

Amherst Island

BEACON



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Issue 413

December 2012

**The Amherst Island
BEACON
Issue 413
December 2012**

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THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

This is the last issue that will be available at the Store or at the red box. As I mentioned in the last Beacon: "I have become increasingly discouraged by having to guess how many Beacons to put in the General Store or red box."

A householder mail to all Island residences will be circulated before the year's end letting our readers

know that future Beacon issues will only be available through either mailed subscription or e-subscription.

The Latin motto above came about through the efforts of our seasonal neighbour George Kapelos and his friend John.

The official Beacon translation of this motto is: good news gladly; sad news reluctantly; and, bad news never.



AMHERST ISLAND MENS SOCIETY
Presents
NEW YEARS EVE
Monday, December 31, 2012
6:00 PM—Next Year
A. I. Community Centre
\$35.00 / Person
For tickets call Victoria Cuyler at
613-634-0628

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lynn Fleming

Get well wishes to Grace Eves and Keith McGinn

Condolences to Mayor Bill Lowry and family, on the recent passing of his wife

Donna Willard travelled to London, Paris and Vienna with her son Steven.

Dave Meikle and Tara Kennedy spent a week in Cocoa Beach, FL.

Leslie Gavlas visited Nova Scotia to spend time with son John and his family.

Congratulation to Keith Miller, who was the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, awarded at a ceremony at the Strathcona Paper Centre in Nananee.

Congratulations to Talia Fleming, who was one of two students selected, from her Bio Technology course at St. Lawrence College, to go to Africa for 3 weeks in May, 2013. Talia will be working in the field, as well as the lab, working on the genetics of Rhinoceros and other African wildlife.

The big marsh, south of Third concession & north of South Shore Rd., burnt recently. It has been years since it has burnt off. I remember hearing years ago, about the marsh being burnt off almost annually - which apparently made for great cranberry picking in the fall. Fire departments from Bath and Odessa assisted the Amherst Island Fire Department in battling the blaze. Luckily the fire was kept away from homes and farm buildings.

Nights are getting frosty, but the sunshine has kept the days bright and cheery. Snow is in the forecast tho' for early December. The swans are back at the Foot of the Island, with close to 100 one afternoon in late November. I have seen a bald eagle fly along the shore, past the school, twice recently. The snowbirds have begun to make preparations for their migration south.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Liz Harrison

There it was in my horoscope on November 21: "According to the planets you need to lighten up a little and the best way to do that is in the company of some of your way out friends.

They'll make you laugh". I knew that I was already on the right track as that was the date of the November A.I.W.I. meeting and the annual Christmas craft session. There was a good turnout at St. Paul's church hall on a fine evening and we welcomed two new members: Debbie Barrett who, with her husband Bill, has just moved into the house that was owned by Robin and Gene Carr; and, Andrea Cross who wasn't able to make the meeting but did officially join. As I mentioned last month membership of W.I. is

declining province-wide so we are fortunate to be expanding.

The business part of the meeting moved along quickly with final arrangements made for the Seniors' Christmas dinner on December 2 and the Christmas cookie exchange on November 24. (Unfortunately, this latter event wasn't as well attended as we had hoped so if we decide to host another next year we will change the format somewhat.) We would love it to become an annual event for all Islanders. The Financial Committee was pleased to announce that our donation to A.I.P.S has been used to buy a lap-top computer for the junior

classroom to be used in conjunction with the smart board. When the computer has been programmed by the Limestone District School Board we hope to have an opportunity to see it in use as most of us are of a "certain age" and haven't encountered smart boards before. We then welcomed Mary Kay who will be President for the next five months and thanked Claire (in her absence) for her excellent leadership over the past six months.



Here is a photo of the A.I.W.I clean-up crew, poke sticks at the ready as they prepare to tackle the garbage littering County Rd 4 on November 2. (l to r) Joyce Haines, Jackie Sylvester, Liz Harrison, Jim (county road clean-up co-ordinator), Sharen English, Judy Bierma. The photographer is John Harrison who also provided support as gopher and driver.



Photo by Brian Little

Having been suitably refreshed by the delicious goodies provided by Nancy Dunn and Marilyn Pilon we braced ourselves to tackle the annual Christmas craft session organized and demonstrated by the ever patient and helpful Jackie Sylvester. Half an hour later the table was adorned with a flock of sheep sporting red and green bows. One or two of them resembled llamas while others looked like Ryelands or Wensleydales. Expect to see them on Christmas trees or tables at the homes of members. This kind of shared activity certainly encourages "way out" behaviour and laughter, just what my horoscope recommended

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

Just what are those black and white ducks?

This time of year the ducks and swans from northern breeding areas stop here on their migration south and some stay as long as we have open water. One of the best ways to see and compare the varieties of ducks is during those times when the ice freezes on the South Shore but leaves small open ponds of water here and there in the lake ice. Into these ponds come hundreds of ducks all crowded together in order to have open water available. Now comes your part! Can you identify the different ducks? Just to add a glitch to this game of "Name That Duck", the females don't always look like the males.

