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

THE



BEACON

THE UNVEILING OF AN 'UDDERLY' NEW DAIRY BARN



Several Holstein Friesian dairy cattle eagerly waiting for the feed-pushing robot 'Juno' to automatically push the feed further into the bunk for them.

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

The chore of pushing feed back into the bunk, within reach of the hungry cows, is an endless job. If a dairy farm hired someone to do this task, they would be kept busy around the clock. In order to save on time and labour costs, of course, there is a robot for this exact purpose.

Meet Juno, the 'Juno 150' automatic feed-pushing robot. Juno patrols the entire perimeter of the barn, diligently pushing feed back toward the eagerly waiting cows. Juno works around the clock, completing 1 trip around the perimeter every hour during the day, and every other hour during the night. Juno is almost silent, making much less noise than a human, so he is able to work all night without disturbing the cows. When Juno has completed a round trip of the perimeter, he returns to a charging station to recharge.

It seems the cows are accustomed to Juno's presence in the barn, and some of them even seem excited to see him. Maybe the cows have learned that with this robot comes fresh feed within their reach. Some people worry about robots stealing jobs, but it seems repetitive jobs like this one are quite well suited to robots like Juno, freeing up time for people to be useful elsewhere.



A family of farmers in the new dairy barn at Poplar Dell Farm (left to right): Millie the dog, Lucas Walhout, Bruce and Susie Caughey, Anna Walhout, Jill Caughey, Nolan Walhout, and Mike Walhout.

Dairy Farm Development

(continued on pages 4 and 5)

MIKE WALHOUT KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

The newest dairy barn on Amherst Island is now operational, and it is certainly a technologically impressive operation. Innovation and adaptation are key for survival in any competitive market, and Poplar Dell Farm has welcomed massive changes this year in preparation for the future.

Currently, there are 45 milking cows being milked by one robotic milker. One robotic milking unit is capable of milking about 60 cows at capacity (the robotic milking unit is described in more detail on page 4). The barn is set up to add a second robotic milking unit one day, and eventually house about 140 cows. This winter the barn will provide housing for 120 cows, including milking cows, dry cows, and young stock.

There are several interesting features in the barn that make it ideal for milking cows. The robot dairy barn and ventilation system are from Thermoenergy Structures Inc. The fans on the ceiling are by Envira-North, from Five County Ag in Napanee. The sale and

installation of the robotic milker, model 'Astronaut A4' was completed by Dundas Agri-Systems Inc. A wide variety of producers and designers had a hand in the creation of this dairy barn, and it is incredible how seamlessly all of the separate components came together to result in a modern marvel in the field of agriculture.

This dairy barn has been designed to keep happy and healthy cows for many years, and there is a uniquely special design choice that proves this point. Every day is spa day for these cows; they have access to an automatic back scratching and massage machine named Luna. If a cow stands under Luna, a back scratch is activated and delivered based on pressure. A barn with its own masseuse means that these cows are not only pampered, but they will produce more milk. Apparently, massages help contribute to a higher milk output in dairy cows.

For those of you interested in seeing this robot dairy barn yourselves, once COVID-19 is out of the equation, Poplar Dell Farm will be hosting an Open House event: stay tuned for more information. Details about the new robotic barn are continued on pages 4 and 5.

IN THIS ISSUE

DAIRY BARNS ON A.I. (4,5) **BOW HUNTER FULL DRAW**BY ALVIN HEPLER (11)

GARDENING: TIPS AND SAVING SEEDS (17,18)



NOVEMBER DAYS

Remembrance Day

NOVEMBER 11TH

Usually on Remembrance Day, there are gatherings, ceremonies, memorials, but as with so many other events, these are cancelled for the time being.

The key part of Remembrance Day is the 'remembering' part, so luckily we can still do that from home, while being COVID-19 safe. Keep your loved ones close this November 11th and be thankful for the country in which we live.



A poppy, captured by Don Woodiwiss Photography, woodiwissphotography.com.



Manny, the smiling senior dog rescued by Tara Kennedy.

OBSERVE

Adopt a Senior Pet Month *November*

Meet Manny, he is a senior dog of about 12-15 years. Manny previously lived with a family in the Dominican Republic, but they couldn't take care of him due to significant financial restraints. He is deaf due to a heavy ear mite load, and he is mostly blind because of cataracts. When he arrived in Canada he was 20lbs underweight and he had open wounds invested with screw worms that had eaten into his bones, which is why he limps when he walks now. On a positive note, he was house trained when he arrived. Manny is friendly with other dogs, cats, and people. Since he was adopted, his wounds have healed, he has gained 20lbs, and he spends his days in bed in front of the fireplace. Manny is so grateful that Tara Kennedy decided to rescue a senior dog that he smiles all day.

CELEBRATE

National Child Day

NOVEMBER 20TH

National Child Day has been celebrated across Canada since 1993. In cooperation with the United Nations, Canada has made a commitment to ensure that all children are treated with dignity and respect.

Although there are not many children on Amherst Island, they are treasured members of

the community. This year, UNICEF Canada is partnering with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada, and many other organizations to host a virtual series to defend the right to a childhood under the #StayInToSpeakOut. Held on Zoom, these virtual sessions are being held for youth in Canada between 12-24 years old, and focus on education, mental health, climate change, and systemic racism. You can register for a youth summit led by

the leaders of these sessions through UNICEF Canada's One Youth program under 'Take Back the Future: Youth Activism Summit". Children are the future and on National Child Day they should be celebrated!



TURTLE TALK

Hibernation vs. Brumation

RANDI KENNEDY

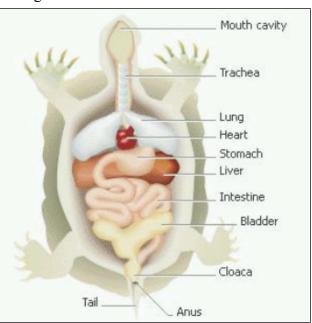
Hibernation for turtles, or brumation for chelonians.

Turtles are still out, heading to their winter hibernation spots, which in this part of Ontario is likely to be at the bottom of lakes and ponds that do not freeze solid. There, they will burrow into sand, gravel, mud, or plant debris and wait for warm weather. If you come across a turtle on snow or ice, it has miscalculated bedtime, and will freeze unless rescued to spend the winter in a turtle facility, such as *The Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre*. Transport is available by volunteer turtle taxis.

Turtle Dormancy is intriguing. Turtles are ecto-thermic (ecto: outer, therm: heat), meaning whatever the temperature of the air or water, that is pretty much the turtle's temperature. These ecto-thermic animals are also known as 'cold-blooded'. Humans are ento-thermic, we generate our own heat, but our bodies must maintain temperatures within a narrow range, or we die. Turtles can adapt instead. In the cold, they enter **brumation**. Similar to hibernation, but not as deep a sleep, the heartbeat is slowed, and they live off body fat stores and occasionally wake for a drink. Hibernation is a much deeper sleep, as seen in mammals such as bears.

