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**The Amherst Island
BEACON
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NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Belated get well wishes to Earl Willard and Gord Miller. Get well wishes to Neil Johnston, John Mayman, and Jean Tugwell.

Lots of Island weddings in July!

Congratulations to Sarah Wemp and Nathan Hyde, who were married at Sarah's parents (Peter and Suzanne Wemp) home on Kerr's Bay on July 7th. Also on July 7th, Leah Murray (daughter of Ian Murray and Randi Kennedy) and Carl McCrosky were married at their farm on Art McGinn Rd.

Later in July, Bronwen Shelley (daughter of Wendy Shelley) was married in an outdoor wedding at her grandmother Coralee Marshall's home.

Belated congratulations to Shannon Eves (daughter of Lance and Sheila), who was married earlier this summer in Hong Kong, where she lives and works as a teacher. Shannon and her new husband were home in July to celebrate their marriage with family.

Helen McCormick recently travelled to Alberta with

her son Mike to meet her newest great-granddaughter, born to granddaughter Deanna and her husband. This is the first grandchild for Mike McCormick and Jill McCormick.

Janet Scott travelled to Alberta for the marriage of her youngest daughter, Ruth. Also travelling west for sister Ruth's wedding were Alex and Debbie Scott and family. Following the wedding, they continued their vacation on to the west coast and Vancouver.

Congratulations to Sam Miller who competed in the Ontario Provincial Ball Hockey tournament, tykes division, in Mississauga in early July. Sam's team finished 2nd in the province and returned home with a silver medal!

Doris and Joe Crackle are here for their annual summer get away from the Florida heat and humidity, staying with Barb Filson on the Island.



Photo by Terry Culbert
On July 7th, Leah Murray and Carl McCrosky cut their wedding cake at home on their farm.



Photo courtesy of Janet Scott
Saturday, July 21, 2012
Janet Ruth Scott and Anthony Blaine Stevenson were united in marriage on a beautiful golf course overlooking the Columbia Valley at Invermere, British Columbia. All the Scott-Ritchie clan were there to welcome Tony into the family.

Also here for her 2 month escape from the Florida heat is (my mom) Kay Wolfreys. Unfortunately, this year our summer hasn't been much of an escape from a good old Florida summer!

Congratulations to the organizers of the War of 1812 re-enactment. There were 3 days of tall ship watching and canon firing around the Island and Bath.

Family "pick-up" baseball has begun on Wednesday evenings at the Community Centre diamond. Great fun to participate in or watch!

A successful Island Art Studio Tour was held in mid-August as a fund raiser for the Neilson Store Museum.

St. Paul's annual Garden Party was another great success and was even able to avoid the much needed morning rain.

The last few days of July saw a slight relief from the drought conditions we have been experiencing since sometime in June, with a couple of good rains - although not nearly enough, it is a good start. The heat and humidity have been unrelenting and the lack of rain has burnt the lawns to a crispy brown, and farmers have had to begin feeding the livestock in the fields as the pastures are burnt dry as well.

If you travel the Front Rd., you are aware of the construction from Stella, almost to Emerald as the Road Crew works to prepare the road for resurfacing.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Liz Harrison

Fourteen members of A.I.W.I. enjoyed a delightful afternoon meeting beneath the shady trees of Leslie Gavlas's yard on July 18, just missing the hottest day of the year so far.

We welcomed visitor Audra McMullen, daughter-in-law of Neil.

After our business meeting we were joined for the lunch by seven members of the Cherry Valley W.I. who came to visit, relax, explore and "kibitz" a little about the pleasures and challenges facing branches of the W.I. It is significant that their most recent member confessed that she had put off joining W.I. for quite a while because she imagined that all the members did "was bake". A certain amount of sighing and groaning greeted that comment. It's an outmoded perception that's difficult to overcome, unfortunately.

The business part of the afternoon did belie that



Photo by Audra McMullen

The W.I. at the monthly meeting-picnic lunch at Leslie Gavlas's with visitors from Cherry Valley W.I.

perception as far as I am concerned. Our treasurer reported on our healthy financial situation so that later this year we can organize and make beneficial donations to Island activities as well as local and international causes. Our Tweedsmuir co-ordinators reported on their on-going recording of local events which will be of interest to future historical buffs.

Good wishes, flowers and friendly visits have been extended to members and former members of the W.I who are no longer able to come to meetings and to Island residents who may appreciate them. Re-establishing the library is an on-going issue.

Watering and weeding the flower planters by the dock is taken care of. (It was noted that AIMS has been helping with watering for which we are grateful.) An ad-hoc committee was struck to organize the Annual



Photo by Liz Harrison

Judy Greer with Marion Glenn at the W.I. meeting.

District Meeting which we will host in 2013.

There was a report on our colourful and lively participation in the Canada Day Parade.

A decision was made to publish another Amherst Island Telephone Directory in 2013.

The planning for our August meeting to see a production of "Calendar Girls" in Belleville is almost complete.

Finally, though, I have to admit that the question of baking did come up with respect to the W.I. presence at the Emerald Music Festival on August 11 and there will be a bake sale on the Friday before the August long weekend. That portion of the proceedings must have taken five minutes at the most.

So, looking back on the afternoon, I think we covered a wide range of topics, reached some good decisions and tapped into a lot of energy and enthusiasm with generosity, humour and co-operation. You will note that baking was certainly not high on the list of our priorities (even though we are pretty good at it)!



Photo by Terry Culbert

School teacher Janet Scott making her last trip down the Second Concession Road in the yellow school bus. June 2012 saw a life long career as a teacher come to an end.

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

SOFT REFRESHING RAIN

"We plough the fields, and scatter

The good seed on the land,

But it is fed and watered

By God's almighty hand;

He sends the snow in winter,

The warmth to swell the grain,

The breezes and the sunshine,

And soft refreshing rain.

All good gifts around us

Are sent from heav'n above,

Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord

For all his love."

In this country of Canada which has been so richly blessed with one fifth of the world's fresh water, we sometimes forget what it is to be without water. During July we sweltered and fussed under excessive heat and no rain. We watched our flower gardens wilt and dry up like shriveled straw. When my rain barrel was empty the newly planted tree and a few hardy pansies received leftover dishwater but the lawns and fields dried and baked in the heat. Farmers had to supplement their cattle's pasture with hay baled in June. The dugouts shrank so that cattle had to descend cracked and crumbling banks to reach water as it receded. We complained and growled but really had no concept of the life in countries where drought is the norm and years may pass without sufficient rain.

On July 17th I flew from Ottawa with its dry, browned fields and flew to Calgary. We flew over green fields and also huge areas of Canola ripening yellow beneath us. On a drive from Calgary to Drumheller we passed these huge areas of Canola and sloughs in every valley filled with ducks and other water creatures. Driving into the badlands showed a dryer area but still green hillsides.

In British Columbia on the other side of the Continental Divide the trees and fields were lush and green. Earlier rains had soaked the soil layers so heavily that mudslides blocked the Trans Canada Highway at both Golden and Canmore the night before my daughter Ruth's wedding making it difficult for some guests to arrive. Rain showers were

frequent while we were there but they passed over quickly and left sunny days and fluffy white clouds in their wake. We visited Brisco Falls, a scenic spot that I had seen last August but this time the falls were twice as full. My son-in-law said that they had subsided after the spring flow but had rapidly increased after May 24th because of all the rain.

