

Dear readers:

This is the best we can do for this issue. Sue's computer has developed severe problems – maybe virus, maybe something else.

The following is the exact copy of what I tried sending to Sue without success. The information immediately below is a list of the photos sent us so that they don't get over-looked.

It has been quite a while since we've actually had a computer problem that Sue or Colleen (our go-to computer fixer) couldn't fix quickly.

We also had a bout of e-mail illness when our "@topsyfarms.com" addresses were not functioning. So, if you sent us a photo or an article that is not present below, please re-send.

\*\*\*\*\*

- \*Jim Whitton photos
- \*Keith & coyote photo
- \*Terry Culbert owl photos from CD
- \*Harrison photo of Vera Hogeboom
- \*Miller family photo – Don sent it
- \*Vera photo
- \*Terry's lighthouse photo
- \*Dakota's photo
- \*Brian photos
- \*Don will send photos of Feb '71 winter

\*\*\*\*\*

THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

---

There is now a significant possibility that the wind generators are coming to Amherst Island.

Here is the Beacon's official policy: the Beacon will print relevant factual information; the Beacon will not print opinions.

---

From ALGONQUIN POWER'S PRESS RELEASE:

"TORONTO, ONTARIO – February 25, 2011 – Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp. ("APUC") announced today that Ontario Power Authority ("OPA") has awarded a contract to the wholly owned 75 MW Amherst Island Wind Project. . . . The contract has been awarded as part of the second round of the OPA's Feed-in Tariff program.

"The project, which will be developed by Algonquin Power Co., APUC's electric generation subsidiary, is currently contemplated to use industry leading wind turbine generator technology that is estimated to produce approximately 247 GWh of power annually.

"Funding of the project will be arranged and announced when all required permitting and all other pre-construction conditions have been satisfied.

"The submission of the renewable energy application is targeted for the summer of 2012. Construction will commence shortly following the approval of the application and is expected to take 12 months."

\*\*\*\*\*

REMEMBRANCES OF JIM WHITTON

-Lynann Whitton

For all of the many, many cards and letters, for the food, flowers, assistance, and donations to the school in Jim's memory – all I can say is thank you, thank you, thank you. All of your support has been wonderful and continues to help us move forward into and adjust to a new life.

And thanks so much to AIMS for naming the grade 8 graduation “academic excellence” award after Jim - this would have meant so much to Jim.

Today I received a letter from one of Jim’s old friends from his Chalk River days – a ‘good Scot’ as Jim would say. Gavin Hood was a character and he and Jim had many wonderful times together. So rather than tell you stories you already know, I thought I’d select a few bits and pieces from Gavin’s letter... so here goes, in Gavin’s words:

“Jim was one of my best mates. Outside of our scientific contacts, Jim and I had a number of common interests: lunchtime walks, quick golf, cross-country skiing, fine malt whiskey and darts, travel and a fair detestation of most administrative personnel! There were very few occasions when we did not take a lunchtime walk, spring, summer, autumn and winter, in and about the bush area that surrounds the Chalk River Laboratories. These outings were a source of mutual enjoyment of fresh air and flora and fauna, deer, foxes, squirrels, the odd mink and a bear or two to add some excitement; these apart ; there were always some anecdotal tales to be told...

Our common chief at the lab was our Director, Dr. Alex Eastwood. Alex was always uncomfortable with our lunchtime escapes, through a narrow gate in the “prison fence” behind the Chemistry Building, and well in view of the austere Dr. E. He took action! He had the gate padlocked! So Jim and I then used the main gatehouse. Some days later Dr. E. encountered us coming back from a standard outing. “Have you been for a walk?” Aye, says Jim, “How did you get out?” “Through the main gatehouse”. “Oh I see”. He never did manage to get the main gatehouse closed – it must have frustrated him terribly!

In the fall we would have our best golf games; by September and October the members had mostly quit so Jim and I could get around the course in 50 minutes for nine or maybe a couple of hours for a competitive eighteen; we were pretty well matched. Neither of us played in the high season when anywhere up to five hours for eighteen was the norm! Jim always amazed me; he never seemed to need any practice, just stepped up and hit the ball and scored pretty well most of the time.

