

# Amherst Island

# BEACON



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## EDITORS NOTE:

The last issue was very late and, for once, it was not Beacon staff at fault. There were equipment problems at the printer and there was some confusion with respect to getting the printed copies from the printer to the Island.

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get well wishes to Linda Welbanks, Susan Filson.

Congratulations to Russell and Jane McGinn, who celebrated their 25th anniversary with family and friends at the Community Centre on December 10th.

Congratulations to Eric and Janice McGinn, who became first time grandparents, when son Ryan and his wife Angela welcomed their first child, a daughter, on Christmas Day. She is a welcome Christmas present for first time great-grandma, Elsie Willard, and a 2nd great-grandchild for Keith and Cora McGinn.

Lynann and Ben Whitton spent the holidays in Australia with Lynann's mom and family, enjoying some balmy sunshine.

The Women's Institute held the annual Seniors Dinner at the Community Centre on December 4th.

Good bye to Connie and Josh Free and family, who have moved off the Island to Selby.

Most of the snow birds have headed south for the winter, the cottagers have closed up for the season, and we have settled in for the winter. While we had no snow up to Christmas, the temperature did

drop significantly for the holidays, and we have had a couple of dustings of snow and some freezing rain in the week following. We will keep our fingers crossed in the New Year, as we are bound to get some winter weather at some point.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

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## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Mary Kay Steel

In December we held our annual Christmas Potluck Supper meeting on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup>, at the home of President Liz Harrison. Sixteen of us gathered early, shortly after 5pm, and enjoyed some social time while warming up the many delicious contributions to the dinner. I must say Liz was patient with all the laughter and related noise and the mess we made of her house. We had a very brief business meeting as we awaited our meal. It was agreed we will start up the indoor walking group at the community centre, commencing Monday January 9<sup>th</sup>, at 4pm. As with the program last winter, any community member is welcome to join us, and it's free! Joyce Haines reported that our two-year commitment to clean up trash along a section of County Road 4 has been successfully completed. It has involved a group of us going out to do the clean-up in the spring and the fall. It was agreed that we should make another two year commitment to continue our work there. After dealing with a few routine items, we closed the meeting and began our feast and party. Following our fine supper, we exchanged gifts with Sharen English acting as Santa, and eventually took our tired

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Photo by Liz Harrison

**W.I. Christmas Potluck Supper at Liz Harrison's**  
 l/r back row: Lelsie Gavlas, Carol Kolga, Anne Henderson, Joyce Reid, Jackie Sylvester, Claire Jenney, Nancy Dunn, Kirsten Bennick, Judy Greer, Elsie Willard, Joyce Haines.  
 front row: Norma-Lynn Cole, Sharen English, Marilyn Pilon, Mary Kay Steel.  
 Missing: Liz Harrison (taking the picture)

selves home. Next meeting is at the home of member Kirsten Bennick on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Guests are welcome.

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## **SENIORS' CHRISTMAS DINNER**

-Liz Harrison

A.I.W.I. hosted their annual Seniors' Christmas Dinner at the Community Centre on December 4.

More than 80 guests enjoyed entertainment by Dan Simpson and Sheila Bedard and a traditional turkey dinner prepared by W.I. members.

We would like to thank Inka Brockhausen for her musical prelude; Laird Leeder, Andrew MacDonald and Steve Cole who set up the tables and chairs; Al Pilon, David Pickering and Matty Kolga who helped with clean-up; Victoria Cuyler who once again organized the kitchen and worked her particular magic with the dishwasher and Brooke Reid, Brandon Reid, and Gavin Ashley who waited on table and helped wherever needed.

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## **JANET'S JOTTINGS**

- Janet Scott

The Christmas Bird Count

On Monday, January 2nd about 25 avid birders took part in the 111th annual Christmas Bird Count. Here on Amherst Island it was about our 20th time participating in this winter phenomenon that has turned out to be the world's longest continuing citizen-run scientific survey. Volunteers all over North and South America spend hours in all kinds of weather counting and documenting bird species over a three week period around Christmas and New Years. It began in 1900 when a gentleman named Frank Chapman began the idea of "Count not Kill" over the holiday season. It had been considered a sportsman tradition to have competitions among your guests to see which group could kill the most birds over a holiday. He suggested that they count the birds instead and a tradition evolved. Five years later he was one of the founders of The National Audubon Society.