We faithfully watched the news hoping that you folks at home would get relief but the weather maps showed rain bypassing you and drifting south into New York state or north to Peterborough. When we landed back in Ottawa the fields still looked brown and dry. My plants at home were wilted and the poor Impatiens were lying out flat. That night it rained and we could hear it off

and on all night and gently through the next day. That kind of rain soaks into the land and waters the soil, it doesn't just run off as in a downpour. My rain barrel was filled the next day.

What a difference the next morning! It was as if the earth and plants uttered a big sigh and said aaah.... The corn on the Stella Forty-foot lifted their heads and the leaves once more danced in the breeze. It was amazing to watch the recovery. The Robins were singing happily at dawn and now could feed in wet muddy areas as they probed for food. The Killdeer called from over near the barn and the sparrows gave up their dust bath for a wash in a puddle. The cicadas awakened and called persistently in the moist, warm air. My brother Dave, visiting from Yellowknife, called me to identify the hundreds of birds roosting in the huge trees around the house. We had been visited by a murmur of Starlings. They twittered and cheeped all around us and spent the next couple of hours splashing and frolicking in the puddles in the lane. About twenty-five or so at a time would descend on a puddle and then joyfully dip and splash, flapping their wings and going right under the water. It's hard to estimate a moving, churning flock but certainly over two hundred.

The world stretched and responded to the gift of a gentle rain and even my mortally wounded Impatiens plants lifted up their heads and are blooming as I write. The experience not only made me more appreciative of the gift of water but brought to mind the lines from an old remembered hymn "SOFT REFRESHING RAIN" and I was then able, thanks to the miracle of Google to find the rest of the hymn as we know it called, "All Good Things Around Us".

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From July meetings: 2 items regarding wind turbines; a letter from the WI thanking Council for \$250 which was used by the WI for pots and plants in Stella.



Photo by Terry Culbert
Three generations of the Gavlas women. Ida with her daughter Jessica Rybka and granddaughter Victoria Leigh Gavlas-Rybka. Victoria Leigh was born May 20th, 2012.

AIMS

- Anders Bennick
Meeting cancelled.

From An E-mail

- Dave Morrow

[Ed: Dave's ancestors once farmed the north-west corner of the Island. They lived in the stone house now owned by the Finlays. Dave & Elaine farm in the Perth area.]

At Calabogie and east to Springtown the devastation of trees was the worst I've seen since the Ice Storm of 1998. Hydro lines were down everywhere and some trees still on the road as crews from Hydro, Bell and County/Townships cleared and removed with traffic going around them. One fellow told us that several thousand were without power and it might not be restored by even the 26th. A few miles east and north you

wouldn't even know there had been a storm with no damage and no puddles but they were without power.

The drought continues to be on every farmer's mind as it is all across Ontario and 14 States in the US. Renfrew County is the driest county in Ontario and as we traveled through the deep fertile areas from the town of Renfrew to Douglas then on to Eganville, burnt-up fields made our farm look lush. . . . Hay is in very tight supply and buyers are out looking for whatever is available and the prices are escalating with never before heard of amounts per bale. Farmers are aware and taking steps as needed but horse people who think there is no real problem and wait until December to find hay will have very hungry animals this winter! Grain feeds, pelleted and wafered hay products from the feed store have soared in the last few weeks . . . Food prices are bound to go up! I've told all my hay customers that this year every stem and leaf count and if possible hand feed the animals rather than giving the critters free choice to a bale.

This is the most serious drought situation that I've seen and the smallest crop ever harvested on this farm in our 37 years here.

TONGUE TROUBLE

- Zander of DUNN INN

In reading John Irving's latest novel "In One Person" I came across this quote: "Rumours aren't interested in the unsensational story; rumours don't care what's true."

An ancient Jewish story tells of a king who sent out two of his servants with interesting instructions. The first servant was asked to bring back the greatest thing humanity has ever known. The second servant was asked to bring back the worst and most destructive thing humanity has ever known. Both returned with the human tongue!

The tongue bears false witness against our neighbours and thus breaks the ninth commandment. It's interesting to note that one-fifth of the ten commandments are concerned with the use of the tongue. "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." "You shall not bear false witness."

To misuse the divine name indicates separation from God. To lie under oath reveals separation from neighbour. "Separation" and "alienation" are words used by theologians to describe sin. I met a woman who said to me, "If you haven't got anything good to say about anyone, come and sit by me." She was a gossip.

All gossip isn't bad. Giving information about who's sick, who's moving, who has a new job can be good ... as long as it's true. Passing on gossip makes us feel important - that we have secret sources of information, that we're in the know. Gossip is also a form of voyeurism. We don't participate directly: we only look on. We're inclined to embroider and embellish the truth until it becomes a rumour. Rumours fly on the wings of curiosity, wishes and fear. Something in us wants to believe both the best and the worst in people.

What we say tells as much about us as it does about the subjects of our gossip. We gossip about those things which interest us. Originally the word "gossip" was "godsip." It meant "related through God" and it was used of sponsors at baptism, the godparents. The godparents would godsip or gossip - speak in a godly way about the baptized child as they supported the parents. When gossip is motivated by fear or hatred, it carries condemnation, not compassion; it intends evil, not good. Bad gossip magnifies faults, questions reputations, suggests evil motives.

Part of the appeal of gossiping is the feeling of superiority and security it allows us to enjoy. We easily say things like this: "Thank God I'm not like that. Thank God that didn't happen to me." We know we are like that and we know it could have happened to us.

Since most of us are inclined to gossip anyway, we need to learn to control gossip. The advice of the book of James in the New Testament was to keep busy. James suggested Christians avoid gossip by keeping busy visiting the widows and orphans who could not provide for themselves. Psychologists recommend that every bit of gossip and rumour be passed on complete with the name of the person who told it. The best way to deal with the impulse to gossip that has the potential to hurt is to be very well acquainted with our own fears, angers, hatreds, hostilities. We need to admit we don't always feel love toward others and that we're as vulnerable and as frail as they are. We all need to admit that as stories are passed along they become less and less true. Unfortunately our listeners usually accept the stories as true and believe them.

Amherst Islanders are not immune to rumours and lies. We on Amherst Island have chosen this moated community in which to live and enjoy life - away from the problems of others. But we get turned in upon ourselves. As one author observed, most people are right in what they affirm and wrong in what they deny. Partial truth is false witness and is a sin common to all of us on this Island.

The truth is that the best of us see only some of the truth - even about God. We're not called to settle down into some stable, final truth. We're pilgrims, always on the way, always following God who goes before us. We are not called to preserve the truths of yesterday. We worship a tent God who's always on the move, who's not fond of palaces, temples, creeds, doctrines, formulas and liturgies. As we fallible creatures search for truth, the best we can hope for is that we'll find wisdom in contradiction and truth in paradox.

We must admit we're the people who've been told not to bear false witness. We are called to let go of our prejudices based on dishonesty. We're called to come out of our blindness that mistakes partial truth for ultimate truth. As the writer to the Ephesians put it, "So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another."