Jim was with me when I bought my first canoe from someone in Chalk River. It was a floppy-bottomed, green Bateau Pago thing. Jim gave me my first canoe lesson on the Ottawa River. I ended up under the canoe while steersman Jim looked over the gunwale to see where I had got to. He pointed out that it was not a good idea to lean down over the edge to try and reach the water with the paddle... how he stayed in the boat I know not!

Jim had an awesome ability to ‘see’ in three dimensions – great for crystallography, while his high-speed mental arithmetic was awesome, especially for the darts games. I also recall his amazing ability to fall asleep at the drop of a hat, then wake up 15 minutes later quite refreshed! Apparently Winston Churchill was also known for this trait! One wintry day Heather and I visited Jim up at Meilleurs Bay. The occasion was an après-ski of a sort. It was a cold evening, one that required a bottle of Glenfiddich for warmth and a few beers to maintain the electrolyte levels. Jim and I sat on a log by Jim’s cabin while Heather had a decent chair off to the side. It was an evening of successively deeper philosophical discussions; the empty Glenfiddich bottle went drifting out into the bay; the Molson Exports were going down well. In time the discussions developed a circular character: Jim’s side of the dialogue faded and stopped but yours truly never noticed. Jim had gone to sleep and fallen backwards off the log! It was a grand evening altogether!

I could write much more but this seems to be a good way to say farewell to Jim. Aye fondly remembered and much missed.

SLAINTH JIM!!!

Gavin Hood  
(and Lynann and Ben. Aye, much missed)

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD

-Lyn Fleming

Get well wishes this month to Duncan Ashley.

Continued get well wishes to Dave Willard

There have been several milestone birthdays this winter.

Lloyd Wolfreys celebrated his 80th birthday in January with an open house at St. Paul's hall. About 60 people braved the snowy day to help him celebrate.

Also in January, Jane McGinn celebrated her 50th birthday at a surprise party at the community centre, where about 100 people joined her to celebrate.

In February, Susan McGinn celebrated her 80th birthday with a family party at her home and her son Dan celebrated his 50th.

Congratulations and best wishes to Vera Hogeboom, who also celebrated a birthday in February - her 100th!! Vera celebrated with family, friends and neighbours at an open house at the Lodge.

February is also a month that sees folks taking a break from the snow and cold. Dave and Deanne Meikle spent a couple of weeks in Cocoa Beach, while Wayne and Karen Fleming spent time on the Gulf Coast of Florida, enjoying the warm weather and some Spring Training games.

Earl and Donna Willard spent the month in St. Pete's Beach, soaking in the warmth and sunshine.

Elsie Willard and Marion Glenn also spent a few weeks on the Gulf Coast.

Community Euchres are moving along, although with a much lower attendance this year.

Pub Nights at the Lodge have been an enjoyable break over the winter months.

It seems as though March is coming "in like a lamb", with sunshine and cool temperatures. The snow is melting, and hopefully it won't be long before we start seeing the signs of Spring with buds and spring bulbs popping out. The ice in the bay is still holding firm and probably will for some time yet. The deer are starting to move and come out of hiding, so take care on the roads, especially at night.

\*\*\*\*\*

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Mary Kay Steel

Our February meeting was held on February 16<sup>th</sup>, at the home of President Liz Harrison, commencing at 2PM. Thirteen members attended. Minutes and the monthly financial report were discussed and approved. Reports were presented by various committee heads. The Ad Hoc Committee on Winter Walking reported a good turnout for our Monday afternoon walking sessions at the school; we expect to offer the program at least until Easter weekend. All community members are welcome, on Mondays at 4pm. The petition the WI started supporting return of library services to the island is still open for signatures, and will likely be presented to Loyalist Council in March by Councilor Ashley.

We made plans to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for Vera Hogeboom on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup>; she was a president of our WI in 1935. The remaining business we addressed was a series of donations from our rather healthy pot of funds. Among the donations approved were: the Anglican and Presbyterian churches on the Island in return for our use of their facilities and equipment; the Ameriks scholarship; the Kingston and Napanee hospital facilities; the Sivummit

shelter for women and children in Iqualuit; and the Canadian charity Canada Comforts which assists the needy in foreign countries. This is not a complete list, and indeed we expect to have other worthy recipients identified as the year progresses, or in the coming year. We discussed our next meeting, to be held on March 16<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's Church hall, 7PM. We hope to have a guest to share with us details of the fair trade operation called Ten Thousand Villages which has a shop here in Kingston.

