

Amherst Island

BEACON



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KENNETH MILLER

-Eric Welbanks

As a person born on Amherst Island I was exposed to many of the lifelong residents at an early age. I eventually became aware of the many from the Island, who served our country in the First and Second World Wars, as well as the Korean War.

I can recall as a student in the

school witnessing the cairn being built to commemorate the residents who lost their life in those conflicts. Little mention was made or documentation created for those who survived.

Over the years I recognized the great lifelong friendships that had been in place between the Miller, Glenn and Welbanks families. One of the Miller families was that of Kenneth and Annie Miller and their three children Anna, Stuart and Gwen (Lauret).

When I became of hunting age, I was invited to go and join the Miller Hunt Camp at Calabogie, Ontario. This fall will make it forty-seven years that I have attended.

Kenneth had hunted in the area for many years and in 1949 he and his brother Donald along with their friend Ernest Fleming built a modest camp on the Madawaska River.

This place was next to heaven for Kenneth.

Over the years the camp emerged and now hosts a number of people from the Island. I mention the camp as it developed into a place that we all looked forward to, "the ritual of going there in the fall".

Kenneth was without a doubt the patriarch and founder and he attended the camp well into his late 80's.

As the hunt was always in November from time to time the hunt coincided with what we know as Remembrance Day. I always felt that we should refer to it as Armistice Day.

I should mention that Kenneth was a World War I veteran. Kenneth was a young man who felt the urge to go and defend Canada.

Several times while at the camp on November 11th I, being a very curious person, would ask Kenneth about the war. I had read of the blood, guts and the very harsh conditions that the soldiers had endured. Kenneth was very modest about his experiences as a front line gunner and preferred to tell me about the funny events that occurred.



Photo courtesy of Eric Welbanks

Kenneth Stuart Miller WW1 1914 - 1918

Gunner Front Line

Enlisted in 74th Battery Canadian Field Artillery

Served in 40th Battery Canadian Field Artillery

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One day near the last of Kenneth's hunting, I came back in the rain to the camp to find Kenneth coiled up in a chair near the window in poor lighting reading one of his favourite "Western" paper backs.

It was November 11th and I decided to give it another try at getting him to tell me more. I started by saying "Where were you on Armistice Day Ken?" He immediately retreated to the bunk room. My heart sank thinking that I had finally gone too far with the questions. He soon returned and pressed a small medallion into my hand and said: "That is where I was on Armistice Day". The medallion as I remember it was about the size of a quarter and made of aluminum. It was obviously his most prized possession as he kept it in his kit bag and carried it to the hunting camp.

He soon explained that their battalion was on the outskirts of Mons, Belgium. He also pointed out that Mons was a city that was shot over and not shot up. I asked how the end emerged. His first realization that it was over, was that the guns went silent, and that a great calm went over them. "A quiet that had not been experienced in some time".

They soon moved forward, unencumbered, and took the opposition prisoner. He described this as being very civilized. After a few days they saw the citizens of Mons coming across an open field. With limited resources available, the grateful people of Mons, had designed and minted the medallion in aluminum. I had to ask what happened next. He told me of cleaning up the horses and the guns. It is hard to imagine that the main source of power in a war was Horse Power. Next he said that



they eventually loaded up everything; horses, guns and equipment on the train, and went to Berlin.

I asked if he had done the Victory March through Berlin. He admitted to the same.

This was one of the most famous marches in modern history.

My next question was what he remembered the most about the March. He choked up somewhat and replied "All of the women and children were crying" and with that he returned to reading his "Western".

This was a man who clearly had seen it all in the ugliest war ever.

Kenneth lived out his 93 years on his beloved Amherst Island as a silent Hero.

"Lest we Forget"

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lynn Fleming



Get Well wishes this month to Pauline Pepper, Whitney Fleming, Dan Simpson and Peggy Coulter.

Condolences to Tom Miller and daughters Debbie (Phil Silver), Karen (Alex) & Laura (Paul) and families following the recent passing of their wife, mother & grandmother, Audrey, who passed away peacefully after a lengthy illness. Audrey will also be fondly remembered by former sons-in-law Rick Bedford and David Fleming.

Congratulations to Amherst Island Public School students, who despite their small numbers,

ON THE MEND

Beef farmers Dan Simpson and Garry Hitchins are well on their way to full recovery after having separate incidents with cattle beasts on the very same day. Both were photographed attending Harvest Fest at Reidview Farm on October 1st.

Both of the above photos by Terry Culbert



Photo by Brian Little
Bruce Caughey officiates at last month's AIMS auction.



Photo by Brian Little
A good crowd was on hand for the AIMS auction last month.

still managed to raise \$1046.67 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Pledges were collected in support of their annual Terry Fox Run held in late September. Every student from JK to Grade 8 ran or walked the 2.5 km route along the South Shore!

Mark Ritchie and Cherry Allen visited Scotland.

Stu Burnside came from Scotland to spend Thanksgiving with his fiancée, Mindy Fleming, and her family.

The 8th annual Harvest Festival was held the first weekend in October. Although the day was unseasonably cold and windy, and rain clouds threatened, a good crowd came out to enjoy the afternoon. The most popular place to stand and visit and enjoy the entertainment seemed to be right behind the canteen BBQ's! Coffee sales were also booming!

The Women's Institute hosted the all-candidates meeting prior to the October election, with a good number of the community coming out to hear what the candidates were promising for this election.