As members of one another we live in a common bundle. One of the requirements of community is telling the truth. This is something more than just not being false. It calls for us to be fully aware of our limitations and to be aware of the hurt we can inflict and to be careful to speak the truth in love as much as we can. Then, perhaps, we won't have so much tongue trouble.

OPEN STUDIO ART TOUR

-Terry Culbert

Every second year for the past six years, Island artist Peter Large and I have co-ordinated a fundraiser for the Neilson Store Museum & Cultural Centre on Amherst Island. Early in January, plans for the one day event began. Letters were sent out to Island and mainland artists, who had an Island connection. The only stipulation was that the participating artists needed to create an 8x8-inch original work to be donated to the museum. In response to our request, we had 28 painters and photographers stepping up to the plate. Two new destinations opened for the tour: Renée Minville's "Island Frog Art Studio" and "Cottage Gallery" by Woody Woodiwiss, both in the village of Stella.

Dayle Gowan, museum treasurer, joined Peter and me as an adviser. A plan for selling the 8x8-inch works in the form of a silent auction was put into place.

The morning prior to the event, museum director Bruce Burnett, Peter and I, met in the museum's 'Backroom' to display the 8x8-inch pieces, which Bruce lit in a truly professional way.

Saturday morning the signage was placed from the Head to the Foot of the Island enabling visitors to find the various studios on the tour route. After the scurry of activities ended in the 'Backroom' of the museum, a location map was handed out, showing eleven venues to visit, many with artists working in their own studios.

"It was an outstanding effort by all the artists involved," said Peter Large, "particularly the 8x8-inch donations. In our view, the best ever!"

2012 Open Studio Art Tour was successful in every way and raised the most money for the museum so far.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Museum director Bruce Burnett hung the 8x8-inch original works, then he lit up the show.



Photo by Dana Garrett

The art tour and sale began at the Neilson Store Museum & Cultural Centre in Stella.



Photo by Bruce Burnett

Terry Culbert and Peter Large have now co-ordinated three open studio art tour fundraisers for the museum during the past six years.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Jack Garrett of London, Ontario, brother-in-law of Terry Culbert, was back for a second time putting up roadside direction signage.



Photo by Dana Garrett
Patrons line up to pay for their purchase after the silent auction ended.



Photo by Terry Culbert
Renée Minville's Island Frog Art Studio near the ferry dock was a new addition this year.



Photo by Terry Culbert
Visiting Barb Hogenauer's Studio on the Bay was left to right: Jane Lovell of Hay Bay, Barb Hogenauer and Carolyn Burnett of Kingston.



Photo by Don Tubb
The good weather allowed outdoor displays... here, Michael Murray looks over my pictures.

TICKS THRIVING IN EXTREME HEAT

- Sally Bowen

There is an excellent clip on CTV aired in the last week of July entitled CTV News: Ticks Thriving in Extreme Heat
www.ctvnews.ca.

It said that "Higher temperatures have caused a tick population explosion... In 2012 18% of inhabited parts of eastern Canada had ticks. By 2020, that figure is expected to rise to 80%... That means that more Canadians are at risk of getting Lyme Disease... 10 to 50% of the ticks carry it."

They are on Amherst Island. They may be on your pets.

Preventive measures include wearing socks over long pant legs if you are in long grass. Be sure to check your body daily. They will crawl around for awhile before burrowing in. They are tiny - about the size of a sesame seed. If they are embedded, DON'T PANIC. DON'T BURN. DON'T GRAB AND TWIST. Ideally, use a tick lifter. Several of us on the Island have them. If cannot get a tick lifter, use tweezers gently. Do your best to avoid squeezing the mouth parts. Put the tick in a small bottle and take it with you for testing. GO TO EMERGENCY OR TO A CLINIC RIGHT AWAY. Within 24 - 48 hours, most medical systems will provide a single significant oral dose of an antibiotic that acts as a preventive, meanwhile testing the tick. Please insist on this.

If it has been longer than 48 hours, or you discover a "bull's eye" red and white ring in an area where a tick might have been embedded, it is recommended to have a minimum of two weeks of antibiotics.

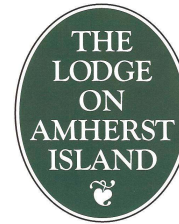
For further information look at The Canadian Lyme Association website.

MORE LYME NEWS

- Sally Bowen and Alicia Wolfreys

Alicia and Keith's son Drew has been struggling with Lyme Disease and unbelieving doctors for some years... and he is only 5.

Last fall, in October 2011, they found another tick embedded in his scalp, hidden by his hair. They took



Upcoming Events at the Lodge

Now until August 30th

Art Show: Tammy Shane

Saturday/Sunday 1 – 4pm - Other times by appointment

September 1st, 2012 – Labour Day Weekend

Art Show: Christine Jamieson

Opening Reception: Saturday 2 – 5pm

Saturday/Sunday 1 – 4pm - Other times by appointment

September 29th – 30th, 2012

The Mysterious World of Mushrooms

A two day mushroom hunting/identifying workshop with Richard Aaron, Naturalist. Call the Lodge to register.

October 6th, 2012 – Thanksgiving Weekend

Art Show: All Island!

Theme: "Anything Goes" Call the Lodge for submission forms

Opening Reception: Saturday 2 – 5pm

Saturday/Sunday 1 – 4pm - Other times by appointment

The Lodge on Amherst Island

320 McDonalds Lane

Stella, Ontario 613-634-1388

thelodgeonamhestisland@gmail.com

www.thelodgeonamherstisland.com

the tick to the Health Unit and requested that it be tested. When they didn't hear any results they assumed it was negative. There followed several trips to their GP with various unexplained symptoms. IN THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE, 2012, they received a call saying the test was positive. Apparently the tick had been sent to Toronto, thence to Ottawa, and from there to Winnipeg and somehow there was a huge delay. This is outrageous.

On the basis of that test result they were able to get in to see the Infectious Diseases Specialist in Kingston and were able to receive effective assistance.

[Editor: I hope someday that the response of the medical profession to Lyme disease will be studied.]

SOME EARLY ISLAND RESIDENTS

- Eric Bowler

WILLIAM GEORGE MCGINNIS AND EVA RACHEL HONOUR HOWARD

William George McGinnis, (or McGuinness as he usually spelled the name) was born on Amherst Island on 28 June 1857, the son of John Howard McGinnis and Caroline Howard. The McGinnis families, who were United Empire Loyalists, had moved from Fredericksburg to Amherst Island by June of 1793 and perhaps even earlier.

William's father who was a successful farmer and an ex-reeve of Amherst Island had left him in good financial condition and William continued this advantage by hard work and a good business sense. He added to his farm holdings, eventually owning lots 12 and 13, 1st concession, and started a small grocery store at Emerald.

At age 35, in April 1893, he married his cousin, Eva Howard (1872-1938), daughter of Charles Mortimer Howard and Eliza Moore. They had a family of 12 children, eleven of whom reached maturity.

Overshadowing William's farms, store and family was his great passion for horses and horse-racing. He raised, owned and trained many racers over the years, including the famous "Golden Prince" an ice racer who held the Canadian speed record for many years.