One of the most common is the Greater Scaup, known as Bluebill by local duck hunters. You might see 30,000 off the shores of Prince Edward Point or the east end of Amherst Island. Scaup males have dark heads and breasts, white sides, grey backs and dark sterns. Their heads are actually green but the light has to be just right to catch that. They appear to be a black and white duck at a distance. The females are easier to identify as Scaup because they have white over their bills. To me it looks like a kid took some white play dough and draped it over their bills. They are all brown. There are Lesser Scaup mixed in with these black and white ducks. Their heads are more pointed at the back corner, otherwise looking black and white like the Greater Scaup but an inch and a half smaller. Some

books say they have a burgundy cast to their heads. I haven't seen it yet but in Sibley's guide to birds it states that both kinds of Scaup may show green or purple gloss. Scaup talk away to each other in these large flocks so ask Sharen English or Bev Harris if you can visit and listen to the "Scaup Talk". You can always say that a little bird told you! Scaup arrive in November and leave in May.

Bonnie Livingstone's favourite duck is the Bufflehead, known locally as Butterball. This is a completely black and white duck and is only 13 inches long and weighs about 13 ounces. Their heads backs and sterns are black with white sides and a white spot on the side of the head. Males during display puff up this white spot to extend to the back of their heads and females are dull all over with an oval white patch on their cheeks. They are diving ducks and bounce on top of waves like little corks. It nests across Canada - Yukon to Northern Ontario - but 5 nestings have been discovered in our area and it is small enough to nest in a Woodpecker hole. Migrants arrive in November and

hang out here as long as the water is open returning to the North in May.

I saw my first Goldeneye this month (November) as they were beginning to gather. They also

breed in the North and arrive here around October 20th and leave in May although a hen with chicks was discovered in the Gananoque area in 1994. Locally these birds are called Whistlers because of the whistling noise you hear when the flock takes off. Goldeneye do have a golden coloured eye and appear like another black and white duck in the lake. The male's head may show a green gloss, the female quite reddish. The male has white sides with dark back and stern and when it flies there are white patches on the wing. You may see cross black bars on this wing patch when it flies. The female has a dull brown back and sides but as the winter passes she gets a yellow tip to her beak. Flocks of as many as 3000 have been seen off Amherst Island.

The fifth black and white duck for today's lesson is called the Long-tailed Duck. It also appears black and white and hangs around Amherst between November and May. In January of 2000, 155,685 were reported at Prince Edward Point. They gather in larger flocks in April as they prepare to fly north and argue about when

**Sunday, December 16 at 7 p.m. at
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church:
An Old Fashioned Christmas Carol Sing.
Come, join us, sing and enjoy the music!
Everybody welcome. No Offering!
Refreshments to follow in the hall**

to go as they sleep in huge rafts of ducks off the South Shore. You can hear them grumbling, “Is it time to go” and “Not yet, dear” Female Long-tailed Ducks have tear shaped white around their eyes but as the winter progresses the male gets whiter and whiter showing white right down the back of his head and darker feathers around his eye. The males have grey and white sides with black tails and breasts. They molt almost continually so birds with different amounts of darker feathers may be in the same flock. Wemp’s Bay is a good place to see Long-tailed Ducks with their elegant tail feathers.

Thanks to Leslie Gavlas I have the loan of a scope and this allows me to look into a mixed raft of black and white ducks and sort them out. These are not the only ducks to see of course as three different Scoters, Redheads, Canvasbacks, three kinds of Mergansers, Ring-necked, Harlequin and Ruddy Ducks can be seen but it is a start! Before moving to the Island I knew Mallards and that was about all, but thirty years of Duck watching has opened a wonderful world of colours, behaviours and sounds. Bird watching goes on in the winter too.

THE AMHERST ISLANDER

- Lynn Fleming

Back in 2002, I wrote an article for the Beacon with an update on the whereabouts of the Amherst Islander ferry and what she was up to. At the time she was on her way from Kingston to Leamington/Kingsville docks, at the west end of Lake Erie. The Jjimann ferry to Pelee Island had broken down and they needed a backup. After several breakdowns on the trip through Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, she did make it and made many one & a half hour trips to Pelee Island. She was later sold to a private owner, had a short lived B-movie career (in a zombie movie!), and retired to the Port Dover harbour, where she has sat quietly for many years. The Amherst Islander was

sold this past summer, to a supermarket and supply company in Honduras. She will be travelling between mainland Honduras and the island of Roatan. I have been exchanging emails with Don Hart, in Port Dover, who has followed the boat’s progress this past summer and fall.



Photo courtesy of Lynn Fleming
The Amherst Islander in the Welland Canal.

Captain Xavier Tobie arrived in Port Dover on June 22nd to negotiate the purchase (about \$107,000) and prepare the vessel for its trip to Honduras. That proved to be more work than had been anticipated, as the vessel had been sitting inactive in the harbour for so long. Many of the systems required a lot of work to be brought back into working order. Transport Canada and the Coast Guard required a long list of work to be done, before it would be permitted to begin its

passage. Major repairs were done on one of the two generators, the fire pump, the boiler, etc. All glass on the main deck area had to be covered with wood, as it was not tempered and could be broken on the open sea. The windows on the wheelhouse had to be provided with hinged plywood panels which could be raised in rough seas.

Captain Tobie had a near death experience in the Gulf of Mexico, four years ago, while delivering a vessel from Alabama to Honduras. Caught in Hurricane Arthur, the ship sank, throwing the 3 crew into the gulf. Tobie had only a fender with a short piece of line to hold onto. He drifted 65km in 24 hours before being rescued. For him, this was a life changing experience. Don mentions this because he became very involved in his faith, joining a church in Simcoe when he arrived in June. Much of the work on the Islander was done by

volunteers from his church community - plumbers, electricians, hydraulic mechanics, and others who were able to provide labour.

