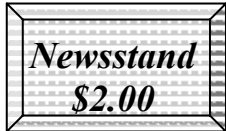


Amherst Island BEACON



Issue 382

www.amherstisland.on.ca
aibeacon@topsyfarms.com

January 2010



Amherst Islanders Look Forward to 2010 Winter Olympics

Right: Kingston's surprise Torch Bearer Vicki Keith stands with Michele Lelay as the Olympic Torch made its way through downtown Kingston.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY MICHELE LELAY

Below: Amherst Island Public School Senior Class travelled to Odessa to see the Olympic Torch pass, and show their support for Canadian Athletes at the winter games.

PHOTO BY BRIAN LITTLE





The Amherst Island Beacon

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A.I. Beacon
14775 Front Road
Stella, ON
K0H 2S0
(613) 389-3802
E-Mail: aibeacon@topsyfarms.com

Editor: Ian Murray
c/o aibeacon
@topsyfarms.com

Photo Editor:
Sue Murray c/o
aibeacon
@topsyfarms.com

Typesetting:
Sue Murray c/o
aibeacon
@topsyfarms.com

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NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to Bernice Gould, Puddy Dodds, Elaine Wolfreys, Helen Lamb and Laurie Kilpatrick.

Condolences to Jack Ellis and family following the passing of his sister Mary-Liz Ellis. Mary Liz (& her family) were long time summer residents at the Ellis family home on the South Shore.

Our sympathy to Susie Caughey and family following the recent death of her mom, Helen Marker, in Indiana. Helen made many friends on the Island over the 36 years she spent visiting Susie and Bruce and family.

Condolences also to Caroline Ackerman and the MacKinnon family on the recent death of Peter MacKinnon.

Congratulations to Rachel Scott, who placed 2nd in the Royal Canadian (branch 623) Legion's Remembrance Day poetry competition.

Holiday travels started early, with Ben Whitton spending a week in Barbados with a friend and his family, while Lynanne Whitton visited her mom and family in Australia.

Brian Little took a pre-Christmas cruise in the Caribbean with his sister Robin.

Chris and Dianne Kennedy travelled to England to visit family. Angela Fleming spent a week in Scotland, visiting her sister Mindy.

Scott Marshall travelled from Florida to spend the holidays on the Island.

Island snowbirds have left the cold and snow behind to spend the winter in Florida and Mexico and points in between.

Many Islanders chose to usher in the new year at the annual New Year's Eve dinner/dance, hosted by AIMS. Music for this year's "sold out" celebration was provided by "Bit of Nostalgia"

One of our boat crews spent an unexpected amount of time on the not-so-comfortable ferry, Quinte Loyalist. Capt. David Fleming and crew, Jim Reid, Dan Wolfreys, Helen Trotter and Bob Hampton spent about 30 hours on the ferry (with no facilities) in Millhaven, due to high winds. Meanwhile, Islanders, workers, & visitors were stranded on both sides of the "pond" during that time. No worries tho' as MTO reassures us that the Quinte Loyalist is completely safe and dependable - even as the November/December gales howl through the channel !!

Although we had a grey and dreary Christmas on the Island, with Boxing Day being almost "Spring like", things changed shortly after with frigid temperatures and almost daily snowfalls. We can't even envy the Florida snowbirds, as they have been "suffering" through an extended, record breaking cold spell as well!

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Mary Kay Steel

Avid readers of this column will be disappointed to learn that there is no report for December, given our December 9 Christmas Potluck Supper meeting had to be cancelled due to weather and ferry challenges.



COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

There was very little in the December Council meetings of interest other than a ferry budget item. Following the recent letters on ferry operations that arrived in Island mail boxes before Christmas, I am reluctant to even quote from Town-ship minutes on that topic.



A comment from Mayo Underwood, expressing what most of us feel:

"I can't tell you how grateful I am for the ferry crew we have. I feel that way in general, and after the trips, both before we left and in the past week, on the little ferry - I completely marvel at the skill, patience, good humor and teamwork they show to get as many of us on board as possible. They deserve a special tribute!"