Ever feel hot and sleepy during the dog days of summer? Turtles do too, but they have a solution **estivation**! This is like a siesta! In estivation, turtles slow down all body functions like in brumation. Summertime estivation occurs, to get through the intense heat that can be found in deserts.

Okay, so how exactly do they breathe? It is called **cloacal** (klo-ay-kal) respiration. The cloaca is the opening through which the turtle lays eggs, excretes, urinates, and mates. Specially adapted protrusions in the cloaca allow for oxygen and carbon dioxide transfer under water. So, can turtles breathe through their butts? You bet!



TURTLE FACTS

- Turtles can cry, but no ugly sobbing here! Sea turtles have glands near their eyes that produce tears to get rid of excess salt from the sea water they drink.
- There are 356 species of turtles worldwide. Land-dwelling turtles are called 'tortoises'.
- Thanks to beach clean-ups, more monitoring, and less human beach traffic during the pandemic, some sea turtles are slightly increasing in numbers.
 Loggerhead Turtles in Georgia, USA made some slow population gains in spite of record high tides and tropical storms.
- By the way, the *Turtle Survival Centre* in South Carolina has a job posting for a turtle keeper for programs and projects in Belize, Columbia, Madagascar, and parts of Asia. You could be a Chelonian Keeper!



A Blanding's turtle on the south shore a couple years ago, photographed by Brian Little Photography, brianlittlephoto@gmail.com.



THE <u>BEACO</u>N

AGRICULTURE

Electronic Excellence

MIKE WALHOUT KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

In an interview and barn tour with Mike Walhout recently, the attention to detail and purposeful design of this new robotic dairy barn quickly became clear.

The robot milker is called the 'Astronaut A4' and was installed by Dundas Agri-Services Inc. It is amazing to watch this machine in operation; this description will not do it justice. First, a milking cow walks into the milking area where there is food for the cow to eat during the process. The weight of the cow on the mat triggers the milking process to begin, and the weight of the cow is also recorded at each milking. The radio-frequency identification (RFID) collar is recorded by the computer to identify the individual cow, so the data the robot milker collects is added to the right record.

Once activated by weight, the robot milker deploys brushes and hoses that spray, brush, and clean the udder. After the udder is cleaned, the robot cleans the brushes as well. Then, a robotic arm with four nozzles on it moves under the udder. Four laser sensors are then pointed at the four teats, to tell the nozzles where to attach. The machine attaches itself and immediately begins milking. During the milking process, information about the quantity of milk flowing from each teat is sent to the computer. Information about rumination and activity data is collected by the RFID collar and sent to the computer during milking. This information can be used to determine whether or not the cow is in heat, and if so, when the ideal moment for artificial insemination (AI) will occur. Based on the information collected by the robot milker and RFID collar that is sent to the computer, important decisions about medical treatments or breeding timing can be determined.

Managing a large number of animals in any farming operation is a difficult task and a lot of work, but with the help of advanced technology it can be made more efficient. Using RFID collars to track the statistics each cow is an effective way to provide individualized, targeted care to each animal.

Speaking about individualised care; all of the cows at Poplar Dell Farm have a name. They are all registered with the Holstein Association of Canada, so each cow has a birth certificate, a name, and regular official assessments. Excellence is the highest ranking on these official assessments, and Poplar Dell Farm hosts several cows that have been certified as Excellent. The robot dairy barn contributes a great deal to the excellent care and animal husbandry these cows enjoy, and it shows a significant investment for the future of dairy farming on Amherst Island.

When the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us, keep an eye out for details about the Open House at Poplar Dell Farm!



The side panels of the barn hinge at specific angles to allow optimum ventilation and air flow. The desired angle is decided and adjusted by an automatic temperature monitor on the inside of the barn.

The side panels on the long sides of the barn were patented and designed by Thermoenergy Structures Inc., specifically to be used as an advanced ventilation system in dairy barns. There are long, metal, string-like sensors hanging from the ceiling on inside of the barn. These sensors collect data on the temperature and humidity in the building. Then, based on the data, the side panels of the barn are automatically opened to the desired angle to optimize the temperature and ventilation inside. The massive ceiling fans, supplied by Envira-North, from Five County Ag in Napanee, are also connected to the hanging sensors. When the sensors determine more air flow is necessary, the fans automatically turn on at the ideal speed.

The advanced ventilation system in the barn contributes to the overall health of the cows. The ventilation system is also largely responsible for the clean smelling air inside the barn. There is also an automatic manure shovelling system built into the floor, which helps keep the barn fresh. The manure is pushed into a gravity flow system, where gravity carries it to the manure storage tank which eliminates the need for a mechanical removal system. This barn does not smell like an old-fashioned barn, it smells like the future of farming!



The robotic milking machine efficiently milks a cow, while measuring the milk and sending data about the milk and the cow to the computer.



Mike Walhout in the observation room, keeping an eye on the cows and reading data collected by the robots.



AGRICULTURE

The History of Dairy Barns on Amherst Island

BRUCE CAUGHEY KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

In a recent interview with Bruce Caughey, the history of dairy farming on the island was discussed. As he remembered the *good old days*, he said, "[a]round 1970, when I joined my Dad on our farm, there were 28 dairy farms shipping milk to the cheese factories. I remember some cheese was cut into smaller, 10lb cheese rounds and sold locally, out the door. The average cuts were 90lb cheese rounds, and they were created as well as aged in the factory in Stella."

When asked about the milking process in dairy barns of the past, Bruce had this to say, "I think hydro came to the island around 1936, and as soon as possible, farmers began to get milking machines. In the early 1950s, my Dad used a hand operated milking machine, he then carried the milk to a 30-gallon canister. The canisters were lowered into a well to cool overnight. In the morning, the milk would be transported to the cheese factories. In the 1940s and 1950s, we milked 11 cows. Farms kept a mix of animals at the time, rarely specializing in one type of livestock. We had chickens, pigs, all sorts of livestock."

The history of Poplar Dell Farm predominantly as a dairy farm began with the registration of dairy cattle with Holstein Canada. Bruce said, "[m]y grandfather was the one who began registering our dairy cattle with Holstein Canada, and the records of their lineage has been kept ever since. Poplar Dell Farm started specializing in dairy cattle in the 1960s. Into the 1960s, we always kept a bull. In 1968 the bull ran my father down in the yard. He wasn't seriously injured, luckily, but it was scary. Ernest Fleming was the artificial insemination (AI) technician on the island. We started using AI. In the late 1960's and stopped keeping a bull around then."

A significant accomplishment in the dairy farming world, Poplar Dell Farm was awarded a Master Breeder's Award in 2009. This award has existed since 1919 and is given by the Holstein Association of Canada. The 2009 award to Poplar Dell Farm was only the 4th Master Breeder's Award to be given in the county of Lennox and Addington since 1919. The whole family attended the award ceremony in Quebec, and as Bruce said, "this accomplishment was achieved through teamwork, with the whole family working together."



