

Amherst Island Beacon



Issue 474 There's always another boat. January 2020

Note from the Editor

Wow I'm late getting the Beacon out this month. No real excuse. Sometimes it's hard to sit down and get going. Writing for the Beacon or editing it is a lot like doing a radio show. You never know if anyone reads the Beacon; then the other day I got an email from someone who had read the Beacon. I didn't recognize her name and she had read the Beacon and seen a poem by Judy Wambera. She used to teach with Judy in Ottawa and had lost contact with her and was so glad to find her and be able to contact her. It's a small, small world.

Our mom was very sick the last three months. She was in KGH for 2 months and a month ago or so the Dr. said she would probably last a couple of days. Well he didn't know mom. She fought off her infection and started drinking high calorie Ensure (Butter Pecan) and started to come back. Now she is at Village Green in Selby doing physio and exercises and eating and is definitely back. She had us all fooled. Glad to have you back mom. She wanted to go to Selby 5 years ago and got on a list then. So glad to have her feeling better and recovering.

New Year's Eve dance was great. The band was Shylo and the hall was full. They were sold out. Thanks so much to the new recreation committee for the dance. I love visiting with all the Islanders and dancing.

Hope this Beacon finds you well and happy. Feel free to send me poems, stories, pics. Many thanks to those people that have sent me pictures and text re: happenings on the Island.

Judy Bierma



Zelma Elva Koenders (Danby)
1933 – 2020

Passing

Aside from the Visitations listed below, Zelma's family will also meet with guests at **The Lodge on Amherst Island** between 3 and 6 PM on Tuesday 21 January.

Amherst Island BEACON Issue 474, January 2020

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

Obituary of Zelma Elva Koenders (Danby)

Peacefully at Trillium Care in Kingston on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at the age of 86. Beloved wife of Raymond for 67 years. Dear and loving mother of Ellen Patkai (Ron), Patricia Harris (Vince), Maryanne Mercer (Keith), the late James, Valerie Wolfreys (Dan), Mary O'Neil, Theresa Koenders, Michael (Cindy) and John (Kathy). Fondly remembered and deeply loved by her 17 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Survived by her sisters Verna Carman (Sid) and Elaine Hughson (Wayne), and by her sister-in-law Theresa McLaury. Predeceased by her brother Stirling Danby (Elva) and by her sister Eunice Plaskitt (late Bill). Also remembered by many nieces and nephews and their families.

For those desiring, memorial donations (by cheque please) to the Alzheimer Society or a Charity of Choice would be appreciated by the family. Please share your condolences to the family at www.paynefuneralhome.com

Visitations 2-4 PM and 7-9 PM on Mon 20 Jan 2020

Paul G. Payne Funeral Home, 178 Main Street, Odessa, Ontario, Canada

Mass of Christian Burial 12:30-1:30 PM on Tue, Jan 21 2020

St. Paul The Apostle Parish, 1111 Taylor Kidd Blvd. Kingston, Ontario, Canada

Rite of Committal at St. Bartholomew's Cemetery, Amherst Island.



Snowy Owl on The Beacon
Photo by Gay Beckwith



Order of Canada

Island Resident, Eric D. Friesen has been inducted as a member of the Order of Canada, "for contributing to the public appreciation of classical music as a radio broadcaster, writer and speaker." Our sincere congratulations.

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Shirley & Keith Miller

Saving the Planet One Plastic Knife at a Time from Shirley Miller

Every once in a while things happen that aren't exactly funny but in retrospect can come together for a bit of a giggle and after two nights of it running through my head I need it to stop.

It all started with an appointment for surgery on December 23, 2019. Someone would call on Sunday after two o'clock with the time to be there. Surgery at 11:00, register at 9:00.

We had some well-wishers call and now it is time to do laundry and pack...all medication in prescription bottles (which they never look at)...no valuables...house coat and slippers (which I didn't use because I was tied to the bed with fluid going in my left hand and draining out the right side. I had my cell phone but forgot the charger. And so on and so on.

Since Keith gets lost in Kingston after he passes Red Lobster Barb our "go with the flow" daughter in law volunteered (I think) to drive us to KGH. It should be an easy trip from the Amherst Island ferry if we went on the 8:00 boat but what if there was an ambulance call...or the ferry was late.....or we needed a pit stop. So about 6:30 we were at the ferry with three other cars for the 7:00 boat.

A pit stop at Amherstveiw would be good and Barb needed gas and we had loads of time.

"We could stop at Timmy's in Collins Bay but there is one at KGH and the parking would be better this early in the morning".

Timmy's wasn't open and it was barely past 8:00 so why not just sign in at day surgery? We had hardly sat down when I was called to get changed into the lonely pink

paper dress and blue slippers over my socks. Back to the room where Barb and Keith were getting more hungry by the minute. Then off to the waiting room where there is a screen that tracks patient progress.

"Mrs. Miller would you come with me to get blood work done and then you can come back with you family". I never saw them again until about 5:00pm. Bloodwork done and after a few attempts at getting my blood pressure at a reasonable level a young man came to ask me... What was my name, what day is it, why are you here etc. The surgeon came in, his first surgery had gone well and as soon as the room was cleaned we would get started. He suggested that I could "maybe" go home later the same day.

The anesthesiologist had a twinkle in his eye and I think red hair under his blue hat that matched my slippers. I imagined that he could dance a jig if the right music happened to be playing. "Oh, don't worry" says he. "I am just going to put you to sleep," and he did.

I was awake in the recovery room around noon, in time to miss the food. Even though they tried to find Keith and Barb they were missing. The bed I was to have would not be available until 5:00 pm. Never have 2 biscuits and a Popsicle tasted so good.

By now the missing family had tracked me down in time to find out that my bed was still unavailable and I had better not go home so I would be moved to another room. I got there in time to miss the food again. "We have ordered a tray, should be right up".

Jessica came on at 7:00 "No tray yet? I will check for you". I wasn't particularly hungry but a bit headachy and it was thirteen hours since my last meal. The next time she came in to check my comings and goings and still no tray she went to see what she could find in the fridge. In she came with toast, jam, peanut butter, cheese and crackers, milk, juice, banana bread and jello in those handy little plastic cups. I knew she had a plastic knife in her hand as well but I couldn't find it. I managed pretty well tearing up the toast and dipping it in the jam and peanut butter. It occurred to me "I'm saving the planet one plastic knife at a time". When Jessica came again and noticed I had no knife. "I think you took it with you" but no she found it in the bed. All that was left to eat was the jello so I decided if they could eat rice in China with two sticks I could eat jello with a knife.

=====

December 20, 2019 at 11:02 AM ·

Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year 2019. You don't know me but I was just sitting here under Keith's side of the couch (the best place if you want to be sure of your next meal) and I have seen Christmas cards arrive and the pile that Shirley bought to send. They are still here as well. They are always so pleased to get the greetings and hear what others have managed to accomplish in their busy lives but they are "just too

busy". So I thought I might try to help.

This morning we listened to Anthony Gifford and Keith (they made their first CD.) It sounded really good but what would I know; I can only squeak. As soon as he finishes reading the paper, he is planning on doing some visiting; not that he doesn't see everyone from time to time as he has worked at the landfill for 23 years. I have family there and they say the "dump" is a great place to live.

Last week was the last art class for this year. Shirley says she "helps" friends with their paintings, but they seem to enjoy tea time as well.

Shirley was really pleased to have an art show at the Lennox and Addington County Museum in February. She called it her "swan song," whatever that is. Two days later, she was equally as pleased to find out her cancer report was better than expected.

Daughter Gwen and Jim are out in Calgary way as well as all their family. Gwen was here a couple of times this year. I hear their twin grandsons are growing like busy little weeds.