AMHERST ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES THE ROSE BUDDIE PROGRAM

Amherst Island Public School is the first school in the Lennox and Addington county to participate and complete the provincial Women's Institute Rose (Rural Ontario Sharing Education) Buddies intergenerational memoir writing program. The Rose Buddies project has been partially funded by the New Horizons for Seniors program of the Canadian government. The program is province wide and brings together public school students (grade 5-8) and seniors from the community. In eight weekly sessions the students interview the seniors on their different life stages (i.e. childhood, teenage years etc.) writing a story on each to compile a book on the seniors life along with illustrations, and photos.

There were forty-eight people present at the school on December 2 to celebrate the completion of the project. Joyce Haines stated that it was an honour to facilitate the project with our 12 senior students, Rachel, Alec, Shyanne, Nick, Brandon, Ciara, Matt, Dakota, Gavin and Riely. They did a superb job. A certificate was presented by Joyce from the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario thanking the school for their participation. The students read some of the stories to the audience and presented the books to their senior Rose Buddy. The books certainly showed the students skills of interviewing, composition and illustrating and putting it all together for keep sakes for the seniors, Gwen Lauret, Elaine Wolfreys, Leslie Gavlas, Alan Glenn, Bob Filson, and Wilbert Willard.

Refreshments were provided by Amherst Island Women's Institute.



Members of Rose Buddies Program.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN LITTLE

DEADLINES

- Zander of DUNN INN

I was alarmed by the warning from Sue Frizzel-Murray that the deadline for written documents for the Beacon was the 25th of the month. I was alarmed because I knew that December 25 is Christmas Day and life is so hectic prior to Christmas Day that I doubted I would get my submission in before December 25.

I resolved, however, to do my best to meet the deadline, if only to make life easier for Sue. But here I am on the 30th of December still without anything to send in to The Beacon, feeling guilty, lazy, dismayed and frustrated. Until now I hadn't been able to come up with anything "spiritual" for The Beacon for the month of January 2010.

But then I pondered the word "Deadline" and it hit me again how important timing is in life. I figure my timing has literally saved my life on several occasions.

The first big timing issue for me was the most dramatic probably. I was in the reserve RCAF during the summer of 1957 stationed at Sea Island, the airport for Vancouver, British Columbia. I had flown up to Comox to conduct worship and investigate some problems there. I waited for the Pacific Western Airlines DC3 to pick me up around 7 p.m. on Sunday night. The plane never arrived. I went back to the barracks to sleep and try to catch the next flight on Monday morning.

When I got on the aircraft I noticed three things - four bruised and battered men sat in the back seats; no newspapers were available; the stewardesses (that's what they called them then) did not talk with the passengers. When I landed in Vancouver I discovered the flight I had been waiting for on Sunday evening had crashed and all but four men had been killed. The four survivors were the men I encountered at the back of the plane. There were no newspapers given to us because the headlines were all about the crash. The stewardesses didn't chat with us because they didn't want to get into a conversation about the tragedy.

The second timing issue for me came in my third year at Queen's when I got blood poisoning in my leg when I was kicked by an opponent while playing water polo. The doctor, when he looked at me declared, "If you had come to us with a leg looking this bad 25 years earlier we would have amputated at the knee. Today we'll clear it up in a few days with a few shots of penicillin."

The third timing event in my life involved witnessing a road accident right in front of me which would have involved me if I had been 3 cars ahead of where I was. The accident did not result in fatalities, but several people were badly hurt.

What is going to happen to me as a result of missing the deadline for the January issue of The Beacon? Will they print the paper without my brilliant words? Will they fire me? I don't know. But I wonder. I wonder about the timing in my life.

I have avoided death, amputation and injury in the past, but will it continue in the future? Am I protected by God or is it predestination that I haven't died or been injured so far? Nobody knows the answer of course, although there are many people who are very definite about what they believe or know to be the case.