One small aspect of social life has today passed unnoticed into history and has been almost totally forgotten. During the late 1800's and into the 1930's, the residents of Amherst Island were fascinated with and involved in ice-racing, ice-skating, iceboats, and ice sleighs. During the long winter months, the channel between Amherst Island and the mainland was busy with ice traffic, skaters, horse-drawn sleighs and the occasional fast, dangerous ice sail-boats.

But as the winters grew shorter and warmer many people lost their interest and sense of adventure. The ice skates that neatly clipped onto one's boots became old-fashioned and obsolete. A wonderful winter sport had passed forever, unnoticed, into oblivion. One of its last gasps was casually mentioned in the Kingston Daily Whig of 5 March 1932. It was reported then that Annie McGinnis, her brother Delbert McGinnis (both



AMERIKS SCHOLARSHIP FUND - 2012

Applications for the Ameriks Scholarship Fund in memory of Reeve Frank Fleming, will be received by the Township until October 31, 2012.

Amherst Island residents who currently attend post-secondary institutions on a full time basis and have lived on Amherst Island for a minimum of 5 years are eligible to apply. Application forms are available at the Ferry Office in Stella during office hours, Monday, Wednesday and Friday or on the Loyalist Township website at:

www.loyalist.ca.

(under permits/applications at the side of the page)

Please forward completed applications to the attention of the undersigned at:

The Corporation of Loyalist Township
263 Main Street, Odessa, K0H 2H0
Attention: Pamela Barnard

or leave at the Ferry Office for delivery

Anyone interested in contributing to the Ameriks Scholarship Fund please contact the undersigned at 613-386-7351, ext. 120. Loyalist Township accepts donations to the capital or yearly disbursement portion of the Ameriks Scholarship Fund. Income tax receipts are provided.

Pamela Barnard, AMCT
Assistant to the Clerk

William's children) and their cousin Arthur Wemp, all of Emerald, had skated from Emerald to Bath and back that same evening to attend the dance at the Masonic Hall in Bath. Few people would ever again attempt such a lonely and dangerous adventure on the dark night ice of the channel.

William sold his Emerald store about 1905 to Reginald Instant and concentrated on his farming operation which was expanding at a great rate. The Great War of 1914-1918 added to the strain of farming

as young farm hands were impossible to find and all the heavy work fell on older shoulders. The armistice of November 1918 solved many of William's staffing problems and he was beginning to relax his work habits when, on 11 July 1921 a blistering hot morning took its toll and William suffered a heart attack while doing his morning chores. At the time of his death at age sixty-four, eight of his children were under the age of twenty-one.

Children of William George McGinnis and Eva Rachel Honour Howard:

1. Howard McGinnis (1894-1895).
2. Charles Raymond McGinnis (1896-1973) m. Laurine Lela Taylor.
3. John Maurice McGinnis (1898-1948). Unmarried. Buried Glenwood cemetery, Amherst Island.
4. Ethel Letricia McGinnis (1900-1960) m. Royal Edward Wemp
5. William Allen McGinnis (1901-1960) Unmarried. Buried Glenwood cemetery, Amherst Island.
6. Marjorie Caroline McGinnis (1903-1966) m. Thomas Panzarella.
7. Percy Edward McGinnis (1904-1979). m. Doris Henrietta Goodberry.
8. Mary Eliza McGinnis. (1906-1972) m. Martin Keady.
9. Rachel Amey McGinnis. (1908-1988) m. George Barnes.
10. Frederick Floyd McGinnis (1910-1961) m. Mildred Georgina Wemp
11. Annie Eva McGinnis (1912-1983) m Kenneth S. Miller.
12. Harold Delbert McGinnis (1913-1969) m. Mavis Pauline McGinn.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thanks to friends and neighbours for all the lovely food, and beautiful cards and calls of sympathy.

The McGinn Family.

Thank You!

To all the residents of Amherst Island I want to extend a huge thank you for all your efforts Tuesday night July 31st in helping to look for my lost Great Dane Lucie.

I found her 12 hours later in a hay field happy and well.

All of your efforts in searching were so much appreciated and you are an amazing and special group!

Special thanks to the community in the Fishing Village. Kim Tufts, Kingston

A huge thank you to the Amherst Island Fire Department who responded quickly to the fire on July 12th and quickly got the fire under control.

I would like to thank the neighbours for helping out with the last of the haying.

Your thoughtfulness and support are truly appreciated. It makes me appreciate the community that we live in.

Garry Hitchins.



Photo by Sally Bowen

Three pals.

VISITORS WELCOME

Two of our foster lambs have stayed at the farm, ready to welcome visitors. Loudmouth and Adventure Lamb really enjoy drinking from a bottle and will accept tummy rubs. Visitors of any age are welcome - you don't have to be accompanied by a child.

It creates a fine photo opportunity for a grandchild. Mornings or early evenings please. Ideally, call Sally first at 613 389-3444.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Sally Bowen giving bottles to two orphaned lambs.

BEACON ADS

Four New Ads This Month

Do you need extra help at your house or property?

Do you need someone to watch your house or animals while you go away?

For a hard-working individual you can trust, please call Scott Marshall

Home: 613-389-0554 or Cell: 613-545-5433

ELECTRICAL WORK done reasonably and professionally. 30yrs experience.

Call Cary 389-8327

FOR RENT January - March, 2013

1 1/2 storey house on south shore, huge windows, radiant heating, plus propane gas fireplace in loft and radiator at other end, ensuite bathroom off master bedroom, door from m.b. onto porch, second bedroom and bathroom, room in loft area for at least 3 other beds (2 double airbeds available), fabulous views in all directions, large open fully equipped kitchen. (photos available)

Call 613 389-7758

SPIDER SPRAYING, wasp removal and so on. Free estimates. Colin Brady, 613-634-6680.

AMHERST ISLAND CHIROPRACTIC

10650 Front Rd.

Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

For appointments call 613 328-8892

AMHERST ISLAND STORE

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

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

Sunday: closed

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

COTTAGE FOR RENT - North of Toronto

I have a family cottage near the Briars Park, Jackson's Point, Lake Simcoe north of Toronto. Does anyone know of someone interested in renting? I want renters who are 'recommended' - not strangers.

Sally 613 389-3444

Dave Meikle's

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We would like to thank our faithful sausage customers on Amherst Island for their continued support of our product.

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With Sincere Thanks

Lori Caughey & Family.

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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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Welcoming guests for over 30 years.

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During the season the Café will be open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and holiday Mondays from 8:30 am to 7:30 pm; open on Thursdays from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm. It will be closed on non-holiday Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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Open weekends and most weekday mornings.

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We also have lamb patties, and our own sausage for sale. For those who enjoy organ meat, we have kidneys and liver available also.

THE VILLAGE GALLERY

The Gallery will open on weekends and holiday Mondays from 10 am - 4 pm.

WANTED:

Island residents interested in putting up a booth at the Emerald Music Festival. Aug. 10th, 11th and 12th. Call Dan and Joan at 613 389-8297.

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The schedule of events for a most interesting series of five concerts is now available. For more information, call 613 384-2153 or visit

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THE WEASEL & EASEL and NEILSON STORE MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTRE

The Weasel and the Museum will be open 7 days a week, 1 - 4pm, except Saturdays, 10am - 4pm. Call 613 634-9512. There are many new and unusual items available.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Doug Martin with head chef Brian Little at the popular BBQ.

