Issue 482 December 2020

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

THE BEACON

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

# THE



# BEACON

#### WINTER IS COMING



A gate completely encased in ice after an ice storm, photographed by Don Tubb.

#### KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

Images such as this one, although beautiful, also serve as a reminder of the severe weather to come. This gate was entirely encased in ice after a storm and Don Tubb was there in time to photograph it, preserving the ice decoration. Ice serves as ephemeral décor for everything outdoors in the winter, but with photography we can appreciate icy beauty year-round.

Salt and sand may make walkways less treacherous, but before scattering it, take the time to observe the wintery scene before you. We live in a uniquely remote, rural setting where even long-forgotten farm gates hold timeless rustic charm.

I hope everyone has a safe winter this year, full of glistening icy scenes such as this. If you happen to capture any interesting, wintery photographs this season, feel free to send them to editor@thebeaconpaper.com to be featured here in *The Beacon* and shared with everyone on the island. I look forward to seeing all sorts of icy miracles this winter. Stay warm everyone.



The island horse-drawn school bus. This photograph was originally submitted by Lynn Fleming for the March 2014 issue of *The Beacon*, also appearing in the April 2014 issue.

# The Horse-Drawn School Bus

#### GORD MILLER

This image appeared in the March and April 2014 issue of The Beacon, accompanied by the following quotations originally written by Gord Miller. "The school sleigh and horses belonged to my father, Doug Miller. I recall helping Dad every year mount the structure, which he built, onto a set of bob sleighs ready for the winter. Dad sat out front with a sheepskin coat on and a buffalo rug covering his knees and legs. All of us kids were inside out of the weather. The horses' names were Jack and Curly. They did farm work all year round but drew the school sleigh in winter to get overtime, haha. In the good weather Dad drove a regular school bus, but in winter he, along with other Islanders, would deliver kids to school by sleigh. Other people who drove the kids were; Wilfred Miller, Bruce Caughey, Eddie Reid, and Hugh Wemp. Dad's route was the Front Road from the head to the school.

In the picture, dad is sitting in front of Wes Brown's blacksmith shop. On days when it was too hard on the horses because of depth of snow, Dad would spend the day helping Mr. Brown, thus saving horses an extra trip. I recall some of us kids would open the back door, hang onto the sleigh and drag along in the snow. I realize now why Dad would be upset, that was hard on the horses, but we just thought it was fun.

Our family also used the sleigh in winter to travel around the island. I remember many a trip through the fields to Grandma Miller's house on the Third Concession, where Donald and Judy Miller live today (as of 2014). I can still hear the crunch of the sleigh runners on the snow as we travelled along, with the bells which hung on the horse harness. Thanks, Lynn, for the picture and the great memories."

What a fascinating island we live on. I wish I had the opportunity to take the horse-drawn school bus to school as a child.

### IN THIS ISSUE

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#### **DECEMBER DAYS**

# National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day

#### DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>

Yes, there is actually a National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day. I remember one year I was gifted a sweater with a reindeer on it, and the reindeer lit up in flashing lights. Any red and green sweater that comes with rechargeable batteries inside, probably qualifies for an ugly holiday sweater. However, perhaps avoid complimenting someone on the ugliness of their holiday sweater, just in case it is truly their favourite.

In recognition of this fantastic excuse to wear all sorts of hilarious things, join Sam, Jo, and Smokey, and wear an ugly holiday sweater on December 18<sup>th</sup>.



Jo Lim (left), Sam Eves (right), and Smokey the cat (middle) in their ugly Christmas sweaters.



Smokey the cat in an ugly Christmas sweater.



 $\label{lem:condition} Celebratory\ fireworks\ photographed\ by\ Brian\ Little, brian little photo@gmail.com.$ 

#### **ANTICIPATE**

# New Year's Eve December 31<sup>st</sup>

The year 2020 will go down in history as a time of struggle and difficulty for many reasons. Here are just a few odd news headlines that appeared this year; "Coronavirus Pandemic Declared by WHO" (BBC), "Getting to the Bottom of a Toilet Paper Shortage" (CBC). "As Wildfires Rage, Climate Experts Warn: the Future we were Worried About is Here" (NBC), "If 2020 Wasn't Bad Enough: Giant Murder Hornets Awakening in B.C." (CTV), "Democracy is at Stake: Americans Cast Their Ballots in US Election Like No Other" (The Guardian), and "Around the World, Protests Against Racism and Police Brutality Multiply".

The overwhelming majority of these headlines seem like they come from dystopian science fiction films. Let us all celebrate the end of 2020, and anticipate better things for 2021 and the future.

#### **CELEBRATE**

# National Chocolate Covered Anything Day

#### DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

If anyone is looking for an excuse to dip random things in chocolate, now you have one! Chocolate covered pretzels, chocolate covered bananas, and chocolate covered almonds sound delicious. Chocolate fondue and other snacks are yummy, but they're also predictable. This is chocolate covered *anything* day, so we should try to be more creative. Have you ever covered perogies in chocolate? Have you ever tried dipping pickles in chocolate? Maybe this year it's time to try.

In an extremely scientific experiment, Sam Eves and Jo Lim endeavoured to evaluate the taste of chocolate covered bacon. However, this was no ordinary bacon, it was maple bacon. Therefore, the results proved to be delicious. Not many things are made worse due to the addition of chocolate, so why not give it a try!

Enjoy a chocolate covered anything and everything holiday this December 16<sup>th</sup>!



Chocolate dipped bacon made by Sam Eves and Jo Lim.



#### **SPOTLIGHT SPECIES**

### White-Tailed Deer

#### **KAYLEIGH GRAHAM**

The white-tailed deer, or *Odocoileus* virginianus, is widespread across North America. In the summertime, these deer have brown fur with slightly red tints throughout. In the wintertime, their fur changes to reflect a greyer colour. This subtle change in natural camouflage helps them to blend into their surroundings better as the seasons change.

Full grown male deer can weigh between 110kg and 200kg and stand at least 1m tall at shoulder height. The hoofprints of a fawn measure about 4cm in length, whereas the length of a buck's hoofprint can measure 8.75cm.

Forests make the ideal habitat for many deer in the summer. However, as the snow covers the ground, white-tailed deer can struggle to find enough food. Some deer move to new areas in the winter months. Some deer may cross the ice to the mainland, but for the most part, the deer on Amherst Island remain on the island. This means the white-tailed deer population can easily multiply out of control, making it more difficult for them to find enough food to survive the winter. The annual hunt helps to control the population in order to maintain balance in the food chain for the remaining white-tailed deer.

A distinctively elegant animal, white-tailed deer are the most numerous and widespread of North America's large animals. There are about 16 subspecies of white-tailed deer in North America, but Canada is only home to 3.

A doe often leaves her fawn unattended, only returning near sunset to feed the fawn. The spotted coat of the fawn usually aids in their hiding from predators. People will often find fawns they believe were abandoned but does rarely ever abandon their fawns. Most often, the doe will return later in the day and human intervention would do more harm than good.



