Issue 490 August 2021

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THE BEACON

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

THE



BEACON

STITCHING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER PIECE BY PIECE



The COVID Quilt, photographed by Woody Woodiwiss.

STAY HOME Amherst Islund cound mater 2021

A close-up of the COVID quilt, photographed by Woody Woodiwiss. Squares were donated by; Linda Bertrim, Judy Bierma, Jill Caughey, Susie Caughey, Victoria Cuyler, Pat Frontini, Mary Gordon, Judy Greer, Joyce Haines, Liz McKee, Mary Pat Moore, Paula Pike, Lisa Rose, Marilyn Pilon, Wendy Shelley, Cathy Showalter, Joan Simpson, Kathy Thomas, and Elena Zanetti. Long Arm Quitling donated by; Martha Embury, Sewing Threads, and Newboro.

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

During the lockdowns and the stay at home recommendations many people took up new hobbies. Quilting, making puzzles, playing chess, baking, cycling, these are just a few of the most popular activities during the COVID times.

As a small celebration of the new hobbies and tasks we have accomplished, I would love to see what you've done during the pandemic. Send me a picture of your garden, or your homemade loaf of bread, or a craft you have been working on. Let's share what we have been up to for the past year or so. Please send submissions to editor@thebeaconpaper.com, I look forward to seeing all your creations!



The A. I. Community COVID Quilt

A.I.W.I.

Surviving COVID Times One Stitch at a Time

Over the centuries, the craft of quilting has morphed from blanket-making using rags and other recycled cloth to a multi-media art form, often used to tell major community stories. Through their storytelling and collaborative properties, quilts inspire and teach future generations about today's social and cultural events.

In January 2021, the Amherst Island Women's Institute (A.I.W.I.) requested that any willing Islanders donate 8 x 8-inch cloth squares to be used to sew a COVID-19 community quilt. The quilt conveners asked that donated squares be created with whatever materials participants had on hand. The squares were to be designed to reflect the personal thoughts, fears, and inspirations of quarantined Islanders.

The common condition among quilters was their following the STAY at HOME directive;

so home and its comforts are a major theme of the completed quilt. Along with images of houses, coping mechanisms, and missed activities, are depictions of things that brought relief and joy such as birds, pets, and flowers. The uncertainty that the pandemic continues to instill also appears. Island women are a resilient group.

Squares were received from 20 women. The quilt was assembled by Judy Greer and Marilyn Pilon and the long-arm quilting was donated by Martha Embury's Sewing Threads of Newboro, Ontario. Costs associated with the quilt were covered by the Amherst Island Women's Institute and the Weasel and Easel volunteers, many of whom contributed to the quilt.

The Community COVID Quilt is now on display at the Weasel and Easel/Neilson Museum. You are invited to visit the display for a closer look.

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AUGUST DAYS

National Root Beer Float Day

AUGUST 6TH

Celebrate National Root Beer Float day by floating a scoop of vanilla ice cream in a big mug of root beer.

The popular treat was invented by Frank J. Wisner, who owned a mining company. He was staring at the moon over Cow Mountain in Colorado, when he realised it looked like a scoop of vanilla ice cream. He put a scoop of ice cream into a glass of root beer and named the drink "Black Cow Mountain", which was later shortened to "Black Cow". The drink was an instant success, and remains popular to this day.



Root beer floats.



OBSERVE

National Lighthouse Day, August 7th

August 7th is a day to appreciate lighthouses everywhere. For many generations, lighthouses across the nation have guided ships safely along their routes. In August we can take a minute to think about how fortunate we are to have a beautiful lighthouse right on our island that helps ships navigate Amherst Island's gorgeous shores.

The Amherst Island lighthouse is also the namesake of *The Beacon* newspaper, a famous beacon indeed.

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

REMEMBER

World Honeybee Day

AUGUST 15TH

The third Saturday in August is World Honeybee Day. This is a day to celebrate the pollinators that make honey, the beekeepers that keep them, and all blooming things.

There are many beekeepers on Amherst Island. Perhaps to celebrate World Honeybee Day, you can shop local and purchase a jar of Amherst Island raw honey!





SPOTLIGHT SPECIES

Honeybees

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

The honeybee, or *apis mellifera*, is a close relative to both wasps and ants, and they live nearly everywhere in the world. Honeybees do not dwell in Antarctica, but they can be found on every other continent.

Honeybees are invertebrates, comparable to the size of a small paperclip in size, and they are herbivores. All honeybees are social, cooperative, and highly organized. There are three main designations, or jobs, that honeybees have. The "workers" are the honeybee types that people most often see flying around and landing on flowers. Workers are female honeybees that are not sexually active. They gather nectar, pollen, build the hive, protect the hive, clean the hive, and improve air circulation by beating their wings. The workers are named for their busy nature and quantity of responsibilities. The next type of adult honeybee is called a "drone". Drones are male honeybees whose main job it is to mate with queen honeybees from other hives. The drones live in the hives during the spring and summer months but are expelled come wintertime when survival is the priority. Lastly, an extremely important type of honeybee is the "queen". The queen honeybee is created when worker bees feed one of the female larvae "royal jelly". This special diet allows the young larvae to develop into a fertile female bee, a queen. The queen's main job is to lay eggs to create the hive's next generation of bees. The queen also releases pheromones to give the hive directions about what to do.

Honeybee behaviour is fascinating and remains the subject of current research. In the winter, the colony clusters into a ball inside the hive to conserve warmth. The honeybees closest to the outside of the ball die off, but their warmth and insulation is an act of sacrifice to protect those in the center of the hibernation style mass. It is not truly a hibernation, since they do stay awake and active, although barely. They live on stored honey and pollen for the winter.

The long tongue of the honeybee, a probiscis, is like a straw and allows them to drink nectar from the depth of deep flowers. Nectar, a complex sucrose, is deposited into the honeycomb structures of the hive, and separated into the simple sugars fructose and glucose by the honeybees. The bees then fan their wings over the honeycomb cell to evaporate moisture and thicken the solution that becomes raw honey. When it is complete, the honeybees cap the cell with beeswax, and it is stored for later consumption.