[continue on page 4]

# Senior's Christmas Dinner



Photo by Liz Harrison  
Marie and Brian Ward, Joyce and Peter Morgan



Photo by Liz Harrison  
Peter Large and Margaret Maloney

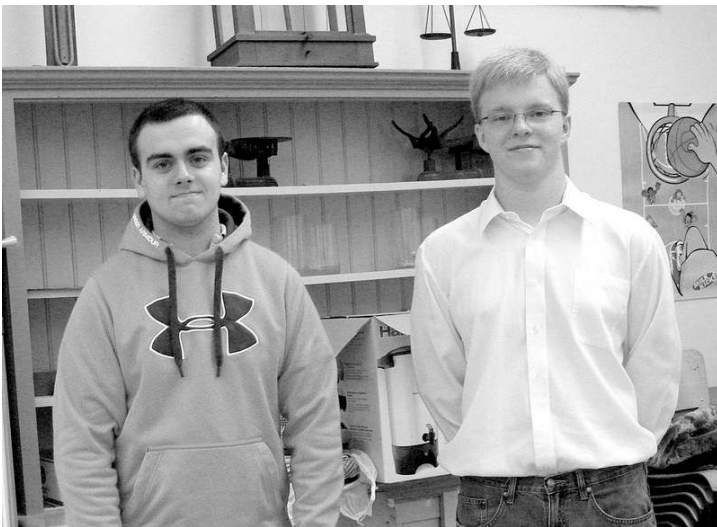


Photo by Liz Harrison  
Brandon Reid and Gavin Ashley

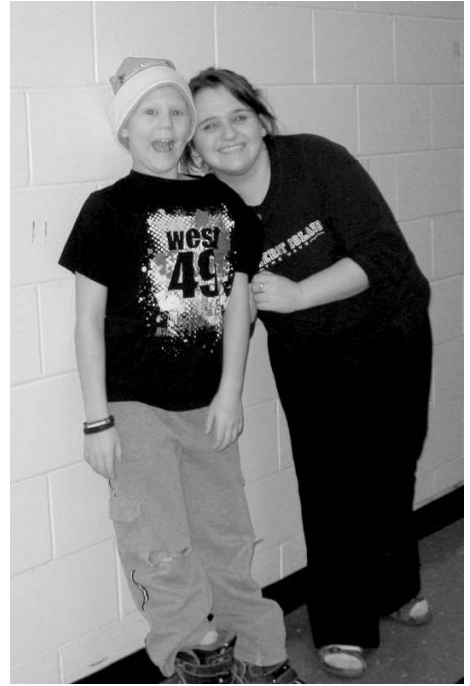


Photo by Liz Harrison  
Ben Cuyler and Brooke Reid



Photo by Liz Harrison  
New W.I. member, Carol Kolga  
helping out with the Christmas  
puddings

The word "birding" itself was not coined until 20 years later. From a small group of bird enthusiasts it has grown to over 60,000 participants in 2160 different circles. Last years' count tallied 2319 species and 55,951,707 birds. The list included 175 species of Hummingbirds for example which boggles the mind of one used to seeing only the Ruby-throated in our region. There are now more counts taking place in Columbia than in any other country other than United States and Canada. The Caribbean and Latin American counts add significant numbers of species to the overall count.

