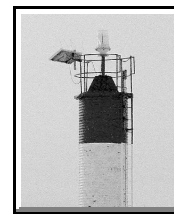


Amherst Island

BEACON



BONA LIBENTER, TRISTIA MAESTITER, MALA NUMQUAM

Issue 415

February 2013

**The Amherst Island
BEACON
Issue 415
February 2013**

*Published monthly, the
Beacon is wholly funded by
paid subscriptions.*

Subscription Rates

Canada. \$35/yr
USA. \$40/yr
Overseas: contact us
E-mail. \$20/yr

February Printing

125 copies

Subscription & Editorial

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Submission Deadline

25th of each month

Printed By

Burke's Printing
457 Advance Ave
Napanea K7R 3Z5
dburke@burkeprinting.ca

Credits

Corel WordPerfect X6
Corel PaintShop Pro X4
Corel After Shot Pro
FastStone Image Viewer
Acrobat 10.0
Family Tree Maker 9.0

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get well wishes to Grace Eves and Hazel deHaan.

Congratulations to Annette Phillips and Bill Phillips (Diane) on the birth of their newest granddaughter, Caiden Elizabeth, born to daughter Torri. A new great-granddaughter for Paul and Carol Glenn.

Claude and Renee Minville vacationed in Roatan, Honduras in January, but unfortunately missed the arrival of the Amherst Islander which arrived in Roatan, late on January 19th.

Dayle and Elly Gowan and Michelle Lelay escaped the bitter cold snap here on the Island with a trip to Mexico.

Terry Culbert and Barb Hoegenauer have sold their home and will be soon leaving the Island. While we wish them well, they will be missed.

The first Pub night of the season was well attended and the Dart Tournament was a great success.

Loyalist Township hosted a Town Hall meeting in late January, which was well attended by the community.

It is winter on the Island, but unfortunately, all of our snow melted before the cold snap set in. It is snowing quite heavily as I write this,

but it will be gone in the next few days as temperatures climb above the freezing mark and more rain is forecast. The bay has been frozen across for a week now and the ice comes and goes from the south shore, depending on the wind. The days are slowly growing longer and we now start to look forward to Spring.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Liz Harrison

At each monthly meeting the treasurer (currently Anne Henderson) passes round not one but two hats which are really are two plastic bags. Into one we put our membership dues and into the second we donate "pennies for friendship". I was a little unclear as to where the pennies (which are often nickels,



Photo by Don Tubb

The 15th Anniversary of the last A.I. Township Council meeting was last December. Present were: (l/r) Diane Pearce (Clerk/treasurer), Stuart Miller (Road's Super.), Ralph Woods, Alex Scott, Duncan Ashley (Reeve), Lynn Fleming, and Jim Whitton.

dimes and quarters) were sent. I did know that they were designated for “Associated Country Women of the World” an organization that reaches out to women. So I did a little investigation.

A.C.W.W. is a UK based organization originating in independent rural women’s groups which started up in the late 19th century. As the number of groups grew, communication

between them enabled country women to come together in friendship, sharing and working towards similar goals. In April 1929 the first International Conference of rural women took place in London, England and in 1930 a decision was made in Vienna by the International Council of Women to form a liaison committee of rural women’s organizations. In Stockholm in 1933 that committee became the Associated Country Women of the World. Today the organization represents nine million women through its 450 Member Societies in more than 70 countries. It has Consultative Status at the United Nations which gives women a voice at the international level through its links with U.N. agencies.

A.C.W.W. prides itself on its down-to-earth approach to offering support and practical assistance, working in partnership with its members and member societies. Funds for local projects are requested by women and their applications assessed by the organization’s Projects Committee. If approved, funding is made available from the A.C.W.W. Projects and Trust Fund. Safe water and sanitation, leadership and skill training, nutrition education projects, literacy and basic education programmes (including family planning and HIV/AIDS awareness) as well as small business initiatives and small-scale agricultural



It has also been 15 years since the ‘Ice Storm’ of Jan. 1998. Here we have the road crew plowing branches off the South Shore Road in front of Burke/Coulter’s.

Photo by Don Tubb

and income generating schemes are examples of projects funded by A.C.C.W. These projects are closely monitored to ensure their success.

In addition to all of the above, certain special initiatives are promoted. Currently the benefit of vegetable gardens is front and foremost in a partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization which notes that home gardens are of benefit to:-

- The environment. Helping to conserve water and reduce waste.
- Food security. Lessening the impact of increases in the price of food.
- Income. Even very small-scale gardening can be profitable, especially in rural areas where much of the income gained from home gardens is spent in the community.
- Inclusiveness. Gardens provide opportunities for disabled, elderly, poor and young people alike to participate in safe and productive activities.
- Nutrition. Gardens provide the most affordable and accessible sources of vitamins and nutrients.
- Women’s Empowerment. Gardens increase women’s involvement in independent economic activity. And when women manage gardens, more produce is eaten by women and children.