#### **DEER FACTS**

- The 'flag' or tail of the white-tailed deer is about 1ft long and can often be seen as they prance away.
- About 1 in every 1,000 female deer can grow smaller, more simplistic antlers.
- The white-tailed deer is extremely difficult to differentiate from the black-tailed deer. The main difference being habitat location; the black-tailed deer can be found almost exclusively on the far western coasts of British Columbia, Canada.

Buck up, people. A lone buck on a trail in the forest, photographed by Don Woodiwiss Photography, woodiwissphotography.com.



Two white-tailed deer enjoying the sunset on the Third Concession, photograph taken by Kayleigh Graham.



#### **RECREATION**

### Parade of Lights

### AMHERST ISLAND RECREATION COMMITTEE

We can't gather, so we thought we'd bring the fun home to you! Light up the outside of your home or yard (visible from the road so there is no unwanted trespassing) and enter for a chance to win a \$75 gift card for any island business or artist. Entrants will be added to an online map so islanders can enjoy a view from the road.

There are TWO prizes:

Best Light Display: voted by a community jury

Islanders Choice: vote in the A.I. Rec Facebook group or email Sherry: <a href="mailto:smiller9876@gmail.com">smiller9876@gmail.com</a> by Friday, December 18.

Entry Deadline: Friday, December 11, 2020 Register at: <a href="https://bit.ly/AI2020lights">https://bit.ly/AI2020lights</a> Tour map: <a href="https://bit.ly/AI-lights-map">https://bit.ly/AI-lights-map</a>

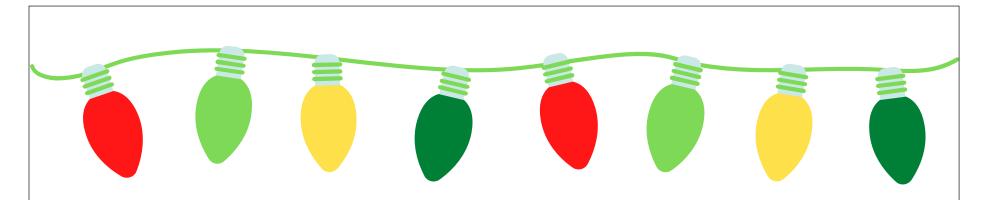
Winners will be announced on December 19<sup>th</sup> on the Amherst Island Recreation Committee Facebook group and will be contacted by email.



Dave Williamson's work boot wreath, photograph taken by Brian Little Photography, brinlittlephoto@gmail.com.



Brian Little as Santa Claus with a Topsy blanket, photograph taken by Katie Little.



YOUR AMHERST ISLAND REC COMMITTEE
INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE

# PARADE OF LIGHTS AT HOME CONTEST



#### **HEALTH & WELLNESS**

### The.Naturals.Collections.

#### **NANCY GRAHAM**

Hello to all the residents of Amherst Island. My name is Nancy, and I work as a Holistic Health Practitioner. I recently moved to Stella, to provide live-in home care services to Peggie Coulter. Working with Peggie is very fulfilling. Now that I am settled in on the island, I look forward to sharing my passion for holistic health and well-being with this community. Over the years, I have worked on building a career in Holistic Health and Wellness. I hold diplomas in homeopathy, naturopathy, and massage therapy.

With winter upon us, I introduce to you the "Winter Collection". This collection contains 5 of my favorite products. I have chosen specific vitamins, minerals, and homeopathic remedies that work together to strengthen your immune system and help prevent cold and flu symptoms. All the products are high quality, natural, and holistic. Each one has played an effective part in keeping me healthy throughout many winters, past and present.

Our immune system is our first line of defense and winter is an important time to make sure it is functioning at an optimal level.

The products listed below are not a replacement for your standard medical care. I advise you to use them as a part of your wellness routine to help protect you during cold and flu season.

### The.Naturals.Collections



A holistic collection aimed at supporting the immune system & relieving the symptoms of colds & flu.

homeopathic cough & cold syrup
homeopathic influenzium
trace mineral copper-gold-silver
trace mineral zinc
vitamin D3 drops

\$90

tax included & free delivery on island

#### ORDERS & INQUIRIES

Nancy Graham Holistic Health Practitioner

cellular: 613.483.6601 the.naturals.collections@gmail.com









#### Trace Minerals

- Trace Minerals are concentrated liquid dietary supplements that strengthen and support your immune system to naturally resist viruses, infections, illness, and disease
- These minute doses are absorbed directly into the cells of the body
- Some have a slightly metallic taste

#### Copper-Gold-Silver: (60ml bottle)

- This combination is the perfect trio. It provides the body with antioxidant, antiinflammatory, antiseptic and immunemodulating properties to help strengthen the immune system and prevent cold and flu symptoms, as well as shorten the duration of symptoms
- Copper helps to fight viruses, infections, inflammation, and fatigue by triggering the production of antibodies
- Gold is recognized for its anti-infectious properties
- Silver helps to fight against fatigue and viruses

#### Zinc: (60 ml bottle)

- Taking zinc at the first signs of a cold may reduce the length and severity of cold symptoms
- Zinc is needed for the body's immune system to work properly
- Zinc plays a role in cell division, cell growth and wound healing

## Homeopathic Cough & Cold Syrup Night Formula: (100 ml bottle)

- This syrup is nontoxic, natural, and has no harmful side effects. It is a combination of low potency homeopathic remedies that address many symptoms related to cold and flu
- Relieves pain, dry cough, and congestion
- Reduces fever
- Thins and loosens mucus
- It allows for a restful sleep without feeling drowsy or dry the next day

#### Homeopathic Influenzium: (6 tubes per box)

- This is not a replacement for the flu vaccine. We advise you to take these remedies in addition to medical treatment
- This is nontoxic and safe to be taken with medications and flu vaccinations
- Use as a preventative to flu symptoms
- Influenzium prevention is prepared every year with specific homeopathic remedies to address the current and specific flu symptoms of the season
- Each box will give 6 weeks of protection against flu viruses
- For those more susceptible to flu viruses an additional 6 weeks of influenzium can be purchased for \$14

#### Vitamin D3 Drops: (30 ml bottle)

- Vitamin D3 improves overall lung function, helps produce surfactants in your lungs that aid in eliminating fluid
- Vitamin D3 lowers viral replication and strengthens your immune system
- Vitamin D3 is a vital part of building immunity to resist cold and flu symptoms

Call: 613-483-6601 Email: the.naturals.collections@gmail.com



### **Obituaries**

# **REGINALD GARRY HITCHINS** (1948-2020)

Garry passed away suddenly at home on Amherst Island on Sunday, November 8, 2020, at age 72. Beloved husband of the late Anne-Marie (nee Rickerby). Loving father of Tracy (Troy), Heidi (Jody) and the late Reginald. Extremely proud grandfather of Cole, Trent, Reece, Denver, Jade and Ryder. Dear son of Anna and the late Henry Hitchins and brother of Ross Hitchins (Ada), Roberta Reil and Arthur Hitchins. Fondly remembered by several nieces and nephews and their families, extended family and friends.