Susie (left) and Bruce (right) Caughey at the 2009 Master Breeder's Award Ceremony.



Poplar Dell Farm's 2009 Master Breeder's Award.



Poplar Dell Farm's 2009 Master Breeder's Award wall decoration gifted by Lennox and Addington.

ALLEN CAUGHEY KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

In an interview with Allen Caughey, we discussed the history of milking cows and the eventual demise of the cheese factories on Amherst Island. While reminiscing, Allen said, "[a]round the kitchen table when I was a kid, my father (Allen Bruce Caughey) could name 110 people on the island who milked cows during his childhood." That is a staggering number of people milking cows, even if many farms only had a couple of cows back then.

In a discussion about dairy productivity, Allen said, "in the 1960s our average cow produced 6,200-6,300 lbs of milk per year, and now they can produce 20,000 lbs per year. This increase has been achieved through selective breeding of Holsteins for quality milk production."

Back in the day, once the milk was collected "there were about 3 people who drove down the road collecting milk to bring it to the cheese factories. These were award winning factories, the Amherst Island cheese was even sold in England!" The cheese left the island in big, round wooden cheese boxes. It was sent to Belleville and was sold from there.

Describing a zero-waste production prosses, Allen said, "[a] lot of us worked in those factories. When the whey was taken off the top of the cheese vats, the whey was taken back home to the farms to feed to the pigs."

A major change in the milking business, according to Allen, "was the introduction of the requirement to store milk in bulk tanks. By that time, only about 12 people on Amherst Island were still milking cows at the time. For the use of a bulk tank, you needed to build a milk house for storing it, and this pushed a lot of producers out of the industry."

Allen remembered, "[m]y uncle and aunt sold a quart of milk for 10 cents/quart. Then I could go to the general store and buy a Cherry Blossom candy bar and a bottle of pop with 10 cents!" Around 1980 the cheese factories closed down, and less people tried to make a living from dairy farming after that. Things really have changed.



Photograph of the old cheese factory in Stella, taken by Don Tubb in about 1999.





CULINARY CREATIONS

Recipes From the "Island Treasures Cook Book"

CATHY GLENN

ZUCCHINI SOUP

l lb. zucchini (3 or 4 small) washed and sliced l cup chicken broth or beef broth

1/8 tsp. each of basil,
thyme, marjoram
Salt to taste
2 cups milk

In a saucepan, bring the zucchini, broth and salt to a boil. Cover and simmer until tender. Cool. Add the herbs and puree in a blender, then pour back into saucepan. Stir in milk and heat gently. Delicious topped with yogurt.

Cathy Glenn

Warm up this season with a zucchini soup. It seems you can make anything out of zucchini, even zucchini bread is a healthy option.

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

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

STEWED CHICKEN

5 to 6 lb. Stewing Chicken or Fowl (cut up)

2 springs parsley

4 celery bunches with leaves

l carrot, pared and sliced

1 small onion, cut up

Place chicken pieces in Dutch Oven with enough water to cover. Add remaining ingredients, 2 tsp. salt, 1/4 tsp. pepper. Cover. Bring to boiling and cook over low heat about 2-1/2 hours, or until tender. Remove meat from bones. Makes about 5 cups cooked diced chicken. Return to stew and serve.

CHRIS GLENN

l cup rice crispies

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

SAVOURY

Stewed Chicken

CHRIS GLENN

A hearty, savoury, main course that will make your mouth water! Just in time to cook up the game birds that were recently harvested.

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

Snow Balls

ANONYMOUS

Tis the season, make some snow balls as the snow begins to fall!

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*.

SNOW BALLS

l cup peanut butter l cup icing sugar 1 tbsp. butter 1/2 cup nuts

Cream peanut butter, icing sugar and butter together, then add rice crispies and walnuts. Shape in balls with hands, then dip in sloppy icing and then roll in coconut.

Florence McCormac

- 21 -

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



Obituaries

MARY ELISABETH BEST (1926-2020)

Mary Liz died peacefully in her own bed with family by her side on September 30, 2020. She is survived by her children Andrew (Dipika), Elisabeth (Peter), and David (Carole), her grandchildren who she adored Emma (Max), Zoe (John), Margaret, Robert (Jackie), Emily (Matt) and Wallace, and by her stepchildren Joan (Stephen) and Allison (Hugh). She was predeceased by her first husband who died tragically in 1980, and by her second husband John Fisher. Predeceased by her youngest son James Stuart and by her sister Margaret Glass.

Mum was on form until the end. Earlier in September Mum allowed she was feeling in a 'muddle'. Asked to explain, she retorted "Muddle. M-U-D-D-L-E". She lived a full life with family and friends, especially on Amherst Island before the 'ridiculous turbines'. Her passions for the outdoors, for her gardens, her chickens and their eggs secured from numerous raccoon incursions sustained her through too numerous tragedies. She has a strong moral code, a steely spine, a tart tongue (especially where poor grammar was involved) – but above all a big heart that embraced all.

In her late months she was supported by wonderful caregivers at Kingston Personal Support, especially Courtney, Lacey, and Maria.

A celebration of her life will be held in better times.

*Originally published on October 7, 2020 in *The Kingston Whig Standard*.



Mary Liz Best with one of her chickens.



Mary Liz Best with the newspaper.

Memories of Mary Liz

Messages such as this one, and many more, paint a picture of what people think of when they remember Mary Liz. These collected stories exhibit Mary Liz's big heart and passion for the natural world;

"She and her husband (John Fisher) were both really youthful visionaries, and likeable people. Just the idea of buying a lot and having a house built in your late 70's is amazing. I remember she designed an herb garden in the shape of the spokes of a wheel, so when she looked out the upper window, she could appreciate the artistry of the garden."

~ Sally Bowen



BEACON

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.**

- 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 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

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





Congratulations



Congratulations on your Wedding!

Tiina Kukkonen, daughter of Erkki and Soili Kukkonen of Saint-Lazare, QC, and Sam Browne, son of Bob and Ann (Wemp) Browne of Amherst Island, ON, were married on September 26th 2020.

The immediate family ceremony was held at the Browne residence on Amherst Island, with Rev. Dr. Nadene Grieve-Deslippe officiating at the ceremony.

Congratulations on your 10th anniversary, Bruce and Carrie Sudds!



Happy 5th Birthday Carson! This is Carson Wilson (one of Susan Corbett's 10 grandchildren), he celebrated his 5th birthday in Kingston, ON, on October 19th.



Happy 6th Birthday Amelia! This is Amelia (one of Susan Corbett's 10 grandchildren), she celebrates her 6th birthday in Red Deer, AB, on November 22nd.