Recent examples of the vegetable gardening initiative include roof-top gardens in Pakistan and home gardens in the tent cities of Haiti.

In addition to each branch’s monthly donations the Provincial W.I. body sends 25 cents of the annual membership fees to A.C.W.W. Donation of “pennies for friendship” was set up in the very early days of the A.C.W.W. and the money raised is not used directly for its projects but for



Photo by Don Tubb

And, here is some of the destruction by Rita Brown’s.

operational expenses such as administration, promotion, finance management, facilities and expenses, all of which have freed up funds to make possible the completion of more than 900 projects since 1977.

As our branch has recently been involved in making decisions on its annual donations, the above information is relevant for members and I hope of interest to readers of the Beacon.

We have decided to forego a February meeting and instead are planning a “fun” gathering at Norma-Lynn’s home with maybe a film, board games and a tasty supper. Wednesday, February 20, is the date probably starting mid to late afternoon. As always friends and guests are welcome to come along. Phone a member for more precise details.

A.I.P.S.

- Lyn Fleming

This year A.I.P.S. students decided to sponsor a “Christmas Angel” for Christmas.

They asked for donations from the community of unwanted/extra Canadian Tire money so that they could buy a Christmas present for a child that may not get much for Christmas. A whopping \$170.00 in Canadian Tire money was collected, and students were able to buy a generous gift of toys, games, warm hat and mitts etc. for their child.

In addition, a generous cash donation, and the remainder of the Canadian Tire money was used to sponsor 6 more children from the Christmas tree at Fast Freddie’s in Bath. We are so proud of our students and our community!

JANET’S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

As we sit here during the closing days of January and experience the deep chill of double digit minus temperatures it’s hard to imagine outdoor loving but it has begun among our feathered friends.

On Monday last I looked out to see two magnificent Ravens doing the dance of love around the silo at Wayne Fleming’s barn. They circle and weave making low throaty chuckles. Until the last decade, Ravens were not seen consistently on Amherst Island but we now have several confirmed nesting sites. Ravens begin to nest in January/February. They build solitary nests mostly in conifers or on cliff ledges. Well our ravens have discovered silos and if you drove Front Road last

year you probably saw the nest growing on the top of a metal ladder at the silo at Vince Aitken’s old farm. The nests are made of tree branches, sticks, twigs and grapevines. Old binder twine seems to be adapted here. The outside of the nest can be three to four feet wide, while the inside cup may be only one foot in diameter and lined warmly with deer hair and soft grasses. The 3-5 eggs are oval, greenish and have brown or olive markings on them. Incubation will take three weeks and both parents, mostly the female, sit on the eggs.

In the barn at Carl McCrosky’s and Leah Murray’s the Ravens chose the north side one year and then moved the nest to the south side of the barn the following year recycling most of the nesting materials.



Photo by David Hofmann

A Common Raven at Bodega Head State Park, Sonoma County, California. This photo comes from Wikimedia and as long as it is properly identified, we can use it... I think (DT).

Although Ravens were a common sight along the Niagara River and lakes Ontario and Erie back in 1800, they disappeared in the latter half of that century. By the 1900’s they were extirpated in the Kingston Region, poisoned, shot or trapped. When I began birding in 1984 we could drive to Westport and see Ravens there but it was not until the 1990’s that the number of sightings began to increase significantly.

Ravens are the largest member of the Corvidae family that includes Jays and Crows as well. They have a wingspan of 53 inches, a body about 24 inches long a wedge-shaped tail and they weigh about 2.6 pounds.

This family of birds are very clever as you have probably experienced at the feeder when your resident

Blue Jays weigh peanuts in the shell to choose the heaviest and scare Mourning Doves away by making a Red-tailed Hawk call. Many experiments have been done with Ravens and they demonstrate the high level of intelligence exhibited by this species.

Bonnie Livingstone brought back a practical example of the wonderful adaptability of these birds after a trip to Whitehorse. The street lights in Whitehorse have light sensitive panels that turn the lights on when it is dark. The Ravens like to sit on the lamp standards as the light warms them so they have learned to mantle the top of the light with their wings so that the temporary darkness turns on the light. Unfortunately they have also learned that pick-up trucks in a grocery store parking lot means easy lunch and attack grocery bags.

Because they were so new to our area I was never sure of the difference between a Raven and a Crow but after seeing so many on my visit to the Northwest Territories I began to be more familiar with their blue-black colour and their unusual vocalizations. The wedge-shaped tail is a good indicator and the long heavy bill.

Great Horned Owls are also an early nester and should be making their deep love hoots now and through February. Our numbers of nesting Great Horned Owls are way down on Amherst Island. At one time Raymond Wemp kept track of a resident family right in the village and my Granddaughters could walk on the point by the Lodge and see the young Great Horned Owls perching there in the trees during the day as they waited for Mom and Dad to feed them at night.

Ida Gavlas had hooting Great Horned in her area.

