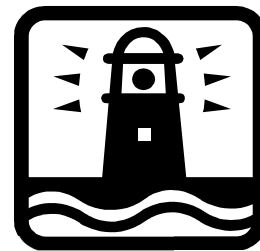


Amherst Island Beacon



Issue 467 There's always another boat. MARCH 2019



Notes from the Editor

Well here we are: it's March 2019. Time really does fly. We have had a very varied winter, above zero, below zero, lots of snow then rain. Then all over again. We seem to have had an overload of voles on the Island. Because of all the food we had 23 Snowy Owls at one time and

we still have many different hawks.

Thank **you** to all the people **who** send submissions.

Our **condolences** to Gayel Willard's friends and family and Coralie Marshall's family and friends. It's hard to say goodbye to good friends. I went to both funerals and visited with a lot of Islanders, **old** and new. It's a very sad time but a good time to get lots of visiting in. Thanks to the Presbyterian women for the great sandwiches and squares and to Betty Wemps for her homemade pickles.

Please contact me at judybierma@gmail.com for any submissions or corrections in the Beacon.

I'm still looking for someone to take over the Beacon in May.

Thanks to David Pickering for publishing the Beacon.



Dale MacNair caught this glorious photo of a Snowy Owl and the full Snow Moon on Amherst Island

Amherst Island BEACON Issue 467, March 2019

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



**The Beacon marks the passing of:
Gayel Victoria Willard
Coralie Mary Marshall**

Passings

**Gayel Victoria (Peters) Willard
Feb 10, 1935 - Feb 12, 2019 (84 yrs)**



Mom's angels came to guide her spirit home on February twelfth, two days after her birthday. Gayel died peacefully at home in the arms of family. She will be greatly missed by her children David, Diana (George) and Sandra. She was predeceased by her husband Wilbert, daughter Rachel and grandson Kevin. She will also be missed by her grandchildren Denise, Lisa, Tammy, Lara, Elyse, Richard, Morgan, Becky and Ronan and great-grandchildren

Alicia, Joshua, KaSandra, Fares, and Summer and great great grandchildren Brooklyn, Jade, Drayden, Adlyn and Mariah and many nieces, nephews and friends. The family extends a special thank you to Tammy (Care Partners) and JoAnne (Smile Program) for all their caring support for Gayel.

Eulogy for Gayel Willard

By Winifred Marten nee Peters

First of all I would like to give my sympathy to David, Diana and Sandra and to Gayel's grandchildren and great grandchildren, who she was so proud of. Also to Rachell's family – Denise, Lisa and Tammy and their children. Rachelle had a son Kevin who passed away.

I'm Winnifred Martin nee Peters and I feel very honoured today to give Gayel's eulogy!!

Where do I begin?

Gayel's father was Earl Peters and my father was Nelson Peters. So we are 3rd, 4th or 5th cousins: I'm not sure. But of this I am sure of – we were always "Best friends"

I remember sleeping in that thick feather tic mattress at Gayel's house and the laughter and fun we always had. We didn't need T.V., etc. The games we played and we had such great imagination. We were together always as our farms were 4 farms apart.

I always loved Gayel's "Sundresses" and her saddle shoes and wished that I owned the same. Maybe she let me wear one of her dresses once in awhile.

What fun we had riding in my Dad's old car. "Leaping Lizzy" painted on the back, no doors. I was 14 years old and shouldn't have been driving. Showing off and picking up Elizabeth Phillips, Fern Scouten, Wilbert and Gayel, to catch the small school bus that took us to Napanee High School. That was when Wilbert and Gayel started liking" each other I think??





After they were married, my husband Raymond and I went to see them in the “Haunted House” on Simmons Road.

Then to Amherst Island many, many times to the Big Stone House and thespiders and snakes!!

Our girls had lots of fun together; I don’t know what you did David?

Back again to Amherst Island and I loved sleeping with the window open and hearing the water splash on the shore.

Gayel and Wilbert had fun parties there, music, guitars, singing, games, eating, etc. etc.

Then Wilbert passed away and this was a sad time for Gayel but God gave her a strong inner strength and David, Diana, Sandra and Rachelle were there to comfort her. Gayel sold the house and moved from the Island to Bath with Sandra. Then to Amherstview, where I visited them many times and had lunch together and talked about the Good Old Days.

Sandra and Gayel went to church as long as Gayel was able.

Gayel lived her Christian life in her quiet way and always wanted me to pray with her before I left.

In closing I want to say that I will always treasure my memories of Gayel and someday I will spend eternity with her in Heaven and with our Saviour Jesus Christ.

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saints. Psalm 1:6:1



Coralie Mary (Richardson) Marshall
May 23, 1928 – Feb 10, 2019 (90 yrs)



Coralie Mary Marshall (née Richardson) passed away peacefully at the age of 90 surrounded by family and friends at her home in Cedarvale Lodge in Keswick, Ontario on February 10, 2019.

Predeceased by her husband Duncan Wright Marshall. Loving mother of Jim Marshall (Teri) and dear stepmother of Susan Stevenson (Wayne), Wendy Shelley (Richard), Bob Marshall (Dale) and Shelley Dorman (Steve). Dear sister of Kathleen Tier (Roy, deceased), Joyce Julian (Peter) and predeceased by her sister Elsa Richardson. Cherished Gran of John, Andrew, Adrian, Bronwen, Meghan, Rachael, Duncan, Shawn, Elise, Keiffer, Burke, Kiera, Daelan, Gallagher and predeceased by grandsons Robert and Christopher. Loving GG (Great Gran) of Anastasia, Shayle, Temperance, Ehmbur, Kian, Ava, Piper, Jack, Quinn and Camryn. Cherished Auntie and cousin to her special relatives in England.

Born in London, England on May 23, 1928, Coralie had a full life. After the war she attended secretarial school. She later joined the Women's Royal Naval Service and was stationed in Cornwall. Coralie then did her nursing training at the Royal Sussex County Hospital and went on to do her midwife training in

London. She met Duncan on a nursing assignment in Sudbury, Ontario and they were married in England in 1964. She moved to Montreal and had a busy life raising 5 children. Coralie and Duncan spent their time between Montreal and Amherst Island where they built their retirement home. Coralie retired to Amherst Island with Duncan in 1983. She was actively involved in the Women's Institute and St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. She joined the art group, took T'ai Chi and was active in island life. She moved to Cedarvale Lodge in Keswick, Ontario in 2016 and made many friends. Always singing and being dramatic with the residents and staff, she proudly took on the nickname of "Broadway".

Coralie was kind, caring, very outgoing and had a great sense of humour. She loved music, flowers, gardening and having a cup of tea with friends. She will be sadly missed.

Many thanks to the staff at Cedarvale Lodge and to her dear friend and caregiver Ann Marie.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to a charity of your choice.

Coralie loved flowers and music, bright colours, and friends dropping in to visit. She was always inviting someone over for a cup of tea: friends from the WI, or the church, a neighbour, someone who driven her into town for groceries, helped fix her TV, split and stack her wood, plow the drive, or mow the lawn...

Coralie loved the island, its community and its people. She had a special smile, a twinkle in her eye, and laughter in her heart.

Coralie's family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all her 'island family': those special friends over the years who did so much towards enabling her to stay on the island, and filling her days with laughter and friendship.

Her island friends were so important to her, I would just like to acknowledge this and say thanks. Wendy Shelley

March Beacon Table of Contents

Notes from the Editor	1
Passings	2
Amherst Island Mens' Society	5
More Artwork	6
Birds of Amherst Island	7
Your Radio Station	9
Holiday Pictures	18
Advertisements	21
Island Schedule.....	22
Our History.....	24
Museum Minutes.....	25
People of the Island	27
Rosland storm warning.....	33
Birthday Wishes.....	38
What's Happening at Topsy Farms	39



Cedar The Cow by Brian Little



Slope Sisters by Terry Culbert

Amherst Island Mens' Society

Meeting of 2019 02 09
Held at St Paul's

A total of 12 members
attended the meeting.

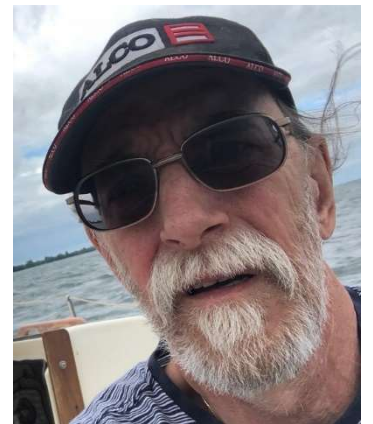
President Dave
McGinn thanked the
ISLE team of Beth
Forester, Julie Leeder
and J.P. Leeder for
again providing an

excellent gourmet breakfast of eggs benedict. The
members were notified that the school trip this year
will be to Niagara Falls.

There was no formal advance agenda for today's
meeting.

Minutes - Last month's minutes were accepted on
motion of Marc Raymond/Anders Bennick – carried.