We've Got The Space... So A Couple More Garden Party Pictures



Photo by Terry Culbert

An antique cradle being put to good use.

ST. PAUL'S GARDEN PARTY

- Terry Culbert

With a 70% chance of thunder showers, it was obvious that the Right Reverend Doctor Zander Dunn and Father Don Bailey had something to do with it not happening. What a glorious day Saturday, July 28th was for the 64th annual St. Paul's Presbyterian Church garden party. Islanders and mainlanders walked the church ground, visiting the tea room, sampling homemade pies with ice cream and lunching at the world famous BBQ.

Inside the newly refurbished sanctuary, a magnificent quilt display was on view. There were used books, garden plants, home baking, entertainment, children's games and treasure tables.

Again this year... the silent and live auctions. Well done everyone.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Islanders and mainlanders mingle at the 64th annual garden party.



Photo by Terry Culbert

What would the garden party be without auctioneer Bruce Caughey and his support staff?



Photo by Terry Culbert

'The Islanders' just get better and better every time they perform.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Ed Mooney and his daughter Sheila.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Gord Miller and Barb Hogenauer served cold beverages.



Photo by Terry Culbert

An amazing collection of homemade quilts adorned the sanctuary.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

{Island Beacon: July 15, 1982 - Volume 3 Issue 54}

ISLAND NEWS

Get well wishes to Mr. Densem, Tena Filson, Eldon Willard, Imnants Amerik, Arthur Hinch, Bill Sippel, Moutray Wemp and George Mygind.

Work has started on the front road project again.

New homes are being built for Eric and Janice McGinn and Bob and Dianne Marshall.

Jan Milligan and Cathy Wilson, who are doing an oral history of the Island, have been welcomed to the P.C.W., A.C.W., and W.I. meetings. They are also interviewing several Island residents.

Some Island residents attended events held during Canada Week at Bath, such as the fish fry, strawberry social and ball tournament.

Gordon and Juanita Glenn entertained members of the Strain and Glenn families at a family reunion recently.

Teachers, students and parents enjoyed a closing of school picnic at Jack Kerr's residence and the Sunday School picnic was held at the Presbyterian Church after a service where the guest speaker was Rev. Allan Read, Bishop of Ontario.

Relatives of Annette Phillips and Christopher Willard attended their graduations from Community Colleges.

Phil and Liz Silver and boys have moved to their new residence on the lake shore and Dale Filson, Tracey and Hugh are moving to the house vacated by the Silvers.

A successful annual street dance was held by the Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday night. Dorothy Kilpatrick, Noreen Welbanks and Harold Belmont were among those who were lucky in the draws.

Doug Shurtliffe is now mate on B crew on the Amherst Islander and David Fleming is deck hand on A crew.

Vaughan McMullen and family have taken up residence in the Bruce Caughey house on the 3rd Concession. Glad to see Vaughan's "Chip Wagon" in operation again.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon from Clearwater, Florida, are visiting their daughter, Jane Miller and family.

Ed and Donna Chadband and Ted and Faye Wemp have returned from visits to Western Canada.

Relatives from Holland have been visiting at the homes of Hans and Hazel deHaan and Chester and Tina Tugwell.

Paul, Carol and John Glenn, Coppercliff, have been recent visitors at the homes of Les and Irene Glenn and the Millers.

Mr. and Mrs. Cadman are spending some time at their cottage on the Point, also Mr. and Mrs.

Tompkinson at their cottage.

Many others of our summer residents are enjoying a holiday here.

An enjoyable afternoon was held at the school in late June when members of Grade 8 and the Kindergarten class held their graduation exercises. A programme by the students was presented, awards given and beautifully decorated cakes and tea were served.

Chris Bustard, Laurie Willard and Pauli Bulch have completed their education at N.D.S.S. and will be attending St. Lawrence College, Kingston, in September.

THE AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Thelma Howard

The June meeting of the Amherst Island Women's Institute met at Mrs. Lulu Strain's home on June 16 at 8 p.m. The president, Mrs. Georgie Allison, opened the meeting in the usual manner with the Ode and Mary Stewart collect followed by O Canada. The Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Phyllis Strain, read the minutes and gave the financial statement. Correspondence was read.

The roll call was to bring a jar of preserves to be auctioned from which a profit of \$13.35 was made. The convenor of Agriculture, Mrs. Ena Baker, introduced Miss Tammy Jackson, the Lennox and Addington Dairy Princess and she chose as her topic her trip to Ottawa in April and met Her Majesty The Queen who was here on the occasion of the signing of the Proclamation of the Constitution Act 1982. She was accompanied by her husband His Royal Highness Duke of Edinburgh. Miss Jackson also gave a questionnaire on dairy products. She is also going to compete in the competition in Toronto in August. Mrs. Ena Baker thanked Tammy on behalf of the Institute and presented her with a small gift and then gave a contest on names of fabrics.

Then Jan Milligan and Cathy Wilson, the supervisors of the Oral History Project (1982) spoke to the ladies and explained just what they would be doing through the summer months here. They are going to be researching the history of the island. They are being sponsored by the Federal Government.

The draw on the quilt was drawn by Miss Tammy Jackson and won by Arthur Hitchins.

The meeting closed with the Grace and Queen and lunch was served by committee in charge.

FROM THE ARCHIVES continues

MEMORIES OF AMHERST ISLAND

- V. Garth Orchard

It is such a pleasure to read all the Island news in each issue of the Beacon we receive, that I thought it might be of some interest to its present readers to recall some of the pleasant memories of my early life there.

They could fill many instalments!

As a lad of fourteen, fresh out of high school, times were very hard in England, with few opportunities for good employment, so I opted for the promise of the new land of Canada. I was the youngest of a group of forty emigrant youths who were contracted to be placed with farmers here. After a stormy ten day crossing of the Atlantic, and a two day train ride, then a two mile walk from Ernestown station, I had my first glimpse of Amherst Island, only to find that there was no way across till the mail boat next day!

That was undoubtedly the loneliest moment of my life! Thousands of miles from the home and family I had left to seek my fortune in the New World, without any idea of the farm family I was directed to, or what the future held, I must have presented a forlorn spectacle! Then the friendliness of this new land took over. I was told to go to the Fred Wemp farm (now the Millhaven Inn where Mrs. Wemp served up the heartiest supper I could remember, then led me up to a deep feather bed, warmed by a hot brick out of her oven. If life in Canada was like this I was going to love it.

Next morning I woke with the sun and hurried out with Mr. Wemp to watch the morning milking and help with his chores. Breakfast seemed like a feast when Mrs. Wemp set down a dish of boiled eggs and a platter of bacon, saying "Dig in and eat hearty." (At that time, in England, eggs were sixpence each, and once a week we each had half an egg, as a treat!) It seemed certain then that my 84 lb. frame was soon due to expand.

As noon approached I met the mail boat at Millhaven, driven by Art Drumgoole, and was surprised to see him towing a flat platform built on oil drums, surrounded by a fence of farm gates. They backed this to the flimsy dock and carefully loaded a new 1929 Chev. car on to the 'Lighter'.