Doug and Joan Martin had a young owl appear at their place and there was a resident owl in the Owl Woods. They need about 100 acres of hunting land to survive and depend on small mammals for food. Would you please let me know if you hear Great Horned Owls hooting as I would love to know if we still have these magnificent Lords of the Darkness in residence?

MORE ON RAVENS

- Ian Murray

Last year we had one ewe and one lamb killed by ravens. Each victim had one eye plucked out which, I've been told (without a scientific reference), shocks the brain and shuts down the heart.

We had heard that cattle and sheep had been killed by eye plucking in Renfrew County so we were more disappointed than surprised by the deaths.

AMHERST ISLANDER UPDATE

- Lynn Fleming

Following the last update, the old Amherst Islander ferry has had an interesting and, at times, eventful trip since leaving Port Dover on October 31st. The good news is that she has finally made it, safe and sound, to her new home on the island of Roatan, Honduras, on

the evening of Saturday, January 19th. This trip was expected to take about 30-31 days, but with weather, breakdowns and lots of red tape, it actually took more than two and a half months!

Following, are excerpts from the emails Don Hart (Port Dover), has sent me to keep Amherst Islanders up to date on the ferry's progress.

After rounding the Gaspé in late November the ferry ran into a winter storm, with high wind and seas, blowing snow and everything covered in ice. While captain Tobie had been in winter seas before, when he picked up a ship in Newfoundland a few years ago, this was a first for the other 3 crew members, who were amazed at the ice coating everything.

During their several days of severe weather from the tip of Gaspé to the western tip of P.E.I., éobie said that their passage was constantly monitored by the Montreal Seaway authorities, with regular checkpoint reports, following the Amherst Islander at all times. At one point, in the midst of their bad weather, a Coast Guard aircraft flew very low over them,



Photo from Lynn Fleming
Ice covered Amherst Islander.



Photo from Lynn Fleming
Surreal picture of the Jeep.

called him on his cell phone, by name, to inquire if they were OK, or needed assistance. All that information had been provided by the Seaway Authority, which had been following the vessel's progress since the Welland Canal. He knew then that they weren't alone on the Gulf!

December 1st - just passing under the Confederation Bridge, PEI

December 2nd - Tied up at Port Hawksbury, Cape Breton for the night, ready to take on fuel in the morning.

December 6th - Ferry is still in Port Hawkesbury, awaiting fuel. The problem involves getting the bank draft through several banks to the Irving Oil facility in Port Hawksbury. Things are expected to be straightened out tomorrow morning. Tobie has a total of \$8 cash on hand as of tonight! Interestingly, he has several Transport Canada Inspectors following his progress since the passage through the Welland Canal. On more than one occasion, he has been helped out by intervention by one of these inspectors. For example, when looking for dock access in Cape Breton, without any funds available, a phone call from the Welland Canal office solved the problem.

Tobie is not too disappointed not being at sea the past couple of days as another major storm has made sea conditions rough on the east coast - running north to south from Newfoundland. He said it should subside late tomorrow or early Saturday - which will determine when they'll leave. They're taking on 8000 litres of fuel tomorrow morning, which will get them to south of Florida (where fuel is much cheaper).

Dec.20th: Tobie called a short while ago as the Amherst Islander was approaching Newport News, Virginia, to refuel. He's been out of touch since leaving Port Hawkesbury last week.

After leaving Newport News tomorrow, he'll communicate with the satellite phone, which is very expensive to use. We've set up a system whereby he'll call reporting his position, then terminate the call. I then check the marine weather from the U.S. weather sources - sea conditions, etc., and he calls back in 15 minutes for a brief synopsis to cover the next 24 hours!

Two days ago, the vessel went through some

terrifying time with seas building to 5 to 8 metres. The VHF weather broadcast gave them some warning, so when they heard the 5 to 8 metre waves warning, Tobie was ready. He told me there were times he was worried, probably an understatement! In the middle of the night, with the wind sounding like a banshee, a huge wave crashed over the bow, smashed the wooden barrier to bits, washed over the Jeep and slammed against the wheelhouse. Fortunately the barrier and the Jeep took much of the energy out of the wave, so no damage was done to the superstructure, i.e., the wheelhouse glass. (The three crewmen were working to try to restore the barrier as we were talking.)

They are well positioned with food and fresh water. In fact, Tobie said they're going to use the donated washer and dryer to wash their clothes on the vessel later today. Tobie figures they'll be at sea 12 to 13 days after leaving tomorrow before arriving at Roatan, Honduras.

When I mentioned to Tobie that I'd be giving you an update today, he asked me to tell you: "Hope you don't mind me saying that the Amherst Islander was built for the ocean, not a lake or river! It's a very seaworthy vessel on the open ocean". It sounds like it's going to have a great future in Central America. (One of the younger crew members has been seasick, non-stop since Gaspé!)

