Issue 489 July 2021

\$5 for printed copies at McGinn's General Store

THE BEACON

"bonum apporto nuntium, tristem nuntium, sed non malus nuntium"

THE



BEACON

HEAT WAVES, COOL WAVES, AND FRIENDLY WAVES

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A screen capture from the Weather Network for Stella, ON, and a picture of the dry ground recently, illustrating the current drought like conditions.

Heat Waves

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

Thankfully there is some precipitation coming up in the forecast for Stella, ON. Throughout my childhood and over the years I spent living in suburbia, I only ever paid attention to the weather in a superficial way. I would note the weather during small talk, or I would notice heat and retreat into airconditioned buildings to cool off. The weather did not affect my life as deeply as it does now. Living in the country, off-grid on solar power, and working as a farmer, has taught me to pay more careful attention to the weather. The forecast dictates and determines what work needs to be done on the farm some days. Other days, the forecast informs what protective clothing I should wear to work, or how conscious I should be of the heat and my hydration levels. I've used the weather app on my phone more times in the last year than I have ever used it, cumulatively, in my life.

It didn't take monitoring the weather to notice the heat lately. It is hot. It is very hot. It is humid. It is dry. Somehow it is hot, humid, and dry, all at once. I didn't think this kind of heat and lack of rain was possible in Ontario. I will welcome the rain when it comes, we need it badly.

Stay hydrated and try to stay cool this July!



Ice cream at The Back Kitchen is a favourite Amherst Island treat.

Beat the Heat with Free Ice Cream!

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

On Saturday, July 3rd, the Amherst Island Women's Institute and Handy Fairies has sponsored a free ice cream event!

At The Back Kitchen from 2pm, until supplies last, go get a free small (kiddie) cone. Ice cream is an excellent way to cool off and beat the heat this summer.

Thank you to the A.I.W.I., Handy Fairies, and The Back Kitchen, for making this possible.

Summer hours are in effect at The Back Kitchen:

Wednesday: 12-7pm Thursday: 12-7pm

Friday: 12-7pm (Fish available after 4pm) Saturday: 12-7pm (Donuts @ 11am) Sunday: 12-7pm (Dinner special after 4pm)

If, for some reason, the ice cream doesn't work; go for a swim! We are fortunate to be surrounded by water on all sides, so enjoy that this summer. Stay cool.



Friendly Waves

I am going to take this opportunity to thank you all for waving as you drive past another car on the island. It is a heartwarming, simple gesture that brings a smile to my face on the tough days. This is such a neat community to live in.

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JULY DAYS

National Video Game Day

JULY 8TH

Video gaming is an increasingly popular hobby, and as technology improves, it is becoming an increasingly lucrative industry. National video game day is a day to introduce 'non-gamers' to this method of leisure and entertainment. Nintendo 64, SEGA Genesis, Xbox, Play Station, PC Gaming, there is a long list of platforms and consoles through which to access video games.

While talking to someone recently about the hobby, they said "you can learn a lot about a person's personality while gaming with them". It's true. Does that teammate only care about statistics? Do they sacrifice themselves to save other teammates? Are they competitive or laid back? Personality traits such as empathy, selfishness, spatial awareness and memory, preparedness, reaction under pressure, graciousness in defeat, etc.

You can't learn everything about someone by playing video games with them, but you can learn a whole lot.



I know, this is an Xbox controller. I am biased. I prefer Xbox over Play Station any day.



OBSERVE

National Different Coloured Eyes Day, July 12th

Heterochromia is a condition when a person or animal has differently coloured eyes, or eyes that have more than one colour. This can happen due to a genetic sequence passed down from your family, or from something that occurred while your eyes were forming.

Some people wear contact lenses to mimic this beautiful trait. I have seen actors in movies that have been portrayed with heterochromia, and some of my friends have donned contacts during costume parties to make their eyes look like this.

One of my friends' children has heterochromia, her son has one blue eye and one brown eye. His eyes are so unique and gorgeous. Do you know anyone with heterochromia?

REMEMBER

National Ice Cream Day

JULY 18TH

July 18th is a Sunday this year, so The Back Kitchen is open! Go get an ice cream to celebrate this day properly.

Lactose intolerant? Well, the Ben & Jerry's new 'Non-dairy' pints can be found in local store and are actually delicious! I bought one by mistake, and I didn't notice the taste difference at all.





THE BEACON

SPOTLIGHT SPECIES

Common Raccoon

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

The common raccoon, or *procyon lotor*, is most easily identified by the black fur on its face in the pattern of a mask. For this colouration, and other behavioural habits, the raccoon has acquired a reputation for being mischievous.

Raccoons are extremely adaptable to their surroundings, so their habitat range is wide. All they require is a source of water, food, and shelter for their den. Raccoons live all throughout North America; both in the wilderness and in cities. Raccoons are not highly territorial, so their individual habitat areas overlap with other raccoons without excessive violence or an effort to control their territory.

Mostly grey in colour, the raccoon has a tail patterned with 5-7 alternating brown and black rings. In the springtime raccoons begin their annual molt, so their fur has a slightly odd appearance for 10-12 weeks in the spring.

Fully grown adult raccoons have a snout to tail measurement of about 80cm long, and males are generally larger than females. In the springtime adults weigh roughly 14lbs, but by late fall they can weigh up to 50lbs. Raccoons grow a tremendous amount in preparation for the harsh winter climate.

In rural and agricultural areas, the density of raccoons seems to hover around 5-10 individual raccoons/km². In cities, however,

up to 100 individual raccoons/km² have been recorded.

The life cycle of a raccoon includes breeding season in the late winter and early spring, followed by raising young and gaining weight in the summer and fall. Throughout the winter most raccoons have a denning period, in which they are largely inactive. They are not hibernating, but they are conserving energy and limiting activity. They take refuge in hollow trees, logs, abandoned dens, barns, chimneys, garages, attics, and culverts. Adult males den independently. Young raccoon families often den together for the first winter in groups of 4-5, however a communal den of 23 raccoons has been recorded.

The ultimate omnivore, the common raccoon will consume almost any food item: corn, fish, fruits, insects, nuts, muskrats, squirrels, eggs, clams, frogs, worms, ants, and even hornets. Their thick fur protects them from stinging insects while they raid the nest to eat the larvae.

Raccoons will have a litter of 2-7 'kits' after a gestation of about 63 days. The adult male plays no role in raising the kits. The young raccoons are born blind and toothless, but their eyes open after 2 weeks, and they emerge from the den at about 8 weeks of age.

The greatest dangers to raccoons are humans, trappers, vehicles, and diseases. Anywhere between 2-4 million pelts are harvested annually from the North American raccoon population. Canine distemper, rabies, and starvation also devastate the racoon population.

RACCOON FACTS

- The common raccoon inhabits all provinces of Canada except Newfoundland and Labrador.
- The raccoon variant of rabies is a fatal, viral infection, that is currently epizootic in Quebec. Only 1 person has died as a result of raccoon to human transmission of the disease.
- The name *raccoon* comes from the Algonquian word *arakun*, which means 'he scratches with his hand'.
- A group of raccoons is called a 'nursery'.
- Raccoons can run up to 25km/h and fall from a height of 35-40ft without suffering injury.
- In the wild, raccoons live an average of 2-3 years. In captivity, raccoons can live up to 20 years.
- They have been nicknamed 'trash pandas' for their fur pattern and habit of breaking into trash cans to find food.

