Issue 479 September 2020

THE BEACON

"bonum apporto nuntium, tristem nuntium, sed non malus nuntium"

THE



BEACON

UNPRECEDENTED NEWS IN THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES



A stylish Amherst Island Ferry themed painting turned into a mask by Eva Gerus.

Go back to school in style this September with Amherst Island themed masks! Let your mask multitask for you by keeping those around you safe and healthy, while also being a fashion statement and conversation piece.

If you are interested in ordering, there is a minimum purchase of 2 masks for \$35.00, and delivery is 2 weeks at most. Contact Susan Filson at redandgarry@aol.com if you'd like to sport these stylish masks.



Something you don't see every day; this was Phoenix's first adventure in her custom-built wheelchair.



Phoenix frolicking around happily with endless energy.

Phoenix the Lamb Rises Again

Meet Phoenix, she was born in May 2020. On the day she was born a sheep accidentally stepped on her leg and broke it in two. Luckily, we found Phoenix in time to save her life. She lost one of her front hooves to this compound fracture, but she still loves to run and play.

We often save lambs on our farm from a variety of ailments, but for this lamb we needed help from an expert. Phoenix was rushed to the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, ON, and received a professional amputation surgery from Dr. Judith Koenig and her team. Phoenix is a strong lamb, and we cheered for her as she rose up again, stronger than ever. In this difficult time, she has become a light of hope in our lives, a beacon of resilience.

Phoenix has begun her physiotherapy journey in her custom designed sheep

wheelchair! She spends several hours each day moving around a larger area in her new set of wheels, with her bandage off so that her leg can air out safely. Sometimes she gets stuck in reverse, sometimes she wheels about in circles, but she always seems to be enjoying herself. Now we have many tiny little wheelchair doughnut circles in the grass on the lawn. It's her own adorable form of graffiti; "Phoenix was here".

A successful GoFundMe Campaign allowed us to pay for her surgery, medicine, bandages, and wheelchair. You can see her amazing progress at https://ca.gofundme.com/f/Help-Phoenix-the-Lamb-Rise-Again. We continue to fundraise to help with the costs of a sheep prosthesis. Phoenix thanks all of the donors for their support! In such a challenging year, it has been so uplifting to see people simultaneously cheering Phoenix on during her recovery.

IN THIS ISSUE

CHANGES
HAPPENING IN
THE BEACON (2)

2020 DOUGHNUT ELECTION COVERAGE (3) CREATIVE
COMMUNITY
CARTOONS (5)



THE BEACON

EDITION EVOLUTIONS

Reflections on the History of *The Beacon*

DONALD TUBB KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

While visiting Donald Tubb recently, Kyle Murray and I surprised him by revealling that I am the new editor of this newspaper. His eyes lit up, somewhat mischieviously, as he blurted,

"You fool, you fool!" which was repeated over and over through a giant grin.

I would have been discouraged by his words alone, but he was smiling all the while. Why? Well, Don began to explain the laborious process of creating the early editions of *The Beacon*, and I began to better understand his reaction. He explained, "We would type out the whole Beacon on an electric typewriter, using stencil paper, then it would go to Chris [Christopher Kennedy] to be cranked through an old printing press with a large handle. After all that was done, we would lay all the papers out on the dining room table, collate them, staple them, and fold them."

I'm pleased to say that much has changed. Although I enjoy using my typewriters, I will not be relying on them to write *The Beacon*.

Based on how Don described it, *The Beacon* has always been a labour of love; a task done for pleasure but not reward. When I asked him why he contributed to this newspaper, he stated, "I did it because it is important. It is the [Amherst] Island newspaper. If you go back and read the early issues, you'll see that it was full of all the

Island **scuttlebutt**, but this was really news at the time, it's part of what made the Island into such a close community". Don started as a self-described "handyman" for *The Beacon*, and he progressively became more involoved. When their first computer arrived in around 1985, Don began typing out newspaper issues. He also attended countless Amherst Island Council meetings as a patient and devoted reporter for *The Beacon*. Despite

the grueling work required, Don continued (and continues to this day) to believe in the importance of this unique community newspaper. I hope that with practice I will be able to meaningfully contribute interesting and valuable issues of *The Beacon* to our community.

In response to being asked why they contributed to past iterations of *The Beacon*, I received a variety of responses from retired editors and reporters, with a common theme. Ian Murray said, "I think that it filled a creative need in me. A great uncle was once publisher of the Ottawa Gazette, so maybe there's some genetic component". Randi Kennedy wrote, "the paper was really fun to work on, and it got us involved with the community; we got to know lots of interesting people". This quirky and unique newspaper may have changed a lot over the years, but at its core, it remains a cherished gem of the Amherst Island community.