Over the years a few Island residents have braved the elements to help with the Christmas count but usually it is members of the Kingston Field Naturalists and their friends or friends of friends that have come to the Island each year for the Christmas Bird Count. This year Terry Culbert and Steve Kennedy were brave enough to join us. Terry's impressions were voiced on the radio show on Tuesday morning after he had thawed out a bit. The temperature was balmy on January 2nd at 1 degree above but the gusting 41 to 60 kph winds were deadly. They cut to the bone and had birders jumping back into the vehicles to warm up. Steve is



**Seven swans off the North Shore.**

probably still shivering and has yet to express his feelings. One birder from Mexico that helped us several years back expressed his feelings this way, "I thought hell was hot until I birded the Kingston Field Naturalist's property on Amherst Island". He was dressed for the weather, and kind of volunteered that year to go with experienced birder Kurt Hennige down to the gravel bar on the east end but he had had no idea how cold that could be - exposed to howling winds that gave us a 38 below with the wind chill factor. He lived to tell the tale and has returned to help by the way on several different counts since. Kurt has in return gone to Mexico and birded there with Jorge. That year the sea fog made it impossible to count ducks or shorebirds and the cold made birding outdoors for any length of time impossible.

Bonnie Livingstone joined us that year and is still coming and my greatest help in putting on a warm lunch for these birders. Her chilli is famous among the birding enthusiasts. The farthest attending birders

this year were Allison Gagnon from North Carolina, visiting her sister in Amherstview, and a travelling bird enthusiast Zeke from New Hampshire who was birding the Island that day in hopes of seeing a Short-eared Owl. The winds must have been keeping them down because we couldn't find him one although I had seen at least three in their favourite spot at Hitchins' on Friday.

Our own Ida Gavlas got a Red-bellied Woodpecker for the count at her feeder, the only one for the day. Sally Bowen saw a Hairy Woodpecker the day before and after, so that counts. Pileated and Downy were also counted. Peter Good's group covering the Third Conc. and Emerald Forty-foot saw an amazing flock of 70 Robins and 6 more were seen on the Front Road west route. Except for the uncooperative Short-eared Owls, the Great Horned, Saw-whet, Long-eared and Snowy Owls showed up for the count. Because of the choppy water duck watching was difficult but we did get twelve species of ducks including two

Hooded Mergansers that Bonnie and I found in the bay west of the Ferry dock and tucked up close to the shore near Eves farm. One extremely exciting bird for most of us was a solitary Horned Grebe, usually gone south by now and

**Photo by Brian Little**

both Red-throated and Common Loons were counted. I don't know where the Mute Swans were hiding out, perhaps they migrated with other Island Snow Birds but only Tundra Swans showed up for the count. Another great bird was a Barrow's Goldeneye, similar to the Common Goldeneye but it has a white facial crescent rather than a spot like the Common Goldeneye, better known here as a Whistler because of the noise it's wings make when they take off.

In total we had 24 counters, none lost or misplaced, and counted 63 species of birds. It was a great day and thank-you Islanders for your support with birding sites, permission to go on some land areas, yummy muffins for our breakfast and a big thank-you to the person or persons who posted a Welcome Birders and Happy Face sign on the Emerald Forty Foot. It was noted and appreciated!

Thank-you Amherst Island - the greatest place in the world to live.

[Staff: The count table starts on the next page]

Black-Capped Chickadee	81
Red-Breasted Nuthatch	1
White-Breasted Nuthatch	8
Carolina Wren	0
American Robin	76
European Starling	566
Bohemian Waxwing	15
Cedar Waxwing	70
American Tree Sparrow	4
Song Sparrow	2
Dark-Eyed Junco	7
Northern Cardinal	2
House Finch	25
Common Redpoll	0
American Goldfinch	35
House Sparrow	80
Common Loon	2
Horned Grebe	1
Canada Goose	2777
Mute Swan	0
Tundra Swan	104
Gadwall	2
American Black Duck	33
Mallard	332
Long-Tailed Duck	24
Bufflehead	78
Common Goldeneye	487
Hooded Merganser	2
Common Merganser	38
Red-Breasted Merganser	39
Bald Eagle Adult	3
Bald Eagle Immature	2
White-Winged Scoter	1
Northern Harrier	26
Sharp-Shinned Hawk	0
Cooper's Hawk	0
Red-Tailed Hawk	15
Rough-Legged Hawk	9
American Kestrel	2
Merlin	1
Ring-Necked Pheasant	0
Bonaparte Gull	2
Ring-Billed Gull	21
Herring Gull	56
Great Black-Backed Gull	3
Rock Pigeon	71
Mourning Dove	109
Great Horned Owl	1
Snowy Owl	2
Barred Owl	0
Long-Eared Owl	1