The communication methods used by honeybees is still the subject of ongoing research. At the moment, it is understood that worker bees perform a "waggle" dance in order to communicate the location of a nectar source. The dance includes wiggles and turns and is extremely intricate. Honeybees can also communicate a warning of danger, or a surge of happiness, by releasing certain pheromones (hormonal scents). Most recently, audio recordings of the sounds made by queen bees remain the focus of honeybee communication research. It is said they make clicking sounds, but little is known about these noises.

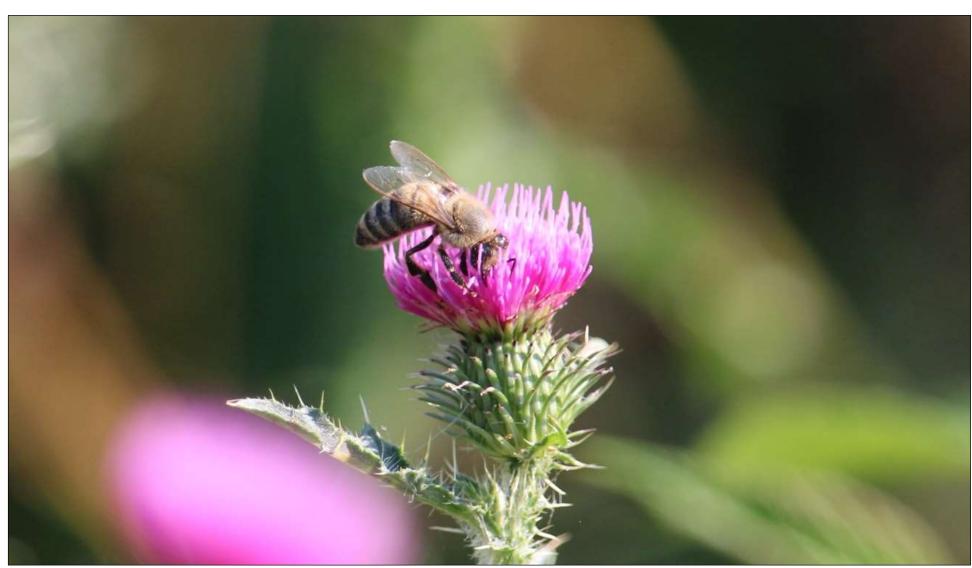
HONEYBEE FACTS

- About 1/3 of the human food supply relies on pollinators.
- When a worker bee uses her stinger to defend herself, she will die shortly after.
 For this reason, they are reluctant to sting without reason.
- A queen honeybee will lay an average of 1,500 eggs every day throughout the spring and summer.
- Honeybees do not build an independent structure as the hive; they prefer to build using hollow spaces as the shell.
- Honeybees make a substance called "propolis" that is anti-bacterial, antifungal, and anti-viral. Propolis disinfects and protects the hive, and it is used for sealing and repairing cracks.

Sources: National Geographic, "Honeybee", *National Geographic Society*.

Honeybee Centre, "About Honeybees", 2020.

Also, many conversations with Kyle Murray, a beekeeper on Amherst Island.



A worker honeybee visiting a thistle on the North shore of Amherst Island, ON. Photographed by Kayleigh Graham, editor@thebeaconpaper.com



BEACON

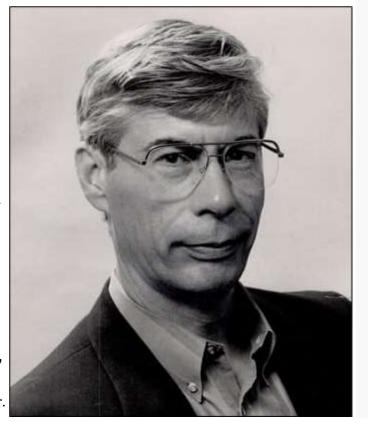
Obituaries

WILLIAM PETER MAIN TRUEMAN (1934-2021)

The below statement was originally published by The Globe and Mail on July 26th, 2021.

William Peter Main Trueman (1934 -2021) died on July 23, 2021 in Toronto after a brief journey with cancer. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, greatgrandfather, brother, uncle, community volunteer, sponsor, and friend. He was also a well-known Canadian journalist. Born in Sackville New Brunswick, he began his career in Ottawa in the mid-1950's at the Ottawa Journal. At 23 years of age, he became a columnist for the Montreal Star in New York and moved into broadcasting-first at the CBC during the 1970 FLQ crisis and later -- in 1974, as Global Television's original news anchor. In semi-retirement, he was host and managing editor of the Discovery Channel's award-winning series Great Canadian Parks and oversaw a series of documentaries for the History Channel featuring national historic sites. In everything he did, Peter Trueman was a larger-than-life character, not only because of his 6-foot 5-inch stature, but also because humour, humility, and outspoken observations history to the environment and his concerns over the changing face of journalism and role of TV news. In the early Global years, he frequently smoked a pipe, and was often nicknamed 'the professor' or 'the preacher' for his serious approach to honest journalism and his drive to explain the day's events in an accurate and thoughtful way. He ended his nightly newscasts with a commentary and closed with the well-remembered phrase, 'that's not news, but that too is reality.' He also took many young journalists under his wing, including future Global National anchor Kevin may be made in his honour of his memory Newman, and CTV Health reporter Avis Favaro, and mentored many throughout his five-decades-long career. As one former colleague, George Wolff, so eloquently stated recently: 'He shared so much of himself and his experience and his deep convictions with me, and with his support staff at Global, and even with the audience in his nightly commentary. We all know him for that and appreciate him as much more than a colleague; he was our friend and respected mentor.' The future of his chosen career concerned him deeply, however, as evidenced in his 1980 book Smoke and Mirrors: The Inside Story of Television News in Canada. These concerns led to his early retirement from television by 1988. 'TV itself, by pandering to the lowest common denominator,' he wrote, 'has debased North American standards to such a degree that before long, the people who want better television will have only each other to talk to.' Peter cherished his wife Eleanor, celebrating their 64th wedding anniversary last December.