Editor of *The Beacon* (August 2020 - present), and relatively new islander, Kayleigh Graham.

A NEW CHAPTER

Introducing the New Editor:

Kayleigh Graham

Kayleigh has been overwhelmed by the neighbourly fellowship on Amherst Island since she moved into a North shore bunkie while becoming increasingly involved in *Topsy Farms* in September 2018. Since completing her BAH (in English Literature), and B.Ed at Queen's University, she has focused on teaching English to international students from around the world both in person at St. Lawrence College and online.

Moving to Amherst Island came with many adjustments from her past city life, but Kayleigh embraced these changes eagerly and now enjoys being surrounded by nature, and of course, animals. This community has rekindled her belief in the overwhelming kindness of people. Kayleigh feels fortunate for the generosity and support of her neighbours, and she hopes she will be able to give back to the community as the new editor of *The Beacon* newspaper.

FOND FAREWELL

Judy Bierma Retires

JUDY BIERMA

EDITOR OF *THE BEACON* (JULY 2018 - JULY 2020)

As many of you are aware, Judy Bierma has decided to retire from her position as editor of *The Beacon*. She contributed, compiled, and shared many stories and announcements for residents of the island. She recently said, "I loved running *The Beacon* so I could keep up with what was happening on the island. I also did *The Beacon* because my Mom loves reading

it. My sister (Joan Simpson) always prints it and gives it to my Mom." Judy has described her contributions to *The Beacon* as an extended letter to her Mom each month, which is also why her family appeared in the paper each month. She also liked to include "pictures of islanders so everyone could see each other and appreciate each other's photography, families, and pets.

Judy's dedication to the Amherst Island community, and her devotion to her family, has been evident in her work for *The Beacon*. Thank you, Judy!



Retired Editor Judy Bierma (left) with her mother Helena Bierma (right).



BEACON

2020 ELECTION COVERAGE; DOUGHNUT-GATE

May the Best Doughnut Win

JON NYE-NAPPLE PINEAPPLE DOUGHNUT

JON NYE



Jon Nye with his Nye-Napple Pineapple doughnuts.

The unique campaign slogan "Jon Nye-Napple Pineapple doughnuts; always at the front of the line" has a nice ring to it, and a double meaning. Jon Nye is usually first to arrive at the front of the line on Saturday mornings for doughnut sales at The Back Kitchen. He also believes this is the doughnut that deserves to be first in line to make a second appearance in 2020.

The Jon Nye-Napple Pineapple doughnut was created in honour of Jon Nye, who habitually purchases extra doughnuts early on Saturday mornings for the workers at *The* Back Kitchen. His generosity and goodnatured gestures were reciprocated by staff at The Back Kitchen when they created a doughnut just for Jon. In response to being asked about the Jon Nye-Napple Pineapple doughnut in the race to win the 2020 doughnut election, he had this to say, "it's just great to be nominated".

Jon Nye says, "in the interest of good sportsmanship and community representation, the Jon Nye-Napple Pineapple Doughnut should clearly be the one to represent our community here on Amherst Island because of the values it represents". Jon mentioned that elections can be rather divisive, but at least we can all agree that doughnuts are delicious! He gave a nod to one of his opponents as well; "My most vocal opponent is Lorna [Willis], who is in support of the Dutchie. I'd like to congratulate her for her participation in this race. We at the Jon-Nye Napple campaign will support any victorious doughnut". Overall, his approach to this election seems motivated by a genuine desire to share pineapple doughnuts with the world.

For many people pineapple in itself is a controversial ingredient, competitive doughnut elections aside. When asked about his opinion of pineapple, Jon said, "I usually choose pineapple on pizza, but this was my first time experiencing pineapple on a doughnut and it is now my favourite". Jon Nye believes the best doughnut will win.

S'MORES DOUGHNUT

CARA NYE

Cara Nye says the S'mores doughnut is "way s'more fun than any of those other doughnuts". She has also exposed a scandal in the Nye family, who are all (excluding Jon) in favour of the S'mores doughnut. When asked about this disagreement, Cara mentioned a FaceBook fight, where "things got tense". When asked about her relationship with Jon Nye, of the Nye-Napple campaign, she said jokingly, "this is one of the many reasons we have two houses now". Cara says the S'mores doughnut "is a piece of art" which is important for an island on which so many residents are artists.



The S'mores doughnut is a delicious work of art.



A freshly made rum and raisin Dutchie doughnut.

DUTCHIE DOUGHNUT

LORNA WILLIS

The most fervent supporter of the Dutchie doughnut, is Lorna Willis, who had this to say, "the dutchie doughnut is 4oz of deliciousness". Lorna identified two island residents who surprisingly did not vote for the Dutchie doughnut, "both Saskia and Lynn [Wyminga] have Dutch heritage and they have turned against their ancestors".