In memory of Garry, donations to the Cancer Society or the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Please share your memories and condolences to the family at www.paynefuneralhome.com

\*the above statement was originally published on November 10, 2020 in *The Kingston Whig Standard* and on the *Payne Funeral Home* website.

#### BY TRACY, HEIDI & FAMILIES

Garry Hitchins (January 5, 1948 – November 8, 2020) was one of the most incredible men you could ever have known. He was a very well accomplished man. He was a person who could do anything he put his heart and mind toward no matter the size or the cost.

Garry built an empire and didn't even know it! He built this empire with his soulmate & best friend Anne Marie. Along the way he built a home with an open-door policy - everyone was welcome day or night, he raised 3 strong, independent children that grew up loving and admiring him. He built a career as a marine engineer where he mentored, led, and earned the respect of all those who worked alongside him. He has grandchildren that eat, sleep, and breathe him! He's been there to teach them, grow with them, and simply play with them. He created a farming business that he loved and had a true passion for. He took strength in being outside and working amongst his cow calf operation. Garry lived his life loving & caring for others, by putting everyone first, by having solid lifelong relationships, he lived with integrity & work ethic. And all the while he built an empire unknowingly.

We know when Anne Marie left his arms and travelled to heaven a part of him went with her, they were true soulmates, in love from the moment they met. Most will never experience what Garry and Anne Marie had - it was truly breathtaking. Someone recently said, Garry left us rushing to be with Anne Marie & Reg. Garry has left us way too soon - but his empire and heroism will live on forever.



#### **Memories of Garry Hitchins**

Grandpa,

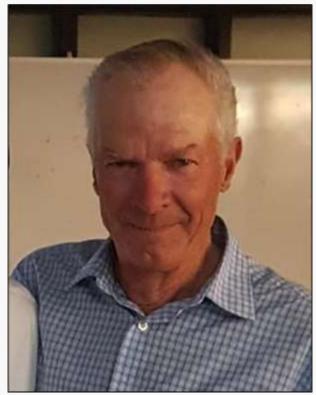
My grandpa wasn't just my grandpa. He was my best friend, the person I could talk to, and the person who taught me everything I know about hard work and life.

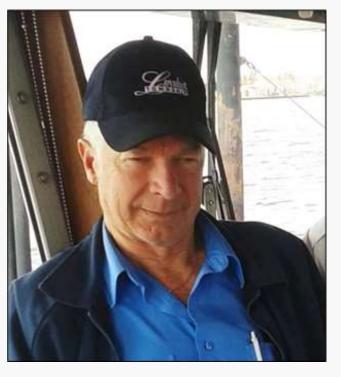
My grandpa was a very good man, he wore his heat on his sleeve. He'd do anything for you, and a lot of people liked that about him. He was a very loyal man, he was well known on the island, and he was a kind-hearted man!

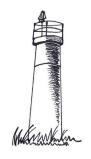
I cried when you passed away
I still cry to this day
Although I love you dearly I
Couldn't make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating.
Hard working hands at rest
God broke our hearts to prove he
Only takes the best

Until we meet again grandpa, I love you.

~ Denver







#### 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 <a href="https://twitter.com/a\_i\_ferrydocks">https://twitter.com/a\_i\_ferrydocks</a>

#### 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 <a href="https://www.loyalisttownship.ca/index.cfm/residents/garbage-and-recycling/">https://www.loyalisttownship.ca/index.cfm/residents/garbage-and-recycling/</a>

#### STORE SERVICES

### McGinn's General Store

#### POST OFFICE

#### **Open Hours**

9-11:30am, 2:30-5pm
9-11:30am, 2:30-5pm
9-11:30am, 2:30-5pm
9-11:00am, 3:30-6pm
9-11:30am, 2:30-5pm
Closed
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 Darlene Martin-Stuart and Ross Stuart! Darlene and Ross were married on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at an intimate ceremony on their beautiful property 'rossland', officiated by Nathan Townend. There were 3 guests in attendance (Samantha Stegel, Darlene's Aunt Sally, and Benjamin Cuyler). Wishing them many more happy years together on their home on Amherst Island! Photography by Kayleigh Graham.



Nathan Townend contributed heartfelt words while officiating at the private ceremony in The Cutting Garden.



Darlene and her daughter Samantha sitting among the red cedars and dogwood.



Darlene and Ross by their sumac fence, taking in the views at rossland.



Darlene and Ross strolling through their lilac forest right after the ceremony.

Darlene and Ross, at the moment they met in the Cutting Garden for the ceremony. Both illuminated by their shared happiness to be celebrating in the beautiful nature surrounding them on their wedding day.

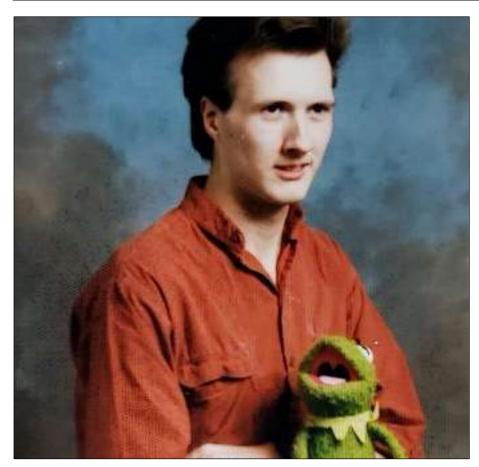




(From left to right) Nathan Townend, Samantha Stegel, Darlene Martin-Stuart, Ross Stuart, Darlene's Aunt Sally, and Benjamin Cuyler.



# Congratulations





Jon Nye shares his November 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday with the famous Cookie Monster. Happy Birthday to both of you, eat all of the birthday cookies!

Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of your vow renewal Cara Nye and Jon Nye! 30 years total, 10 since the renewal, awesome!



Happy Birthday Wyatt! Have a fantastic day, and a year full of catching big fish ahead.





#### **ARTS AND CULTURE**

# On the Wing by William K. Ranney

#### **DEREK OXLEY**

Last month's painting Bow Hunter Full Draw was a fairly intense image, pregnant with suspense and questions about primal survival, so I wanted to look at a different type of piece for this month and discuss hunting imagery from a different angle - the one that takes the form of a sporting event. This month we examine a subcategory of genre painting called 'hunting and sporting', which depicts people engaged in the range of country games and activities (including hunting) popular among the well-to-do Americans and Europeans of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. There is no sense of any epic struggle or didactic aim with sporting art, an image such as this is more akin to a baseball trading card or a basketball poster. A luxury item yes, but that does not cheapen its merit. Hunting, one might imagine, could be a rather difficult subject to portray in a single, still image like a painting (much like an entire basketball game is hard to depict in a poster). A hunt by nature has different phases, from tracking to the chase to the attempted kill - it is a dynamic situation with real action and energy and excitement experienced by hunting parties in the field. Only one moment of the event can be chosen to create an engaging dialogue with the viewer.