Carol lives and works in Napanee. Her son Will and daughter Dana and their families are up Deep River way. I have to lay low when Carol comes, she would have a fit if she knew I was here.

Sandra is spending the winter in Florida. That's what happens when you live at the bottom of a hill that causes great grief in the winter. Her daughters and their families are in Gander and Kingston.

Adam and Barb are on the farm. Allan comes here often to raid the fridge and at 15 he seems to amuse them.

The Christmas season brings great joy and great sadness as there is all the rest of the year and I know Keith and Shirley feel blessed to share both with all their family and friends.

On behalf of Keith and Shirley this is the Miller house mouse wishing you and yours the all best for 2020.

BIG NEWS in the Village

Booze in the village!!! The cry goes out on the island, echoing across the bay to the mainland. For the first time since prohibition, alcohol will be legally sold on Amherst Island. The temperance act ran in Ontario from 1916 to 1927. In 1918 the Royal Hotel (pictured) was sold, closed and opened as as grocery store. That makes it that there were not any legal sales for over 100 years. As a McGinn I am proud to be making this announcement. The whole deal is a little strange for me in particular because the last time I tied one on was Grey Cup day 1995.

There may be some that don't like the idea and may fear that it will enable more drinking.



**Cake cutting celebrating the opening of the
LCBO outlet in the General Store.**

**Linda McGinn and David
Photo from David McGinn**

If you consider the situation where a decision to have a few drinks on Friday night is made. Currently alcohol is purchased on the mainland. When the aforementioned decision is being implemented with the purchase of beer, for example, the probability of buying a six pack is pretty low. A 24 is a much higher probability. You know, "just in case".

When the availability is minus a time-consuming ferry ride closer and you can get more on Saturday the decision may lean towards the six pack.

I could also point out some safety factors. There have been brags in the past where people have got off the boat on the mainland, made it to Bath, purchased their alcohol and made it back in time for the same boat. Hmmm!

As of this writing we have had our grand opening, complete with a beautiful cake, compliments of our good friend and fellow islander Laureen Kilpatrick. We are including pictures of Linda and I cutting the cake and of our first customers, Laureen and Warren Kilpatrick. Second customer, she was already standing in line behind the Kilpatrick's, and

contributed to the cake's decor, was the lovely Carol Kolga.



History being made. Beer for sale at McGinn's General Store in Stella
Photo from David McGinn

Beer delivery was delayed by a logistics problem, seems the delivery team had discovered that there was a ferry where they were going to have to take to get to Amherst Island. Now as islanders we take it for granted that we don't have to wait for freeze up to get here but... anyway I helped them over the hurdle by telling them that it was a little while ago that we got a ferry big enough to take vehicles bigger than a horse and buggy.

They sent an envoy over and since he made here and all the way back to Belleville in a day they decided they could get a truck over here. I have included a picture of the first beer store truck in the island's history to be parked in front of the store. Our first customer to pick up a case of beer, in the store, on the island, probably in history was none other than that west ender, know for his contribution to island's cultural scene....

Dan Simpson. A close second, another good friend was Randolph Mills picking up a case of his favourite.

Liquor sales start at 9:00 weekdays and 10:00 on Saturday.

The store closes at 5:00pm Monday to Wednesday.

Thursday to 6:00pm and Friday we stay open 8:00pm

Saturday's will find us open 10:00 to 6:00pm

Thanks to all the people that supported us and allowed us to get to this historic point.

Dave and Linda



Dave and Linda McGinn in their store.
The LCBO is open. Photo by Michele LeLay



Carol Kolga's picture of our cake.



Second customer at the LCBO on Amherst Island
Photo from David McGinn

Amherst Island Canada Goose has Crop Stasis

Last weekend Kyle Murray called Janet Scott about an injured Canada Goose he found and did Janet want to take it to Sandy Pines for treatment and diagnosis? I was visiting Janet and was heading back to Kingston, so I dropped the goose off at Sandy Pines. At last report, they were treating it. Many thanks to Kyle for finding the bird and following up on calling Janet.

<https://wagwalking.com/bird/condition/crop-stasis>

I looked up crop stasis on Google. This is what I found: It means the bird's food is not moving through the digestive tract. Kyle said he thought something was stuck in its throat. The goose fell asleep in his lap. It occurs in chicks that are hand fed. If it isn't treated an infection can occur and the whole digestive system will shut down completely. It requires immediate care. This is similar to intestinal obstruction in humans. Must be treated in a timely matter. It can lead to death. It can be caused by dehydration, infection, feed that is too cold or overeating.

We are waiting to hear back from Sandy Pines. Usually if the bird lives they will call us and we go and pick it up and bring it back to the habitat where it was found. Thank you Kyle for finding the Goose and making sure she got treatment.

Just heard from Janet. They operated on the goose and removed the obstruction but the goose died in its sleep in the night. It was warm and pain free.



Canada Goose with crop stasis
Photo by Judy Bierma



Retiree doing volunteer work...happily.
Darrell Miller Photo from David McGinn

From the Café

By David Pickering

At the Cafe

All of our island computer communications are dependent upon radio. While there are other methods whereby signals can travel, most of those are not available here. This review some of them first and compare them to each other and to the radio we use.

Fibre optic cable is the preferred choice these days. It is fast, secure, fast, error-free, fast, and reliable. Did I mention it's fast? A FO (fibre optic) line to your home could easily deliver 10 Gbps of data. That's a full 3-hour Netflix movie in less than 10 seconds. That's also more than 3000 times the speed I currently have on my radio link.

So, why can't I have that? Well, let's talk for a minute about that. Just like a chain is made of links, a communications path is made of links. Seldom does your data go in a single shot. And, just like the overall STRENGTH of a steel chain is no more than the strength of the WEAKEST link, the overall speed of a communications path is only as FAST as the slowest link. To provide high-speed Netflix (for example), you need to get the information fast to Bath, then fast to the island, then fast down the roadways, then fast into your house. All four have to run at that speed; if even one of these four links is slow, the entire path is slow. Also, remember that many of these links are SHARED. If the line coming to the island has the aggregate data for 200 families, then you're not going to get the full speed for YOUR use. You might get only 1% of it.

So, data to Bath? Nope. When the wind guys had a big camp on the second, with more than 100 computers, they said there wasn't enough data coming down Bath road to meet their needs. I don't know if this has changed in the past two years, but I asked during the highway construction last year and apparently there wasn't any new fast cable going into the ground. No fiber in link 1.

Data to the island? Nope. A couple of Bell installers told me a few years ago that the telephone cable which comes in at Kerr Point had only 3 strands of fibre. Just enough for telephone voice service to the switch located in the brown boxes at MacDonald's Lane and Front Rd. Not enough for computers. While the turbine people allegedly put in 32 strands (LOTS !) in their underwater cable, they haven't offered anyone use of their spare capacity. (If I'm

wrong, please tell me.)

Data down the roads? Nope. We have old, often-broken-and-repaired audio copper cable for phones. No fibre there. Again, I've talked to Bell, and it is their INTENT to hang fibre on the poles, it hasn't been done yet and probably won't be for years. Not enough customers to make it profitable.

Data to your house? Nope. Homeowners would probably have to cover this cost themselves, and there's no point given that three of the four links are slow anyway. Fibre is not going to happen soon.

Next down in speed is data on cable TV lines. They actually send the information BETWEEN the channels which are 'stacked' up on the line, separated by frequency just like radio stations are. (A simplistic explanation; sorry.) But we have no cable on the island. I had cable on the Base once; east of Kingston. It was GREAT; 100 Mbps. That was, until I started telling people about it. Cable internet is an example of a 'shared link.' My buddies signed up, based on my recommendation, and in three months I was at 1/10th the original speed.