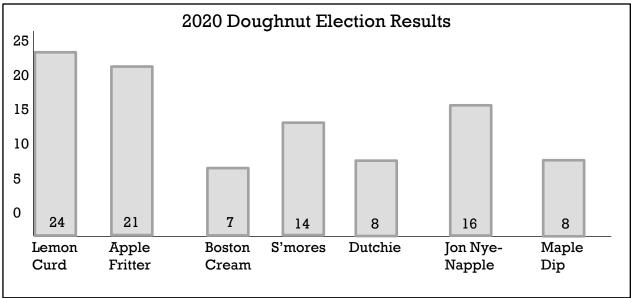
When asked about the Lemon Curd doughnut, Lorna said "what have lemons ever done for us? The Dutch give us tulips". This interview was conducted once the election results had been announced, and Lorna is planning a peaceful protest; "I've named the Dutchie supporters the Group of 8. We are planning to hold a peaceful protest. We will wear wooden shoes, fly the Dutch flag, and pelt bystanders with raisins. It will take place on September 5th at 11:00am in front of *The* Back Kitchen."

Once the results had been shared, Lorna received this private message from Jon Nye of the Nye-Napple campaign at 9:28pm on Wednesday, August 25th, 2020, "I may have lost, but I still beat you and your shriveled up rum soaked half dead grape raisin Dutchies". Lorna was hurt by these words, but she did have a strong response, "Not that I want to throw my education in Jon's face, but I did attend 6 weeks of training at Tim Horton's university. I have a degree in Doughnutology, so I know my doughnuts." Perhaps the most qualified doughnut connoisseur on the island.

Lorna doesn't identify Jon Nye's actions this summer this as generosity, but as bribery, and would like an investigation to be launched against the Nye-Napple campaign by The Back Kitchen ethics committee.

Lorna, "would also like to pick a bone with the staff at the Back Kitchen. First of all, I am Godmother to two of them, so I should have some influence. The doughnut I have actually wanted to eat all summer is a lemon filled chocolate dipped doughnut, and at every menu meeting I get voted down. Last week, I even shared with them that this was the doughnut I could have as a child at the doctor's when I behaved, and they laughed at my tears. Then they actually refused my request to allow for a write-in doughnut."

Keep an eye out for Lorna and the Group of 8 at their peaceful protest on September 5th and watch out for flying raisins!







CULINARY CREATIONS

Recipes From the "Island Treasures Cook Book"

MADLYN KERR

An excerpt from the cookbook compiled by St. Paul's Presbyterian Church Women from Amherst Island, ON, 1979.

A unique salad for sure! Each edition of *The Beacon* will now include a meal plan idea from Amherst Island cookbooks. A starter, a main course, and a dessert will appear here in hopes some readers may try to recreate these delicious dishes.

Can you recreate this summer salad? If you manage to, send a picture to editor@thebeaconpaper.com to see your culinary creation in the next edition of *The Beacon*.

BOAST CHICKEN ELECANTE 2/3 cup cooked sliced mushrooms (or 1 can) 1 6 oz. pkg. long grain and wild rice mix 3/4 cups chicken broth 1 tbsp. minced onion - 3 lb. boiler-fryer chickens 1/2 cup light corn syrup 2 tbsp. thinly slivered orange peel 1/4 cup orange juice 1/2 tsp. Msg. 1/4 tsp. ground ginger l orange cut in thick slices Cranberry orange relish. Drain mushrooms, if canned, and reserve liquid. In medium saucepan combine rice mix and onion, stir in chicken broth and the reserved mushroom liquid. Cook according to package directions. Stir in mushrooms. Lightly stuff chicken with rice mixture; skewer closed. Tie drunsticks to tail. Place birds, breast side up on rack in shallow baking pan. Tuck wings under back. Roast in moderate oven (375°) for 1-1/2 hours. Meanwhile, combine corn syrup, orange peel, orange juice, Mag. and ginger. Brush chickens with glaze and roest 15 minutes longer. Let rest on warm platter a few minutes before carving. Carmish - Cook thick orange slices in butter until warm; top with cranberry orange reliah. DIANE PRANCE

An excerpt from the cookbook compiled by St. Paul's Presbyterian Church Women from Amherst Island, ON, 1979.

SAVOURY

Roast Chicken Elegante

DIANE PEARCE

A hearty, savoury, main course that will make your mouth water! Orange rind and cranberries in the previous salad, orange slices with cranberry on this chicken dish, there may be a theme here.

Can you recreate this magnificent main course? If you manage to, send a picture to editor@thebeaconpaper.com to see your culinary creation in the next edition of *The Beacon*.

