\$5 donation suggested for printed copies at McGinn's General Store

THE BEACON



PLENTY OF PRECEDENT FOR THE PRESENT PANDEMIC



Paulus Fürst, "Doctor Schnabel von Rom", engraving, circa 1656.

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

Despite the grave subject matter, this image of a 17th century plague doctor is actually an early newspaper comic from Rome, mocking the appearance of doctors with a satirical poem. Paulus Fürst's engraving (above), depicts a plague doctor from the 17th century in the personal protective equipment (PPE) of the era; long robes, gloves, and the iconic bird like mask with crystal eye pieces. The title "Doctor Schnabel von Rom" is a cheeky name that translates to "Doctor Beaky of Rome", poking fun at the long beak shape of the mask that was relatively new in medicine at the time.

Plague doctors would fill the beaked mask with aromatic herbs to attempt to prevent the inhalation of airborne particles and reduce disease transmission. Although fairly effective at protecting the doctor, this outfit often made patients feel uneasy. This illustration is coupled with a satirical rhyming poem that explains "Doctor Beaky" might be trying to scare the disease away, based on the terrifying outfit. People often use humour or satire to help get through difficult times, we see humour in plague engravings from the 17th century, and we see humour like this in the media today. Creativity and laughter can be good medicine for us all.



Canadian women working for the Red Cross making masks during the influenza pandemic in 1918 (photograph taken from the CDC).

Plague and Pandemic Protocol

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

The word unprecedented means "never before known or experienced", which should make it a rare word, yet we are hearing it a lot during the COVID-19 pandemic. Perhaps some of us have never before witnessed widespread lockdowns, mask requirement rules, and toilet paper shortages during a global pandemic, but the majority of these events have been experienced by humanity in history. The media enjoys eliciting shocking responses from its audience, so sometimes debatable words are repeated for effect and then quickly they become overused. The majority of us never want to hear the word unprecedented again. Instead, we will focus on the substantial historical precedents for combatting previous pandemics. This will potentially provide us with a sense of optimism and hope, since history tells of societies surviving and overcoming the challenges of previous pandemics.

army. The Plague of Justinian (541-542 CE) is thought to have an estimated death toll of 25,000,000 people, about half the population of Europe at the time. The Black Death (1346-1353 CE) devastated 3 continents, causing between 75,000,000 and 200,000,000 fatalities. The Sixth Cholera Pandemic (1910-1911 CE) took many lives in India, Europe, and Russia, but America quickly isolated the infected, which proved effective. The use of isolation and quarantine practices during that pandemic surely saved many lives. In 1918 the world was hit with a disturbingly deadly Influenza Pandemic, which took between 20,000,000 and 50,000,000 lives.

Widespread mask wearing regulations were common during the 1918 Influenza Pandemic, there are many records of barbers especially wearing masks. Large gatherings in 1918 were also held outside since fresh air was considered less of a risk, even judges held court sessions outside. Many of the same precautions were in place, and with diligence, eventually previous pandemics came to an end. The end result of the COVID-19 pandemic is still uncertain, but instead of labelling all of these rules *unprecedented*, let us try to learn from the major pandemics of history to aid us in achieving global recovery as soon as possible.

As far back as the ancient Antonine Plague (165 CE), there are records of one army spreading disease that ultimately killed about 5,000,000 people and demolished the Roman

IN THIS ISSUE

PROTECT THE TURTLES (3) HAPPY WORLD FARM ANIMAL DAY (5, 6) SUNSET ON A.I. BY DANIEL FOWLER (12)



остовек DAYS World Farm Animal Day

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

Worldwide farm animal day has been celebrated since 1983, and is all about improving animal welfare on farms. This year on October 2nd 2020, let us all remember the importance of the ethical treatment of all animals, and appreciate all that our farm animals do for us.

In such an active farming community, many islanders keep farm animals of some kind. From keeping traditional farm animals as pets, to running small-scale hobby farms, to operating large-scale commercial farms, many residents of Amherst Island host farm animals on their land or as their neighbours.

One of the many creature comforts that Amherst Island provides is space. The farm animals on the island are pampered with an abundance of space to move, and plenty of fresh air. The rural environment and pasture space on Amherst Island is condusive to farming with higher than average standards of animal welfare. It is encouraging to see many healthy and happy farm animals who call Amherst Island home.

All of pages 5 and 6 are dedicated to the farm animals of Amherst Island, enjoy!

(...continued on page 5,6)



A young silkie chicken, part of Tara Kennedy's flock.



Jodi Lappin, RVT at St. Lawrence Veterinary Services.

THANK YOU, RVTS

Veterinary Technician Month October 2020

Jodi Lappin (pictured left), RVT, a 1994 graduate from St. Lawrence College, has been working for St. Lawrence Veterinary Services for 25 years! Jodi is originally from Oshawa, but now lives North of Kingston with a group of rescued animals, including dogs, cats, rabbits, ducks, chickens, goats, and sheep! Jodi is known for taking in animals that need help and making a difference for animals in need.

Roxanne (Roxy, pictured right) Barker, Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT), and 1996 graduate from St. Lawrence College has been working at St. Lawrence Veterinary Services for 11 years. Roxy grew up close to Napanee, and has a farm with cats, chickens, cows, and horses. She is a reliable surgery technician and is an important team member at St. Lawrence Veterinary Services. Roxy loves animals and would do anything for any pet.

In Canada, RVT month is organized by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), in honour of all Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada (RVTTC). This year the theme for RVT month in Canada is "RVTs are essential".