The Island Artist Art Exhibit was held on Thanksgiving weekend, and once again there were some fantastic pieces on display.

Thanksgiving weekend was a busy time on the Island, with the AIMS auction also held on the long weekend, and from what I hear it was another successful event.

St. Alban's Anglican Church held its annual Turkey supper in mid-October. A sold out crowd enjoyed a turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

If you were lucky enough to look out or be out on the evening of October 24th, perhaps you had a chance to see a spectacular display of the Northern Lights.

Fall is officially here. After an amazing Thanksgiving weekend, when temperatures "soared" into the 20's, we soon saw the temperatures dip to almost freezing this past night or two. The changing leaves didn't seem to be as brilliant this year - maybe it had something to do with them being stripped from the trees during several days of howling winds and rain just as they were starting to change! Coming back from western Ontario over the long weekend, the leaves were at their peak west of Toronto, and yet still green this side of the city. It is evident that winter is on the horizon, as the "snow birds" are beginning to leave or finalizing plans to head south; Island sheep and cattle are being moved closer to their home farms, and the ferry has been busy with the Quinte Pasture cattle being moved off

Island. Hundreds of geese can be seen in the fields or on the water.



Photo by Terry Culbert

NEW MUSEUM DIRECTORS

At the Annual General Meeting of the Neilson Store Museum & Cultural Centre on October 17th, Beth Forester and her brother Allen Caughey became directors for the next three years.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

-Lynn Fleming

The 8th Annual Harvest Festival was held on a blustery, cold Saturday in early October. Many thanks to the exhibitors/vendors who set up tables, displays etc., or entered one (or more) of the competitions and then braved the weather to participate.

Special thanks to Ellis Wolfreys and friends who, despite the weather, provided some great music for the entire event. Due to unforeseen circumstances,

Ellis had to pull a group together at the last minute, which consisted of mostly Island talent - Dan Simpson, Allen Caughey, Beth Forester, Keith Miller, Lloyd Wolfreys, Richard Henderson and Tom MacIntosh. We hope this group will play together again!

Congratulations to Sarah Vanstone, winner of the gift basket "gate prize" and to Chris Kennedy, who won the second draw prize, a potted mum.

Keith Miller demonstrated an antique apple press to a good crowd of interested onlookers. The Bale Rolling competition was a big hit again, and new this year was the Cross Cut Saw competition, which proved to be a popular event for participants and onlookers as well.

The Best Island Apple and Pumpkin Pie competitions were also a hit again this year, as were entries in the new category of canning and preserves. A big thank you to the folks who agreed to be our judges for both of these categories.

Most importantly, the Harvest Festival Committee would like to thank everyone who came out and supported the event, if even for a few minutes, despite the weather. This year we were able to donate \$400 to the County 4-H Club, to help with expenses when they attend the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto in November.

Apple Pie Results:

- 1st Place - Beth Forester;
- 2nd Place - Bonnie Caughey;
- 3rd Place - Elsie Willard.

Pumpkin Pie Results:

- 1st Place - Barb Reid;
- 2nd Place - Beth Forester.

Canning and Preserves:

Chili Sauce:

- 1st - Beth Forester;
- 2nd - Cathy Wemp;
- 3rd - Barb Reid.

Sweet Pickles:

- 1st - Cathy Wemp;
- 2nd - Barb Reid;
- 3rd - Beth Forester.

Red Pepper Jelly:

- 1st - Cathy Wemp;
- 2nd - Barb Reid.

Relish:

- 1st - Beth Forester;
- 2nd - Barb Reid.

Bale Rolling Competition:

- 1st Place - Paul Cuyler and step-son Chris

2nd Place - Brandon Reid, Barry Richmond & Matt Vanderbelt

3rd Place - Larry Fleming and Jason Fleming.

Cross Cut Saw Competition:

1st Place - Gordon Miller & Jim Reid

2nd Place - Wayne Fleming & Paul Cuyler

3rd Place - Larry Fleming & Jason Fleming.

[Ed: pictures to follow later in this issue]



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Mary Kay Steel

The regular monthly meeting took place on Wednesday, October 19, at the home of member Norma-Lynn Cole, commencing at 7pm. Eighteen members and three guests were in attendance- a great turnout! One of our guests, Marcia Ivison, gave us an overview of the possibilities of having a Facebook site for our organization. It was noted that although many WI members are computer users, Facebook has not yet been utilized by our branch as a way to communicate messages and activities. And we're going to look into using it. Questions and answers followed, then our social hour and usual tasty refreshments.

The meeting itself was then called to order by the President, Liz Harrison. Routine reports were made and accepted. Volunteers came forward to organize and cook for the upcoming Seniors' Christmas Dinner Party, to take place on Sunday, December 4th. It has been a good year for our market cart, and many

thanks were proffered to Judy Greer for her fine work in organizing the cart every Saturday morning for the past several years. She is looking for a break, and Norma-Lynn Cole has bravely stepped in to carry on Judy's work come next spring. We discussed the need to clean up the various tubs and other planters around the village, and our plans for Beautification of the island for next year. The President noted the death of one of our former

members, and president, Audrey Miller. Most of us were aware of the sad news.

We then went on to approve a series of financial donations, as is usual this time of year. Among our chosen recipients were: the Anglican and Presbyterian churches for use of their facilities; the Kingston and Napanee hospitals; and, Seniors' Outreach Services in Napanee. At our next meeting we will look at possible donations to a women's group, in Canada or abroad, and perhaps another worthy recipient.