The meeting was adjourned, whereupon we enjoyed a fabulous afternoon snack and enjoyed our program. The program consisted of sharing favorite recipes and telling stories of our worst cooking or baking disasters. The latter were amazing and often grim. Listening to the stories, you would hardly believe we are renowned for our summer bake sales! We had some good laughs, a great way to end our winter's afternoon. We welcome female guests at all our regular meetings.

\*\*\*\*\*

### JANET'S JOTTINGS

#### The Star of the Show

If you have not already seen or at least heard about the Northern Hawk Owl then you need to visit the South Shore. We here on the South Shore are proud of our sunrises, fossils, both rock and human, and our spectacular water vistas but this month we have been visited by a small but rare visitor to Amherst Island.

The Northern Hawk-Owl lives year round in the northern coniferous forests of North America, Europe and Asia. Once in a long while when food levels are down in the north we have what we call an irruption. This is not an eruption with owls flowing like lava from a volcano but an irruption, with scattered northern owls appearing in isolated spots well south of their nesting range. Sometimes it's Great Grays such as 1993-94 or Snowies as in 2009. This year, in several different locations, Hawk-Owls have made an appearance. It is not as spectacular as 1962-63 when 11 were seen in the Kingston area but it is a rare occurrence that has birders and photographers excited. In 1987-88 I visited the Hawk-Owl at Westport. They are so predictable that people in Kingston gave us directions to a field near Westport and indicated which poles it might be sitting on. This was my first spotting and there it was but well out in a field so without a scope I wasn't sure what I was seeing. My next visit to see a Hawk-Owl was in 1996-97 when one hung out at a farm right next to a farmhouse near Conway. This was a much better look and again the owl was predictable and was always in the same tree. From this high spot they make frequent forays into a field to hunt voles. In 2000 Bruce Dilabio, a birder from Ottawa, was kind enough to point out my first Amherst Island Hawk-Owl. This time the bird was sitting on a fence line on Wayne Fleming's land, opposite Peter Witteveen's barn, where my son's house was built. A few weeks ago I was thrilled to see a Hawk-Owl on the South Shore in a tree in front of Karr's house and east of Brockhausen's. It must have been scared there by the Hydro workers who were repairing transformers because after that it was always behind 3710 South Shore Road and preferred a transformer pole just east of Ula's house. What a sight and how the visitors have come to see this amazing little owl!

A Northern Hawk-Owl is an owl but its slightly smaller head and longer tail have brought about this confusing name. It is not a cross, or anomaly but some natural selection process that created this handsome fellow. In colouring he resembles the rare Boreal Owl but he is 16 inches tall to the Boreal's height of 10 inches. They both have spotted dark foreheads and black bordered facial disks, but the Hawk-Owl is barred on the breast while the Boreal is streaked. The long tail is your best field mark as no other local owl shows this attribute.

The Northern Hawk-Owl hunts during the day as well as night so it is quite easy to see as it

swoops low over a field from the chosen elevated spot. The Boreal, Saw-whet and Long-eared are night hunters and the Snowy, Great Gray and Hawk-Owl are daytime since they come from the north and either live in long nights or long days depending on the season.

Thank-you to Ula Stief who has been so kind and gracious to the excited birders that appear at her door and the not so polite visitors who don't even ask but walk right across her lawn. The world is made of many kinds but I can tell you that with a scope or binoculars you can see this bird right from the road!

---

#### NORTHERN HAWK-OWL (*Surnia ulula*)

- Terry Culbert

According to the 'Bird Lady of Amherst Island', Janet Scott, the Northern Hawk-Owl has not been sighted and recorded in this area since 2000, eleven years ago.

On Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, Ula Stief came across this rare bird as she drove home from her weekly sports and beauty tip segment on Island Radio's Friday Morning Show. The Northern Hawk-Owl, taking up residency behind Ula's home, is appropriately named in Latin *Surnia ulula*.

Word spread and birders started arriving on Amherst Island. Vehicle after vehicle pulled up and parked in front of Ula's house. She learned from Chris Dodds, a well-known Canadian wildlife photographer, that her location was published on the internet. On January 28<sup>th</sup>, South Shore Road was so overcrowded with cars and trucks that one driver slipped into the ditch. Noel McCormick, Island's excavator and snow removal expert came to the rescue lifting the car gently back onto the road with the help of his backhoe.

