\$5 for printed copies at

McGinn's General Store

### THE BEACON

# BEACON

### FERRY FINALLY FERRYING FERRIES



The Amherst Islander II is currently making its journey to Canada.

#### AMHERST ISLAND FERRY DOCKS

For those of you who were surprised to see a new method of lining up on the mainland, when you drove off the ferry onto the Millhaven docks this past weekend, you are not alone. I was pleased to see the construction crew paving the new boarding area on the Millhaven side. It felt odd to be lining up for the ferry in a different place, but it is really encouraging to see progress with the project. The graphic below was taken from the A.I. Ferry Docks Twitter account, and clearly illustrates the changes made to the marshalling area during paving, a larger image can be found on their website if you're interested.

On the A.I. Ferry Docks Twitter account, more updates will be posted in real time. Check that account out on Twitter if you want updates about the paving schedule or other news.

MILLHAVEN TEMPORARY MARSHALLING AREA PLAN



The new ferries are travelling to Canada on the Super Servant 4.

### The New Ferry is on its Way!

#### KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

within a couple weeks.

After a suspenseful and prolonged wait, the *Amherst Islander II* and the *Wolfe Islander IV* both left Galati, Romania. They have begun their journey to Canada, and I know many of us will be eager to see them arrive.

As skillful as the ferry crew is at playing 'tetris' with cars, sometimes there are just too many cars trying to pack onto the current ferry. The *Amherst Islander II* will be a welcome change, with lots of room aboard.

Both ferries sailed towards Constanta, at the Black Sea, where they were prepared for the journey. All the systems on the ferries were shut down there, and they were loaded onto a 'mega'-ferry called the *Super Servant 4*. The *Super Servant 4* is technically a semisubmersible transport vessel (pictured above with the *Amherst Islander II* and the *Wolfe Islander IV* already aboard. The vessels are due to arrive in Canada The product number for the *Amherst Islander II* seems to be "Road Ferry 6819" (which would make the *Wolfe Islander IV* the "Road Ferry 9818"). This means the vessel is 70.4m long, can carry 300 passengers, can travel up to 12 knots, and can ferry 42 cars. More importantly, perhaps, the new *Amherst Islander II* is a "Zero Emission, Full Electric Road Ferry", so it is efficient and environmentally considerate.

If you wish to peruse the details of the ferries, you can read more at <u>https://www.damen.com/en/e-ferries-ontario-</u> updates.

Hopefully it is all clear sailing for the long journey the ferries are making at the moment.



IN THIS ISSUE

### **SPOTLIGHT SPECIES:** EASTERN COTTONTAIL (3)

### ORCHARD IN BLOOM BY CAMILLE PISSARRO (9,10)

### JANET'S JOTTINGS: THE GOLDFINCH (11)

#### SEPTEMBER DAYS

### National Bald is Beautiful Day

#### SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

Celebrate National Bald is Beautiful day on September 13<sup>th</sup> this year. Some people choose to go bald as a style, others gradually bald with age, some might experience balding due to illness or medical treatments. Whatever the reason for someone's baldness, it can make them feel vulnerable, but it is beautiful and natural too. As a bonus, people who are bald actually save a lot of money on hair products and grooming expenses. It's also a wise choice in the heat of the summer.

In some areas, to celebrate National Bald is Beautiful Day, there are competitions among bald people, to see who can have the shiniest noggin.

There are a few bald eagles living on Amherst Island at the moment. If you catch sight of them on National Bald is Beautiful day, remember to tell them theyre beautiful too.



BEACON

Bald is beautiful.

### **OBSERVE**

### National Ants on a Log Day

The second Tuesday in September is National Ants on a Log Day. As a kid, I never really saw the resemblance of ants on a log replicated by raisins placed in cheese sauce peanut butter, placed in a slice of celery. I just identified the snack as a combination of foods I did not like.

Regardless of my personal aversion to the snack, it is wildly popular, and it is considered a health food.



Ants on a log.

#### REMEMBER

# National Online Learning Day

#### SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

Both the conveniences and the frustrations of online learning have been felt by many of us in the past year or so, but it is amazing that the technology exists to facilitate safe learning during a pandemic. It may not be the same as in-person education, but it has served a valuable purpose and will continue to do so.