Eventually, in late October the ferry was able to pass the last inspection by Transport Canada and the Coast Guard. The 3 crewmen arrived from Honduras and the Amherst Islander was ready to go, leaving Port Dover at 9 a.m. on October 31st for the



Photo courtesy of Lynn Fleming
... going through the Welland Canal.

entrance to the Welland Canal.

Arriving in Port Colbourne, the steering broke once again and it remained there for a week while repairs were made to the pump for the hydraulic system. Repairs were successful and she entered the canal system at midnight, on November 7th. After travelling half way through the system, the steering failed completely, and the *Islander* came close to being crushed by a large freighter that was also passing through the system.

She then spent the next several days tied to the east wall, just south of lock 7. The hydraulic pump was taken back to Port Dover to be rebuilt, pressure tested and re-installed in the vessel on November 10th, and continued the journey later that day. On November 12th, I received word that the *Islander* had passed between Wolfe Island and Cape Vincent, N.Y. at 11 a.m. It was finally on its way through the St. Lawrence Seaway. Just east of Gananoque, the trip came to a halt yet again, when the steering failed – again - and the ship almost ran aground. So, the *Amherst Islander* was towed into a Clayton, N.Y. marina, where it sat once again being repaired. Kim and Duncan Ashley and family visited the boat & crew and, toured the ferry that Kim once worked on, while it was under repair in Clayton. Many things had changed - but many things hadn't!

The last word I had, was that it left Clayton early the morning of November 20th.

The trip to Honduras is expected to take 28-35 actual travel days. The planned route is through the St. Lawrence Seaway, around Gaspé, through the Canso Strait and canal (between Cape Breton and the Nova Scotia mainland), and down the east coast (50 km offshore), through the Caribbean Sea to Roatan, Honduras. Fuel economy is of major concern, hence the 5.7 knots at 1300rpm. The only planned stop for fuel is possibly Halifax, with several other options for refueling along the American east coast. The captain is also working with a very minimal budget.

The ferry is still named the *Amherst Islander*, and

there are mixed messages whether it will be renamed, or remain the same, once it reaches Honduras where it will go into dry dock, be sandblasted and painted before returning to service.

The entire crew is anxious to get home, especially with the arrival of colder weather. Captain Tobie is especially anxious to get home as he has been gone 5 months already and his father passed away a month ago while he was preparing to start the voyage.

For those of us who remember riding the *Amherst Islander* in November gales, in a relatively sheltered channel, I can't imagine the 'old girl' in open seas. I have real concerns for the crew and their safety. Maybe some prayers

would be in order for their safe arrival in Honduras.

Don has provided me with dozens of photos, besides the ones in this issue, that I would be happy to share with anyone interested. I also have much more information regarding the ferry itself and the crew. I'd like to thank Don Hart, for all of the information and photos he has sent our way. He has promised to keep me updated on the ferry's progress as he hears. The *Amherst Islander* was part of Island life for more than 45 years, and there are many who would remember when she arrived here in 1955.



Photo courtesy of Lynn Fleming
The breakwater built on the deck.



Photo courtesy of Lynn Fleming
The Wheelhouse

The ferry didn't get away from Clayton, N.Y. until Friday, November 23rd, as they had to wait for a wire transfer of funds to cover expenses for the remainder of the trip.

1:45 p.m., November 26th. Don writes "Just got off the phone with Tobie - they have already passed Quebec City, and have most of the Ile d'Orléans in the rear view mirror! Tobie said they caught the tide correctly through the Q.C.

area, making 10 knots. However, the tide is now coming upriver, and with the same engine rpm's, doing all of 3.5 knots. Things will now improve as the river widens past Ile d'Orléans. The difficult, busy navigation is now behind them."

QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIAMOND JUBILEE AWARD

- Terry Culbert

Retired dairy farmer Keith Miller of Amherst Island's Second Concession was honoured November 15th with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal at the Strathcona Paper Centre in Napanee. Nominations were solicited from the general public and a fair selection process was set up so that the most deserving individuals would receive a medal. Special consideration was given to individuals whose record of public, community, or military service most closely resembled the kind of service shown by the Queen herself.

Mr. Miller received a medal for his long history of concerning himself with the welfare and prosperity of his community and has promoted many farming and other causes with local and higher levels of government. He is a patient teacher who has personally instructed many on conservation-conscious disposal of waste.

Fourteen recipients received the medal from Scott Reid, MP and Randy Hillier, MPP, representing Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington County.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Keith Miller receives the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal from Member of Parliament Scott Reid.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Randy Hillier MPP looks on as Shirley Miller fixes her husband Keith's hair following the presentation.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Family and friends gather around the proud medal recipient Keith Miller.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DECEMBER 2012

- Janet Scott

Once again Bonnie Livingstone and I invite you to join us for the Christmas Bird Count. This year it will be held on Friday, December 28th from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. There is no longer a \$5.00 fee to take part, it's free. It is completely volunteer and lunch is provided.

About 25 people gather from across the Kingston region and meet at the Community Centre to start. We divide them into groups trying to have at least 2 cars in each group in case of mechanical difficulties. Some years it can be very cold. Each group has 1 or 2 very experienced birders to head up the group. Groups cover an assigned route and then return to the school for lunch and preliminary tallies. My son Alex and Bonnie have worked together to create a check list electronically that makes adding up species and numbers easier. When I started everything was by hand and you mailed in tally sheets. I'm not that great with electronic reporting but learning all the time.