Busloads of birders from Toronto, New York State, New Jersey, New York City, North Bay and the Province of Quebec have come to Amherst Island to catch a glimpse of the Northern Hawk-Owl. Some have even taken advantage of The Lodge's special winter birders' package. Many have knocked on Ula's door requesting permission to go onto her property. She has graciously allowed them to tramp through the snow to the back of her garden to photograph the little owl perched high above on the hydro line.

On February 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, the Northern Hawk-Owl sat in a spruce tree ten feet from Ula's second storey window. The bird and the human made eye contact. Watching, Ula saw the bird take a snow bath, putting its head and belly into clumped snow on the branch. "The owl must be listening to my beauty tips on the Friday Morning Show," she commented.

The Northern Hawk-Owl resides in the boreal forests of northern Ontario and is an 'irruptive' winter visitor to southern Ontario. It may be common some winters and rare in others. Andy Bezener, author of *Birds of Ontario, a Lone Pine Field Guide*, says: "When a 'hawk owl year' comes around, be sure to make the best of the event – there may not be a repeat performance for a decade or more." Janet Scott would most likely agree with this statement.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### THE WINTER OF '70/'71

-Sally Bowen

Terry Culbert's Friday Morning Show hosted Keith Miller and Ian Murray in mid-February, talking about the winter of '70/'71, and the particularly extreme storms that hit 40 years ago.

As background, Keith read excerpts from Genevieve Fleming's article in the very first Beacon, April 16, 1970:

"There was a good skimming of ice on the bay when 1970 dawned cold and cloudy ... so we hoped for the kind of weather that makes good ice. When the secondary school students were

ready for school on January 5th, the ice wasn't safe yet for travel so they took along their bags and stayed in Napanee. The weather stayed cold and as the ice thickened, ski-doo's began crossing and the ferry trips become fewer and slower. .. the road supervisor took his men out to measure the depth of ice and they decided it was safe enough for ski-doo's so they put in the familiar cedar trees marking a road across to Ellismere and wisely placing a sign on the first tree out from Stella, stating the road was for ski-doo's only and those who travelled otherwise did so at their own risk ....

"The weather was ideal for making ice ... in a day or two a few folk began crossing with old cars. On January 15 the ferry made only three trips and on the 16th she tied up at Stella. Cold weather continued for nine weeks and we had a perfect highway. But around the third week in March the temperature began to rise and we (watched for the ice breakers, Simcoe and Monarch. On the morning of March 31 (the Monarch) returned about 10:30 and slowly but surely broke her way through the ice to the ferry dock, reaching here around 7 pm, thence to Millhaven to break out the old ferry track. At 9:30 pm, the Amherst Islander loosed her moorings and set out on her first trip... but ... she had only sailed a few hundred yards when a gasket blew on the water pump. She returned to port and in the morning, took the early morning commuters and remained at Millhaven until repairs were completed .... Regular trips resumed by mid-afternoon. The next few days were really busy. Feed, oil, gas, cream, soft-drinks, and hydro trucks; repair men, real estate agents, income tax consultants, students, teachers, drovers, preachers all hurrying to come and go...."

Keith and Ian agreed that the snowmobile was a wonderful tool then, not the expensive toy it is now. The bush road across the ice was marked with cedar trees. They'd chop holes in the ice with an axe about 100 yards or more apart, then jam in the tree which would rapidly freeze in place. Sometimes, when driving, it would be blowing so hard that Keith remembers having to walk to find the next tree before proceeding in a vehicle.

Ian read from The Beacon: Feb. 18, 1971, article entitled 'Snow Storms'.

"The week beginning Monday, Feb. 8th was marked by storms .... The school was closed on Tues. and Wed, and travel across the bay was restricted almost entirely to snow machines. By Fri, some vehicles ventured across but most had to be towed or assisted in one way or another. On Sat. Feb. 13th, a severe storm, lasting all day plugged the Island roads. Vicious northeast winds pelted 12 inches of snow (48 hour period) and brought traffic and snow clearance operations to a virtual standstill. By Sunday evening Stuart Miller, Road Engineer, reported that with the grader he had forced a single track from Holbeth Farms at the Foot to Emerald.... Tues saw most roads opened except those at the extremities of the Front Road and the Second and Third Concessions, leaving just a few families isolated. On Wed. a flash snow squall added another three inches to an already clogged situation. Evening came and all roads were passable except from Ralph Wemp's to Art McGinn's."