I don't believe in "luck" as such. I have never won a raffle, a door prize or a lottery (some would say that's because I don't buy tickets) because I know my chances of winning are very slim.

But I do believe in God. I don't think God "favours" me over others, but I figure there is some reason or plan behind my good fortune so far. I've reached the age that if I am killed by an accident, it will not be a great loss. I've lived the biblical three score years and ten and I've been greatly blessed in every way.

How much time do I have left? The word "deadline" is a bit disconcerting because it sounds so final, so "deadly" so to speak. But, as a follower of God I know death is not the end - it's not a "deadline" - and it's not the worst thing that could happen to me. I know that whatever happens to me because I've missed the deadline of The Beacon, I am still safe within God's care - a care which goes all through life and beyond death.

But I still hope they extend the deadline at The Beacon for me. Please, just this once.



PHOTO BY BRIAN LITTLE

COADY INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE TOUR OF INDIA & NEPAL

NOVEMBER 1-15, 2009

- Harold Redekopp

This past November I was fortunate to be part of a Coady International Institute study tour of India and Nepal. I was naturally interested in the powerful new images that have recently emerged of India, fed by its success in information technology, offshore call centres and Bollywood films. And I wanted to know more about the dramatic economic and social changes occurring in places such as Mumbai and Bangalore. There are apparently some 300 million middle class Indians who are competing head-on with Canadians and Americans for global business opportunities and ready to eat our lunch.

At the same time, I had read that approximately 750 million of India's 1.1 billion people continue to live in its 680,000 villages, almost half of which lack access to all weather roads, and many are not in reach of effective primary healthcare centres or competent elementary schools. Almost half of India's women do not know how to read or write, and a large proportion of those who are technically literate can do little more than sign their name. Clearly, India is a country of vast contrasts. And I was keen to see what difference the work Coady graduates was making to lives of the poor in both India and Nepal.

My connection to the Coady International Institute began about 5 years ago when I joined its Advisory Committee. Established 50 years ago by St Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, the Coady International Institute was given a mandate to train leaders from around the world in the principles and practice of a people-based approach to development. This approach to development originated in the 1920's as a response to the poverty afflicting farmers, fishers, miners and other disadvantaged groups in Atlantic Canada.

Rev. Dr. Coady was an enlightened social entrepreneur with a vision for the creation of the "good society" where "all people might enjoy a full and abundant life and be masters of their own destiny". His challenge was "You are poor enough to want it and smart enough to do it". And this vision which had been so successfully implemented in Atlantic Canada became the basis for Coady's international work. Today, Coady has more than 5000 graduates and partners working on the ground in 130 countries -- two of which are India and Nepal.

Our study tour included the President of StFX University, the Director of Coady plus 11 Coady supporters from across the country. I must confess that during our trip I often felt like "Alice in Wonderland". On the one hand, we visited Coady graduates working with the poorest of the poor in desperate urban slums. And on the other, we were able to schedule enough breaks to stay in very comfortable, and sometimes very grand surroundings. But

moving between these two worlds was like falling through a looking glass.

We began our tour in Ahmedabad, India, home of Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi and his Ashram. Ahmedabad is also the headquarters of the SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association) Bank which has had a 10 year relationship with Coady and its graduates. Founded in 1956 by Elaben Bhatt as a *trade union* of poor, self-employed women textile workers, SEWA is currently the largest union in the country with around 1.1 million members. It has forced politicians to pay attention to its issues.

The SEWA Bank, established in 1972, has permitted women to escape the clutches of private money lenders (loan sharks) and it has dramatically improved the members' ability to feed themselves and their families. Essentially, the SEWA Bank offers poor, economically active women three services: savings, credit and insurance. To hear these women tell us confidently about their plans to improve their lives -- this was undoubtedly one of the most inspiring aspects of the trip.