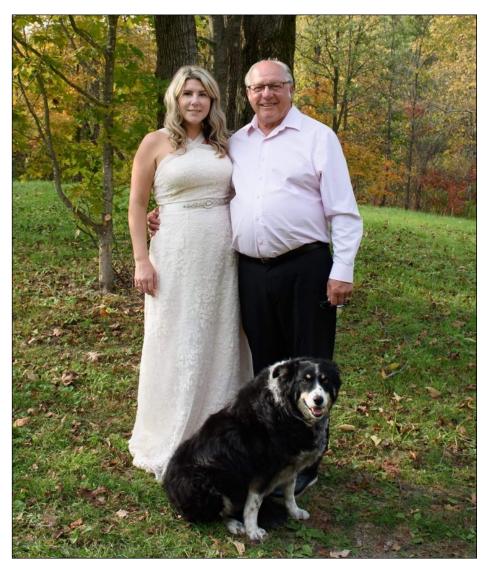
Congratulations



Beautiful autumn wedding photograph of (from left to right) Amy the dog, Kass Wronski, Ted Wronski, Emma Wronski Ashley, Mat Wronski, and Roxanne Guttin.

Congratulations on your Wedding!

We tied the knot! We are excited to announce that on the 1st of August 2020, Emma Wronski and Jason Ashley were married! The intimate ceremony was held at our home in Enterprise, ON. We were happy to be joined by our family and friends. Thank you everyone for the kind and loving thoughts sent our way.



Emma Wronski Ashley, Kass Wronski, and Amy the dog.



Cousins Emma Wronski and Ainsley Wronski.

Happy Birthday Judy Bierma!







ARTS AND CULTURE

Bow Hunter Full Draw by Alvin Hepler

DEREK OXLEY

Archery in hunting as we know it in Western societies today came from a resurgence of its popularity in aristocratic circles of the 19th century, which in turn trickled down to the then increasingly larger middle class who, more and more, found themselves with remarkable leisure time. Contemporary bow hunting in the West today is mostly restricted outside of North America, Australia, and New Zealand. Most countries in Europe and elsewhere have banned the sport since the mid 20th century. However, for thousands of years prior to these modern changes, archery and bow hunting was a regular part of the lives of soldiers and labourers alike. Indeed, there have been many times and places where the skill of the hunter is all that stood between survival and starvation. Images of archery are prevalent in the artwork of innumerable cultures throughout the world.

I looked at a lot of pieces, but this one, *Bow Hunter Full Draw* (2014) by American painter Alvin Hepler, made the strongest impression. Hepler is a contemporary artist whose work revolves around picturesque autumn and winter scenes that feature wild animals such as deer, turkey, buffalo, waterfowl, and many others, occasionally with the presence of a modern-day hunter readying their aim.

Hepler seeks to capture these animals at various moments in their lives, some of which, like this one, lay just at the edge of an action or a conflict. His treatment of the subjects shows that he has a keen eye for noticing little nuances in their behaviour, and that he respects them. What drew me to this picture beyond many others I explored was the ethereal quality of the camouflaged hunter in the foreground. I actually did a double take to make sure of what I was seeing. It seems as though he is truly transparent, with the gnarled branches that look like jagged bones behind him peeping through like some macabre facsimile of a ribcage. The artist's ability to match the camouflage palette exactly to his background helped solidify this trompe-l'oeil, creating a trick that I can only imagine a hunter today might envy. Hepler's imagery follows in the footsteps of the aesthetic movement of the 19th century, showing that there is an ongoing tradition today of creating beauty for beauty's sake, but it also crosses into the realm of genre painting. Genre painting is classified as the presentation of scenes from the everyday lives of anonymous people, which makes the settings and actions that can be displayed nearly limitless. While similar in character, I think what discerns genre paintings from aesthetic pieces is the

presence of a fantastic and mythical quality or subject in the latter. A current artist representing scenes of the current (anonymous) lives around them is genre based; a current artist fancifully recreating scenes of (anonymous) mythical subjects becomes aesthetic. In this way, arguably, last month's Autumn Leaves by John Everett Millais could be seen as a genre painting. But traditionally genre paintings are created to represent a moral bias – a scene that is meant to instruct or provoke scrutiny. While Autumn Leaves carries no sign of such gravitas, Hepler's painting invites the viewer to think about the reality of doing whatever is necessary to survive in their lives, and it hangs between an instant of life and death. Any particular story inspired by the piece is up to each viewer to create. How long has this invisible hunter been waiting? Has the unsuspecting buck just noticed his peril? Will the hunter make his shot? Is he hesitating? The moral, like the outcome dear viewer, is up to you.

More of Hepler's work can be seen and purchased on the fineartamerica.com website.²

Sources:

¹Michelle Facos, *An Introduction to Nineteenth-Century Art*, Routledge Taylor and Francis Group (New York: 2011), 9.

²https//fineartamerica.com/featured/bow-hunter-full-draw-alvin-hepler.html



Alvin Hepler, Bow Hunter Full Draw, 2014, Fine Art America.



JANET'S JOTTINGS

Trees to be Thankful For

JANET SCOTT

What are we seeing this month? The winds and rains have whipped away in spirals and swirls the gorgeous display of fall colours we experienced in October, and now the greens of the pine and spruce trees are highlighting the gold and yellow of the poplars and aspens clinging to the hillsides of Amherst Island. Drive the Third Concession but stop for a moment on the top of Marshall Glenn's hill and look down through that valley towards the bush lot on the Second Concession. There are several pines still standing in that wood lot. Imagine what it looked like long before the Irish settlers came and settled, long before Barnabas Wemp and the other United Empire Loyalists escaped the 1776 revolution of our cousins to the south. Imagine what it looked like long before LaSalle gave the island to his engineer Tonti, and back when our residents harvested wood strips to make baskets and fish off the shores. Was the island then covered with majestic white pines? To the Haudenosaunee, the people of the long house, it was the spiritual symbol of the Great Peace when the six nations came together in a confederacy, with our Mohawk neighbours the guardians of the eastern door. Stop long enough on that hill to see what you are seeing. Look at the tops of the trees, touching the prevailing westerlies, see across the land from the Bay of Quinte all the way to the Lake of Shining Waters. I try to

imagine what our island looked like when it was tree covered. The pines became buildings, ships, mouldings, and floors. Chatting on a visit with Ed Bongaard on a visit one day after slipping off the road on his corner, he was telling me that his father said the woods were so thick when his father was a boy that he got lost going between houses.

The late Jim Whitton recognized the significance of the white pine trees in his woodlot on the north side of the Second Concession. He talked about them as we talked, birding in that forest. It was home to a great horned owl and several species of woodpeckers. Keith Miller's trees, feeders, and yard are visited by numerous species that call that woodlot home. You might see a red-bellied woodpecker with both male and females displaying that bright, bright red patch running nape to beak on the male, and nape to forehead on the female. Several times the pileated woodpecker as large as a crow with white patches showing could be seen as it flew along the perimeter of that wood. I am sure it must be the bird that inspired the cartoon character, Woody Woodpecker. This species loves carpenter ants, so you will see them pounding away on a rotted stump or seeking insects in the rotting interiors of standing trees. It makes large rectangular holes which may provide homes for other forest creatures. Keith says both hairy and downy woodpeckers visit his feeder and once, while our motley crew was out birding, we got

to see a red-headed woodpecker on the western edge of that wood lot. Northern flickers will be migrating soon, but as ground eating woodpeckers, you will more likely see them on your lawn even though they need old trees for nesting.