Sources: Canadian Wildlife Federation, "Raccoon", *Hinterland Who's Who*.

Encyclopaedia of Britannica, "Raccoon", 2020.



A young raccoon hiding in a tree on the North shore of Amherst Island, ON. Photographed by Kayleigh Graham, editor@thebeaconpaper.com

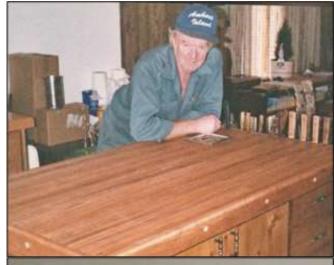


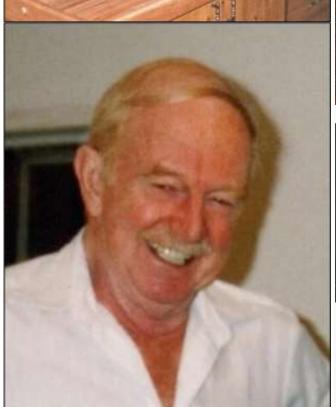
Obituaries

JOHN MAYMAN (1935-2021)

The below statement was originally published in The Kingston Whig Standard on June 5th, 2021.

Peacefully at his son's home on Amherst Island on Monday, May 31, 2021, in his 86th year. Loving father and best friend of John Mayman Jr. (Tessa) and extremely proud and cherished grandfather of Codey (Jocelyn), Dylan and Kassy. Dear brother of Margaret 'Anne' Luscombe (late John) of Kingston and Brian Mayman (Linda) of Toronto. John was the son of the late George and Hilda Mayman. Fondly remembered by his extended family and friends. A Celebration of his Life will be held at a later date with interment at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Bracebridge. For those desiring, memorial donation to UHKF (KGH Cancer Centre) would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to Payne Funeral Home, 178 Main St., Odessa, Ontario, K0H 2H0 (613)-386-7373). Please share your memories and condolences to the family at www.paynefuneralhome.com









Photographs of John Mayman and his friends and family throughout the years.

ELLEN CHRISTENA FILSON (CHRIS) (1925-2021)

The below statement was originally published in The Kingston Whig Standard on June 23rd, 2021.

After a long battle, Mom is finally at peace. In her 97th year, she passed away at Rideaucrest surrounded by her family on June 22nd 2021. Wife of the late Melville, mother of Hugh (Nancy) and Sally (Steve), Grandmother to Tracey (Graeme), Kerri (Cliff), Hugh (Susan) and Ben (Meg). Great Grandmother to Connor and Tanner. Sister of late Hugh (Doris), Late Marg (Late Frank), Late Ben (Late Barb), Grace (Late Eric) and Late Nina (Bill). Special ex-mother -in-law to Dale and the other Mom to Eric, Ted, and Jamie. We would like to thank the staff on the second floor for their compassion and care of Mom, we greatly appreciate everything you did for her. Due to COVID restrictions, cremation has taken place and burial will be at a later date.



 ${\bf Photograph\ taken\ by\ Vicki\ Keith\ on\ Amherst\ Island.}$



ISLAND INFORMATION

Amherst Island Ferry Service

Ferry Schedule

The ferry leaves Stella (Amherst Island side) on the hour each day, 6:00am to 1:00am.

The ferry leaves Millhaven (mainland side) on the half hour each day, 6:30am to 1:30am.



Aerial view of the progress made to the Millhaven dock, from https://twitter.com/a_i_ferrydocks

Fares (cash or cheque only) *Fare collection is set to resume sometime in early March 2021.

- small school bus \$10.00
- RV or car with trailer, large vehicles requiring up to two vehicle spaces, or large school bus - \$20.00
- Large vehicles and trailers or equipment requiring more than two vehicle spaces -\$10.00 per space used
- Motorcycle \$2.00
- Bicycle \$1.50
- Book of 25 round-trip tickets \$100.00

Note: An administration charge of \$20.00 will be added to the fare for any motorist with insufficient funds to pay fare. The administration charge is required to cover costs incurred to prepare an invoice.

Ferry Dock Construction Project

The new docks have been backfilled, and the • Car, truck (under 1 ton), van, farm tractor or installation of vehicle ramps has begun on both docks. The new docks are expected to be completed in mid-2021, although it may be longer until it is operational.

> Factors that hinder the switch over date include; requirements for testing the new electric ferry, training staff at the new docks, approvals from Transport Canada, and ensuring reliable and uninterrupted ferry service to and from the island. Passenger waiting areas and washrooms are still scheduled to open in 2021.

The Amherst Islander II, the new electric ferry, is expected to arrive in Canada in the spring of 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected its arrival.

Information and updates can be found at http://www.amherstislandferrydocks.ca/ or https://twitter.com/a i ferrydocks

Instructions

- Please separate glass, plastics, paper/cardboard, and metal from garbage.
- Place a garbage tag (\$2.50 each, or \$25 for 10) on each garbage bag.
- The township offers two free large item drop offs (FILDO) per year.

COVID-19 Precautions: tags are normally sold at the landfill site, but are not currently due to COVID-19.

LOYALIST LANDFILLS

Dump Hours and Protocol

Amherst Island Waste Disposal Site, 145 Dump Road, Amherst Island. Garbage tags can be purchased at McGinn's General Store and Fast Freddy's in Bath, Foodland, and many other township retailers, payment at Amherst Island landfill is cash only.

Open Hours				
Wednesdays	11:00am – 2:00pm			
Saturdays	10:00am – 12:00pm			
Sundays	2:00pm – 4:00pm			

Information and updates can be found at https://www.loyalisttownship.ca/index.cfm/residents/garbage-and-recycling/

STORE SERVICES

McGinn's General Store

POST OFFICE

Open Hours

9-11:30am, 2:30-5pm
9-11:30am, 2:30-5pm
9-11:30am, 2:30-5pm
9-11:00am, 3:30-6pm
9-11:30am, 2:30-5pm
Closed
Closed

Phone Number: 613-519-2331

COVID-19 Precautions: face mask required, 1 person inside at a time inside (please call before arriving or knock).

GENERAL STORE

COVID-19 Precautions: curbside service only, masks at the curb would be appreciated.

Owned and operated by a 5th generation island family, Linda and Dave McGinn.