Next down in speed is ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) on your phone line. You can get about 10 Mbps off that. Not bad. Provided you have good quality lines and are close to the switch. But any break/splice in the line will cut the power in half, and affect the speed by the same amount. You know those big black cylinders on the telephone lines? (Look up - you'll see them.) Each is a splice. Last I counted, there were 21 on the way to my house. (Don't count splices while driving. I nearly went off the road.) ADSL is therefore not available on the island.

So, back to radio. That's a rather generic term for signals transmitted over the air and received with an antenna. We have satellite radio, cellular radio, direct radio, wifi and bluetooth. All of these are radio links, and many of you use multiple ones for your data.

So, what's the difference? If you can see the mainland, you probably have a direct radio link to a tower. You might be talking to an antenna on the Amherstview water tower, or the McAdoo's Park tower in Kingston, or even to Wolfe Island. There are also towers in Odessa, Sandhurst, and probably new ones I don't know about. They typically use a type of signal called LTE, but there are other protocols as well. Both Xplornet and KOS provide this type of signal, and a signal rate of 5 Mbps down

/ 2 Mbps up is normal. (Did you know you could check your speed, at any time, by going to www.speedtest.net ?)

If you CAN'T see the mainland, you might be receiving from a net of low altitude satellites. Only Xplornet offers that on the island. The service speed is about the same, but the cost is significantly higher.

If you have a Bell Rocket Stick or a Telus Hub or a Rogers unit, you're probably using a unit that communicates with the cellular towers, just like your cellphone does. These all have one big advantage. They are entirely mobile. You can move them to the island in the summer, and your house in town in the winter. They will automatically connect to the nearest compatible tower. Disadvantage? We're talking phone data rates here. Data overages can be EXPENSIVE!

So, that's direct radio, satellite and cellular. But, once you get the signal into your home - typically to your router - you probably want to distribute it. This is where wifi comes in. Wifi is intended to go about 25m (about 100 ft) though that can change based on number and composition of walls in the way. Extending devices can increase that range. The wifi from your router is talking to multiple devices at the same time. Any communications from computer to computer (or computer to printer) in the house will go VIA the router.

Another type of radio is much shorter in range (about 3m - 10') and is called 'Bluetooth.' It is intended as a POINT-to-POINT radio link; between two specific devices. Your keyboard might talk to your iPad with Bluetooth. Or your phone might talk to your speakers using it.

The thing to remember is, your speed is dependent on the SLOWEST of all these multiple links. This is important if you sign an agreement that says 'UP TO' 20 Mbps. Your mileage may vary.

Whew - that went long, didn't it? What say we just pass a quick security tip and end it for this month?

Security tip - Paypal?

Is Paypal a good way to help with my on-line security? How can I be safe shopping on-line?

Paypal is half bank, half payment centre. You can actually deposit and hold money in a Paypal account; transferring it, if you choose, from your normal bank. You can also move money the other way, with equal ease. The radio station accepts donations into our Paypal account, and once a year

or so we will move a few thousand dollars into our KCCU account. So, why not move it all? Well, some vendors accept payments via Paypal, so if we want to buy something for the station, it helps to have money in that account.

At home, I don't keep a balance in Paypal. I buy stuff using it, and at the end of the month Paypal takes what I owe out of my credit card. Simple and easy. The big advantage is that Paypal doesn't share the credit card number with anyone. The ONLY people who know that credit card number is Paypal. They pay the bill FOR me, but don't pass the card info along. Thus, my card is insulated from most vendors who might misuse it.

Also, as a secondary protection, I use a separate card for on-line purchases. The card I give to Paypal has a fixed limit; currently at \$500. Any purchases which push it over that will be rejected. (I've had to go back to Mastercard TWICE when they tried to raise that limit.) Sometimes it's a little inconvenient, but I'm willing to put up with it for the extra security.

Shopping on-line can be safe, if you take a few precautions to limit potential damage. Avoid giving access directly to your bank account. Limit the damage that can be done.

Thank you

You know, a LOT of people do a great deal on the Island to help friends, family and neighbours. Most of them are unrecognized, which might be the way they want it.

We're introducing a new section to The Beacon – this one – which is a place to say Thank You. Make it general if you want. Make it anonymous if you want. Just keep it simple and sincere.

I'll start.

Thank you to the lady who donated the money to AIMS. I would have driven you anyway, but we do appreciate the support. It will go to a good place.

Thank you to all the people who support my friend Doug. I know he could not enjoy the life he loves without the continued care his friends provide.

Thank you to Janet Scott for Loaves and Fishes. You provide a welcome break in the week during the coldest and darkest parts of the year.

Thank you David and Linda McGinn for working to expand and improve the General Store. It's a joy to go in, and I do it much more often.

Thank you Dale and Ellie, for housing the radio station all these years. We couldn't have done it without you.

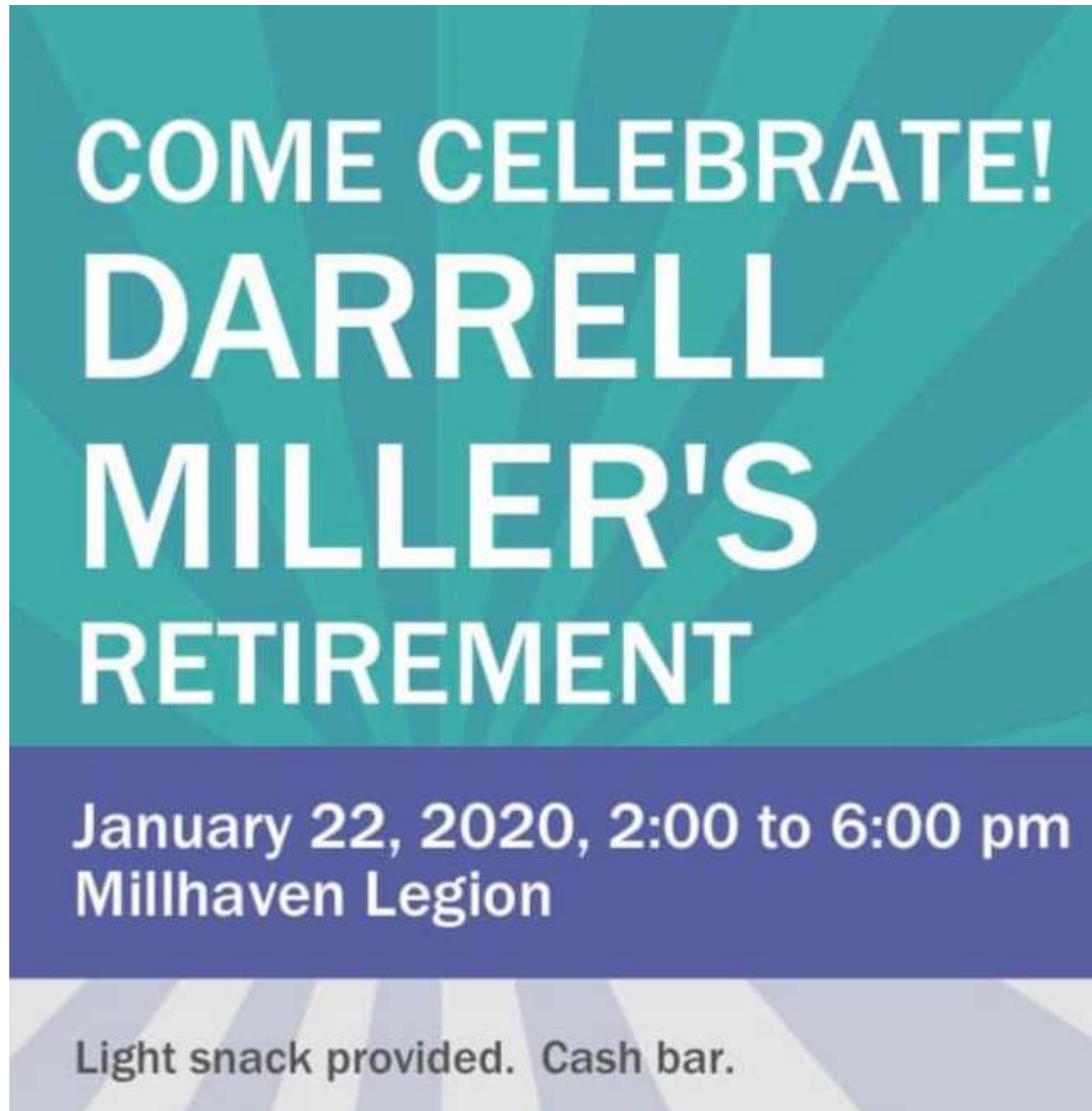
Thank you Judy Bierma, for taking on The Beacon