One of the most popular American images of this genre is the sport hunting piece On the Wing, painted by William K. Ranney in 1850. Ranney was a self-taught artist whose depictions of frontier scenes fueled the American national identity and mythology and continue to help romanticise the "Wild West" to this day. Although his output was relatively short (he died in 1857, aged 44) it was immediately popular in the eastern United States. He spent a number of years in North Carolina, and this landscape is the backdrop for many of his sporting scenes. While many European hunting scenes get swallowed up in their landscapes (which are often enough more interesting than the hunters), Ranney had a knack for composing action in the foreground, enclosing the scene to raise the intimacy of the characters. This scene is compelling because of its intimacy. Surrounding the players with a ring of tall, wind-blown grass beneath a bluegrey sky eliminated the landscape background, brining you closer to the eager faces of the players who squat very still. The sights of man, beast, and barrel are trained on some target beyond our view, so the story becomes about how the players are immersed in their sport and I would wager any hunter today could relate to this level of poise and concentration.

Ranney did at least four variations of this image, with different dogs and different people, but all arranged in this same way. This version of the work shows the sportsman accompanied by a youth, possibly his son, who holds a curved horn and crouches behind his father. The sense is that the love of the sport is being handed down to the next generation. The line of distant birds in the sky, alongside the pile of fowl corpses by their feet, signifies that today is a good day to hunt. Perhaps it was because Ranney was himself an experienced hunter, especially fond of duck hunting, that he was so successful in selecting interesting moments in the practice and imbuing them with a sense of the narrative pageantry.

As country sports gave way to city sports starting in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the imagery evolved away from such scenery. This particular version is currently in a private collection, but an etching of this image made by Charles Burt in the early 1850s is available in the collection of the Indianapolis Museum of Art.



William K. Ranney, On the Wing, 1850, private collection.



#### **JANET'S JOTTINGS**

# A Gift of A Lifetime; The Canada Jay

#### JANET SCOTT

In July of 2020 after researching the list of Provincial and National Birds in Canada for my Canada Day bird show on CJAI, I realized that I had never seen a Canada Jay and that it was a possible bird to add to my life list because they live in Ontario in Algonquin Park. My son, his partner Julie, and granddaughters Rebecca and Charlotte were going camping in Algonquin Park for a week in July. I invited myself along with the hope of adding a Canada Jay to my life list. Julie had researched the trails and felt that I should be able to handle the 1.5 km barrier-free loop. To be on the safe side I borrowed a rollator walker with a basket to carry my bird guides and binoculars. Thank-you Amherst Island Women's Institute for access to your library of accessible aids. The walker provided a safe seat part way along the walk.

If you get a chance to visit Algonquin, I would recommend this boardwalk hike. You enter a strange world of black spruce and thick moss. The guidebook explains the development of a bog from the melting glaciers 11,000 years ago to the present time. Insects, birds, flowers, and tree species are identified in the booklet where Carex Lasiocarpat is gradually working its way from the edge of a beaver pond and gradually across the open water. The rootstocks do not have to be buried in the mud but can grow in the water.

This world as you leave the boardwalk and climb a rocky hill is inhabited by fruit bearing bushes and insects which provide for the summer birds, squirrels, and mice. We saw bear scratches on some of the bigger trees. Tiny kinglets live here feeding on the myriads of insects hatching in the bog, but must migrate to avoid the cold winter weather. Thus, we get to see them in fall and spring as they pass through Amherst Island. Over half of these merry little feathered friends will not survive the trip.

Our information booklet also explained that the most famous bird of the Northern forests is the Canada Jay, also known as Gray Jay, and Whiskey Jack, which does not migrate but survives by hiding food in caches that they live on through the cold weather.

They have sticky saliva and use that to stick bits of meat, mushrooms, berries, and insects above the snow line on the trees and can recover these as needed over the winter months. Canada Jays are in the same family as Blue Jays, Crows, and Ravens, the smartest of the bird species.

My wish for a spotting of the Canada Jay did not materialize on this trip but we had a beautiful week in this wonderful treasure, Algonquin Park. Swimming, kayaking, hiking, and canoeing. What a great time camping at Canisbay.



A Canada Jay, taken by Alex Scott.

After Thanksgiving, out of the blue, my son says; 'do you want to go to Algonquin again just for the day on Nov. 14 to see if we can find a Canada Jay. Julie and I can share the driving'. Terry Culbert, Tina Sawicki, Bonnie Bailey, all photographers in the area, had posted pictures of Canada Jays on Facebook so they were being seen. With directions from these folks we started off on our repeat expedition. With a necessary Canadian stop for coffee and breakfast sandwiches at Tim Horton's at Highway 7 and 41 we were fortified for our quest. It was a fantastic day weather wise for travelling and we were in Bancroft around 9:00.



Two Canada Jays sitting on a branch, taken by Tina Sawicki, toseewhatisee.com

Continued on the next page...

### Janet's Jottings, continued...

Before even reaching the park, we had seen hooded mergansers in a beaver bond and a ruffed grouse on the side of the road. Bonnie Livingstone would be so pleased because young Charlotte quickly mastered the short forms for Bird Names, which I have not mastered as yet, and kept the list of birds seen.

Our first stop was the logging road off
Opeongo Road where we hand fed black-capped
chickadees and we were mobbed by blue jays.
For the first time I got to feed red-breasted
nuthatches. Downy and hairy woodpeckers fed
on the trees around *but* there were no Canada
Jays. We stopped at the interpretive centre to
visit the displays and have a washroom break. I
talked to the naturalist who provided me with a
copy of the code to interpret the bands on
Canada Jays.

Tina had suggested Spruce Bog Boardwalk so that was our next stop. As we pulled into the parking lot only just off the highway, I spotted a flying bird that reminded me of magpies that I had seen in Calgary. It was dark grey above and light gray, almost white, underneath. My first Canada Jay.



# THE BEACON

Our mission complete, we headed home leaving the wonderful Canada Jays to nest and raise their young while the winter winds blow and snow buries the park. Their babies will hatch in March in stick nests insulated in moss and lichens and lined with fur. The food caches so busily hidden all summer and fall will feed the family until spring arrives again and wakens the park to the sweet songs and sounds of those colourful returning insect eaters.

\*Just as we found in the summer, safety protocols were the rule and all buildings that were open required masks, hand sanitizer use, and social distancing. Our bubble stayed safe.