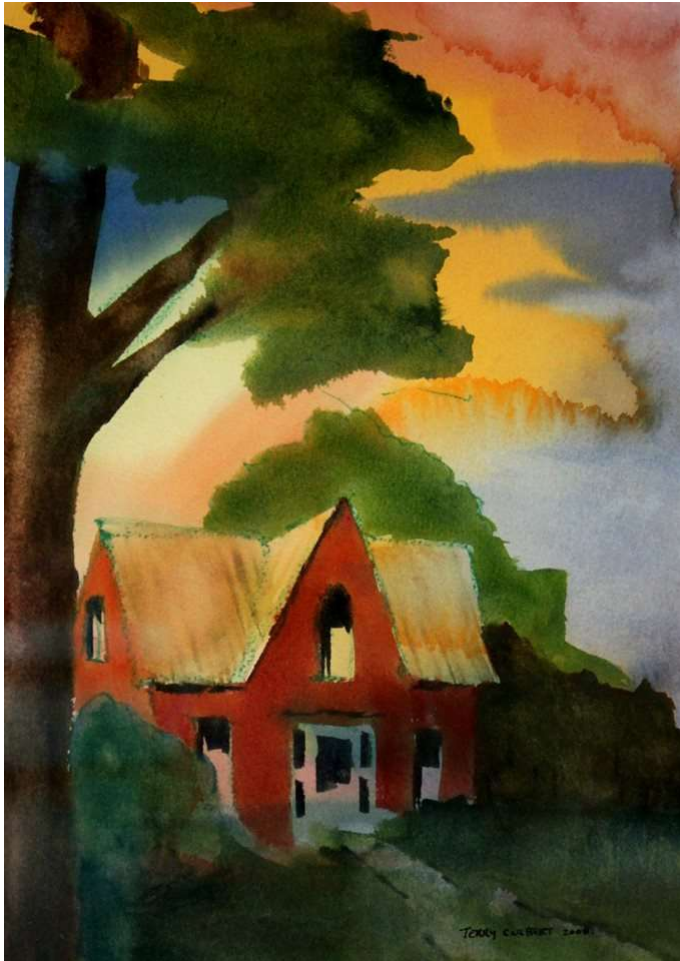
Treasurer's Report – Dave Pickering advised that we
have assets of approximately \$1500. While our cash



flow is currently slightly negative we are sustainable until the end of the summer. We will need to do the auction in September. Historically income from the cart varies widely, from \$10 to over \$100 per week with the average being about \$75 for a total of \$1000 for the year. Motion to accept the report Mitchell Morgan/Anders Bennick – Carried.

Correspondence – Dave McGinn read the thank you note from St Albans for our donation to the members.

More Artwork



Terry Culbert: Watercolour Memory of Amherst Island



Frozen Fence by Brian Little



Icicles by Brian Little



Woody Woodimus sent us colour on this winter's day

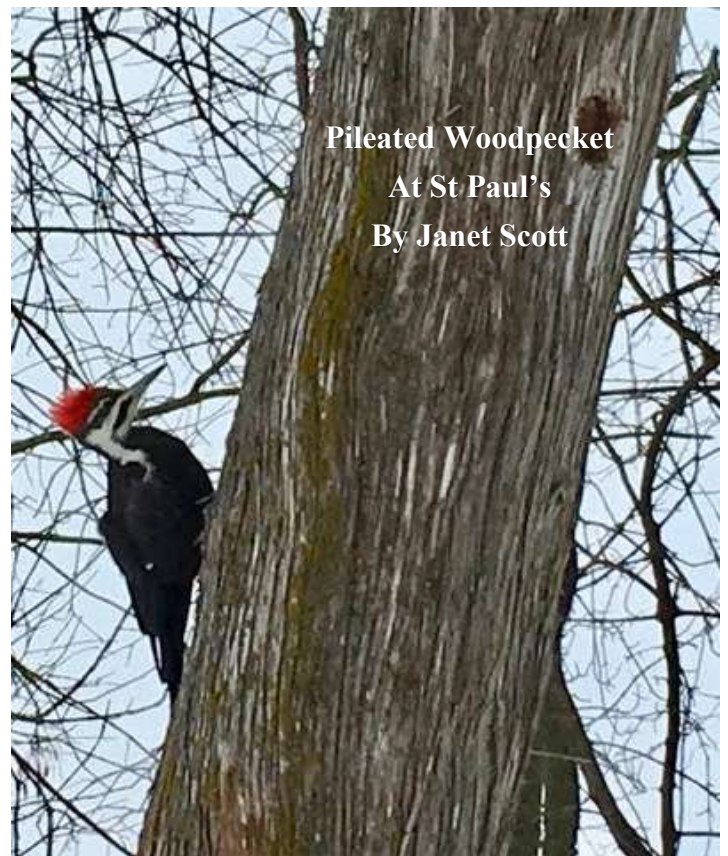


And back to ICE ICE Baby From Brian Little

Birds of Amherst Island



Tundra, Mute and Trumpeter Swans from Mel Diotte





**Above: Snowy Owls fighting
On Amherst Island
By Ed McAskil**

**Left: A Duck Angel in the Snow
By Tara Kennedy**

**Below: A terrific shot of 5 Short-Eared Owls
on the Island
By Diane Irwin of Bath**





Find below the minutes of the February 13th Meeting of the Amherst Island Radio Executive Board, conducted monthly on the second Wednesday in the Back Room of the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre.

Attending: David Wreggitt (DW) Vice President and Chair, David Pickering (DP) Treasurer and acting Secretary, Bill McKee (BM) Station Manager, Anthony Gifford (AG), Kathy Filson (KF)

Regrets: Eric Tremblay (ET), Sue Dodds (SD), Judy Bierma (JM), Leah Murray (LM).

The Agenda was reviewed and accepted, followed by an acceptance of the Minutes of the previous meeting, conducted in December of 2018. Note that there was no meeting in January 2019 since a quorum could not be assembled.

Technical & Station Manager's Report – Bill McKee

BM presented his report. Station 'tidy up' is progressing well. The filing cabinet will be organized and placed in alphabetical order shortly. Oldest items will be pulled and placed in the bottom drawer, but nothing will be thrown out. The bugs are back, but not bad yet. Remedial action is planned. Thank you to the person who cleaned up the food area.

DW asked about the status of the camera he donated. DP confirmed that the camera is operable, though it is lacking a charging station for the battery. If we want to support a remote capability, a second battery and a charging station are necessary. This was discussed. It was proposed that a sum, not to exceed \$50, be spent to procure a second battery and charger. Moved by: AG Seconded by: KF Approved

DP will also download the manual for the camera and continue to investigate its capabilities including WiFi.

Station Relocation Planning

DP gave an overview of the three sites we are currently perusing as possible new homes for the studio complex as well as antenna / transmitter pair. The former has one of two possible homes; both in the village. The latter will hopefully be positioned more center-island.

DW volunteered to write letters to the owners of these properties which would officially ask if there is interest in hosting the station. These letters would go to the President for review and release.

President's Report – Eric Tremblay

ET was unable to attend the meeting due to illness and submitted the following written report via e-mail.



**Brian Little was on live on CJAI with his tribute to Peter Tork and The Monkees.
You can also listen in at www.cjai.ca**

General Updates:

1. Eric has secured another Rendez-Vous de la Francophonie Grant for \$1,500. Eric will produce the 28 minute episode with the entire \$1,500 returning to the station.
2. The NCRA has launched a shared advertising campaign for "Privacy Awareness" in Canada. We signed up to play a 5-minute PSA spot 4x daily between Feb 12 and Mar 31, as well as to share some PSA videos on our social media streams during the same period in exchange for receiving approximately \$364 in advertising revenue.
3. We got a lot of social media love and attention these last few months, not the least of which was due to the TVO spot and article. Eric recently sent out the bi-annual social media update, putting us 1st in both Twitter and Instagram and 13th in Facebook.
4. Be sure to check out our new Amherst Island Radio toques! \$20/ea at the station.

Fundraising Concert Update:

1. Fundraising Concert Committee has been set: Duane Hudson, Justin Brake, Trevor Johnson (from Roswell Rehearsals) and Eric Tremblay.
2. Date tentatively set as Saturday May 11th
3. Location set as BluMartini in downtown Kingston. Capacity is 500+
4. In an effort to try to draw a bigger crowd, the committee has decided to bring in a touring band as the headliner in a larger venue. The party band, Blushing Brides, from Montreal has been tentatively booked. They are a professional Rolling Stones cover band. (Other bands are yet to be booked.) Similar to last year's practice, the committee itself will float all "up-front" monies for the event (this time probably near

\$2,500 in costs). Should the event not break even or make money, the committee will absorb the losses personally with no losses coming to the station.