If you want to work on a route just show up by 8 a.m., if you would rather watch your feeder that day then keep a running tally and record species and highest number at one time. For instance if 1 Blue Jay came 15 times we could only count 1 but if you looked out and saw 15 Blue Jays at once then the species number would be 1 but the tally 15. Just phone me 613-389-4608 with your results.

All over North and South America for the three weeks around the Christmas holidays these counts take place. It's the largest citizen run research project in the world.

OUR DOINGS

- Judy Bierma

Anthony and I are staying at Janet Scott's on the Third Concession. She very kindly took us in for the months in between Stella's Café closing and heading for the Bahamas. We stay at my sister Joan's and Dan's too, on the Island. It's been a slow / fast / relaxed / stressed / grounding / transitional time. I have been doing a few talks at the Women's Institute and the Presbyterian Women's group asking for money for my Braille in the Bahamas people. I got enough monies to purchase a new Perkins Braille and some other

supplies for the people I work with in the Bahamas who are blind. If you have any donations let me know and I'll arrange to pick them up.

I purchased cross-stitching supplies for the Home Ec. teacher at Orphanage #4 in Moldova from donations I got from my Coffee Group that I go to in the Bahamas at Unexco. I like to send her needles, linen, embroidery threads and cross-stitch patterns each year.

If you have materials to donate contact me and I'll arrange to pick them up. If you want any more information about the young girls in

the Orphanage in Moldova let me know. Ula Stief will be translating a letter that I have written to the Home Ec. teacher into Russian. Thanks Ula.

The third group I am working with is the Seniors at West End and Unwed mothers in Freeport with my friend Val. We are teaching knitting. I picked up a bunch of fancy wools and some knitting needles for that project and will carry them down in my suitcases when I head for the Bahamas. I'll be glad to accept donations for this too. I have pictures of us knitting so if you want to know more about these projects let me know.

I have lots of pics of our new granddaughter Loa and old pics of Amherst Island, etc.



Picture courtesy of Amherst Roofing

Terry McGinn of Amherst Island has retired after 43 years of working with Amherst Roofing and Sheet Metal as a sheet metal supervisor. We at Amherst Roofing will miss him and thought that the attached photo would go nicely in the Beacon. (From Amy H. at Amherst Roofing).

From Left Front Row: Jordan Gilchrest, Larry McGinn, Kelly McGinn, Eric McGinn, Steve Vivian, Terry McGinn, Peter Harding, Kyle Harding, Ryan McGinn

Second Row from left: Colin VanHaften and Tony DeHaan

I have a book club on the Island once a month, Yoga with Tagget on Tuesdays, Zumba on Thursdays, Choir on Thursdays and Sundays, some bicycling, collecting, splitting and piling wood with Joan and Dan, walking, birding, milking cows with Mike Walhout, visiting and enjoying homemade food.

Life is Good.

Catch me up on your news.

Love to hear from you.

AUTHENTIC CANADIAN TOURS

– Terry Culbert

Authentic Canadian Tours of Toronto visited Amherst Island on Saturday, November 17th. Murray Shields, owner and tour co-ordinator enjoys our Island and this was his third visit in the past year. Travelling in a small, comfortable bus, Murray's agenda includes a tour of CJAI Island Radio, the Neilson Store Museum, Weasel & Easel and the Owl Woods. Murray's next Amherst Island tour is scheduled for January 12th, 2013.

www.authenticcanadiantours.ca



Photo by Terry Culbert

More than two dozen Authentic Canadian Tour clients visit CJAI Island Radio.

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From 25th Council Meeting - October 22nd

Duncan Ashley offered belated congratulations to Ray and Zelma Koenders who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on October 11, 2012.

From 26th Council Meeting - November 12th

“Moved by Councillor Ashley and seconded by Councillor Hegadorn that the Assistant to the Clerk's report, November 2, 2012 re: Ameriks Scholarship

Fund be received and that each of the following applicants receive \$364.54 of the donations and interest accrued from the joint funds:

Applicants:

Anna Albertan

(Trent University)

Ashley McGinn

(Queen's University)

David Albertan

(St. Lawrence College)

Benjamin Whitton

(University of Western Ontario)

Brooke Reid

(St. Lawrence College)

Daniel Little (Carleton University)

Katherine Little (Nipissing University)

Melinda Laing (Canadore College)

Talia Fleming (St. Lawrence College)

Motion carried.”

Here are the sources of the funds given to the students: Gian & Pat Frontini, \$2000; AIMS, \$500; Gowan and Gowan Corporation, \$250 and \$250 to the capital fund; AIWI, \$300; John and Elizabeth Harrison, \$50 to the capital fund; and \$230.88 interest from the capital fund.

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Moved by Councillor Ashley and seconded by Councillor Ivey that the letter of September 21, 2012 from the Association to Protect Amherst Island be forwarded to the Planner for comments regarding the status of road allowances, both open and closed, and the municipality's rights and obligations to provide Public and Private access to these road allowances pursuant to the Municipal Act and the Green Energy Act and any other Act that applies. Motion carried.



Photo by Terry Culbert

A Toronto tour bus arrives on board the Frontenac II.