Short-Eared Owl	3
Boreal Owl	0
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	1
Red-Bellied Woodpecker	1
Downy Woodpecker	14
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Pileated Woodpecker	1
Northern Shrike	3
Blue Jay	65
American Crow	17
Common Raven	4
Red-Winged Blackbird	1
American Woodcock	0
Belted Kingfisher	0
Snow Bunting	2
Red-throated Loon	1
Greater Scaup	60
Lesser Scaup	2
Barrow's Goldeneye	1
Purple Finch	1

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## FERRY TERMINALS STUDY

-Andrea Cross

Here is a short update for the January Beacon regarding the Ferry Terminals Improvement Study:

A "Notice of Study Commencement" regarding the Amherst Island Ferry Terminals Study was printed on the back of the December 2011 Beacon. The Study will look at reconstruction of both ferry terminals to permit end-loading operations. The Study will further examine improvements to Highway 33 access, marshalling and parking areas, pedestrian shelters, washrooms, passenger messaging, as well as staff and operations building requirements.

The first phase of the Study involves a review of all available existing information for the Study area. The primary field examinations have been conducted in November, focusing on structural investigation, bubble system review and natural science assessment.

An independent geo-technical, subsurface investigation was carried out in early summer this year. Its findings and recommendations will be utilized by this Preliminary Design Study.

Historical traffic data have been assembled and analyzed and will assist in travel demand forecast, establishing design hour volume, truck percentages and long and short-term parking needs.

Each month we will be providing an update on the project. The information above was kindly provided by Brandy Duhaime, Regional Communications

Coordinator for the Ministry of Transport.

[Editor: Andrea has volunteered to report on this subject. Anyone else interested in providing reportage on an Amherst Island related issue, please contact me: Ian at 613-389-3802.]

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Photo by Brian Little

**Stella from The Air - Dec 10, 2011**

**AIMS Meeting December 10 at 8 a.m.**

- Anders Bennick

Breakfast: Prepared by the Little family with the help of Mitchell Morgan-Burse - thank you.

Present: 21 members and a newcomer to the island, Tim Gushue who has bought the former "Anniversary House".

Chair: Brian Little, President

Agenda

1. Minutes of last meeting - approved.
2. Treasurers report.

The treasurer reported a balance of about \$5753.

3. Christmas - Parade of Lights

A large number of items from the market wagon were given away during the clean up, November 27. Another lot was donated to SPCA, enough items were left to fill the market wagon for next season and the rest was taken to the dump.

The cleaned up wagon was decorated by Bruce

Burnett, Allen Caughey and Brian Little, manned by the Little children and pulled during the Parade of Lights by Allen Caughey. The parade took place during clement weather and it was a great success.

4. New Year's Dinner and Dance.

Volunteers are still needed for set-up, take-down and beer ticket sales during the event.

Members were reminded of the need to donate raffle prizes (min. value: \$20). If you have not made a donation, prizes can be left at Brian Little's residence. One possibility is to donate \$20 that Brian will use for purchase of gift certificates.

5. New Business.

The chair announced that a membership drive is planned in the spring.

Tim Gushue was welcomed to the Island.

6. Speaker.

The speaker was Kevin Archibald who gave a colourful description of growing up in Scotland, apprenticing as a tinsmith

and sailing to Canada as an immigrant in 1964.

7. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at ~9.40 a.m.

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**FROM THE ARCHIVES:  
Issue 24 January 15, 1980.**

*Dedicated to: Shirley Miller, Barbara Reid and Ed Potter {Island School Bus Drivers}.*

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**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

*Jan. 8. 1980*

1. Minutes from previous meeting approved as circulated.
2. The Building Inspector presented his report for 1979.
3. Committee reports  
(a) the road grader is back but as yet no bill has been

received.