SWEET

Butterscotch Pie

VERA HOGBOOM

A concise recipe, but a classic. With an ingredient such as "vanilla to taste", results may vary. However, this pie will invariably be a favourite.

Can you recreate this delectable dessert? If you manage to, send a picture to editor@thebeaconpaper.com to see your culinary creation in the next edition of *The Beacon*.

```
l cup brown sugar
3 tbsp. flour
3 tbsp. butter
1-1/2 cups milk
2 eggs
Vanilla to taste.

Mix sugar and flour well. Add egg yolks, slightly beaten. Stir well
again. Add butter and milk and cook in double boiler until thick. Cool
and put in cooked shell. Add meringue made of the egg whites. Brown a
few minutes in the oven.

Vera Hogeboom
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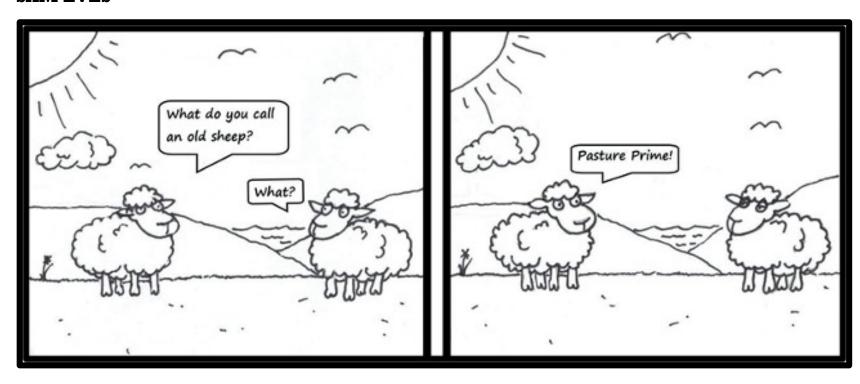
An excerpt from the cookbook compiled by St. Paul's Presbyterian Church Women from Amherst Island, ON, 1979.



CREATIVE COMMUNITY CARTOONS

Keep Calm and Laugh On...

SAM EVES



WILL ADAM



Did you hear people have been stealing the tires off of cop cars in Kingston?

The police have been working *tirelessly* to catch them!

ISN'T IT PUNNY?

So, I noticed 10 ants were crawling around my kitchen last night. I decided to build them a little house out of a cardboard box.

Technically that makes me their landlord ... and they are my *tenants*."



THE BEACON

Obituaries

DON TUBB (1949-2020)

It is with deep fondness we remember Donald Gordon Tubb (Don), who recently passed away on August 19th, 2020. Don is survived by his mother Eunice Tubb, and sister Susan Tubb, as well as many people on Amherst Island who consider him as family.

Don was born in Montreal, QC on July 10th 1949, and moved around every few years during his childhood as his father climbed the corporate ladder. Prior to Queen's University, Don attended more schools then he could recall. Don graduated from the Queen's Engineering program in 1972 and participated in the track and field team while attending university. Several of his friends moved into the old red brick Filson house on Amherst Island's 2nd Concession. Don cycled out to visit several times and then moved in. On July 1st 1975, Don joined Topsy Farms where he stayed for the majority of his life.

He chose to make the difficult transition from an upbringing within an upper-middle class family, to a low-income farming lifestyle in his adulthood. He was a part of everything that we did at Topsy; farming, construction, socializing, and of course, The Beacon. Don contributed to *The Beacon* by writing many memorable articles, offering technology support, reporting on council meetings, and working as editor for several years anonymously. All of the Christmas presents he gifted were also given anonymously, unsigned (from 'Santa'). Don owned one of the earliest models of laptop computers and his interest in technology was paired with a frustration that we all feel sometimes; one of his earliest laptops faced death by hammer. For a decade or so, Don also did house inspections and his honesty and thoroughness helped many people decide to purchase a house, or not. He was a hardworking and an exceptionally selfless person. Later in life, after his father passed away, he moved to London, ON to care for his mother. As his mother's medical condition required near constant attention, Don provided care for her on his own for years. He neglected his own health until it became an emergency and he was given a terminal diagnosis. That level of self-sacrifice was characteristic of Don.

Don was self-effacing with a subtle humour and he was reserved, except when he laughed. He enjoyed Maxwell House coffee, Upper Canada beer, photography, woodworking, and watching sports on television, particularly rugby. Don came with a love of music, which he shared with those around him in the form of an impressive record collection and personally crafted mixed tapes. He had a weakness for Rothman's cigarettes for about 40 years but quit in his 60s. His doctors thought Don's smoking habit was unrelated to the cancer that proved fatal to him. He also enjoyed cycling; he rode his bicycle constantly, even throughout his chemotherapy treatments during the past couple years.

Don's award-winning photography was his passion. Aside from the odd portrait, his photography focused on nature, landscapes and animals. He had a soft spot for the dogs at *Topsy Farms* and could recognize each one from photographs decades old. Don donated a massive number of photos to the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre and relished the opportunity to share stories about his photography.

The passing of Don Tubb has left a hole in the lives of his friends and family on Amherst Island, we always hoped he would come back home.



Don checking the sheep at Topsy Farms.



Couch adventures with Don, Kyle Murray, with Christopher Kennedy driving the tractor.



"Downward Dog" by Don Tubb, one of his beautiful photographs of life at *Topsy Farms*.

Memories of Don

Messages such as this one, and many more, were gathered by Kyle Murray and sent to Don during the last couple weeks of his life. It was overwhelming how many beautiful, loving messages were sent to him. Here is an excerpt from one;