From 27th Council Meeting - November 26th
From Report: Proposed Road Use Agreement - re:
Algonquin Power Inc. -
Amherst Island Wind Project by Dave Thompson,
Director of Engineering Services:

“It is expected that there will be 33 turbine sites located on private property. To construct these turbines, approximately 400 oversized heavy haul truck loads will be required to transport the turbine components to these sites. In addition to the turbine components, construction vehicles and materials will be transported on flat bed trailers or bulk material carriers along the proposed transport routes.

Approximately 11,000 truck loads are anticipated for transportation of equipment and materials. Counting the return trips, this equates to approximately 666 heavy loads for each turbine site....

Many of the components are very large but few components compare to the blades which have a length of 55m, a width of 4.5m and a height of 4.4m. Expected weights of the components range up to a maximum of 68.5 metric tons. In comparison, many of the Island's rural roadways are 40ft or 12.2m in width....

The information submitted to date, in Township staff's opinion is insufficient with respect to describing how the lack of bearing capacity will be dealt with both for the needs of the proponent during the construction period and post construction when the Township may experience premature road failure....

It is the writer's opinion that the current information does not provide sufficient information for the Township to quantify the impacts although Windlectric Inc. have proposed to indemnify the construction process using high level language within the proposed agreement....

**

Council received a letter from Graeme McDonald: “We see other municipalities around the province vehemently opposing wind projects that are being foisted on their rural communities, passing noise and setback by-laws and supporting a moratorium on all wind projects across the province while the myriad of ill effects are studied further by Health Canada.”

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From an e-mail from a Lafarge employee to Council: “I am writing today to update you on our Low Carbon Fuels project, under the Cement 2020 program, and to respond to comments from your engineering department.

“We are very excited about moving into the practical, demonstration phase of our world leading research project with Queen's University and WWF Canada. We held a public meeting in November of last year and based on the encouraging feedback from the community, we proceeded with an application in April, 2012 to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment to obtain the necessary Environmental Compliance Approvals (ECAs) to conduct the 3 year Low Carbon Fuel Demonstration Pilot.

We met with your staff

earlier this year; the project was also posted by the Ministry for 45 days for public comment in September and your Township was directly contacted by the Ministry as part of their consultation process. You may be interested to hear that there were no comments filed with the Ministry, from the public, arising from the 45 day comment process.”



George Gavlas had the rare opportunity of breaking into an OPP cruiser recently when the police officer's keys were accidentally locked in the car while at the school for a presentation.

Photo by Lynn Fleming

SKETCHES AT AN ISLAND KITCHEN PARTY

At Dan and Joan Simpson's recent 'kitchen party', Amherst Island artist Terry Culbert captured the musicians as they performed.





NEILSON STORE MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTRE

- Janet Scott

On Friday, November 17th, some Amherst Islanders, both young and old were able to attend the talk in the Backroom at the museum. We were introduced to a very passionate and well-spoken young man who came to speak to us about Salamanders. My up close and personal knowledge of Salamanders was very limited to one encounter in my basement and my Granddaughters' discovery of a Mudpuppy along their shore. Matt Ellerbeck's enthusiasm and excitement led us all into a new world of Salamanders and their place in the environment.

Matt's salamanders have personalities and respond to him by approaching the glass when it's feeding time. As an amphibian, living on both land and water, some of the species go through metamorphosis and may appear as an eft on land or a newt in the water. The more familiar Red-backed Salamander of Ontario is born looking just like a salamander and does not metamorph. Around us could be 5000 Red-backed Salamanders per acre eating insect pests as they unobtrusively share our world hiding by day under moist forest litter and in rotting logs.

There are 12 species of Salamander in Ontario. One kind, the Tiger Salamander, lived on Pelee Island and has not been seen since 1951. Some Salamanders live to be 15 to 30 years old.

They swim by waving their tails back and forth and moving like a crocodile with feet tucked against their body. They might travel 2 kilometres on land in order to reach a pool for use as a nursery. These spring pools in the forest are temporary and although they dry up during the summer are safe nurseries without resident predators. Developing baby salamanders love mosquito larvae!

Salamanders have very sensitive skin so we couldn't touch the salamanders but Matt showed all the children, 8 to 80, his live specimens that he had brought and answered many, many questions about Salamanders. We can help the salamanders by leaving a moist, wild area in our yards, not using harmful pesticides, and reducing the chemicals that we use on our roads and

driveways.

Matt Ellerbeck: "Everything that I do, I do because I sincerely believe it will help contribute to the conservation and betterment of Salamanders, which is my ultimate goal and ambition."

Matt can be reached at: savethesalamanders.com

AIMS - November Meeting

- Anders Bennick

Breakfast: Thank you to senior class members Lucy Amsel and Ben Cuyler who together with their Moms, Tagget and Victoria prepared an outstanding breakfast.

Present: 17 members and two guests.

Chair: Brian Little, President.

1. The Chair introduced the guests, Robert Watt and Chris Little

2. Victoria Cuyler who is in overall charge of the New Year's Dinner and Dance gave a short report on progress so far. She asked for one AIMS member to serve on each committee. Various members volunteered their services.
3. The treasurer reported on the bank balance.
4. Other business.

There was no other business.

5. Tim Gushue presented a talk entitled "Views of Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. January to July 2011".

During that period Tim served at Nato Headquarters at Kandahar Airfield. The aim of the mission to Afghanistan was to allow development of a civil society to take place and to assist the government in economic growth.