Jan. 8th - When the Islander entered Newport News harbour to refuel, they intended to leave the next day to resume their voyage. This was a few days before Christmas. When the engine was started up, Tobie noticed diesel in the oil pan, an indication they had a problem that had to be resolved before leaving. The backup generator started spewing diesel, and didn't generate any electricity! The generator was an easy fix - new seals. The engine wasn't. A new fuel injector pump was required, and since they were in the Christmas and New Year's holiday period, it took about 10 days to get it and have a mechanic do the installation. As a result, they left Newport News Sunday morning (January 6th). The positive side was that the weather was great, in the 50's, with Tobie in shorts, T shirt, and flip-flops, BBQing on the afterdeck. He called Sunday morning as they were leaving Newport News, and said they hoped to reach



Photo from Lynn Fleming
Captain Tobie was anxious to get home to his son and daughter

Roatan in 10 - 14 days, depending on the weather.

Jan.9 - 9:00 a.m. - passing Savannah, Georgia, with everything working perfectly. Seas calm, weather calm, and crew well fed and quiet! The vessel is making 130 miles a day, 5.5 to 6 knots @ 1150 rpm, burning 140 gallons of fuel per day in main engine and generator.

Jan. 15th - Just spoke with Tobie - he was passing Key Largo, the beginning of the Florida Keys, making 4.5 to 5 knots.

Before leaving Newport News, he refueled and took on fresh water, giving them more than enough of each to reach Roatan without stopping. They passed Cape Canaveral close enough to see all the lights, which was quite impressive Tobie said. One of our mutual friends from Port Dover, Pierre Benoit, left for Pompano Beach, just north of Miami in mid December. Pierre was also very involved with the Amherst Islander and Tobie. The A.I. passed by Pompano Beach yesterday around noon, and Pierre was on the beach with his binoculars! He was able to see the vessel, and spoke with Tobie by cell as the ship passed by, several miles offshore. Pierre took some photos, but doubted they would show anything other than a dot on the horizon. At that point, between Pompano Beach and Miami, there was a strong rip tide, which was slowing the Islander down to 2 - 3 knots. Tobie took the vessel closer to shore in an effort to diminish the effect of the current. That seemed to work. The next situation will involve crossing the Gulf Stream which flows north-east between the Florida Keys and Cuba. The current is quite strong, but there is no avoiding it - the Amherst Islander has to cross it.

Jan. 18th - I got a very brief call from Tobie yesterday morning - very staticy, and breaking up - in which he gave his position as 80 miles from Roatan (I think).

The quality of the reception was so poor that I couldn't be sure of the distance. The call was less than a minute, and from the satellite phone. That means he'll be at the dock in French Harbour, Roatan, tomorrow. Pierre Benoit, whom I mentioned in an earlier email, and is in Pompano Beach, is flying from Miami tomorrow a.m. to Roatan to welcome the Amherst Islander and Tobie to the island. This will be a complete surprise - if Pierre can find them. Roatan is a small island, and the A.I. will stand out like a "sore thumb", as we say down East! So, it shouldn't be too difficult a task. Pierre said he'll take lots of photos.

Jan. 20th - The Amherst Islander arrived at its new

home port last evening after a harrowing 36 hours in heavy seas. Interestingly enough, they were sailing through the same area where Tobie had his near death experience May 31, 2008, where the vessel he was bringing back from Alabama sank during Tropical Storm Arthur. Tobie was in the water for 24 hours, holding onto a fender (without a life jacket) and was carried by the current 65 km before he was rescued by a Mexican fisherman. His rescue story was reported by most of the newspapers in Central America as he had been given up as lost at sea. Tobie called me last evening to say he had only 5 more miles to go. He sounded exhausted, and I expect he'd been awake for well more than a day coping with the stormy seas. Our friend Pierre, and the new owner of the Amherst Islander were with him this morning when he called. He sounded like a new man - excited and happy to have successfully completed his job of delivering the Amherst Islander to its new home. Pierre's wife emailed from Pompano Beach to say the weather in Roatan was so bad that Pierre's plane had to circle for 2 hours before landing. That worked out well as Tobie was several hours late in arriving at French Harbour - for the same reason.

Something of interest for you: Tobie is aware that I'm forwarding information on the voyage to you, and that you are keeping some former crew and Islanders informed as well. When he called last evening, he asked that I tell you on Amherst Island that they're almost there.

Lynn:

I'd like to thank Don Hart for all of his emails and updates regarding the ferry. He, as well as the captain, were surprised at the interest here on Amherst Island, but quite happy to keep us up to date. Captain Tobie has been away from home since June 22nd, when he arrived in Port Dover to purchase and ready the Amherst Islander for its trip, expecting to leave by the end of August. He has experienced one delay after another and ended up being gone from home now for 6 months. While he was en route home, his father passed away, he has a family with two teenage children that missed him and he them. I am happy he has made it home safely and hope that he now gets some time to catch up before his next adventure!