Jayshree Vyas, SEWA Bank's Managing Director, is currently planning a national financial literacy drive to reach 1.5 million poor people in 10 Indian states. Jayshree is organizing a team of trainers equipping them with impressive, culturally specific study guides. I suggested to Jayshree that had she launched a similar program for North Americans, we might have avoided the recent financial meltdown.

From Ahmedabad, we flew to Mumbai and witnessed the work of Catholic priests and nuns among Pardhi tribal people living literally at the side of Grant Road in the slums. Later, we met with women's self-help groups involved with income generating programs. An unbelievably tough existence -- and yet even here, desperate lives exhibited a belief in the possibility of achieving a "full and abundant life".

From Mumbai we flew to Jaipur and visited Coady graduates working with the Jewelry Artisans Development Project. Then on to Delhi where we visited one of the very poorest slum communities of rag pickers. Life doesn't get much tougher than being a rag picker. Again, Father Susai Sebastian and his Sister colleagues provided workers with training and hope to improve their lives incrementally. While in Delhi, the Canadian High Commissioner, Joseph Caron, hosted a 50th Coady anniversary evening at his lovely, spacious official residence.

After six days of slumming, our group needed a break. We were ready for some sight-seeing and so we boarded the train to Agra to see the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort. Well -- the Taj Mahal certainly exceeded my expectations! It is a stunningly exquisite marble mausoleum and undoubtedly represents the zenith of Mughal architecture. The Agra Fort built in the mid 16th Century as the seat and stronghold of the Mughal Empire for successive genera-

(Continued on page 7)

AIMS BREAKFAST MEETING DECEMBER 12

- Hugh Jenney

Twenty-one men sat down to a delicious full breakfast prepared by Rosemary Richmond and Sandra Reid and their helpers for the Senior Class Trip—Ciara and Brandon. Barry looked on to learn how it is all done. One day soon he may be helping to make our breakfast too. The Senior Class Trip is to the Toronto Zoo for an overnight in their Safari area.

Doug Martin introduced our guest speaker, Andrew Bonham, whose geothermal company, Clapp & Jackson Plumbing & Heating, had just installed their system at Doug's cottage.

Andrew has spent three years designing geothermal systems. They are working with the #1 Geothermal manufacturer in the world, Climate Master.

Andrew informed us that geothermal is actually a solar system because 47% of the heat from the sun is stored in the ground. If one digs down five or six feet the temperature will be a constant 40 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Go to their website for a full description of how the system works at www.nextenergy.ca.

For one watt of energy they can extract 3 watts and boost it to 4 watts into the house. This gives you a winter performance coefficient of 4. In effect \$1.00 of input energy cost yields \$4.00 of heating energy. Electric heating has a performance coefficient of 1. All fuel burning heating systems are less than 1.

The average cost for the installation is \$27,000 less government rebates of approximately \$10,000 and a \$1,000 rebate from Next Energy so that leaves you with a cost of \$16,000. That gives you a return on your investment of 21% which can be financed for \$50/mo. net difference between energy costs and loan payments. An energy audit is required to get access to government subsidies.

The system requires a lot of air so the cold air return is much larger than what is presently found in the average home. The larger cold air return is required to eliminate the whistle in the ductwork. The direct current fan runs all the time in order to redistribute the air evenly. The compressor is well insulated and very quiet.

Vertical or horizontal installations are guaranteed for fifty years. The heavy duty polyurethane pipes have an expected life of 80-100 years according to the manufacturers.

The system can also supply up to 50% of your hot water needs in the house.

It could cut your energy use in half compared to typical Canadian home energy uses.

Having this system in your home adds \$10,000 to its value.

Woody asked Andrew about the differences in costs between installing a vertical vs. a horizontal system. Andrew said it is was twice the cost to install the vertical system, but that is all depended upon the cost of your

driller. The payback occurs within ten to fourteen years.

Brian Grace asked about using the lake as a source of heat. Andrew said the pipes are arranged on a grid of re-bar and have to be sunk at least four feet deep to avoid the ice sheer. They put the extra strength polyethylene pipes into well casings so sailboat anchors are less of a threat.