After the meeting adjourned, we enjoyed a rather noisy and most amusing auction of many brown bags containing mystery items of all sorts. Funds raised from our periodic brown bag auctions go to our international-level office (Associated Country Women of the World) for its various projects, mostly in developing countries.

Our next meeting will be held at Joyce Reid's home, on Wednesday, November 16th, where the program will be making a Christmas craft. Remember, guests are always welcome.

JANET'S JOTTINGS: The Owl Woods

- Janet Scott

If you have not visited the Owl Woods on Amherst Island, then you have been missing out on a memory making experience. They are not officially called the Owl Woods but have become known as that by fifty years of nature loving visitors. The approximately 200 acres of mixed forest is mostly privately owned and only through the generosity and patience of the land owners can we as the public experience the joy of walking and scuffing through the leaves along a path that meanders through mixed oaks, hickory and maples.

I visited the Owl Woods recently with the Primary Children from our school on a guided walk to learn about animal habitats led by the Science School

Director, Ms Theone Cooper. Earlier we had visited the meadow on Paul and Gwen Lauret's property on Front Road. Here we were close to nature, literally, as we hunkered down on paths to study the myriad forms of vegetation that carpet the meadow. We were looking for signs of food, water and protection that a living creature needs in its habitat. The children saw butterflies, crickets, grasshoppers and even a Praying Mantis. There were deer tracks at the edge of a wet area and Blue Jays and crows were calling. We even found a delicious treat of raspberries growing near a huge old Maple tree which Allan and I thought were the best part of the trip.

Now we had moved on to a far different habitat. It was darker with the still leafy canopy above it and fewer plants grew on the forest floor.

We saw lots of hickory nuts dropped on the path. Some were opened and a cheeky chipmunk scolded we invaders of his stately domain and leafy palace. Krystalin and Wyatt showed me a Tree Frog hiding in full view on the side of the tree trunk. He was so completely camouflaged that he had to be pointed out to me. He was soft gray and white. After gently turning over a rock, Mairi and Drew showed me an earthworm that was sleeping in the chill dampness. Living creatures may be observed on this

walk but must be returned and their protection, the rock, had to be replaced. Finn, Liam and Drew studied a log that was taken over by a moss and had tiny fungi growing out of it. Jacob and Nathan had interesting millipedes living under another rock and ants were found living under a rotting log. Even a slug was interesting to our young scientists as they carefully replaced its stone. Ben was patient enough to wait for a Chickadee to land on his hand while another waited nervously on a nearby branch. At the beginning of the birding season these birds are much more nervous about landing but as winter becomes harsher they will be dying for a hand-out and come more easily to the hand. If you do visit the Owl Woods take along some peanuts or sunflower seeds and children three to ninety-three will be entertained

by these tiny feathered friends as they land lightly on out-stretched fingers or even the brim of your hat seeking the food.

Thanks to the loving care of Nature that far-seeing people like Stuart Millar and Rod Barr exhibited, we are able to enjoy for generations to come their wonderful legacy. I don't imagine that Stuart, as he cut those first paths through the woodlot, foresaw the thousands of people who have enjoyed the Owls over the past forty years. When I visited the Coulsons in 1971 and was told about the numbers of cars that come in the winter to see the wintering owls, I didn't believe it either! I became a believer in 1983 as I gazed at my first tiny Saw-whet Owl in a cedar tree not far from the benches. We moved here in 1984 and since then I've long ago lost track of the

numbers of owls and owl watchers that I have seen. By 1994, which was an amazing owl year, the small owls were seeking shelter in the pine plantation that Rod Barr had planted, then re-planted and planted again on the north end of the Marshall Farm. On one occasion that winter, I was standing in a small clearing in the pines, looking at a Boreal Owl and talking with a gentleman from London, England, another from California and a third from Australia who were all enjoying their first sighting



Blue Jay on the Little's back deck.

Photo by Angus Little

of this northern species which is so rare to see.

Alex Scott followed Stuart along the paths and they removed rocks and stumps so that Alex could trim the paths with a lawnmower in the off seasons and keep people on trails that allowed them to see roosting owls without rubbing against trees and scaring them. He began to feed the chickadees as an interesting pastime while looking for owls, not realizing that his own grandchildren would someday feed those chickadee descendents.

Thanks to caring, sharing people like the Lauret and Barr families, this treasure on private land, is loved and enjoyed by many.

Visit the Owl Woods. You never know WHOO might be staying there!

DR. LOVE: The MASTER of the DUMP

-Ray Feraday

I'd like to tell you about a man I know
I've known him for quite a while
He doesn't do much talking
But he's got a terrific smile.

He's got a great accent
Distinct in every way
He seldom talks unless
He's got something to say.

He is a great neighbour
Who could ask for more?
Considerate and thoughtful
His farm's at our back door.

His wife Shirley is an artist
Keith's talent is being nice
If you ever needed a favour
You'd not have to ask twice.

He likes his little office
At the land fill location
You couldn't find a better man
To fill this important position.

When he's in a conversation
He listens to your reply
Lets you have your say
He's that kind of guy.

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

Oct 11th, 20th Meeting:

Mr. John Harrison, representing the Association to Protect Amherst Island and SaveAI, spoke to Council regarding the protection of Amherst Island from wind turbines.