As some of you are aware, I make a living in my role as an online educator for the International Department at St. Lawrence College. I am grateful for Online Learning to work remotely and live on the island.





# ..... BEACON

### SPOTLIGHT SPECIES

Eastern Cottontail Rabbit

### **KAYLEIGH GRAHAM**

The eastern cottontail rabbit, or sylvilagus floridanus, is a mammalian herbivore that frequents this area. They can be seen in North and South America, as far east as the east coast, and as far west as the plains and prairies. Their population is listed as 'least concern', and their population is currently increasing. There are several other cottontail rabbit species, but the eastern cottontail is the most common. Cottontail rabbits all have a white fluffy tail, but their bodies can range in colour from reddish brown to gray.

Eastern cottontail rabbits prefer to live on the edges of open fields but can adapt to living closer to humans than they prefer. These rabbits eat grasses, herbs, and garden produce. They forage for twigs, buds, and bark in the wintertime.

Cottontails remain hidden from predators for most of the day. When they are spotted or threatened, they either freeze or flee quickly in an angular pattern. They can reach speeds of nearly 30km/h.

Female cottontails give birth in shallow nests on the ground, to 3 or 4 times each year. Gestation lasts between 25 and 28 days. Their 3-8 young in each litter are entirely helpless when they are born, and only 15% of young rabbits survive their first year. The low survival rate is compensated for with the speed at which rabbits reach sexual maturity. Rabbits can begin to reproduce at or before the age of 3 months, so the rabbit population in an area can grow quickly.

Given their large populations and affinity for eating vegetation, eastern cottontail rabbits are problematic for famers. These rabbits are also a popular game animal for their meat, fur, or for sport, and they are hunted across North and South America.

The eastern cottontail rabbit can grow up to lengths of 38cm – 45cm and usually weighs about 2 – 3lbs. Once the rabbits reach maturity, they only come together for mating, they are solitary animals for the most part.

The main predators that threaten cottontail rabbits, include; hawks, coyotes, owls, foxes, weasels, and people.

### **EASTERN COTTONTAIL FACTS**

- In order to digest the complex carbohydrates and cellulose in their diet, rabbits must re-ingest fecal pellets to reabsorb nutrients from the broken down plant matter.
- Some parts of the rabbit, such as the foot, are considered valuable or lucky.

Sources: National Geographic, "Eastern Cottontail Rabbit", National Geographic Society.

Animal Diversity Web, "Eastern Cottontail", University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, 2020.





Photographed on Amherst Island, ON, by Kayleigh Graham, editor@thebeaconpaper.com.



# THE BEACON

### Obituaries

### **JOHN MCGINN (1934-2021)**

*The below statement was originally published by The Kingston Whig Standard on August 21st, 2021.* 

John passed away peacefully at the Kingston Health Sciences Centre on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, in his 87<sup>th</sup> year. John retired from Port Hope Hydro and lived on Amherst Island for over 40 years with his wife June. Predeceased by his beloved wife June (nee Macklin) and by his children Barbara Lawrence and Randy McGinn. Lovingly remembered by his grandchildren Robert, Stacey, Tonya, and Jason. Also missed by several great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, extended family and friends. Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of his life will be held at a later date with interment at Glenwood Cemetery, Amherst Island. In memory of John, memorial donations to the Cancer Society will be remembered with appreciation by the family. Arrangements entrusted to Payne Funeral Home.





Photographed by Don Woodiwiss Photography, woodiwissphotography.com.



### COVID Projects dayle gowan

This submission was sent in response to the call for 'COVID Creativity Projects' in August 2021, issue 490 of The Beacon.

Last year about this time, Elly and I realized that it was pretty clear we would not be travelling to warmer climes anytime during the fall or winter.

I decided I needed a project.

While sitting along the shore enjoying a late afternoon refreshment, we had often commented it would be nice to have a boat for quiet cruises along the shoreline.

After searching unsuccessfully for appropriate plans and complaining to Larry Jensen about my disappointment, he said "I have just what you need".

It turned out to be a 30+ year old daysailer with the right size and beautiful lines (for my purposes) but had reached a turning point in its life as a sailboat.