Over the course of their marriage, Peter and Eleanor moved 20 times, mostly with three kids --Anne (Brad), Mark (Krithia) and Victoria (Chris)) -- in tow from New York, Virginia, Washington, Ottawa, Toronto, Amherst Island, Kingston. But it was the 23 years that Peter and Eleanor spent on Amherst Island in semi-retirement that Eleanor refers to as 'the golden years' that the family cherishes the most. His 11 grandkids (Sarah, Leo, Claire, Eleni, Leah, Joshua, Kathryn, Martha, Devin, Eva and Grace) all remember the thrill of sitting on his knee for his semi-raucous version of 'This is the Way the Ladies Ride' with a loud hobbledy-hoy refrain, his tall hugs, important life conversations and gracious smile. His sister Sally and her children, Paula, Oliver and Claire also enjoyed visits and special occasions to 'The Island.' In 2001, Peter became an officer of the Order of Canada, and in 2013 he was also awarded the Diamond Jubilee Medal for significant achievement and remarkable service. These awards held particular significance for Peter as his father, Dr. Albert William Trueman. also became an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1974 for his work in university administration and teaching Shakespeare. But the medal Peter Trueman valued the most was the one he received on his first anniversary as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1970. He would go on to have of the many lives he touched with his wisdom, another 50 years of sobriety after that. During that time, he was a very active participant, helping and of everything from world events and Canadian sponsoring others undergoing the same struggle, always no more than a phone call away for anyone who needed a hand. At his request there will be no funeral service. Friends, family and the public are invited to share remembrances, thoughts, photos at the website https://www.forevermissed.com/williampeter-trueman/about to help us celebrate his life. Through his studies of Canadian history, and extensive travels in Canada during his career,



Peter developed a deeper appreciation of

to https://indspire.ca/

Indigenous culture and the on-going journey to a

true reconciliation with all Canadians. Donations

Memories of Peter Trueman

The below statement was originally published by Global News, written by Susan Hay, titled "Former Global News Anchor Peter Trueman dies at 86", published on July 26th, 2021.

Former news anchor Peter Trueman passed away Friday at the age of 86.

Trueman was born on Dec. 25, 1934, in Sackville, N.B. He started his career working as a print reporter and covered such stories as the assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy for the Montreal Star.

"I was more cynical after that," the late Trueman said previously. "I've never been able to look at any politician with much joy ever since."

In 1970, Trueman moved into television and became executive producer of CBC's flagship newscast The National during the FLQ Crisis. Four years later, he became the original anchor when Global Television first signed on in 1974.

Trueman was best known for his authoritative common-sense approach to news and his commentaries were something Global viewers looked forward to. He would end each one by saying, "That is not news. But that, too, is reality."

Trueman led a newsroom where reporters had the freedom to shine and experiment, including a young man who would later become a Global National anchor, Kevin Newman.

"Peter, for a lot of us, was our definition of integrity. The standards that he kept for himself as a journalist, he imbued the newsroom with and really anybody that worked with him," said Newman. "When I started at Global News years ago, Peter Trueman was a God," recalled Ward Smith, senior vice president of Global News. "And to this day when you mention his name in the halls or at the station, people understand what Peter Trueman stood for — editorial standards of excellence, respect for the audience, the people we were interviewing and the team that was putting the news together."

Following in his father's footsteps, Mark Trueman is the senior producer for Global News Toronto. Also joining the team is Mark's son Devin Trueman, as a control room operator. It is a family legacy on top of the many journalists Peter inspired along the way.

After retiring from Journalism in 1988, Peter and his wife Eleanor decided to live a more peaceful life on Amherst Island in Lake Ontario, between Kingston and the St. Lawrence River. Yet still wanting to do something more, he [contributed to] CJAI-FM in 2006, a community radio station serving Amherst Island.



Obituaries

DOUGLAS G. LAMB (1929-2021)

The below statement was originally published by The Kingston Whig Standard on August 5th, 2021.

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Douglas Lamb on August 1st, 2021. Doug passed peacefully at the age of 92 of natural causes after spending 30 years in happy retirement on his beloved Amherst Island, most of those years with his beloved spouse and best friend Helen.

His fondness for biking and walking kept him in good health and allowed him a long and fruitful life. His beautiful tenor voice will be remembered by all who heard him sing sacred songs, anthems and light opera in churches and choral groups.

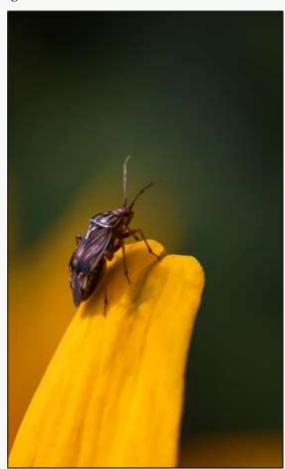
Doug leaves his sons David and Peter, their spouses, 6 grandchildren and 2 greatgrandchildren.

He will be missed.



Doug Lamb.

Beetle and caterpillar pictured below, both photographed by Vicki Keith, in Sally's garden on Amherst Island.







Island Information

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, cheque, and contactless payment options available now.

- Car, truck (under 1 ton), van, farm tractor or 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 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 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

open mours	
Mondays	9-11:30am, 2:30-5pm
Tuesdays	9-11:30am, 2:30-5pm
Wednesdays	9-11:30am, 2:30-5pm
Thursdays	9-11:00am, 3:30-6pm
Fridays	9-11:30am, 2:30-5pm
Saturdays	Closed
Sundays	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
DI NI I	(10, 510, 0001

Phone Number: 613-519-2331





Loyalist Township Notice

Check the Status of Beaches Before Swimming

The message below was taken directly from the KFL&A Public Health website, details can be found at; https://www.kflaph.ca/en/healthy-living/public-beach-listings.aspx

Beach monitoring

KFL&A Public Health monitors the water quality at municipally owned or operated public bathing beaches within our area in accordance with the Ontario Beach Management Guidance Document. Monitoring is done weekly from early June until the end of August and includes a visual inspection of beach conditions and testing for bacteria. Beaches with consistently good test results are monitored once per month.

