEC automated mooring selected

for great lakes E-ferry berths
(from Dry Cargo International)

27 NOVEMBER 2018

Cavotec is to supply its innovative MoorMaster™ automated mooring technology for use with two new-build, fully electrically powered ferries at five berths in Canada's Great Lakes – the country's first fully electrical non-cable vessels – highlighting how MoorMaster™ is a key technology for expanding the use of e-vessels.

One MoorMaster™ unit will be installed at each of the five berths, where they will be used to moor (dock) two new e-ferries that will carry passengers and vehicles between Amherst and Wolfe Islands on Lake Ontario, near Kingston, 200km east of Toronto, Ontario.

MoorMaster™ is a vacuum-based automated mooring (docking) technology that eliminates the need for conventional mooring lines. Remote-controlled vacuum pads recessed in, or mounted on the quayside or pontoons, moor and release vessels in seconds. The technology has completed more than 400,000 mooring operations at ferry, bulk and container handling, lock and ship-to-ship applications worldwide.

MoorMaster™ is ideal for use with e-ferries because it reduces mooring times and holds vessels in pre-programmed positions. This maximises the amount of time available to charge ship battery units.

The Amherst Island ferry will be 71m in length and carry up to 300 passengers and 40 vehicles. The Wolfe Island ferry will be 98m long and have capacity for up to 399 passengers and 75 vehicles.

The Amherst vessel is due to enter service in 2020, with the Wolfe Island ferry scheduled to do so a year later.

According to the vessel manufacturers, Damen Shipyards in The Netherlands, the two ferries will reduce emissions by the equivalent of seven million kilograms of carbon dioxide a year.

Earlier this year, Cavotec announced orders valued at some EUR 9m for automated mooring units for use with e-ferries in Norway. On completion of these projects, Cavotec will have equipped more than 40 e-ferry ports across the Nordic region with MoorMaster™, thereby delivering substantial operational and safety benefits for ferry operators. MoorMaster™ is already in use throughout the 15

locks of the 600km-long St. Lawrence Seaway that forms a crucial trading route between Canada and the US, and provides shipping access between the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes.



The MoorMaster system eliminates the need for rope-based mooring. Vacuums hold the ferry.

Special Meals

From Janet Scott

For many years St. Andrew's Presbyterian at Clergy St. and Princess St. in Kingston served a Sunday evening meal to those who needed it. As time went by their congregation shrunk and members aged so they reached out to the community for help. At the same time, the Street Mission that used to operate from a converted Chip Wagon providing care and help to the Street folks during the cold winter nights needed accommodation and they moved inside at St. Andrew's. We were fortunate that an active, caring Christian lady, Bev Woodcock, offered her volunteer services to co-ordinate the Sunday Night suppers. She persuaded nine teams from 8 different denominations to man on-rotation the Sunday night suppers using the facilities at St. Andrew's. Karen Fleming approached me to see if we could form an Island team augmented by mainland friends. You will probably recognize many faces in the photo, Judy Bierma has provided. Our turn is every month that has a fifth Sunday. We got the break because we have to travel. Bev has organized: car washes, music nights and barbecues to raise money. St. Andrew's continues to fund the programme and supply the facilities. Costco, Loving Spoonfuls, individuals and many other local sources help us out. Recently we were visited by an anonymous ham fairy who dropped ham off with the caretaker for our use. Bev asked for entertainment help and Judy Bierma, Anthony Gifford, the Fiddlers Green and Jon

McLurg and many others have played while our clients enjoy their meal. Wayne Fleming provided local beef for our meal and one of the clients, possibly a retired farmer commented on the quality of the beef. The next year he walked up to Wayne and asked him if he was the farmer that grew that beef. The potatoes from stonewalling have found themselves on our table and Squash from both Dale Gowan's garden and Maple Marsh Farms have carried Island Love to our downtown neighbours. At the present time Bev has launched a programme to raise \$20,000 towards making our kitchen safe under the new Food Handling Guidelines. She is \$15,000 on her way. Thank-you to all those who support Special Meals and to all the volunteers from the Island and the Wannabes who support our team called "Island and Friends."



At Special Meals – photo by Judy Bierma

Island in the Past

From Linda and Dave's House
by Dave McGinn

This is my first submission to the Beacon (with prompting from Paul (Jasmine's dad)).