Greg Latiak asked about installing ductwork in a house with none in it and Andrew admitted that it would cost another five to eight thousand dollars depending upon the labour required.

John Kuti asked about the size of a pond required and Andrew told him that it would take an eight foot deep pond. The area required would be four hundred square feet for each ton of heat.

John Harrison asked about the temperature at the bottom of the pond and Andrew said it varies between 28-40 degrees Fahrenheit. He also asked about the efficiency. Andrew stated that as long as there is a differential of 8 F then the system remains constant.

Marc Raymond asked what was the smallest unit he would install. Andrew said that 1 ½ tons equals 18,000 BTUs and that would require a 300' trench with 900' of pipe. He would recommend installing 1200' of pipe as the trench was already dug. Marc also wanted to know how the system would work if the pipes were not exactly level. Andrew said it made no difference because the ethylene water mix is constantly flowing.

Marc asked about the solar systems and Andrew said he is installing one on his farm which takes up about fifteen by seventy feet of space rated for ten kw. The system costs \$75,000. The Ontario Power Generation company is offering twenty year contracts for solar power feeding the grid paying over 80 cents a kilowatt.

Marc wanted to know about solar panels on the roof. Andrew said they are ok provided the roof is strong enough and one can get the necessary building permits. Andrew said tracked systems could produce 5% more power, but they are 20% more expensive to install and they have ongoing maintenance issues. His system is static i.e. it has a fixed angle and orientation which does not follow the sun.

Peter Large thanked Andrew for a thoughtful and provocative talk on alternative energy choices that we have.

Terry Culbert reported that the July 10, 2010 Open Art Tour is on course.

Brian Grace presented three \$50 gift certificates from George LeBlanc for meals at Bella Bistro to Greg Latiak for the New Year's silent auction. Terry Culbert is working on more donations for this fun evening. Brian Grace reported that one person had a very seriously contaminated well report so all his and Judy Harrower's efforts at taking in the water sample bottles has paid off handsomely.

(Continued from page 5)

tions is also very impressive even though access to much of the fort is restricted.

Next we flew to Kathmandu in Nepal. A landlocked country bordered on two sides by India and China, Nepal was never colonized. With a population of approximately 30 million, it is the world's youngest republic and one of the poorest countries in the world.

Nepal is a land of great diversity. It contains eight of the world's ten highest mountains, including the highest, Mount Everest -- as well as fertile lowlands that are farmed intensely. Nepal has also experienced great adversity. The caste system is still deeply ingrained in the national psyche even though it was formally "abolished" in 1963. The untouchables, now known as "Dalits" suffer severe disadvantages in Nepali society, being typically landless and uneducated, and lacking access to education, health facilities or representation in government.

A monarchy throughout most of its history, Nepal became a republic in 2008. Since 1996, a small but growing Maoist guerilla movement began operating in the countryside and today the Maoists form the largest party in the country even though they do not currently form the government. Support for the Maoists appears to be the result of failed land reform efforts and a history of exploitation of the poor by the higher classes. Life expectancy is low and while the official literacy rate is pegged at 65% it is certainly much lower for women and lower caste members.

Our trip ended with an opportunity to observe the truly impressive results of Coady graduates' work in Gaidakot -- a short flight from Kathmandu via Buddha Airways into rural Nepal.

Here, they had clearly put into action the Coady

principles they had absorbed as part of their course work in Antigonish. The welcoming sign announced "Sahmati: A Coady Village in Action". This "village" represented the collective efforts of a number of NGOs and foundations, including Coady. We heard reports of self-help initiatives that included building a school, supporting small irrigation projects, constructing public toilets (the chief cause of death is diarrhea, a consequence of poor sanitation) and ensuring safe drinking water.