The Cheesemakers Daughter Show on Monday's 10 to 12 with Judy Bierma and Anthony Gifford

Funddrive Updates:

1. Fundraiser Organizing Committee has been set: Jes Sousa, Kaela Simpson, Sue Dodds, and Eric Tremblay.
2. Goal set for \$25,000 with messaging focussed on raising money to pay for the new transmitter. We hope to do much better than the \$12,160 that we raised last year.
3. Two staged fundraiser laid out as follows:
 - Stage 1: Launch 3 or 4 weeks prior to Saturday May 18th. The fundraising efforts will be entirely online via GoFundMe. No calls will be taken in studio.
 - Stage 2: Sat May 18th to Fri May 24th - live programming week-long fundraiser (with prizes and auction items) as done in the past with in-studio calls as well as online with GoFundMe
3. Note: CRFC's latest funddrive: The goal was \$30,000 and they raised \$17,000. Expenses \$1,500. For Amherst Island Radio, traditionally the Board has not set aside a budget for the fundraising committee. I would ask that the Board consider setting aside funds for this year and giving budget control to the Fundraiser Organizing Committee. The Funds could be used for signage, awareness/marketing, and possibly leveraging the funds to attract larger donations, etc. It would be great to have a motion tonight setting aside funds to help the committee bring the fundraiser to the next level. Similar to CFRC, between \$1,000 and \$1,500 would be ideal.

(The board discussed this request and agreed that support monies would be required by the fundraising

committee. ET is requested to draft a proposal for raising a project budget for the fundraising event. If accepted, the station budget will be amended to include this project and funds will be released to the chair of the fundraising committee.)

(The board also discussed the importance of ‘telling the story’ and ensuring that the message is communicated that donations are tied to specific goals. While the new transmitter has been procured and installed based on the generosity of previous donations, the next big phase of growth for the station is coming. We have to be prepared to ‘move out of our parent’s basement.’ (Thanks Dayle and Eloise.) This move will cost, especially if we also increase our transmitter power.)

Volunteer Update:

Colin Kennedy, Steve Kennedy’s brother, has expressed interest in doing a show at the station. Stay tuned while Eric works with him to bring him on board.

Website & Social Media Report – Eric Tremblay

Earlier distributed via e-mail. Instagram and Twitter are going well. Facebook still requires work.

DW discussed broadcasters using Facebook to provide an interactive aspect to their programming. He outlined the procedures he uses during his show and recommends that other broadcasters do the same. The development of an action plan to support this has been deferred until next meeting.

Treasurer's Report – David Pickering

DP presented the current status of our funds. Our bank accounts total just over \$20K after paying all capital costs associated with the upgrades done this year. Anticipated operating expenses could go to another \$5K this year. This might increase if the fundraiser project is approved and funded.

Transactions since the last meeting were discussed, including both credits and debits.

DP submitted receipts for payments he had made to Vonage, Steam Guys, and SOCAN. KF motioned that repayment be approved. BM seconded. Approved

The progress of the budget was reviewed. It was pointed out that Marketing is now 104% expended. If we want to spend more, that category will have to additional money assigned.

There is a second problem. This is with the phone budget. We picked up a Vonage phone line but have not yet integrated it into the audio system in the studio. Last year, we ended up spending 309% of budget. This year we are at 172% of budget with six months to go.

DW stated that the phone system should be fixed as soon as possible to stop the wastage of funds. Tech staff are requested to escalate the priority of this item.

Sponsorship & Advertising Report –

Nil at this time

Promotions Update – Sue Dodds

Due to the absence of SD, nil report at this time.

Volunteer Recruitment Update

DP made the board familiar with his contacts with J&J, the two ladies who comprise J&J Taxes. They are potential guests should one of the broadcasters be interested in bringing them in. BM has stated that he will contact them. DP provided the contact information.

Other Business

BM mentioned that he had dropped his landline. Contact should be by e-mail until his cellular service is established

DP mentioned that he has the 2019 ‘Licence to Play’ logos from SOCAN. They can be placed on our sites and pages. Website pers should talk to DP for access to the files

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Prime Time Schedule

6AM-Midnight

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6am	Classical	Island Folk	Island Folk	Island Folk	Island Folk	Island Folk	Island Folk
7am		Udder Morning Show (Live)	Bluegrass	Rise and Shine (Live)	Island Sunrise Show (Live)	Friday Morning Show (Live)	Sally's Books
8am							Believe (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)	Birding	Virtual Reality Radio (Live)		Deconstructing Dinner
1pm				Believe (Live)		Studio Stories	
2pm	Wolf's Den (Repeat)	Udder Morning Show (Repeat)	Funraising (Live)	Wolf's Den (Live)	Island Sunrise Show (Repeat)	Friday Morning Show (Repeat)	Birding
3pm							Afternoon Delight (Live)
4pm			Cheesemaker's Daughter (repeat)				
5pm	Radio With Spirit (Live)	Stonebeach Permaculture (Live)		Canadian Celiac Podcast	Overtones (Live)	Eastern Ontario Playlist	Spiral Groove (Live)
6pm		Tuned Up (Live)		Studio Stories		Beacon Librivox	
7pm	Sunday Nights (Live)	Geek Positive Radio (Live)		Mixed Tape (Live)	More Cowbell (Live)	Friday Night Show (Live)	Saturday Night Barn Burner (Live)
8pm		Scott Jackson Show					
9pm	Overtones (Repeat)	Eastern Ontario Playlist		Rise and Shine (Repeat)	Radio Moo Canadian	Scott Jackson Show	Radio Moo Canadian
10pm		Radio Moo Canadian					
11pm	Celtic	Friday Night Show (Repeat)	Saturday Night Barn Burner (Repeat)				

Last Updated: 25 Jan 2019

Social Media Report from Eric Tremblay, the President of CJAi

Twice a year we prepare a Social Media Report for Amherst Island Radio and this one is especially exciting! Our social media streams have been on fire recently! You can view the detailed stats here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VlxMyw6R81e8aKFRCie7mftcOe-sCf85wRBsy9vkwR4/edit?usp=sharing>

A Quick Summary:

Twitter: From last September to now we took a MAJOR LEAP from #5 in the region to #1! YES #1!

Facebook: For years we have been slowly chasing all 13 other regional radio stations while we sat 14th on the list. Our persistence has paid off and I'm proud to report that we caught our first competitor, 91x in Belleville, are are now ranked 13th in the region. YEAH for US!

Instagram: We continue to lock up 1st place in the region! Since last September we gained 936 new followers which is almost double what our second-place competitor (FLY FM) gained in the same period. We are awesome!



Since it was founded in 2006, the station has made its home in Dayle Gowan's milk house. (David Rockne Corrigan)

From TVO

AMHERST ISLAND — Radio host Brian Little takes a quick break from playing hit songs from 1975 on his weekly Friday Morning Show to throw to Keith Miller and the CJAi traffic chopper.

"Thanks, Brian!" Miller yells over the sound of swooshing blades. "Your traffic update for Amherst Island: There are four cars in the ferry lineup. A few cars stopped at Concession Road 2 taking pictures of the snowy owls. This concludes your traffic update!"

Miller, an 78-year-old former dairy farmer, gives Little a satisfied grin as he pulls away from the microphone and puts down an oscillating fan with "CJAi Chopper" written on it in black Sharpie. It's clearly one of Miller's favourite gags.

CJAi 92.1 FM, a community radio station on Amherst Island, about 30 kilometres west of Kingston, in Lake Ontario, was created in 2006 by a group of residents — including veteran broadcaster Peter Trueman, who had retired to the island — to promote local content and community events. It now

reaches roughly 10,000 listeners from Picton to the western edge of Kingston and airs more than 40 hours a week of live shows: Jazz Jim's Vault (jazz classics and history), Saturday Night Barn Burner (lesser-known artists with a focus on rock), Sally's Books (readings from selected books), and Birding (birding), to name just a few.

Like most of Ontario's [54 campus and community radio stations](#), it relies on a team of dedicated volunteers to keep it running and is fighting to survive in a rapidly changing media landscape. And CJAI's fight for survival has only gotten tougher since it learned that it may lose Dayle Gowan's milk house — the building that's been its home since the station's inception.

"When they first started, they basically had no money, and this old milk house just had some junk, so I said, 'Do you want to use it?'" says Gowan.

In 2010, Gowan also became the station manager. At 77 years old, however, he's now finally trying to "untangle" himself from CJAI.

"I'm not going to live forever, and my heirs may not want to have a radio station on this property," he says.

The eviction would be an amicable affair, but the prospect is forcing the station to plan for a future in which the rent will no longer be free. It did receive a \$25,000 Trillium grant in 2008, but that was for one year only. According to CJAI president Eric Tremblay, the station will have go through a restructuring and double its revenue — currently, it's making do on less than \$20,000 a year.

Part of the restructuring has involved efforts to boost advertising revenue. Tremblay believes that, until recently, CJAI had the cheapest rates in the province "by a country mile." Now, they're 10 times higher (although, Tremblay notes, they're still cheaper than those of commercial radio) — and the station is starting to see a payoff. It's also building [local partnerships](#): the most recent led to a new name for its headquarters — the Spearhead Brewing Studio.

"The approach has to be a lot more professional," says Tremblay, who works full-time in the engineering faculty at Queen's University and is part of a growing group of non-islanders that volunteer at the station. "We have to transform ourselves from a bunch of people that like each other and think it's cool to be a little WKRP in Cincinnati floating in Lake Ontario — to transform that into a business."

CJAI isn't the only community radio station feeling the pressure to increase revenue.

"More stations are showing a loss in the past year," says Barry Rooke, executive director of the National Campus and Community Radio Association, noting that revenues are dropping, while expenses, such as equipment upgrades and rent, are increasing. "In 2019," he says, "stations will need to do more with less." Between 10 to 15 stations in Canada, he adds, manage on less than \$20,000 a year.