Open Hours

Mondays	9am – 5pm
Tuesdays	9am – 5pm
Wednesdays	9am -5pm
Thursdays	9am – 6pm
Fridays	9am – 5pm
Saturdays	10am – 4pm
Sundays	Closed

Phone Number: 613-519-2331



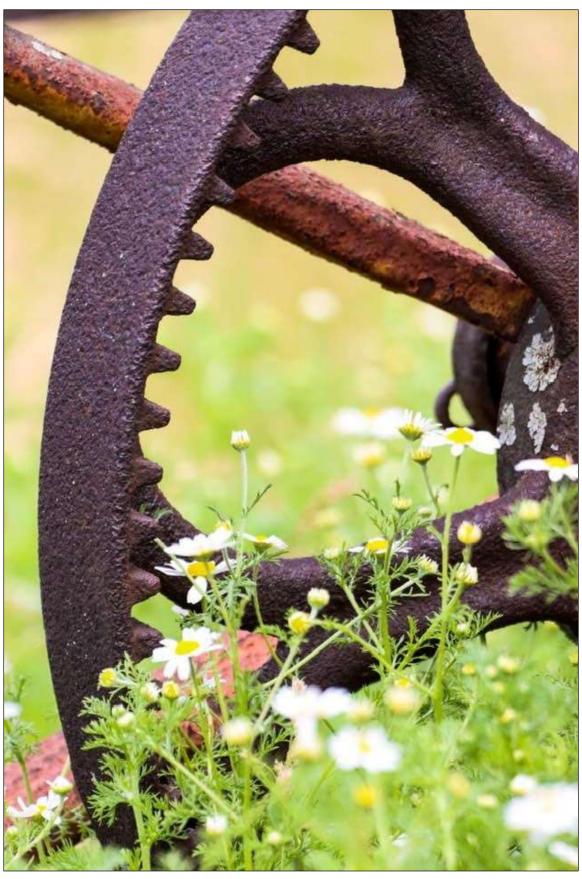


Poetry Sent in by a Subscriber

Mending Wall

By Robert Frost

Something there is that doesn't love a wall, That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it, And spills the upper boulders in the sun; And makes gaps even two can pass abreast. The work of hunters is another thing; I have come after them and made repair Where they have left not one stone on a stone, But they would have the rabbit out of hiding, To please the yelping dogs. The gaps I mean, No one has seen them made or heard them made, But at spring mending-time we find them there. I let my neighbour know beyond the hill; And on a day we meet to walk the line And set the wall between us once again. We keep the wall between us as we go. To each the boulders that have fallen to each. And some are loaves and some so nearly balls We have to use a spell to make them balance: "Stay where you are until our backs are turned!" We wear our fingers rough with handling them. Oh, just another kind of out-door game. One on a side. It comes to little more: There where it is we do not need the wall: He is all pine and I am apple orchard. My apple trees will never get across And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him. He only says, "Good fences make good neighbours." Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder If I could put a notion in his head: "Why do they make good neighbours? Isn't it Where there are cows? But here there are no cows. Before I built a wall I'd ask to know What I was walling in or walling out, And to whom I was like to give offence. Something there is that doesn't love a wall, That wants it down." I could say "Elves" to him, But it's not elves exactly, and I'd rather He said it for himself. I see him there Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed. He moves in darkness as it seems to me, Not of woods only and the shade of trees. He will not go behind his father's saying, And he likes having thought of it so well He says again, "Good fences make good neighbours."



Photograph taken by Vicki Keith on Amherst Island.

In this time of separation and isolation, the last thing we need is more walls between us. However, there is a certain charm about the neighbours in this poem and how steadfastly supportive of each other they are. Every year, they meet. Every year, they rebuild. After the pandemic has taken its toll, we will meet again, and we will rebuild bonds that have become as dilapidated as the wall in this poem.



Photographs taken by Vicki Keith on Amherst Island.



ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Roaming Garden Party

Save the Date!

"Roaming" Garden Party to be held on Saturday July 24, 2021

In 1948, the St. Paul's Presbyterian Church Garden Party was started by a group of women who observed too many snakes in the church outhouse and initiated a fundraising effort to supply the manse with indoor plumbing.

Supported by their long-standing minister, the Reverend RK Earles, the congregation held a tea and bake sale on the lawn of the manse to raise funds. They added games for children, a white elephant table, and a BINGO. The men of the congregation made ice cream for the Garden Party and stored it in the ice-house at the island's then bustling Fishing Village.

For over 70 years, the Garden Party has brought together generations of islanders and mainlanders to enjoy a summer afternoon of homemade baked goods, pie and ice cream, used clothes, music, theatrical productions, plant sales, quilt displays, antiques, auctions and visiting. The sheds behind the church that once kept horses from the sun and rain during Sunday service have been the venue for the Garden Party for decades.

What started as a quest for indoor plumbing has since supported the building of a church hall, endless maintenance of the nearly 200-year-old limestone church, community initiatives and international service work.

The summer of 2020 was the first time in over 70 years that the Garden Party could not happen! This year, given COVID-19 restrictions, St. Paul's is planning a "Roaming Garden Party", which will see some of the usual Garden Party favourite spread out in 5 different locations around the island, starting at 10 am on Saturday July 24, 2021.

Please note, public health rules for outdoor gatherings will be strictly observed! Please wear a mask, stay physically distanced, and come out to enjoy this year's "Roaming Garden Party". If you would like to donate lightly used household items (or clothing, books, tools, etc.) to the Garden Party, please contact Judy Miller (613-389-2459) or Beth Forester (613-389-5582). Sincere thanks to all for their continued support!

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

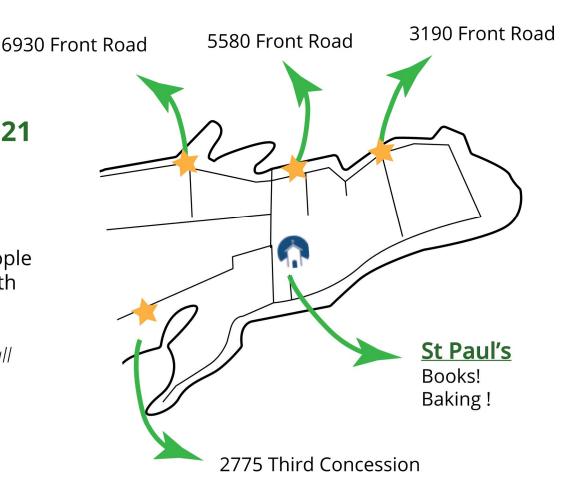
Roaming Garden Party

Saturday July 24, 2021 10 am-3 pm

- Masks mandatory!
- Maximum number of people per stop in accordance with Public Health orders

If you have any donations call

Judy (389-2459) or Beth (389-5582)





THE BEACON

ISLAND TREES

Apple Trees of Amherst Island

SALLY BOWEN

"Practically every household on the Island had their own good orchard" says Keith Miller. They would have picking bees in the fall, helping each other. The fruit was packed in barrels, then shipped by schooner to Kingston and Toronto as one of the cash crops." Keith's uncle Kenneth, (born 1898) reported his job as a young kid was to put the lid on the barrels. (Keith has donated a barrel to the museum that includes the sling used to hoist it into the schooner.) Of course lots of the fruit was canned and cooked and stored for winter food too.

Some of the root stock was brought with families from the old country when they emigrated then planted. Ida says her dad, Billy Bulch, used to sell fruit stock on the Island ...