Next we heard about a rural youth development program that focuses on improving the quality of education, particularly as it relates to employment opportunities in agriculture (90% of adults are farmers). We saw the fruits of micro-finance activity, including a small enterprise that processes lemon grass oil and produces herbal teas which are advertised as a healthy alternative to the growing consumption of alcohol. One of the "village's" proudest achievements was its Sahaj Health Cooperative -- phase one of a new community hospital. It was clearly evident that the entire rural community of Gaidakot was being transformed through the leadership of Nepalis who had put into practice the Coady principles of people-based approach to development.

We ended our stay in Nepal by spending a day at the absolutely idyllic Dwarika Resort in Dhulikhel, a well-preserved Newari town and mountain viewpoint. It offered us an opportunity to decompress and to reflect on our vastly different and exotic experiences of India and Nepal. And it reminded us of the truth of a fundamental Coady principle -- that "all people might enjoy a full and abundant life -- and be masters of their own destiny".

PHOTOS BY HAROLD REDEKOPP



New Year's Eve on Amherst Island



Doug Martin, one of many AIMS volunteers who sold spirit tickets.



New Year's Eve revellers.



Marion Glenn, escorted by Janice McGinn receives her corsage from M.C. Allen Caughey.



Above: Jim Madden, the caterer, was spot on again this year.

Right: Madelyne Kerr with her daughter Suzanne Wemp





Brian Ward enjoying the evening.



"A Bit of Nostalgia" was a great hit.



*Above: Mayo Underwood, with her main squeeze, Doug Green.
Right: Allen Caughey presents Ray Koenders with his corsage.*



Left: Party goes bring in 2010 with Auld Lang Syne.

New Year's Eve Continues...



Alan Glenn and his mother Chris of Westport.
Left: Betty Wemp escorts Jean Tugwell to the stage to receive her corsage.



Above: Revellers
Middle right: The dance floor was always full.
Right" More revellers.

ALL NEW YEAR'S EVE PHOTOS BY TERRY CULBERT



AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 110 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



In honour of the 110th Anniversary of the Amherst Island's Women's Institute, the Beacon will be running a series of articles and photos recognizing the past and current presidents of the Women's Institute, as well as some of the accomplishments of the WI over the years. We hope you enjoy this special feature.



Elizabeth McDonald (Donald)
1900-1926



Elizabeth Scott (W.A.)
1926-1929



Mabel Instant (Reginal)
1926-1930



Mary Emma Fleming
1930-1933

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

The New Year is here and of course for many birders every bird is now a new bird. There are birders with life lists, yard lists, world lists and those who keep a yearly list. If you are keeping a yearly list it adds a new bit of spice to your birding as you try and best last year's total.

For these birders New Year's Day is exciting as they start a brand new list and every species gets added to the list.

I am not a very good record keeper but I do know when I'm seeing a brand new bird for the first time. The Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was one of those last Fall. I still remember my very first Saw-whet Owl and how captivated I was by its tameness and cute appearance. One list I seem to have gotten involved in is the Annual Amherst Island Christmas Bird Count and that is one list I do enjoy adding to. This year's count was held on January 2nd, and we added two new species, a Red-shouldered Hawk and a Golden Eagle. In total we saw 56 species that day.

The longest running Citizen Science survey in the world, the annual Christmas Bird Count took place between December 14, 2009 and January 5, 2010. From Alaska to Antarctica, tens of thousands of volunteers added a new layer to over a century of data vital to conservation. Armed with binoculars, local volunteers joined this Citizen Science initiative to count birds in our region. Twenty five intrepid birders counted on Amherst Island from 6:30 AM until 4:00 PM in Northwest winds gusting to 22 kph and temperatures falling to -14.

Scientists rely on these data to better understand how birds and the environment we share are faring. Just like canaries in the coal mine, birds serve as early indicators of problems that can eventually affect people and wildlife. Data from the Christmas count are at the heart of several scientific reports, including Audubon's 2009 report that climate change is already having an impact on birds across the continent. This year over 2,000 individual counts took place throughout the Americas and beyond in that three week period from December 14th to January 5th. I had chosen January 2nd for the Amherst Island Count because it suited Bonnie Livingstone and myself. Without Bonnie's wonderful Chili and her organizational skills I would probably not be able to continue to organize the count here. Thank-you Bonnie. Thanks also to Islanders who phoned in sightings

and those who sent lists from their feeders. That was great!