As important members of your pet's healthcare team, RVTs are educated in the latest veterinary medical advances. RVTs work alongside your veterinarian to provide your pet with the best care possible. Remember to appreciate your RVT this month!



Roxanne Barker, RVT at St. Lawrence Veterinary Services.

Amherst Island Will Miss You Doug

DOUG LAMB AND FAMILY

Thank you to this wonderful island community for 30 great years! The natural beauty of Amherst Island is only matched by the spirit and generosity of the islanders who live here.

Helen and I had so many good years and good friends here. No matter where I am, this island and the friends we made will always be with me. I appreciate from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done for me...always! May you have good crossings, full wells, and fruitful years. Love,

Doug Lamb & family.



NATIONAL ANIMAL SAFETY AND PROTECTION MONTH

Protect the Turtles

RANDI KENNEDY

They have been around for millions of years: before, during, and after dinosaurs walked the earth. They pose no threat to humans. In fact, they perform one of the most essential tasks on this earth. So why are they facing extinction now?

One word; humans!

In Ontario, freshwater turtles, most notably snapping turtles, help clean our drinking water by eating carrion, much like vultures clean up carcasses on land. This means less dead stuff in the water, reducing bacteria and disease. (Fact: Worldwide, one child dies from a preventable water-borne illness every 90 seconds.) Of course, turtles eat other stuff too, but the snapping turtle is a champ when it comes to housecleaning and may be described as a keystone species. A keystone species is an animal, or even a plant, within an ecosystem, without which the ecosystem may collapse. Beavers are called engineer keystones because they create ecosystems by damming up water and creating wetlands. Humans are never on any keystone species list.

Between 68% to 73% of Ontario's wetlands have disappeared because of development. About 87% of the world's wetlands have disappeared, taking with them 40% of the world's biodiversity. 'Wetlands' include swamps, marshes, bogs; which have peat, fens, moors, sloughs and lots of other cool names for water lying around. 'ecosystem diversity' means a community of living organisms co-existing with non-living components such as light, atmosphere, and climate.

Back to turtles.

Natural freshwater reservoirs and freshwater sources are critical to sustain life for hundreds of thousands of species of animals and plants. Within the last few years, the USA's Environmental Protection Agency has gutted water protection legislation resulting in serious rises in pollution in the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes combine to make the largest freshwater system in the world, containing 20% of all the world's



A common snapping turtle, *chelydra serpentina*, crossing Front Road on Amherst Island. Photograph captured by Kayleigh Graham.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

This is all very depressing, but is it hopeless? Not yet. What can we do?

Habitat loss due to humans is one of the biggest threats to the survival of turtles in Ontario. We can support and vote for politicians with a record of acting on environmental concerns. We can petition, email, march, campaign, and pressure to bring awareness to the fight for tougher environmental protections.

Join or support local groups already working for turtles to survive. In Kingston, Ontario: **Turtles Kingston** is active in the field, at City Council, and in the media. They provide training to volunteers who transport injured turtles to rehabilitation at *Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre*, monitor roads and protect nesting sites, assess and advocate for habitats at risk of development, and so much more.

After transporting many turtles to *Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre* with smashed shells from road accidents, I experienced the pure joy of releasing a healed turtle back into the wild earlier this summer. Drivers are always needed for *Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre*, and also to take turtles to the *Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre* (OTCC) in Peterborough, Ontario. The OTCC performs difficult surgeries on turtles from other wildlife centres and also incubates tray after tray of eggs. So, even if a turtle does not survive a road accident, their eggs can be

TURTLE FACTS

Paleontologists from North Carolina State University found the fossilized remains of the (so far) world's largest turtle in Columbia, South America. It is 60 million years old, and 8 feet long!

It has been reported that turtles are capable of learning tasks and have memory for repeating the task months later. Wood turtles, in a lab setting, were recorded as being better at navigating mazes than rats!

A group of turtles is called a 'bale'.

It is illegal to own, trade, or sell a domestic wild turtle in Ontario (with exemptions for wildlife centers, etc).

Do turtles really breathe through their rear ends while hibernating? I'll let you know in issue 481 of *The Beacon*.

Sources include; Turtles Kingston, Nature Conservancy Canada, and O.T.C.C.



Will Adam, matching the smiling face of this baby common snapping turtle, *chelydra serpentina*, about to take it to safety. Photograph captured by Kayleigh Graham.

freshwater. Before we go all smug here, the Ontario government is doing the same thing and even trying to develop the Greenbelt, which contains myriad wetlands, rivers, and streams.

Turtle hatchlings will continue to show up on the roads into November, weather permitting, and can be really hard to see. Remember you are driving on their wetland. Most turtles somehow remember where they are born, and females return generation after generation, so they have no choice but to be on the road if it crosses their path. I often can't even find my keys, yet these turtles tend to remember and travel to the same site generations later. incubated, and their offspring can be saved. It is amazing to see the huge trays of hatchlings there in the visitor's viewing room.

Kids can be involved too! **Turtle Guardians** is a grassroots organization for kids and communities to help turtles. **Turtle Tally** is an online program run by the *Toronto Zoo* as part of the Adopt-a-Pond program asking people to record sightings of turtles (and I believe, other amphibians) to help assess numbers and the movement of turtles. All organizations mentioned can be found online, with lots more information.