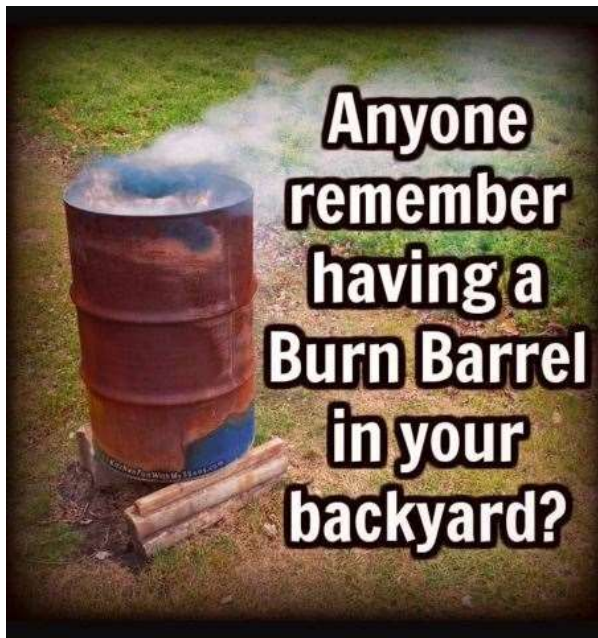
and keeping it alive, well past the date when you said you would stop.

Thank you Women's Institute and Judy Greer for the Medical Lending Cupboard in my basement. We see the people, and the equipment, come and go. We KNOW how much it is appreciated by everyone.

So, anyone else?

Send e-mail to Judy or me. (David)





NSMCC Minutes

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Present: Anders Bennick (President & Chair), Bruce Burnett, Carol Glenn, Warren Kilpatrick, Karen Miller, Janet Scott, and Thomas Sylvester pro temp secretary

Regrets: Bonnie Livingstone

1. Welcome

Anders Bennick welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved.

3. Minutes of November 5, 2019.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Minutes of November 5, 2019, be approved.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes.

William Barrett's donation (through the Royal Bank of Canada) has been received and it was agreed that donation plaques would not be recurring, thank-you letters would suffice.

5. Treasurer's Report for November 2019

There is a strong balance.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Treasurer's Report for November 2019 be approved.

6. Committee Reports

6.1 – Building and Maintenance Committee

Bruce Burnett reported the oil tank protective canopy is yet to be completed and floor sanding this winter.

6.2 – Exhibits Committee

Janet Scott reported tentative exhibits for 2020: Laundry corner and Prohibition.

6.3 – Publicity Committee

The November talk with the KFLA Health Unit, Fall Prevention was successful. Susan Pasternak hopes to perform later this winter, possibly the February Family Day weekend.

6.4 – Fund-Raising Committee

Woolly Bully Run: the on-going ferry dock construction constrained mainland parking options. This year we hired two buses (\$900 cost) and suggest next year as a cost-shaving alternative, to purchase two books of ferry tickets – to be distributed to participants' vehicles.

This past Christmas Sale day, there was a William Perceval map sale pragmatically, facilitated by our tenant Weasel & Easel with the purchaser's payment cheque placed in our donation box. Next spring, we hope to propose (Credit / Debit Card) sales could be handled by their wizardry.

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

7. Unfinished Business

Thomas is still investigating the reproduction of the 1935 Assessment Roll manuscript.

8. New Business

Women's Institute Monthly Social –The AIWI proposed hosting a monthly Saturday afternoon social at the Museum, welcoming Islanders and vendors (an indoor market). Agreed.

9. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned.

10. Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 7 pm.

Anders Bennick

Thomas Sylvester

Chair & President

pro tempSecretary



The Back Kitchen AGM has been rescheduled to Sun Feb 9 at 2 pm. Watch for a flyer next week.

Island Schedule From Deb

The Rec Committee has just announced some exciting new programs. Please see the attached poster.

Sundays January 5, 12, 19, 26

11:00 am Worship at St. Paul's

No services at St. Alban's until April 5. Contact Hubert Groot for information about bible study.

Exciting changes at the Community Centre!

Mondays January 6, 13, 20, 27 at the AI Community Centre
6:00 to 7:00 pm Adult Open Gym (see poster for details)

7:00 to 9:00 pm All Ages Volleyball

Tuesdays January 7, 14, 21, 28 at the Neilson Store Museum Back Room

9:00 am to 2:00 pm Internet Cafe. Bring your computer, phone, and wireless challenges and try to stump David Pickering! Learn how to use the toys you got for Christmas.

Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout January at the AI Community Centre
6:30 pm Pickleball

Wednesdays January 8, 15, 22, 29 at the AI Community Centre

6:00 pm Zumba \$8 per session \$40/5 pass

7:00 pm Yoga with Tagget

Wednesdays starting January 8 to April 8

12:00 noon to 2:00 pm Loaves and Fishes at Janet Scott's 350 Third Concession

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

Please contact Janet if you wish to help or donate.

~~Sunday January 12, 2020~~

Sunday February 9, 2020

Neilson Store Back Room

2:00 to 4:00 pm Back Kitchen Annual General Meeting

Come and learn about the fundraising status, plans for 2020 and financials. All welcome!

!! NEW HOURS Stella General Store and LCBO !!

Monday to Wednesday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Thursday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am to 8:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

WHAT'S ON

STARTING JANUARY 6, 2020 AT YOUR AMHERST ISLAND REC CENTRE



MON
6-7PM

ADULT OPEN GYM

Islanders ages 14+ can come walk, shoot hoops or bring equipment for floor hockey, etc. **Please bring dry shoes.** Free.



MON
7-9PM

ALL AGES VOLLEYBALL

All ages, all levels, tons of fun with your neighbours. **Please bring dry shoes.** Free.



WED
6-7PM

ZUMBA WITH KRISTEN

Islanders from toddlers to seniors have been enjoying this dance fitness class. **Please bring dry shoes.** \$40/5-class pass \$8/class



WED
7-8PM

YOGA WITH TAGGET

Starting Jan 8, weekly yoga with Tagget. **Please bring a mat.** Beginners welcome. \$40/5-class pass



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

Bath resident 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

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

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

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.

AMHERST ISLAND CHIROPRACTIC 14005 Front Rd. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. For appointments call 613 328-8892

J&J Taxes 613 539 5849

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jkhudacin@gmail.com

Located in Bath, we offer over 25 years combined experience, very reasonable prices and better service than the big companies. We come to the Island.