Tucking my bag, and a couple of sacks of mail in the boat, with a cheery "Hop in!", Art pulled out for the Island with a few curious onlookers grinning at the sight of the car riding the gentle waves, like a miniature dry-dock hooked to a tug.

I had made many small boat trips off the Welsh coast,

but never one quite like this. The bay was relatively calm and we landed safely at Neilson's dock, where several Stella residents waited curiously to see the unloading of the car. Art told me that this would probably be his last haul like this, because the Island was due to get a new ferry that summer which could carry four or five cars across the bay.

I must have presented a curious sight to the villagers also, with my school cap and short English pants!

William Hill was the farmer I had been directed to and he was at the store with his team and spring wagon to meet me. He suggested that the first thing should be to outfit me with suitable farm clothes. The Neilson store soon provided the right size of overalls, shirts, work boots and high rubber boots. These proved to be the most necessary item, as this had been a very wet spring, and the mud was a foot deep in the roads and barnyards. After loading groceries from the store, and a set of harrows being sharpened at Pringles blacksmith shop, (then opposite Neilson's store) we set out at a plodding pace for the Hill farm two miles up the Second Concession. This was my first ride behind a team of horses, and I soon learned how the name 'buckboard' came to be applied to a spring wagon!

Addressing my new employer politely as Mr. Hill, he laughed and said his 82 year old father was the only Mr. Hill, so just call him Willie. That ride sealed a friendship which lasted till his early death five years later. Whatever doubts he may have had about the suitability of this little pink cheeked English schoolboy for the heavy farm work, were kept to himself as he introduced me to his two sisters, Becky and Sarah, and his white bearded father in the rocking chair beside the stove.

I was welcomed into the home with a warmth I shall never forget, and their kindness made those first few homesick weeks bearable. I had to wait till my own letter telling of my arrival and new location reached England, before my family could reply. My first letter from home arrived a month later, and no mail was ever more welcome!

No time was lost in learning the meaning of 'Chores'. My jobs included cleaning out the cow and horse stables, pig pen and hen house. It was a real revelation to me to see how much good 'fertilizer' could be produced each day. Climbing up to the mow to throw down hay for the day's feed was fun after that. Then off to gather the eggs from all the curious places the hens found to lay. I gleefully reported that one hen had laid three eggs that day! There was plenty of teasing over my naive ignorance of farm life.

FROM THE ARCHIVES continues

But it didn't take long to catch the meaning of all the different farm expressions which sounded so confusing at first. Heifers 'Coming around' and 'Coming in' didn't necessarily refer to their wanderings! And the feisty rooster didn't deserve to be slaughtered just because he did nothing but chase the hens all day. Setting the 'broody' hens was a novel experience and the resulting flock of fluffy chickens were an endless source of delight for me. I marveled at the way each hen could collect her own little family from among that chirping throng.

There was nothing but sympathy though for the hen who hatched ten little ducks, then spent her days clucking frantically on the edge, while her brood frolicked in the muddy barnyard pool. How she ever stood the smell as they snuggled under her each night amazed me.

Milking was the hardest skill to learn. My hands seemed incapable of coaxing more than a trickle of milk from the uncooperative cow, who took one look around at me and promptly put her foot in the pail. But perseverance prevailed, and it wasn't long before I could milk three or four cows each day.

My greatest yearning was to drive a team in the field, but Willie felt I was a bit tender to stand walking behind the harrows all day, so had his brother-in-law out to help with the seeding. But I would hustle out to the fields at quitting time, for the chance to drive one of the teams in to the barn, and help unharness and feed them.

From the first day on the farm I was a confirmed horse lover and no work was too hard if it contributed to their comfort and well being. It was a pleasure to curry and pet them. Willie noticed this, and more and more allowed me to handle them, so that before Fall I was working my own team, and very proud of it.

Church union was a very hot issue at that time, with many neighbours bitterly divided between continuing Presbyterians and those who chose the United Church. It was hard for me to understand the cause of all this bitterness, but it was taken for granted that I would be a Presbyterian. My first Sunday on the Island I donned my little Eton jacket and striped pants, hitched up the grey mare to the buggy, and proudly drove to the beautiful church on the hill with Becky and Sarah. It was easy to see that few present had ever seen the Sunday dress of an English private school, so this proved quite novel. Rev. Laughland was the minister at that time, and showed considerable interest in my

emigration and background. My reception by the congregation was most warm and friendly. However, I never again wore my Sunday dress suit, which somehow seemed out of place in this simple country church.

AMHERST ISLAND FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

- Warren Kilpatrick

Due to the luck of having nice weather and a good crowd of people, Islanders and Mainlanders alike, the 4th annual Firefighters street dance was a great success this year. With good music from Evan Wills and good food from Vaughn McMullin, people stayed long into the morning. Also, prizes were handed out for the raffle and several spot dances were carried out. I will give a list of the raffle prize winners;

(1) Weedeater - won by Dorothy Kilpatrick

(2) Wood splitting axe - won by Noreen Welbanks

(3) 40 oz. fire extinguisher - won by Harold Belmont

(4) 26 oz. fire extinguisher - won by Tony deHaan.

I would like to thank everyone for coming out and supporting an Island function and also thank them for their kind donations which go to the Amherst Island Fire Department.

Hope to see you next year, second weekend in July.

Everyone welcome!

FAMILY REUNION

The Glenn and Strain families held a family reunion on June 27th at the home of Gordon and Juanita Glenn on Woodbine Road, Kingston Township. It gave the relatives the opportunity of meeting Robert, the five month old baby son of Francis and Lucy Glenn and Gordon's grandson, and to celebrate the birthday of Francis Glenn and Leslie Strain. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all at noon and the afternoon was spent visiting.

Those present were Francis, Lucy and Robert Glenn, Blenheim; Murray and Roberta Glenn, Ottawa; Maurice and Hazel Reynolds; Ron, Janet, Lori, and Jeffrey Hamilton, Trenton; Nancy and Jamie Innis, Belleville; Bob and Valerie Howard and Cathy Hitchins, Kingston; Chris Willard, Cornwall; Leslie Strain and Lillie Reynolds, Amherstview; Charlie and Thelma Howard; Marshall and Marion Glenn; Lloyd Phyllis, Trudy and Michael Strain; Earle, Donna, Laurie and Steven Willard; Lucille Brown and Barry and Lulu Strain, all of Amherst Island.

FROM THE ARCHIVES continues

Many thanks to Gordon and Juanita for their hospitality and the coffee cups made and presented to each family and cousin by Juanita.

{Island Beacon: August 15, 1982 - Volume 3 Issue 55}

A MEMORY

[Reprinted from the original newspaper article in 1958.]

AMHERST ISLAND CEMETERY RECALLS

FAMILY CHRONICLES

By Nanetta Glenn

Stella - At a recent funeral in Pentland Cemetery, on Amherst Island, some of the younger generation of Amherst Islanders saw for the first time the graves of their ancestors.

The latest dates to be seen are William H. Preston, 1931; Margaret Preston Scott, 1945, and Rev. Arthur P. Scott, 1954. These graves are near the entrance and so were accessible at that time. But from the time the Glenwood Cemetery was begun in 1886, with the burial of one named Sandy Glenn, on the hill by the Presbyterian Church, the older cemetery gradually became neglected.