"I was reflecting on how long I have known you, Don. The number would exceed forty years, but I know that it's not the length of time you know someone that matters as much as the feelings that person evokes when he/she comes to mind. When I think of you, Don, the first thing that comes to mind is your fabulous laugh (the best!) and your very keen sense of humour. Those qualities are an immediate attraction for me but the lasting feelings I have for you are much deeper. During the years we've known each other, your amazing strength of character was evident in everything I saw you do. I think of all of the Amherst Island Council meetings you sat through as a patient and devoted Beacon reporter; I don't think I ever heard a mean or unkind word about anyone from you but you never shied away from the truth. I think of your strength and talents as a carpenter, as a farmer and, as I sit here overlooking Stella Bay, as a tree feller. You and Ian were on Stella Point taking down some trees for - I don't remembered who. From my vantage point on the south side of the bay, the sound of chainsaws was followed by a tremendous crash, then a frightening silence - then your fabulous laugh rang across the bay, to my huge relief! I will never forget that sound.

Don, it's remarkable how a very private person like yourself can give so much away just by your actions, your smile and your carefully chosen words. I think of you as a defender and supporter of those in need even if they don't know that you are in their corner. I think of you as a man of huge integrity who always took the high road. I think of you as a truly honest, generous and caring person who just made his world a better place. Your amazing photography shows the beauty of that world and reflects the beauty that is you. Thank you for leaving that record that will remain as a statement of what mattered to you. Thank you for just being you! I miss seeing you, I miss your smile and I miss your laugh. But I have it all stored in my heart. Take care, my friend, and know that you are loved.

~ Diane Pearce



A Mom and her Lamb, another lovely photograph taken by Don Tubb.



ISLAND INFORMATION

Amherst Island Ferry Service

Ferry Schedule

The ferry leaves Stella (Amherst Island side) on the hour each day, 6:00am to 1:00am.

The ferry leaves Millhaven (mainland side) on the half hour each day, 6:30am to 1:30am.



Aerial view of the progress made to the Millhaven dock, from https://twitter.com/a_i_ferrydocks

Fares (cash or cheque only) *Currently not collecting fares due to COVID-19 precautions.

- Car, truck (under 1 ton), van, farm tractor or small school bus \$9.00
- RV or car with trailer, large vehicles requiring up to two vehicle spaces, or large school bus \$18.00
- Large vehicles and trailers or equipment requiring more than two vehicle spaces \$9.00 per space used
- Motorcycle \$2.00
- Bicycle \$1.50
- Book of 25 round-trip tickets \$100.00

Note: An administration charge of \$20.00 will be added to the fare for any motorist with insufficient funds to pay fare. The administration charge is required to cover costs incurred to prepare an invoice.

Ferry Dock Construction Project

Work on the docks resumed on Monday, June 29th 2020, as all workers on site have received negative COVID-19 test results.

Demolition of the existing dock and completion of the construction of the new dock is now expected in Fall 2020. Use of the new end-loading dock is scheduled for Fall 2020. Temporary dock removal is expected to occur in Winter 2021. Final landscaping and site cleanup is scheduled to end at the beginning of Summer 2021.

The Amherst Islander II, the new electric ferry, will not be arriving this summer. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected its arrival. The Ministry of Transportation needs to ensure the people bringing the ferry from Romania can safely do so before proceeding.

Information and updates can be found at https://twitter.com/a_i_ferrydocks

Instructions

- Please separate glass, plastics, paper/cardboard, and metal from garbage.
- Place a garbage tag (\$2.50 each, or \$25 for 10) on each garbage bag.
- The township offers two free large item drop offs (FILDO) per year.

COVID-19 Precautions: tags are normally sold at the landfill site, but are not currently due to COVID-19.

LOYALIST LANDFILLS

Dump Hours and Protocol

Amherst Island Waste Disposal Site, 145 Dump Road, Amherst Island. Garbage tags can be purchased at McGinn's General Store and Fast Freddy's in Bath, Foodland, and many other township retailers, payment at Amherst Island landfill is cash only.

Open Hours	
Wednesdays	11:00am – 2:00pm
Saturdays	10:00am – 12:00pm
Sundays	2:00pm – 4:00pm

Information and updates can be found at https://www.loyalisttownship.ca/index.cfm/residents/garbage-and-recycling/

STORE SERVICES

McGinn's General Store

POST OFFICE

Open Hours

Mondays	9-11:30am, 2:30-5pm
Tuesdays	9-11:30am, 2:30-5pm
Wednesdays	9-11:30am, 2:30-5pm
Thursdays	9-11:00am, 3:30-6pm
Fridays	9-11:30am, 2:30-5pm
