

Amherst Island

BEACON



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Issue 401 December 2011

GERTRUDE EVA WEMP

Died November 14 in Smiths Falls in her 87th year. She was predeceased by her husband Neil Edward McGinn and sons Paul, Brian and Michael. She is survived by her children Joyce, Linda and Gary.

Gertrude Wemp was born and raised at the west end of the Third Concession on a farm now owned by the Nut Island Shooting Club. Her husband Neil was born and grew up on the farm now owned by Dan and Joan Simpson.

Both Gertrude and Neil have a lot of relatives in the old Island families as can be seen in their respective family trees.

**The Amherst Island
BEACON
Issue 401
December 2011**

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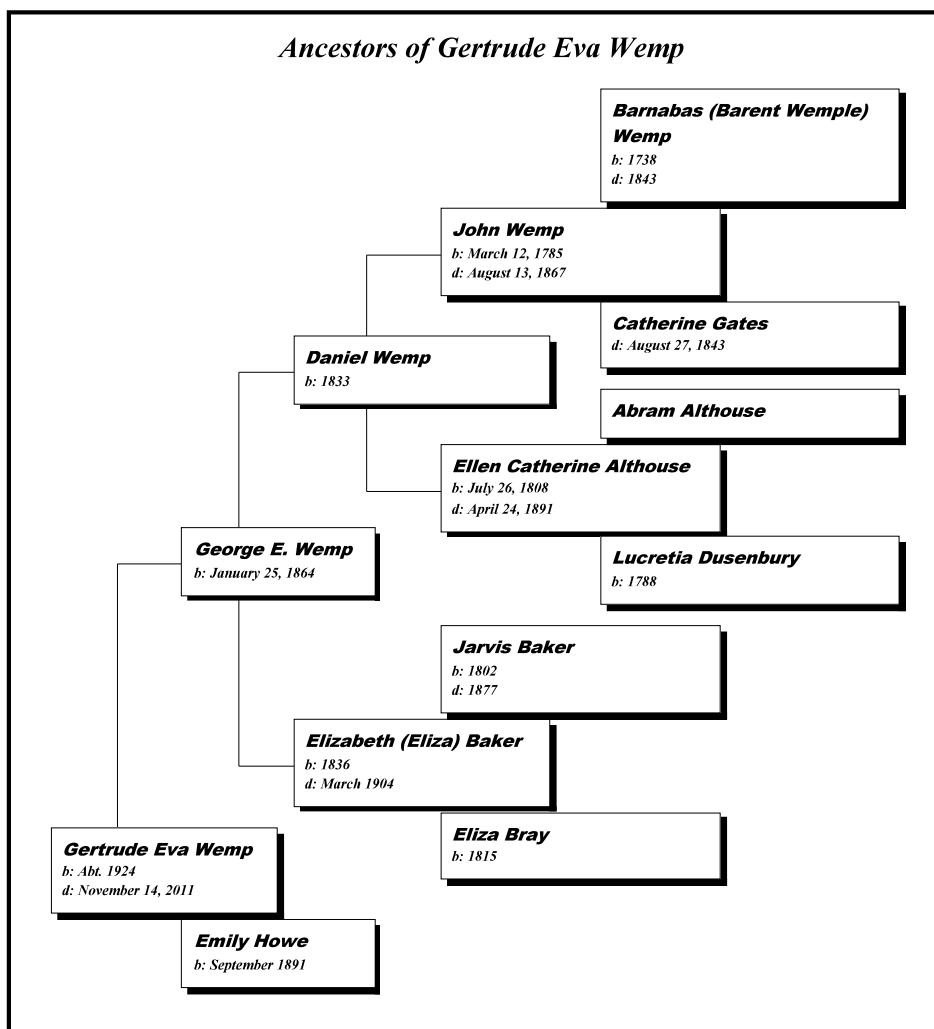
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Ancestors of Gertrude Eva Wemp