Power Outage

By Don Tubb with files from Terry Culbert

Photos by Terry Culbert

Saturday morning, January 19th, the power went out. After reporting the outage, we, at Topsy Farms, went about our business of getting the morning chores done. Mission accomplished... to a large extent. And, then we waited... Saturday afternoon came with the rumour of a Hydro crew working on the Island. Ian Murray went down and investigated, finding them working near Doug and Joan Martin's. They were going to do what they could but, not having any poles, there would be no power that night. Sunday morning and the cavalry arrived... 12 vehicles which included a backhoe and an environmental cleanup truck. Four snapped or cracked poles plus damaged transformers near the Fowler House (Hugh & Claire Jenny's at 14005 Front Rd) were replaced, the wires made whole again, and an apology for taking so long from the crew... the power was back about suppertime.



Photo by Terry Culbert



Photo by Terry Culbert



Photo by Terry Culbert



Photo by Terry Culbert

More:

Tobie's assignment has been completed - delivering the vessel to Roatan. He told Pierre he's taking a month or so vacation before taking on a new assignment.

The new owner, who has several other vessels which are used for cargo and oil delivery from Mexico (where oil is very cheap) to other countries in the area, will use the Amherst Islander for general cargo. His Plaza Mar complex has a full sized supermarket, with many other stores and shops on the second floor, the largest facility of its kind on Roatan. (along with over thirty apartments and other businesses). He started working when he was thirteen, and built up his business empire by himself.

The new owner tried to contact Tobie, unsuccessfully, to warn him of that major storm a day before the scheduled landing at Roatan. He wanted Tobie to put in at another mainland port to ride it out. Apparently it was a terrifying end of a long, long voyage!

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

First Session, January 14th, 2013

Tom Sylvester and Nancy Pearson wrote a letter to Council expressing concern that the Marshall 40' may be closed rather than improved by Algonquin Power during the construction of the proposed wind turbines. There was also a letter from Peter and Elizabeth Barr opposing any improvements to a road that they claim is not used.

The Town Hall meeting regarding Island roads and wind turbine construction, as requested by Amy Caughey and Marcus Bermann, is scheduled for January 29 at the Community Centre. "The format [of the meeting] is intended to provide an opportunity for the public to view the specific road allowances that will be affected by the construction and operation of the proposed wind energy project and to ask questions." Council approved the format of the meeting.

Peter Large, President of APAI, wrote a letter to Council expressing concerns regarding the Roads Use Agreement pertaining to the wind turbine construction. Concerns raised: mature tree removal; maintenance of emergency routes; water sources and water disposal; drainage and water discharge; waste disposal; site

restoration; and, ongoing maintenance "over the life of the project (20 years)."

The whole letter can be found on the Township web site.

There was one house building permit issued for Amherst Island in 2012.

Second Session, January 28, 2013

[The following information is from the agenda NOT from the minutes.]

Regarding Windlectric's submission of December 3rd, Murray Beckel, the Township planner wrote: "Given the scale and complexity of the project and its potential impact on municipal infrastructure, Township staff wish to alert Council that, in order to complete a proper assessment, more time is needed. The challenge to respond within the review period [of 90 days] was exacerbated by the holiday season, ongoing development pressures and the annual budget preparation.

"In speaking with other departments, approximately 1 to 1.5 additional months is necessary, and therefore the Ministry and the proponent should be advised."

Nancy Pearson wrote a letter rebutting the Barr's contention that the Marshall 40' is unused.

Jane Broderick, a landowner on the South Shore, wrote a letter to Council opposing the use of Island roads for the construction of wind generators.

Lance and Tamera Pope wrote a long letter explaining their reasons for opposing the wind generator project.

AIMS - January Meeting

Breakfast: Thank you to the senior Class for a great breakfast.

Attendance: 12 members

Chair: A. Bennick

1. The Minutes of the last meeting were approved as recorded.

2. New Years Dinner and Dance: Victoria Cuyler reported that there were about 100 attendants. Feedback from participants was positive both with regard to the quality of the dinner and the orchestra.

The heavy load of organizing this event was carried almost single handedly by Victoria with the help of

some AIMS members such as Bruce Burnett, Larry Jensen and Ken Albertan. In gratitude for all the hard work Victoria had done it was unanimously decided to pay her an additional honorarium.

A discussion followed on the reasons for the low attendance relative to previous years and a number of possibilities were discussed. On the question of whether AIMS should continue to organize this event there were divided opinions. Some members favoured continued support by AIMS, while the opinion that AIMS withdraw from organizing the New Year's party was also voiced. It was decided to postpone further discussion on this issue to a future meeting attended by a larger number of members.

It was also decided to postpone a discussion on the future of the Saturday Market to a future meeting where a larger number of members were present.

3. The treasurer reported the bank balance.

4. Other business: There was no other business.

5. It was decided that Kevin Archibald would be convener for the next meeting.

6. Speaker: Marc Raymond spoke briefly on the pruning of fruit trees and pointed out that now was the time to prune apple trees. Marc will make a longer presentation on growing and caring for trees at a future meeting.

7. The meeting was adjourned at ~9:45am.

OFF ISLAND ISLANDERS

- Jean Tugwell and Sally Bowen

Helen Henderson Care Centre has been a warm and welcoming residence for many Amherst Islanders.