The old poem "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer says, "I think that I shall never see, a poem lovely as a tree". I think COVID-19 isolation and the beauty of the autumn season has combined to make us aware of the beauty of the trees around us. We have enjoyed the shade and coolness, we have exercised on county lanes and tree-lines parks, we have entertained in the safety of tree sheltered yards, and celebrated camping in provincial parks. Be thankful, we are blessed here. The white pine is the Spirit of Peace and Joyce Kilmer says, "only God can make a tree".

Blessings, Janet

Our birding list for Saturday, October 23rd 2020. Third Concession, Sand Beach, Emerald Fortyfoot, Front Road, and home by Stella Forty-foot. Janet Scott and Bonnie Livingstone.

- 1. eastern meadowlark
- 2. common loon
- 3. white-breasted nuthatch
- 4. white-throated sparrow
- 5. double-crested cormorant
- 6. ring-billed gull
- 7. golden-crowned kinglet
- 8. mourning dove
- 9. red-winged blackbirds, trees full of them
- 10. Canada goose
- 11. American goldfinch
- 12. northern harrier
- 13. European starling
- 14. northern cardinal
- 15. dark-eyed junco
- 16. common raven
- 17. American crow
- 18. black-capped chickadee
- 19. house sparrow
- 20. white-crowned sparrow
- 21. water pipit
- 22. American robin
- 23. Cooper's hawk
- 24. northern mockingbird
- 25. downy woodpecker
- 26. great blue heron
- 27. common merganser 28. mute swan
- 29. belted kingfisher
- 30. northern flicker
- 31. common yellowthroat



White Pines north of the Second Concession, photograph by Janet Scott.



BEACON

SPORTS AND WELLNESS

Autumn Activities

IAN PHILLIPS **KAYE PHILLIPS** KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

Ian and Kaye Phillips may end up as our neighbours on Amherst Island one day soon. In a recent interview, when asked why a young family would move to Amherst Island they said, "[w]e want to move to a place with a tight knit community, where we can feel rooted and part of something. We feel the need to return to land and having space. Ian grew up on a plot of 100 acres in Southwest Ontario, and the urge to be able to roam has always been part of his identity." Amherst Island is certainly home to a tight knit community and lots of space, so this may be their dream destination.

When asked about their plans to live on the island, they said, "[w]e want to build a house using all recycled materials, including using barnboard on the inside instead of drywall. We are referring to it as an 'inside-out' barn. We are looking to use as many recycled materials and natural products as possible." They also have a young son, "Thomas Phillips is 3 years old now, and we are looking forward to him joining Amherst Island Public School one day. It is such a bonus for us that he will be in class with kids of varying ages, because he enjoys interacting with children of all ages."

The Phillips family takes part in some amazing outdoor activities. When asked about their hobbies, they replied, "[t]here is a strong desire for us to be close to wind and water. Ian is a wind fanatic, and the environment of Amherst Island is conducive to outdoor activities like boating, scuba diving, kiting, and kayaking."

Ian Phillips enjoys extreme sports, like kiting, he said, "I started kiting in 2006. When everyone else is running away from the beach, you will see me running toward it". He said, "[t]he most difficult part of kiting is learning. The next most difficult part is understanding the wind and your gear, these factors all make a significant difference." Ian enjoys the balance between peace and fear, bliss or blitz, and he is eager to practice kite boarding on the waters surrounding his future home, Amherst Island.

We look forward to watching more of these extreme sports, as kiting and wind surfing are both entertaining and enjoyable to watch!



Wind Surfing



Wind surfing and kite boarding photographs taken by Kayleigh Graham, off the shores of Amherst Island.



Kite Boarding







SPORTS AND WELLNESS

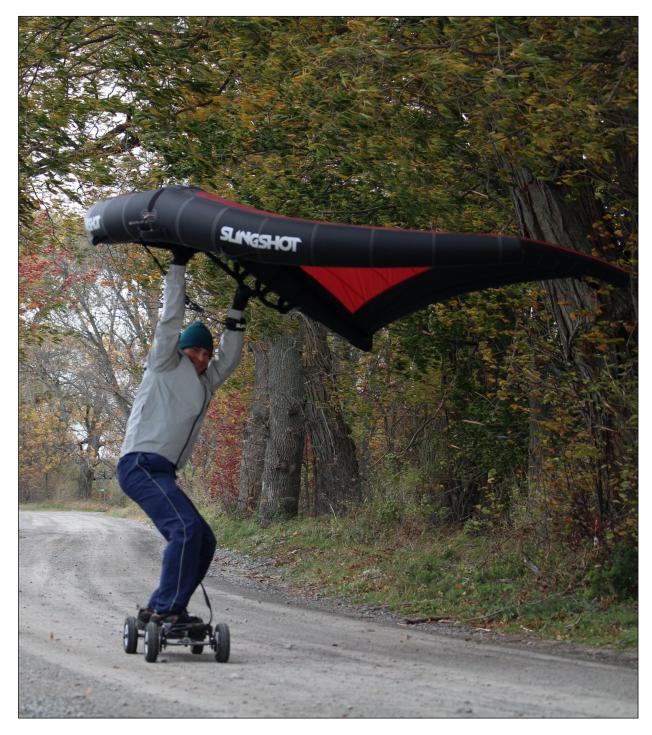
Autumn Activities

GREG WRIGHT KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

Encountering this image on the Third Concession was a surprise! Meet Greg Wright, a pioneer of the sport 'wing-boarding'. He said, "In the 1980s, my sister imported windsurfing equipment from Holland to Toronto. I started windsurfing, even though I was afraid of open water, and I became addicted to the adrenaline rush." Recently, Greg has started windsurfing using a hydrofoil, which looks like an underwater airplane. It helps him gain more speed, while also making the ride smoother.

Greg missed wind surfing come each November, and as the end of each season came to an end, he would try to find a replacement for the activity. Cross-country skiing doesn't come with the same adrenaline rush, so he decided to try wing-boarding. He said, "it's something you can do in the off season, you can even try using a wing with skates on a frozen lake." After a lot of research, he decided to try using a mountain board. Mountain boards are kind of like skateboards, but with 8-inch air filled wheels. A more durable version of the skateboard, Greg Wright is pictured here using a mountain board with a wing.

On the specifics of wing-boarding he said, "my inflatable, handheld wing is portable. There are no rods in it, so it rolls up and fits in my backpack. Factories have only been manufacturing these wings for about 2 years, so it's a relatively new sport." When asked about direction, he said, "just like sailing a boat, you can go in multiple directions, except straight upwind, even if the wind is only blowing in one direction." He has even fashioned a set of brakes, "just like bicycle handlebar brakes, I have a cable running from one set of wheels up to a hook on my belt." Wing-boarding is a workout, because your legs are never given a break!