CULINARY CREATIONS

Recipes From the "Island Treasures Cook Book"

MARIAN GLENN

PUMPKIN LOAF 2 eggs 1 cup brown sugar 1 tsp. each baking powder 2/3 cup any cooking oil and baking soda 12 cup flour tsp. cinnamon 1 cup pumpkin 를 tsp. salt 1 cup raisins Sift dry ingredients together. Mix oil and sugar; add eggs and beat well. Add pumpkin and raisins last. Bake 50 - 60 minutes in a loaf pan. Marian Glenn

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

A classic for the season of all things pumpkin spice! Perhaps pair this with a pumpkin spice latte (PSL)? *Kraft Dinner* is making 1,000 boxes pumpkin spice kraft dinner in Canada, but that may be taking it a step too far.

Can you recreate this fall favourite? If you manage to, send a picture to <u>editor@thebeaconpaper.com</u> to see your culinary creation in the next edition of *The Beacon*.

CHICKEN OR TURKEY CASSEROLE

1 - 10oz. pkg. frozen chopped broccoli (or fresh cooked) 3/4 cup minute rice 2 cups cooked chicken (I use more), cut up 1 can cream of chicken soup 1/2 cup mayonaise 1/2 tsp. curry powder, or more 1 tbsp. lemon juice 1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese or cheddar cheese soup Potato chips Place rice (cooked) in bottom of 1 quart casserole. Add cooked broccoli. Top with chicken. Mix soup, mayonaise, curry powder, lemon juice and cheese. Pour over chicken and vegetable mixture. Top with potato chips, broken up. Bake 1 hour at 350° This makes 6 servings. Double recipe for entertaining and add more chicken. Mary Hall

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

SAVOURY

Turkey Casserole

MARY HALL

A hearty, savoury, main course that will make your mouth water! Just in time for Thanksgiving and harvest celebrations, try to substitute the chicken for turkey.

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

SWEET

Hot Spiced Apple Juice

LOUISE SEAMAN

HOT SPICED APPLE JUICE

Another fall favourite. Go pick fresh apples and use the ripening apples for this sweet recipe.

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

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Cranapple Juice may be substituted for apple juice.

Heat together to simmering:

1 48-oz. can Apple Juice

1/4 cup cider vinegar

1/4 cup brown sugar

1/4 tsp. cloves

1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Cinnamon sticks serve nicely as stirrers.

We use this in the fall and winter served in coffee mugs before going in

to dinner. It is a good appetizer on a cold night.

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



WORLD FARM ANIMAL DAY

Meet the Animals of Amherst Island

Photographs taken by Kayleigh Graham.



TARA KENNEDY's pig Holly is a pot belly rescue pig who now enjoys a life of luxury with Tara Kennedy.



GLADIC KOBLE's pygmy goat Pepper is always bouncing around with boundless energy.



KAYLEIGH GRAHAM's day-old runner duckling, exploring the yard.



BONNIE BAKER's playful goat kid, Bob, investigating some scotch thistle.



REIDVIEW FARMS' cow Anna, and her calf, one of the newest additions to the herd.



SANDRA REID's lamb Shadow, named for his habit of following people closely.





DAVE MCGINN's horse, Patti (left) and LINDA MCGINN's horse, Patches (right).

MICHAEL MURRAY's parakeet, Twilight, in a selfie taken by Michael.



WORLD FARM ANIMAL DAY

Meet the Animals of Amherst Island



KAYLEIGH GRAHAM's nearly 17-year-old red-eared slider turtle, Ted.



DAVE WILLARD's bottle raised lamb, Luna of Stone Brae Farms.



RETA BROWN's leghorn chicken, playing in the yard.



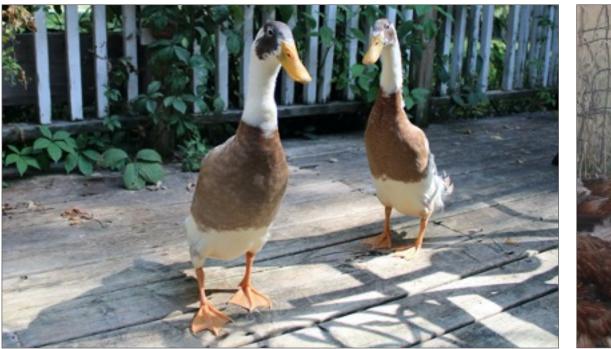
GLADICE KOBLE's day-old quail chick, one of many.



BONNIE BAKER's young horse.



KAYLEIGH GRAHAM's week-old runner duckling, practicing show tunes.





AYRIONNA WRONSKI's 4-month-old runner ducks, Mr. Quackers and Roderick. NATHAN TOW

NATHAN TOWNEND's rooster.



Obituaries

ROBERT WEMP (1968-2020)

Rob passed away unexpectedly at home on Amherst Island on Saturday, August 29 2020, at the age of 51. Companion of Jean Perrie for many years. Loving son of David & Betty Wemp and brother of Laura Welbanks (Rick). Proud step-father of Chris Maleska (Jenn), Nathan Maleska (Tiffany) and stepgrandfather of Kaleb and Hayden. Dear uncle of Alec and Jacob. Rob in his best days was an avid outdoorsman, loving hunting and fishing. He loved his family and friends, he had the ability to make friends wherever he went and he had the biggest heart for anyone who was in need of anything. Rob, you are at peace now. All of your family will miss you dearly. Cremation has taken place. A private family burial will take place at Glenwood Cemetery with a celebration of his life to be held at a later date. For those desiring, memorial donations to Loyalist Township Emergency Services would be appreciated in recognition of the Amherst Island First Response Team. Arrangements entrusted to the Paul G. Payne Funeral home, 178 Main St., Odessa, Ontario, K0H 2H0.