- Lyn Fleming

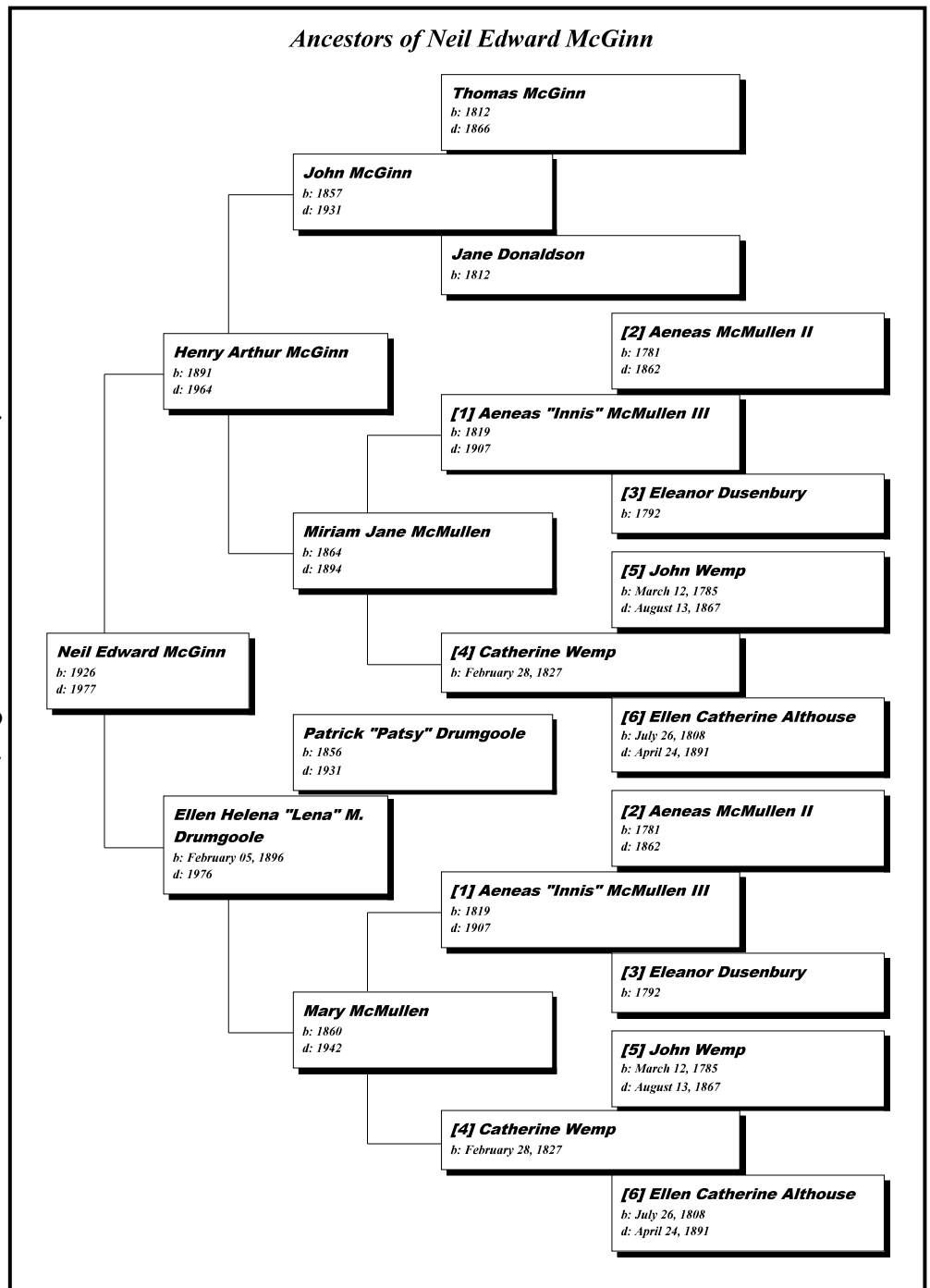
Condolences to Don Pepper and family, following the passing of his wife, Pauline.

Congratulation and thanks to the firemen's association, who took on the annual Masquerade on short notice. It would have been a shame to see this long time Island tradition die. The gym looked great and kids and adults alike had a great time.

St. Paul's Church held their annual Christmas Bazaar and lunch in November. The same weekend the Weasel and Easel opened for some holiday shopping and AIMS pulled out the market cart for an "end of season free give-away" event. (I believe they want an empty cart for the parade!)

The senior class students at A.I.P.S. were invited to go along with students from Winston Churchill P.S. to Toronto for a day recently. They went to the IMAX theatre, where they saw the movie "Rocky Mountain Express", about the building of the CP Railway, and then enjoyed the "Adam's Family Musical" at the Toronto Theatre for the Arts.

The A.I. Emergency Services hosted the annual



Festival of Lights parade. Lots of great floats, lights and participants on an almost "balmy" early December evening!

I'd like to wish everyone a happy holiday season, with safe travels and lots of time with family and friends. While I don't miss the snow, or worse, freezing rain on the roads, things would be a little prettier and brighter this time of year with a blanket of white!

* * * * *

Remembrance Day at A.I.P.S.



Photo by Brian Little
Cenotaph - Amherst Island
Remembrance Day



Garry Filson

Photo by Brian Little



Photo by Brian Little

Laird Leeder and JP



Leslie Gavlas

Photo by Brian Little

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Mary Kay Steel

The regular monthly meeting took place the evening of Wednesday, November 16th, at the home of member Joyce Reid. The president, Liz Harrison, was in the chair and a dozen other members were in attendance. We welcomed again a visit from Marcia Ivison who displayed our branch's new page on Facebook and answered questions from members. The page will carry news on our meetings and new endeavours. You may access it via the following address on your computer:

www.facebook.com/AmherstIslandWI. We thanked Marcia for her efforts on our behalf, and it was agreed that she and Kirsten Bennick will confer to keep it updated. Our business meeting followed, and was kept fairly brief on purpose so that we could enjoy refreshments and the making of a Christmas craft.

Our treasurer, Anne Henderson, was authorized to buy a new briefcase to carry her financial documents and great sums of money safely, as the old one has seen better days. It was noted that there are still a few AI phone directories available for sale; contact a WI member if you have need of one. Grandview WI (Napane) is celebrating its 60th anniversary in December and has invited attendees from our branch to their turkey dinner party on the 14th. We discussed plans for the Seniors' Christmas Dinner Party on Sunday, December 4th; convener Joyce Haines seems to have the planning well in hand, with the help of Judy Greer and Marilyn Pilon who will manage the kitchen that day. On the subject of Island beautification: Marilyn brought a pamphlet showing concrete and stone planters, which would be more durable than the wooden ones we have been using. It was agreed to buy two. Arrangements have been made to turn on the Christmas lights in the trees by the ferry dock shortly. We will

again participate in the Parade of Lights on the Island to take place December 3rd. Liz Harrison reported that Cindy Lawson, Director of Recreation at our Township offices, is still working at getting the Island some library services, following up from our petition and other efforts. We then dealt with a few more business items, after which refreshment hour was much enjoyed.