Greg Wright coasting along, wing-boarding on the Third Concession on Amherst Island, photographs taken by Kayleigh Graham.







AMHERST ISLAND'S WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Celebrating 120 Years

MARY KAY STEEL

This fall marks the 120th anniversary of the Amherst Island Branch of the Women's Institute. Women's Institutes began in Stoney Creek, Wentworth County, in Ontario in 1897 and became worldwide organizations. The Amherst Island Branch was the fourth (in the world, as we understand) to be established. Typically over the years we have held various public celebrations to mark our anniversaries. For example, on the occasion of our 100th we had a well-attended party at our community centre. But this year, amidst the pandemic, we must celebrate modestly, in our hearts and memories, and invite you the reader to recognize the importance of this milestone.

The Institute had initially as a main goal the dissemination of knowledge, primarily to local rural women, focusing on household science. You can imagine that over a century ago rural communities were much more isolated than they are today. Today our very active branch still focuses on sharing information and also on community services, including giving donations to various local causes and projects. We have welcomed several new members over the past couple of years, giving the promise that the branch can continue its valuable work.

~Mary Kay Steel
W.I. member for some 21 years.



Vanessa Van, sporting an AIWI apron, picture taken by Kayleigh Graham.

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Amherst Island branch of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (A.I.W.I.) (https://fwio.on.ca) met on October 22, 2020. In keeping with social distancing recommendations from public health officials, the meeting was held via Zoom. During the meeting, the group discussed plans for (1) expanding digital outreach, (2) support for the Island Flu Shot Clinic, and (3) ideas for upcoming fundraising efforts.

1. Plans for expanding digital outreach:
Members volunteered to contribute regular
A.I.W.I. updates to *The Beacon*. The A.I.W.I. is
delighted by the newly refreshed print and digital
publication. The A.I.W.I.'s regular contributions
will summarize key agenda items and the main
outcomes of each meeting (most often monthly).

Over the next month, the A.I.W.I. will be setting up an email address, website, Facebook page, and Instagram account. This new online presence will help foster connections between members and the broader community during extended physical isolation. We can see socializing migrating online, and the A.I.W.I. is looking forward to engaging more actively.

The Advocacy Committee will take an active role in supporting this digital presence. Judy Greer suggested that we think about advocating for early learning and childcare reform. Members of the Advocacy Committee decided they want to hear about the childcare needs on the island and help create supports if needed. The Committee has now drafted a note to post on the upcoming Facebook page. The post will ask the community if this cause resonates with them. It will also solicit broader feedback about what issues matter most to Islanders.

2. Supporting the Amherst Island Flu Shot Clinic:

The Pharmasave Loyalist Pharmacy (https://pharmasave.com/amherstview/) in Amherstview ran a no-charge Flu Shot Clinic on Amherst Island. The Pharmacy sent personnel to administer the shots to Island residence for free. The clinic ran over two days, from Friday, October 30, 2020, to Saturday, October 31, 2020. The event was a cooperative effort organized by local island resident Ida Gavlas. The Lodge on Amherst Island (http://thelodgeonamherstisland.com) offered the indoor space to host the clinic. The A.I.W.I. assisted with registration, sanitization, and pre-event condition via phone.

3. Ideas for upcoming fundraising efforts:

A brainstorming session was held to generate ideas about what to sell for an upcoming fundraising effort. Aprons will be sold again this year, leading up to the holidays. Please contact the A.I.W.I. for more information or to place your order (amherstwi@gmail.com). As for next year, the A.I.W.I. is thinking of introducing branded socks, tote bags, or even tea towels.

The next meeting will be held remotely on November 18, 2020. All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP by reaching out to amherstwi@gmail.com

Stay tuned for monthly updates from the Amherst Island Women's Institute.



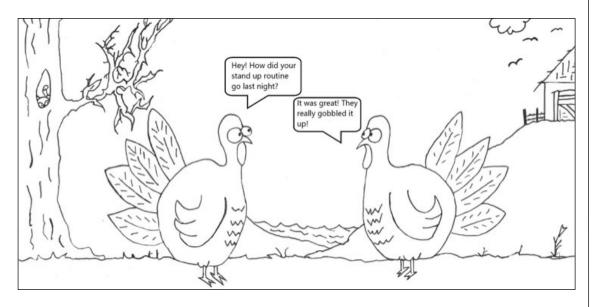


COMMUNITY CARTOONS

Comics Drawn by Islanders for Islanders

Turkeying Around

SAM EVES



SHIRLEY MILLER

Hats off to the crews of the Amherst Island ferry! The boat is very busy at the best of times, but the free ferry, free beaches, and constructions work have added a lot to your job. Well done!

This Shirley Miller original comic is for the ferry crews, enjoy!

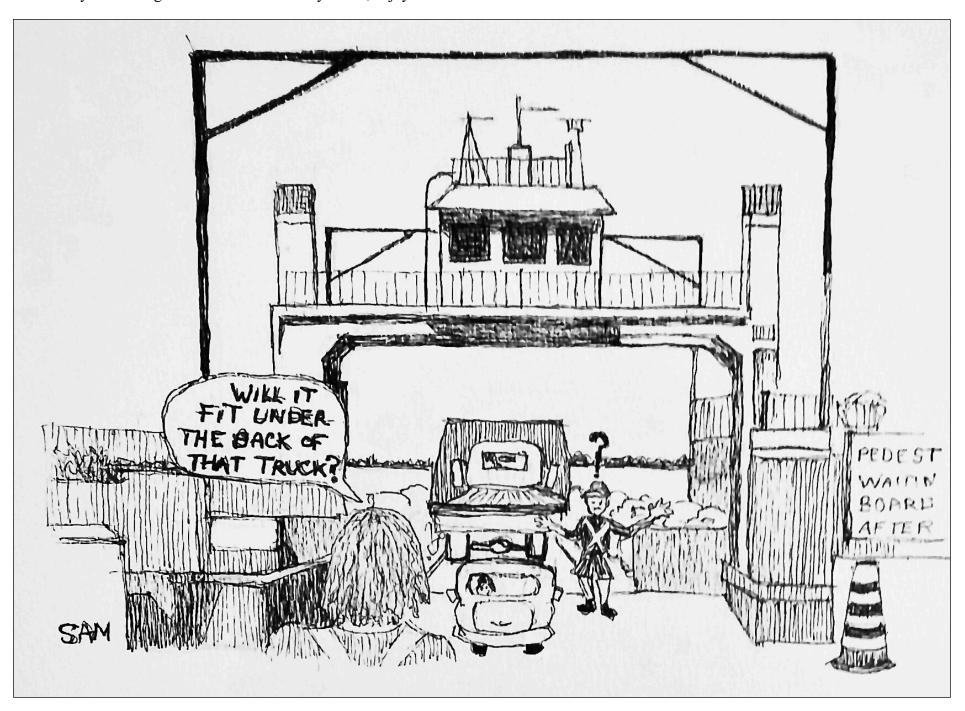
Fanciful Ferry Update

DUNCAN ASHLEY



The new Amherst Island ferry, which looks suspiciously like it has been built out of LEGO.