About 30,000 personnel worked from the Kandahar Airfield and his job was essentially to act as a "mayor" for the commercial retail enterprise complex, "The Boardwalk" at Kandahar Airfield.

A portion of the funds generated there were used to support recreational "morale and welfare" activities for individual relaxation, stress relief and promoting harmonious relationships between the many contingents of the NATO force, so that all the energy could be directed towards fighting the enemy.

Kandahar Airfield could best be described as Fort Apache in Indian country. While the airfield was safe apart from sporadic rocket attacks, it was extremely dangerous to venture on your own outside the airfield.



Photo by Terry Culbert
Warm fall temperatures had Beacon correspondent Terry Culbert cut his 3-acre lawn for the last time November 12th.

A few persons who had done so disappeared without trace. As a result security was very tight, and the perimeter and outlying defense area was constantly patrolled by heavily armed vehicles. Despite these precautions some security officers were killed in the past by suicide bombers. The airfield is the busiest single runway airport in the world and home to a large number of airplanes, including spy planes and drones. While Tim was not attached to the Canadian contingent he felt that it was somewhat insular within NATO. In the initial setting up of operations in the country the Russians were very helpful and he was favourably impressed by the French and Slovak contributions, among others. Doing any kind of business in Afghanistan is complicated. You have to know the local situation because everybody is connected to somebody unless you are a nobody, and it does not help that Afghanistan is one of the world's most corrupt countries. There is a large contingent of Afghans working at the airfield. Many run shops made from converted shipping containers set up along the boardwalk and every Sunday there was a bazaar. Many Afghans work against great odds at the airfield and consequently some of the loyal Afghans have been brought to Canada to avoid retribution.

Entertainment such as a visit by Rick Mercer and other Canadian entertainers was not directly funded by the government but through the use of non-public funds. Other initiatives such as an ice cream van and a Tim Horton's helped to establish a bit of relief from a tense situation.

The tense conditions under which they live was illustrated by Tim who from survival mode in Afghanistan came to visit his new home on peaceful Amherst Island only to find himself back 2 days later in Afghanistan under rocket attack.

To cope with a tour in Afghanistan the best thing you could do was to keep your spirits up and your head down

THE IMPORTANCE OF WORDS

- Zander of DUNN INN

I am a Monty Python fan. Monty Python was the name of a group of zany British comedians who captured my imagination and tickled my funny bone from 1969 to 1982. Although they disbanded 30 years ago, I still enjoy watching some of their movies and skits and I especially love reading the scripts they used as the basis of their comedy.

I was intrigued to read, in The Kingston Whig

Standard, an interview with Eric Idle, a member of the troupe, who is involved in a new show he's written entitled, "What About Dick?" He describes it as The Decline and Fall of The British Empire as seen through the eyes of a piano.

Eric Idle and the other members of the Monty Python group all grew up with radio. They didn't have T.V. until their early teen years. They were radio buffs who later went to university and excelled in The Classics, English Literature and History. They recognized radio is all about language which, Idle says, "paints pictures much more intensely than film or TV."

You can do things with radio you cannot do with T.V. or film. You can describe the world's biggest airliner flying over Lake Superior filled with chocolate pudding and then dropping into the pudding the most gigantic cherry ever seen by humans. You can see it all in your imagination as the words describe the action. You could never capture that as well on film or T.V. (although with computer imagining there seems to be no limit to what you can do). My point is that words can paint pictures better and evoke emotions better than can film or T.V.

Is that why Jews, Christians and Muslims are called "People of the Book?" They refer to the words of the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Koran which have no pictures attached. Is it not significant that Jesus used stories (parables) to gain the interest and involvement of his listeners? Jesus was not an artist of paints or clay; he was an artist of words.

The words of the stories of Jesus still interest those who read them - and still cause controversy, confusion and challenge because words can be interpreted in different ways. True, the words of the Bible can stir the imagination, but they can also lead to disagreements because people understand them differently.

One of the great disagreements among Christians concerns the divinity of Jesus. Nowhere does Jesus claim to be divine. The first three Gospels never say Jesus is or was divine. Only John, the last Gospel written, seems to claim Jesus is divine. Some of the church councils decided Jesus was divine but that decision is being questioned and refuted today.

At a time when Bible scholars are denying the historicity of the Virgin Birth, the Koran continues to hail Mary as a Virgin. Muslims do not attach divinity to Jesus but they consider Jesus a great prophet.

It all comes down to the way in which you use and interpret words. Words continue to influence our lives. Think of how the words that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. quoted from the Bible in his great speech, "I Have A

Dream” stirred the American nation.

Ministers and priests continue to preach sermons using words to change the lives of those who listen. I know some people also use “Power Point” to accompany their words but it is the words that make the difference.

It amazes me that God has entrusted The Good News to words. In our Bibles we have words (often misunderstood and misinterpreted) to tell the stories on which we base our trust in God. What a frail basis for belief! All we have are stories conveyed by words. We don’t have proof (but then how can you prove God?) and we don’t have pictures (either moving or still pictures) to reveal what we think is true. We have only stories, conveyed by words.

Jesus deliberately used parables to state and share his trust in God. And Jesus deliberately refused to give us the “right” meaning of those stories. Jesus deliberately left it up to us how we will understand his stories. As a result we have many different interpretations. I contend all interpretations have some truth in them and we must listen to the words of others as they seek to share their reception of those stories. It is also true that all of the interpretations are lacking and we need to critically examine each parable as we seek to understand what it is saying to us.