Despite the financial challenges involved — not to mention the rise of podcasts and streaming services such as Spotify — Rooke says that community radio is "actively growing." In 2002, there were approximately 90 community and campus radio stations in Canada, he says. There are now more than 180. In a January submission to the Broadcasting and Telecommunications Legislative Review Panel, the NCRA estimated that community radio employs more than 700 Canadians, is supported by 10,000 volunteers, and produces more than 1 million hours of local programming each year.

"Local content has bottomed out in a lot of places," says Rooke. "These areas are not profitable when it comes to commercial endeavours, and the CBC can't cover the entire local perspective. So it's left to community radio stations to fill the gap."

CJAI, he says — where "you have to walk past the cows to get to the station" — is a perfect example of that dynamic at work.

Sally Bowen, who hosts Sally's Books (when she's not helping operate a sheep farm down the road) says that volunteering at the radio station allows her to give back to the island.

"I've had Lyme disease for 22 years. I'm fairly handicapped," says Bowen, who pre-records her shows from home. "But I love reading, and I really like contributing to the community. Being able to do this from my bed enabled me to do that."

"She's our Oprah Winfrey," says Dave Wreggitt, the station's vice-president and host of Funraising.

"Not bloody likely," Bowen replies.

Wreggitt says it's the ability to be his true self on the air that keeps him coming back every week — for others, it's the thrill of live broadcasting or a passion for music (or books, or cheese) that inspires them to volunteer.

For Miller, the former dairy farmer who hosts a history show and works part-time at the island's landfill, it's the social factor. He loves to chat with other islanders about the latest news and gossip.

"The two social hubs on the island are the radio station and the dump," he jokes. "The radio station smells a bit better, though."

This is one in a series of stories about issues affecting eastern Ontario. It's brought to you with the assistance of Queen's University.

Ontario Hubs are made possible by the Barry and Laurie Green Family Charitable Trust & Goldie Feldman.

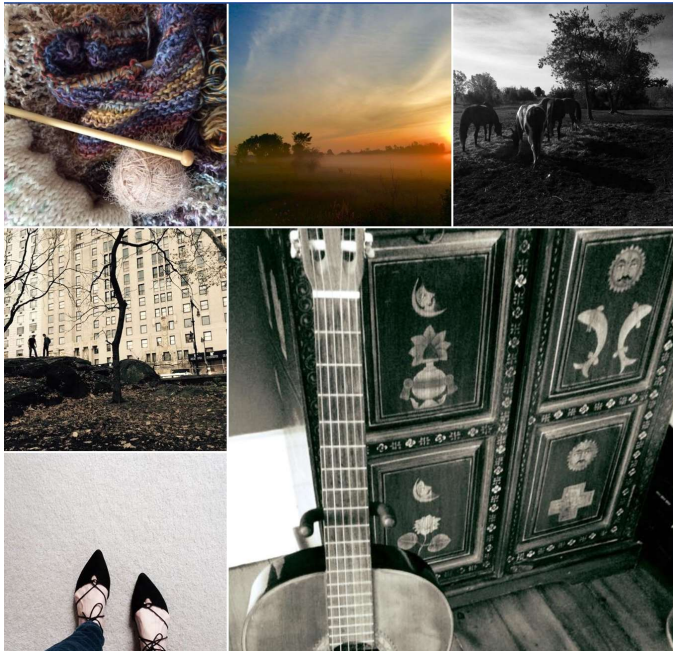


An Introduction By Nancy Cervenko

Judy Bierma asked me to do an article on myself for the Beacon. Shortly after that I was sitting on the train to Toronto. The people behind me were talking and talking. So very loudly. But I was riveted. I can't say that I was eavesdropping as it was impossible to avoid their conversation. But what kept me with them was that they were conversing so beautifully. And then it struck me. It's words, beautiful words. They are what draw me into everything - especially our CJAI FM. Station. I love the interviews, the informative discussions, and the music. And what is music - but words set to notes or notes forming their own separate dialogues - private conversations within our heads. And the same with photographs - "a silhouette on sand at dusk". I have a degree and diploma in fine arts from Emily Carr. I used to go to Granville Island and

see the students sitting there and I told myself that one day I would go there. Even though I couldn't draw. But I find that you can learn to do things. Especially if you really want to do them. Though the focus I chose there was Photography. I also have a degree in social work and spent some time working in Canada and starting and directing a Family program in Europe. Eric Tremblay

introduced me to Broadcasting at CJAI and Rachael Hunter Brown had me co host a show with her on CFRC 101.9 F.M. These are opportunities I am very grateful for. Michael "I like to Move it Mondays" Cox generously offered to help me learn the ropes. I chose my birthday as my start up day. So here I am. Learning and trying to get a grasp on the technical aspects needed. And as for the show I am doing - "That's Life" - I chose that moniker because, so much in keeping with the raw, wild west attitude of the station I could do whatever I want. For the future of That's Life I plan on music, interviews in person, via the phone and perhaps some pre-recorded. And whatever else comes up in the day. Just like Life. I am proud to be included in the current cast of CJAI



characters. The one's that I have met so far being Eric Tremblay, Michael Cox, Bill McKee, Brian Little, Dayle Gowan, Dave Wreggitt, Keith Miller, Janet Scott, and of course, Judy Bierma. I am looking forward to meeting everyone else. There are some wonderful new shows being introduced to join the current ones. And they are doing interesting things. Stay tuned. And if you like, from time to time, I can play for you some of my own music from our CJA station. Listen for music from Rayne, from my CD Rain on Tuesday.

Enjoy. * P.S. - As I was typing this article I just got handed photo you see to the right. It's a t shirt

from the show, underneath the handbook. Thank you Ron.

And life just keeps getting better and better.
All photos by Nancy Cervenko



Fundraising message from the President

Hi Team,

The 2019 Fundraising Committee met again today and we have another video update for you! Check it out here: <https://youtu.be/v3Pzq5zWBV4>

In the video I mention 3 different sheets - keep the links handy. You will find: The In-Studio Fundraising Week Schedule; The Prize Sheet; and The GoFundMe Donation Schedule. Take care, Eric Tremblay, President

PS: We have two new teammates joining us this week! 1) Colin Kennedy, Steve Kennedy's brother. He's going to platoon the Sunday 7-9pm slot opposite Kevin Offord on the show "Sunday Nights". 2) Jay (Smitty) Smith. He's going to anchor the weekend with a new show Sunday 9pm-midnight! Welcome Colin and Smitty to the Team as we continue to grow!



King of the Hill by Brian Little

Holiday Pictures



Mike and Pam McCormack and Janice and Eric McGinn on holidays



Warren Kilpatrick on holidays down south with Laurene



Start of the day for the Ferry Crew.



Saskia Wageman at the end of her day. What a difference a day makes

Below:

Helen Latimer-Hanah and Ted Reeves from Emerald on holidays





Geoff Jones with Saskia Wagemans on holidays



Holidays Pam and Stuart MacCrimmon from Emerald on holidays

Advertisements

Handy Fairies by Phuong McNeil

If you are looking for an extra hand to do a good cleaning, call us. We offer a special rate for a first-time visit. We can clean an average family house for \$56 - \$84. Our work is guaranteed.

Eric's Carpet Cleaning

Eric Beauchamp is a Bath resident who does on-island mobile carpet cleaning. Personal service using eco-friendly products. Fast drying, odor controlled, anti-allergenic carpet protection (613) 328 8300

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 14005
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 by Don Tubb. Open seven days a week.

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

J&J Taxes 613 539 5849

Judyhineman@gmail.com

jkhudacin@gmail.com

Located in Bath, we offer over 25 years combined experience, very reasonable prices and better service than the big companies. Happy to travel to the island to take care of you.



© Photo: John Zerafa

John was a photography student, brought here by Phil Norton of Country Outings – his shot of immature Bald Eagle

Island Schedule

Sundays March 3, 10, 17, 24

10:30 am Worship at St. Alban's

11:00 am Worship at St. Paul's

Tuesdays March 5, 12, 19, 26

Internet Cafe at the Museum 9-2

David Pickering invites you to bring your computer, iPad, tablet, PC, and connectivity challenges to the Internet Café. You decide what problem you would like to solve. Please donate a toonie to the Museum.

Wednesdays March 6, 13, 20 27 @ noon

Loaves and Fishes Luncheon at the home of Janet Scott, 275 Third Concession

Enjoy hot soup, sandwiches and convivial company. All welcome!

Saturday March 9, 2019

1:00 - 3:30 pm Scavenger Hunt at Topsy Farms \$35 per family

Catch the 12:30 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.

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.