Here are a few photos of how the sailboat "Hold Tight" transitioned into an electric cruising launch "e-motion" over the next 9 months. Launched at the end of June, emotion has pretty much met or exceeded my hopes and has provided several hours of quiet and enjoyable cruising. Cruising speed is about what I expected (8-10 km/hr) and cruising range a bit better (approximately 60km or more, depending on the speed). I can provide more details if you are interested.

Cheers, Dayle Gowan

Out of the shop, ready to launch:

Original boat ready to enter my workshop:



Removing all the interior (and its problems): F

Progress:





Returning from



Returning from first trial run:



# Island Information

# 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 <a href="https://twitter.com/a\_i\_ferrydocks">https://twitter.com/a\_i\_ferrydocks</a>

### 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

Paving at the Millhaven docks is scheduled to take place on September  $9^{\text{th}}$  and  $10^{\text{th}}$ .

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 journeying to Canada at the moment. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected its arrival.

Information and updates can be found at <u>http://www.amherstislandferrydocks.ca/</u> or <u>https://twitter.com/a\_i\_ferrydocks</u>

### 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** 

**GENERAL STORE** 





#### **Open Hours**

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).

**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**

open nours			
Mondays	9am – 5pm		
Tuesdays	9am – 5pm		
Wednesdays	9am -5pm		
Thursdays	9am – 6pm		
Fridays	9am – 5pm		
Saturdays	10am – 4pm		
Sundays	Closed		
<b>Phone Number:</b> 613-519-2331			



### Loyalist Township Notice

### Back Beach Use



### Public Notice Conditions Re Use of Back Beach

Loyalist Township advises that effective September 7<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 Back Beach is **prohibited** for public use. Violators will be prosecuted by Nut Island Farms Limited and/or Loyalist Township.

For information concerning this notice, please contact the undersigned.

Kari Lambe Manager, Recreation Services & Facilities The Corporation of Loyalist Township 263 Main Street, P.O. Box 70 Odessa, Ontario K0H 2H0 Phone: (613) 386-7351 ext. 203 E-Mail: klambe@loyalist.ca



Photographed by Don Woodiwiss Photography, woodiwissphotography.com.



### **AIWI UPDATE**

### Amherst Island Women's Institute

Eight members of the Amherst Island Women's Institute, and guest Judi Gould, met for a leisurely lunch at the Loyalist Golf and Country Course in Bath last week. We sat outdoors on the patio, overlooking the lake and gardens, talked, relaxed, and enjoyed each other's company.

We are pleased that we have been able to continue with our Coffee Cart each Saturday from 10:00am - 12:00pm outside the Museum. Come and join us for coffee (or a cold drink), muffins, and good conversation.

We will get back to our regular schedule in September, meeting on the third Wednesday of each month. Guests are always welcome. Please contact Sharen Enlglish for more information, at 613-384-6535.



# Amherst Island Community Medical Clinic Update

Many thanks to everyone who completed and returned the *Amherst Island Community Medical Clinic Survey*. We are encouraged by your comments. A large majority of the respondents who completed the survey are in favour of having a Community Medical Clinic on Amherst Island, though some ideas of what services should be provided differ.

Overall, *Key Services* identified in the survey that islanders would like the AICMC to provide to our community are bloodwork/lab services, immunization, prescription renewal/dispensing/pick-up, foot care, blood pressure monitoring, and walk-in clinic. We are working on some of these areas, and are excited that we, in partnership with Loyalist Pharmacy in Amherstview, have arranged a Flu Vaccine Clinic to be held again this fall at The Lodge. We are also planning to arrange monthly Health and Wellness information sessions on a variety of subjects. More information to follow.

We would like to thank the AIWI for their financial support in our getting the Clinic incorporated and the survey printed and distributed. Over the next few months, we will be applying for grants to help finance the Clinic and are hoping that we will soon have Charitable Status so the AICMC can issue tax receipts for donations.