At Topsy Farms, we have an elderly pear tree, planted by James and Peachie Eves when they planted the big spruces out front. It is scrawny, nearly all rotten, leans at a terrible angle, overshadowed by the spruces, yet produces dramatically better fruit, healthier, tastier and more bug resistant, than others planted since.

I've loved trees since I was a kid, so was determined to save the genetics of the "Peachie Pear Tree". Three years ago, we held a "How to Graft Fruit Trees" workshop in our barn in early spring, and successfully grafted 5 trees now planted at Jake's and at Kyle's. Another is destined for the Orchard House where Leah now lives.

Covid prevented repeats the last two years.

Watching ancient fruit trees around the Island, hearing some stories of their history, I was determined to try grafting ancient well-loved apple and pear trees. I asked Islanders if I might have samples or "scions" of ancient trees they recommended for disease resistance and for flavour, to try to graft. Instant, generous response.

One person would tell me stories of another favourite tree. Dave Willard described sitting in the top of a tree with his sister, gorging, then raking pails and pails full for the pigs. There was an ancient one at Coralee's. The Friesen's described one on the roadway verge they thought was spectacular. Janet Grace said one of their old apple trees shows in a photo of Farnham when the Moutray's lived there. Cora and Terry invited us to sample their old Tolman Sweet.

Steven Kapuska, a part-time tree grafter, agreed to work on up to 20 trees for us. We chose this year to do 2 samples of 20 trees, 7 apple, 1 'prapple' and 2 pear trees.

Janet Grace, Randi Kennedy and I circled the Island, gathering scions from many, carefully identifying, storing damp and cool and delivering. Some samples didn't have sufficient life tissue so we gathered again.

We had some failures, some successes. I created a 'nursery' area where we can help the young trees develop, then will transplant to their permanent homes. We intend to include most of these in the 'rewilding' plantation of 1 km of trees, shrubs and understory hedgerow work going on at Topsy Farms.





- 2 Drumgoole Pear
- 3 McMullin Pear
- 1 Coralee's Red (type unknown)
- 2 Yellow Transparent (one even flowered)
- 2 Dave Willard Crab
- 1 Sharon Kudar's property (2450 South Shore Rd, planted when the house was built, 1870)
- 3 McGinn's Empire
- 2 apples from Ian Phillips property adjacent to Peg Coulter's

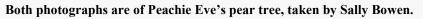
Others failed.

We were also offered suckers from Saskatoon bushes and a few from Bernice Gould at the Hall are thriving.

There was a wealth of stories and conversations in the gathering of these.

We hope to do a better job next year, researching and telling stories of the really old trees and their original family's history, and to obtain viable samples. Maybe we can gradually offer them around the Island again.

Wouldn't that be wonderful?







ARTS AND CULTURE

View of Santi Giovanni e Paolo by Canaletto

DEREK OXLEY

"Ah, Venice..."

This month we are going to explore one of my favourite cityscape artists. Seven years ago I had the privilege to live for a month in Venice, Italy, as part of my studies. I got to know some very memorable people on that trip and I will always remember it as a very special time for me. Even if I didn't always behave. Venice imprinted itself behind my eyes in a way that no other place has done, and when I close them, I can still remember all the old routes along the alleyways, bridges, underpasses, and campos that make up this precious maze. I imagine myself walking out of the doors of the hotel and into the city. I turn left, up a handful of stairs, and then turn right to cross a bridge into the local campo of San Maria Formosa. I head directly for the only alleyway leading north, and as I traverse the short distance towards my goal, I see in my memory's eye the small café with the spicy pancetta sandwiches at the mouth of the calle, named after the campo. I walk down the narrow alley, gazing at the book shop with the gondola inside, the stationary shop with its feathered calligraphy pens, and the poor toy shop on the brink of folding. I come to that one fork in the road that always vexed me at first. Once I learned to go left, even though it didn't feel like the direction that made sense, I would follow the pathway over two bridges until it connected with the larger roadway of Barbaria de la Tole. One final left here leads through the crowd of tourists, hotels, and the noise of local vendors and restaurants until it opens up into the campo of Saints Giovanni e Paolo. A painting of this campo by the incomparable Canaletto is the subject of our painting this month.

Conditions for modernization across Europe began strongly after the end of the many conflicts of the 17th century. By the 1680s an era of relative peace and security settled across most of Europe, brought about in part by the rise of absolute monarchies, which made the infrastructures and safety of travel more reliable. So began the age of the European Grand Tour by the wealthy and elite, keen to see sites of historic importance. By the 18th century, cityscape and architectural painting was beginning to appeal to many of these travelers who wished to bring home a 'snap-shot' of places they found memorable, and so there was a swell in the creation of portable and picturesque views that tourists could acquire as they traveled, creating something of a photo gallery for the traveler once they returned home. The growth of open art markets in Europe was not unprecedented, but this era was an incredibly important time for these markets because of the drastic increase in the number of mobile consumers. This was the stage onto which Canaletto emerged, and through the 1720s and 30s he was able to make a great deal of his income selling painting to wealthy tourists, specializing in cityscapes of his native Venice. The more popular the landmark, the more often he would paint it, and there are several

angles of this campo for those interested in a more whole picture.

Giovanni Canal (1697-1768) was born in Venice during the twilight of the Venetian republic – the nickname Canaletto ('little canal') was probably given to him in his youth as a way of discerning him from the other painters in his family, and he more or less adopted it as an adult. His father Bernardo was a painter and set designer for the Venetian opera houses of the day, a position which made him well-to-do in the republic and afforded his family a comfortable existence. In this place and time male children of ignoble lineage were still generally expected to follow a family trade, and so it was that as a teenager Canaletto joined in the family profession and quickly excelled as a painter. Set paintings were expected to create a realistic illusion that would stretch the limited theatre space far off into the distance with real-looking views and details to set the lavish stages. Canaletto's skill allowed him to start creating his own paintings, typically on canvas, that could be made in advance and sold on the spot; his works helped make Venice one of the best visually documented cities of the 18th century. This painting dates from the late 1730s.

The importance of changes to art markets is sometimes an understated factor when examining art history, but if one makes a point to "follow the money" then interesting layers of history can be revealed. When the vast majority of wealth and resources was owned by a minority of landowners and religious institutions then it is no surprise that most



Canaletto, View of Santi Giovanni e Paolo, Oil on canvas, c. 1738. In private collection.





ARTS AND CULTURE

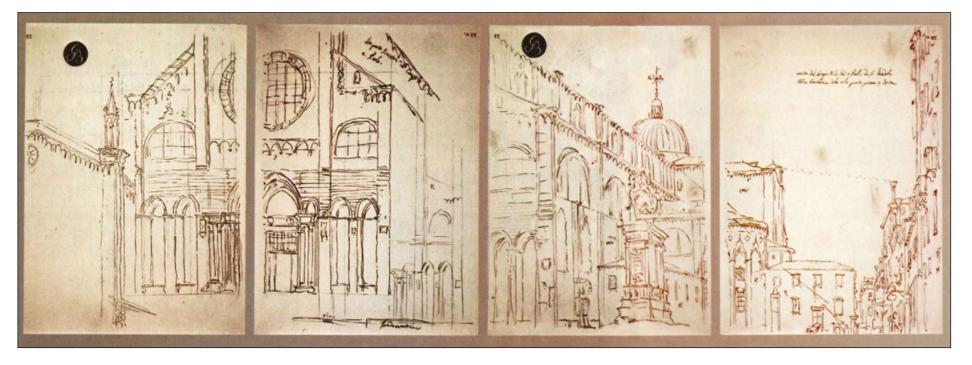
View of Santi Giovanni e Paolo by Canaletto continued...