Ian and Randi lived at the Presbyterian manse at the time. She taught on the Island and he commuted to work at MTO, often having to walk across the ice. Ian remembered the kindness of Alan Glenn, Keith McGinn, Hans deHaan, and others who had snowmobiles, giving him rides.

Back to the Beacon: "On Sat night Mrs. Lance Eves was rushed to the Hotel Dieu Hospital where she gave birth to a baby boy about 5 pm Sun. morning. Circumstances and weather combined to make this a remarkable experience ... on Sat. night about 9 pm the storm already crippling highways throughout this region, reached its greatest intensity. It was at this time the young Mr. Eves announced his impatience to enter this 'world of woe' and a party of four snowmobiles headed out over the frozen wastes of Lake Ontario where snow and wind had cut

visibility to a few feet. They managed to gain the other side and transferred to an automobile for the trip to Kingston. They were very fortunate to follow a snow plough for the majority of the route on Highway 33 and through Kingston to the hospital...."

Keith remembers one of those days, making 7 trips by snow machine from the farm to Millhaven to haul his milk cans. He'd just drive a straight line from his farm, as the fences were so buried, there was no barriers besides mounds of snow. He finished hauling by midnight that day.

They read from the A.I. Beacon, March 18th from the article: 'Worst Winter in Years Tests Islanders'.

"Since our last edition on March 4th, Amherst Islanders have experienced two weeks of severe winter ushering a deluge of frustration and hardship. Travel across the ice, snow removal and plowing were the focal points of concern: farmers frantically managed to get their milk to the factory; people who are employed on the mainland fought their way to and from work; the elementary school abandoned any regular classes .... Island people and particularly those situated a distance out of Stella, found themselves isolated.

"Wind and snow combined to fill our Island roads which in many cases were already lined with ten foot banks, and the roads were virtually sealed on Thurs evening March 5th, when the grader, our most effective plowing machine, was marooned at Sand Beach on the Third Concession; the grader had a flat tire and after transporting the tire to Kingston for repair, then back up to the grader by snow-machine on Fri., the men found that the steering mechanism on the grader was broken. The Township's plow truck was detailed to do as much as possible with the assistance of two front-end tractor loaders.... This meant that the loaders would clear a hole through the drifts and the truck would 'rout' through; the wing was broken on the truck adding to its inability. It was hoped that a path could be made to the grader so that Clinton could weld the steering."

Keith said it was so cold, that he and Clinton had to make several trips to the grader by skidoo just to figure out what the job entailed. They finally took off the 700 lb steering box to get it in for repairs. 'It was some ordeal'. At one point the entire road crew resigned, just exhausted, stretched beyond limits.

"On Mon a new storm filled the roads again and plowing operations halted. New parts for the grader were ordered. Twelve skidoos delivered 23,000 lbs of milk to the cheese factory on Tues - approx one half the Island milk.

"The plow wing on the truck was repaired on Thurs and by 8 pm Fri the Front Rd was opened up to Fred Hitchin's farm. The parts for the grader arrived on Fri and the grader was ready for action by midnight, but the accumulation of snow (prevented it working).

"A 3,5000 pound, \$6.500. snow blower arrived on Sat and was installed on the tractor...."

Keith said that snow blower was too much machine for the tractor. It never did work properly.

They reminisced about James Eves going out on a tractor to retrieve a stuck skidoo, only to have the tractor go through the ice. Islanders built a tripod of hydro poles, which held a block and tackle, and 25 men hauled it out of the water, shoving boards under as they gained leverage.

The tractor was hauled back for repairs.

The road marked with cedars was often affected by pressure ridges - everyone carried an axe in their vehicles. One of the responsibilities of the Road Super would be to try to level ridges with a chain saw. Ian's Volkswagon struggled, as most of the tracks were made by trucks - too high in the middle and too wide for his little bug.