By 1950 it was a brave person who would try to get far into the dense underbrush to locate family graves. About that time, Rev. Arthur Scott decided to restore this historic site. He interested the township council and since his death in 1954 the council has seen that the project was carried on. Ernest Wolfreys and Sheridan Patterson have done most of the work. Many stones were broken, and on some the lettering could not be deciphered. As many as possible have been repaired and placed as near their original positions as possible.

The oldest stone is in memory of a Pendleton child who died in 1831. Some say the cemetery was meant to be named "Pendleton". But there is another early grave marked "Mary J. Pentland, died September 16, 1837, aged 39 years," which seems to explain why the name "Pentland Cemetery" is used.

The old stones are full of interest. So many of them tell a story. Or give you a clue to a story so you want to find out the rest of it. So many died young. You wonder why. It couldn't have been car accidents in those days.

Two stones tell of sailing accidents: One reads: "Robert Stanley Burleigh, died August 18, 1865, by a fall from the topmast of the schooner, Star of Hope, aged 24 years." Another in the same plot reads "John Lyndhurst Burleigh, who was drowned in Lake Michigan, August 29, 1870, aged 34 years." From

family stories we know he was washed overboard in a storm.

Many verses on the stones are intriguing. One I studied for a long time and got all but one line:

:Pause, stranger, pause, nor lightly read,

- - - - - shed

The severed bough the withered leaf
Here shrouded in perennial grief
For moistened with the orphan's tear
The Widower's hope lies buried here."

Another, erected to Hugh Polley in 1857, who died at the age of 40, reads:

"A ransomed sinner rests beneath,
Who surely triumphed over death;
Wash'd in a Saviour's precious blood,
Stamp'd with the Image of his God,
Clothed with the saints all glorious dress,
A Saviour's spotless righteousness."

In the centre of the cemetery in a plot marked off by metal railings are the graves of Daniel Fowler and his family. He was a Canadian artist who chose a quiet life on Amherst Island rather than the life he might have had as head of the Art Gallery in Toronto. Near him lies his son, Reginald Fowler, 1845-1923, who became a member of parliament. And in the same group, Annie Rothwell Christie, 1837-1927 whose poetry gained her a place in the book "Important Men and Women of Our Time," published in 1890.

The story of Richard Rothwell beside Mrs Christie's would be unusual among those of today. It reads: "Called suddenly All Saints' Eve, 1874."

Other plots enclosed by chains or railings are Howards, Hitchins, Morrows, Wellers and Macintoshes.

In walking through the cemetery the number of children's graves strikes you. And from comments made by older residents it seems there are many children buried there whose graves were never marked. Most of the stones tell the child's age in years, months, and days, and many have touching verses. One beautifully shaped little stone is an example:

Annie V. Kirk

Died, October 17, 1879.

Aged 1 Yr., 7 Mos. and 1 Day

"The little one but tasted

The cup of pain and woe;

And then away she hasted

Where joys unceasing flow."

A stone in one of the Glenn plots bears the names of five children who died in 1882. There is no explanation there, but many islanders know the story of the family

FROM THE ARCHIVES continues

that was almost wiped out with diphtheria. This story and many others come to mind, and many family relationships are figured out, when time is taken to study the old stones.

As so many people commented after Mr. Gibson's funeral, a wonderful renovation job has been done. Neglected much longer, it would not have been possible, and much local history would have been lost. To quote Lady Tweedsmuir: "After all, it is the history of humanity which is continually interesting to us, and village histories will be the basis of accurate facts much valued by historians of the future."

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AUG. 4, 1982

- Ian Murray

1. A delegation headed by Myrtle Veech voiced complaints about some irregularities in the car "line ups" on the mainland side. The ferry manager, James Neilson, promised to mention the problem to the ferry captains and crews.
2. Lloyd Clare discussed with Council a possible presentation to the Minister of Agriculture and Food for Ontario, Denis Timbrell. Mr. Timbrell is planning a visit to the island on Friday August 13.
3. The township building inspector, Norman Allison, brought to Council's attention several violations of the zoning by-law. Bruce Caughey Sr. discussed with Council a possible zoning conflict on his village lot. (Lot 2, North Shore Concession). The problem of enforcement of Township by-laws was discussed.
4. Township Council officially hired legal counsel to negotiate with the Ontario Public Service Employees' union (representing the non-managerial staff of the ferry and road crews).
5. Council discussed the progress of the Development Road.
6. Councillor Glenn reported that the dump was in the worst condition that he's seen it in years. A clean-up will be done as soon as possible.
7. Council discussed the drinking and rowdyism at the recent softball tournament. No resolutions were put forth.
8. Council considered the Ministry of Natural Resources' "Land Use Strategy" for this area. A resolution was passed to the effect that no more wetlands are wanted on Amherst Island.

FORMER RESIDENT PRAISES GARTH ORCHARD'S ARTICLE

-R. Keith Earls

Your issue we received to-day was excellent. Garth Orchard's article on his arrival on the Island is exquisitely written and like himself entirely genuine. Not long after my own arrival as minister of St. Paul's I found him active in the church and later his brother Keith and then the Orchards Sr. arrived. The family had their first family meal on the manse lawn, kindness of neighbours and with Lake Ontario glistening to the south.

Garth has made a success of his life and has been back to his homeland and a number of other places of note, but he has retained an appreciation that is rare and valuable commodity in days of haste and expediency.

His friends remain in that category, even those of us who seldom see him and his family, but recall his many kindnesses and cheery approach to the varied problems of life.

CHAPTER TWO

- Garth Orchard

The winter of 1929-30 was known as the "bad ice year". Although the bay froze over as usual around New Years, mild and changeable weather caused many weak areas and bad cracks so that only ice-boats or very light rigs could cross. Consequently supplies of all heavier goods could not be brought in. Coal was the first to run out, followed closely by flour and sugar, then supplies of coal oil for lamps gave out, so that many residents had to go to bed with the sun, or sit in the dark! The few cars that were around were laid up for want of gasoline. The situation was becoming serious by the end of January, and finally Neilsons chartered the ice-breaker tug Salvage Prince from Kingston to tow a barge load of coal and needed goods through the ice to their dock. Most of the population were on hand to see the landing and help unload the precious supplies. It was a day of relieved rejoicing in Stella.

I had my first scary experience of ice crossing that month, when it was necessary to get a doctor from the mainland for old Mr. Hill. Willie let me undertake the trip, since I was the lightest weight.

We hitched our smallest mare to a light two-seater racing cutter and I struck out for Bath. Much of the ice was 'glare black' where you could see the thickness by the depth of tiny cracks which formed as you drove over the flimsy surface. From two inches down to one

FROM THE ARCHIVES continues

inch, which I was told was the absolute minimum to take the weight of a horse. But our old mare was really ice wise (she had been through the ice before and rescued), and trotted gingerly around the worst spots. Dr. Northmore was known as a keen judge of ice conditions, and met me outside the big dock in Bath harbour. He never refused even the most perilous crossing, and the Islanders really respected the simple efficiency and quiet courage of this dedicated doctor. We made the trip to the Island and back to Bath safely, but I learned more about ice conditions from Doc. Northmore that day than any other time. It always amazed me to observe the nonchalant acceptance by most Islanders, of the dangers of ice crossing. Each season they would keep driving across until someone went through, and there have been several tragedies over the years.