When **Jean Tugwell** moved there a year ago, there were many familiar faces, but she's now missing a few people who have moved elsewhere.

Mary Neilson was also a resident at Helen Henderson, and was visited regularly by **Jimmy Neilson**. However, she has recently moved to a facility in Kingston where they are reporting they are pleased with the new accommodations.

Doris McDonald Henderson was a close friend of Jean's as they grew up. Jean lived in the house where Betty and David live now, and Doris grew up in Deanne's home, quite a buggy ride away. Doris too has moved recently to Kingston.

Jean had a few weeks holiday, visiting **Marjorie Tooke**, her sister who lives in Dundas. A highlight of that visit was spending a little time with Marjorie's two great-grandchildren, a boy of four and a new baby girl. [Editor: as the Beacon was just about to go to the

printer, we learned of the death of Chris Glenn Gregg. Condolences to the family and friends. More next month.]

WHAT ABOUT THE WOMEN?

- Zander of DUNN INN

Recently I viewed the movie, Lincoln. There was a memorable and shocking scene in the U.S. House of Representatives when one politician explained why he could not vote for the Thirteenth Amendment to the constitution which would abolish slavery and involuntary servitude. He was not in favour of slavery but he feared that if the Thirteenth amendment was passed it might lead to equal rights for women. That so shocked both the Republicans and Democrats in the House (all of whom were men) that they shouted out their horror and opposition.

Think of it! Some men could tolerate an end to slavery for African Americans but they could not imagine equality for women. In fact, for them, it would be a terrible thing if women were given the vote.

Women have been denigrated and denied their rights for ages, by men who fear what women might do to them and to their power. It should be no surprise for us because even parts of the Bible give men a higher place than women. In fact, in some parts of the Bible women are considered to be chattel or property owned by men.

Our Christian marriage ceremonies often see women walked down the aisle by their fathers to be "given away" to another man. The woman goes from man to man. And the men who have her often treat her like a thing, a possession. Early in my ministry I told the couple that if the bride was to be walked down the aisle by her father and given away by him, so also the groom should be walked down the aisle by his father and given away by both his mother and his father. Now, in our ceremonies, nobody gives anybody away. Two people, of equal rights come of their own accord to give themselves to each other.

But that equality has not invaded many denominations of Christianity which refuse to allow women to be ordained as ministers or priests. The argument is that, because Jesus was a man and chose 12 male apostles, therefore women are excluded from ordination. And yet, a reading of Paul's letter to the Romans reveals that there was a woman apostle named Junia. Scholars have discovered that her name was changed, in later manuscripts, to "Junias" or "Julias" both common male names at that time.

Jesus treated women as equal to men. We know that

women had leadership in the early church. And was it not important and significant that the first person to whom the risen Christ appeared was a woman, Mary Magdalene? Church history reveals that when men got power in the early church they downplayed Mary Magdalene and refused to allow women to give leadership equal to theirs.

That sad state of affairs lasted too long in The Presbyterian Church in Canada which did not vote to ordain women until 1966. Now women have equality with men in our denomination but they continue to be discriminated against by many people. And yet, in most churches, women are much more active and helpful than men. How ironic is that?

Churches are only one aspect of society's denial of equality and power to women. We were all shaken when Marc Lepine shot to death 14 young women in Montreal who were studying to become engineers. We were sickened and amazed when we heard about the pig farmer in B.C. who killed countless women on his farm. Recently we were shocked when a girl in Afghanistan, hoping to study to become a doctor to help her people, was shot by men for daring to aspire to such a position. We were disgusted to read about six men who gang raped a medical student in India and then murdered her.

What is the matter with men that they treat women in such terrible ways? Why would they want to hurt women? Many theories have been presented. One is that men fear women because they have the power to do what men cannot do. They can produce children. There are many other theories about which I am not qualified to discuss. They all sadden me.

Women, who are gifts of God to all of us, are not to be hated or violated in any way, but are to be received joyfully and respected as equal to men. They may play different roles and do things in different ways than men but they are equal in law.

Men who figure they are somehow better than women should be reminded that, according to the first book of the Bible, God made humans in the image of God - male and female God created them. If God made both males and females in the divine image, who are we to disagree or to give women a lower place?

NEILSON STORE MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTRE

- Janet Scott

At our last Backroom Talk on January 11th we

celebrated the birthday of Canada's first Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald.

Steven Kennedy, who has so wonderfully been leading us through our Prime Ministers and Governors General on his "Up Steve's Sleeve Show" heard weekly on CJAI, was our guest speaker. He taught us about the man that is behind the picture on our ten dollar bill and made us see him as the little boy who came from Scotland to live and work in Hay Bay and who by 15 years of age was working to help his family, who always seemed to be in financial difficulties. Through personal tragedies and difficulties with alcohol, this brilliant man went on to be the founder of our country, the man who saw the dream of a country sea to sea to sea. Over twenty five Islanders and visitors gathered at the museum and Steve led us in a very moving toast to Sir John A.