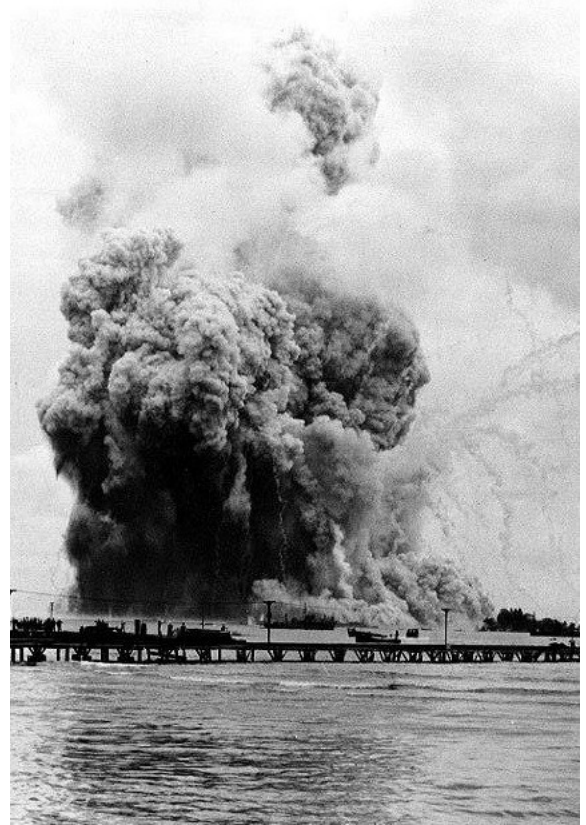
<https://topsyfarmsontario.myshopify.com/products/scavenger-hunt>

Sunday March 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day

Sunday March 17 at the Neilson Store Museum (rescheduled from January)

2:00 pm Back Room Talk

Suzanne Pasternak will present a talk "The Halifax Explosion and the International Emergency Response...a Love Story", followed by an audio screening of her docu-drama "The Story of the 1917 Halifax Explosion and the Boston Tree". This is the story told here. In the face of the biggest man-made explosion before Hiroshima, an epic and noble humanitarian rescue mission came to the aid of the stricken city from Boston. This was followed by a global response to save the people of Halifax. Admission is by goodwill donation. Refreshments to follow



Sunday Mar 17 2PM - NSMCC

Wednesday March 20 at the home of Sharen
7:00 pm Women's Institute Monthly meeting
Guests welcome. Please contact Joyce Haines if you would like to attend.

Sunday, April 14, 2019 at Topsy Farms

9:00 - 11:30 am Planting for Bees and Butterflies
Leader - Sally Bowen \$35 per person

Participants will learn the needs of our common pollinators, their nutrient requirements, the optimal structure of flowers for them to feed, and which local flowers meet those needs. Please bring several small envelopes and a pen for seed giveaway and exchange. If possible, bring some seeds of your own to share. Each seed type needs specific planting and growing conditions. These will be discussed, with demonstrations in our garden.

April 20 2019 Happy Easter

Saturday/Sunday April 20 and 21 at Topsy Farms
Sheep Shearing - Islanders invited at no charge but must reserve a time. Contact Sally for more info.

Saturday June 15th, 2019 at Topsy Farms

9:00 am – 1:00 pm Dyeing Yarn Naturally
\$45/person, including yarn Leader - Christopher Walker aka @cabinboyknits on Instagram. Learn to forage for early summer plants on our land to make

natural dye baths. We will wash and prepare hanks of Topsy Farms yarn then will dye them over an open fire. Christopher will teach the basics of natural dyeing and their stages. Students will explore the environment for additional possible dyes and where their plants may be sourced. Each person will take their dyed hanks once dried. As the hanks dry, there will be time to use the coals to cook a lamb sausage or food you bring and to visit the Wool Shed.

Waterside Series - time to invite your friends and family

Thursday, July 4 At St. Paul's

7:15 PM Waterside

Charles Richard-Hamelin Tickets \$37

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/charles-richard-hamelin-piano-tickets-55453404626>

Saturday, July 13 at St. Paul's

4:15 PM Waterside

True North Brass

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/true-north-brass-tickets-55453535016>

Thursday, July 18 at St. Paul's

7:15 PM Waterside

Brazilian Guitar Quartet

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/brazilian-guitar-quartet-tickets-55453690481>

Saturday July 27 at St. Paul's

11:00 am 71st Annual Garden Party

THE Island event of the summer - Home Baking, Pie & Ice Cream

White Elephant - Books - Music Quality Used

Clothing - Silent Auction BBQ & Lemonade ... and much more!

Saturday, August 10 at St. Paul's

4:15 PM Waterside

Gryphon Trio

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/gryphon-trio-tickets-55453875033>

Thursday, August 15 at St. Paul's

4:15 PM Waterside

Ensemble Made in Canada

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ensemble-made-in-canada-tickets-55454133807>

Sunday August 18 at the Willard Farm on South Shore

9:30 am 2019 Woolly Bully Races

The Woolly Bully is a terrific family event which has three different distances: 1K Kids Fun Run, 5K/10K races.

The 10K race counts for points towards the KRRRA members Race Series standings. The 10K is also the final event in the 'Tri-Island Series,' which also includes the "Howe Island Hustle" and the "Wolfe Island 5K." Go to www.krra.org for details on both 2019 series

Races: 5/10K events held on a very scenic out and back route along the South Shore of Lake Ontario. There will be at least 2 aid stations, each kilometer will be marked.

1K Fun Run: A timed event for children 5-12 years of age on an out and back course. It will be timed but there will be no prizes for top runners. Parents can run with their children if they feel it necessary but not required to register. Each child will receive a souvenir ribbon at the finish line and refreshments.

Location: The race site is at the farm of Dave Willard, Amherst Island, 600 South Shore Road. Signs will direct you to the site once you leave the ferry. There will be portable toilets and a baggage check will be provided.

Other important info: Our bus shuttle will pick up runners at the Loyalist Public Works Facility, located on County Road 4 north of Highway 33 at Millhaven.. It will depart at 7:45 a.m. and transport you to the ferry dock in Millhaven to board the 8:30 a.m. trip to Amherst Island. A bus will be parked at the dock in Stella to take you to the race site. The departure time from the site after the race is 11:30 a.m. It will return you to the Stella dock in time for the 12 noon crossing and the bus will be at the Millhaven dock to bring you back to your car. The charge is \$10 per person and spots can be purchased during the online registration process.

Runners who opt to drive over can purchase their ferry ticket while registering on line at a reduced cost of \$5 each. They will be passed out on race morning at the Millhaven Dock.

Car pools are highly recommended, especially if travelling over on the 8:30 a.m. trip from Millhaven over to Amherst Island. You can meet at the Loyalist Works Facility (directions above) and car pool from that location for either the 7:30 or 8:30 a.m. crossing.

Our History



Neilson and Jean Wemp. from Stewart Reed

From the Dec/78 Beacon:

From Ian Murray

Amherst Island Recreation Committee - Howard Pearce

Most readers of this article are aware that the major accomplishment of this committee to date has been the construction of our new community hall attached to the public school. Since the hall was completed just over a year ago, it has hosted many programs and events providing island residents with recreational and social programs. Night school classes, men's basketball, ladies's physical fitness, community dances, concerts and church suppers have all been held, verifying that the design of the hall lends itself to practically any community event.

The financing of our hall was a truly remarkable feat for a community the size of Amherst Island. Grants from the provincial government of \$135,000. Through Wintario and the Community Centres Act, a grant from the Lennox and Addington County Board of Education of \$22,500. and a very successful fund-raising campaign by the island that brought in another \$22,500. provided the \$180,000. required to build the hall.

However, the committee's work has continued beyond the hall project. Although it has not been actively engaged in organizing programs lately, it has applied for additional grants for floodlighting

the ball diamond and recently the committee made a \$300.00 donation to the I.S.L.E. Committee's creative playground project.

Council Achievements - W. Bruce Caughey

The past four years on council have proven to be a constant battle against inflation. This inflationary trend is evident in the increases in salaries of the ferry crew, of some 50% including reduction of working hours from 44 hrs./week to 35 hrs./week. Also, the salary of the clerk-treasurer has increased approximately 200% in the same time span.

The road committee which I have sat on for all of my four years on council, including two years as chairman, certainly has been no exception to the trend. Heavy snowfall the past two winters has resulted in large expenditures for snow removal. Therefore, leaving little money with which to construct and upgrade our township road system. The cost of pavement which we only enjoy 1.7 miles of, has risen by 55% and the temporary tar and chip surface treatment has also doubled in price.