Ian remembered being out on the ice with 4 inches of water on top, and seeing whitecaps. Shirley phoned in to remind Keith of their struggles to get to her brother's wake and funeral -

crossing in the morning with conditions ok, then on return in the evening there was 6" of water and blowing so hard there were whitecaps then too. The next morning, 2 inches of ice had formed on top of the water, on top of the ice. They had chains on the truck tires, but had to keep driving just the length of the vehicle, get stuck, back up, charge forward again - the entire 3 miles to the mainland.

Generally, word would get around pretty quickly where the pressure ridges were bad and where the cracks were ok. Often they'd go 'on the ice' by the dock and 'go off the ice' near Millhaven.

Anyone want the good old days back?

\*\*\*\*\*

## ST. SIMONS ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

– Terry Culbert

St. Simons Island, Georgia, situated in the Atlantic Ocean along the eastern seaboard of the United States is attached to the mainland by a series of causeway bridges. The island is about an hour north of the Florida border. To escape the worst of our Canadian winters, some Amherst Islanders make the journey down south, renting a house for a few weeks, enjoying a milder climate, before returning to Amherst Island for spring planting season.

A familiar sight in the village is a white, conical tower standing 104 feet above the water known as the St. Simons Island Lighthouse. Construction completed in 1872, the current lighthouse stands twenty-five feet from the original site of the first one. The original lighthouse was destroyed by fire by the Confederate Army in 1862. It was torched by the Confederates in order to keep the Yankees (Federal forces) from using it for navigational purposes after the Rebels fled the island during the Civil War.

The original St. Simons Island Lighthouse was designed by a young Massachusetts architect named James Gould. As far as we know he wasn't related to James Gould of Amherst Island...or was he? Architect Gould became the keeper of the lighthouse in 1810, remaining at this post for 27-years. An interesting read is *Lighthouse* by Eugenia Price, a factually based novel about James Gould. If you'd like to learn more about the history of this lighthouse, one of only five surviving light towers in Georgia, go to: [www.saintsimonslighthouse.org](http://www.saintsimonslighthouse.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

## COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From Regular Council Meeting of Feb. 14

I have always found municipal budgeting daunting – even our modest Township of Amherst Island budget. Loyalist budgeting is far bigger and far more complex than anything I've had to deal with personally – farm budgeting is bad enough.

The ferry budget documents on the Loyalist website are beyond my reporting skills – and my understanding skills. This is a very brief summary of the draft 2011 ferry budget: total operating cost, \$2.41 million includes: \$1.69 million for labour; \$0.45 million for fuel; \$0.14 million for administration. The subsidy expected from MTO is \$2.08 million. This leaves \$0.33 million to be raised from ferry fares and other subsidy arrangements.

It is estimated that the current fare structure will generate \$0.275 million in 2011. That figure, combined with the current operating deficit from the past few years of \$46 thousand, results in a projected ferry operating deficit of about \$80 thousand. This is a problem that Council will have to address.

\*\*\*\*\*



## AIMS BREAKFAST MEETING of Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>

- John Harrison

Twenty-five members were in attendance and 3 guests. Breakfast was provided by Janet, Debbie and Rachael Scott, Doug and Shyanne Shurtliffe.

Presentation by Peter Large and Margaret Maloney

Peter and Margaret gave a slide presentation, with commentary, on their November visit to China. In all, their tour by plane, train and bus covered some 10,000 km, starting in Beijing and finishing in Hong Kong. A bonus for the Beijing tour of Tiananmen Square, the Imperial Palace and a section of the Great Wall was the absence of the pollution of which we hear so much. From Beijing they flew to Xian to visit the site of the 80,000 terracotta warriors and the old city. Then, on to Shanghai with both its ancient and modern aspects. A 4-night boat trip on the Yangtze with a day in each of the three gorges finished with a tour of the hydroelectric dam and its 26 turbines, each with the output of a typical coal-fired generating plant. Before the final leg to Hong Kong there was a side-visit to Guilin, again with its ancient and modern aspects.

The slides demonstrated the modernity of some of their hotels and restaurants and the riot of colour of the gardens, shops and markets. However, the plight of the rural poor did not escape their attention. They returned with a quite different understanding of China.

Peter and Margaret thanked Brian Little for the excellent editing of the slides and for the technical help in the presentation.

The treasurer reported the balance on hand. On the advice of the executive and moved and seconded by Brian Little and Dayle Gowan, it was agreed to distribute part of the monies as follows: CJAI Radio Station, \$500; Neilson Museum, \$500; Americks Scholarship Fund and AIPS Awards, \$1000.