Moved by Councillor Ashley and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bresee that the presentation by John Harrison, Association to Protect Amherst Island and SaveAI re: Draft Algonquin/Stantec Report be received and that Council re-state its position regarding the Green Energy Act. Motion carried.

Councillor Ibey asked staff to send letters to the various Ministries stating our concerns, once the new Provincial cabinet is formed.

Oct 25th, 21st Meeting:

Apparently nothing of significant interest to

Amherst Island residents.

PROVINCIAL ELECTION

These Island poll results are courtesy of Brian Ward. The advance poll results are not included (or knowable). It was the usual good Island turnout.

PC, 120;
Liberal, 76;
NDP, 39;
Greens, 8;
Ballot decline, 1.

WHY I ALWAYS VOTE

-Ian Murray

I have read enough to know what a long struggle it was to obtain the vote for virtually every adult with citizenship rights. Along with these rights are certain obligations and I believe that voting in every election is one of them.

It wasn't me who declined the ballot but I have considerable respect for someone who took the time to show up at the polling station but couldn't see anyone on the ballot worth supporting.

A SWIMMING CEREMONY

-Sally Bowen

On Saturday, October 3rd, there was a ceremony at Niagara-on-the-Lake honouring all the swimmers who have crossed Lake Ontario. The existing plaque was too crowded with names, and a new one erected with room for more. Islander Vicki Keith was among those who attended.

The following excerpt is from The Toronto Star, Oct, 3:

. . . (Arseneault's) voyage was the most recent crossing of Lake Ontario by a solo swimmer, and the 56th official cross-lake swim since Bell first did it in 1954 at the age of 16. (Marilyn) Bell's name comes first and Arsenault's name comes last on a new plaque unveiled Saturday at Queen's Royal Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake, commemorating all those who have successfully accomplished the excruciating feat of athleticism.

Vicki Keith's name comes 23rd on the list. And 24th, and 25th, and 28th. The "Queen of the Lake" has made the swim five times, her second trip marking the first double crossing: from Toronto to

Niagara and back again, 95 kilometres in all, and 56 hours. Her last Lake Ontario swim was done in all butterfly stroke. She swam every Great Lake one summer, and the English Channel in all butterfly, and the Juan de Fuca strait in B.C., where average temperatures are 10 C, if you're lucky. "That's insane," remarks one reporter. "Yes," replies Keith.

Keith holds 16 world records in marathon swimming. She now coaches a swim team in Kingston for kids with physical disabilities and their siblings.

Saturday was like a reunion for many of the Great Lake swimmers. Cindy Nicholas, who swam the lake in 1974 and still holds the title for fastest female crossing — 15 hours, 10 minutes — was there.



Something's missing from Drumgoole's stone wall!!

A BITE OUT OF DRUMGOOLE'S STONE FENCE

- Sally Bowen

On a Sunday evening in October, someone helped themselves to several rocks from the stone fence in front of the former Drumgoole home. That hurts. This is a heritage fence.

We have a letter from a great-great-auntie of Dave Willard's describing carrying rocks in her apron, morning and evening, when getting the

Photo by Don Tubb cows. Those rocks were used for the foundation of the barn and for this lovely fence - the only one on the Island with circular stone pillars.

If you know anyone who knows something about this, please ask them to keep their hands off.



Photo by Brian Little
Dave Meikle tending to his bees.



Photo by Brian Little
Dave's bees tending to themselves.

HARVEST FEST

Terry Culbert

Saturday, October 1, turned out to be the coldest Harvest Fest in the eight years it's been held. That didn't stop more than 100 people from attending the autumn event held at Reidview Farm on the north shore of Amherst Island. One couple came from as far away as Farnham, England. Visitors entered Harvest Fest through a handsomely decorated split-rail gate constructed by Jim, Sandra, Brook and Brandon Reid, along with their team of volunteers.

With a 'give what you can' entrance fee, one could get close to beef cattle, sit behind the wheel of vintage tractors and eat delicious food prepared by the Amherst Island Recreation Committee. You could purchase fruit and vegetables from Barbara Reid, watch a demonstration by Island blacksmith Paul Cuyler, see apples being pressed into cider, watch the panel judge Island pies, all while being entertained musically by Ellis Wolfreys and Friends.

This year a portion of the proceeds will go to the 4-H Dairy Club of Lennox & Addington County.



Photo by Terry Culbert
The Harvest Fest Committee.



Photo by Terry Culbert
Pie judges Victoria Cuyler, Joan Simpson and Wade Gibson.



Photo by Terry Culbert
Keith Miller, Warren Kilpatrick and Wayne Fleming make apple cider.