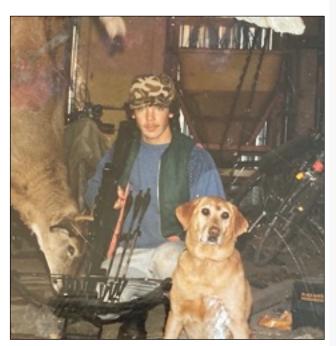




Rob (right) with Dale Willard (left).



Rob (left) with his grandson, Hayden (right).



Memories of Rob

Messages such as this one, and many more, paint a picture of the kindness people think of when they remember Rob. These collected stories exhibit Rob's care for others during his life;

"I have had two flat tires on the road, ever, and Robbie was there to fix both of them. The first isn't so hard to believe because it happened on the Forty Foot between Emerald and the Second Concession, only months after I first got my driver's licence. I had only just gotten out of the car to stare hopelessly at the tire when he rumbled up, stopped, and immediately jumped out and offered a hand.

The second happened on County Road 4, in the evening as I was losing sunlight, trying in vain to remember what Robbie had done a few years before to change the opposite tire. Then, out of the dimming twilight, Robbie again rolled up, stopped immediately and without hesitation, and jumped out to offer me a hand. I'm certain he didn't know it was me when he stopped, he was going to help whoever it was who needed it. But I was so grateful to see him arrive.

I'm not sure I could change a tire on the side of the road if I needed to even today, but I also know if the day comes where I have to try, Robbie will be there guiding me through every step.

Rest in peace Robbie."

~ Terry McGinn



Rob (right) with his mother, Betty Wemp (left) taken at Laura (his sister) and Rick's wedding.

Rob and his loyal dog, Brandy.





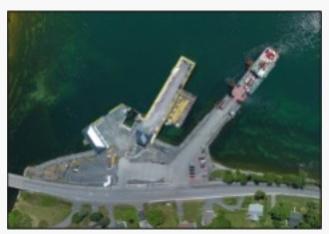
ISLAND INFORMATION

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 <u>https://twitter.com/a_i_ferrydocks</u>

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

- small school bus \$9.00
- ٠ 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 Car, truck (under 1 ton), van, farm tractor or 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 clean-up 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 http://www.amherstislandferrydocks.ca/ or 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

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

open nours		
Mondays	9am – 5pm	
Tuesdays	9am – 5pm	
Wednesdays	9am -5pm	
Thursdays	9am – 6pm	
Fridays	9am – 5pm	
Saturdays	10am – 4pm	
Sundays	Closed	
DI NI I (12 510 2221		

Phone Number: 613-519-2331





Congratulations



Happy 30th Anniversary!

Sherry and Paul Claus were married in 1990, at Edith Rankin Church in Collins Bay. They honeymooned in Sturgis South Dakota at the biggest biker party in the world, and they also traveled to the black hills and Mount Rushmore. They would have had their vow renewal ceremony at the Caughey farm (thank you to

Susan and Brian), but the pandemic has put those plans on hold. Wishing you a happy anniversary with many more to come!





Happy 31st Anniversary Brian and Éva Little!

Congratulations on your recent engagement, Shyanne Shurtliffe and Jasmine Hurteau!





PAGE 9



ARTS AND CULTURE

Autumn Leaves by John Everett Millais

DEREK OXLEY

Autumn has forever been my favourite season. From the days of brusque winds and orangey sunsets, to the tides of falling leaves, to squeezing out those last few days when you can still wear sandals, and all of the craft shows and Hallowe'en celebrations that go with it. The warm palette of leaves falling from the trees once again lays bare skeletal maples, old and grand and gnarly, which leer out at you from the parks and laneways, their faces no longer hidden by the canopy. Jumping in piles of raked up leaves at my Grandmothers farm as a child is a nostalgic memory. My sister and I got our turns in before my uncle would burn the piles. Back in the '80s in the countryside it wasn't seen as a problem then, and four acres of trees around the

yard made big, big piles for a small person. I torpedoed them with glee.

When I first saw this painting, four young women standing around a large, smouldering pile of fallen Autumn leaves, I immediately felt that same nostalgic connection. This work, finished in 1856, belongs to the hand of English painter John Everett Millais in the years just after he had stopped working with a group called the Pre-Raphaelites. This group was a collective of young men and women (many from art schools) who came together to discuss and create art, literature, and poetry. They had a passion for the Romantic poets and the legends of King Arthur, and much of their imagery is steeped in these medieval legends and stories. Millais here is trying to distance himself from this association and reinvent his



style away from the bright colours and rough brushwork of the Pre-Raphaelite oeuvre. His work would become part of the basis of a new generation of English artists who began to move away from the classical literary sources that were expected by the wealthy and elite, preferring instead to create beauty

for beauty's sake. The result is a charming scene of nature and youth with no specific, classical subject in mind. You can see this work on display in the Manchester Art Gallery in England.

This sunset scene mirrors the October evenings of those many years ago as the dying light muted the vibrant Fall colours. You can almost feel the slight chill of the evening air and smell the spicy smoke of those leaves too wet to burn outright. On those evenings the piles in our yard would, one by one, get hot enough to burn quickly, and I was always mesmerized by the swirling flames and the shapes I would see in the crumpling leaves. It's nice to reflect that as a youth I shared the same experience as the young people in this painting. The contrast of vibrant youth finding joy at the end of the yearly cycle offers us a gentle reminder of the circle of life and death, and that every part of our journey is woven around them both. Let's bless our fortune that we live in such places that host these beautiful Autumns.