The Christmas Bird Count began over a century ago when 27 conservationists in 25 localities, led by scientist and writer Frank Chapman, changed the course of ornithological history. On Christmas Day in 1900, the small group posed an alternative to the "side hunt," a Christmas day activity in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds and small mammals. Instead, Chapman proposed that they identify, count, and record all the birds they saw, founding what is now considered to be the world's most significant citizen-based conservation effort - and a more than century-old institution.

Conservationists and ornithologists will use this data in their research.

Kristen Keyes who came to our Island last May to study Short-eared Owls came because data from counts showed her that Amherst Island was a place that these owls could be found.

I have included here the list of birds that were seen on January 2nd and thank all those Islanders who welcome and go out of their way to make visiting birders feel at home.

Common Loon 3
Great Blue Heron 1
Canada Geese 1676
Tundra Swans 40
Mute Swans 7
Gadwall 9
American Black 29
Mallard 484
Northern Pintail 1
Long-tailed Duck 7
Bufflehead 12
Common Goldeneye 570
Common Merganser 29
Red-breasted Merganser 323
Bald Eagle 4 adult 3 immature
Golden Eagle 1
Northern Harrier 13
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
Red-shouldered Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 15
Rough-legged Hawk 16
American Kestrel 3
Ring-necked Pheasant 3
Herring Gull 23
Rock Pigeon 144

(Continued on page 13)

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Mourning Dove 78
Great Horned Owl 1
Snowy Owl 3
Long-eared Owl 9
Short-eared Owl 7
Boreal Owl 1
Northern Saw-whet 2
Red-bellied Woodpecker 1
Downy Woodpecker 10
Hairy Woodpecker 7

Northern Shrike 2
Blue Jay 100
American Crow 6
Common Raven 1
Horned Lark 1
Black-capped Chickadee 72
White-breasted Nuthatch 14
Golden-crowned Kinglet 3
American Robin 5
European Starling 373
American Tree Sparrow 54
Dark-eyed Junco 9

Right: Numbers and species are counted at Amherst Island feeders as well.

Below: Mainlanders count birds along the Second Concession Road of Amherst Island on a very cold and windy Saturday, January 2, 2010.

PHOTOS BY TERRY CULBERT





This New Year's Eve Party was very successful. It was great seeing so many people bringing in the New Year at 12:00 o'clock.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who worked so hard to make this a great community gathering.

Thanks to our ticket sellers, Bonnie, Susan & Karen. This is demanding and time consuming and they did a great job. Thanks Bonnie for getting flowers for our eldest residents.

Thanks Greg for all your work before, during and after the event to assure that things were organized and proceeded smoothly and Brian for the numerous jobs that you looked after. Thanks Terry & Brian for organizing the great draws & silent auctions. Thanks to Allen Caughey for all his help and for his excellent MC duties at the dance and for recommending the band.

Thanks to our wonderful crew that decorated and put us all in the party mood - Saskia, Lorna and Eva Little & family. You made the room look awesome.

Thanks to the large number of people who came out to set up before the party and to clean up after the party. There were so many who helped that we're afraid if we start to name everyone, we'll leave someone out -- so thank you all so very very much.

Thanks to all the wonderful people who donated such great items to our silent auction, draw prizes & door prizes.

A huge thank you to Dick, Ardis & her sister Pam who looked after the bar all night. We really appreciated your effort.

Thanks to Ralph & Buela for taking tickets at the door. Thank you to all those people who sold bar tickets though out the night.

Thanks to the AIMS members & executive for their support. We'd like to thank one and all for your help, your good ideas and your hard work.

In conclusion, we'd like to thank Jim Madden & staff for the excellent meal they provided and thank "A Bit of Nostalgia" that provided us with such enjoyable music.