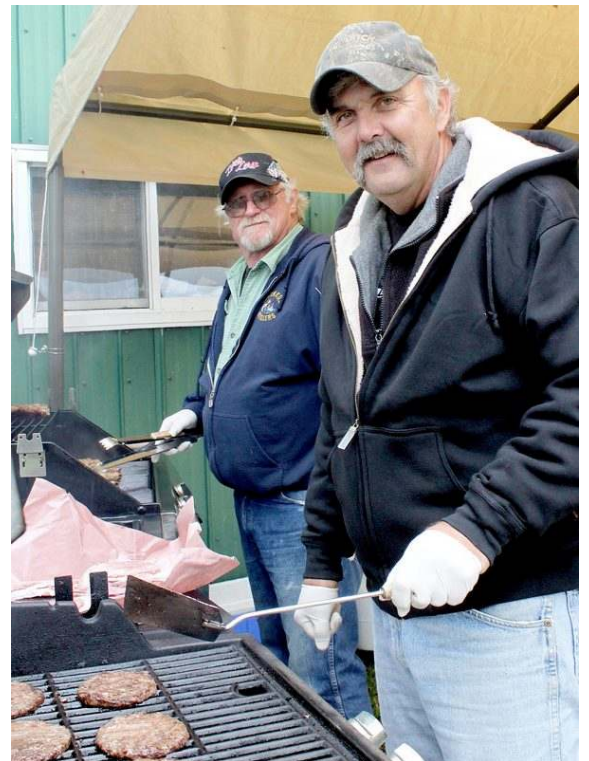


Photo by Terry Culbert
'Burger Boys' Rick Bedford and Larry Fleming.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

Issue 45, Nov. 15, 1981

A TRIBUTE

To the members of Branch 539 Canadian Legion:
for your contributions, past and present, we thank
you.

*"They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."*

A "HALLOWE'EN" POEM

- by John Eves - A.I. Public School

Hallowe'en Night

Witches flying through the air,

Ghosts are howling too,

Goblins running all about

It is surely a night for you

Children telling ghost stories,

Witches listening too,

Black cats sitting on fences,

It is surely a night for you.

Candy being given out,

It is dark too,

Devils up to no good,

It is surely a night for you

by John Eves

Grade 6

LEARN TO DANCE LIKE ARTHUR MURRAY

There is an opportunity to have one night a week
dance lessons at the Island Community Centre for at
least 10 to 12 weeks this winter. With enough (10)
couples signed up the Board of Education will pay
the instructor, so the fee will be minimal. Type of
dances considered will be the Cha-Cha, Rumba,
Tango, Viennese Waltz, Fast Waltz, Foxtrot, and
American Swing i.e. ball-room dancing.

If you want to improve your reaction on the ball
field or your rhythm almost anywhere, please give
your name to John Hall at 389-6553. Couples or
singles from 18 to 80 are welcome.

Let's hear from you soon so that we can make
arrangements to have a few lessons before the New
Years' dance.

NEW YEARS EVE DANCE

Plans for the New Years Dance have been made
and tickets are now available. Many people have
been asking about tickets. It was the decision of the
committee to open sale of the tickets first to those

who patronized the dance last year. Tickets will be
available to those people if paid for before Dec. 1st,
after which time they will be available to the general
public. Due to increased costs the price of admission
has been increased \$5 to \$40.

Dinner will be served from 7 to 9 p.m. and as in
previous years it will be an open bar. Tickets are
available from the following Driving Club members.
Jack Forester, Ross Hitchins, Ben Wemp, Harry
Filson, Hugh Filson, Bruce Caughey Jr. and Allen
Caughey.

CARD OF THANKS

I wish to thank all my relatives and friends who
helped in any way to brighten my recent stay in
Kingston General Hospital. Many thanks to Rev. and
Mrs. Allison for calling, and to members of St. Paul's
Presbyterian Church and the Women's Institute for
their cards. Thanks also for telephone calls and other
cards and messages received. I always remember
my friends on Amherst Island.

Eva Glenn

AMHERST ISLAND COMMUNITY SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Cathy Glenn

As superintendent of the Sunday School I would
like to express a sincere thank-you to you, the
members of our community for the support you
showed at our Thanksgiving program. I believe that
the churches and their affiliations act as a lighthouse
in any community. They keep in the forefront the high
ideals passed on to us through the faith of our
ancestors. Although the ideals seem unattainable,
they do give us a goal to aim for and through Jesus,
our Saviour, we can readily receive forgiveness for
our failures and also encouragement to continue
living.

I was remiss in thanking those people who have
helped us throughout the year. Marie Ward has
supplied many times for us and we do appreciate her
help very much. Rev. Allison faithfully shows up once
a month to our Sunday School and talks to the
children. He also participates in our meetings. We
are very thankful to have his support and his
presence among the children. Kim deHaan and
Debbie Fleming assist the nursery school teachers
and we feel very lucky to have their help. We are
appreciative of the financial support of the
community. The collection (loose) at the joint
services of our two churches is handed over to the
Sunday School and is then used in the purchase of
literature, picnic functions at Christmas, etc. Without
this support we would be very limited. Thank you.

We are also thankful to the community for their physical support at Sunday School functions. The children and the teachers need this support just as much as financial support.

The list of thank-you's is endless but one more group of people need to be recognized for their help. All too often no-one sees the work of this group but without their support the teachers would have a very difficult job to manage their homes and their teaching. The group, of course, happens to be our husbands. They are often asked to look after the children, to help with the dishes and to build things that we need for our classes.

I trust everyone enjoyed themselves at our Thanksgiving "happening" and in some way, was enriched by what they saw or heard.