(b) the old fuel truck has arrived and plans are being made to modify for fire fighting purposes.

4. There were also discussions on severences, planning and the disposal of property acquired through back taxes.

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### **PETER COULSON APPOINTED QUEEN'S COUNSEL**

- Irene Glenn

Crown Attorney for the Provincial Court of Napanee, J..P. Coulson was appointed Queen's Counsel last week by Attorney-General Roy McMurtey. Congratulations, Peter, from your many friends (and former classmates) on Amherst Island.

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### **AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

- Thelma Howard

On Wed. Dec. 5th the Amherst Island Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Henry Hitchins in the form of a Christmas party.

The president, Mrs. Phyllis Strain opened the meeting in the usual way. The roll call was an exchange of gifts. Some visitors were present.

A discussion took place for 4-H leaders for the next project and asked for volunteers. Also discussed doing some project probably a quilt for the eightieth anniversary of the Institute. Mrs. Marion Glenn, Mrs. Georgie Allison and Mrs. Kip Hedges were appointed a committee for this. Mrs. Lulu Strain asked for donations of wool, to knit an afghan for the school children.

The secretary was asked to write a letter to the Canadian Radio Television Co. asking them to ban ads for female hygiene products. Also send a resolution through Miss Flora McDonald and forward it to C.R.T.C. and also to bring jars on the market that tops will fit. Mrs. Phyllis Strain read a letter from the friendship club thanking the Institute for serving dinner to the blind, and also for the donation.

Mrs. Georgie Allison, Mrs. Kip Hedges, Mrs. Louise Seaman and Thelma Howard were the programme committee and luncheon committee for the evening.

Mrs. Allison read an interesting reading on the advent season and its meaning. Many carols were sung and music was provided by Mrs. Seaman. Mrs. Howard presented a Christmas contest and also a

Christmas game. Mrs. Lulu Strain read an interesting Christmas reading "Got Your Letter, Wait For Me, Santa".

The meeting closed with the Grace and a delicious lunch was served by committee and Mrs. Hitchins was thanked for giving her home for the evening.

The January meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Irene Glenn on Wed. Jan. 16th at 2 p.m. The ladies of the Institute were very pleased again this year that the Senior Citizens' dinner on Dec. 1st was such a success and thanks also goes out to the Island Legion members for such a hearty donation to us to be used for the dinner.

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### **FORMER ISLAND MINISTER DIES**

- A. Bruce Caughey

Island residents will be saddened to learn that word was received here a few days ago of the sudden passing of Mr. James A. Mullin at Red Deer, Alberta on December 10, 1979. He had undergone minor surgery on November 20th, following which he suffered a severe heart attack.

A memorial service was conducted in Knox Church, Red Deer, by members of Red Deer Presbytery with Rev. Mark McLennan officiating. Following cremation, the interment of the remains will be made at Boom Road Cemetery, Newcastle, New Brunswick, Mr. Mullin's native home. Surviving him are his wife Violet, one daughter Margaret and three sons William, David and Ira.

The late James Mullin served as Catechist in St. Paul's Presbyterian church, Amherst Island from 1966 to 1969 and will be remembered for the quiet impact that he made on so many people both in and out of the congregation of St. Paul's.

Following his service here he was appointed by the Board of World Missions to the Presbytery of Brandon, serving the congregations of Hartney and Melita until 1978 when he received appointment to the Presbytery of Red Deer where he served on a three-point charge, St. Andrews, Three Hills, St. Andrews, Orkney and St. Andrews, Louisiana.

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### **CARD OF THANKS**

We wish to express our appreciation to relatives, friends, neighbours, clubs and organizations who helped us in so many ways at the time of our recent fire.