Jackie Sylvester laid out all the paraphernalia necessary for us to decorate different types of Christmas wreaths. I wonder if Joyce Reid's dining room will ever be clear of all the bits and pieces from our projects. She is a good sport to host our craft nights! We had a good time and laughed ourselves silly, as they say. Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 7th, starting at 6pm at the home of Liz Harrison. This will be our annual Christmas Potluck Supper meeting, with gift exchange; guests are welcome.

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

Raptors on Amherst Island

No, the Toronto Basketball team is not coming to play on Amherst Island nor are we being invaded by long extinct dinosaurs, raptors in the language of Birders are birds that eat other animals. Hawks, eagles, falcons and owls are raptorial birds eating

rabbits to grasshoppers. The feet of raptors are specialized talons with each toe bearing a razor-sharp claw used to capture and kill live prey. Their sharply hooked beaks allow them to tear the prey apart. On Amherst you may be observing a Golden Eagle with an eighty-eight inch wingspan or a tiny ten inch American Kestrel with a twenty-three inch wingspan. They are both raptors.

The American Kestrel is the smallest of the falcons and it nests here on Amherst Island in



Photo by Len Watson

Amherst Island W.I members wrapped up warmly on October 27th to carry out their twice-yearly clean-up of County Road 4 from Millhaven to Doyle Road. Afterwards they enjoyed a celebratory cup of coffee at the Millhaven Store.

l to r Judy Bierma, Judy Greer, Liz Harrison, Joyce Haines, Nancy Dunn, Ross Haines (missing: Leslie Gavlas)



AMHERST ISLAND MENS SOCIETY
Presents
NEW YEARS EVE
Saturday, December 31, 2011
6:00 PM—Next Year
A. I. Community Centre
\$25.00 / Person

**FOR TICKETS CALL NEIL JOHNSTON AT
613-389-5389**

cavities left by Woodpeckers. On one occasion a pair nested in the Gavlas' pig barn behind a broken board. The little ones were quite feisty as they left the nest and already the male was showing blue on his wings. They eat insects, reptiles, and small mammals, hovering over prey before plunging rapidly down on the prey. Some hardy Kestrels even stay all winter hunting voles on the frozen fields. They are easily recognized by their russet tails and double black stripes on the face.

The Merlin and Peregrine are larger falcons that have been seen regularly on Amherst but as far as I know have never nested here. The Peregrine Falcon is now nesting on a high rise building in Kingston so is more easily seen than it used to be. If you park in the lot at the corner of Princess and Division you will probably see a Peregrine Falcon either chasing pigeons or landing on the apartment roof. The Gyrfalcon is rarer. It nests in the high Arctic but migrates irregularly south. Once one got inside the Pheasant pen at Matthews' and Marnie called to report a gray morph Gyrfalcon. That's birding up close but not too healthy for the pheasants.

The Quinte Pasture is raptor heaven with its open grasslands and abundant voles. One can see Red-tailed Hawks, a large Buteo that nests here, Rough-legged Hawks, a visitor from the Arctic, and Northern Harriers, another raptor that nests on Amherst Island and all these birds will be hunting the

pasturelands. They seldom seem to have any differences of opinion as their seems to be food for all so I was quite surprised to hear Ida Gavlas' story recently of a Short-eared Owl and a Rough-legged Hawk in a skirmish. Perhaps one encroached just too close on the other's hunting spot.

Sharp-shinned Hawks are a smaller accipiter that hunts other birds and has nested on Amherst. They are fast flyers but not the super flyers like the falcons. Goshawks and Cooper's Hawks are larger accipiters and spend time here following the migrating flocks. They can dive right into bushes and scrub after a fleeing bird.

Golden Eagles make rare flyovers and once in a while stop to visit but Bald Eagles in the past thirty years have become frequent winter visitors. They roost along the shoreline waiting to grab a tasty duck for lunch. The ducks waddle up on the ice for a snooze and the sitting eagle swoops in for the kill.

With the ten species of Owls that visit Amherst Island added to all these eagles and hawks we do have a lot of raptors. Most are after the delicious vole that lives here. Snowy Owls for example eat ten a day. If a Snowy arrives in November and stays until May, it will probably consume more than 1800 voles. Imagine what our life might be like if the raptors didn't come to Amherst Island for their winter vacation!

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From the 22nd Council Meeting - 14Nov11

The Ameriks Scholarship Fund is a reserve fund that existed pre amalgamation in Memory of Reeve Frank Fleming (Amherst Island). Interest and individual contributions are distributed yearly to eligible post secondary students who have been residents of Amherst Island for a period of five years or longer.

The following resolution was passed:
"That the Assistant to the Clerk's report dated

November 1, 2011 be received and that each of the following applicants receive \$269.00 of the donations and interest accrued from the joint funds:

Applicants:

Ashley McGinn Queen's University

Beth Albertan Trent University

Brooke Reid St. Lawrence College

David Albertan St. Lawrence College/Laurentian University

Geoffrey McDonald Lakehead University

Laurel Brady York University

Katherine Little Nipissing University

Melinda Laing Canadore College

Talia Fleming St. Lawrence College

William Reed Queen's University."

"John Harrison, representing The Association to Protect Amherst Island (APAI) and SaveAI re: Algonquin Power Request to Use Township Roads provided a presentation to Council which outlined concerns about the use of the Amherst Island roads by Algonquin Power. He requested if there is an agreement with Algonquin Power that Council insist that all transmission lines be buried.

"Moved by Councillor Hegadorn and seconded by Councillor Ashley that the presentation by John Harrison, Association to Protect Amherst Island (APAI) and SaveAI re: Algonquin Power Request to Use Township Roads be received. Motion carried."
**

"Sean Fairfield, Algonquin Power, advised Council that his company is very interested in working with the Township. He noted that the legal agreement to use the roads can include whatever the Township requests.