I was tearing out the ceiling in our living room upstairs when I noticed an irregularity. I carefully excavated and found the metal sign (picture attached). It seems that it had been used to repair where some plaster had let go from the lathe and plaster ceiling.

One of the Morvan construction workers googled the name and found out some very interesting things about the owner of the shop.

I have attached a link to a Queen's article on him. So other interesting things are that when he went into real estate he rented out at 15 to 20% less than other

landlords and never collected rent for December so that his tenants had money for Christmas. Ever the champion of the less fortunate he left in his will that all his tenants had a three month rent free period.

A man whom after immigrating remembers how well the country had treated him and gives back. This man was an early Syrian immigrant!

This is a story of a man that should give a more positive attitude towards the recent influx Syrians coming to enrich our culture.

<https://www.queensjournal.ca/story/2018-02-12/features/featurette-the-forgotten-impact-of-george-masoud-on-kingston/>



Amherst Island Looking Back

From Shirley Miller

Rain yesterday and freezing cold this morning. Keith was reminding me that the Lake usually froze over between Christmas and New Years. He remembers it well because his sister Jean and his aunt Arline were teachers who always came home for Christmas break. When the Lake froze it was hard to get them back to the mainland. One year they had to get an airplane to take them back.

The pilot's name was Doug Wagoner of the Royal Airforce who came here to train pilots during the war. He stayed on and ran a charter service from Norman Rogers Airport in Kingston.

The Amherst Islander could take a long time going ahead then backing up and going ahead again to break its way through. In my time here, they usually had a township dump truck on board to help break ice. It had to be able to drive from the back to the front and back again to rock the boat so there was not much room for cars on board. There could be sometime between when the boat gave up for the winter and the ice was safe to drive across on.



Merry Christmas from Terry Culbert

From the Dec15/78 issue of the Island Beacon

From Ian Murray

Island Loses Residents

A. Bruce Caughey

With the recent sale of their property on "Long Point" to James Herrington, Mr. & Mrs. Bruce S. Robinson have severed a long family connection with Amherst Island. Bruce's mother who resides in Providence Manor, Kingston was a native of Amherst Island, Sarah J. Smith, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Smith and Bruce Smith Robinson who was born in his grandparents' residence in Stella in November, 1908, son of Allan and Sade, (as she was well known locally) of Kingston, where the remaining four members of their family were born.

Allan Robinson was an employee of The Bell Telephone Company of Canada, in its' earlier days and before it became "Bell Canada." He was "wire chief" in their Kingston Plant, located on Clarence St., Kingston where the switching equipment, operating staff, maintenance staff and office staff were all accommodate before construction of the present "Bell Building" at 449 Princess St.

The Robinson family resided on King St., in the area, presently the site of the Ronald Burr Cancer Clinic of Kingston General Hospital and it was there that tragedy struck twice for this young family. In 1916, when Bruce was 8 years old, during the evening meal, a dog fight erupted in the street near

their home. Allan Robinson rushed out to separate the dogs and unfortunately was bitten - - blood poison developed, medical science was not possessed of the "wonder drugs," so well known today and the young husband succumbed as a result. The following year tragedy struck again, when the second eldest son, Allan, was drowned while fishing from a dock where the Queens' heating plant now stands. Mrs. Robinson was now left with a very young family and certainly there was not the provision of Government assistance that flows so freely today, but there was certainly a deep devotion among families who willingly accepted responsibility for their own members' misfortunes and such was the case with the Robinson family. The Smith grandparents moved the family to Amherst Island in 1918, where, with the meager insurance money left from the death of her husband, Mrs. Robinson purchased her parents' home in Stella Village, the Smith family having purchased and moved to Mrs. Smiths' parents home, the Luzzcan Beaubien farm at "Long Point".

In the family home in Stella the young family grew and developed in happy surroundings, under the sympathetic and understanding influence of Mrs. Robinsons' family and with the ever helping hand of Allan Robinsons' brother, Capt. Robt. J. Robinson, then Chief of Police in the City of Kingston. As the time of Allan Robinson's untimely death, executives of The Bell Telephone Co. promised his family that as soon as the oldest boy, Bruce, was ready for employment there would be a job for him with the Company - - their promise was kept and as soon as Bruce had completed his "Lower School" (now Grade 10), at the age of 17, in 1925 he started with the Company in their Clarence St. Office in Kingston, working in the stock room.