If you have any suggestions or ideas that we can use in the Sunday School program we will be glad to hear from you. Maybe you have a song or a craft or even a thought that you would like to pass on to the children. Please feel free to talk to any of the teachers or myself,

"A builder builded a temple,
He wrought it with grace and skill;
Pillars and groins and arches
All fashioned to work his will.
Men said as they saw its beauty.
'It shall never know decay;
Great is thy skill O Builder!
Thy fame shall endure for aye.'
A teacher builded a temple
With loving and infinite care,
Planning each arch with patience,
Laying each stone with prayer.
None praised her unceasing efforts,
None knew of her wondrous plan,
For the temple the Teacher builded
Was unseen by the eye of man.
Gone is the Builder's temple,
Crumpled into the dust;
Low lies each stately pillar,
Food for consuming rust.
But the temple the Teacher builded
Will last while the ages roll,
For that beautiful unseen temple
Was a child's immortal soul."
(Author Unknown)

WEDDING HENDERSON - MCCORMICK

On Nov. 7, 1981 Lois Henderson and Jack McCormick became husband and wife. The wedding took place at St. Albans Church. In order to properly celebrate this event a dance was held that evening at the Amherst Island Public School.

Our best wishes to the newlyweds.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING NOV. 3/81

- Ian Murray

1. Five individuals expressed to Council their dissatisfaction with how Council proposes to alter the fare rates on the ferry. (see October Beacon). In response to the criticisms and suggestions put forth, Council decided to re-consider its position and to request written input from Island residents and landowners.
2. Lloyd Clare presented Council with a letter outlining his views on the Miller Drain. Council declined his proposal that Council emphasize its anti "duck pond" position to political and appointed officials, as the Drainage Tribunal has not yet made its ruling.
3. The lowest tender was accepted for supplying culverts for the Development Road.
4. Council expressed its approval of the progress on the Road's building.
5. Regular business was tended to.

COUNCIL NOTICE

The new ferry agreement between the Province and our Township requires that the Township provide the following shares of the ferry's operating expenses over the next 5 years.

1981 - 6 1/2%;

1982 - 7%;

1983 - 7 1/2%;

1984 - 8%;

1985 - 8 1/2%.

The present fare structure should provide the 1981 revenue. It is estimated that in 1982 approximately \$46,000 must be raised.

Council has proposed:

- (a) that annual passes be available to individuals only for \$150 (with shorter term passes available)
- (b) free passes to reeve, crew members, retired crew members and the VON nurse.
- (c) cars and light trucks \$1.25 return
- (d) passengers 25¢ return
- (e) heavy trucks and driver \$2.50 return
- (f) tractor trucks with semi \$5.00 return
- (g) motorcycles and driver 75¢ return.

Have you a better idea? Council requests your written proposal as to how the Township can raise its share of the ferry operating costs. All submissions must be in the Clerk's hands no later than Nov. 25th next.

SOME IDEAS FOR RAISING THE TOWNSHIP'S SHARE OF THE FERRY COSTS

- Ian Murray

Council says that the Ministry of Transportation and Communications has stated that the Township may raise the money in any manner it chooses. The Ministry is quoted as suggesting that:

- *property taxes be increased and the ferry run free*
- *a rock concert be held.*

Some other ideas that I have heard:

1. *A lottery be run using the numbers on the ferry tickets. Tickets to be \$2 with half the profit going to the lottery fund and half to the Township to lower taxes.*
2. *Have the pursers attend bar-tending school and set up a liquor lounge in the passenger section of the ferry*
Charge to go to the washroom.
3. *No free passes to anyone. Township to pay reeve's passage when on official business. The crew members are already the highest paid people on the Island and ex-crew members used to be. The Beacon can pay the VON's fare. Charge every vehicle \$2 return and every passenger \$1 return. When the required annual revenue has been raised, run the ferry free for everyone.*
4. *The wages of the four pursers is probably close to the Township's share. Lay them off and run a free ferry. They can draw from UIC for quite a while as there is no demand on the other area ferries for pursers.*
5. *Vehicles can be charged for the space they take up: say 1¢ per square foot. Charge each passenger 25¢ both ways.*
6. *Maybe a rock concert isn't such a bad idea after all!*

[End of "FROM THE ARCHIVES:"]

DUAL CITIZENSHIP

- Zander of DUNN INN

Every Christian has dual citizenship. He or she is a citizen of the country in which he or she lives - Canada, for example - and also the Kingdom of God. Of course some Christians have triple citizenship - they are members of Canada, another country and The Kingdom of God.

This can make life complicated and rather messy sometimes. For example, we Christians are followers of Jesus, The Christ, the Prince of Peace, who taught about love and commanded us to love God with our total being and our neighbours as ourselves. But we are also members of this great country, Canada, which has been involved in several wars in which many of our neighbours (whom we call our enemies) were killed.

Some Christians argue that because they are citizens of The Kingdom of God and follow Jesus who preached love, they cannot go to war. They contend our government is wrong and some even try to withhold their taxes from Canada so that they will not support the Armed Forces.

Other Christians believe they must obey the government of Canada and support the Armed Forces. They do so, not because they like violence or want to go to war, but because they know greater violence might result if our Armed Forces did not go to war for us.

They believe it is sometimes right to do what is wrong. They contend that it is better to fight against an oppressor and to free the oppressor's victims than it is to accept the evil the oppressor commits against weaker people. They know that violence will always be with us and sometimes we must use violence to stop violence from expanding into war. Or we must go to war to bring war to an end.

Then, when war is over, we can apply the love and compassion of Jesus to the people whom we saw as our enemies. We can help them return to normal and regain good government so that they can give up war and study peace instead.

Some people will ask, "Where is God when there is violence and war? Is God always on our side in a fight?" God is always in the midst of the battle. We are told in the Old Testament that God is everywhere and there is nowhere we can go to escape God.