DEREK OXLEY

artwork was made to support this wealth system. But whenever wealth is more spread out, then open art markets come to flourish, which can have very different genres of imagery than those upheld by governments, art academies, or religious institutions. Lowbrow art of today has some parallels to this phenomenon. Established institutions, those who make the rules surrounding what is considered high, art don't always embrace the tastes or zeitgeist of their day. Canaletto's situation reflects this reality. He was well-off and in demand (especially by Dutch and English tourists), created magnificent works, and yet because he was not creating history painting or other elevated genres he was not highly considered by the academies of his day. The establishment didn't see him as a mover or a shaker, and thus paid him little attention. There were directions of thought who felt that because recognizable landscapes imitated the world around us, that they called for more imitation than intellect, and as such were not worthy of being considered high art. But the art markets steered Canaletto's life and livelihood. When the war of Austrian succession through the 1740s once again made travel more dangerous, the loss of revenue pushed Canaletto to move for a time into printmaking, and then he relocated to England in his 50s where he had a more favourable audience for his paintings. A deeper discussion of art markets, where rarity and authenticity are equally important, will be a focus for a future article.

This particular campo is an important space within the city and is a nostalgic space for me as I often went there to read or draw, and it was here that I first sat down and shared a very good coffee with someone who became a very important mentor to me. It is one of the largest plazas in Venice, with landmarks that represent the wealth and power of the republic in the 15th century. Central to this painting is the basilica of SS Giovanni e Paolo, the reddish building with the ocular window and dome, which took a century to erect, finished around 1430. It became a site of major importance to the city, hosting the funeral of every leader of the republic for over 300 years; throughout its grand nave it holds the tombs of many important Venetian citizens. To its left is the façade of the Scuola Grande di San Marco (great school of St. Mark) with its six arched pediments and asymmetrical façade. It was the seat of one of the major medieval Christian confraternities of the 13th and 14th centuries. Today it serves as the façade of a major Venetian hospital, but pains are taken to preserve its original appearance and imagery. Sitting amid the square is the handsome statue of the military figure (and mercenary) Bartolomeo Colleoni, who was honoured in 1483 for bequeathing a substantial gift of wealth and lands to the Venetian Republic upon his death in 1475. The roadway in the right side of the image which stretches to the horizon is the afore mentioned Barbaria de la Tole. And aside from these splendid sights this particular campo also had a friendly vendor who sold bottles of strong beer for 1.80 euros (did I mention I didn't always behave?). It was cheaper than the bottled water. But, beer buzz aside, it is a wonderful feeling to stand in a place where a patina of hundreds of years connects you with all those who stood there before you. There is something humbling about becoming part of the energy of a place so filled throughout time by people worthy of celebration and commemoration. Sadly, today that friend and mentor has joined the ranks of these storied Venetians, but I'm glad that they will forever keep such good company, walking together through the city that they loved and fought for.

I hope to make it back to Venice one day and walk once more through its bejeweled labyrinth. Who knows, maybe that friendly vendor will still be there with his bang-for-your-euro beers. Until then I will just have to enjoy paintings like this. This version of the *Campo Santi Giovanni e Paolo* is currently held in a private collection.



Canaletto, Campo Santi Giovanni e Paolo, preparatory drawings. Sketch and study, c. 1738.

Sources:

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- Puppi, Lionello. The Complete Paintings of Canaletto. Tr. By David Bindman. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc. 1968.
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JANET'S JOTTINGS

Amherst Island Aerialists

JANET SCOTT

No, we don't have a troupe of gymnasts performing like a local 'Cirque du Soleil' soaring high above us on swinging trapezes or leaping daringly through space. We do have, brought to you all the way from the warm lands to the south, at no cost to you, the amazing, the fantastic, the death-defying swallow species. Enjoy the show!

Over the forty years I've been birding on Amherst Island, I've been able to watch and admire these six different swallow species that make our island their home.

The most desired, the most talkative, the swallows wearing the royal purple of kingship are the purple martins. There are 90 species of swallows in the world, but purple martins are unique to North America. They show little fear of man and return year after year to the same nest sites. The eastern race is completely dependent on humans to provide them with nesting sites. Sometime in the distant past, the Indigenous peoples in southern North America discovered that purple martins could be attracted to hollowed



Purple Martins. Photographed by Don Woodiwiss Photography, woodiwissphotography.com.

out gourds or calabashes to nest. The tradition spread among tribes and continued among the European colonists. Over hundreds of generations the martins prospered and abandoned their natural nesting sites to move into the apartment style boxes provided by humans. In exchange they devour approximately 2000 insects a day and fly at 50-150 metres high, catching insects in flight. To get a drink or bath they skitter across the surface of the lake. Purple martins are 8 inches, 20 centimetres, in size. The males are dark purplish-blue, the females and juveniles have greyish bellies, and all have forked tails. Their chatter sounds like you've tuned into Star Trek by mistake. When I first came to Amherst Island, Captain Bulch, in the house just east of the school, had several martin houses on his property. Each spring we waited anxiously for the first scouts to show up around April 11th. His daughter Ida and her husband George have established resident martins at their house. Our island resident with the most martins now is Anders Bennick on Long Point Road. As a retirement project Anders builds martin houses over the winter and has completed at least eight of these desired apartment buildings. A few years ago he took part in a martin study. Martins were captured in their nesting boxes, banded, and a few were fitted out with a wire receiver and a tag. In order to recover the stored data the bird had to be recaptured the following year. Amazingly one of these 50 gram flyers returned to her box on Amherst Island after an 8000 kilometer trip to the Amazon River where she spent our winter on an island in the warmth of South America. Anders wrote a wonderful report of this memorable experience called "Island to Island".



Tree swallow. Photographed by Colleen Pattison.