There was to follow 43 years of employment with the Bell organization, during which time Bruce occupied many positions of responsibility and carried out these responsibilities with the greatest of diligence, integrity and dedication. Two years of experience in the stock room was followed by assignment as an "installer", then as a "cable splicer", he then became what was then known as a "combination man" and had responsibility for the Napanee and Gananoque areas. This was followed by assignment to responsibility for the Wolfe Island, Harrowsmith and Sydenham areas and in 1940 he was transferred to the Town of Trenton, where he was in the position of "wire chief." Our country was

at war and there was tremendous activity in the Trenton Area - if there was ever a time that Bruce was ready to "pack it in", it was in this period, activity in construction was at its' peak, carelessness in the course of this construction, broke cable, interrupted telephone service, so vital to the country's war effort and in general created bedlam - - Bruce carried on in spite of countless problems and displayed qualities of leadership and competence through a difficult period. Following the close of the war, in 1945, he was transferred to a similar position in Belleville, where he spent four years, followed by five years in Smiths Falls before being assigned to head office in Montreal and work in the Province of Quebec.

In 1956, Bruce was transferred to the City of Brockville where he lived and served the Bell system until his retirement in 1966. Through this long period, Bruce maintained connections with Amherst Island. Invariably his vacations were spent here at his maternal grandparents home on Long Point and upon the passing of members of this family, he purchased the Long Point property which had been his great-grandfathers' farm. In 1956, in preparation for his eventual retirement here, he commenced the building of a new home and upon completion of this fine home, his great-grandparents' home was torn down. In 1936 Bruce married Madeline

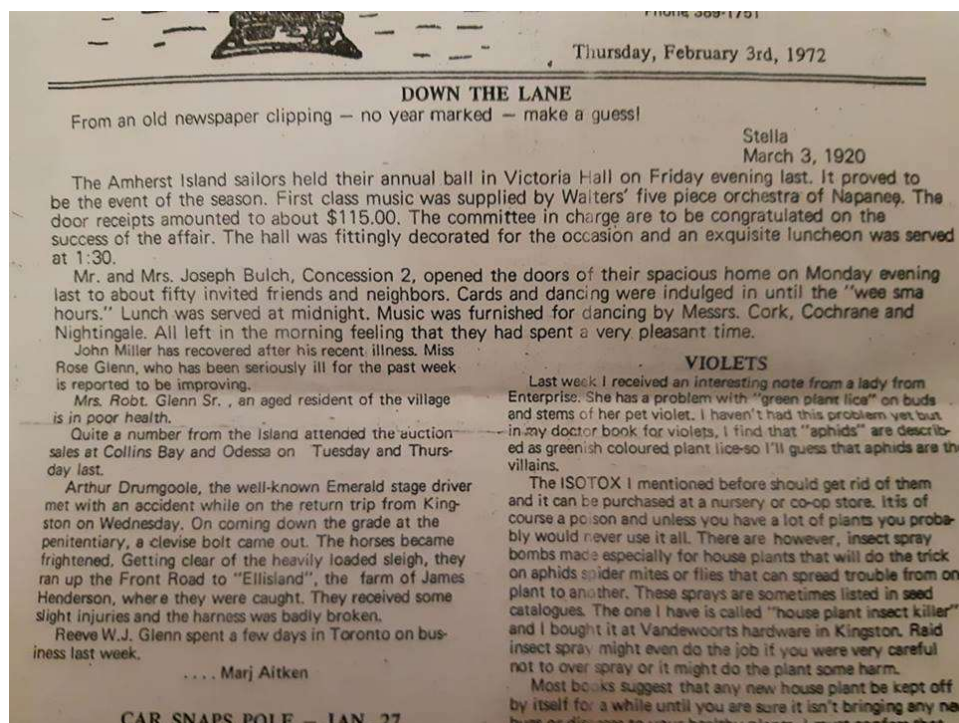
(Madge) Bajus of Kingston who had been an employee of the Gredyes Millinery Firm for many years and with his chosen partner they carried out practically all of the construction of their home together.