Steve thrilled us with his personal story on how his father rescued a scrapbook heading to the garbage from a local school and discovered in the process two letters, one verified as Sir John A.'s own handwriting and the other written by a secretary but signed by the great man himself.

Steve challenges us all to search our families' stories and lore to see if connections can be made between Sir John A. Macdonald and Amherst Island and he will help the Museum celebrate the 200th birthday on Jan. 11th, 2015 by loaning his letters, after all Sir John was our M.P.

Please contact the museum if you can help us with our display next year. Janet I. Scott 613-389-4608

THE NEILSON STORE MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTRE BACKROOM TALKS ALL WELCOME!

Friday, February 22nd - 7 pm - "Economics of Happiness".

Laird Leeder will show a film entitled the "Economics of Happiness". The film discusses the importance of support for local businesses and buying food locally to lessen our carbon imprint and improve nutrition.

Communities are coming together to re-build more human scale, ecological economies based on a new paradigm - an economics of localization. The good news is that as we move in this direction we will begin not only to heal the earth but also to restore our own

sense of well-being. The Economics of Happiness restores our faith in humanity and challenges us to believe that it is possible to build a better world.

Friday, March 15th-7 pm - “A Journey to the Middle East: Sea, Sand and Sultans”

Beverley Harris and Joyce Reid will describe and present photos and talk about their recent visit to the Middle East. Their travels by ship included the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Passing through the Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden means travelers are in high alert waters, requiring a “Piracy Drill”. Join us to find out more.

Refreshments will be served at both events. Donations towards the Museum will be greatly appreciated.

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

January 27: The good news for me, the grandfather, is that my grandsons got to skate on the lake – aka the North Channel of the Bay of Quinte.

The bad news is that the ice highway is now open for coyote immigration.

January 30: The ice has gone so the above good news / bad news is reversed.

What A Difference...

Two shots two weeks apart... Terry's on Jan 20th and mine on Feb 2nd. The waves in Terry's shot resulted from a strong, nasty south-west wind. By the time my shot was taken the ice had come in being some 4-5" thick; got blown to bits in a high wind which also pushed it up into mounds some 4-5m (13-16') high; and, the North Channel had frozen over again.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Looking south across O'Drain's Bay towards Grape Island.



Photo by Don Tubb

Push ice by Harvey Eves' old place on the north shore (15355 Front Rd).

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

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.

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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.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Girls of Topsy: The girls of Topsy Farms enjoying their Sunday breakfast.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Sleeping dogs lie: A Topsy Farms guard dog takes a well deserved rest after a night of patrolling for coyotes.



Photo by Terry Culbert

Topsy farms dogs: Three Topsy Farms guard dogs sniff out a new territory after their sheep were moved to a new pasture. [Staff: l/r Tweedle Dum, Jack and Blackie]

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

Island Beacon: February 15, 1983 - Volume 3
Issue 61

Editor - Ian Murray

Subscriptions - Lyn Fleming

Treasurer - Lulu Strain

Publishers - Jack Kerr & Madlyn Kerr

15¢ per copy

Advertisements free

Issue 61 February 15, 1983

Councilman Murray Seeks Public Input re Paving of Development Road

- Ian Murray

Council is presently considering the possibility of hard-surfacing that portion of the Front Road that has been re-built under the province's development road program. Hard-surfacing would cost approximately \$80,000.

The arguments so far put forth in favour of the hard-surfacing are:

- (a) summer dust control would be eliminated;
- (b) maintenance costs (gravel and grading) would be greatly reduced; and,
- (c) lower vehicle (car or truck) operating costs due to smoother riding surface - no pot holes or puddles

The arguments so far put forth against the hard-surfacing are:

- (a) additional winter maintenance costs due to the need for sand and salt and application equipment will be necessary;
- (b) there will be more fast driving and the curves are only designed for 30 mph (50 kph);
- (c) the hard-surface will be more slippery than gravel when wet or icy;
- (d) the previous hard-surfacing jobs done on the Island have not lasted well; and,
- (e) in these times of fiscal restraint and chronic unemployment the money could be better spent on more labour intensive and more useful work.

(Please note that money allocated under the province's development road program can only be spent on a development road.)

As a member of Council, and especially as chairman of the Roads Committee, I wish to hear from residents as to their thoughts on this hard-surfacing question.

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NOTICE

Please be advised that the Township of Amherst Island requires the services of a part-time building inspector and by-law enforcement officer.

Interested parties should contact the Municipal Office for further details or submit an application to the clerk in writing.

Diane Pearce, Clerk

COUNCIL MEETING Feb 1, 1983

- Chris Kennedy

All council members attended. Council has one application for the post of building inspector which it will consider at a later meeting.

Council is going to discuss with the Federal Government whether we have to pay wharfage fees for the Amherst Islander. It depends on the fine print in the government regulations. Council discussed whether to fix up or demolish the storage shed on the Island dock.