Smaller than the martin, the next species in our swallow troupe is the 5³/₄ inches, or 15 centimeters, tree swallow. This iridescent blue bird with the snow-white belly darts across the fields competing with thousands to catch flying insects as it dips, dives, reverses in a dizzying display. Unlike its cousin the martin, it can stand cooler temperatures and is the first swallow back after only migrating to southern North America and is the latest to leave as winter approaches. They are able to do that because they eat berries as well as insects. The year after we arrived on the island my husband and I set out to create a bluebird trail on the island at the east end. Gus Yaki, a birding enthusiast on Wolfe Island, gave us forty bird boxes made of old barn boards. Alex put up these boxes along the Marshall Forty-Foot and around the perimeter of the Kingston Field Naturalists property, now known as The Martin Edwards Bird Sanctuary. That first year Alex recorded one wren and 39 tree swallows in his boxes. Sadly, no bluebirds. Later Chris Lyons placed bluebird boxes in pairs with the hope that tree swallows who don't like apartments would leave the neighbouring box for bluebirds. No, Amherst Island tree swallows are friendly and welcoming just like Amherst Islanders and soon all the boxes were being used by tree swallows. You will even see the last years babies helping to feed this year's family along with the parents. Sometimes five or more adults circling a box. Carl McCrosky built new boxes for the Sylvester-Gallagher Nature Reserve and all those boxes are occupied as well. You have to love stopping and listening at the foot of the island with at least a thousand shiny blue and white swallows happily twittering around you, and they love the clouds of midges swirling along the edge of the lake. Tree swallows like to woo their perspective mates with white feathers to line nests. You may have tree swallows grabbing chicken downy feathers from around the hen house and Lynn Fleming told me how, when she brushed their yellow lab Keno, the tree swallows would grab the white clumps of hair floating in the breeze. A pleasant surprise for the Mrs tree swallow.





JANET'S JOTTINGS

Amherst Island Aerialists, continued...

JANET SCOTT

Harder to distinguish and both species are mud nest builders; the barn swallow measuring $6^{3}/4$ inches (with a mostly forked tail), and the cliff swallow measuring $5^{1}/2$ inches, build their nests with balls of mud that they attach to a wall or beam in a manmade structure. The barn swallows are the only swallows with the truly 'swallow tail' and they require at least 1900 small mud pellets which they carry in their beaks to a flat surface under an overhang and line it with plant fibres and feathers. The baby barn swallows in the shed at the Radio Station have their heads stuck above the nest rim, beaks wide open, while parents are constantly flying in and out with insects in their beaks. They have orange bellies, russet chins and dark blue-black backs. There are russet patches on their foreheads. The smaller cliff swallow has a warm buffy belly and patch on their foreheads. Their gourd shaped nests used to surround the school just under the roof edge and were all along the North wall of Noel McCormick's white garage by the dock. The radio station has had a couple and Wayne Fleming's milk house, and last year his drive shed, has a couple. Sabina Sormova had a couple of pairs attempt to build at their house. Unfortunately, just as the drought is affecting our lake levels, wells, and gardens, it also means no puddles. The swallows use just the right silt combination from the edge of a farmyard puddle to build these intricate mud ball nests, and then they need heat to bake the Adobe. Our weather has hindered swallow nest building. Loss of dairy farms, dry weather, hotter summers and less insects have sadly affected the numbers of these two species. You hate it, I know, when swallows build by your door because they dive bomb every visitor. Elaine Wolfreys found a clever way to stop the barn swallow from building on the light fixture at the church's back door; she placed a horseshoe hanging on the light fixture. Just changing the surface meant they could no longer build there. We had cliff swallows that built on the side of our house on the South shore. The stucco covering on the walls gave them enough purchase to anchor their gourd-shaped nests. Our cliff swallows returned every year on May 3rd. You could notice on the calendar the date and I would say to Alex, "swallows should be back", and before the day was over, we'd hear them chattering. Mark Ritchie has been involved for a few years now protecting barn swallows and allowing them to nest. One year he had 114 barn swallow nests. Gayla is involved now in the data gathering and protection of swallows.

Swallow species #5 in our acrobatic troupe is the happy little Northern rough-winged swallow found on both North and South shores of Amherst Island. It hangs out along the cliffs where it nests in holes and crevices. It's a sooty brown swallow all over with a lighter breast but just reminds you of "Pig Pen" from the Charlie Brown *Peanuts* cartoons. It looks like it's been rolling in the dust. It is $5^{1}/_{2}$ inches and has a squared off



Barn Swallow. Photographed by Don Woodiwiss Photography, woodiwissphotography.com.



Barn Swallow nest. Photographed by Andrea Cross.

tail so doesn't look quite swallow shaped. You will see them by my son's house on Front Road and along the lake by Chris Reed's on the South shore or further along by Kirk Corkery's house. They are hard to see nests because they are hidden in culverts, drainage pipes, and crevices in the cliffs. During nesting they can be seen signing nearby perching on bushes and fences.

Our smallest and hardest now to see is the bank swallow. I moved to Amherst Island in 1984. During migration you could see 1000 bank swallows gathering on the wires. They look like small tree swallows but have a dark belly band and a notched tail. There was a colony that established itself on the sand cliff on the Third Concession just West of the Emerald Forty-Foot. We watched them there for 30 years, but things changed, and vegetation grew where they had nested in a colony by digging burrows into the sand by Peter Trueman's, now the Vanstone's house. They will nest in gravel pits and along railway escarpments where construction has loosened soil. These little guys are constructing narrow burrows in which to build their nests. Keith Miller inspected the cliff from the water last summer and thought there might still be some nesting burrows there, but he also saw some North of Kingston in a sandpit.

By late July all six species will be gathering in a mass by Lance Eve's farm on the Long Point Road. If you sit there on an August evening, you can see 10,000 swallows circling and dancing above the trees like a murmuration of starlings. Thousands of birds are grabbing a last-minute bedtime snack from the humming insects above the bush, and then on some magic cue from the conductor they dive as one into the trees to spend the night safe and warm in a roost. The next day, as warming temperatures awaken the flying insects, these 10,000+ birds will travel across the island feeding on insects until at dusk again they gather once more. It is something amazing to see and thank-you Kurt Hennige, a master birder familiar to many on the island, who was kind enough to show me the roosting ceremony of the swallows. Night falls, the show is over. By September, most will be gone to Mexico or Brazil, and in between.

Thankfully, they are blessed with genetically modified maps. They come home to our island, home to our eaves and barns and bluffs, with the promise of a repeat performance with younger members learning the moves. We too can sing, "When the swallows return to Amherst".



Rough-winged swallow. Photographed by Ontario Birds.





DARLENE'S DICTEES

Amherst Island Blooms

DARLENE MARTIN-STUART

To be an AI Blooms recognition garden is special. It means you have planted, cared for, and enjoyed your garden not only for property beautification but also for your personal health and wellbeing, as well as making a difference for our wildlife by increasing our biodiversity.

Application forms are now available at The General Store. Thank you to Dave and Linda McGinn who believe in this initiative and have kindly agreed to collect nominations at The General Store now through to July 15. If you don't see any nomination forms out front on their table, ring the bell and Linda or Dave would be happy to get you a copy from inside the store.

The reward for participating in AI Blooms is a piece of folk art for your garden, handmade by my husband, Ross Stuart. He has been working on them and I have to say, they are really special. You can now see an example of one at The General Store! The AICA partially subsidized the cost of materials via the generous support of Lafarge, but the thought and time that has gone into producing them is Ross' gift to the island.

They have a concrete base with the words recognition garden embossed on it, to make it easy to place in your garden without having to find a spot without rock. The sculpture is a sunflower, made of metal. The flowerhead is removable, which will allow you to add a new leaf with the year stamped into it. This year the piece comes with the 2021 leaf already on it, and each subsequent year you are nominated, you will receive a new leaf.

Due to their handmade nature, no two sculptures are exactly alike.