Other people were feeding birds, chickadees, nuthatches, blue jays in the parking lot. What a thrill. Alex parked and we moved along the boardwalk. The Canada Jays wanted to land on Alex's hand but just couldn't quite get up the nerve. We had three taking turns feeding from us

It's so hard to explain what a wonderful feeling this was to see Canada's national bird so close and active right beside me on the sign and on the railing. We had brought sunflower seeds, dried cranberries, peanuts, and raisins, which were greatly coveted by our feeding friends. We shared our goodies with other visitors who were using bread bits, which will not be good for winter food caches, and just enjoyed these fantastic birds.

It was hard to leave but Terry had suggested Mews Lake Campground. We didn't see any Canada Jays but the comfort stations were open and only a few campsites were occupied. We picnicked in one of the empty sites and fed ducks in the lake with our leftover grain. 3:00 rolled around so soon and it was time to head home.



Two Canada Jaya, taken by Alex Scott.



No-Melt, All-Season, Peanut Butter Suet, photograph provided by Janet Scott.

# A Recipe for the Bird Feeders: No-Melt, All-Season, Peanut Butter Suet

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup crunchy peanut butter
- 2 cups 'quick cook' oats
- 2 cups cornmeal
- 1 cup lard (no substitutes)
- 1 cup white flour
- 1/3 cup sugar

#### Instructions:

- 1. melt lard and peanut butter
- 2. stir in remaining ingredients
- 3. pour mixture into suitable container that will fit your birdfeeder
- 4. allow to cool
- 5. store extra in the freezer

I sometimes add mixed birdseed. I make it in a 9x9 pan because it cuts neatly into 4 pieces that fit my feeder. Round margarine containers work as well, because then you have a container it fits in with a lid.

Some birders from Ottawa gave me this recipe and they said that it came from the magazine *Wild Bird* in June 1996.



#### ISLAND FUNDRAISER

### ISLE Christmas Fundraiser was a Success

### ISLE & CHELSEA MCDONALD

ISLE is a parent and community member fundraising group that raises money for Amherst island public school. This is our fourth year running this fundraiser. On average, we raise about \$1500 for the kids.

In general, the funds ISLE raises are used to purchase educational supplies for teachers, contribute to the school milk program, help cover cost of school events, and donate money for the year end school trip.

This year ISLE purchased personal protective equipment (cloth masks with clear inserts) so the kids and teachers could see each other's mouths for easier communication and to see each other's smiles.

In previous years we have had the kids actually make the Christmas planters and make crafts to decorate the wreaths, but this year we had to do things a little different.

We have a local business that works with fundraising groups making the wreaths and planters. The tress are Nova Scotia balsam firs.

This year we are delivering trees, wreaths and planters directly to customer's homes. Wreaths and planters will be delivered on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. Trees will be delivered on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

We are so thankful for the outstanding support the community has shown us this year. It's our best year yet!



The wreaths (top left), planter (left), and tree (above) are examples of the festive décor purchased to help support the efforts of ISLE and contribute to Amherst Island Public School. Pictures provided by ISLE, from the fundraising pamphlet.







# **BEACON**

#### E-mail: <a href="mailto:ntownend@loyalist.ca">ntownend@loyalist.ca</a>

### Phone: (613)-217-7371

#### LOCAL POLITICS: LOYALIST TOWNSHIP

# The Annotated Agenda

#### NATHAN TOWNEND

Hello friends, neighbours & constituents,

It has been a little while since I have had the opportunity to directly communicate with you all, and I am pleased to be able to take advantage of The Beacon's re-emergence to do just that. It is my intention going forward to use this occasion to let you know about what is going on within Loyalist Township and to share my reflections on larger issues affecting our community and municipality. I will also gladly use this chance to address issues that you raise with me that you feel deserve a longer explanation to a wider audience. In short, this segment is flexible and designed to simply help us communicate with one another.

As a first 'kick at the can' I thought I would give a sort of overview of what I have been up to during this rather tumultuous year. In addition to my regular duties attending Council and fielding your questions and concerns, I am involved in several committees which further the Township's mission. So, I thought I would explain a bit about each one for those who may be less familiar with the wider work of Council.

To start with, I am currently one of two members representing Loyalist Township on the Full Authority Board of the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA). Despite that many people can be exasperated by the bureaucratic reality that conservation authorities are a consulting and permitting body on many planning applications, they serve an extremely important purpose in protecting our natural vitality. Climate resilience, adaptation, and mitigation are key goals outlined in Loyalist Township's Strategic Plan, and the CRCA plays a pivotal role as a partner in helping to sustain our natural heritage, from water to woodland. The CRCA has historically enjoyed good relations with its constituent municipal partners, and it is my hope to ensure Loyalist Township remains a strong and committed voice to advocate for and partner with the important work that the CRCA does. This has become more critical in recent days since the Ontario Government has unveiled plans to make serious changes to the Conservation Authorities Act under schedule 6 of Bill 229. I encourage residents to familiarize themselves with that particular issue.

Connected with this is my involvement with Loyalist Township's Climate Action Committee. As keen observers of Council will note, climate action is a critical priority of Council, and it courses through the whole of the Township's long-term strategic objectives, from planning to asset management. Loyalist Township is part of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Partners in Climate Protection program which consists of five steps called "milestones." Loyalist Township has already completed the first milestone which is to create a baseline emissions inventory and forecast. Currently Loyalist Township is on track to complete the

second milestone which is to set emissions reductions targets, both for the corporation and the community. The corporate emissions reduction target was set at 49% below 2016 levels to be achieved by 2031. This is a worthy and ambitious target that I was proud to move in Council. More recently the committee has engaged in public consultation exercises as part of our work in developing a community emissions target for Loyalist Township. At the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council, the target was set at 25% reduction below 2017 levels, by 2031. This will be followed in the coming months by an action plan that will help us achieve our goals.

In order to continue to enrich my participation in this important work of Council, I applied and was accepted to take part in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' "Climate Leadership for Elected Officials" course which runs from September to November of this year. This is part of the Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program. I am also a member of Climate Caucus, a nationwide network of municipal officials engaged in promoting and sharing best practices and advocating for climate action at upper levels of government.

I am also involved with the Community Hub Working Group at Loyalist Township. This group is dedicated to furthering the Township's desire to construct a centralized 'hub' facility on the site of the WJ Henderson Recreation Centre. The group's work is largely in planning at the present time for phasing and construction, operation, and of course financing. The hub itself, as an idea, represents a centralizing of existing and new Township services in a way which reduces overhead costs of facilities and ideally makes these services more accessible. Furthermore, the design of the hub incorporates the latest in construction techniques to ideally make its energy usage net zero in terms of carbon emissions. This is obviously a key feature that dovetails with Loyalist Township's substantial climate commitments and goals. Pressing necessities such as the decrepit nature of the existing pool make it a challenge to imagine or configure the hub for both the short and long term, given that financial limits may impede realizing its full design potential sooner. However, I am quite excited by what the development of this project will mean for Loyalist Township in the future.