As part of the decision to aid the production of the Amherst Island Beacon, it was moved by Dayle Gowan and passed that a further \$300 would be transferred to the Beacon. A planning session with the Beacon editor, Dayle and the AIMS exec will be arranged to discuss future assistance.

Bruce Burnett will have maps ready for the April meeting to initiate the annual Spring clean-up of the Amherst Island road-sides.

The use of the barn for storage for the Island Market needs attention. Some things need to be stored elsewhere (Dayle and Allen Caughey offered space) and a spring clean-up is required. The clean-up will be organized once the snow clears. Paul Lauret agreed to co-ordinate with Noel McCormick who leases the barn.

Greg asked for a co-ordinator for the market. The job description includes organizing the weekly volunteers and overseeing storage in the barn.

Ross Haines raised the need for a portable toilet at the park where the market is held each Saturday during the summer. Greg will discuss this with our councillor Duncan Ashley. Duncan is also Chair of Loyalist Township Recreation Committee.

Dayle announced the up-coming April fundraiser for the radio station. Meanwhile, a raffle is being held. The prize is a pair of tickets for a Leafs – Buffalo game in Toronto. Tickets are \$5 or 5 for \$20 with a 200 maximum number of tickets.

It was agreed that AIMS once again proceed with flower baskets in the village. The cost was put at \$400 with and \$800 without a grant from Loyalist Township. The result of the pending grant application is not yet known.

Janet Scott will tell us about the result of the recent bird count on Amherst Island.

\*\*\*\*\*

B.W. FOLGER

-Dakota Wolfreys

[This is from Dakota's school heritage project on a boat that sank in Kerr Bay.]

Other names : also seen as B. FOLGER, BENJAMIN FOLGER and BEN FOLGER

Official no. : C61139

Type at loss : schooner, wood, 2-mast

Build info : 1871, Powers, Kingston, Ont.

Specs : 83x24x9, 117cg, 117nc

Date of loss : 1894, Nov 24

Place of loss : Kerr's Bay, Amherst Isl.

Lake : Ontario

Type of loss : fire

Loss of life : none

Carrying : lumber

Detail : An exploding lantern started a fire that burned her to a total loss. She had been bound from Kingston to Oswego with wood for the Standard Oil box shop.

Two sources say she was built in 1853, but there are newspaper accounts of the 1871 launch  
Registration officially closed in 1895.

Rebuilt, 1881. Out of Montreal.

\*\*\*\*\*

## PICTURES

- Zander of DUNN INN

During the month of February we painted two upstairs bedrooms. The painting was no problem. The problem came when we had to move everything from one bedroom into the other bedroom, paint the empty bedroom and then move everything from the unpainted room into the painted room. Even that would not have been too bad, but we also had to decide what to do with scores of boxes containing thousands of photographs. It took days to go through the pictures and negatives.

Over the years I had amassed boxes and boxes and boxes of pictures. Most of them I had put into albums but there were many copies of those pictures which I had stored up to give to others, to put into collages, to illustrate talks or to adorn cards.

I threw out thousands of prints and hundreds of photo-shop envelopes. I stored innumerable negatives (although I doubt I will ever refer to them again). As a result of this purge, new space has emerged in the rooms. We don't feel so overwhelmed by boxes.

Of course, I couldn't bring myself to throw out all the pictures. Some made me laugh; some reminded me of special events; some were of beautiful scenes so I sorted them out and stored them again in labelled boxes. Other members of the family think they all should have been tossed into the garbage - after all, I have most of them already in albums.

I'm going to go through them again and will throw out all those I don't consider to be first-class photos.

Why did I take so many pictures and why am I keeping so many?

I take pictures for many reasons.

First, I take pictures of beautiful things. I believe God is in everything and is all around us. We need to see God in new ways. I've taken many pictures of Amherst Island because I see God in the Island. Every sunset brilliantly displays the presence of God. The great blue heron, the

geese, the ducks, the fox - all those creatures remind me of God who has created all things good. The waves on the South Shore, the trees blown by the wind on the North Shore, the fields in the interior all reveal God in action.