There is room on the stem for many years of participation, and it is my sincere wish that AI Blooms becomes a new and important part of our unique island heritage. These markers will be delivered to the nominees by myself and Ross sometime after nominations close on July 15.

Linda suggested we also present the nominees with their official nomination forms, which I believe is a stroke of genus. Thank you for that idea Linda! This truly is a community effort, with an emphasis on inclusive participation. The size and scope of your gardens is not the point; the point is simply to celebrate this island's unique landscape and recognize your efforts towards supporting our fragile ecosystems.

Please, make a point to go say hi to Linda and Dave, buy yourself a treat, and nominate yourself and at least one other Island Resident who you know would be delighted to receive this honour.

I nominated myself and my neighbours Brian and Marie Ward. Who will you nominate?





(left) Dave and Linda McGinn, of the McGinn's General Store. (above) Nomination form for Amherst Island Blooms. Both photographed by Darlene Martin-Stuart.





COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to our Community Members!



(left) Congratulations to Emily Wemp on her graduation from St. Patrick Catholic School, Harrowsmith. Emily is the daughter of Sarah and Donnie Wemp.



(right) Congratulations to Cameron Wemp on his graduation from Grade 12 at Sydenham High School. Cameron is the son of Sarah and Donnie Wemp.





Congratulations to Samantha Stegel!

Samantha graduated Grade 12 at Holy Cross Secondary School, as an Ontario Scholar with higher than 80% in all Grade 12 University level courses. Samantha achieved a red seal on her diploma for completing a specialist high skills major in information and communication technology and was also awarded the Genesis award for her work on this. Her name will remain on a plaque in the school in perpetuity. She completed all of the courses required for the SHSM certification online, due to the pandemic.

Samantha was also awarded the Crusader certificate for over 80 hours of volunteer service in our community. She even walked away with a cash award and an award of excellence for her audio/video capabilities. Samantha enjoys contributing to the island community, and so she used her resources to create a video for The Back Kitchen, which was submitted for a grant.

In the fall of 2021, Samantha will begin her GAS in behavioural psychology, with plans to then continue onto an honours bachelor degree in behavioural psychology. Congratulations on your achievements!

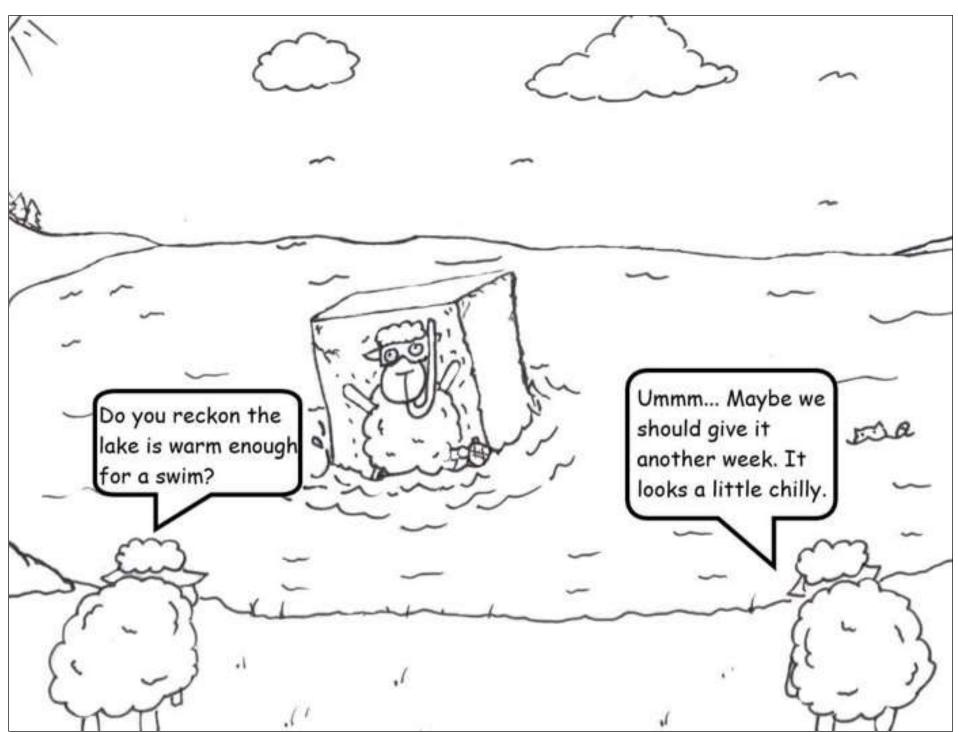


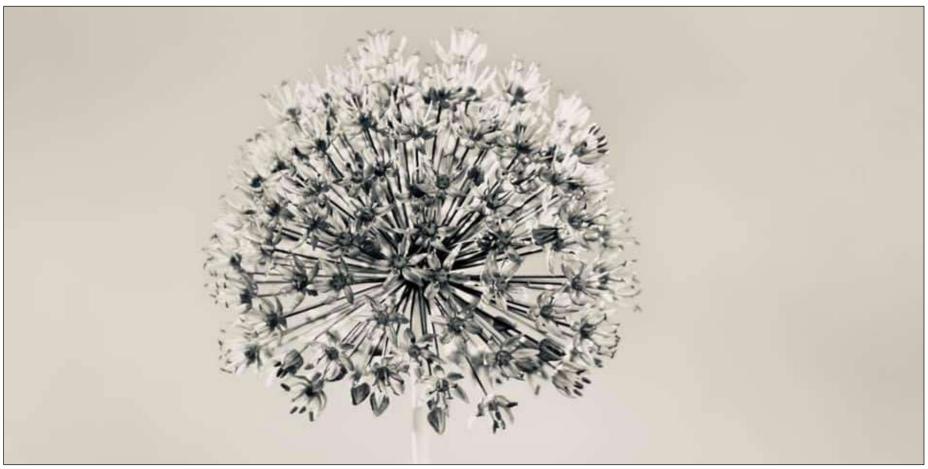
COMMUNITY COMICS

Comics for Islanders

More Sheep Puns

SAM EVES





Photograph taken by Vicki Keith.



GARDENING

Must Love Mulch

VANESSA VAN

Thankfully it rained. Early drought conditions across Ontario meant that by June 3, the province had only received about half of the precipitation expected by that time. Agricultural producers are still assessing losses associated with the drought. Here's hoping for better working and growing conditions for the rest of the season.

Across Amherst Island, various plants have been drought-tested by the recent weather conditions. I have noticed that many silvery plants are thriving. Stonecrop (Sedum), Breadseed Poppies (Sapaver somniferum), and Lamb's Ears (Stachys byzantina) have all performed well without watering.

As we come into the mid to late summer season, I am starting to strategically cut, prune, transplant, divide, and deadhead. I am using the wetter and cooler days for these gardening tasks.

Due to a combination of COVID-19 restrictions and a busy work schedule, I haven't had a haircut in about a year! That is nothing in comparison to the wait some of the bushes on our property have had to endure. I am far from the first person to draw a comparison between pruning and styling hair. As a scissor-handed suburban-dweller once reminded us, gardening and hair cutting require similar sculptural-skills.