Lastly, we wish to thank all those who attended and made this such a very special New Year's Eve.

Paul Lauret (on behalf of AIMS)

AT THE LODGE

Pub Nights at the Lodge co-sponsored by the Rec Committee. Save these dates to brighten up Winter. The Lodge and the Recreation Committee working together bring you Three Saturday nights of just plain fun!

January 30th - Irish pub theme with football, darts and other games

February 27th - Poker Night (and other games) learn the game at the beginners table(s)

March 20th - Country comes to the Point (believe it or not)



~ CLASSIFIEDS ~ ~ CLASSIFIEDS ~

MISSING COAT

I am missing my full-length, very dark navy (almost black), ladies wool, Calvin Klein winter coat. I believe it was taken by mistake at the New Year's Dance. I have a coat which was left, but desperately need mine back. If you have my coat, please call me and we can exchange. 613.887.2342. Thanks.
Julie Leeder

FOOT CARE

at the Ferry Office/Library back room Please call Sue Irwin R. N. 613-545-9379

**STELLA BEE HONEY**

Fresh Island honey at Topsy's Wool Shed. Dave Meikle's bees found a lot of flowers in our fields. 613-389-3444
Also available at the General Store, and at the Weasel and Easel.

PET SITTER

Muessa Fabian-Robinson is available day or evening to walk, feed, & visit with your pet.
Reliable, animal lover.
Call 613-634-3075.

BETTY'S AFTERMARKET MARKET

Too busy!!! No time to cook!!!!

MY MARKET GOODIES AVAILABLE ALL WINTER TOO!!!

A few days notice and cooking for company just became easier.....

Call Betty 389-7907

CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC HOURS

Tuesdays 5:30-7pm
Saturdays 9am-11am.
Call 613-384-5363

LAVENDER AND WATKINS PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

Make great Christmas Gifts—all price points.
Call Sue Murray 613-384-2478
sue@topsyfarms.com

Deb Kimmett, an original Gift Bag

The Relevant DEBORAH KIMMETT Show Tickets
Feb. 4, 2010 Lion's Hall, Napanee \$25⁰⁰

Creative Writers' Workshop
January 21, 2010 Amherst Island \$100⁰⁰

ORDER both online www.kimmett.ca or 613-389-9675

GIVE THE GIFT OF HA HA HA

WATER SAMPLE COLLECTIONS

Due to the great response from homeowners, water sample bottles will be collected on the following dates in 2010. **MAKE SURE** you have filled the form out correctly and answer all the questions.

March 29 July 26 November 29

Put these dates on your new calendar now and leave your sample bottles in the screened porch area of the General Store by 10:30 a.m. on the morning of the above dates.

**FOR RENT**

Room for rent with kitchen privileges including private bath and TV/sitting room.
Great view and excellent home gym!
\$300 monthly.
Leave voice mail at 389-1656.

DINNER GUESTS? WONDERING WHAT TO SERVE?

Topsy Farms now has individual cuts of our fresh frozen lamb available at the farm. Quantities vary. Available cuts: Roasts, chops, shanks, and more.
Please call before coming to find out what's in stock.
613-389-3444

Also available: Gift Certificates

WILD PREMIUM BC SALMON

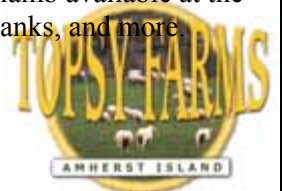
Sockeye currently in stock. \$18.99 per pound. Call first.

Other varieties available by order only: Salmon (5 varieties), Black Cod, Albacore Tuna, and Rock Lobster Tails. Selection may vary month to month.

All products are certified wild caught, individually quick frozen and vacuum packed. All varieties are skin-on and boneless.

Please call or email for pricing and ordering information.

Sue Murray 613-384-2478 sue@topsyfarms.com



WELCOME BACK FRONTENAC II



PHOTO BY JOHN VROOMAN

The



Foot