Since January of this year I have taken on the role of Chair for the Heritage Committee. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we have had a long hiatus from meetings, but we are due to resume in December. The Heritage Committee plays a key part in Council's work, as it consults on the vital effort to conserve the municipality's heritage, not purely in the architectural terms specifically outlined in the Ontario Heritage Act, but also in the general policy and program

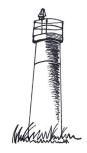
development of Loyalist Township's heritage promotion and architectural terms specifically outlined in the Ontario Heritage Act, but also in the general policy and program development of Loyalist Township's heritage promotion and preservation strategy. This work will only increase in its importance, as the Township has now acquired the estate of the former Fairfield Gutzeit Society. This will mean the committee will play a pivotal role in helping to develop long-term use for these historic buildings and their contained assets.

As the Councillor for Ward 1, I am a member of two ferry committees; the first is the ferry oversight committee, which is an 'inhouse' Township committee and the second is the ferry communications committee, which is a committee of all the partners currently involved in the construction of the new ferry docks and terminals. The communications committee was established to coordinate effective and shared communication to residents to avoid confusion and ensure smooth operation of the ferry service through the various phases of construction. As residents will note, this communication strategy has recently left much to be desired in terms of the frequency and level of detail, especially in the face of significant delays, some of which are an accepted product of COVID-19. As your representative I do continue to press for more detailed information to be forthcoming. Part of the challenge of course is that the project itself is not a Loyalist Township project and thus the municipality is on a 'need to know' basis, as determined by the Ministry of Transportation. This can be immensely frustrating, as you can imagine. Recently I motioned in Council to empower the Mayor to write a formal letter to the Minister of Transportation requesting a meeting to discuss updates on the project's progress. I can confirm that letter has indeed been sent, and we are scheduled to meet with the Ministry of Transportation on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Earlier this year I attended the online Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference where I took part in ministerial delegations with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture, and the Ministry of

As of November 17<sup>th</sup>, I have begun to host a radio show on Tuesday mornings at 9am on 92.1 CJAI. The show is designed to be another means for me to communicate with the community, and for the community to communicate with me. The show will involve music, topical discussion, useful information, and the occasional featured guest. I am requesting input from residents with respect to content, so please email or call me with your ideas.

I will end by saying that I regard it as the singular privilege of my life to represent you on Council. Amherst Island is a community steeped in the very nobilities and altruisms that make democracy a success. We care about each other and about our little corner of the world, and it is your active participation that makes my job both an honour and a pleasure. Thank-you!





#### **ALL ABOUT TURTLES**

# Turtle Navigation

#### **RANDI KENNEDY**

We have all watched films from Georgia or South Carolina of newly hatched turtles, the size of a 50 cent piece, struggling to leave their sandy buried nest, dodge predators, and reach the ocean. The **loggerhead sea turtle** tot thus begins its swimming life, rearely returning to land until the females are ready to lay their own eggs. Then, they do indeed return to the very beach they hatched on. But how is this possible?

The magnetic field of the earth holds the answer. How does that work? Remember back in science class, playing with bar magnets and iron filings? How the filings lined up at the ends, the poles, in arcing patterns? How we had no clue why this was important? That experiment is, roughly and in miniature form, the geomagnetic field of the earth. It sort of works like this; the magnetic field originates from the earth's core, an iron-rich molten rock soup in constant motion about 2,897 kilometres below the surface of the earth. These churning metals act like a massive generator called a geodynamo, creating electric currents that produce the magnetic field. Clear as mud? The magnetic fields extend several thousand miles into space and ... nevermind; this is like opening Russian nesting dolls! The northern lights get involved too, and solar, wind, and a ton of other stuff. Back to turtles.

Through a little understood process on the receptor end, turtles memorize, translate variations, and navigate the 'lines' of the magnetic field, right back to where their Momma planted them. Butterflies do this too; did you ever wonder how they get to the same spot in Mexico year after year? Many animals that migrate use magnetic fields to navigate. Birds do! This is the magic 'Yellow Brick Road' to eons old destinations! Even the wetland turtles of Ontario use their built in GPS to return to the site where they were hatched. This is one reason why turtles need to be returned to the place they were found, should they be taken into a rescue centre for an injury, for example. Turtles become disoriented to the point of losing function if they are moved away from their home.

One other thing about sea turtles; of the seven known species, six are critically endangered today. Humans hunting them for meat, over-harvesting eggs, the loss of nesting beaches, pollution, damage caused by fishing nets, and climate chaos have all made turtles' survival questionable. Some gains are being made as humans recognize their culpability and responsibility in these processes, and begin to take action.

#### TURTLE FACTS

- The sex of the **loggerhead sea turtle** is determined by the temperature of the underground nest. 28°C produces males, 32°C produces females, and at about 30°C the chances are close to an equal number of each. Climate change may affect this more in the future.
- 'Yoshi', a rescued loggerhead sea turtle was rehabilitated, tagged, and released from an aquarium in Cape Town, South Africa in 2017. She has, since then, logged 40,000km travelling in the ocean. Apparently, she really likes Australia!
- The **green turtle**, much like the loggerhead sea turtle in behaviour and habit, cannot breathe underwater, *but* can hold its breath for up to 7 hours during a dive.
- The largest loggerhead sea turtle ever recorded weighed 545kg.
- Loggerhead sea turtles can swim at a rate f 1.6km/h.



A sea turtle gracefully swimming in clear blue water, photograph taken by Brian Little Photography, brinlittlephoto@gmail.com.



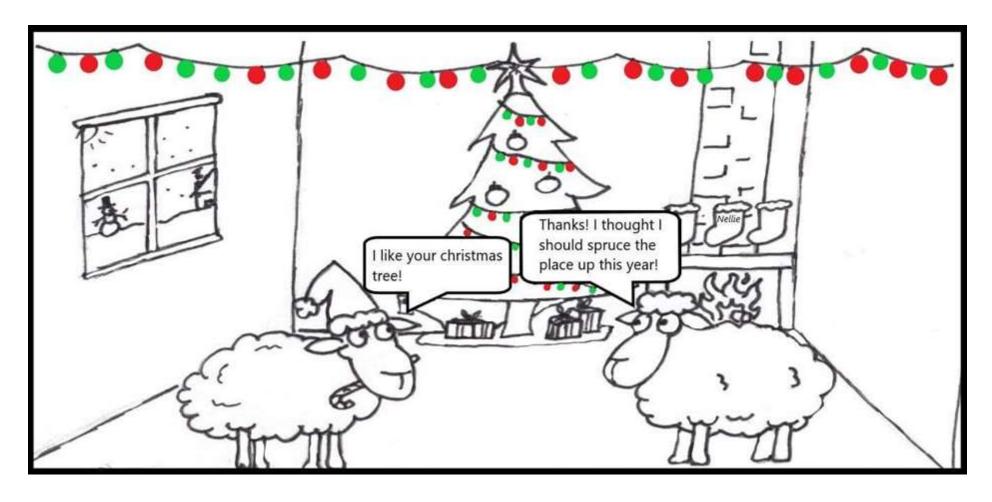


#### **COMMUNITY CARTOONS**

# Comics Drawn by Islanders for Islanders

### Tree Puns

**SAM EVES** 





A northern sew-whet owl photographed by Sherri Jensen.