Notice, finally, that Jesus didn’t write down anything. The words attributed to him in the Bible are given to us by others. We are really dealing with second-hand accounts of Jesus. Our task is to study the words and decide how we will receive them. I, like many others, have been so moved by the words of Jesus that I’ve decided to follow him.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thanks to all the Islanders who sent their best wishes to the AI Fire Department. Also a warm thanks to those who offered and/or delivered food - we could have survived for weeks :). The guys from the mainland dept’s were blown away by your generosity. What for them is an anomaly is, for us, simply called ‘community’.

Jacob Murray (on Facebook)

Thank you to the First Response Team for assisting in our Mother’s emergency.

The Eves Family

I would like to thank all my Rawleigh Customers for supporting me by buying so many of my products.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you.

Marie Ward

I would like to thank all my market customers, and those who came to the farm, for their patronage all summer. It is very much appreciated.

Anyone who wants baking done just me a call.

I want to wish everyone a very Merry Xmas and Happy and healthy New Year.

Thank you.

Barb Reid

On behalf of myself and my family, I’d like to thank all the Volunteer Firefighters who participated in saving our cottages from the marsh fire.

We are fortunate on Amherst Island to have such a hard working dedicated group who work on our behalf.

Alice Skillings.

Thanks from the Beacon Staff: to Eva Little for picking up the Beacon from Burkes Printing in Napanee.

Warm thanks to Claire and Hugh Jenney who, on behalf of AIMS, pick up and deliver my 4 or 5 cases of liquid food bi-weekly. They have been faithful to this task all summer and fall. New thanks to the others who take over in winter time.

Sally Bowen

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ON AMHERST ISLAND

- Terry Culbert

The weekend of November 17th and 18th marked the seventh annual Weasel & Easel's Christmas Shopping on Amherst Island as islanders and mainlanders alike enjoyed two days of hectic -free shopping. Topsy Farms Wool Shed and the Weasel & Easel were open both Saturday and Sunday. The Presbyterian Church Women's Bazaar was held at the Community Centre on Saturday.



Photo by Terry Culbert

A first time island visitor from Toronto shops at the Weasel & Easel.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Peggy (the Dryer Ball juggler) Edwards at Topsy Farms Wool Shed.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Laird Leeder purchases lunch from Nancy Dunn and Judy Miller.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Looking extremely fashionable, Judith Harrower and Zander Dunn.

BEACON ADS

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

FOOTFLATS FARM ACCOMMODATION:

www.footflats.com (613 634-1212)

Goodman House (waterfront)

- 4 bedrooms, 3 baths

- available year round

FOR RENT

House in the village is available by the weekend or the week.

Contact - Jan Sydorko at 519-451-1197 or email to

michael.sydorko@sympatico.ca

GODDEN'S WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE

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

Flavours now include: Salt & Pepper; Honey & Garlic; Sundried Tomato & Oregano; Hot Italian; Sweet Chilli & Lime; Maple Breakfast; and Salt & Pepper Breakfast.

Now selling packages of 4 sausages!!

See more at: "thewholehogblog@blogspot.com"; Facebook, "Godden's Whole Hog Sausage"; or, follow us on "Twitter@Godden Farms".

Please call ahead for large orders, 705-653-5984.

With Sincere Thanks

Lori Caughey & Family.

HARTIN'S PUMPING SERVICE:

Septic Pumping & Inspection

613-379-5672

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.

I AM NOW SELLING WATKINS PRODUCTS AS WELL AS RAWLEIGH PRODUCTS.

Catalogues available. To place an order call Marie Ward at 613-

389-5767 or via email: bandmward@xplornet.ca

ISLAND YOGA

Call Taggett for more information 613 888-5156

LOCAL ELECTRICIAN 30yrs exp, \$25 an hour. Also Home Renovations, Tree Removal, Pressure Wash. Call Cary 389-8327.

POPLAR DELL FARM BED & BREAKFAST

3190 FRONT ROAD, AMHERST ISLAND

Welcoming guests for over 30 years.

Also, Cottage Rentals and Godden Sausage sales.

Call Susie @ 613-389-2012

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

TOPSY FARMS WOOL SHED 613 389-3444

Wool and sheepskin products including yarn, blankets, and crafts, the 2013 Calendar, and individual photos, books and booklets by Don Tubb.

Open weekends and most weekday mornings.

HONEY: Topsy Farms once more has Island honey for sale at the Wool Shed.

Phone 613-389-3444 for an appointment or drop by and take your chances.

TOPSY FARMS has new fresh frozen lamb cuts for sale in the Wool Shed. We also have lamb patties, and our own sausage for sale. And DON TUBB'S 2013 Sheep Calendar is now available at the Topsy Farms Woolshed.

- **TV FOR SALE** - Samsung 42" DLP high definition and great picture \$200

- **FREE SONY TV** old but working order, approx 28"

Call Ann at 613 634 8946

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Island Beacon:

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INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE NEW COUNCIL

- Chris Kennedy

The new council met for the first time on Dec. 8.

During the meeting they said they were willing for the Beacon reporter to have a copy of most of the documents relevant to council affairs, omitting, of course, personal information and job applications and a few other obvious exceptions. This should make council reports more informative.

After the requisite declarations and oaths had been made, Jimmie Neilson wished them good fortune and said he would help if he could. The purpose of the first meeting was to tell the new council what had been happening and to get the preliminaries done. They considered the list of appointments and committees (recreation committee, fence viewers, etc.). This list will be published in a later issue when it is completed.