**Autumn Leaves*, by John Everett Millais is currently in the collection of the Manchester City of Art Gallery in Manchester.

• Just a reminder that brush and agricultural fires require a burn permit. Either call (613)-386-3762 or visit <u>https://www.loyalistfire.burnpermits.com/login</u> to obtain a free burn permit.

Sir John Everett Millais, Autumn Leaves, 1855-56, Manchester City Art Gallery, Manchester.



JANET'S JOTTINGS

From Shallow Lake and Manitoulin Island

JANET SCOTT

I have been visiting Shallow Lake for the month of September with a side trip to Manitoulin Island from September 13th to 17th. I saw many lovely bluebirds on the telephone lines on Sideroad 15, Keppel Township right across the road from the home where I am visiting. The weather has been beautiful as we watch our countryside rejoice in the September sun as crops are brought in and trees enrich the landscape with the colours of autumn. We are so blessed to live in this wonderful country of ours with open spaces, tall trees reaching for blue, blue skies, and singing sighing songs to us as night closes us in black velvet blankets. Right across the road the farmer has harvested his field, cleared, cultivated, and seeded while this month has flown by.

Already new green shoots are appearing in the narrow lines left by the tractor and seeder. It's like time in a capsule rushing by. On this same beautiful country sideroad I have watched wild turkeys, Canada geese and sandhill cranes feeding in the stubble. I am thrilled to watch the sandhill cranes here at Shallow Lake, as it was for a long time an elusive bird for me. On Amherst Island, over the years I have had reports from the late Audrey Miller, and also Dan Wolfreys and Bonnie Livingstone, of seeing sandhill cranes. However, it wasn't until a couple of years ago that I saw my first one on Mike Walhout's farm on the 3rd Concession. The sandhill crane stands upright at 46 inches with a wingspan of 77 inches. It stalks the meadows making weird and wonderful crackles clucks and beeps.

They nest from Alaska across Canada's northern lands to James Bay and south to Wisconsin. They walk with a stately rocking motion across the grassy fields and fly with both head and feet stuck straight out, unlike our Great Blue Heron who holds its neck in an 's' shape. They are grey with a red cap and some rusty brown markings on the wings. Here in Shallow Lake I got to watch two put on a little show where they hopped up and down and flapped with small wing movements. It made me think of jumping for joy. There were 35 gathered in one field. While we visited Manitoulin Island, there were flocks gathering in the hundreds. The farmers there are seeking to cull them as they are eating their crops. Soon they will start their journey south to Florida, the gulf area, and Mexico. A program has begun on Manitoulin to track them the same way we track our snowy owls. I have also been thrilled to see swans, great egrets, and many other wonderful birds. Sending love to Amherst Island from the beautiful Bruce Peninsula.



The Cranes Have Landed, by photographer Sabrina Dao, Michigan.



The view from Gore Bay, Manitoulin Island, captured by Janet Scott.

Janet Scott says, "[I] lost my mind a long time ago, but found my head on Manitoulin Island, the largest freshwater island in the world".





ARTS AND CULTURE

Sunset on Amherst Island by Daniel Fowler

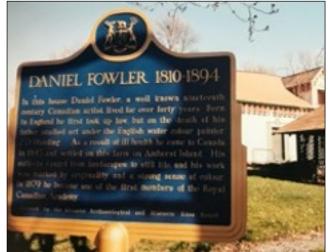
AGNES ETHERINGTON ART CENTRE

"Daniel Fowler (1810-1894) was arguably the pre-eminent Canadian artist of the latter nineteenth century and one of the best watercolourists to have worked and lived in Canada. Although he lived in relative artistic seclusion on a farm on Amherst Island, in Lake Ontario near Kingston, his work was seen and admired in Canadian exhibitions and he was acknowledged by his peers. He was a founding member of the Ontario Society of Artists in 1872 and a charter member of the Royal Canadian Academy in 1880. He received medals for watercolour at the International Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876 and at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London, England, in 1886. Daniel Fowler was described as, "of a kindly disposition, quiet in manner, a gentleman of the old school with perfect manners". A gentleman born and bred, he was born in Surrey, England, in 1810 and studied in London with landscape artist J.D. Harding. He practised as an artist in Britain until his health forced him to emigrate with his young family in 1843.

Busy on his island farm, Fowler set aside painting for fifteen years. A return visit to England rekindled a desire to paint and from 1858 Fowler began to address seriously the subject of the Canadian landscape as he found it in his island locale.

These paintings capture a quality of Canadian landscape directly and without sentiment as few other nineteenth century paintings have. By the 1870s Fowler was producing his mature work and *Evergreen and Rocks* is an excellent example of his sensitivity to colour and tone and his ability to elevate a landscape scene beyond the mere picturesque."

*from the description of *Sunset on Amherst Island* by Daniel Fowler, on the Agnes Etherington Art Centre's website.



The historical plaque in front of the Fowler house on Amherst Island, photograph taken by Don Tubb in 1999.



Daniel Fowler, Sunset on Amherst Island, 1875, on view at Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Kingston, Ontario.



LOCAL NEWS

The Ameriks Scholarship Fund

DEBBIE BARRETT

The Amherst Island Women's Institute (WI) invests in student education. The WI recently approved a donation of \$500 to the Ameriks Scholarship Fund administered by Loyalist Township in memory of former Amherst Island Reeve, Frank Fleming. The fund was established in 1991 to provide scholarships to Amherst Island students. Applications for this year are available from the Township and are usually due October 31st, 2020.