"He advised that an Open House will be on December 6th on Amherst Island and December 7th on the mainland.

"Moved by Councillor Ibey and seconded by Councillor Hegadorn that the presentation by Sean Fairfield, Algonquin Power re: Request to Use Township Roads be received. Motion carried."

Proposed Utilization of the Berthage Fee Reserve Fund

"Moved by Councillor Ashley and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bresee that the Director of Engineering Services' report, November 3, 2011 re: Proposed Utilization of the Berthage Fee Reserve

Fund be received and the following be adopted:

1. That staff be directed to advise MTO that the primary use of the Berthage Fee Reserve Fund be for the construction of a new ferry office.

2. That the Township advise MTO that it is expected that the MTO will fund the following ancillary features during the dock reconstruction:

a) Stella and Millhaven Ports – parking, equipment and supply storage structures, washrooms and electronic information board
b) Stella Port – boat ramp and dry hydrant.

"Motion carried."

Algonquin Power Company Request to Use, Relocate and Encumber the Amherst Island Road System:

"Moved by Councillor Ashley and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bresee that the Director of Engineering's report, November 9, 2011 re: Algonquin Power Company Request to Use, Relocate and Encumber the Amherst Island Road System be received and that Township staff be directed to obtain advice from the Township's solicitor regarding the proponent's responsibilities with respect to costs for road improvements, alterations and encumbrances as well as the scheduling requirements as to how these discussions impact the Green Energy Act's approval schedules and the Municipality's responsibilities; and also, that the legal opinion include whether the Municipality has a right to full recovery of costs related to the Algonquin Power development;

"And further, that all further contact between the proponent and the Municipality take place through the C.A.O.'s office. Motion carried."

There has only been one new house building permit issued for Amherst Island this year.

From the 23rd Council Meeting – 28Nov11

The lack of library service on Amherst Island is being considered. Please refer to latest householder mail on that topic.

AIMS Meeting on 12 Nov 11

- Hugh Jenney

Breakfast: Prepared by the Little family. (Excellent!)

Present: 15 members, including a newcomer to the island, Rick Vanstone who has bought the house that

belonged to Peter and Eleanor Truman.

Chair: Brian Little, President

New Executive: Brian Little, President; Greg Latiak, Past president; Kevin Archibald, Treasurer, Anders Bennick, Secretary; Don Pepper, Member at large; John Schutzbach, Member at large.

Agenda

1. Minutes of last meeting - approved.

2. Treasurer's report.

The treasurer reported that the proceeds from the October 8 AIMS auction was \$2115.85. Of this \$1425 was generated from items donated to the Neilson Museum. As a result the balance in the AIMS bank account as of October 13, 2011 is \$4021.35.

3. Auction report.

Dayle Gowan reported that this year there were lots of items for sale, however due to a lack of buyers several items sold for far below their value. Tax receipts for a total of \$1425 were issued to donors of items earmarked for the museum. A cheque in this amount was issued to the museum.

Various suggestions were made to improve the outcome of the auction such as:

- Auction was too long.
- Designate some of the donated items for next year's AIMS wagon.
- Move the auction to a date other than Thanksgiving week-end. Mid August may be a good time.
- Advertise the auction on the mainland.
- Provide a shuttle bus from the ferry to the auction to facilitate participation by mainlanders.
- Arrange delivery service of items sold to people on the mainland.

It was also suggested that this year surplus items from the auction be made available to any takers from the AIMS wagon on the date of the annual Island Christmas shopping event.

4. Christmas – Parade of Lights

AIMs will participate with a float this year. This will require cleaning up the wagon in preparation for its use in the parade. A tractor is needed to pull the float as well as a small generator to power the lights. An email will be sent to members to recruit volunteers to clean up the wagon next Saturday and to help decorating and manning the wagon during the parade.

5. New Year's Dinner and Dance.

Neil Johnston is organizing this event. Volunteers will be recruited by email to help with the set-up, tear-down and beer ticket sales during the event.

6. For your information.

Brian Grace announced that a bridge group of Island

men has been started. It meets every Thursday afternoon. If you are interested in joining you should contact Dayle Gowan.

7. Adjournment at 9:30 am

8. Speaker.

The speaker was Brian Little who presented a slide show of the first two weeks of the Little family's lengthy trip to Europe this summer. A wonderful time was had by all family members and Brian's slides and commentary showed the photographer's keen eye and a quirky sense of humour. From Britain the family continued their odyssey through Europe and this may be the subject of another presentation.

The meeting concluded at 10.10am

FROM STELLA'S CAFÉ IN NOVEMBER OF 2011

-Anthony (& Jude)

As I write this Jude and I are in the Café four days before we MUST fly to our boat in the Bahamas. (Our cruising permit in the Bahamas expires at the end of November and we need to get on our boat and go out into International waters.) As there is no heat here it is quite cool but the clutter and stuff that surrounds us fills us with great memories of the past summer and of hopes and plans for next year. Though we look forward to our boat and the pleasures of the south, most of our emotions and dreams will stay here on A.I. with the friends and family of this precious and unique place that has welcomed us with such openness.