We would particularly like to thank each and every

*member of the Amherst Island Volunteer Fire Department who responded so promptly to our call and who worked all night in temperatures well below freezing to save our home.*

*The love and kindness shown to us at this time will always remain with us.*

*Hugh, Dale, Tracey and Hughie Filson*

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### **WARNING TO SNOWMOBILERS**

*Chester Tugwell has reported to the Beacon that the Little Lake in the Big Marsh could be a potential hazard to unwary snowmobilers due to this winter's unusual weather conditions. Although there may be a substantial thickness of ice around the edge, the centre has melted out, and any new coating of ice in the centre may be dangerously thin, especially if a new fall of snow were to cover this ice before a return of very cold temperatures.*

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### **TWO FIRES OCCUR**

#### **- TRAGEDY NARROWLY AVERTED**

*- A. Bruce Caughey*

*A tragic fire was narrowly averted in the early hours of Dec. 18th last in the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Filson on the South Shore road. The family had retired as usual but Mrs. Filson was disturbed by the smell of smoke. Investigation did not reveal the source of the smoke but eventually a call was put in to the Amherst Island Volunteer Fire Department who responded with their two vehicles and equipment under Deputy-Chief Harry Filson.*

*By the time the firemen were on the scene, flames could be seen in the east wall of the house and had spread upwards toward the roof and were spreading across the ceiling joists under the bedroom which Mr. and Mrs. Filson had occupied.*

*Quick action by the firefighters brought the fire under control but not before there had been extensive damage to the east side of the dwelling and the roof as well as the interior of that particular area, and of course a great deal of smoke and water damage was suffered to the furnishings etc. Mr. and Mrs. Filson had carried out extensive renovations recently, with the installation of aluminum siding throughout, and a new fireplace complete with ventilators. The origin of the fire was in the vicinity of the fireplace which had been in use during the evening. The usual Christmas preparations had been made with a tree in place in*

*the living room. Island residents certainly feel that a terrible tragedy was very close as the two young Filson children were already in bed and asleep. Possibly in a very short time, no one would have known what had happened. A smoke detector had also been installed in the downstairs area but due to the fact that the smoke and fire were contained within the outer and inner walls, it was not "set off" to awaken the occupants.*

*Again we are most appreciative, first of all, that we have a fire department, and secondly, that we have those devoted young people who so conscientiously respond when the fire call goes out, and who work so hard to prevent the loss of property. On the night of this fire temperatures hovered around the -15 C mark. The Filson's were glad to take shelter with Mrs. Filson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Welbanks, for a few days, but have now taken up residence in the Mr. and Mrs. Churchill residence on the Front Road while repairs are carried out to their damaged home. It is expected that repairs will require some six to eight weeks for completion, and are being handled by Rollins Repair Service of Belleville.*

*Circumstances surrounding the second "near fire" seemed to be governed by the "hand of fate". Mr. and Mrs. Allan Glenn and their daughter, Shelley had just left at 11:00 a.m. for some last minute Christmas preparations in Kingston on Dec. 24th (Allan is Principal of Cataraqui Public School). Their two teenage sons, Tim and Steven were still at home, but in a very few minutes would have also left for Stella. When they smelled smoke, investigation showed a raging chimney fire in progress where their kitchen stove attaches to a "Selkirk" chimney. Again the fire department responded and soon brought the fire under control with extinguishers. A minimum of damage resulted and the Glenns are very thankful that fate seemed to have intervened as otherwise, with everyone away, a certain loss would have occurred of a very fine farm residence.*

*Let us take these two occurrences as a warning and in our efforts to avert the "oil crisis" may we be doubly careful in our use of other fuel devices. I remember very distinctly the precautions with fire that the "preceding" generations exercised and of their rigid adherence to a schedule of "keeping the stove pipes clean" at all times and the stoves under complete control.*

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## **SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

- Ian Murray

*This year a Christmas concert was a refreshing change and the most enjoyable one I've ever attended. Mrs. Beth Forester is to be congratulated for, in organizing the concert, she blended the school and the after-school activities to give the audience a unique look at some opportunities recently open to Island children.*