A base fund of over \$19,000 remains in the Township account to accumulate interest. Interest and contributions from the current year are allocated annually to deserving students who have lived on the island for at least 5 years and who are registered full time in postsecondary education.

Island organizations and some generous residents contribute to the fund which is especially important when interest rates are low. Contributions by individuals are considered charitable donations and are eligible for tax receipts.

The scholarship is named for a former island resident, Alberts Ameriks. He and his son Emo escaped from Latvia and arrived on the island in the early 1950's. Mr. Ameriks bought the Eddy Wemp farm and raised cows, pigs, and ducks, while Emo did electrical work and served on lake boats. Islanders remember Mr. Ameriks as a well-respected, well-liked person. Eventually Mr. Ameriks left the island for Prince Edward County and later for Northern Ontario. On August 1^{st,} 1990 he sent a letter to the then Township of Amherst Island, donating \$10,000 in memory of his old friend, Reeve Frank Fleming. Council decided to invest the donation and to use the annual interest to fund the Ameriks Scholarship in memory of Frank Fleming. Mr. Ameriks also donated \$2,000 to the Amherst Island Women's Institute in gratitude for the kindness he received from the women of the island. This too has been invested.

Scholarships were awarded last year to Rachel Scott, Noa Amson, Mitchell Morgan-Bursey, John Little, Alicia Wolfreys, Lucie Amson, and Gavin Ashley.



Phuong MacNeil, a new member of Amherst Island Women's Institute.



Karen MacWilliam, a new member of Amherst Island Women's Institute.

Donations for Ameriks Scholarship Fund

If you are interested in contributing to the fund and providing financial assistance to Amherst Island students who are pursuing higher education, please contact Donna O'Neill, Corporate Procurement Specialist at (613)-386-7351 ext. 133, or doneill@loyalist.ca.

THE AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (WI)

The Women's Institute serves the community. The AI Women's Institute is delighted to welcome some new members: Cathy Showalter, Karen McWilliam, Mary Pat Moore, Phuong MacNeil, and Vanessa Vanzieleghem.

The WI stepped up during the early days of the Coronavirus pandemic to donate to Lionhearts Inc., who provide meals, the Bath Lions Club who offer grocery vouchers from Schell's Market to those in need, and the AI Community Alliance to fund masks and communications on the Island. Thanks to Phuong MacNeil for donating masks and to the community for your generous contributions to the WI.

Your toonies from last years' market and bake sales enabled our annual donation in September to support the Ameriks Scholarship available to Island students enrolled in postsecondary education.

Since 2013 the AIWI has made104 loans through KIVA to women in 30 countries aligned with our commitment to women's health and education.

Recent meetings (outside and socially distanced at the Lodge) have included some spirited discussion about the landscaping plans for the Millhaven and Island docks and about Black Lives Matter. Our advocacy of a guaranteed income has recently received some political traction.

Finally, our medical equipment library kindly maintained by Sharen English and David Pickering continues to be a great community asset. Please contact Sharen at (613)-384-6535. if you need a cane, walker, crutches, walking boot or other items.



One person can make a difference and the WI is proud to support Mr. Amerik's ongoing legacy.

Cathy Showalter, a new member of Amherst Island Women's Institute.

APPLY FOR THE AMERIKS SCHOLARSHIP TODAY

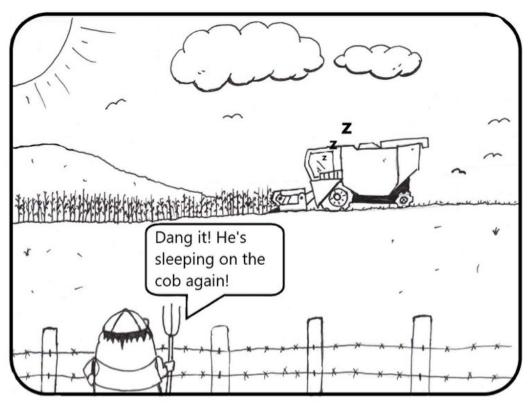
https://www.loyalist.ca/en/council-and-administration/ameriks-grant-application.aspx