Following his retirement, he and his wife travelled extensively on the North American continent and spent many winters in Florida, California, Texas and the Canadian West Coast. His splendid collection of pictures and slides records these trips in a very memorable way.

At the time that building restrictions and a zoning by-law was introduced to Amherst Island, Bruce served in the capacity of building inspector and also worked closely with the County appointed health inspectors, who supervised installations of septic systems on Amherst Island.

Bruce and Madge have taken up residence in a Kingston apartment and promise that their summers will still hold frequent visits to the Island that they both loved so well.

[Ian: When I came to the Island in 1970, Bruce was also involved in coaching softball. I clearly remembering him telling me that throwing from the out-field to 2nd base made more sense than a wild throw to the catcher. He was a large man with an air of authority who was well-suited to coaching and building inspection.]





**Horse Racing on the ice at Amherst Island ,Feb. 1973
We crossed the ice on snowmobile from Millhaven on Sundays to the races.
from Doreen Wolfreys and Ida Gavlas**



Keith and Shirley's wedding day. Happy 51st Anniversary

Christmas Bird Count

Amherst Island Final Results

January 4, 2019

Christmas Bird Count																							
Amherst Island Final Results																							
January 4, 2019																							
Bird	Total	Abbr.	Group 1 Front Road Stella to Lower 40'		Group 2 South Shore Road		Group 3 3rd Concession		Group 4 Lower 40' & Martin Edwards Reserve		Group 5 Emerald 40' & A. McGinn's Rd & Back Beach		Group 6 Front Road - Stella to Bluffs		Group 7 Dump Road, Kerr Point & Stella 40'		Bonnie Bailey	Sally Bowen's Yard	Alex Scott's Yard	The Gowan's Backyard	Gomes & Schelle Backyard	The Laurets' Backyard	Carl McCrosky's Bird Feeder
Great Blue Heron	2	GBHE										1										1	
Canada Goose	1676	CAGO	209	335	5	23	3	1000	51	37	13												
Mute Swan	18	MUSW	8	4		2		4															
Tundra Swan	8	TUSW				4		4															
Gadwall	111	GADW				111																	
American Black Duck	23	ABDU			10	10		3															
Mallard	120	MALL	2		1	2		115															
Greater Scaup	1	GRSC							1														
White-winged Scoter	1	WWSC		1																			
Long-tailed Duck	22	LTDU		2	7	3			10														
Bufflehead	7	BUFF		1	2			4															
Common Goldeneye	262	COGO	12	13	35	68		90	34							10							
Hooded Merganser	4	HOME						4															
Common Merganser	33	COME	10	10		3		10															
Red-breasted Merganser	43	RBME	30		13																		
Northern Harrier	90	NOHA	1	6	21	3	5	5	7	39								1			2		
Bald Eagle	28	BAEA	1	3	1			4	1	17							1						
Red-tailed Hawk	57	RTHA		7	3	2	7	13	7	12	4										2		
Rough-legged Hawk	59	RLHA		1	10	3	11	6	6	13	5						1	3					
Cooper's Hawk	3	COHA						1	2														
American Kestrel	5	AMKE	1	1					2	1													
Merlin	1	MERL			1																		
Peregrine Falcon	1	PEFA	1																				
Hawk species	5	hawk spe.		2		3																	
Ring-necked Pheasant	6	RINP			3	1		1												1			
Wild Turkey	31	WITU			15					16													
Gull species	7	gull spe.		3			1	3															
Ring-billed Gull	10	RBGU	3			6		1															
Great Black-backed Gull	3	GBBG				2		1															
Herring Gull	41	HEGU		2	8	25		1	5														
Rock Pigeon	18	ROPI						2				16											
Mourning Dove	118	MODO		7	14		12	30	8	2	2	4	15			20	4						
Short-eared Owl	10	SEOW			3							7											
Great horned Owl	1	GHOW						1															
Snowy Owl	55	SNOW		4	7	3		20	20				1										
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	RBWO		1			1	1		1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Downy Woodpecker	24	DOWO		4	3		1		5	3	2	1	1	2	2								
Hairy Woodpecker	21	HAWO	2	3			1	1	3	3	3	1	2			2				2			
Northern Flicker	1	NOFL														1							
Pileated Woodpecker	3	PIWO					1	2															
Belted Kingfisher	1	BEKI						1															
Northern Shrike	2	NOSH			1						1												
Blue Jay	91	BLJA	4		10	1	7	3	18	8	3	15	10	8		4							
American Crow	56	AMCR		9	2	3	6	4	5	12	15												
Common Raven	55	CORA	2	3	10		11	1	2	16	1					5					4		
Black-capped Chickadee	210	BCCH	33	47	15	2	8	15	22	8	20	12	10	12		6							
White-breasted Nuthatch	34	WBNU	2	5	4		2	2	3	1	4	6	3	2									
Brown Creeper	3	BRCR			2				1														
Winter Wren	1	WIWR									1												
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	GCKI		1																			
American Robin	1	AMRO			1																		
European Starling	374	EUST		35	5		150	15	11	85	42	30	1										
Snow Bunting	113	SNBU		2						51	60												
American Tree Sparrow	44	ATSP		4	9		1	5	2		4	11	8										
Dark-eyed Junco	13	DEJU		3	1			1		5						3							
Northern Cardinal	12	NOCA					1	1	1	3	1		2	2		1							
Common Grackle	35	COGR	35																				
House Finch	16	HOFI			14								2										
White-winged Crossbill	1	WWCR									1												
Common Redpoll	3	CORE			3																		
Hoary Redpoll	1	HORE			1																		
American Goldfinch	20	AMGO			16							4											
House Sparrow	83	HOSP		35	2		14	20				12											
63 Species	4109		356	584	228	277	246	1371	231	353	123	61	113	7	74	34	28	23					