That means God is with us and with the enemy in any war. That is encouraging to me because it tells us we don't have to be good or religious or perfect for God to be with us. God cares for us always, no matter what our condition, beliefs or commitment.

That does not mean that God will always help our side to win. Read the Old Testament to see how many times the Israelites, the People of God, were defeated. They came to see their defeats as good. In their defeats God was speaking to them to tell them that they were evil and did not deserve to win. That usually made them look at themselves to discern where it was that they did not plan well, or they did not follow their leaders, or they did not act with courage and confidence.

Violence is always with us. The writer of Ecclesiastes tells us that to everything there is a season - a time for war and a time for peace.

On November 11 we are reminded that the citizens of Canada and the citizens of The Kingdom of God were involved in world wars and other major wars.

Some of our brightest and best people died. They were not perfect, but they were loved by God and always will be.

The veterans of our most recent wars must also be respected as people whom God loves. They may have succeeded, they may have failed; they may have done well, they may have made mistakes; they may have been heroes, they may have been cowards; they may have gained the victory or they may have gained nothing; but they were and are loved by God.

On November 11 we gather, not to glorify war or exalt our soldiers. We gather to thank God for being with them whether they died in battle or still live with us. Of course, we can thank our soldiers, sailors and air personnel for their sacrifices. We can thank them because they fought, suffered and died so that we can live free in this good land.

Above all, we can go forward in the strong and certain hope that our successes or failures in battle are not forgotten or useless. Violence and war call forth the best in us and remind us that even when we face evil, or perpetuate evil, God is with us, not to commend us and pat us on the back, but to assure us of God's unconditional and never ending love.

THANK YOU NOTES

Judy Greer and Woody Woodiwiss would like to thank neighbours, friends, AIMS, AIWI, and the congregations of St. Paul's and St. Alban's for holding us up through the loss of Woody's mom Bernice and Judy's brother Doug.

Your caring presence in our lives is greatly appreciated.

Thanks, Judy & Woody

On behalf of the Amherst Island Women's Institute I would like to thank Bruce Caughey for moderating the recent all-candidates meeting and the many islanders who attended.

The interest shown by residents for public meetings such as this is always impressive and rewarding.

Liz Harrison, Pres. A.I.W.I.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Forty-one years ago, my brother, Doug Martin, persuaded Roger and I that we should have a cottage lot on Barry Point, AI. (though we were newly-weds and didn't yet own a home)

We have no regrets. Our years on AI, though

mostly seasonal and on weekends have been a joy for our whole families right from the start when Rog's Dad and brother-in-law and uncle helped us put up our original cottage in 1970. The major reno and expansion in 1991 created a more permanent structure which holds many memories and fewer challenges with country living. Our boys, Joe and Blake enjoyed lots of fun with cousins in childhood and then lots of partying with friends later.

We will always remember the friendly and helpful islanders and we know you will all welcome the new owners, Larry and Sherri Jensen, to 13360 Front Rd.

Sincerely,

Jackie and Roger Porretti

NOTICES

THE PARADE OF LIGHTS

The Amherst Island Fire Association will once again sponsor the popular Parade of Lights.

It will take place on Saturday, December 3rd.

Floats will gather at the Anglican Church parking lot at 6:30 and the parade will commence at 7 pm.

PLEASE consider participating with a float.

Contact Laird Leeder at laird.leeder@me.com or 613 985 4865.

Hot Chocolate to follow at the Community Centre.

LARGE ITEM DUMP DAY

Free disposal of large items at the Landfill Site will be on

Saturday, November 19th during regular hours: 10AM to noon.

BEACON ADS

STUDIO ON THE BAY

8750 Second Concession Road

Acrylic works of Barb Hogenauer & Terry Culbert

Open by chance or appointment 613-634-8217

www.studioonthebay.ca

AMHERST ISLAND CHIROPRACTIC

- 11450 Front Rd.

Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

For appointments call 613 328-8892

Dave Meikle's**AMHERST ISLAND RAW WILDFLOWER HONEY**

Raw honey is honey the way the bees made it with all of its flavour, nutrients and bioactive substances. Bees pack honey with anti-bacterial, anti-viral and anti-fungal agents. Raw honey is a pro-biotic, enhancing digestive function. The pollen in raw honey tunes your immune system to the local environment.

Our honey is extracted in small batches to retain the unique flavour and aroma each bee colony produces.

Available at Topsy Farms, 613 389-3444, or call direct, at 613 328-8892.

SAND BAY FARM BED & BREAKFAST AND PERCHERON HORSE DRAWN WAGON AND SLEIGH RIDES

by your hosts Garry and Susan Filson @ 2 Front Rd., here on beautiful Amherst Island. Call 613/384-7866 or email redandgarry@aol.com for bookings or more information. Located on the very northeast end of the island with waterfront views from every window, very private and backs onto the Kingston Field Naturalists bird sanctuary. Open year round.

HELP STILL NEEDED. We need the following items for the Lennox and Addington S.P.C.A.. Used towels and linens, paper towels and cleaning supplies, pet food, kitty litter, dog and cat toys are always in demand as are used stamps (any kind), Canadian Tire coupons and pop cans. There is a large container in my porch for the pop cans and any other items can be left in my porch as well. Thank you for helping to support our animal shelter.

Further information needed?

Call Freda Youell - 613 384-4135.