Signs warning against swimming are posted when beach conditions pose a potential health risk to bathers. Most often the posting of a beach is due to high levels of bacteria in the water.

Before using a beach check the following to make sure it is safe:

- Has there been heavy rain in the last 24 to 48 hours?
 - o If yes, bacterial levels will be higher, and swimming is not recommended.
- Is the water cloudy?
 - o If you can't see your feet at adult's waist depth, bacterial levels may be higher, and swimming is not



Photograph taken by Vicki Keith.

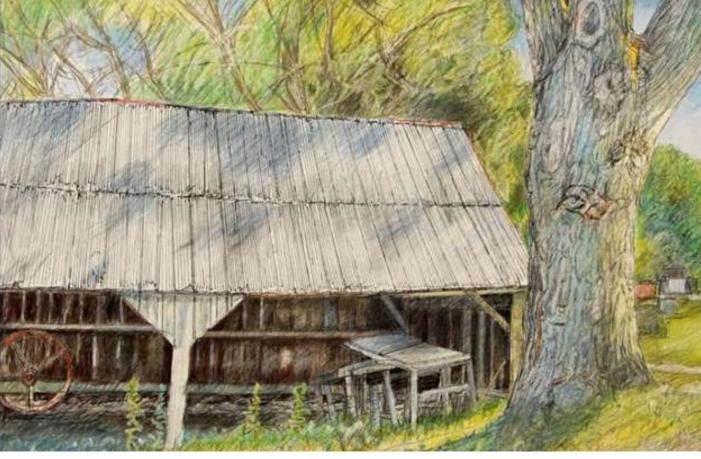


AIWI UPDATE

Out For Lunch

The July 21st gathering was purely social. A small group of members and friends enjoyed being in-person again and supporting a local eatery. We went to the FRYWAY 33 Food Truck at the Finkles Shore Park in Bath. Picked a great day and watched the St. Lawrence II sailing around the area. New members always welcome. Reminder: the new Amherst Island Tote Bags are available now.





"Drive Shed", a drawing of the drive shed by the Presbyterian Church, by Peter Large.



ARTS AND CULTURE

Art Show at The Lodge on Amherst Island

The Lodge Presents

PHOTOGRAPHIC ART BY

DON WOODIWISS

Wildlife

Landscapes



Reflections

Floral

September 4th, 2021 1pm. to 5pm.

The Lodge on Amherst Island 320 McDonalds Lane, Stella, Ontario 613 634 1388 thelodgeonamherstisland@gmail.com

Covid Protocol in Place - Masks Mandatory





ARTS AND CULTURE

Still Life with Mushrooms by Otto Marseus

DEREK OXLEY

I really enjoy mushrooms. But it's not what you're thinking. I'm not talking about the kind that lets you see and understand the entire ebb and flow of existence in the dancing stucco of the ceiling, I'm talking about the safe and healthy, edible kinds that humans have foraged for millennia. I'm fasting today, so of course I've decided to write about food. Mushroom was my favourite flavour of soup growing up (Campbell's, ideally made with half and half), and sauteed mushroom and onions was a beloved side dish staple in our house. Is that a mushroom swiss burger I see? Yes please, I'll have it. I even like them raw in a garden salad. In college I would use mushroom soup as a base for a lot of things I tried to make. Sometimes, say, when poured over steamed green beans and water chestnuts, it turned out wonderfully; other times, as when it was used to substitute milk and butter in Kraft diner, the outcome was less palatable (one friend going so far as to call it 'puke in a bowl'). I'm a much better cook now, and I've grown to appreciate a mushroom's versatility in the kitchen beyond just canned soup concentrate. So, as I was planning my stew for tomorrow, I thought it might be fun to find a still life painting of mushrooms to explore. And as luck would have it, I found one that I like.

We will be visiting the golden age of the Dutch Republic in the 1600s. This was the age of Rembrandt and Rubens, but I have chosen a surviving piece by a painter of much less current prominence. This piece is known by the title Still Life with Mushrooms, Butterfly, and a Snake by Otto Marseus van Schrieck (c.1619 - 1678) whose output is primarily associated with Amsterdam. I had never heard of this painter before I started researching for this month, and the fact that few of you have likely heard of him is a testament to how many successful artists were able to thrive in the Dutch territories of this era. His heyday came after the end of the Thirty Years War in 1648, which allowed Marseus to travel to Rome and Florence throughout the 1650s to study art. He was purportedly a student of realism, constantly observing nature to improve the detail in his paintings and is known to have kept a small collection of snakes and lizards on his home property – creatures which featured well in his surviving oeuvre of over 300 paintings. So, it is likely that this piece dates to the 1660s or 70s.

I learned a lot about mushrooms while researching this piece, and I think some of the information is worth sharing. Mushrooms grow everywhere in the world where conditions allow, and they play a powerful role in our global ecosystem. Fungi is the number

one agent of decomposition for trees and vegetation, feeding on their decaying organic matter, and many varieties of fungi produce edible mushrooms. There are so many varieties of fungi that they have not yet all been identified (there are 10 000 identified varieties in North America alone), but of those which produce mushrooms only about 20 varieties are commonly eaten by humans. Although over seventy percent of mushrooms are safe to ingest, the vast majority of these are described as foul tasting, a trial to chew, and ultimately undigestible. One source claimed that if you eat wild mushrooms, you have a twenty percent chance of it making you sick (from mildly to very), and a roughly one percent chance of it being lethal. Mushroom roulette. But beyond eating them, current research into other potential uses for mushrooms have yielded some uplifting results including their potential to create ethanol fuel, strong building materials, and "vegan leather" where fungi fibers are used to create dry, pliable sheets with strong fiber bonds which can be used to simulate real leather. And as an interesting tie in, the system that botanists still use today to name and classify different varieties of plants was developed in early 17th century Holland, which helps reflect why detailed still life images became so popular for them.