In all seriousness, style is only part of the equation. Sure, a haircut feels great and I am very much looking forward to getting one:) However, for plants, pruning can be a matter of survival. Pruning and deadheading stimulate growth and reduce susceptibility to pests and disease. The goal is to stop the plant from putting energy into creating seeds. Instead, deadheading and pruning encourages the plant to produce more flowers, recover from flowering, or store energy for the following year. It is also a simple and easy way to make any garden look tidy and cared-for.

Happy gardening, and, until next time, mulch on!!



Deadhead peonies (if you have not already): There are more than 6,500 cultivars of peonies. Peonies bloom between April through June and can produce blooms each year for 100 years. Make sure to deadhead peonies as they bloom. Deadheading within 7-10 days of blooming stops plants from producing seed pods and allows them to direct energy to food storage in tubers. This stored energy is required for growth and flowering during the following spring. Deadheading peonies is crucial to avoiding disease. Spent flowers can develop fungal diseases (botrytis, rot). Keep in mind, ants love these flowers and are good for the plant as they eat other insects that cause damage. To deadhead, follow the flower stem into the plant and cut. Also, be sure to cut back peonies entirely (to the ground) once-a-year in fall, after frost has set in.

July Gardening Suggestions:

- Prune spring bloomers (if you have not already): Vines like clematis and blooming shrubs need energy to recoup from flowering. Prune them in late spring or early summer to let them focus their reserves on recovery and food storage.
- Prune summer-blooming perennials: July is pruning high-season. This is the best month to prune. But no need to rush, as you can safely keep pruning until a few weeks before the first frost date.
- Prune bushes: Remove crossed branches, branches that grow inward, branches that grow downward, and diseased or dead parts of plants.

 Make sure to thin out dense interiors. I love thinking about providing good "breathing room" or what some gardeners call ample room for 'circulation'.

Vanessa Van, monthly gardening columnist for *The Beacon* newspaper.





A.I.W.I. UPDATE

Amherst Island

Women's Institute

WENDY SHELLEY

The AIWI had our first face-to-face meeting, on the lawn at The Lodge on Wednesday, June 23 at 4 pm, socially distanced of course. It was good to see everyone again in person after navigating through Zoom meetings over the past year.

We discussed various ideas for the AIWI to focus on this year regarding advocacy. Members will submit their proposals / ideas in writing for the advocacy committee to review. Suggestions will be discussed at a later meeting.

There are a number of people who are not members of the AIWI, but who help / contribute for the flowers in the planters at the Museum & to our work in some way. We discussed various ways of thanking and recognising these people. A and coordination of the COVID quilt project. small committee has been struck to develop this Deb Barrett and committee for all the hours and idea further.

The Women's Institute is making a comeback also to Don 'Woody' Woodiwiss, for creating on Canada Day weekend! This summer, we will the owl design on our totes. be outside the museum every Saturday morning from 10 am - 12 noon, selling coffee and muffins, and offering socially distanced good cheer and conservation at no extra charge.

This coming Saturday, July 3rd we will also have some baked goods for sale as well as A.I. Directories (including 'yellow pages', \$10), A.I. aprons (to 'spice up' your BBQ this summer, \$20) and our newest offer, amazing A.I. canvas totes (with a stunning owl image, \$15).

There are many A.I.W.I. members who do good work behind the scenes. Many thanks to each one of you. Phuong MacNeil for all her work on our Facebook page. Jackie Sylvester for spearheading the canvas tote project. Sharen English for sending get well, sympathy, and congratulation cards to members of our community. Joyce Haines and Mary Pat Moore Centennial Park. Judy Greer for conceptualizing work on the new A.I. Directory. Many thanks,

The A.I.W.I. meets on the third Wednesday of the month. Guests are always welcome. Please contact Sharen English for more information, at (613)-384-6535.

TREASURE CRAWL ON McDONALD'S LANE

Saturday July 3rd 2021 from 10am – 2pm (Raindate Sunday July 4th)

At the Lodge and along McDonald's Lane

A multi-family event!

THIS WILL BE A 'MASKED' EVENT.

SANITATION STATIONS AVAILABLE

Cash only - \$1.00 mininmum (to avoid making change)

DON'T MISS IT!



PHOTOGRAPHY

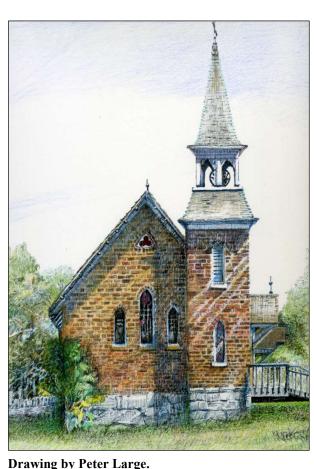
Views of the Island



Osprey family. Photographed by Don Woodiwiss Photography, woodiwissphotography.com.



Drawing by Peter Large.



Drawing by Peter Large.



THE BEACON



Drawing by Peter Large.



 $Young\ barn\ swallows\ in\ their\ mud\ nest.\ Photographed\ by\ Brian\ Little,\ brian little photo.com,\ brian little photo@gmail.com.$



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"Rosie Peeking Out", photography by Don Tubb.

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If you are interested in advertising and showing support in *The Beacon*, e-mail editor@thebeaconpaper.com for more information.



Services

Thank-you!

Many thanks to Ida Gavlas for all of her hard work organizing the flu clinic on the island, and looking ahead to organizing a potential vaccine clinic in the future!

Medical Supplies

The Amherst Island Women's Institute has a medical equipment lending cupboard. We have crutches, rollators, walkers, raised toilet seats, and wheelchairs. We also have an upholstered electric lifting chair. We ask that you kindly return the equipment when you are done with it. If you would like to donate to the W.I. that is appreciated.

Contact Sharen English or David Pickering at (613)-384-6535.

Landscaping

Ken Rock is looking for work on the island. He has a background in landscaping, forklift operation, masonry, concrete, and cement. He has very reasonable rates.

Contact him at (343)-996-4850, or reach him through his Aunt, Norma-Lynn Colson at (613)-445-3456.

The Beacon

Available to Read at:

- Issue 489 of *The Beacon* will be available in print, for \$5 at McGinn's General Store, Stella, ON.
- *The Beacon*'s new website will host the current issue for reading without the need to download a PDF at https://www.thebeaconpaper.com/.
- This edition of *The Beacon*, as well as archived editions will be available as a downloadable PDF files midway through the month on http://amherstisland.on.ca/Beacon/.

Submissions:

The Beacon eagerly welcomes community participation! If you have **photographs**, **stories**, **events**, **articles**, **comics**, **drawings**, or anything else you would like to share in the newspaper, please send files to <u>editor@thebeaconpaper.com</u>
The submission deadline is the 25th of the month.

If you are interested in advertisement space, contact editor@thebeaconpaper.com for more information.

Thank you!



An afternoon photograph of the Amherst Island Beacon, the namesake of *The Beacon* newspaper. Photograph captured by Kayleigh Graham.