Senior Wemp family Helen Miller, Ralph Wemp, Marjorie Tooke, Jean Tugwell and Neilson Wemp

Feeling the need for improved roads, council petitioned the Ontario government for a section of Provincial highway and this councillor met with the Deputy Minister of Transportation & Communications and his executive secretary in Toronto. After referring the request to the local district office for their recommendations, council were informed that due to maintenance costs of putting a crew of men on the island, the cost would be prohibitive. It was also pointed out, that by policy, to have a provincial highway joining a provincial highway by our ferry crossing, would put our ferry under the direct control of the Province as it is at Wolfe Island. The Minister did however

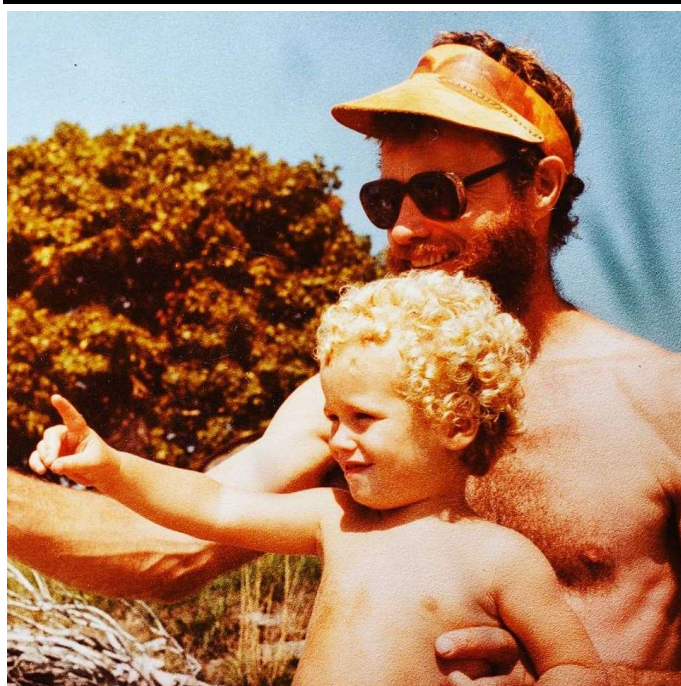
encourage council to apply for a development highway. Development highway is a construction project subsidized 80% by the Provincial government.

During this past summer council past a bylaw to apply to the Province for a development road at 100% subsidization. Recognition of this application has been received and it is hoped a favorable decision will soon be in the hands of the incoming council. If considered over bridges so much in need of replacement would qualify under the development road grant on the proposed route.

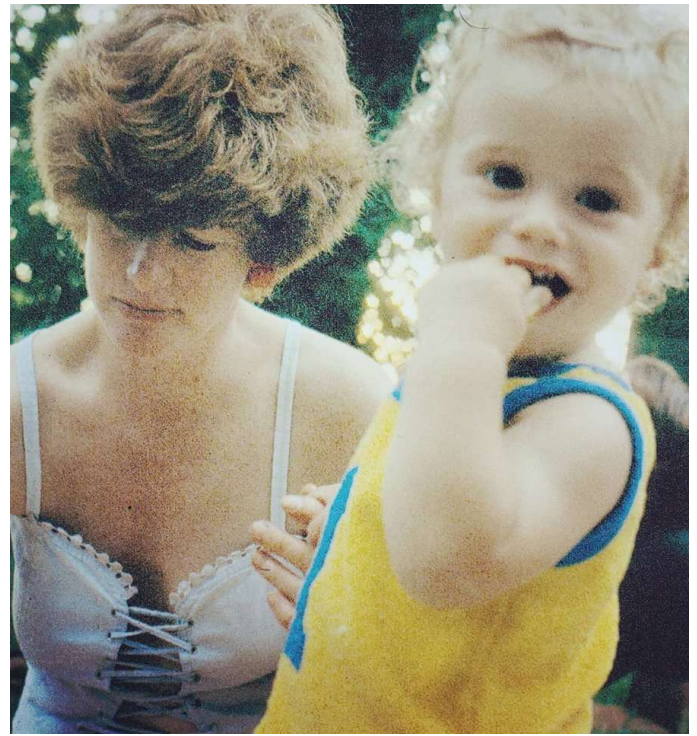
The 1975-76 council term saw many ferry improvements for the commuting worker. The pass system, the additional crew and promise for updating the bubble system are a few. The school-community hall project became a walloping success due to the generosity of those who gave of their money and their time. A new snow plow-dump truck was purchased by means of a supplementary grant from M.T.O.

During the 1977-78 council term equipment for the fire department including a replacement auxiliary vehicle were purchased. Improvements to the line-up problem at Millhaven were also initiated.

This has been an interesting, challenging, and often exasperating experience for me living part of your Township council. I thank you for your support.



Ian and Jacob



Sally and Jacob

Museum Minutes

Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre Inc.
5220 Front Road, Stella, ON. K0H 2S0
Registered Charity # 864124243RR0001

“A View to the Past”

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Present: Anders Bennick (President & Chair), Carol Glenn (Treasurer), Warren Kilpatrick, Bonnie Livingstone (Secretary), Karen Miller and Thomas Sylvester

Regrets: Bruce Burnett, Terry McGinn and Janet Scott

1. Welcome

Anders Bennick welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2019.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was accepted.

3. Minutes of December 4, 2018

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Minutes of December 4, 2018 be accepted.

Motion #2019-01

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

It was suggested that Bonnie Livingstone thank Sherri Jensen for the “Birds of Amherst Island” poster donation. To date, we have collected more than \$300 in sales. It was also agreed that if Sherri wished, a tax receipt could be sent to her for her

contribution to the photos, design and printing of the poster.

Thomas Sylvester reported that he has been in discussion with the folks at “On the Spot” regarding their invitation to become part of their initiative to include the Neilson Store Museum as part of an historical walking tour. Thomas has found their smart phone technology and app to be very interesting; but at this stage, not for us due to a number of things – our size, remote location and environment. Thomas is still in discussion with the group to ensure that this is a correct assessment of our needs.

Thomas agreed to investigate a publication that highlights the museums of Lennox, Addington and Frontenac counties to determine if we might be included and at what cost.

Anders indicated that he has spoken with Ross Stewart regarding a Back Room Talk on instrument-making. Ross indicated that he is not available until next fall.

5. Treasurer's Report for December 2018

Carol Glenn distributed the Treasurer's Report to Board members and commented that the Museum is in good shape, with a little over \$7,000 in the bank. As a comparison, this is approximately \$1,000 more than our opening balance in January 2018.

Unexpectedly, a new invoice arrived in Carol's mailbox connected to the Woolly Bully Run. It now appears that we cleared just over \$1,600 with the run. Carol noted that all outstanding honoraria have been paid to our summer student docents.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Treasurer's Report for December 2018 be approved.

Motion #2019-02

6. Committee Reports

6.1 – Building and Maintenance Committee – In Bruce Burnett's absence, Anders reported that there were not many updates to last month's report. He explained that a firm date for floor maintenance and refinishing this winter has yet to be set. Also, no further information on our proposed outside building shelter (for farm implement exhibits).

6.2 – Exhibits Committee – No report.

6.3 – Publicity Committee – Bonnie reported that Suzanne Pasternak had been in touch with her regarding a new musical/story-telling event about the Halifax Explosion of 1917. It was agreed that January 20 or 27 would work for most Board

members for this event. Bonnie thanked Karen Miller and Warren Kilpatrick who offered to provide refreshments.

Carol suggested that Beth Forester and Laird Leeder would probably agree to presenting their talk for the end of February.

6.4 – Fund-Raising Committee – No report.

It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the committee reports.

Motion #2019-03

7. Other Business

7.1 – St. Paul's Cookbook – Carol recommended that the Board purchase a copy of the reprinted cookbook from St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, as there is a lot of history in this publication. Everyone agreed.

7.2 – Minutes Publication – Bonnie indicated that she had received an invitation from the editors of The Beacon to include our monthly meeting minutes in their publication. After some discussion, it was agreed that starting January 2019, we submit our meeting notes for publication. It was also suggested that Bonnie get in touch with Deb Barrett to determine whether there is room on our current website to include our monthly meeting notes.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