Happy to announce the new Amherst Island Ferry prototype is in the second phase of rigorous sea trials and on schedule to arrive in 2024. Follow @DuncanAshley for further updates.





GARDENING

Must Love Mulch

VANESSA VAN

A few days before the border closed in March; I moved back to Canada from Portland, Oregon. During the year prior, I had been mostly in Portland, working in communications and training in radio production.

Delighted by Oregon's warmer winters and the region's seemingly magic soil, I started to garden. It first started as a winter social activity, as I would help friends in their yards. As the summer approached and my confidence grew, I started taking on gardening projects more independently. Much of my free time was spent weeding, clearing invasives, and of course, mulching.

When I moved back to Amherst Island last spring, *Topsy Farms* organized the construction of Victory Garden beds in backyards across the island. Once our raised bed was in, I spent more and more of my time outside. I now garden every day. Thanks to my neighbors' kindness and generosity, I have the opportunity to tend to many types of gardens at several properties. With so much to learn, I spend my evenings reading about best gardening practices. While I am experimenting in the mud and digging for information online, I thought others might want to join me through a regular contribution to *The Beacon*. From that thought, this monthly column was born.

I have dedicated, in name, this monthly column to my love of mulch. Of all the tasks in the garden, I find mulching the most satisfying. Gardens take time. Gardening is like designing in slow motion. It can take a year or two before what a gardener envisions fully takes shape. An exception to this rule is the immediate results that come from clearing a bed of weeds and laying a fresh layer of organic mulch.

From my column, readers can expect highlights from interviews that I will conduct with experts and links to helpful resources. I will take on researching your toughest questions and share hyper-local advice based on seasoned gardeners' experiences. I also plan to find ways to connect the practice of gardening to the larger social contexts that shape our lives.

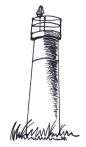
I look forward to talking to you all again soon. Until then, stay well and mulch on.

Plants wrapped up for protection against freezing temperatures and wind in Sally Bowen's garden.

November Gardening Suggestions:

- Wrap any shrubs that were cut back in the fall and all tender perennials. You can use burlap or plastic to help protect plants from freezing temperatures, deer, wind, ice, and snow.
- Apply mulch to help your garden retain soil moisture and protect it from soil erosion. The mulch will also create a warmer environment for earthworms and microbes. It will insulate plant roots and help protect plants from freezethaw cycles by moderating temperature swings. Do not apply any more than a 3-inch-thick layer of mulch and plan to do so after the first hard freeze. Keep the mulch away from perennial plant crowns. Avoid creating a vole haven by piling mulch too close to plants.





GARDENING GUIDANCE

Saving Tomato Seeds

TERRY MCGINN

So you've grown your prize-winning, or favourite, tomato and you want to make sure you can grow it again next year, and the year after that. You decide to save some seeds, but you're not sure how to take that slimey, gooey mess and turn it into something that you can keep and use to grow again next season. There's a little trick to it, but it's necessary in order to make sure you can enjoy the fruits of your labour again and again.

Tomato seeds come wrapped in that slimey gel for a reason, it stops the seeds within the tomato from germinating too early. That means, in order for you to decide when your tomatoes sprout — ideally when you go about starting your seedlings next spring — they are ready and waiting for you.

The best way I know to strip off the gel from tomato seeds is to ferment them in water in a small glass or mason jar on the countertop for a few days. After you've scooped out the seeds, add some water, enough that the seeds are fully floating in it, and let it sit. Don't forget to label your jars, it doesn't take long to lose track!

Ideally, you want the seeds to soak in the water for about a week or so, I usually leave them until the water solution starts to scum up a bit, this means that the gel is being eaten away by the fermentation process. But don't let them get skunky. If you have to change the water, it's safe to do so.



 $\label{lem:continuous} \textbf{Prize-worthy tomato grown by Terry McGinn}, \textbf{who also provided the photograph.}$

When the times comes you should rinse them off with clean water and let them dry on a sheet (or sheets) of labelled paper towel before storing them away. They should rinse clean and not have any gel left on them. When pouring them out of the jar any seeds that seem to float away are usually not viable, so let them go, concentrate on the ones that readily sink to the bottom.

As with any seeds, it's important to store them away from heat and moisture – a dry spot in your refrigerator is ideal – and tomato seeds will often remain viable for 5 years when stored correctly.

This article was inspired by a question from Dave McGinn. Thanks! I love talking about saving seeds. It's such an important and usually very simple task that can pay dividends in the long run through better, more well adapted vegetables and fruits. It's important to note that any seeds saved from hybrid plants usually won't come back true to their parent, but, at least when it comes to tomatoes, you can be fairly sure what you get back will be close!



Beautiful tomatoes grown and saved by Terry McGinn, who also provided the photographs.





COMMUNITY ANNOUCEMENTS

Local News

DARLENE MARTIN

Meet Rusty.

Rusty is a rare and elusive chain-neck heron. He snuck into our van in Bala some years ago and hid under a tarp, hoping we would care for him and take him to a new land. We pretended we didn't see him, and drove off, excited, but we tried hard to be nonchalant about it.

He has been an indoor bird up until now, guarding us against voles in the farmhouse. He was becoming a bit depressed, being as his adoptive parents were spending so much time outside.

He was lonely and wondered if any of the outdoor birds would like to be his friend. So, when we weren't looking, he flew downstairs, through the parlour, rounded the corner, and went out through the swinging kitchen door.

Now he stands sentry by the pond and invites his new friends to rest on his back and bill. They share secrets of great bird adventures that no human would understand.

Rusty is very happy now. He said he wants to stay out all winter. We said yes. We are happy that he is happy.



Rusty, the elusive chain-neck heron. Photograph provided by Darlene Martin.

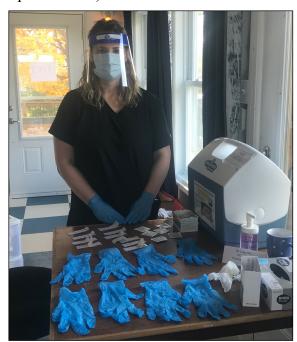
A.I. Flu Clinic

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

The first ever on-island flu-shot clinic was a huge success! This was made possible by the special community network on the island, and the dedication of a variety of volunteers. Ida Gavlas was the driving force behind this island event. She secured the clinic location at The Lodge, set up the appointments, and coordinated volunteers. Thank you, Ida! Molly Stroyman graciously allowed the clinic to take place in The Lodge on Amherst Island for free, thank you Molly! Many volunteers, including members of the Amherst Island Women's Institute (A.I.W.I.), showed up to help with the flu-shot clinic as well. The A.I.W.I. also has offered financial support to compensate the pharmacist Jennifer Baker if needed.