*Mrs. Donna Stroud's team of gymnasts displayed enthusiasm, skill and a great deal of hard work in their display. The guitar group, taught by Tim Hallman, was on hand to play and sounded very impressive. The students taking piano lessons from Bev. Hallman each played a tune as well, none exhibiting "stage gitters".*

*The atmosphere was very relaxed so that each production, play, recitation, or song came off at its humorous best (not like the rush producing ones I can recall). Mrs. Mondoux's primary class was especially adorable and well prepared.*



**Photo by Brian Little**

### **The star in Stella.**

*Each student and teacher (with sincere apologies to anyone forgotten) must have tried very hard to make the concert the success it was, and to accomplish this in a short evening is commendable indeed.*

[End of 'FROM THE ARCHIVES']

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## **THE NEW YEAR MEANS CHANGE**

- Zander of DUNN INN

Many of us, when the New Year begins, make resolutions to change. We resolve not to eat so much; we resolve to finish certain projects; we resolve to

make more money; we resolve to read the Bible; we resolve to be more loving. The list goes on and on.

The interesting thing is that most of those resolutions are forgotten. In other words we don't make the changes we want to make. But changes come with each new year.

Many of those changes are natural. For example in the new year each of us will have a birthday anniversary and we will get older. Children can't wait to get older because they are heading for their prime. We older people, past our prime, know that as we age we will become less supple, more frail, less agile.

I have watched the changes on Amherst Island for over 50 years. When we were here in the early 60's most of the inhabitants were farmers. Those farmers lived on small dairy farms and trucked their milk daily to the Stella cheese factory. They were served by three stores where one could purchase gasoline for cars and boats, five churches with two resident clergy, one consolidated school with four teachers, two community centres, volunteer fire fighters and a road crew. A hair salon, a coffee shop, a telephone exchange, a weekly bank and a post office completed the picture. The ferry was the Amherst Islander which could carry 21 cars.

Now the cheese factory is gone. There is only one milk farmer on the island. There is only one general store. There are three churches (all reduced in membership). The community centres in Stella and Emerald are closed. The hair salon is gone. The telephone exchange is no more. There is no weekly bank. We still have a post office. The community centre is now the gym of the school (which has a reduced enrollment). We have much improved facilities for the road crew and for our fire fighters who are also trained to be first responders for medical emergencies. We have the Stella Cafe which is open about half the year. Our ferry is the Frontenac II which can carry 38 cars.

The "new Islanders" (most of whom are retired) have purchased waterfront land and have built large houses. Although we still have farmers who raise sheep and beef cattle, most of our people do not farm the land they own. Some of our Islanders commute to the mainland to work and some of our property is owned by summer residents.

The demographics of the Island have changed over the years. More changes will come in 2012. The only constant among us is change. Some changes will be [Zander's article will continue on page 11]

# A.I. Public School Christmas Concert



Photo by Brian Little

Elementary class performing 'The Polar Express'.



Photo by Brian Little  
Shyanne Shurtliffe



Photo by Brian Little  
Angus Little



Photo by Brian Little  
Lucy Amson

good; some changes will be bad.

As I contemplate the possible changes in 2012 I am reminded of one thing that does not change. The psalmists remind us that “the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.” We are told that empires will rise and fall, kingdoms will wax and wane but the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.

We need to hear that good news as we head into the unknown. We can get ourselves so worked up about the changes we imagine will come that we become worn down with worry. We need to hear that God’s love for us will never change, will never fail, will never come to an end.

Even when the changes of life are harmful, even when political, social or religious changes challenge our views, our opinions, our faith, God’s love will always be there for us. Even when we change our minds, our attitudes or our hopes God’s love will stand steadfast and sure.

That’s another way of saying we are accepted by God, just as we are. Perhaps we do need to change, to improve, to develop, to grow, but right now, and in the future, God will not desert us and God’s love for us will never cease.

May you know “the steadfast love of the Lord” especially when you are caught up in the changes on Amherst Island. May you be encouraged by the truth that “the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever” - even through chaos and death. There is absolutely nothing which can change or stop “the steadfast love of the Lord.”