Saturdays	Closed
Sundays	Closed

Phone Number: 613-519-2331

COVID-19 Precautions: face mask required, 1 person inside at a time inside (please call before arriving or knock).

GENERAL STORE

COVID-19 Precautions: curbside service only, masks at the curb would be appreciated.

Owned and operated by a 5th generation island family, Linda and Dave McGinn.

Open Hours

Mondays	9am – 5pm
Tuesdays	9am – 5pm
Wednesdays	9am -5pm
Thursdays	9am – 6pm
Fridays	9am – 5pm
Saturdays	10am – 4pm
Sundays	Closed

Phone Number: 613-519-2331





THE BEACON

Congratulations



Congrats Mairi Kennedy!
Recently this beauty virtually
graduated from grade 8! She bravely
switched schools for her grade 8 year,
made new friends, played on the
volleyball team and tried new things
like skating and cross-country skiing.
Mairi soared to new academic heights
and even won an award at her
graduation for Canadian Studies! To
say we are proud of her is an
understatement.

Congratulations Mairi!



Congratulations to Drew McGinn who graduated from Grade 8 recently!



Congrats Graduate Krystalin Kennedy! 2020 graduate, wow. I never thought I'd live to see this day, but I somehow did! I am so proud of myself. It's been a journey and a half, but I had an amazing team of people behind me including my teacher Ms. Ball, she helped me get to where I am today so much I am returning to Holy Cross. Those who don't know me well my dream and passion is to be in a kitchen doesn't matter where as long as I'm happy and I'm one step closer every single day to do so! Thank you to my mom for the photo shoot I loved it. Thank you to my Dad, Red and the kiddos for coming by on a day that means so much to me.



Happy 12th Wedding Anniversary to Martin St. Louis and Gladice Koble!





ARTS AND CULTURE

Wheat Harvest by Pieter Bruegel

DEREK OXLEY

I visited Amherst Island last January and although I didn't see much of it, what I did see was charming and picturesque despite the weather. A friend and I went on a long walk along the West side of the island, through woods spotted with deer, and along trails so flooded they threatened to overcome our boots. And throughout our walk all my thoughts kept coming back to a series of paintings roughly four hundred and fifty years old by an artist in Antwerp named Pieter Bruegel. He painted a series of landscapes depicting local farmers working their land throughout each season of the year. Of the original works, five still survive. In spite of the cold, the one image that I most frequently conjured was of the summer season, the piece below titled Wheat Harvest*.

The painting takes place in August and depicts groupings of trees much like in Bruegel's a number of local farmers, some toiling, others huddling together in the shade, seeking respite from the hot day. The depiction of harvesting crops connects us today with Bruegel's village of the past by reminding us that, although the methods may change, this work will always need to be done. In that way some of these images can feel a little timeless. So, as cold and heavy winds rolled in on the western edge of the Island we walked along a (now much more dry) path in the trees and fields, and I tried to imagine the scene unfolding. The yellow grasses of January brought me to the golden sheathes of wheat, the few boats in Lake Ontario mirrored for me the sailing ships in the distant sea, and as our walk took us back around and down a road on the south shore, homes and cottages peeked out around

landscape. Reflecting on the painting again now I find myself staring wistfully at the group gathered under the tree, eating and socializing closely together, something I'm sure we are all missing at this moment in time. So perhaps it's not perfectly timeless, but hopefully this can be a cheerful reminder that we can all still persevere as they did hundreds of years ago. I hope to visit Amherst Island again, and to see it in the summer where I'm certain my whimsy will pale in comparison to the real thing. Adieu!

*Wheat Harvest, by Pieter Bruegel is currently in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum in New York.



Pieter Bruegel, Wheat Harvest, 1565, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

DEREK OXLEY will be joining our team of writers at *The Beacon*, primarily contributing to the Arts & Culture section with his column "Reflections on a Painting". He received a BA in Art History from Queen's University in 2016, and he has studied at home and abroad including Venice, New York, Paris, Amsterdam, and Vancouver. He enjoys history, art, painting, and he looks forward to contributing to future editions of The Beacon.



THE BEACON

JANET'S JOTTINGS

Orioles

JANET SCOTT

Baltimore Orioles are easily recognized by their bright orange and black plumage. They are really a blackbird but much more loved than their grackle and red-winged cousins. They were called Baltimore Birds in the 1700's because their black and orange colours were the colours of Lord Baltimore, the patron of Maryland and their name was changed to Baltimore Orioles by scientists who used the word aureolus meaning golden in Latin. In 1947 they became the state bird of Maryland and the well known symbol of the Baltimore Orioles baseball team.