#### **GARDENING**

### Must Love Mulch

#### VANESSA VAN

It has been over a decade since the British Museum's blockbuster exhibition "Moctezuma: Aztec Ruler." As the last elected Aztec Emperor, Moctezuma II ruled a territory stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific. During my Fellowship with The British Museum, I helped assemble and digitize objects relating to the exhibit from Europe and South America. The exhibition was the fourth and last in the museum's series on great world leaders.

The exhibition challenged narratives about Moctezuma II, suggesting he was not a willing hostage. When I started in museums and anthropology, I couldn't have imagined a more valuable project to contribute to while I was learning. I was excited about being part of a team using material culture to reset and question long-standing assumptions about Culhua-Mexica and Spanish contact. As I have further developed my understanding of collection practices, I am still excited by the project's spirit while supporting decolonization efforts, including repatriation.

You may be asking yourself, why am I reading this opening in a gardening column? That is a good question. Last week, a gardening client and friend asked me how I think about my current work in relation to my educational background. I have cataloged everything from Tom Thompson paintings to 15th-century Culhua-Mexica ceramic spindle whorls. Later, my research interests focused on North American popular culture and the middle-class. Since the pandemic started, I have taken a break from radio production. I now spend my extra time gardening. Gardening takes me outside and away from my computer. In many ways, it seems like the antithesis of my current desk jobs.

Learning about collections management practices, digitization, archival research, and human culture has shaped me. In some ways, I approach the garden as I would any other collection. My tools in both the archive and the garden include a digital camera, a spreadsheet, and a growing collection of books. You could call this approach "gardening like a nerd." I use my digital camera to document flowers, the shape of leaves, and the color distribution across a bed in different seasons. I find these records helpful for researching specific plant-care recommendations and drawing digital plans. I use spreadsheets to document the names of plants in each garden bed. The digital sheet allows me to record details about each plant, like its spread, its expected height, its names, and a link to how to best care for it in our climate. Spreadsheets are also a useful tool for planning, as they will help me keep track of when perennials may need to be divided and track the best time of year to prune particular plants for best results. The books I have collected, each by trusted experts, have helped me verify suggestions and uncited information. It seems you can't take the methods out of the researcher.

I am grateful for the wonderful conversations that help inform this column. I look forward to talking to you all again soon. Until then, stay well and mulch on.

### Holiday Gift Guide for the Gardeners you Love:

- Everyone needs at least two Hori Hori knives. The Hori Hori tool is a cross between a knife and a trowel. I love it for weeding and spreading mulch. With a serrated edge, the Hori Hori knife is also great for dividing perennials and planting. Hori means "digging" in Japanese, and the tool is used in Japan to collect specimens for Bonsai. <a href="https://www.leevalley.com/en-ca/shop/garden/garden-care/trowels/10504-hori-hori-knife?item=BL113">https://www.leevalley.com/en-ca/shop/garden/garden-care/trowels/10504-hori-hori-knife?item=BL113</a>

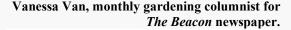




have some of the best fertilizer right in our own backyard. Sally's Garden Organic Fertilizer is made of raw wool pellets. Raw wool pellets hold up to 20 times their weight in water while maintaining oxygen space for roots. This gift package from Topsy Farms includes a package of Sally's fertilizer, a flower seed package from Sally's Garden (hand-picked by Sally!), an organic heirloom vegetable seed package from Kitchen Table Seed House, and more. <a href="https://www.topsyfarms.com/collections/gift-boxes/products/get-dirty-gift-box">https://www.topsyfarms.com/collections/gift-boxes/products/get-dirty-gift-box</a>

# December Gardening Suggestions:

- Protect rose bushes from the winter cycles with a layer of mulch after the ground has frozen.
- Remove diseased leaves from under trees and shrubs (do not compost them).
- Give your houseplants love by feeding them some fertilizer. This is especially good for plants that have been moved inside for the winter.
- Start planning for the spring by analyzing what you have and what you may need. Do you have a mix of tall and short plants? Are the plants you have healthy? Might you need to think about new water, weeding, or fertilizing systems for the spring?
- Keep your bird feeders full.









#### AMHERST ISLAND COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

# December Update

### STEPHANCE LEVAC & AICA

The Amherst Island Community Alliance (AICA) is an incorporated not-for-profit organization that was formed by members of the Amherst Island community to enhance the quality of life on the island. The organization is similar to a BIA (Business Improvement Area). All members of the Alliance are volunteers who are committed to enhancing and improving the island in concert with Loyalist Township and L&A County. AICA also maintains the island website located at

<u>http://www.amherstisland.on.ca/</u>. Membership in the Alliance is free. To become a member, click <u>here</u> to fill out the Google form.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

On Sunday September 30, AICA held its AGM. As with all COVID relate issues, the meeting, which was to be held earlier in the year, was delayed. The following directors were elected:

Kirk Corkery - Chair

Molly Stroyman – Vice chair and co-treasurer Lorna Willils – Past Chair and co-treasurer Christie Alexander – Secretary

John Dauvergne

Stéphane Levac

Nathan Townend (ex-officio per AICA bylaws)

The Board would like to thank the previous board members who did not stand for reelection:

Gary McDonald

Dave McGinn

Terry McGinn – remains the webmistress

Jacob Murray

Mike Walhout

#### **November Board Meeting**

The inaugural Board meeting was held online on Sunday November 6. Some of the topics and issues discussed:

Creation of a Welcome Wagon initiative for the increasing number of new islanders to assist them in joining the community

Continue to build and enhance the island website for improved tourism and business

Complete the development of a unique island logo for business and tourism

for business and tourism Coordinate studio and garden tours (Covid

permitting) and other projects highlighting the island's artists, gardeners, and fine arts and craft community

More information will follow, both in future editions of the Beacon and in monthly member newsletters.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday December 4 @ 7 PM.

#### AN UPDATE

## Amherst Island

### Women's Institute

The Amherst Island branch of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (A.I.W.I.) (<a href="https://fwio.on.ca">https://fwio.on.ca</a>) met on November 18, 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) future fundraising efforts (2) holiday donations, and (3) connecting with the community.

#### 1. Brainstorming upcoming fundraising efforts:

A.I.W.I. is working on getting quotes for different options for A.I.W.I-branded products. Tea towels, masks, mugs, and tote bags are included in the mix of items being considered. An online auction is also on the table as a potential fundraiser. The group started brainstorming ideas for items to auction off. Phuong MacNeil is the first to offer to donate her services. Thinking further into the future, a group is starting to form internally to kickoff brainstorming for the update of the A.I. phone directory. This group will start research for this project over the winter. Finally, Phuong suggested a new fundraising idea. The Polar Dip is a tradition that she normally enjoys when visiting Cape Breton. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, she will be doing the Polar Dip here on A.I. this year. The group was enthusiastic about the possibility of turning this informal event into a local fundraiser.