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## **A SEARCH FOR GRAPE ISLAND**

-Ian Murray

We recently received a copy of a “paper” written in 1965 by a student in the Divinity Programme of Emmanuel College, Toronto. Terence T. Whyte decided to find Grape Island where there had been a Methodist missionary station – 1827-1837. Mr. Whyte decided that Nut Island or Isle Laforce (aka Grape Island) were possible locations for the station.

“While waiting for the [Amherst Island] ferry, I spoke to two old fishermen. One of them, Mr. Rickey of Millhaven, had lived on both Nut Island and Isle Laforce in the days when commercial fishing was profitable (he is now a tourist guide). He claimed that Isle Laforce is really called Grape Island (pronounced Grapey, but spelled Grape) by all the locals, and always has been. This sounded promising. He said

that when he had lived on Nut and Grape there had been fishing communities there. One of the islands used to have about twenty houses on it and men, women and children lived there. Despite its suitability for habitation, Mr. Rickey knew of no Indian remains and doubted if either island was the Grape in question. He advised me to see Russell Wemp who lived just east of Sandhurst and Dr. H. C. Burleigh in Bath

Russell Wemp was sixty-six years old and had been born at Stella. One of his brothers had been born on Nut Island and his father (1870-1947) and grandfather (c1840-c.1930) had farmed there. His grandfather had cut all the trees off and had found, on numerous occasions, Indian tools and artefacts when ploughing on the south end of the island. This island of about ninety acres, which is frequently called Big Island by the local people, was secured by Barnabas Wemp, the great-grandfather of Russell Wemp, and was a United Empire Loyalist. He no doubt secured the island in the 1830’s or 1840’s, which would tie in with the fact that the Indians left in 1836-37. The mention of artefacts was a positive sign. But Mr. Wemp was sure there had been no dwellings there, and there were no legends circulating of Indians having been on the island.

“Dr. Burleigh was positive that neither Nut Island nor Isle Laforce was the Grape Island on the 1830’s. He had no idea where Grape Island was, but suggested Big Island in the Bay of Quinte, north of Picton. He felt that as Captain Wm. Crawford had purchased Amherst Island from the Indians in 1783, it was very unlikely that there would be Indians in the area forty years later. . . .”

Dr. Burleigh was correct and the location of the Indian mission was finally found on Grape Island which is just north of Big Island in the Bay of Quinte, Prince Edward County.

[Thanks to Beacon subscriber Don Smith for sending us this information. Don is currently working on a book about the Mississauga Indians which his old friend Sally Bowen is helping to edit.]

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## **THANK YOU NOTES**

I would like to thank the A. I. Women’s Institute for the wonderful evening Dec.4.

The dinner was delicious and the music was great.  
Keith Miller

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## REMEMBER

The W.I. Indoor Walking programme. A.I.P.S  
Mondays 4-5 p.m. starting January 9.  
For info call 389-5176  
\*\*\*\*\*

## 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  
\*\*\*

## 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  
Acrylic works of Barb Hogenauer & Terry Culbert  
Open by chance or appointment 613-634-8217  
www.studioonthebay.ca  
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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.  
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## SAND BAY FARM BED & BREAKFAST AND PERCHERON HORSE DRAWN WAGON AND SLEIGH RIDES

by your hosts Garry and Susan  
Filson at 2 Front Rd., here on beautiful Amherst  
Island. Call 613 384-7866 or email  
[redandgarry@aol.com](mailto: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.  
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## AMHERST ISLAND STORE

Monday - Friday: 9am - 11:30am; 2:30pm - 5pm  
Saturday: 9am - 1pm (Post Office closes at  
noon)  
Sunday: closed  
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## TOPSY FARMS WOOL SHED 613 389-3444

Wool and sheepskin products including yarn,  
blankets, and crafts.  
2012 Calendars and individual photos by Don Tubb.  
Also Island honey and Topsy's frozen lamb cuts.  
Open weekends and most weekday mornings.  
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## 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  
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