Island Friends



Elena



Brian



Will



Leah



Mikey (and friend)



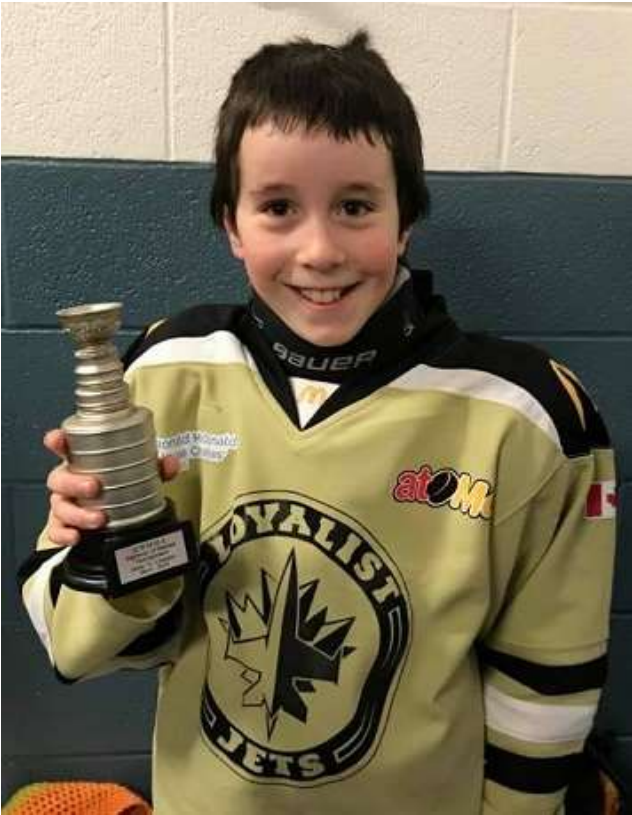
Claude and René's children Marianne and Isabelle



The love of my life from Katherine Elizabeth



Betty and David Wemp's grandson, Jacob Welbanks



Highway of Heros A Champs ! Way to go Devin!
Very proud!



The first thing on Estie's Christmas list was a pear. Here she is very happily eating her Christmas pear all snuggled up with her new teddy bear.



Above: Carol and Paul Glenn's granddaughters.



Joan and Dan Simpson's new grandson Carter
From Leslie Madden



Right: Archer and Alex, grands to Val and Dan Wolfreys and Jane and Russel McGinn. Photo by Aunt Danielle



New Year's Eve lobster
With my best girl, Cara Daley Nye
From John Nye



Merry Christmas from Danielle Kennedy

Animals too!



Two new additions at Topsy Farms, by Jacob



Bella and Sophie from Terry McGinn



Anyone else get sheep for Christmas?
From Tara Kennedy



Cats really have a hard life.
From Betty Wemp

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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

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