AMHERST ISLAND STORE

Monday - Friday: 9am - 11:30pm; 2:30pm - 5pm

Saturday: 9am - 1pm (Post Office closes at noon)

Sunday: closed

TOPSY FARMS WOOL SHED

Wool and sheepskin products including yarn, blankets, and crafts.

Also Island honey and Topsy's frozen lamb cuts.

Open weekends and most weekday mornings.

613 389-3444

BETTY'S HOME COOKING

My Market Goodies are available!

Plus if you want a full meal to go... a few days notice and your cooking for company is over.

Call Betty 389-7907

TOPSY FARMS

Free-range chickens for sale

Brown farm eggs

Lamb cuts



Photo by Terry Culbert
Dale MacAusland and office manager Elga Thomson show off one of their world-class wool blankets.

THE 3000km WOOL BLANKET

-Terry Culbert

In October of this year I travelled to the western portion of Prince Edward Island to visit a woollen mill with an Amherst Island connection. In the hamlet of Bloomfield, 60 km west of Summerside, sits MacAusland's Woollen Mills Limited operated by the fifth generation of MacAusland family.

Managing Director, 53-year old Dale MacAusland told me: "The mill was built by my great-great grandfather, an Ulster-Scot from Northern Ireland who immigrated first to Newfoundland, then to Prince Edward Island. At this point, he decided to give up fishing and become a miller. Every farm on the Island had at least twenty sheep, some pigs, cattle, a horse and poultry. As a matter of fact, most farms remained like that 'till fifty years ago."



Photo by Terry Culbert
MacAusland Woollen Mill in Bloomfield, Prince Edward Island.

The original mill was water-powered with the main building situated atop MacAusland's Brook. In 1948, fire destroyed the mill and after rebuilding, diesel fuel was used. A few years later the family switched to electricity.

You may be asking why I titled this Beacon article: 'The 3000km Wool Blanket'? Well, Topsy Farms of Amherst Island ship their raw wool to Prince Edward Island where it is processed into world class, warm and cozy blankets and skeins (balls of yarn for knitters), then shipped back to Amherst Island.

Raising less sheep on Prince Edward Island than we do on Amherst Island is hard to imagine, but true, so MacAusland's depend on getting their raw wool mainly from Nova Scotia with some trucked in from Ontario.

Operating five days a week, MacAusland's puts 700-pounds of raw wool through their mill each day of operation. They begin by washing the raw wool, then drying and picking to remove grit which opens the fibres. The clean wool is then carded (combed) and spun into single-ply yarn. This yarn is then warped (woven on a loom), fulled (preshrunk), washed again and either dyed or left undyed. The wool is then dried (napped) or brushed to make it fluffy, cut into blankets, hemmed and folded. These blankets are a truly authentic hand-crafted items of Atlantic Canada.

The oldest piece of equipment in the mill is a 100-year old 'warper'. A couple of their machines were purchased from Stanfield's, the underwear people. MacAusland's employs nine full-time staff. I asked Dale if one or both of his adult



Photo by Terry Culbert
Dale MacAusland, Managing Director, at the carding machine.



Photo by Terry Culbert
Linda Dunn at the spinning frame.



Photo by Terry Culbert
Blanket weaver Sherran Sweet.

children would become the 6th generation to carry on this family tradition! He thought for a moment: "That's to be seen!" he said.

Back home on Amherst Island, I chatted with Ian Murray and Sally Bowen as they tidied their vegetable garden for the winter. "In 1993-94 we explored the possibilities of shipping raw wool to Prince Edward Island," Ian said. "We shipped through Canada Post enough wool to make three or four blankets and liked the results we received." Topsy Farms now ships several tonnes of raw wool to MacAusland's every year or two .

"Raw wool has also been shipped to Prince Edward Island by our other two sheep producers," Ian went on to say, "Mark Ritchie and Cherry Allen's Foot Flats Farm and Dave Willard's Stonebrae Farm. Dale MacAusland never fails to mention how much he likes wool from Amherst Island because the quality is well-above average.

"Years ago, Dale MacAusland's father told me that when he and his first cousin were heading for the creek with their fishing poles, they were stopped by their respective fathers. The fourteen year old lads were told to go back to the mill and that there'd be no more fishing during the week. The boys ended up working at the woollen mill for the rest of their lives." That work ethic is still prevalent at MacAusland's Woollen Mill today.

In 2000, Ian and Sally opened Topsy Wool Shed and now have several hundred blankets in stock. "We have six knitters plus me," said Sally. "It's hard to keep up with the demand for hats, slippers and socks. Saturday, October 15th was a miserable, rain and wind

swept day.... but we had one of our best sales days ever at the Wool Shed.”

Last year, Topsy sold over 240 hand-knitted hats alone. They carry thirty different colours of yarn and over twenty combinations of the most popular blanket colours. “We are grateful to Islanders who bring their guests to the Wool Shed as an Island attraction,” Sally said.

“The only good thing about shearing our sheep for me is to see the back end of the

transport truck heading down the road for PEI,” said Ian.

By the way, Ian Murray was born in Piusville (piesville), three miles from MacAusland’s Woollen Mill on Prince Edward Island. At the age of five his family moved to Ontario.

www.macauslandswoolenmills.com

www.topsyfarms.com

Sally’s Blog - <http://topsyfarms.wordpress.com>



Photo by Terry Culbert
Topsy Farms sheep waiting to be shorn.



Photo by Don Tubb
From Topsy ewe to Topsy blanket... a long trip via the other island.