Otto Marseus van Schrieck, Still Life with Mushrooms, a Snake, and a Butterfly, Oil on canvas, c. 1657. In private collection.



ARTS AND CULTURE

Still Life with Mushrooms by Otto Marseus continued...

DEREK OXLEY

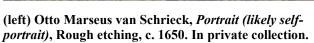
An exacting study of inanimate arrangements of objects should be expected of any painter who wishes to make their works appear real, and as such elements of still life are notable in a myriad of works throughout western art history. The still life image as we imagine it today evolved out of the open art markets in the Dutch Republic of the 17th century. Still life as a genre in painting typically refers to a realistic representation of inanimate objects, often arranged in some dynamic way, and carrying an element of symbolism for the viewer. They are rarely monumental in size, making them ideal for home decoration. The art of representing inanimate objects for décor had existed throughout antiquity in wall paintings and mosaics. The accurate representation of detail in western history paintings, portraits, and landscapes was paramount until the advent of modern art and the rise of photography. The most skilled still lifes can induce a tromp l'oeil, hoping to trick the viewer into believing that the represented objects are real. As a painter in the Renaissance and Baroque eras of Western Europe it was important to be able to accurately reproduce inanimate background and decorative elements in a painting. And as they say, 'practice, practice'. Dutch still life painters were assiduous in their exploration of forms, contours, reflections, and shadows, but although the individual subjects of a still life offer a true-to-life reflection of those objects, their arrangement is often more fantastic. To put it more simply with this painting in mind, while each mushroom in this piece (see image on previous page) is a painstaking recreation of that type of mushroom, it is not necessarily true that these mushrooms would all realistically grow together in the same place, or at the same time of year.

Last month we touched on art markets, and they have a part to play in this month's story as well. In the early 1600s the Netherlands (which then included Belgium and Luxembourg) were in the midst of a war of independence against Spain. The whole story is too long to recount here, but in a nutshell the royal family of the Netherlands married into the Habsburgs in the 1480s (the Habsburgs were one of the most powerful royal families in Europe for centuries, they headed the Holy Roman Empire from 1440 until it collapsed in 1806), and they fell under Habsburg rule. Then in 1556 the sovereign power was handed to the conservative Spanish Habsburg King (Philip II), who began a campaign to stamp out non-Catholic worship through his territories, including the Netherland. The Spanish had been very controlling and repressive in their governance, and this included a suppression of artistic ideas. The Inquisition was enacted, while simultaneously heavy taxes were levied against the Netherlands to help Spain fund wars in other areas of the world. Brussels was declared as the new seat of power, undermining the economic power held by the Dutch aristocracy. Recession set in and resentment of Spanish practices broiled into an open revolt which began in 1568, and by 1581 Dutch armies had ousted the Habsburg armies from the Netherlands, who ceased to recognize Spain as their sovereign; by 1588 they threw out the idea of having a monarch and subsequently founded the Republic of the Seven United Netherlands, a Protestant state. The war continued on in other theatres across the globe, but from that point onward the Dutch Republic grew rapidly as a European power. This is a gross oversimplification, but it sets the stage for a place that was experiencing a burgeoning of mercantile wealth and middle-class power in early modern history. Consuming luxury goods was the way for those with wealth to display it. It is in places like this that art markets can grow and flourish – major centers like Antwerp, Amsterdam, Bruges, Delft, and Haarlem developed flourishing art scenes, and open art markets became more common. On the one hand open markets are not dictated by taste makers or official approval, but on the other there is no guaranteed patron to pay you for your work. As the Dutch middle class grew in the early 17th century more people had the expendable income to become consumers of art, and it was not uncommon for a painter to make a half dozen or more versions of the same subject (much like Canaletto did a century later with cityscapes for tourists). With the elimination of Habsburg patrons and their lavish commissions, artists in the late 16th century Netherlands turned to the growing Dutch middle class to support their artistry. Many artists became specialists in a particular genre which they could readily sell to support themselves. It's not entirely unlike the phenomenon of YouTube today, where a new market possibility allowed people to make a living creating entirely new types of content for consumption. Works made for open markets were notably smaller, cheaper, and more portable, suiting the lifestyles of new consumers. Open markets, coupled with the touring of wealthy foreigners, allowed a great many artists to make a living at their craft, and the burghers of the republic were big consumers of painted works.

There is a great deal of symbolism that went into still life works that an audience today might not fully recognize. In Europe of this era mushrooms held a number of symbolic meanings. They represented regrowth, but there was also the potential for deadly outcomes and psychedelic, spiritual meaning based on the use of those mushrooms in ceremonial pursuits. There are cases in European history where poisoning someone with deadly mushrooms might have been the case. The 'death cap' mushroom, the deadliest mushroom yet known, is native to Europe, and there are theories suggesting that Pope Clement VII (d.1534) and Charles VI of the Holy Roman Empire (d. 1740) were poisoned to death from ingesting death caps. Also, outside of western traditions it cannot be ignored that a good portion of the symbolism behind mushrooms stems from the use of narcotic varieties in medical and religious practices. Because of these realities the potential different symbolic meanings behind mushrooms is myriad, and it is easy to see why they hold weight in various artistic traditions throughout history. In any case, I hope my stew is tasty and not poisonous.









(above) Various mushrooms.