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Blasts from the past



Sand Beach January 2017. What a difference from this year. Photo by Judy Bierma



1950 Photo by Ray Scouten

Snowy Owl Etiquette

By Judy Bierma with information taken from Project Snow Storm website

There was a very important and extensive article written on the Project Snow Storm website and I would like to share it with you because of the number of Snowy Owls we usually have on the Island. There are proper ways to watch/photograph Snowy Owls. Because they are coming from the Arctic, the young ones are not afraid of humans and may let you come up to them but you should not go very close to them. If they continue to stare at you or fidget you are too close. Back off. By going too close they could fly into traffic to avoid you and they aren't used to traffic. They could also be attacked by an eagle or a mob of crows if they are flushed by you.

Owls usually fly at night and hunt then and don't usually fly around in the day time. If you see them flying in the daytime they are feeling stressed; harassed by you or something.

"Here's how to a good observer:

Keep your distance.

Respect private property.

Do not feed an owl, ever." (Project Snow Storm)

A car makes a good blind so stay in your car.

Most of the land on the Island is privately owned. The Owl Woods and the conservation area at the foot of the Island is public, The Sand Beach, The Back Beach, Landsend Park are public but most of the Island is private property. Do not cross private property without permission. I know Islanders have complained about people walking across their fields to get closer. Don't do that.

Do not park in the middle of the road.

Project Snow Storm didn't mention birders stopping their cars on the road and everyone jumping out to see THE bird. The roads on Amherst Island are quite quiet compared to other roads but residents do use the roads too and especially at boat time. Pull over your car on the side of the road if you want to watch birds and be very aware of the traffic behind you and in front, coming towards you.

(Note: David here. The WORST case I ever saw of 'road hogging' was a birder who stopped ...blocking eastward traffic, on Front Rd about 4000. He then opened his driver's door (blocking more of the road), got out of the car (blocking MORE of the road), and SET UP A TRIPOD AND CAMERA facing north. This 'person' (I had to choose a polite word here – and it was tough.) was now blocking more than three quarters of the road when I came over the bridge and around the bend, heading westward for the ferry. I was doing 70 Km/hr when I passed within 2ft of his \$5000 lens and camera. I hope I made my point.)



**Sunrise
On
South
Shore
January
2020
Photo by
Andrea
Cross**

2019 Christmas Bird Count Amherst Island - January 3rd, 2020														
	Total	Abbr.	Gp 1 - Front Rd Stella to Lwr 40'	Gp 2 - South Shore Rd	Gp 3 - Stella 40' Rd & 3rd	Gp 4 - Lwr 40' & Martin Edwards Resv	Gp 5 - Front Rd - Stella to Bluffs	Gp 6 - 3rd Con (Emerald 40') to Nut Island Hunt	Gp 7 - 2nd incl Back Beach	Gp 8 - Owl Woods & Marshall 40'	All MacKen's backyard & water	Sally Bowen's yard	Gowan's backyard	Gomes & Schelle backyard
Great Blue Heron	4	GBHE			1			1	2					
Common Loon	4	COLO		2		1	1							
Pie-Billed Grebe	1	PBGR					1							
Horned Grebe	1	HOGH						1						
Canada Goose	995	CAGO	12	172	110	103	450	6	140	2				
Mute Swan	55	MUSW	15		2	10	12	1	3		4		8	
Gadwall	11	GADW	3			4			4					
American Black Duck	44	ABDU				38		2	4					
Mallard	148	MALL	52	7		4	54	3	13		15			
Greater Scaup	58	GRSC	45	13										
White-winged Scoter	2	WWSC				2								
Long-tailed Duck	37	LTDU	5	1	1	4	20	6						
Bufflehead	27	BUFF	1	5			1	20						
Common Goldeneye	307	COGO	118		5	82	55	35	2		10			
Merganser species	3	merg.sp.		3										
Common Merganser	61	COME	39	1		1	5	15						
Red-breasted Merganse	146	RBME	115		12	19								
Northern Harrier	5	NOHA	1			2		1		1				
Bald Eagle	5	BAEA	1		2		1		1					
Red-tailed Hawk	2	RTHA			1					1				
Rough-legged Hawk	1	RLHA					1							
American Kestrel	3	AMKE	1	1		1								
Merlin	1	MERL		1										
Hawk species	1	hawk spe.				1								
Ring-necked Pheasant	3	RINP						2						1
Gull species	20	gull spe.					20							
Ring-billed Gull	11	RBGU	1	1		4	4			1				
Great Black-backed Gul	21	GBBG	8			10	2	1						
Herring Gull	70	HEGU	28	2	2	26	1	5	4	2				
Rock Pigeon	56	ROPI	4			2	50							
Mourning Dove	64	MODO	1		28		12			3		20		
Barred Owl	1	BAOW							1					
Long-eared Owl	1	LEOW								1				
Snowy Owl	8	SNOW	1	2	1	1	2		1					
Red-bellied Woodpecke	3	RBWO	1						1			1		
Downy Woodpecker	24	DOWO	1		2	1	4	3	3	3	2	2	2	1
Hairy Woodpecker	5	HAWO							1	4				
Belted Kingfisher	2	BEKI	1				1							
Northern Shrike	1	NOSH							1					
Blue Jay	131	BLJA	17	2	11	1	35	3	22	4	4	9	12	11
American Crow	30	AMCR	5	3	1	2	3		8	8				
Common Raven	18	CORA	5		2	3		2	3	3				
Black-capped Chickadee	138	BCCH	17	18	4	19	9	2	31	24	5	5		4
Red-Breasted Nuthatch	2	RBNU	2											
White-breasted Nuthatc	25	WBNU	3	1	4			2	3	6	1	5		
Brown Creeper	1	BRCR								1				
Golden-crowned Kingle	16	GCKI				6			10					
American Robin	69	AMRO	5	18	4	2	17		8	12		3		
European Starling	481	EUST	41	175	107		40	5	110			3		
Cedar Waxwing	29	CEDW					12			17				
American Tree Sparrow	23	ATSP		6				8		9				
Song Sparrow	6	SOSP		3		2		1						
Swamp Sparrow	1	SWSP		1										
Sparrow Species	2	sp.spe.				2								
Dark-eyed Junco	18	DEJU			2				12					4
Northern Cardinal	15	NOCA	6	2		1		1	2				2	1
House Finch	23	HOFI	5	1						5	4			8
American Goldfinch	46	AMGO	12	2	5		17			1	7	1		1
House Sparrow	126	HOSP	38	13	15		50					10		
57 species	3412		610	456	322	354	880	126	390	108	52	59	24	31

Results: Amherst Island XMAS Bird Count

Thanks to everyone who helped make it a success.

YOUR RADIO CAMPAIGN FOR \$2.00/COMMERCIAL



**OVER 45 LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS
ADVERTISE ON AMHERST ISLAND RADIO - YOU SHOULD TOO!**

FOUR DIFFERENT PACKAGES TO FIT EVERY BUDGET (PLUS YOU CAN MIX & MATCH!)

1

Daily Advertising

Your pre-recorded commercial airs once daily (6am-midnight) for an entire year (365 in total). This package gets you the most exposure!

Only \$700/year (taxes incl.)

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Reach thousands of new people on social media with monthly postings tagging your business on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram for 1 year! (36 in total).

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3

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Radio listeners interact with broadcasters directly in studio via text messages. Showcase your brand on each text message sent from the radio station.

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4

Exclusive Sponsorship

Exclusive Sponsorship to a specific program on the weekly schedule. Your business will be the only "live read" commercial to air in the specified times. Commercial scripts can be modified as frequently as you wish to emphasize short-term promotions.