Negotiations are continuing with McFarland about buying more gravel. The Road Committee had met earlier in the week with Lloyd Nugent of MTC and inspected the Island roads, coming up with the following suggestions:

(a) Road alignment improvements that would increase traffic safety:

- 1) near the Caughey quarry on the Front road
- 2) the hill on the Emerald Forty-Foot near Charlie Howard's bush
- 3) the corner of the Emerald Forty-Foot and westerly section of the Second Concession
- 4) near Brian Ward's home on the Second Concession road

(b) Under the Development Road program MTC would approve the installation of guide cables along the higher sections of the new road

(c) There is a possibility of doing work on the Third Concession bridge under some sort of "make-work" scheme.

(d) They discussed the possibility of paving the Development Road (see another article in the Beacon).

The Road Committee is going to discuss putting up some more road signs.

Council approved the payment of expenses for some of the fire crew to attend a vehicle rescue course in Kingston. Two people have been hired to work on the dump clean-up. Council is still

trying to get all the street lights in the village working at the same time.

The County planner came to the meeting to explain the County Plan. The plan is almost finished and will be submitted to the County Council this spring. Then it has to be approved by the province. The county planner said that the County Council had been asked to look at five aspects of the county development. They had to identify suitable areas for residences, list the natural resources in the county, study the transportation systems, look at the problems for co-ordination between the municipalities, and list the sensitive areas such as flood prone areas and important environmental sites in the county. The plan has to agree with the zoning by-laws in the different municipalities.

Very little of this will affect Amherst Island as far as I could follow. I was interested that the planners are predicting only a 4 to 8000 increase in the county population up to the year 2000. The present population is 33,000.

According to the plan, severances on good farm land, which includes some of Amherst Island, will only be allowed for agricultural purposes. Other valuable assets in the county, such as mineral deposits will be available for use, rather than be covered over with residences or other development.

The new road running east-west, parallel to and between Highways 2 and 33 is slowly being built.

Further details of this plan may be explained from County Council if anyone is interested.

After the planner left, council tidied up the rest of their business.

Council receives a lot of resolutions from other townships and organizations which have no possible connection or relevance to Amherst Island. These used to be received and filed, however a new system for this has been introduced called "received and disposed of" to cut down on the necessary accumulation of paper.

QUILTS AND COVERLETS

- Randi Kennedy

Amherst Island is to be featured in a special exhibit this spring in the L&A County Museum, Napanee. The exhibit will be housed in its own room and will endeavour to tell the story of the Island from its inhabited beginning until 1930

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with pictures, photos, and old maps.

To accent the opening of the exhibit, Jane Foster and Sue Madden would like to show some quilts or woven coverlets from the Island such as were displayed in August of '81 at Farnham.

We will have access to the locked cases in the main foyer for some quilts and lots of hanging space in the hall for others. The museum has a new security and smoke system and all quilts will be insured. Those hung out of locked cases will be enclosed in plastic and we will ask that people not touch them.

Jane and/or Sue will pick them up and return them to the school if desired. They would like to have the quilts for a two-week period since it takes some time and effort to assemble the display, but this is flexible.

I will be contacting all those who had quilts at Farnham, but if you have or know of anyone with a quilt or coverlet (old or new) who might be interested in having it displayed, please give me a call.

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

- A. Bruce Caughey

I am sure that among our readers there are countless numbers of Photo Albums containing some very old pictures, and it is to these people that I am appealing on behalf of the Amherst Island Exhibit being arranged by the staff of the Lennox and Addington County Museum.

The staff are anxious to obtain pictures of :

- 1) Victoria Hall back in the days when there were picket fences both at the East and West sides at the North end and before the addition of the building to the Northeast corner of the hall with the original "Victoria Hail" sign in place. This could be anywhere up to the 1940-45 era.
- 2) an old picture of the Preston Home (Bruce and Susan Caughey's) "Poplar Dell" when the stone fence was in place etc.

If anyone should have either one of these pictures in their collection, I would appreciate their contacting me at 389-3158. I would be prepared to pick these up as well as be responsible for their return after they have been copied by the museum staff.

By the way I have seen the display on a couple of occasions during its preparation and I certainly hope that our Island people will take the

opportunity to visit this interesting tribute to Amherst Island. It is hoped to open the exhibit by April 1st and it will remain in place till mid-November.

Thank you.

CARDS OF THANKS

The members of ISLE would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended our 3rd annual ham dinner. Your support helped make this dinner a great success. The weather was worse this year than other years yet we had the largest turnout ever. We look forward to seeing you all next year.

My sincere thanks to family, relatives and friends, members of St. Paul's Church and Women's Institute for cards gifts, visits and phone calls. Also thanks to doctors and nursing staff on Johnson 6 Hotel Dieu Hospital while I was a patient there, and for care and kindness after coming home.

Georgia Reid

My sincere thanks to my friends and neighbours for their cards, telephone calls, visits and gifts during my recent stay in hospital and since returning home.

Henry Hitchins

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

So ends another Archives...
and with that another Beacon
draws to a close. Stay tuned
next month for another
exciting issue!!