February turned very cold with snow piled high in all the roads. There was no attempt at winter car travel in those days, and where the roads filled up, farmers would just cut the fence and drive through the fields.

After each heavy snowfall it was the duty of various farmers to break a track with their team and sleigh for the mailman, who had to make his deliveries by horse and cutter along the concession roads each day. The mailman was our only contact with the outside world, and a determined, faithful, and obliging man he was! Just a phone call to the store for a badly needed item would see it delivered to your mailbox along with the Whig-Standard and the Farmers Advocate, which provided the only reading around the coal oil lamp each evening, along with Eaton's catalogue. The most exciting day was when the mailman dropped off the expected parcel from Eaton's. You gloated over every goodie you had admired in the catalogue picture, and never minded when they "substituted with a higher priced item at the same price, rather than disappoint you".

One thing that always amused me with the girls at the Orange Hall dances. One would glare at her rival in a new dress and mutter "Huh! Eaton's, page 79 - \$5.98" They knew them all by heart. Even the material in the pretty homemade dress was expertly appraised, "Looks pretty good for \$1.69 a yard"

My parents had taught me basic needlework in England, so, with long winter evenings to fill, I ordered a bundle of quilting patches, and started cutting and sewing the pieces for a Dresden Plate quilt. When the front pieces were all assembled, Becky got out an old

quilting frame, and arranged with a few of the church ladies for a quilting bee to help finish it, and this quilt has been used in my family ever since. Now faded and thinning the stitches have stood the test of time for over half a century; my only remaining souvenir of those happy Island days.

My Dad had written that he was coming out to try for a job in Toronto, and find a house, once he was established, for the rest of the family to join him. So on a crisp 25 below zero day in February, Willie and I drove to Ernestown with the team and sleigh to meet him. With a light English topcoat and a fedora hat, Dad was ill prepared for a Canadian winter. But we bundled him into an old "coon coat" and the overshoes and Yukon cap I had brought, and we settled down in the straw of the sleigh box, covered with a big buffalo robe.

Dad was fascinated with this wildly different mode of travel, and I can still hear his delighted "Oops" every time the sleigh dropped into a snowy pothole. We spent a few grand days of companionship before he continued on to Toronto. That winter had seen the great market crash of '29, and the beginning of the great depression here, so he was very fortunate in finding work in his trade, and saving hard to have the family re-join him, which they did the following Fall.

Due to lack of funds for his fare, my younger brother had to wait till later in the Spring of '31.

Our next door neighbour, Perc. Tugwell, needed a helper, so I arranged for Keith to go to him, when he arrived, under a similar deal to my own entry. Being within sight, we used our Boy Scout training to signal messages to each other. We spent many happy hours around the piano which was Bessie Tugwell's pride and joy. We all loved to sing, and Bessie had a great library of old songs. This was the first chance I had to pick out tunes on the piano, by ear, which seemed somehow to come naturally to me, and was the start of the musical hobby which has always been a great joy. At an auction that year, a piano manual pump organ came up for sale. I desperately wanted to buy it, and many knew this, so no one bid against me, and it was knocked down to me for \$20, which was all I had. I proudly moved it into the Hill parlour and spent many happy evenings coaxing my feeble interpretations of music from it.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

- Bev, Pauli, Jan and Cathy

We're winding up the Amherst Island Oral History Project (1982) this month and want to thank all those who have made it a pleasure for us to be part of this

FROM THE ARCHIVES continues

summer experience. The main purpose of our project was to preserve the recollections of older Islanders that were not often recorded in writing. We asked people about things like their first job, picnics at Sand Beach, and Saturday nights in Stella. These fifty tape-recorded interviews will be deposited in the Lennox and Addington County Museum and most may be used by anyone interested.

[Editor: unfortunately this has turned out to be untrue. Privacy rules now require written permission from everyone whose voice is on a particular tape. Or, if a person is dead, from the heirs. Had Sally and I known of these restrictions, the tapes would never have been made, or if made, not given to the County Museum.]

We apologize for phoning you in the midst of haying or berry picking, but we wanted to talk to as many Islanders as possible. In particular, we'd like to thank the following people for their hospitality and interesting information: Edna Reid, Jack and Madlyn Kerr, Earnest and Gen Fleming, Nessie and Francis Welbanks, Lulu Strain, Kathleen Wemp, Evelyn Taylor, Bob and Emily Tugwell, Tena Filson, Stirling and Madelaine Glenn, Francis Brown, Bertha Beaubien, Edna and Eva Glenn, Fred and Nellie Neilson, Bessie Tugwell, Gladys Martin, Les and Irene Glenn, Art and Violet Wemp, Gordon and Georgie Reid, Clarence and Alice Hogeboom, Bert Glenn, Peachie Eves, Kenneth Miller, Syl Apps, Sam Reid, David Willard, Arnold Smith, Annie Clyde, Estella Sharp, Henry and Anna Hitchins, Edwin MacDonald, Edgar Lockett, Gordon and Ada Filson, Morrison Scott, Muriel Glenn, Jessie Ellerbeck, Helen and Bruce Caughey, Nerve Drumgoole, Annie Kilpatrick, Helen Bulch, the P.C.W., A.C.W., and Women's Institute and anyone else we have spoken to since then.

In addition to the interviews, we made various trips to Kingston and Napanee to search through traditional sources. We collected information from the census, assessment roll and land registry abstracts for our 1881 farm profile. From the invaluable old scrapbooks, photos, diaries that you shared with us, we have put together a "Walking Tour" of Stella. We carefully looked through Dr. Burleigh's papers, interesting old clippings from the British Whig and Daniel Fowler's diary. Our office in the public school is full of other odds and ends and we encourage you to come and see what we have done.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

- Ian Murray

A one year Beacon subscription costs \$6.15. There are now, says Lynn Fleming, 26 subscriptions.

Money received from Beacon sales in excess of production costs has purchased a typewriter, & a duplicating machine. Recently a \$125.00 donation was made to the Amherst Island Oral History (1982) project.

FROM AUGUST ISSUE OF AGRI-NEWS

The Holstein-Friesian Association has announced that the top Holstein herd in Lennox and Addington County for 1981 belongs to James and Mary Neilson of Amherst Island.

The Neilson herd had a composite B.C.A. on 25 records of 161.5 with a herd average of 7687 kg. milk per cow.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE VISITS AMHERST ISLAND

- Ian Murray

Keith Norton, M.L.A., brought his colleague, Dennis Timbrell, Minister of Agriculture, to the Island to meet with local farmers.

Both Mr. Norton and Mr. Timbrell handled themselves with the grace and diplomacy of the successful professional politician.

Several island farmers made presentations to Mr. Timbrell regarding problems in local agriculture. Tensions between those for and against the Miller Municipal Drain were not alleviated during this meeting.

Mr. Norton and Mr. Timbrell were lunch guests at the home of Anna and Henry Hitchins.

RESCUE

Captain Bill Bulch would like to thank Raymond and Mark Wemp for responding to a call for help in the wee hours of the morning on July 31st to tow the Amherst Islander to the dock when the ferry lost power as it approached the Stella dock.

FROM THE ARCHIVES ends (and so does this issue)