We simply cannot thank you enough... those of you who have allowed us and "Stella's Café" to become part of your lives. In many cultures (the wise ones) the sharing of food is a spiritual happening – much more than the intake of food and the exchange of goods and services for money. For Judy and I, "Stella's" is an expression of the older philosophy. Those who join us are helping community to happen. To all those who brought us food and gifts to share: Ida Gavlas-pies, Karen Fleming-pies, Betty Wemp-pies and quiche and soup, etc., Norma-Lynn Cole's-tarts, Andrea Cross- maple icecream and soup, Beth Forester-soup, Tagget Bonham-Carter-bread, Peter Byge-bread, Sally Bowen-flowers and seeds and tomatoes, Elie Gowan –flowers, Marc Raymond-tomatoes, Barbara Reid-tomatoes, Steve and Laura Street-tomatoes, Joan and Dan Simpson-tomatoes, Helena Bierma-apple, rhubarb crisp. (If I have

missed anyone please let me know so I don't forget you next time.) To those who put themselves out there by being GUEST CHEF'S and Helpers on Friday evenings (Janet Scott, Betty Wemp, Beth and Jack Forester and Julie Leeder, Leah Murray and Randi, Victoria Cuyler and Karen Fleming, Saskia Wagemans and Geoff Jones, Bonnie Caughey, Brian Little and Terry Culbert and Kate Little and Daniel Little and Jack Little and Angus Little, Tagget Bonham-Carter and Diane Pearce and Michelle LeLay), Joan Simpson and Helena Bierma, you were and are our saviours. A huge thank you to all the musicians that came to our Friday Night Sing along: Dan Simpson, Alan Caughey, Keith Miller, Keld Jensen, Beth Forester, Rick Henderson, Steve Kennedy, etc. and all the singers of which there were too many to list. Not only Judy and I but the numerous others who enjoyed those evenings...thank and applaud yourselves and your work.

We plan on opening the long week-end of May next spring to an even bigger and better season, doing our best to welcome even more of you to your only Island eatery. As we haven't yet seen half of you, Judy and I have much to look forward to in the future, hoping that increased business soon will allow us to be open seven days per week.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Great Winter. We welcome you to keep in touch through email and our Sailing Blog, judybierma@gmail.com.

To all, again, our most sincere thanks.

TOPSY FARMS SHEEPSKINS WORTH MORE THAN AN AUDI A4

Frequent visitor to Amherst Island Gardner McBride has recently been in the US on business. One of his first stops was Boston. On the last morning before he left Boston he parked just outside the Tavern-at-the-End-of-the-World for one of their famous Irish Breakfasts.

On coming back out after breakfast Gardner's Audi A4 was missing along with everything in it including his passport, computer and Blackberry.

A few days later the Boston Police discovered the vehicle abandoned. Gardner reports that the obvious additional thing missing was the two Topsy Farms sheepskins that covered the front seat. Apparently the thieves thought the sheepskins were more valuable than the car!

CUTS FOR THE CAUSE

-Karen J Fleming

Usually we're used to cancer cutting into our lives but Talia Fleming chose to make a different kind of cut and on November 10, Talia walked out of Aqua Hair Studios with her hair cut 10" shorter. Her locks will someday become part of a wig for a child who has lost their hair due to a medical condition or treatment.

However, the haircut is just the beginning. Her hair, packaged in tiny ponytails, is transported to All Hair Alternatives in Kingston, who sends this hair on to "Angel Hair for Kids" in Toronto. Angel Hair for Kids, a chapter of A Child's Voice Foundation, is responsible for raising the necessary funds to provide wigs for financially disadvantaged children in Canada who need wigs.

These wigs are hand-made and the shipping and manufacturing costs to make one wig ranges from \$800 to \$1000, but Angel Hair for Kids provides these wigs at no charge to all children who qualify.

Strong virgin hair is preferable although treated hair is accepted if it is in healthy condition and the hair is required to be a minimum of 10".

Thank you, Talia, for your small contribution to this very special program.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

Dec. 15, 1979 - Issue 23}

Amherst Island Women's Institute

- Thelma Howard

On Wed. Oct 24, the Amherst Island Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Norman Allison. The president opened the meeting in the usual way. Roll Call was "A Canadian Industry and where Located".

The president, Mrs. Phyllis Strain, gave her report on the Area Convention held at Chaffeys Locks. Next convention will be held in Napanee on Oct. 16 and 17, 1980.

The programme convener for Canadian Industries, Mrs. Anna Hitchins, had Mrs. Allison give a talk and also a demonstration of her weaving showing how to work her loom. Weaving has been practiced for 4000 years in many parts of the world. Mrs. Kip Hedges also showed a few woven pieces made in her family.

Mrs. Hitchins also had a contest on detergents and soaps.

Luncheon was served and the meeting closed in the usual way.

On Tues. Nov 20. the Institute met at the home of Mrs. Marion Glenn. The Roll Call was "What I Learned from the Hand Book". The new 4-H project "Food for Friends" was discussed and Mrs. Marjorie Baker volunteered to be a leader. The Senior Citizens dinner was discussed to be held Dec. 1st in the school at 6 p.m. Also discussed sponsoring a euchre in aid of the Heart Fund in February. Mrs. Marian Glenn, convener of education, introduced Mrs. Jane Scott, a member of the School Board, who gave us an interesting talk on education at the elementary level as it was many years ago and of today. Some interesting discussion went on, after which Mrs. Glenn presented Mrs. Scott with a gift in appreciation. The meeting closed with the Grace and lunch was served.

The December meeting will be held on Dec. 5 at the home of Mrs. Anna Hitchins in the form of a Christmas party.