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JANET'S JOTTINGS

An Asylum of Cuckoos

JANET SCOTT

Many think we do not have cuckoos in our part of the world but we do! Not the human kind by the way but our two wonderful species, the Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos. They arrive like Superman ready to save the world from the dreaded nemesis, the caterpillar. Their favourite food is fuzzy tent caterpillars and they follow their trail northwards devouring caterpillars in the thick canopy of deciduous trees. They are equipped with the most wonderful adaptation that allows them to eat prickly caterpillars, absorb the spines in their stomach lining and regurgitate this lining periodically in the same way as an owl for example coughs up an owl pellet filled with bones and teeth.

There are six species of this family in North America. I was fortunate to see a smooth-billed Ani in the Bahamas while visiting Anthony and Judy on "The Swan". I have never seen a Roadrunner, nor fortunately an anvil falling from the sky, and have not yet seen a Mangrove Cuckoo but have been fortunate in my lifetime to see both the Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos in our area. My first sighting of both was in Clark's Woods in the eighties before moving to the Island. Clark's Woods was an amazing birdwatching area west of Kingston airport and surrounded the quarry where No Frills and Conservancy Pond Retirement home are now. We could walk from our house in Henderson Place into a nature treasure with nesting Screech and Great Horned Owls, resident deer and coyotes and a plethora of birds and still be home in time for the kids walking home from Henderson School. On one memorable day I got both my first Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos in the same area of scrubby bushes, edging the deciduous woods and quite near the quarry, filled with water.



A yellow billed cuckoo.

You are more likely to see a Black-billed Cuckoo than a Yellow-billed one about seven to one odds. Both species are brown on the back, have light bellies, patterned tails in an intricate mosaic of light and dark shield shapes. They are 12 inches in length with a slightly down-curved beak in black or yellow, hence their names. The Black-billed Cuckoo has red skin around its eye which is what caught my eye the first time I saw one. They are sneaky and very furtive as they hunt food in the thick vegetation, gleaning beetles, berries, snails and CATTERPILLARS in the greenery and freezing in a still position if they spot you.

You are more likely to hear the low, consistent cu-cu-cu rather than see one. My ex could call them out of the deciduous area in the Owl Woods on demand and amazed

watchers with the appearance of this elusive bird. My mother had developed bone cancer following her breast cancer and could no longer walk about. She was resting in a lawn chair in the shade of a Paper Birch on one occasion when we still lived on the South Shore Road. Alex made the repeated cuckoo call and a beautiful Black-billed Cuckoo landed in the Birch just over her head. One of those magical moments. She was thrilled and commented how easy birding was! Right? At St. Paul's this past week the Cuckoo was calling repeatedly and Bonnie Livingstone was talking to it and getting it to answer. It was great fun and as my mom would say," That's easy birding!".

Our North American Cuckoos are not obligate like European ones. They don't lay their eggs in other bird's nests. Sometimes they may share a nest but continue to return and help feed both sets of young.incubation is 10 to 14 days with the young out for another seven days clinging to nearby branches and climbing around in nearby trees. Sometimes you will even hear them calling during the night as time moves on into August. By September 13 they will be on their way south to Central America and warmer climes leaving us with this haunting cu-cu-cu-cu echo in our heads. Bonnie tells me a group of Cuckoos is an Asylum of Cuckoos but I must still be sane as I have only seen one at a time and after all she's the one who talks to them!



A Eurasian cuckoo.



DARLENE'S DICTÉES

Come Get Complimentary Poppy Seeds!

DARLENE MARTIN-STUART

I've been collecting seeds from my most successful crops of poppies this year and want to pass them along to anyone who would like to have some. All four types available for you are shown here. The seed packets are available for pick up at The Weasel & Easel - hours for the 2021 season are Saturdays 10-4, Sundays 1-4. I volunteer at The Weasel & Easel every Saturday from 10-1 so if you have questions about planting them, drop by when I'm there and I'll do my best to share everything I know about them!

There are several species of poppies, and I've been testing a few of them in my gardens to see how well they will do. Here are my findings:

1. Papaver rhoeas (Shirley poppies)

Shirley poppies may be disliked by deer, but they are loved by bunnies. Almost every single seed that germinated in my garden was eaten by them. They are not a good candidate if you have lots of bunnies hanging about. I've tried to train Chico the avant garde dog to chase them out of the cutting garden, but alas, they love these poppies so much that they sneak back in to munch away whenever Chico takes a break from his duties.

2. Papaver somniferum (Breadseed or Opium poppies)

These grow very strongly in my gardens. Deer and bunnies leave them alone, the petals are very large, the glaucous leaves are a beautiful grey-blue-green, and the seed pods are very large and sculptural. I leave these gorgeous, almost spherical seed pods in the garden until the star-shaped flattened top lifts off as the capsule begins to desiccate. Then I begin harvesting about half of them, collect the seeds, and use the pods in floral arrangements. The other half are left in the garden as sculptural interest in the winter months. I grew three different cultivars this year; 'Danish Flag', 'Hungarian Blue' and 'Pepperbox'. The petals stay on for a very short period of time, but I don't mind that at all; it's the seedpods that are the most interesting to me.

3. Argemone pleiacantha (Prickly poppy)

As a member of the Papaveraceae family Argemone is closely related to Poppy (Papaver), Blood root (Sanguinaria), Plume Poppy (Macleaya) and Bush Poppy (Dendromecon). Members of the Argemone genus are native to the Americas, and are known to grow wild in the Eastern parts of Canada and in all of the US states except for Alaska. These look quite different from the other poppies I grow, and are the only ones that are perennial. The leaves are very prickly, the seed heads are insignificant, but the blooms seem to last a long time on the stems. Their growth habit is much bushier than other types I grow, and yes, I love em, because the bunnies hate em, as do the deer. The juxtaposition of the dangerous looking leaves with the delicate papery petals and demure seed heads is really lovely and quite unusual.