9. Next Board Meeting Tues, February 3rd at 7 pm

Anders Bennick Bonnie Livingstone

Chair & President Secretary

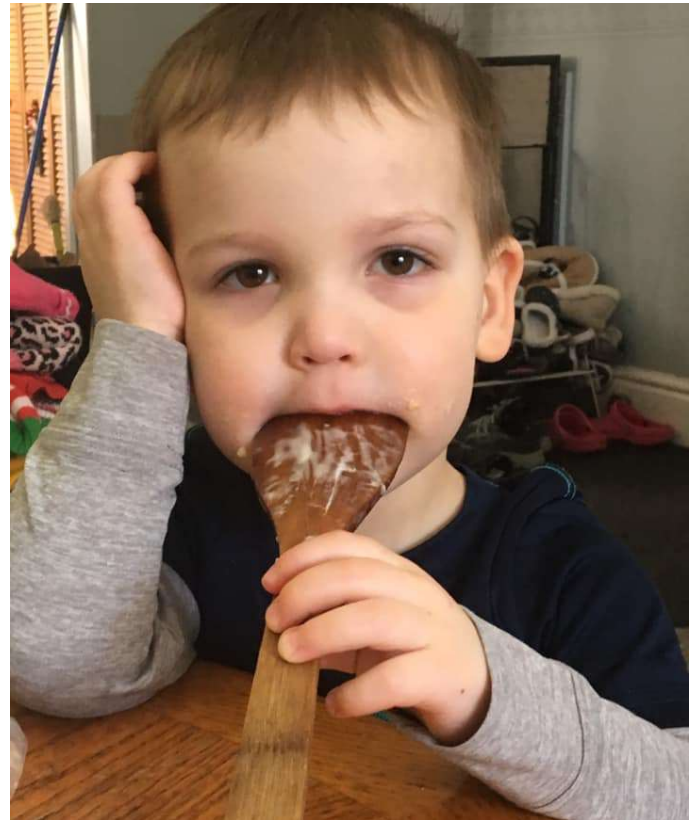


**Left Behind
acrylic on canvas
by Terry Culbert**

People of the Island



Carl McCrosky Photo from Susan Richardson



Lynn and Larry Fleming's grandson Hudson



Ryan and Angie McGinn's girls



**Victoria at Legoland
George and Ida Gavlas' granddaughter**



5 years ago on Amherst Island Dan Simpson photo from Joan Simpson

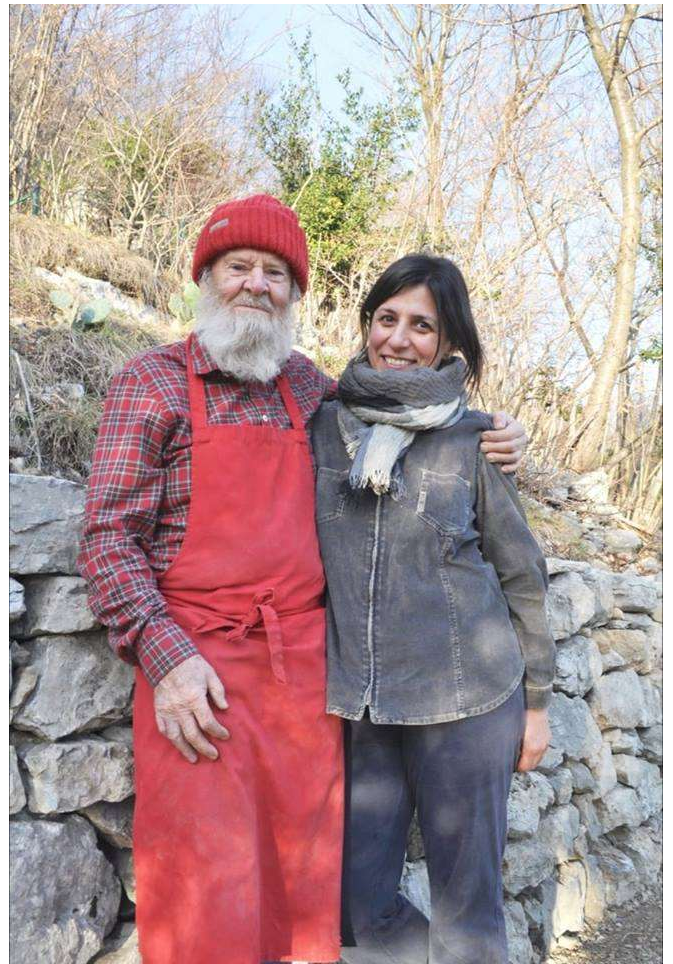


**Left: Rick
Right: Hurbert
Star players
of the AIMS
ball team,
from June and
better weather.**





Marcia Gonzalez in Calgary back from a run



A token Islander Norman Haddow from Ireland



Above: A little Jacob Murray



**Right: Joan and Dan Simpson's granddaughter
Bella Rose**



**What a great family
Tagget Bonham Carter, Mark Richie, Lucie, Gayle and other children, and grand children**



**Ian and I visited some friends
a couple of years ago that were ice fishing.
They set us up for this pose and then gave us two fish.
Photo from Sally Bowen**



Michael and Elena Steeves from Facebook



The Minville Girls



**Our Calgary grandchildren
and 2 great grandchildren
from Judy Bierma and Anthony Gifford**



The Kennedy Family



Sheila and Margaret Mooney heading for the Island



Ida Gavlas and her granddaughter V at Leslie's bday

Save the date!



Join us for the 71st Annual
Garden Party

Saturday July 27, 2019 @ 11 am

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
Stella 40 Foot Road, Amherst Island

Home Baking
Pie & Ice Cream
White Elephant - Books - Music
Quality Used Clothing - Silent Auction
BBQ & Lemonade ... and much more!



ALL WELCOME!

(no dogs, please)



Rossland storm warning from Ross Steward

In early Spring of 2016 and then later on in that year, there were a couple of heavy-duty thunderstorms that were something to write home about. Writing home at that time meant messaging d in Toronto when she couldn't be here as much as she wanted to be.

We unlocked the door together with the new owners key and I moved into rossland as a primary residence, February, St Valentine's Day, 2016.

The property was christened 'rossland' as a play on my own name, where the original 'ross' is a very old Scottish word for 'wilderness'. The 'rossland' was exactly that: a wilderness.

The other day, almost three years later, we lay in bed together upstairs and listened to the rain coming down on the roof, the underside of which, that we gaze upon, is of unfinished wood, cathedral style, hickory rafters and rough red pine collar ties. We liken our house, upstairs, to an overturned ark, sailing the sky upside down, with us inside it. Universal sea of destiny.

As we lay, d said: 'Y'know, you used to tell me of these great storms, texting to me of the terrific wind and crashing walls of rainwater. You said once the house felt like it was going to come down on your head. You said once the storm sounded like a Boeing 747 about to land on top of the house. You said you felt afraid for your life.' And I remembered.

At the time, one could look right out through the cracks in the wooden walls, there being no inner cladding, just outer boards like in a barn. The wind would scream through the house and the windows shook and, rattled; long



dried out putty and ancient glazing points barely holding them in place. Sometimes the post and beam house would shudder like a tall ship riding a heavy sea and the bow slamming into high cresting waves. Water dripped everywhere. Inside and out.

‘I want to be here for a big storm’ she said. ‘I’m beginning to think those crazy storms are a bit of a myth’.

So we lay in the upturned ark, in the twilight, and after a few minutes of silence, I told her of the time I went to get my son Kingsley from the Kingston train station and we heard the storm warning come over the radio...

I’ll tell it to you too...

There was a storm coming. Kingston weather spoke of tornado funnels in Lake Ontario, around the Islands. By then, Kingsley and I were on the ferry coming back to Amherst Island from the train station. The radio station kept stopping the music and producing a high pitched storm warning alert.

Then a calm voice would come on telling us how we should take cover. Like now. Or soon. These alerts became closer, five minutes apart - and more detailed about how to stay alive in a tornado. So we were on the ferry; the sky was still bright, with a visible waning sun, but high cloud formations to the left and right and dense grey rain patterns over Belleville and over the more southernly visual part of lake Ontario. We finally drove off the ferry. I was anxious, and we made it home, just as it began to rain. My son was not worried: ‘Dad’ says K, ‘I’m going to take a bath’. We have a large bathtub, in the ark, under the skylight, made for candles and contemplation.

There was not a breath of wind outside. The rain was coming down softly and only a thin covering of low lying cloud lay directly over us. To the left and right I could see dense heavy layers of cloud and then, as I watched, lightning began to the west, south and north. Sheet lightning began, in a horseshoe all around us. I heard the water running into the bathtub upstairs...

‘K!’ I called, feeling panic trying to get into my voice, ‘you may want to keep your pants on, we’re going to get hit by some weather, very soon. We might have to go into the cellar’.

The cellar is cut into the rock, with hickory beams twelve inches across holding the floor up. We would have a chance there, in a tornado. ‘WHA?’ he called down. The air, the ground, the sky was absolute silence. Water was splashing into the tub upstairs. I went back to the door to look. What I saw, at that time, is not recorded in this photograph. It took approximately 15 seconds, to get the camera and take the picture but in that time the cloud image had changed from what I initially saw: initially, I saw an explosion of cloud.

It was as if something had exploded from the infinite cosmic and erupted into reality directly in front of me. Like Jughead’s hat viewed from the top: a round convex explosion, with tendrils coming out the side like spikes and as this configuration dispersed, it was also racing straight towards us.

Our house, our bathtub.

The cloud was so low I could see the shadow of it as it raced along. It was terrifying, like an Armageddon, an End of Days.

As this weird racing weather entity crossed onto the rossland, over the top of the sheep barn, I felt cold dread like a shudder in my soul so I slammed the door shut. At the time that I slammed the door shut, the cloud was almost up to where I park the van.

Then another wind came.

Not the approaching cloud from the East, which seemed almost an independent entity, acting on its own: but another wind, a hurricane wind that hit us from the North West. The hurricane slammed into the side of the house like a freight train. Loose debris was picked up and thrown through the air. The rain was a wall of horizontal water and the wind punched the air as a physical blow. The large North facing kitchen window sounded like it had blown in completely but when I looked at the window later, fearing the worst, it was intact, undamaged.

The hurricane wind blew the approaching cloud away.