90th Birthday Celebrated

Mr. & Mrs. Kaye McGinn and Vernon entertained at a dinner party on Nov. 23rd for their uncle's 90th birthday, Mr. George Willard. Among the guests besides Mr. Willard were Wilbert and Gayel and David Willard, Mr. and Mrs. Earle Peters and Leonard Wallace, Robert and Lucille Brown and Thelma and Charlie Howard.

Amherst Island Community Sunday School

- Cathy Glenn

The Amherst Island Community Sunday School will be celebrating the birthday of Jesus Dec. 16th. The party will be held at the school and will begin around two o'clock. There will be no Sunday School in the morning. If you like to sing, listen to stories and share in fellowship, feel free to come. Everyone is invited to this special celebration.

Season's Greetings

To all our friends on Amherst Island, Season's Greetings. May your Christmas be Merry and your New Year filled with Health and Happiness. Fred and Marlene Frohlich

Card Of Thanks

The members of St. Alban's A.C.W. wish to express their sincere thanks to those Presbyterian Ladies who so very kindly donated food to our Bazaar on Nov. 3rd.

A special thanks to Mrs. Chris Glenn who donated the use of her dish cart. It was very handy and greatly appreciated.

We also want to thank those capable "young ladies" who helped serve at the supper. Your generosity and co-operation and to all those who attended, once again made our Bazaar a very worthwhile endeavour.

Thank you everyone!

(Members) St. Alban's A.C.W.

Beacon News

- Ian Murray

The Beacon has purchased a reconditioned Gestetner duplicating machine for \$250. The next requirement to improve the quality of the Beacon is a good typewriter.

Does anyone have a good typewriter to loan, rent or sell to the Beacon? If so, please contact Jack Kerr at 389-0356.

Seed Corn

Lois Henderson is now agent for the National Northrup King Suppliers.

Send A Beacon to A Friend

This is the last issue of the Beacon before the new year. What better time to order a year's subscription starting with the January issue. A one year mailed subscription is \$3.60. Our number of subscriptions are not even close to the subscription list of the original Beacon. Let friends and relatives know what is happening on Amherst Island year 'round!

Call 389-8273 or Write

Mrs. Lynn Fleming

Stella Post Office

Stella, Ontario

K0H 2S0

To our current subscribers: Your subscriptions will be extended to cover our change from bi-monthly to monthly issues. Thank you for your support.

*Have a Very Merry Christmas And Happy Healthy
New Year
Lyn Fleming

4-H News

- Deb Blenkhorn

We, the Amherst Island 4-H group (The Nutty Needlers) have now completed our needlepoint class. We all found it a great experience. We learned a total of six different stitches, as well as learning how to block and finish our needlework. Achievement Day, on November 23 at Prince Charles School, Napanee, was a success and we all received our silver spoons.

We appreciate the efforts of our leaders, Randi Murray and Ena Baker.

*The next 4-H Club will be Food for Friends, dealing mainly with party food.

Council Meeting In Special Session

Nov. 1/79 - Ian Murray

*Two representatives from Municipal Planning Consultants were present to discuss the proposed revision to the township's zoning by-law. (A draft bylaw has since been submitted to Council for its review and comments)

Council Meeting In Special Session

Nov. 22/79

Council authorized the negotiation of the purchase of a tank truck for fire-fighting purpose from Stuart Kilpatrick.

*The township solicitor, Peter Radley, and a member of the County School Board, Jane Scott, discussed the Board's policy regarding the use of alcohol in the Community Centre.

Council Meeting In Special Session

On Nov. 26/79

Council met with objectors to the proposed Miller Drain. Council agreed to postpone the drainage meeting originally scheduled for Dec. 11 by approximately one month so that the concerned parties will have ample time to negotiate ancillary drain action with other parties concerned. Also

*Council agreed to urge ARDA to meet with a group of land owners who wish to negotiate a mutual drain agreement to cross ARDA land.

Council Meeting In Regular Session

Dec. 4/79

- 1. Minutes of the previous regular and special meetings were adopted as circulated.*
- 2. Municipal accounts were passed as submitted.*
- 3. Council authorized the Road Superintendent to arrange for the transportation of the township grader to Ottawa where the extent of the repairs needed to the rear end is to be assessed.*
- 4. There have been several break-ins at the township shed. Council is considering appropriate action.*
- 5. Council agreed to purchase a tank truck from Stuart Kilpatrick for \$4500.*
- 6. Council agreed to support to its fullest extent the landowners seeking a mutual drain agreement with ARDA.

Out Our Way

- Dale Filson

Mr. & Mrs. A. Bruce Caughey returned on Friday evening from a four day trip to Bruce County where they were guests of the Formosa Mutual Insurance Company at their annual Christmas party held in the "Bruce Room" of the Hartley House, Walkerton. They report a most enjoyable evening with friends within the Insurance Industry and the Ontario Mutual Insurance association of which Bruce is a past President. En route, Bruce and Helen visited with their friends, Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Welch at Brantford and Mr. & Mrs. William G. Tilden at Harriston.

Tom and Audrey Miller recently celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary. Their daughters Debbie and Karen, will be having a party for them at a later date.

Again this year, our Senior Citizens enjoyed a dinner and social evening provided for them by the Amherst Island Women's Institute.

Mrs. Coulson entertained her neighbours and friends at a euchre party in her home last Monday evening for the benefit of the Woman's Institute.

Eric Bailey is at present a patient in Kingston General Hospital. Our "Best Wishes" are sent to him.

The sympathy of the community is extended to Marnie Matthews in the recent death of her father, and also to Howard Pearce in the passing of his grandfather.

Eric Morris, a former resident of Amherst Island, passed away a short time ago, while a patient in Kingston General Hospital.