Jennifer Baker is the owner of Loyalist Pharmacy at 200 Speers Street (which attaches to the Loyalist Family Health Team). She is a member of the Ontario Pharmacists Association and is passionate about delivering quality healthcare and participating in health initiatives in the community. Since Loyalist Pharmacy is a private company, the PPE is not provided by the government, so Jennifer pays for all of the masks, gloves, shields, and other PPE items herself. She has offered to provide this flu-shot clinic on the island out of the goodness of her heart, because she believes it is the right thing to do. Thank you, Jennifer!

The entire clinic was set up with proper social distancing, plenty of PPE available and in use, and cleaning procedures between patients. About 160 island residents registered for the clinic on October 30th and 31st, and Jennifer has offered to return to the island when and if more vaccines arrive. If you are still interested in getting your flu-shot, message Ida Gavlas, or contact Jennifer Baker about a potential second clinic on the first Saturday of Novmember (dependent on vaccine replenishment).



Jennifer Baker, administering flu vaccines at the Amherst Island pop-up clinic, on October 30th 2020.



Volunteers at the clinic, (from left to right), Elena Zanetti, Judy Greer, Anne Henderson, Bonnie Livingstone, Cathy Showalter.



NEWS FROM CJAI 92.1 FM

Radio News

ERIC TREMBLAY

The President and Brand Manager of Amherst Island Radio, CJAI 92.1 FM, Eric Tremblay, wished to share these updates taken from the 2020 AGM.

Adapting to the safety protocols of the COVID-19 pandemic posed a challenge at CJAI, given that the space is so small. So, every time a guest is present, masks are being used since social distancing is not possible. Thank you to everyone who was respectful of all the safety protocols put in place. Many events, including important fundraising events, had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Unfortunately, we also lost some volunteers as they did not feel safe volunteering during the pandemic. We miss them. We have started to welcome more shows produced off-site because of this; thank you to everyone sending in content!

Currently we have more than 60 volunteers and the creativity and positive energy put forward by the group is amazing to see. I've been volunteering at this station for 9 years and I am blown away still today, as I was 9 years ago, by the fact that together we can run a radio station 24/7/365with no paid staff. It's pretty amazing.

Our current, long term plan involves 2 phases. Firstly, we aim to boost the signal and build a new telecommunications tower. The new tower will be a 130ft high free-standing tower, with an 8ft x 7ft concrete shed (with heating and cooling), inside a 20ft x 20ft fenced enclosure. Secondly, we plan to relocate the broadcasting studio to somewhere else on Amherst Island.

We would like to welcome more volunteers from the island to fill radio slots on Tuesday and Saturday. If you are available and interested in contributing, please contact us!

Check out our free local streaming radio station online at RadioFreeStella.com for all local music, all the time. This service is fully SOCAN and Re:Sound licenced as well, so local musicians receive royalty payments when their songs are played on both Radio Free Stella and Amherst Island Radio! Support local, listen in, it's pretty cool. Thank you to our dedicated board members continuing on the board for another year; Leah Murray, Anthony Gifford, Judy Bierma, Sue Dodds, David Pickering, Dave Wreggitt, Liz McKee, Bill McKee, and Eric Tremblay.

Congratulations to Susan Filson, who has officially been inducted into the Amherst Island Radio Volunteer Wall of Fame for 2020! Susan has been volunteering in a variety of capacities at this radio station for over 10 years. We are grateful for her years of contribution!





RECREATION

Amherst Island's Recreation Committee

As with most things, the Amherst Island Recreation Committee has been at a standstill for the past 6 months or so. This has been disappointing for our group as we felt we were really gaining some traction with activities. Volleyball, seniors pickleball, yoga, Zumba, and open gym times were rolling, and we were about 2 weeks away from starting a Saturday morning open pickleball session. We were in the planning phase for a spring dance, and of course, Canada Day activities.

Our group met again, outdoors and distanced, in October for the first time since February. It felt good to be able to get together and share some thoughts, and some laughs.

If you haven't followed the Facebook page yet, maybe it's time, we will continue to post info, contests, and whatever else we can think of. We will continue to use the household mailer's when we have big news, or events to relay. Our focus, as always will be to promote community involvement, activities, and events. We look forward to seeing you all someday soon.

~ Sincerely, Jeff Forester, on behalf of Sherry, John, Steve, Mike, Lynn, Lorna, Geoff, and Maryanne.

COMPETITIONS

Vote Susan for the Greatest Baker

SUSAN CORBETT

For those of you that have sampled my baked creations, or if you just think they look yummy, please take a moment to vote for me at: https://greatestbaker.com/2020/susan-corbett.

Credit goes to my daughter Stefanie Amey for her creative icing decorating!

You are able to vote every 24 hours! Public voting to narrow finalists to the top 10 begins on October 27th and continues to November 5th. Finalists can be voted for continuing until December 10th!

Photographs provided by Susan Corbett.







PHOTOGRAPHY

Views of the Island



Photograph taken near Owl Woods by Susan Corbett.



Photograph taken near the Amherst Island beacon, of a tree that was hit by lightning years ago. This photograph shows the snow on the ground on October 27th 2020, taken by Carrie Sudds.



LOCAL NEWS

Costumes Galore

This Halloween is a little bit different due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite boundaries caused by the pandemic, the community on Amherst Island still managed to make Halloween fun for the children while practicing proper COVID-19 protocol. Here are some of the impressive and haunting costumes from this Halloween on the island.



Halloween decorations with (from left to right) Archer and Alex McGinn and their pumpkins.



The Patterson family in their Halloween costumes.



 $Shayle \ (left) \ and \ Temperance \ (right) \ Patterson \ in \ their \ Halloween \ costumes.$



Hemi the black unicorn (left), and Mani the devil (right), Danielle Wolfreys' dogs are all ready for Halloweeen!



LOCAL NEWS

Costumes



Braelynn Arsenault is an extremely adorable ladybug this Halloween.



The super Morris family in their super costumes; Derek and Caitlin (Mr. and Mrs. Incredible), Nolan (Baby Shark), Madison (Cat Boy) and Charlotte (Owlette).



Jeff Forester is in the Halloween spirit.



Estie (left) and Kiki (right) Sudds in their Halloween costumes.



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Topsy raises happy sheep; winter makes better wool. Topsy offers 100% Canadian sheep wool blankets and natural products to the eco-ethical kindred spirits out there. Our 'Connect to the Land' programs give back to the community by offering green spaces of calm and quiet to visitors.

Come see for yourself. Get dirty, leave happy, stay cozy. Follow the adventure @topsyfarms, and www.topsyfarms.com



"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

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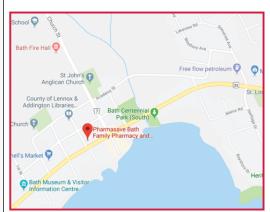
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CLASSIFIEDS

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Services

Thank-you!

Many thanks to the First Response Team and the Ferry Crew, who were professional and supportive when we needed them at 1:30am in the morning. Ever grateful!

~The Littles.

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 481 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 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!



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