Council then considered some of the background financial information. The present agreement with M.T.C. about the ferry states that the Township has to pay:

7% of the cost in 1982

7 1/2% " " " " 1983

8% " " " " 1984

8 1/2% " " " " 1985

Total costs in 1982 will be about \$573,000.

At 7% the township's share is \$40,113.

Revenue to November 30th 1982 is \$47,470, so the Township is about \$7,500 in the black. This will be kept to help with next year's revenue.

F r o m T h e A r c h i v e s

The estimated costs for 1983 are \$630,500 and the Township's share is \$47,300.

For the past few years, many of the administrative costs of operating the Township have been offset by allocating a portion of those expenses to road and ferry operation. The salaries of the office staff, supplies, equipment, heating and lights and general repairs have been shared as follows: Ferry 63%, Roads 14%, General Administration 23%.

As a result the taxpayers are only required to pay approximately 27% of these expenses.

Of the approximately \$137,000 that the Township should yet in taxes, all but \$19,000 have been paid, which is apparently quite good for a rural township.

The total estimate for the development road is \$500,000. \$325,000 have been spent for the three miles done to date, with \$175,000 still to be spent. \$10,500 have been put aside from the road budget to pay for gravel crushed this year.

Nobody has applied for the job of building inspector, so if anyone wants a part-time job, they are welcome to apply.

In 1982 six trailer permits were issued, five permits for machinery/storage sheds, three new residences, and a miscellaneous collection of other small jobs.

Council reappointed Peter Radley as Township solicitor, and Thorne Riddell as Township auditors.

Two letters from Peter Radley about the drain were received and filed. Several members of Council said firmly that they did not believe that Council should take sides in the drainage dispute. They decided to send copies of relevant letters to Keith Miller and Grace Eves as representatives of the two parties as a step toward peace.

After various other bits of housekeeping, Council adjourned.

CARD OF THANKS

We would like to thank our friends and neighbours for the cards and gifts we received for our anniversary, and to the folks who dropped in for a very enjoyable evening.

Also a very special thanks to Lois who made our trip possible.

Thanks everyone again.

Phyllis and Albert Henderson

GREETINGS

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all Islanders, together with a belated thank you for those who supported my election to Council
Chester Tugwell

Compliments of the Season.

Bob and Sylvia Lovelock

First we would like to thank the Women's Institute and Legion Members for a lovely Christmas dinner and entertainment they provide each year for the Senior Citizens of the Island. It is a really nice gesture and certainly enjoyed by all who attend.

Secondly, we think a pat on the back is overdue for the Editor and Staff of the Beacon who give of their time and energy for the enjoyment of the readers.

Thank you.

Bert and Chris Glenn

"Island Treasures" Cookbooks Available Again

The 4th edition of the "Island Treasures" Cookbook will soon be available at Glenn's Store for Christmas giving! \$9.50 per copy. Surely someone you know would enjoy this delightful collection of recipes, bits of Island history, and sketches by Shirley Miller.

The St. Paul's Church Women thank you for your support.

NEW BUSINESS OPENS

- Ian Murray

Following upon his initial success in Belleville, Dave Willard (son of Wilbert and Gail Willard) has opened a Cardillo's Fitness Centre to serve the Kingston area.

Cardillo's specialty is the latest in exercise machines. A trained staff conducts fitness classes and dancercise. Individuals receive personal attention in their quest for physical fitness through personalized exercise programming and fitness testing. Whirlpool and saunas are available.

F r o m T h e A r c h i v e s

The location is on Hwy. 38 just south of McAdoo Park. Phone 384-3090.

Despite the current economic recession, Dave's hard work and dedication should make this venture a success.

A NEW COMPANY

- Ian Murray

To use some of the expertise that we have developed over the past few years, Don Tubb and I have formed TGM Building Consultants Incorporated. This company will provide inspection services to prospective homeowners as well as to those who want advice on improving their present buildings.

Each report is prepared to meet the client's particular needs.

There are about a dozen companies providing inspection services of this nature in Toronto. The field seems to be growing as more people realize that a small investment in knowledge can help safeguard a large investment in real estate.

CARD OF THANKS

To our relatives and friends a sincere thank you for all the kindness shown through the years and especially in the three weeks before and during our move to Napanee.

Please come to see us at 215 First Ave.

Dorothy, Kevin and Mark Kilpatrick

SCHOOL NEWS

- Penny Thornhill

In the month of November the students of Amherst Island Public School attended a Remembrance Day service in the gymnasium.

On Monday, November 15th the student council sponsored a hot dog sale. The hot dogs sold for 60¢ each. The student Council made approximately \$15.00.

The students' council is holding a writing contest for the grades 4 to 8. The prizes were donated by Mrs. Thornhill. Look for winning names in the January edition of the Beacon.

I would like to take this time to thank all the people of Amherst Island for welcoming me here.



The rear deck.

Photo courtesy of Lynn Fleming



The upper passenger deck filled with donated items to be taken back to Honduras.

Photo courtesy of Lynn Fleming



The below deck crew galley.

Photo courtesy of Lynn Fleming



The engine room.

Photo courtesy of Lynn Fleming

Wait for Rosie's cue, girls...



“Happiness And Health During The Holidays And In The Coming Year!!”

**Rosie and the Girls
(and The Beacon staff)**