4. Papaver orientale (Oriental poppies)

Sarah Vanstone offered for me to come and dig up some of her oriental poppies. I did my best to dig them out but the roots went very deep and I think I broke every one. I rushed them home, planted them, removed all but one flower head from each plant, and gave them all a good soak. It wasn't enough, and they all perished. Poppies dislike being transplanted, and any hope of these surviving was thwarted by the fact that I just couldn't keep them wet enough during the drought conditions we experienced early in the growing season this year. Growing poppies from seed is definitely the way to go. Karen Flemming asked me whether it is better to plant poppy seeds in the spring or the fall. I recommend the fall, and here is why: poppy seeds need light to germinate, and they must make good contact with soil. Poppies do self seed with abandon, but if you want to have control over germination rates and where they end up in your garden design, wait until the soil can be worked on the spring, prepare the area, broadcast as lightly as you can, then water lightly so that they stay in place.





 ${\bf Photographs\ provided\ by\ Darlene\ Martin-Stuart.}$





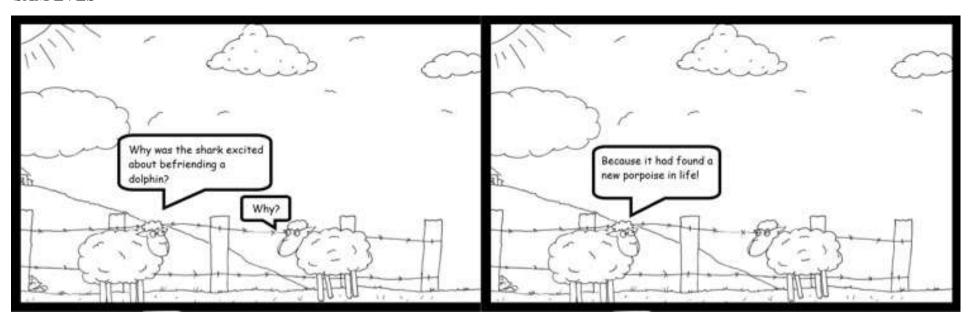


COMMUNITY COMICS

Comics for Islanders

More Puns

SAM EVES





Photograph taken by Vicki Keith.



GARDENING

Must Love Mulch

VANESSA VAN

As a budding gardener, I have developed a somewhat unexpected appreciation for rocks. I am well situated here on the Island. From pebble-covered beaches to rock-faced bluffs, natural stone is abundant on the Island. Farmers, home builders, and gardeners alike remove stone when cultivating the land. This rubble is often used creatively on the Island. The Island is home to historic limestone buildings, dry-stone walls, cairns, adorable painted river stones, and some magnificent boulders.

This month, I take inspiration from these local rocks and their creative uses. My column will focus on some ways to incorporate stone into your garden.

Stone is one of the most overlooked aspects in many gardens. A grey slab can serve as a simple backdrop for brightly-coloured plants. The uniformity of a collection of grey stones creates contrast with even the most simple arrangement of all-green plantings. Consider pairing rocks with lower plants like flowering thyme, phlox, sedums, rosemary, yarrow, and perennial verbena.

Stones also provide texture in the garden. The variation in their angles and surfaces creates an additional layer of visual interest in a bed. Create height with tall stones or stacked stones placed in a primarily horizontal bed. Slabs and pea gravel mulch create a low ground cover that balances a more vertical collection of plantings. For more visual interest, try grouping larger stones in odd numbers and playing with asymmetrical patterns. If you are looking for a more traditional look, use symmetrical rock placements to bring order to your space.

Stone is durable. If you want to avoid reapplying wood mulch each season, then stone is worth considering. Pea gravel and chip gravel require an underlayer of tarp and some weeding. If installed properly, stone ground cover helps eliminate runoff, pollution, and erosion. Larger stones require zero maintenance and serve as an excellent weed blocker. Both small and large stones are deer and vole proof! They also fill in those hard-to-reach spots and require no watering:)

For many of the benefits just mentioned, stone mulch is a crucial element of many xeriscape projects. Xeriscape is a term that combines the Greek word "xeros" (meaning dry) with "landscaping." One of the most popular xeriscaping DIY projects is the Japanese-inspired dry stream. These trenches lined with river rock work to collect excess rainwater.

Rock paths and stepping stones help to make your garden more accessible. A well-placed stone can reduce reaching or bending in the garden. Stone edging reduces weeding and the unwanted migration of grass into your flower beds.

That's it for now. I am heading back out into my rock garden and starting work on a new one!

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











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



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Oral history summer project lives on

This article was originally published in The Kingston Whig Standard on February 8^{th,} 1995

PETER TRUEMAN

Smarting as we are from the mounting deficits in Ottawa and at Queen's Park, few of us can think of very much good to say about the way governments spend money.

But Tom Sylvester can. The carpenter extraordinaire and enthusiastic Amherst Island historian telephoned the other day to suggest that taxpayers' funds have seldom been better spent than on a grant that enabled four young women to do an oral history of the island in the summer of 1982.

Sylvester had a point. Ian Murray, and island sheep farmer, had the idea for the project, and his wife, Sally Bowen, managed it. Neither are native to the area, but they have made a living and raised a family here, and, as Murray puts it, wanted to "give something back to the island".

Under the umbrella of the Headlands Community Co-operative, which also publishes the island's monthly newsletter, *The Beacon*, they applied to Summer Canada, a program administered by the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, for \$8,925 to pay student researchers and purchase recording equipment and office supplies.

When the grant was approved, Headlands Community Co-op hired Cathy Wilson and Jan Milligan, graduate students in the Queen's history department, and two young women familiar with the island, Pauline Bulch and Bev Wemp.

Murray and Bowen also arranged for office space at the island school, got permission for researchers to stay in Alan Kidd's house, and put up \$700 of their own money for an ancient Plymouth Fury to get them around the island.

By late August, the team had recorded 46 interviews with older islanders, and the tapes are now safely in archives at Napanee and Queen's.

That summer project more than 12 years ago is still having an impact. "Over one-third of the 1982 interviewees had died within the first decade," Sylvester points out. "We are indeed fortunate that the interviews are preserved and accessible."