In the Kingston area the orioles return in the first couple of weeks in May and can be seen easily in the leafless trees. If the same female and male both return to the same area they will probably pair up again. The chances of this is slim as out of every 100 eggs laid, 60 will fledge and only 15 will return in the Spring migration. It's not easy being a songbird.

This spring when they arrived and the male at my house sought out the seeds in the window seed feeder. I put out orange halves and grape jelly but he went to the hummingbird feeder first. He needed that sugar water to build up his energy reserves. By the time the female arrived they both fed on the grape jelly and oranges. Orioles can gape, similar to a starling; they push their beaks open in the fruit and squeeze the juice to suck it up. You will find your oranges cleaned right out between the orange's membrane segments.

The female fastens fibres, hair, and grasses securely to forked twigs high in a drooping deciduous tree. She uses a stitch like a crochet stitch to start as the fibres are anchored to the adjoining branches. She can weave from inside with the help of deliveries of nest building materials, but materials are mostly chosen by herself as the male serenades her from the treetops. A comfy safe pouch is created to rock the babies safely away from predators and parasitic nesters like the cowbird. Four to five pale bluish-gray eggs with brown and black splotches are laid in the nest and hatch in 14 days. The young are fed mostly insects by both parents and later the young will visit your orange and jelly feeder.

When I was growing up the Orioles built their hanging nests in the drooping branches of elms but as those magnificent trees died off the Orioles adapted. Here at 350 Third Conc. they built in a willow tree. They are great eaters of orchard pests so the spots like the top of Avery Brown's hill is a good place to see both species found on the Island, the familiar Orange Baltimore and the smaller, dark red Orchard Oriole.

Enjoy them now, because by early August they will be winging their way returning to the tropics and northern South America.



An acrobatic Baltimore Oriole, photograph from Ontario Birds.



Baltimore Oriole at Janet Scott's window feeder.



An excellent capture of "old blue eyes" by Don Woodiwiss Photography, woodiwissphotography.com



BEACON

LOCAL HISTORY

The MacDonald Chair

JANET SCOTT

Hi everyone. I'm known as the McDonald Chair. Now I live quietly at the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre on Amherst Island. In my old age I am warm here in winter and cool and comfortable in the hot weather the space is climate controlled to protect artifacts like me. I love when kids get to come to the museum for a visit. They like to look at me and talk about me. I am handmade so there is no other chair just like me. I am not big, pillowed, or fancy but I was strong and sturdy. My life wasn't always this safe and comfortable; let me tell you my story.

My family lived in the Thirteen Colonies in British North America. People from Europe had moved to North America for many different reasons like farming and fishing. They cleared the land to make farms and learned about growing corn, squash, and beans from the peoples who lived there. There were lots of trees so the settlers built ships, houses, barns, fences, and furniture all out of wood. Even soap needed ashes from burning wood as an ingredient. My family created me from trees that grew on our farm. I am a low chair without arms so that the mother of the family could hold the baby and still be able to put wood in the fire to keep my family warm and well fed.

In 1759 the British won a battle on the Plains of Abraham and New France became part of British North America. If you look on the map you can see how our land stretched from Quebec to Florida along the Eastern coast of North America and included the lands we know now as Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. My family heard lots of talk from neighbours and family friends. Around our kitchen I learned words like "intolerable acts', 'no taxation without representation', and the 'Boston Tea Party'." There was discontent among the colonists. The Quebec Act of 1763 allowed the residents of New France to keep their Catholic Faith, to keep their French language and to continue to use their distinctive legal code. The rebels in the Thirteen Colonies did not like these intolerable acts.

My life went on doing my job, providing a steady place for family to sit as needed but I knew trouble was coming. There was lots of talk in our kitchen. The rebels attacked Quebec in the winter of 1775 but the British soldiers and the inhabitants of Quebec defended their homes and the Rebel Army was defeated. In 1776 the American Rebels declared their independence and now named themselves "Patriots". My people wanted to stay loyal to King George in England. Some of the Loyalists were painted with hot tar and rolled in feathers, others were jailed and their farms burned or property taken so we were fearful for our lives. We became refugees. The British, the Loyalists and the First Nations peoples could not stop the American Revolution, and in 1783 we escaped the Thirteen Colonies, packed up what we could and travelled to the land that is now called Canada.