An Article From 'Bookends'

*- written by Lanny Henninger, 1903,
University Avenue, Austin, Texas.*

- submitted by A. Denys Cadman

'And when he drew near and saw the city he wept over it

Luke 19:41

Recently a friend passed along an essay by James J. Kilpatrick, an essay extolling the virtues of country life. I read it carefully for Kilpatrick is a perceptive writer. And he almost convinced me to pack up and move out. Almost, but not quite. Because I don't want to get too far from the city. And yet - - in thinking of the city -- I was reminded of the moment when Jesus, late in his ministry, came to Jerusalem. And Luke put it this way in Luke 19:41. Is there any cause for us to weep over the city?

Most of my experience in fund raising over the years has been restricted to talking to church people about their stewardship. But community people possess a sense of stewardship, too don't they. Or at least they should. We owe this place a great deal, you and I. A moral base. Intelligent and occasionally courageous leadership. A visionary eye. Fairness and an opportunity for human flourishing. But all those things - - and -- more - - are gifts. Given by persons who are looking beyond themselves. We really give nothing when we ask the other fellow to do all the giving... when we sacrifice something we never intended to keep anyway.. when we give out of a mean, resentful, manipulative spirit.

It is true that we owe ourselves something. But if we are always taking in, we impoverish our community. And if we give only that which costs us nothing, we impoverish ourselves. In any event - - if this is the case we may be justified in weeping over the city.

Nov. 23, 1979

*Apt. 507, Ontario St., Kingston, Ont.
The Island Beacon*

Amherst Island, Ont.

Dear People -

I have enjoyed the recent copy of the Beacon, and I note that you are open to suggestions. I wish to agree with one item from John Hall, namely an Island Museum. The other day as I was considering past experiences, I recalled crossing the ice with one hand on the gunwale of the Island Ice Boat, along with Fred Neilson during a rainstorm from the south. This led me

to wonder if this novel boat was saved from destruction. It was then that I felt that the Island should have a museum, where many souvenirs of past years could be preserved.

I had these items in my mind.

1. The Island Ice Boat.

2. The McCaugherty automobile that couldn't turn right.

3. Art Drumgoole's bottle of gin.

4. The partly-filled whiskey bottle which was said to have been found in the wall of the old tavern being torn down by Art Drumgoole many years ago.

5. The pony and cutter used by John Tugwell as related in an article "Just In Case".

6. The string of ninety-nine buttons put together by Miss McQuoid when she married Joe Hogeboom. (This was a collection in which every button was different. Ed.)

7. A pail used when MOM was sent for a pail of water.

8. A bottle of Holy Water brought by William Coulson and his wife on their return from Ireland.

9. And anything else worth saving.

How about it, Islanders.

Loyally yours,

(Dr.) H.C. Burleigh

THE TROUBLE WITH CHRISTMAS

- Zander of DUNN INN

I suppose only a minister could write about the trouble with Christmas. The truth is that I can get tired about many things pertaining to our Christmas celebrations. I don't think I am a negative person, but there are so many things wrong with our Christmas season that I think some of them are worth considering.

First, the shopping. I don't like shopping. I dislike crowds and I don't like the rush in the stores before

Christmas. People are anxious; they are trying to buy the right gift; they are fearful they are going to go into debt.

Second, many people do go into debt. That's when they come to see me. They either want somebody to empathize with them or to help them out financially. I can do both, and usually I am pleased to help, but those things take up my time and the people who get into debt will probably get into debt again next year - all because of the pressures of Christmas.

Third, Christmas brings people to church who would never go to church at any other time of the year. Christmas has eclipsed Easter as the most popular season of the church year. Easter is preceded by too many tough things in life - abandonment, betrayal, crucifixion, death. And, while Easter is supposed to lift our spirits with the good news that death does not have the last word, many people can't believe that good news. On the other hand, Christmas, because it's all about the birth of a baby and the beautiful stories of shepherds and wise men bowing down before the baby (even though the Christ child is in an animal feeding trough in a cave) appeals to people. We all love stories of babies and animals. The trouble is that if that's all we know about Christ or Christianity we have a very stunted grasp of the truth.

I remember a play in which Mary, Joseph, the Innkeeper and the baby Jesus put on the Christmas play every year. They've been doing it for hundreds of years. Mary is fed up with the play. She wants out. Joseph reminds her that they make big bucks by putting on the play year after year. It's a great tradition! The Innkeeper is fearful he'll be unemployed if the play doesn't go on. Mary finally takes the baby Jesus (a doll) and smashes him to smithereens. She yells that she's sick and tired of having to live with a baby who is never allowed to grow up. She shouts that it's not right that her baby must always remain a baby. Babies are beautiful, fun and tender but real babies grow up. The trouble with many of our celebrations of Christmas is that they never allow the baby Jesus to grow up. We can control a baby; but if the baby grows up to become a man we lose control and we have to deal with the demands of Jesus, the Man.

Fourth, I find most people think that Christmas is all about God becoming a man in Jesus which makes Jesus into God. That's not what Christmas means to me. To me Christmas is that time when we remember God works through people. The best example of God

working through a person is the man Jesus. Jesus was so open to God that God was able to reveal the personality, the love, the justice of God through Jesus. Jesus never claimed to be God. He always pointed beyond himself to God. The Christmas story continues to come to us through people, not through some superman or through a God-man.

I am amused by most of our Christmas pageants which are centred around the baby Jesus, usually a doll, sometimes a real baby. But dolls and babies can't say anything, they can't do much, they can't lead us. Sometimes it takes a real person to make the pageant come alive.