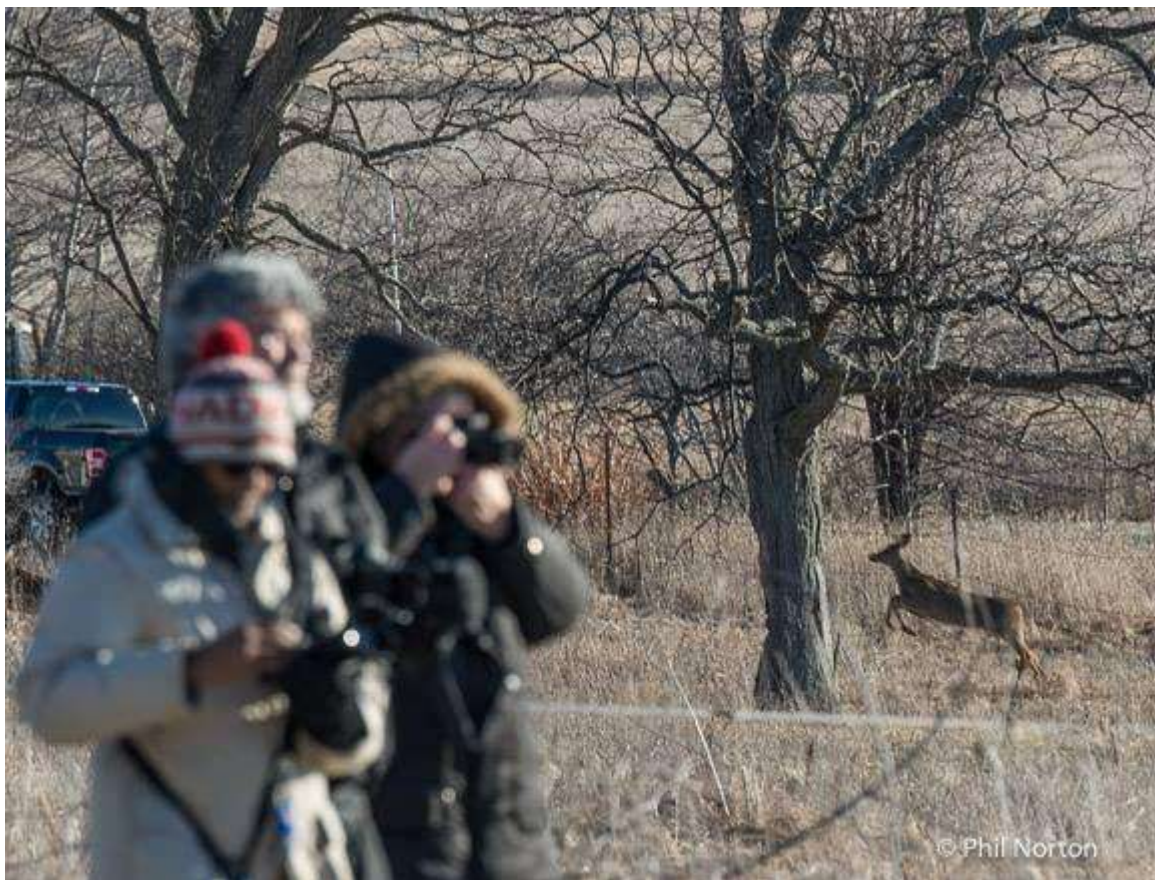
It swept it away completely, arriving like a protecting Angel, blowing it away to the South, across the Third Concession, out into Lake Ontario and when the cloud was gone, the dread left with it too.

We didn’t lose any trees but later, when I went to visit Tom and Jackie on South Shore, they had lost eight mature trees and the road was covered in debris.

We lay quietly for a time. ‘I’d still like to see a good storm’ says d.



Sunrise from Sandra Reid



Phil took this funny photo of photographers so intent on shooting a barn they missed the deer

**Line Up at the
Barber by Brian
Little**



**Check out the blue colours
from Sarah Vanstone**

**Windswept Road
By Brian Little**





Thank you to everyone that attended the opening of the addition to the Amherst Island Fire Station Saturday, Feb. 9. This new facility will serve the residents of Amherst Island for many years to come



Exciting News!!!
Our @jakemurray75 was on @cbc [#ontariomorning](#)
(Fri Feb 1st - 7:10am)
discussing Topsy Farms,
@mackinnonbrewing
and agriculture in the 21st century

Birthday Wishes



**Two generations of Littles
Above Angus and Jack with their father Brian right.**



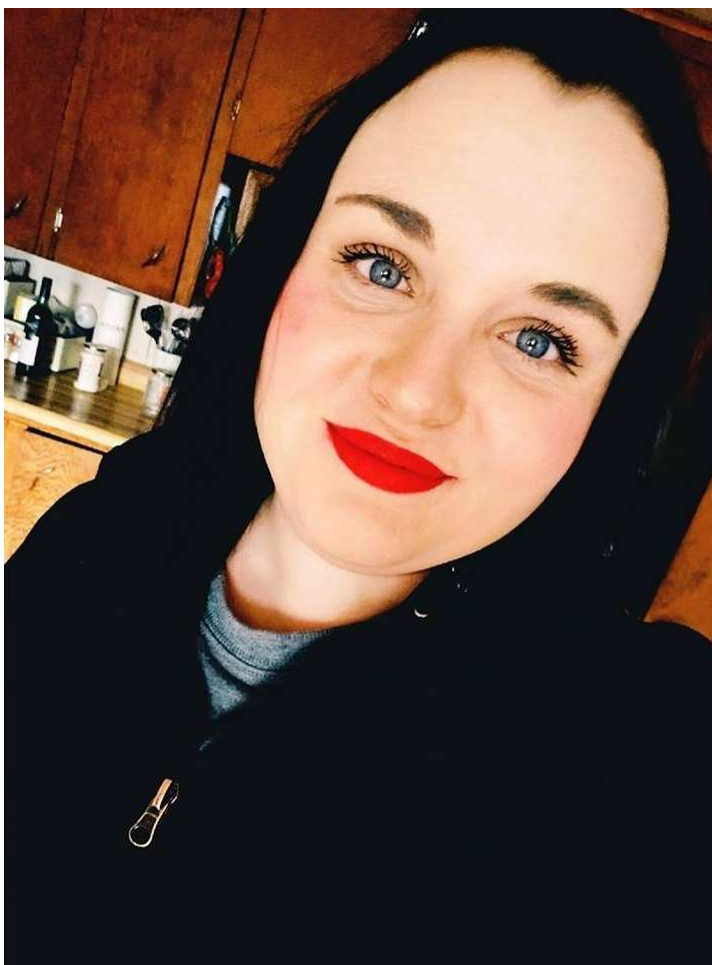
Denise Wolfe



Ashley McGinn

**Leslie Gavlas on her 95th
With 3 of her great grand children**





Brooke Reid



Mike Murray

What's Happening at Topsy Farms

From Sally Bowen

Details on all of our events can be found at <https://topsyfarmsontario.myshopify.com/collections/events> Visit there for more information and to book your spot.

Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, March 9, 2019

1 - 3:30pm, \$35/family

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

Spend a couple of 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.

Winter Foraging Workshop,

Saturday, March 16, 2019

1-4:30 pm, \$40

Tour leader – Ruthie Cummings

Walking on trails in our woods, learn to identify, collect, and process winter edibles such as Birch, Chaga, and frozen greens/berries. We'll forage for pine needles to make an indigenous cough syrup with Topsy honey.

We will clean, boil and process the needles in the Yurt and learn more about preservation, and preparation while warming up.

Bring appropriate warm clothing, winter gloves, and mitts. Also bring collection basket, mesh bags, paper bags, scissors etc. and mason jars with lids.

If snow is heavy, bring your own cross-country skis or snowshoes if possible, or ask us.

Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop
Saturday March 30, 2019
10am-12pm, \$65
Leader - Stephen Kapusta



Stephen Kapusta will teach each student how to graft their own apple tree by demonstrating the process, then supervising the hands-on practice. Each student will learn to graft their chosen apple species onto their chosen root stock, taking that tree home. The skill learned will be of value for anyone wanting to save a heritage species or to create future fruit trees to their specifications.

"Lost Lanark Legacy Fruit Trees" founder Jennifer Ferris will be an additional resource for the hands-on skill learning, and to answer questions about her heritage apples research.

When registering, each student must choose one of 3 different rootstocks (a small, medium or larger tree results) and one of 8 different scions (varieties) from which to create their own single apple tree.

Each participant is expected to bring their own protective work gloves, a sharp utility knife, a bag

to keep their tree roots moist or if preferred, a 1 or 2 gallon pot and soil to plant their tree. The workshop will be limited to 50 participants, so please register soon to secure your place.



Planting for Bees and Butterflies

Sunday, April 14, 2019 9-11:30am, \$35

Leader - Sally Bowen

Participants will learn the needs of our common pollinators, their nutrient requirements, the optimal structure of flowers for them to feed, and which local flowers meet those needs.

Please bring several small envelopes and a pen for seed giveaway and exchange. If possible, bring some seeds of your own to share.

Each seed type needs specific planting and growing conditions. These will be discussed,

Saturday/Sunday April 20 and 21 at Topsy Farms
Sheep Shearing - Islanders invited at no charge but must reserve a time. Contact Sally for more info.

Nurturing Foster Lambs will start on Mother's Day, May 12th, and will continue daily until early June. No fee for Islanders, but must reserve.

Dyeing Yarn Naturally

Saturday June 15th, 2019

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. \$45/person, including yarn

Leader - Christopher Walker aka @cabinboyknits
on Instagram

Learn to forage for early summer plants on our land to make natural dyebaths. We will wash and prepare hanks of Topsy Farms yarn then will dye them over an open fire. Christopher will teach the basics of natural dyeing and their stages. Students will explore the environment for additional possible dyes and where their plants may be sourced. Each person will take their dyed hanks once dried.

As the hanks dry, there will be time to use the coals to cook a lamb sausage or food you bring and to visit the Wool Shed.