COMMUNITY CARTOONS

Comics Drawn by Islanders for Islanders

A CORNY COMIC BY SAM EVES



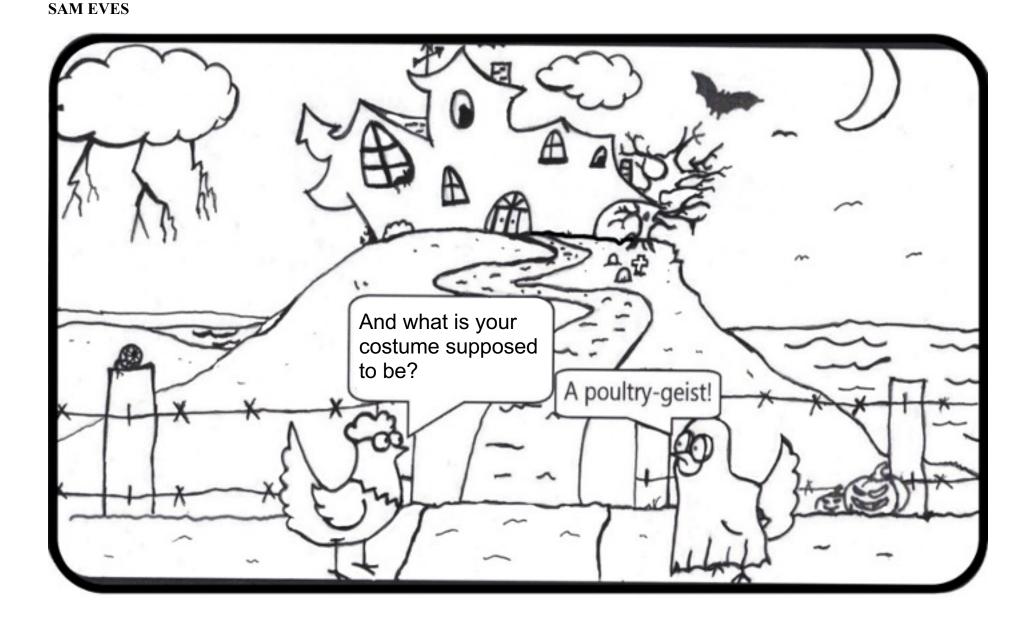
Winter Weather Prediction

PAULA PIKE



Woolly bear caterpillar crossing Front Road, taken by Paula Pike.

An independent exhausting (not exhaustive) study by bike riders on Front Road predicts that winter on the island will be mild. A total of 5 wide-banded woolly bear caterpillars were spotted crossing the road. Due to the possible distortion of their orange band size, a couple of flattened ones weren't approved for this study. The study is deemed reliable 5 times out of 7, plus or minus two frogs and a snake.



GARDENING GUIDANCE Storing Squash

SALLY BOWEN

Squash is a great winter storage vegetable. Ian ate our last butternut squash (grown in 2019) in August 2020. It was getting a bit pulpy but was 'still edible', he said. An edible squash eleven months after harvesting is way longer than the 'experts' suggest is possible.

Here is what we recommend:

- Leave them on the ground, on the vines, until near frost. That can be a guessing game. We find they sweeten with the cold weather. If some get touched by frost, eat those first.
- The key step is to bring them in to a warm, dry room preferably with sunshine pouring in part of the day, leaving them there for at least a week. This hardens the skins and may seal over minor scrapes from handling.
- Store them cold but comfortably above freezing. Spread them where they aren't touching. Ensure good air circulation.

Another important step: keep them away from apples and pears. These and other ripening fruits release ethylene gas, which hastens the decay of squash.

As in any other winter storage, check regularly and eat the ones starting to soften first. Enjoy the fruits of your labours!



Scrumptious squash grown in the garden at *Topsy Farms*, both photographs provided by Sally Bowen.



BEACON

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weasel & Easel

The Weasel & Easel is open until Thanksgiving, with safety protocols! Come see the amazing things your neighbours make.



Open Hours: Saturdays, 10:00am – 4:00pm Sundays, 1:00pm – 4:00pm



COMMUNITY ANNOUCEMENTS

Local News

Farmer's Market

NORMA-LYNN COLSON

Looking for a local farmer's market? Come see us on Sundays at Frog Pond Farms, at 708 County Road 4 between 10:30am – 3:30pm.

You can find fresh produce, apples, apple cider, handmade head bands, butter tarts, handmade socks, and crochet bowls!



Don't miss out on these delicious fresh apples and apple cider from *Janssens Orchards*. Photograph by Norma-lynn Colson.

Add to your local, handmade fashion collection with a *Twisted Heart* headband. Photograph by Norma-lynn Colson.

Take home some homemade butter tarts to taste from the *Island Tart Lady*. Photograph by Norma-lynn Colson.





SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES



KRISTIN KELLY

People say if you don't feel like you are working, then you must be in the right line of work. Kristin Kelly spends so much time on the water already, that she barely noticed when her hobby became a job. A natural paddler, Kristin said "I have been paddling since I was a wee little human. I have always felt as though paddling has come naturally to me". Kristin enjoys kayaking, canoeing, and most recently stand up paddle boarding. Currently, Kristin is certified through *Paddle Canada*, with 'Sea Kayaking, Level 2'. In the spring of 2021, her plan is to become a fully certified instructor. Kristin hopes to offer lessons in the summer of 2021, along with a full schedule of other paddling events.

In September 2020, Kristin led a 'Connect to the Lake' event through Topsy Farms, where she led five kayakers on a wavy journey. They met on the northeast side of the island, did some practice exercises on the land, and then hit the water. They paddled following the northeast shore, along the sandbar, and then looped around the Brother Islands. Lake Ontario is an unpredictable beast as it varies day to day, and Kristin's knowledge, experience, and training contribute to the safety and enjoyment of any paddling journey. Denise, a beginner kayaker, said "We are still beaming from that paddle. A little sore (but not in our arms so you taught us well), but a good kind of sore. Can't wait to do it again someday". Stay tuned for events led by Kristin the kayaker!



Kayaking event with Kristin Kelly, photographs by Brian Little Photography, brianlittlephoto@gmail.com.



WORKING WITH WOOL

The Wool Truck Leaves the Island

TOPSY FARMS

Once the shearers have carefully removed the wool from the sheep flock at *Topsy Farms*, there is a long journey ahead before the same wool appears in *The Wool Shed* in blanket form.

As soon as the sheep is shorn, the fleeces are thrown onto a table for 'skirting', which is when all the big pieces of hay or dirt is picked out. Then the wool is rolled up and placed in a wool bag (pictured below), to be forgotten about until the exciting arrival of the wool truck!