- Retro Tuesdays (Tuesdays 5-7pm): \$208
- Afternoon Delight (Saturdays 3-5pm): \$208/year
- Dis Dat and De Udder Ting (Fridays 5-7pm): \$208/year
- Believe (1pm Wednesdays and 7am Sundays): \$208/year
- Scott Jackson Show (9pm Wednesday and 10pm Friday): \$208/year
- I Like to Move it Mondays (Mondays Noon-3pm): \$312/year

ABOUT AMHERST ISLAND RADIO 92.1 FM

- Established in 2006 (going strong for 13+ years!)
- 100% volunteer-run, 100% non-profit independent radio station, federally licensed with SOCAN, Re:Sound and CMRRA in good standing
- Running 24/7/365, broadcasting on 92.1 FM and streaming on the Internet
- Two broadcasting studios: Studio One playing digital and CDs, and Studio Two playing Vinyl Records!
- Operating environmentally friendly heat and AC via Mitsubishi Air Source Heat Pump for maximum comfort and minimal carbon footprint
- Over 10,000+ FM listeners per month. Top 10 locations of listeners: Kingston (38%), Amherstview (8%), Napanee (7%), Bath (7%), Amherst Island (6%), Odessa (4%), Ottawa (3%), Belleville (2%), Toronto (2%), and Cananogue (2%). 21% of our listeners come from other regions such as Brockville, Perth, Picton, Seeley's Bay, Newburgh, Sydenham, Battersea, Enterprise, Trenton, Verona, Glenburnie, and the USA.
- Popular listener age segments: Under 30 (19%), 31-40 (19%), 41-50 (20%), 51-60 (26%), Over 60 (16%)
- Our listeners love social media! 93% use Facebook, 65% use Instagram and 46% use Twitter.
- Our listeners love diverse music! Music that they love on our station includes Rock & Roll (67%), Country (50%), Indie Rock (43%), Pop (42%), Singer/Songwriter (40%), Dance (27%), Blues (24%), Hard Rock (23%), Hip-Hop (21%), Classical (19%), Bluegrass (18%), Jazz (16%), World (16%).
- Over 11,300+ Twitter followers → #1 in Eastern Ontario for radio stations
- Over 4,700+ Instagram followers → #1 in Eastern Ontario for radio stations
- Over 4,200+ Facebook followers
- Over 125+ musical acts perform live for listeners in our Spearhead Brewing Performance studio each year
- Over 50+ local businesses and organizations advertise with Amherst Island Radio - You should too!

Working together to reach your clients the non-profit independent way!

Want more details? Contact Eric Tremblay, President, at 613-530-6238 or sponsorships@cjai.ca

WAIT! THERE'S MORE!



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DRINK LOCAL... AND NOW THEY CAN LISTEN LOCAL!**

Amherst Island Radio also runs Radio Free Stella!
All local music, all the time! No DJ talk - just great local music!
A 100% free internet streaming radio station with only local
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Try it today by visiting RadioFreeStella.com

**TWO 15 SEC COMMERCIALS/DAY
ONLY \$700/YEAR
(TAXES INCL.)**

Rossland Stories

There was a mound of shiny silver and black stone spread out across the dirt floor in the Great Hall. I had figured it was coal back when we moved in and didn't pay it much attention to it as there was wood to burn in the fireplace and all the coal burners in the house are long gone.

I guess this coal was for inside the house as well as wood when the pot-bellied coal burner stoves were still under the suspended chimney stacks. Maybe the coal predates the wood; it's possible they used both at the same time - perhaps wood for the cook stove and coal for the space heaters.

The brick stacks and the stoves that sat under them are gone now. They hadn't been used in a long time and rightfully so: the mortar had turned to sand and the creosote had, in some places, soaked right through the brick and into the wood ledgers on which the chimneys sat. Half way down one chimney I found a large nest. Inside the nest, which was made of thick twigs, was an egg exactly the same size, shape and colour as a chicken egg. I don't think chickens were roosting halfway down the disused chimney though. I'm guessing it might have been an owl.

There's still two of the old stoves on the property: one of them is filled with rocks and holds up the post for the mail-box; another sits outside by the Gallery and keeps silent sentinel over the valley. There used to be four, with four separate chimneys.

This forgotten pile of coal in the former woodshed that leads off the now kitchen door is quite different from what I am used to as coal. When I was a boy growing up (in a different country), we used coal to heat the old cottage we lived in, instead of wood. The coal we used was intensely black rock about as large as a child's fist sometimes bigger. It could not be touched without leaving black on your skin and it came in burlap sacks which needed to be emptied into a coal scuttle. The coal scuttle was lifted and then shaken carefully onto the fire grate with a little throwing motion that bumped out the coal lumps and placed them on top of the hot fire.

This large black sooty coal that we used in the old cottage burned somewhat readily, like logs of hardwood, but it needed to be laid on a tinder bed first and fired steadily until the black edges began to turn orange. They needed each other to stay lit: take one out of the fire and it would go out. In a group, once fired, they got very hot and at the top of the pile, little blue dancing flames decorated the glowing orange and black heap. The coal grate had a double layer of iron trays, one of which had a lever attached to it. One could pull the lever and the grate would slide back and forth. This action caused the grey ash building up around the coal lumps to fall away through the spaces in the grate. By agitating the coal in this manner, it would fire up anew and glow much hotter.

The coal that was banked up against the wall in the Great Hall at Rossland is not like the coal that we used to use. This coal is small, like the size and shape of prunes. It is silver black and does not rub off on your skin. I can pick up a hand-ful of this small coal and it makes no mark on me at all. When we first moved in I thought: 'well, this is crappy coal' and left it alone and sort of forgot about it.

About three years ago I underestimated the amount of wood needed to keep the fire going through the winter and by the end of February I had run out of wood to feed the airtight, factory built, shielded, free standing WETT approved wood stove that brings such joy. While scrounging for whatever I could burn, I rediscovered the pile of coal and decided to use it.

First I looked up the feasibility of using coal in an airtight wood burning space heater and the manufacturers advice was 'don't do it! Wood burners are not designed for burning coal'. Necessity being the Mother of invention however, I figured I could swing it – just until either the pile was gone or Spring had arrived.

So, I welded together a double grate, the top part mobile with a lever type handle that would allow for agitating the glowing coal and shaking off the ash. The whole thing was designed to fit into the fire box with the airtight door closed. I laid this cobbled together coal grate down in the wood stove, built a fire under it and around it in the fire box and let it all heat up. Then I put a few handfuls of the coal onto the top coal grate and waited for it to burn. In my mind's eye I envisioned a glowing beautiful coal fire, whilst clearing the old Great Hall wood shed at the same time. I got that fire hot – or so I thought - and I waited and waited but the coal refused to burn.

I equally refused to give up: the wind, snow and ice outside encouraged a ready solution. I figured out that the fire just wasn't getting hot enough to ignite the coal so I took the metal grate contraption out, thinking it took

up too much room and got the firebox hot again. Once it was good and hot, I dumped in a pile of the coal and mixed it into the fire. It put the fire out.

So I built another fire on top of the silvery black stone in the wood stove and kept it hot, gradually mixing the stone into the wood embers. By the end of the evening, some of the coal had started to glow along the edges – but without ash. It glowed red hot without apparently igniting. Like rock, like stone.

‘Well, that’s that for that then’, said I and stopped trying to extract BTU’s from this inherited pile of coal. I admitted defeat and blamed the coal: fake coal. Crappy coal.

It lay forgotten once more until the other day when, whilst using a rake to level the coal pile out and move it away from the wall, I looked at these stones again. I figured it was extremely poor quality fuel, almost unusable, representative of the poverty I assumed that faced the families and people who used to live here and that perhaps it wasn’t even coal at all.