I was packed on the wagon to go too. Grandma's arthritis probably made it hard getting up and down off the ground and needed a chair. I like to think there was some nostalgia involved, that means because I was handmade from wood on our farm they carried me because I gave them a warm feeling and memory of home. We put up with a lot of hardships on that long way with the hope that we would be safe in Upper Canada. Our family eventually arrived on the Isle of Tonti sometimes spelled "Tanty". Then we were part The MacDonald Chair, both photographs taken by of Ernestown which included Bath and the

western end of the Island. In 1792 Governor Simcoe renamed our island Amherst Island.

My last years were spent on the farm of Garnet Edwin McDonald, a fifth generation McDonald on Amherst Island. You will be interested to note that he was born on Dec.4, 1918 during the pandemic called The Spanish Flu. He travelled as an infant of 8 weeks from Erinsville to his grandparents' farm on Amherst Island and crossed on the ice on an ice boat. Garnet grew up here on Amherst Island, married Gene McMaster in 1941, and remained farming and gardening until his death in 2007.

I had lived with the McDonald family all those years and when a neighbour of Garnet McDonald heard Garnet's story, a family oral tradition about his little chair, she wanted to protect me and at the auction sale I was purchased and that's how I came to live at the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre in Stella on Amherst Island. When this present Pandemic is over please come visit me at the museum and we can share some memories.



Rebecca Scott.

RESEARCHERS

Thank you

Thank you to all the folks who helped research the story of "the Little Chair that Became a Refugee". Ida Gavlas, Shirley Miller, Laurie Kilpatrick, Warren Kilpatrick, David Fleming, Karen Miller, Carol Langwald, Joyce Brown, Tom Sylvester and Carol Glenn. Thank you Becca Scott for the photographs and Bonnie Livingstone for proof reading. Thank you to Kayleigh Graham for including this in *The Beacon*.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Life on the Island



Katie Little spending quality time with Cedar the Highland Cow at *Topsy Farms*, captured by Brian Little, brianlittlephoto@gmail.com.



A tall ship anchored in Stella Bay, captured by Brian Little, brianlittlephoto@gmail.com.



 $\label{thm:composition} A \ hauntingly \ beautiful \ image \ of \ ``our \ is land" \ by \ Don \ Woodiwiss \ Photography, \ woodiwiss photography.com$



A butterfly captured by Brian Little, brianlittlephoto@gmail.com.



Linda and Dave McGinn on their horses, photograph by Brian Little, brianlittlephoto@gmail.com.



THE BEACON

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"Rosie Peeking Out", photography by Don Tubb.

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Elyssa Wronski is looking for jobs on the island, she is a hard worker and multitalented! She offers lawn cutting, garden work, snow clearing, and other helpful chores and services. All of her earnings are paying for her ballet classes.

Contact her on FaceBook @elyssawronski to hire her today!

Medical Supplies

The Amherst Island Women's Institute has a medical equipment lending cupboard. We have crutches, rollators, walkers, raised toilet seats, and wheelchairs. We also have an upholstered electric lifting chair. We ask that you kindly return the equipment when you are done with it. If you would like to donate to the W.I. that is appreciated.

Contact Sharen English or David Pickering at (613)-384-6535.

Landscaping

Ken Rock is looking for work on the island. He has a background in landscaping, forklift operation, masonry, concrete, and cement. He has very reasonable rates.

Contact him at (343)-996-4850, or reach him through his Aunt, Norma-Lynn Colson at (613)-445-3456.



The Beacon

Available to Read at:

- Issue 479 of *The Beacon* will be available in print, by donation, later this week at McGinn's General Store, Stella, ON.
- *The Beacon* will be launching its new website this week, it will host the current edition for reading without the need to download a PDF. Coming soon at https://www.thebeaconpaper.com/.
- This edition of *The Beacon*, as well as archived editions are available as a downloadable PDF files on http://amherstisland.on.ca/Beacon/.

Submissions:

The Beacon eagerly welcomes community participation! If you have **photographs**, **stories**, **events**, **articles**, **comics**, **drawings**, or anything else you would like to share in the newspaper, please send files to <u>editor@thebeaconpaper.com</u>
The submission deadline is the 25th of the month.

If you are interested in advertisement space, contact editor@thebeaconpaper.com for more information.

Thank you!