As many members of the *Topsy* team as possible all rush to greet the wool truck, ready to help load it up as a team. The wool bags are much too heavy for one person to load, so a system has been implemented to make the job easier. The wool bags are rolled to the upstairs door of the old barn and shifted (by Kyle Murray in the photograph) to the edge of the staircase. Then, a few people (Will Adam, Nathan Murray, and Cole Meakings in the photograph) standing on a truck wait to receive the bag, mostly using gravity. Once the bag lands on the ramp between the pickup truck and the transport truck, they roll it into the transport truck. Although wool seems like a light and fluffy resource, it is certainly heavy when it is all packed into wool bags.

This is one of the many examples that come to mind when I think of the phrase 'many hands make light work'. The team had this truck loaded up and on its way to *MacCausland's Woollen Mills* within an hour.



Ian Murray and Sally Bowen, both happy to see the back of the truckload of wool leaving *Topsy Farms*. Photograph captured by Kayleigh Graham.



(Left to right) Will Adam, Nathan Murray, Cole Meakings, and Kyle Murray loading wool from the sheep at *Topsy Farms* into the truck for transportation to the East Coast of Canada. Photograph captured by Kayleigh Graham.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Life on the Island



The main flock from *Topsy Farms* travelling down the Second Concession toward the Stella 40 Foot Road, taken by Brian Little Photography, brianlittlephoto@gmail.com.



A tiny hummingbird, captured by Don Woodiwiss Photography, woodiwissphotography.com.

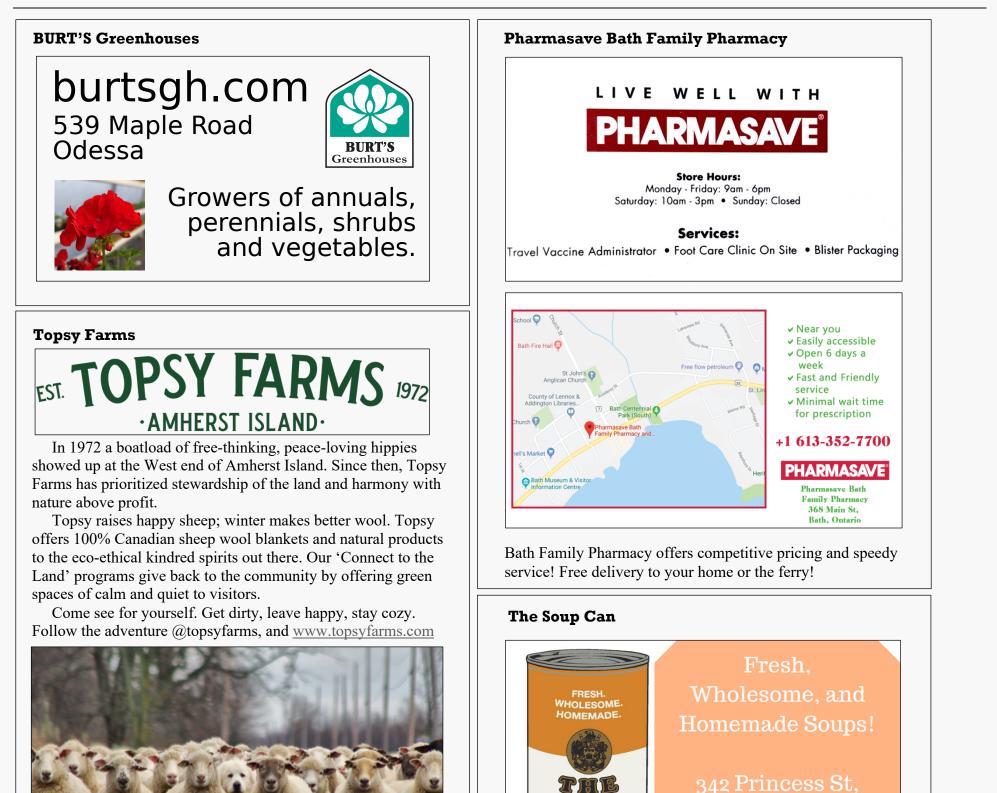


The south shore in all of its peaceful beauty by Don Woodiwiss Photography, woodiwissphotography.com.



CLASSIFIEDS

Support Local Businesses



sland Gallery

"Rosie Peeking Out", photography by Don Tubb.

The Lodge Coffee House



Visit The Lodge at 376 Main Street, Bath. Serving coffee, teas, artisan sandwiches, from-scratch baked goods, and more!

Currently open Tuesdays-Fridays 9am-3pm. Check us out at www.lodgecoffeehouse.com

Rossland Gallery



Kingston, ON

K7L 1B6



CLASSIFIEDS

Support Local Businesses



408 Main Street, Bath, ON, K0H 1G0 (613)-881-0404

Be Local Buy Local SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY AND SHOP LOCALLY.





Services

Odd Jobs

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 480 of *The Beacon* will be available in print, for a \$5 suggested donation, at McGinn's General Store, Stella, ON.
- *The Beacon*'s new website will host the current issue for reading without the need to download a PDF at https://www.thebeaconpaper.com/.
- This edition of *The Beacon*, as well as archived editions will be available as a downloadable PDF files midway through the month on <u>http://amherstisland.on.ca/Beacon/</u>.

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 <u>editor@thebeaconpaper.com</u> for more information.

Thank you!



An afternoon photograph of the Amherst Island Beacon, the namesake of The Beacon newspaper. Photograph captured by Kayleigh Graham.