I decided to look up the various types of coal on Google and see if I could find out just what these stones actually were. So I turned to Wikipedia and discovered, to my great edification, starting with the first photograph of a piece of coal, that this was not crappy coal after all. There seems to be different varieties of coal and various grades: I was used to ‘bituminous’ coal. What is here, stacked up against the wall, appears to be nothing less than anthracite. Anthracite coal was mined in Pennsylvania starting around 1790 and it seems to have made it here, to Amherst Island at some point after that. It seems logical to me that this is Pennsylvania coal due to its proximity to this island. Anthracite didn’t start to get popular as a domestic heat fuel until around 1830 and peaked around 1860 because of how difficult it is to ignite. By 1950, coal use as a domestic fuel had all but stopped in Ontario as oil and natural gas took over (as per ‘History of Pennsylvania coal mining’ and ‘Canadian Encyclopedia re: ‘coal in Canada’’).

To paraphrase Wikipedia:

‘anthracite coal (known as ‘hard coal’) has the highest carbon content, the fewest impurities, the highest density and is considered the finest and highest ranking of all coal’. It is also very hard to burn but once you get it going, it burns hot and long, smokeless, with a blue flame. Anthracite coal apparently represents only one percent of all coal deposits and is a greatly desirable fuel source.

Well, yes, it is hard to burn; I figured that part out. I couldn’t do it but they obviously could in those rusted out stove bodies. That coal kept them warm and they knew how to burn it. It burned long and hot and well. I discovered also that the off gases, when combined with moisture (especially if burned along with wood) creates sulphuric acid, rusting out metal components and turning lime based mortar into sand.

I levelled out the precious (but still useless to me) coal pile and under a part of it, over where the back door to the kitchen used to be, I found a bunch of old bottles, some small tins, a cast iron frying pan (so rusted it was thin), a tiny ornate perfume bottle with the top broken off- and a woman’s boot.

I recognized the style of boot right away from the picture advertisements on the old newspapers that are glued to the inside of our outhouse walls, circa 1900. We used that outhouse before we got the plumbing sorted out and I got to know those picture advertisements well. Maybe the original owner of the boot did too.

Under the coal, outside what would have been their back door, I’d uncovered a fashionable ‘going out’ boot with a small, slim design and leather sides but also brown canvas like cloth going up the ankles and buttoning over the shins. Not much more than the sole of the footwear remains but clinging to the sole by a piece of what might have been leather is this piece of thick cloth with button holes in it, carefully stitched around the eyelets with dark brown thread. It appears to be an Edwardian type of fashionable footwear to be worn perhaps accompanied by an elegant waistcoat and a parasol.

I tried to imagine the owner of this boot, in a pair of them, out here in the mud and stone, perhaps preparing to go to town in her practical but elegant footwear, perhaps with a horse and carriage to take her to the ferry and stepping onto it with a frilly parasol. I found it a little hard to imagine, this just doesn’t seem to be the place.

However... this is not a farm boot. That is not crappy coal. No chickens were roosting in the chimney and ‘ceci nest pas une pipe’.

News from CJAI

By Ellis Wolfreys

Hello Friends and Neighbours. Well, here we are, into a New Year. Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. We took a real break from the Radio station, as Christmas and New Years both came on a Wednesday, we chose to just let the computer do its thing. Hope everyone enjoyed it.

In January will have Mr. Jack Smith in our studio with a program he has of our Good Friend and entertainer, Mr. Mitch Barker. Mitch has a few CDs out, of traditional songs, and is very good at what he does. He can play rhythm guitar, bass guitar, dobro, and has a fabulous singing voice. I haven't heard him play fiddle or piano yet, but I wouldn't be surprised that he could. His wife, Brittany Bain is also a talented singer. We'll have them on the program live sometime soon, I hope.

Jack Smith is also bringing Mitch Barker's Grandparents to the Studio. They are Mr. & Mrs. Rick Gibson. They both entertain at the local jam sessions in our area. You may have heard them at The Bedford Jam, or The Sunbury Jam, or even at the 560 Legion on Montreal St. in Kingston.

Marie, Rich's wife, has not been singing very long, but is doing great. Rick does a great job on his harmonica. This is the first time for them to come and do a program, so I hope you tuned in, and gave a listen. We gave them at least a one-hour segment.

Thank You All, and God Bless.

From Mary Lou & Ellis Wolfreys, and Amherst Island Radio, CJAI 92.1 FM

CJAI Update from Eric Tremblay (President)

Here's a quick December update for you!

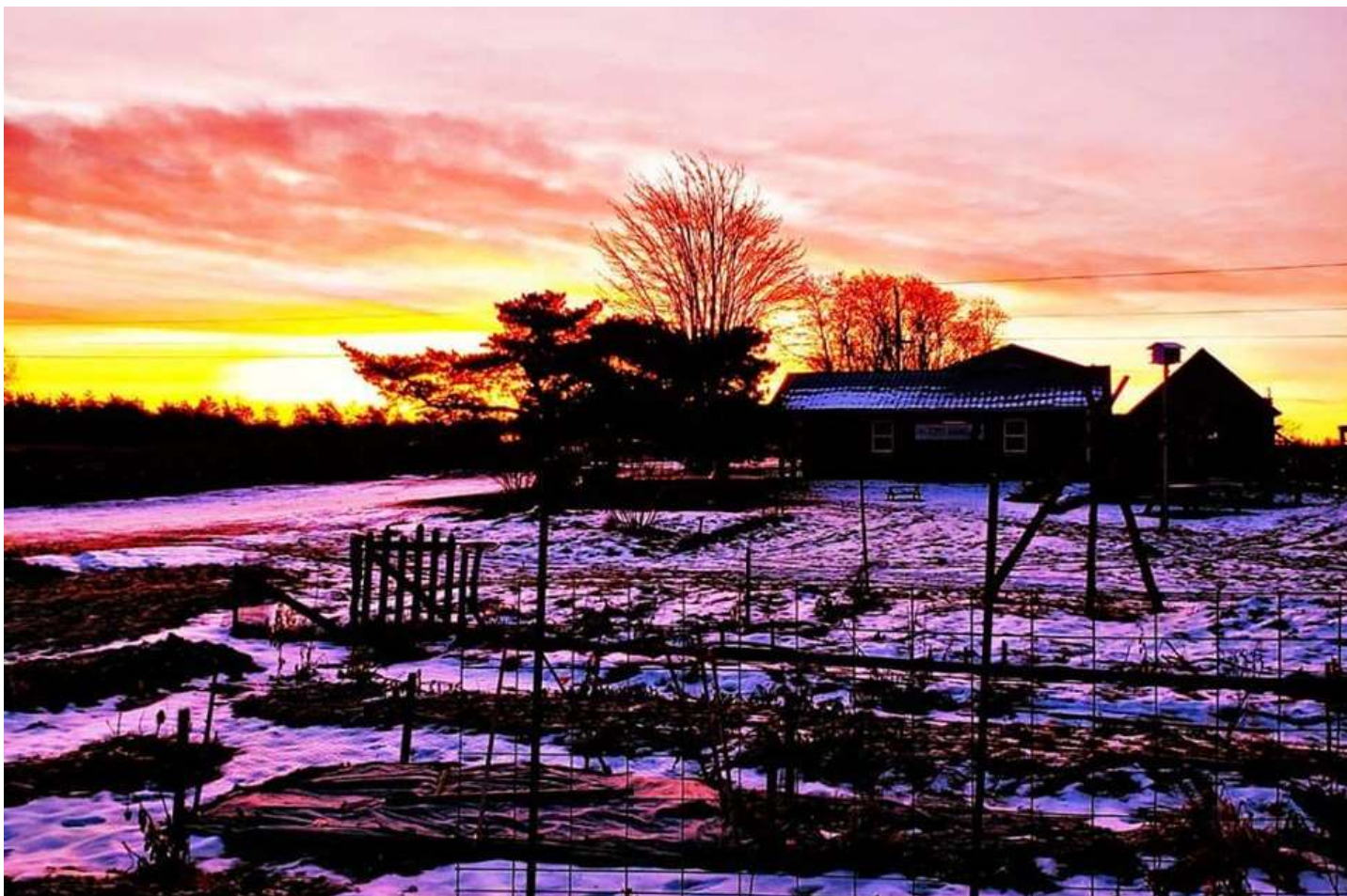
Earlier this week the Board of Directors chose the site for our new tower and antenna. It's directly behind St. Paul's Presbyterian church on Amherst Island. The plan is to erect a 130 ft communications tower to mount the antenna on. The site will also be accompanied by a small climate-controlled shed to protect the transmitter. The cost of the project is estimated at \$85,000 so we need to continue to work hard to raise funds, and this project will likely take one year to come to fruition because of the levels of approval required. If everything goes according to plan, next Christmas we will be broadcasting on a new more powerful FM frequency everywhere in Loyalist Township and Kingston. We'll keep you updated as we navigate the process. The next step is a public consultation phase with the residents of Loyalist Township.