Second, I take pictures of my family and friends. I can trace the growth of my grandchildren by looking at those pictures over the years. Special events involving special people are documented by my pictures. I treasure pictures of my mother and father because they are no longer here for me to see or visit. Insofar as I believe God works through people it is important that I have pictures of the people whom I value and who have influenced me. I also have pictures of people doing silly things - things they will deny in future years, but I have proof!

Third, I take pictures of trips we have taken over the years. I have several pictures of Nance dressed in formal wear for suppers on cruises. Nance gets better looking every year and I have the pictures to prove it. When she saw one of those pictures she marvelled that she had been able to get into that particular dress because it was so small. The brightly coloured houses of Aruba, the breathtaking Kaieteur Falls of Guyana (the tallest single drop waterfall in the world), the huge elephants of Botswana, the amazing underground churches of Ethiopia, the astonishing pyramids of Egypt, the clear water of Tobago, the pristine beaches of Nevis, the glorious mountains of British Columbia, the marvellous canals and lift-locks of Ontario, the old covered bridges of New Brunswick, the delightful tickles and icebergs of Newfoundland all speak to me of God and the people God inspired.

The great thing about pictures is that you can look at them inside your house, snug and warm, while it storms outside and you can recall good weather, good times and good friends. My pictures enable me to recall the wonderful experiences I've enjoyed over the years.

Our graduations from high school and university are there in pictures. Our 25<sup>th</sup> and 40th anniversaries are well documented. The pictures of the baptisms of all our children and grandchildren are there for us to enjoy remembering again. Our skiing pictures, our hiking pictures, our Manitoulin Island pictures (where we spent two weeks every summer for 20 years) are all available for us to see.

Karl Barth, the theologian, said every preacher should have the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in another. I agree, but I also think he should have his picture albums available because in them the preacher will see God in the good, the bad and the ugly events of life.

\*\*\*\*\*

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

It never occurred to me when I was an undergraduate civil engineering student at the University of Guelph to visit any of the construction sites on campus – new buildings to accommodate the tsunami of early baby boomers that would soon be swelling post-secondary institutions as they had done in primary and secondary schools. Don Tubb who took civil engineering at Queen's also says that it never occurred to him either. And it doesn't appear to have occurred to our professors that these construction projects, within easy walking distance, could provide some non-abstract instruction to their students – many of whom ended up involved in construction.

So, it was a pleasant surprise when I was told by one of our faithful Wool Shed customers that for the past few years engineering students at Queen's have visited the various building sites on campus. Our client also said that some engineering students are getting valuable hands-on experience helping to install some solar panels – perhaps they are even getting paid.

\*\*\*\*\*

## VERA'S BIRTHDAY

-Gord Miller

Well over 100 friends and relatives gathered at the Lodge on Amherst Island on Sunday afternoon, February 20th to help Vera Hogeboom celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The afternoon was hosted by her son Kerry, daughter-in-law Liz, and their family.

Vera was born and raised on Amherst Island, daughter of Samuel and Hannah Miller. Vera had seven siblings.

Vera married fellow Islander Maurice Hogeboom who was well known for his photography expertise, repairing radio and television sets, showing weekend movies in Stella, all while working full-time at Neilson's General Store.

Sunday's celebration was a time of socializing, good food, and everyone taking their turn to give Vera their best wishes while sharing memories from the past.

Presentations were made to Vera by Councillor Duncan Ashley on behalf of Council. He commented that his council seat looks directly at Vera's father Samuel who spent several years in politics as Reeve of the Island.

Another presentation was made by the Women's Institute of the Island for her many years of involvement, including as President.

Letters of Congratulation were received from: Queen Elizabeth; Prime Minister Steven Harper; Governor General David Johnson; Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff; Lieutenant Governor David Onley; Premier Dalton McGuinty; MP Scott Reid; and MPP Randy Hillier.

A great day was enjoyed by all, Vera would like to express her heartfelt thanks to all who attended to celebrate this special occasion with her, and for all the special cards and gifts she received.

It was indeed a very Special Day.

\*\*\*\*\*

## THANK YOU NOTES

I would like to thank everyone for all the cards, gifts and good wishes on my 80th birthday at St. Pauls church hall, on such a stormy day. It was a great party. Thanks again.

Lloyd Wolfreys

---

## EASTER LAMB

Various cuts available at Topsy Farms: 613-389-3444.

[Ian: If you know how to get rid of those little square things that appear several times in the foregoing, I'd appreciate your help.]