Cathy Wilson, the graduate student in charge of the project, went on to base her master's thesis on the island research. Her quest took her to Belfast for a year, where she looked into the backgrounds of the Ards peninsula Ulstermen who settled the island in the 19th century, and their Irish landlords.

Last summer, a book by Wilson based on all this work, called A New Lease on Life: Landlords, Tenants and Immigrants in Ireland and Canada, was published by McGill-Queen's University Press. I'm not sure how it's doing in Montreal and Toronto, but it heads the bestseller list at Glenn's Store in Stella.

The book is essential for any newcomer neighbours. For example, it makes clear why neophytes have to be careful about anything they say about one long-time islander to another. They're all related.

But it isn't simply that islanders intermarried once they got here in the middle of the last century. The bulk of Amherst Island's Scottish-Irish immigrants came from being worshipped by the tenants. within five miles of each other on the Ards peninsula southeast of Belfast. They were probably all related to each other before they rent". left.

history at the University of Guelph and is well launched on her academic career. Ultimately, the project has enriched the lives of a lot of people.

By going directly to primary sources, Wilson not only challenged some myths and cleared up a number of ambiguities about Amherst Island history, but contributed to the much broader study of Irish immigration to the New World, and tenancy in pioneer societies.

Tenancy, which many historians and descendents of tenant farmers have believed was an exploitave arrangement and all bad, was not the way on Amherst Island.

Irish landlord, bought the island in 1858, Wilson writes, it was "overpopulated, the decay, the soil was exhausted, and the community was being by-passed by the railway age".

Far from being exploitaive, Maxwell set low rental rates and was lenient with tenants who couldn't pay. When he first bought the island, 60 per cent of his tenants were in arrears.

At that time, the going rate for land rental who wants to get along with his or her island elsewhere in the Canadas was one-third the value of the chief cash crop (wheat), or about \$4.68 per acre. But Maxwell charged only \$1 per acre for the best land on the North shore, and 90 cents per acre for less valuable property on the South Shore".

> Maxwell's agent on the island from 1871 to 1923, William Henry Moutray, was close to

"Many islanders who went to him with tales of woe," Wilson writes, "left with abatements in

There were so many abatements by 1876 that Cathy Wilson is now assistant professor of Maxwell warned Moutray to back off. After that, the agent made sure that Maxwell got his money, but took up the slack himself.

> "He would literally give the roast chicken off his table to a hungry caller," Wilson writes, "and Islanders still claim if the money owed to him was now paid back, his family would indeed be wealthy".

For new arrivals, tenancy under a landlord like Maxwell made sense. It allowed immigrants to check out a place before buying (as many did on Amherst Island), made it possible for them to cash in on good crop prices without having to carry large mortgages, and enabled them to save money to put back into machinery or livestock.

This kind of history may change how we see When Major Robert Perceval Maxwell, an the past, but Wilson's book is not revisionist for the sake of revisionism.

"Her book is meticulously substantiated by forests were denuded, land values were rising primary resources," Tom Sylvester concludes. more slowly, the shipbuilding industry was in "The text represents not the rewriting of island history, rather the first scholarly writing of island history."

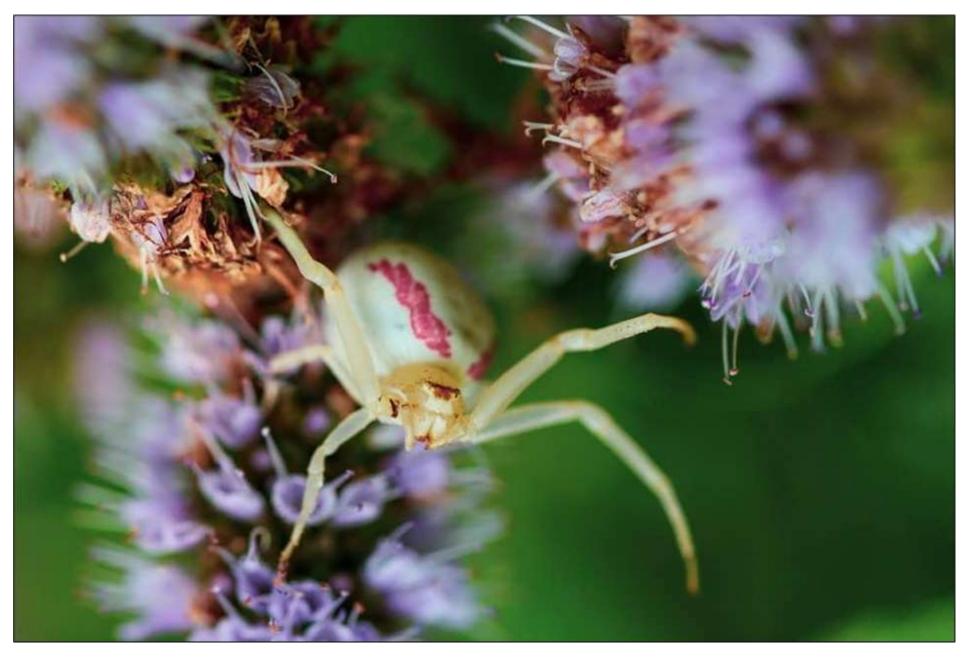
> It's good to think it all began with a sheep farmer's idea and a modest government grant.





PHOTOGRAPHY

Views of the Island



Photograph taken by Vickie Keith





SPORTS

Local Paralympian off to Tokyo

ABI TRIPP

Abi Tripp recently spent time training on Amherst Island with Vicki Keith, in preparation for the 2021 Tokyo Paralympic Games. Many of us had the pleasure of meeting Abi while she was in training for her event, the 100m breaststroke. We all wish her a safe journey to Tokyo, and a wonderful time at the sporting events! Abi's race will be on August 31st/September 1st. Tune in and cheer her on. Good luck Abi!





Vicki Keith and Abi Tripp (top), and Abi Tripp (bottom).



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"Rosie Peeking Out", photography by Don Tubb.

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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.