Radio Free Stella launched on December 1st during our fabulous staff Christmas Party at Spearhead Brewing Company. Some of our volunteers will be on Global TV with Bill Welychka on January 6th promoting our new service. Have a listen at RadioFreeStella.com if you haven't done so already. It's All Local, All The Time! If you want more details about the service, see the Press Release here: <https://www.cjai.ca/radio-free-stella/>

One way to raise funds is to continue to partner with advertisers. In the last month we added 5 new clients, and each signed on for 1 year: Kingstown Auto Detailing, Cabinet Pro, Haulmark Junk Removal, Rossland Studios and Digigraphics. Attached is an updated brochure that you can share with any organization/business that wants to advertise on 92.1 FM or on Radio Free Stella. We now have more than 50 advertising partners and our goal is to continue to grow this number! Contact me or David Knowles if you need more details on this.

New Show Alert! Welcome to Ang Fohry; our newest teammate. She's starting a new show on Friday Dec 27th 10am-noon called "Rockabetty" where she'll be playing rockabilly tunes as well as other fantastic favourites! Welcome aboard Ang!

Lastly, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you all! 2020 is shaping up to be an amazing year for our growing radio station! Thank you all for everything you do to promote the local magic found in our community. Take care, Eric



That Kind of Morning on Amherst Island Photo by Jake Murray

Amherst Island Mens' Society Minutes

Meeting of 2020 01 11

Held at St Paul's Church Hall

8 men were in attendance for the meeting.

President Dave thanked the ISLE team of Jill, Anna and Nolan Walhout and Susie Caughey for preparing an excellent breakfast for the attendees. There was special applause for the delicious cinnamon buns.

Phragmites – Dayle confirmed that he has no objection to AIMS removing the clump of phragmites on his property on Stella 40. President Dave reported that Bruce Findlay had attended the Cottagers Association meeting and had been briefed on the phragmites problems. He will report on those seminars at a later session. We still need to put a notice in the Beacon and on Facebook asking for help in getting the community to assist in locating existing phragmites clumps. Dave P to assist in this regard. (Both notices complete.) Richard advised that he will liaise with the Township to confirm whether they have any programs in place to eradicate this invasive species.

Citizen of the Year – President Dave brought forward the item from Nov's meeting originating from Dick Dodds. Discussion ensued concerning the value of having other groups involved in the process (eg WI, Rec Committee, etc). It was suggested that the President contact the other presidents/chairs of the various other groups to convene a meeting of representatives to discuss the matter further. Concern was voiced that creation of an award might turn into a popularity contest and people were worried that some great contributors might get overlooked. It was also pointed out that all recognition of volunteers was a good thing even if it duplicated some existing Township or higher level awards as you could never over thank volunteers. Richard volunteered to contact the other groups but in the discussion it was pointed out that the AI Community Alliance is trying to act as the umbrella organization for cross group coordination so perhaps it should be taking the lead on this. Kirk said he would take this to the next meeting of the AICA Steering Committee on the 17th for their consideration.

Giving Committee – Dave P, as chair of the committee, briefed the assembled group on the process that is trying to be implemented and passed around copies of the form that has been developed. This incorporates the principles that the group agreed to last meeting. President Dave wanted additional time to allow the group to study the form and provide feedback however it was pointed out that the group had given the committee the go ahead last meeting to proceed and there was a time concern in that submissions were due in about 6 weeks. Motion to accept the form as circulated Dayle/Anders – Carried. Dave P will circulate pdf copies to all members and will post. President Dave will have hard copies in his store and will send a copy to the Back Kitchen who had sent a letter asking for funding.

Dave P also noted that he will create submissions for Ameriks and for the plaque and keeper for the school as these are internal AIMS projects but must also be considered by the Giving Committee as they assess all requests.

Other – it was noted that we continue to lose money at every breakfast due to low attendance. This sparked some discussion about the funding for ISLE but no resolution was forthcoming. Members were reminded that the annual membership fee (\$20) is due.

Meeting adjourned at 10am. Next meeting is 2020 02 08 at St Paul's.

The Beacon staff agrees with comments made that "It was also pointed out that all recognition of volunteers was a good thing even if it duplicated ..." With this in mind, we have initiated our 'Thank You' section which we hope will be a permanent part of the Beacon. We will happily help to pass on your appreciation to the many people in our community who provide support.



Market Social

The first of the four Winter Market Socials took place last weekend on Sat Jan 11. It was a resounding success. Mark your calendars and prepare for the next three. A great way to renew acquaintances with friends who are hating winter just as much as you do.

As for the AIMS cart, "See you in the Spring!"



Phragmites

Have you seen this plant?

“*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis* (Common reed) is an invasive perennial grass that was transported from Eurasia and is causing severe damage to coastal wetlands and beaches in North America. In 2005, Agriculture and Agrifood Canada identified it as the nation’s “worst” invasive plant species. Invasive *Phragmites* was first introduced along the eastern seaboard but have since been identified and located farther west and north of the original point of introduction. In Ontario, invasive *Phragmites* has been identified across the southern part of the province, with scattered occurrences as far north as Georgian Bay and Lake Superior”

(Excerpt from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, “Invasive Phragmites – Best Management Practices”, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Peterborough, Ontario. Version 2011. 15p

This plant is on Amherst Island.

AIMS has established a project to try to eradicate this invasive grass before it become a major environmental hazard for our wetland and grassland areas. The first step is to ensure we know the locations of any and all patches of this plant.

Please watch for it and report it to Richard Lapointe or any other AIMS member if seen. Once we know the scope of the problem we will be developing a mitigation strategy in association with the applicable land owners.



THIS is what can happen!

Birthday Greetings



Happy Birthday Craig Anderson Photo from Elena Moffat

Recreation Committee Report

By Lynn Wyminga

The Amherst Island Rec Committee, now a sub-committee of Loyalist Township, is headed by Jeff Forrester. Jeff spoke at the New Year's Dance and thanked the previous Rec Committee for their help and resources; Steve Street and his group for their donations to the dance; Bob Browne for his help getting us off the ground (Bob has now stepped down from the committee); current members Steve Kennedy, John Mayman, Sherry Miller, Mike Walhout, Lorna Willis, and Lynn Wyminga for organizing the dances, events and programs; and welcomed new members Maryanne Mercer and Geoff Jones. We would also like to sincerely thank Bonnie Caughey for her organization and time doing ticket sales for both dances.

The Rec Committee plans to organize 2 dances again this year, and a few other all ages events, including, of course, the Canada Day fireworks. We are pleased to have several programs this year at the Rec Centre including Adult Open Gym and All Ages Volleyball on Monday nights and Zumba and Yoga on Wednesday nights.

If you would like to join the Rec Committee, or help out at an event, or have an idea for a program or event, please contact one of the current members (we are in the directory). We meet once a month at the Rec Centre.