Most of us know the story of a retarded boy who was allowed to play the part of the Innkeeper in the Christmas pageant. He knew the story and he knew his lines. When Joseph asked him for a place to stay in the inn, the innkeeper told him there were no rooms available. When Joseph pleaded for a room the innkeeper said, "No." When Joseph showed him Mary, his wife about to give birth, the innkeeper said, "Go away." So Joseph and Mary turned away, Mary crying, Joseph with her arm around her. The boy who played the innkeeper was so moved by their plight that he called out, "Wait a minute. You can have my room."

Some people figured the Christmas pageant had been ruined. Many others thought, (and I was one of them) that it was the best Christmas pageant ever. Why? Because the love of God came through a retarded boy who was moved to offer the desperate young couple his own room. The baby didn't say that - the baby hadn't even been born yet. But one of God's people, open to God turned the pageant upside down so that it came out the way it should have been. *****

MISCHIEF TO HISTORICAL STRUCTURE AND THEFT OF FLAGSTONE

-OPP Press Release

November 26, Loyalist OPP is currently investigating on-going mischief and theft for the last two weeks where the stone wall is being damaged and flagstones stolen from sections of the wall. This is a historical structure that is located on Front Road on Amherst Island, dating back to the 1800's. It has a significant historical and emotional value for the Amherst Island Community as it was built by Irish labourers who had been employed to construct the

Rideau Canal but had been laid off due to malaria.

It is believed that the culprits are committing these crimes on weekends. If anyone has any information pertaining to this crime, observes any suspicious activity or vehicle, please contact the Loyalist OPP at 613-386-8601.

CONGRATULATIONS

- Bet & Dave Wemp

Congratulations to Alec Welbanks whose Heritage Project "Fishing Lake Ontario" was 1 of only 8 projects selected to be displayed at Limestone District School Boards, Crystall Ball Gala, which was held at the Krock Centre October 15th. Alec had previously won a bronze medal for grade 7's last spring at the Heritage Fair held at Queen's University. Alec's project displays the story of the Welbanks Heritage with Amherst Island and commercial fishing.

Good Job Alec!!!

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank You

Season's greetings to all my Rawleigh customers.

Thanks again for buying so many of my products at the market and from our house. I really appreciate your support. I would also like to thank AIMS for sponsoring the Farmers' Market.

Marie Ward

Thank you to all community participants and volunteers for the masquerade ball held on Oct 29th. Without the support of the community, the Amherst Island Recreation Committee and especially our sponsor A.I.E.S.A. (Amherst Island Emergency Services Association) this event would not have happened.

Special thanks to our judges; Gary McDonald, Dave Meikle and John Monroe (a tough job but someone has to do it!). To our canteen workers;

Gavin Ashley and Rick Welbanks. To our folks at the door; Lesley McDonald and Don Miller as well as our music "man" and general all around helper Jacob Murray.

Our kids games were a hit as always thanks to Candace and Mike.

The decorating committee did a fantastic job! Thanks to Laird & Julie Leeder and Mike & Jill Walhout (also thanks to Victoria, Paul and Ben for the loan of their "cat")....Not to mention the clean up crew and everyone else who pitched in throughout the evening!

We would also like to give a well deserved thank you to Sue and Jacob Murray for all of the work in years past. It's greatly appreciated...!!

Sherry Miller and Laura Welbanks
[pictures on page 15]

Warm thanks to Hugh and Claire Jenney for dependably picking up and delivering my breakfast/lunch/dinner in the form of the cases of liquid food I consume. I'm sure they'll miss that chore when in Mexico.

AIMS has helped me significantly in the years since I've been back home, and I am grateful.

Sally Bowen

Thanks to all who have helped me collect the needed items for our animal shelter. This past year has been very successful, especially

with the pop cans and I'd like to advertise that I am now adding wine and spirit bottles to the list. These can also be left in my porch and, with the holiday seasons festivities in full swing I'm hoping you will remember how much the revenue from these will help the animals.

From the Lennox and Addington Area and myself, we wish you all a safe, happy holiday season and a healthy New Year.

Freda Youell



Photo courtesy of Betty Wemp
Alec Welbanks and his Heritage Project

I would like to thank my market customers and those who came to the farm plus all the phone-in orders.

You are the people that made my year a success which I appreciate.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you.

Barb Reid

FOR SALE

A working "Viking" chest freezer. Outside measurement (feet) L 4.5' H 3' D 2.5.'

Best offer call Ann or John 613 634 8946

WANTED: a car trailer capable of hauling small vehicles. Contact Doug Green, 613-389-2480

Doug Green

Chief Vision Creation Activist

SCAFFOLDING

Over the years Topsy Farms has often lent out our scaffolding to neighbours who needed to work safely off the ground. We now have some serious barn work coming up and hope that some of this scaffolding will be returned.

BEACON ADS

STUDIO ON THE BAY

8750 Second Concession Road

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Open by chance or appointment 613-634-8217

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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 - 11:30am; 2:30pm - 5pm

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

Sunday: closed

TOPSY FARMS WOOL SHED 613 389-3444

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

Holiday Greeting Cards and 2012 Calendars

featuring photos by Don Tubb.

Also Island honey and Topsy's frozen lamb cuts.

Open weekends and most weekday mornings.

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 and Lamb cuts for sale

Brown farm eggs

Masquerade Ball

all photos by Laura Welbanks



Ghost and Goblin



Gavin Ashley



Brian and Marie Ward



The Invisible Man



Julia Little



Duncan Ashley



Pirate



Scariest Costumes Class



Ben, Jacob and Finn