#### 2. Donations made by the A.I.W.I leading up to the holiday season:

This year's holiday donation recipients include the annual Tree of Hope campaign and Lionhearts Inc. (<a href="https://lionhearts.ca/lionhearts/">https://lionhearts.ca/lionhearts/</a>). The Tree of Hope helps families in Kingston served by the Children's Aid Society. This year, because of COVID-19, the Children's Aid Society is (for the first time ever) not collecting toys. Instead, they are issuing gift cards to families to buy their own toys. They will also give families direct support to get other things – winter clothing, beds and bedding, baby cribs and strollers and more. Learn more or donate now: <a href="https://www.facsfla.ca/how-to-give/tree-of-hope">https://www.facsfla.ca/how-to-give/tree-of-hope</a>

Lionhearts Inc. works to improve the situation for marginalized and disenfranchised people in Kingston. They work to ensure nutritious food and clothing donated by lionhearted businesses are distributed safely and effectively. In 2019, Lionhearts collected \$2.1 million dollars of nutritious food for distribution. After sorting and removing inedible produce they ensure these gleanings are picked up by local farmers to be used as feed for their animals. Learn more or donate now: https://lionhearts.ca/donate-now/

#### 3. Connecting with the community:

The A.I.W.I. has set up a new website (<a href="https://bit.ly/3m6lbzq">https://bit.ly/3m6lbzq</a>) and Facebook page (<a href="https://bit.ly/2Jer26W">https://bit.ly/2Jer26W</a>). The Advocacy Committee plans to use these digital platforms to engage with the community. Given the many COVID-19 restrictions, socializing has increasingly moved online, and now the A.I.W.I. can more fully participate.

This month, the Advocacy Committee discussed potential changes the Ontario government is making to childcare legislation (<a href="http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/">http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/</a>). The committee has posted on the new A.I.W.I. Facebook page to help solicit feedback from Amherst Island residents about childcare needs and concerns. The group has been informed by Valerie Steele, the FWIO Advocacy Coordinator, that they are the only chapter working on advocating for childcare reform. The committee is also learning more about the ByUs Box line of products (<a href="https://www.byusbox.com">https://www.byusbox.com</a>). The ByUs Box is an educational toolkit designed to help parents introduce equity topics in age-appropriate ways. The committee plans to see if it might be appropriate to donate this product to the Island school.

The next meeting will be held remotely on December 15, 2020, although this date is tentative. All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP by reaching out to amherstwi@gmail.com.



#### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

# Views of the Island



Short-eared owls battle, on Amherst Island, taken by Fred Lemire Photography, www.fredlemirephotography.com.



In the moment, the hunt. A short-eared owl photographed by Don Woodiwiss Photography, woodiwissphotography.com.





A red fox photographed by Don Woodiwiss Photography, woodiwissphotography.com.



A red-bellied woodpecker pictured by Sherri Jensen.



#### HUNTING

### The Deer Hunt



Gladice Koble's successful deer hunt with a crossbow earlier this year.



#### **OPINION**

# Anonymous Island Teenager

#### **ANONYMOUS**

Currently it is the beginning of winter, this means deer hunting season is starting soon. There are two types of people on the island; the ones who have the deer hunting season marked on their calendars, and the ones who do not.

During the hunting season, some people see it as an opportunity to feed their families and save money without having to go into town to buy food. An extra benefit the hunting season has is it controls the population of the deer and prevents them from over-populatin the island. Hunting could be a good skill to know for when you could be put into a real situation where you have to hunt for food to stay alive.

Although there are multiple benefits to hunting deer, there are also multiple downsides to deer hunting. The sound that the guns make could potentially scare people and cause them to go into shock. It's a good idea to know when hunting season is so that people can learn to expect the noises and avoid fear. Hunting can also be dangerous, so people should be aware of their surroundings and what they are doing. Lastly, if the hunter were to miss a fatal shot and merely wound the deer, the animal could experience pain and suffering. Therefore, hunters should practice their aim and enhance their hunting skills.

I hope everyone has a great hunting season and winter. Remember to stay safe!

### Other Comments About the Hunting Season:

- "Seeing starving deer in February and March is disturbing, it proves the population is still too large even after the year's hunt has come to an end".
- "I feel good knowing that year after year, what fills my freezer is wild game. I'd
  much rather contribute to population control than support factory farming. Food
  sovereignty id important to me because it is a step towards interdependence
  within a community."
- "Yum."



# **BEACON**

#### **CLASSIFIEDS**

## Support Local Businesses

#### **BURT'S Greenhouses**

### burtsgh.com 539 Maple Road Odessa





Growers of annuals, perennials, shrubs and vegetables.

#### **Topsy Farms**

# EST. TOPSY FARMS 1972 ·AMHERST ISLAND·

In 1972 a boatload of free-thinking, peace-loving hippies showed up at the West end of Amherst Island. Since then, Topsy Farms has prioritized stewardship of the land and harmony with nature above profit.

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

#### **Pharmasave Bath Family Pharmacy**

# LIVE WELL WITH

#### **Store Hours:**

Monday - Friday: 9am - 6pm Saturday: 10am - 3pm • Sunday: Closed

#### Services:

Travel Vaccine Administrator • Foot Care Clinic On Site • Blister Packaging



- Near you
- ✓ Easily accessible✓ Open 6 days a
- ✓ Fast and Friendly
- service
- Minimal wait time for prescription

+1 613-352-7700

#### **PHARMASAVE**

Pharmasave Bath 368 Main St,

Bath Family Pharmacy offers competitive pricing and speedy service! Free delivery to your home or the ferry!

#### The Soup Can



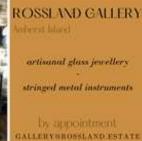
Wholesome, and Homemade Soups!

342 Princess St, Kingston, ON K7L 1B6











#### **CLASSIFIEDS**

## Support Local Businesses

### Schell's Market



Happily serving the island and shoreline communities from Kingston to Prince Edward County and points west.

Open daily 9am-7pm, check our Facebook page for holiday hours.

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



#### Your Ad Here!

If you are interested in advertising and showing support in *The Beacon*, e-mail <a href="mailto:editor@thebeaconpaper.com">editor@thebeaconpaper.com</a> for more information.



### **Services**

#### Thank-you!

Many thanks to Ida Gavlas for all of her hard work organizing the flu clinic on the island, and looking ahead to organizing a potential vaccine clinic in the future!

#### **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 482 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 <a href="https://www.thebeaconpaper.com/">https://www.thebeaconpaper.com/</a>.
- This edition of *The Beacon*, as well as archived editions will be available as a downloadable PDF files midway through the month on <a href="http://amherstisland.on.ca/Beacon/">http://amherstisland.on.ca/Beacon/</a>.

#### **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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.