Keep your eyes open for further information on our: Website: <u>https://amherst-island-community-medical-clinic.constantcontactsites.com/</u> Should you want to contact us, our email address is: <u>aicmc2021@gmail.com</u>



### ARTS AND CULTURE

### Orchard in Bloom, L'ouveciennes by Camille Pissarro

#### **DEREK OXLEY**

I love to make homemade jam and preserves, and (with the exception of January marmalade) August and September is the time to jam. I was recently a guest on Amherst Island to do just that. I met with a friend who has some knowledge of wild foraging, and together we combed through woods and fields for elderberries, ground apples, and sumac trees. The weather was very hot and humid, but it was nice to be back in an environment which demands your respect lest it trip, bite, or poison you. During the jelly making I was introduced to a young man working there who had studied some art history, and as we began to debate the ins and outs of Modern Art I realized that my understanding of its foundations were more shaky than I thought. I have since undertaken to reacquaint myself with some of these origins, which lead inevitably back to the foundations of the style we call Impressionism, which came to fruition in France in the 1870s. There is a lot to unpack around this style. And since we are moving once again into the harvest season in Ontario, what better way to complement this endeavor than by showcasing a thriving orchard scene in the Impressionist style. For this month I have selected a painting from 1872 titled Orchard in Bloom, Louveciennes (a pastoral setting not far from Paris) by the Danish-French painter Camille Pissarro. But before we talk about him, we need to understand the world in which he was living and working.

Impressionism is not my favourite genre – I can't say there is a lot of it that I would hang in my house - but after reading through a number of essays, and examining some of the paintings more closely and calmly, I have gained a new level of respect for it. Impressionism is much more nuanced and diverse than I first realized, and much more tied to social and political upheaval than one might think at first glance. In previous articles we have touched upon the sweeping social and political changes of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as industrial technologies wildly morphed the landscape while economic changes reduced aristocratic patronage, swelling the open art markets as a result; all of these factors impacted the arrival of Modern art in Europe. Without oversimplifying it too much, there are a few important prongs to keep in mind while setting the stage for the arrival of Impressionism. For one, throughout the 1850s and 60s the tastes of emergent industrialists and merchants increasingly did not line up with those of the shrinking aristocracy; the former were far less appreciative of classical allegorical subject matter. With the aristocracy no longer acting as taste makers it fell to public critics, journalists, and the state academies to arbitrate "acceptable" taste in art. In Paris this saw the creation of Salons where every year new art could be presented to the public and the press. The importance of these Salons as a make-or-break moment in the

career of a painter is the second prong to keep in mind. Rejection of a work by the juries or the public could render an artist a pariah whom no taste maker would support. This meant that nobody would likely buy their work, and many artists then (as now) had to support themselves financially through sales. Juries in these two decades tended to prefer traditional and conservative approaches to painting, which had a stifling effect on painters who wanted to experiment outside the official lines.

A third prong came in the form of new science and technologies available to painters by the 1840s, chiefly through the advent of colour theory and the invention of tin tubes that carried pre-mixed oil colours. This was a major time and space saving product for artists, allowing them more mobility and flexibility outside of their studios. More and more painters argued the importance of painting out in the open, capturing light and shade just as they appeared in the moment. Meanwhile, colour theory and advances in optical technology opened doors for artists to experiment with perspectives and techniques in entirely new ways, which were less and less in keeping with the acceptance of the Salons. Yet another important prong in the origins of Impressionism was the introduction of Japanese prints to Europe throughout the 1860s whose use of bright colours and delicate light came into vogue, further influencing the artist's palette.



Camille Pissarro, Orchard in Bloom, L'ouveciennes, Oil on canvas, 1872. Seattle Art Museum. PAGE 9



### ARTS AND CULTURE Orchard in Bloom, L'ouveciennes by *Camille Pissarro*, continued...

#### **DEREK OXLEY**

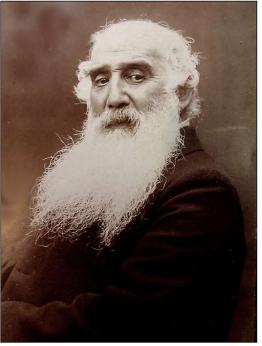
And for our purposes the final prong to set the scene is the Franco-Prussian war, fought from 1870-71. France decidedly lost this war, which toppled the government of their Second Empire and saw the state economically gouged by hefty war tributes. The ensuing turmoil in Paris caused almost 200 000 middle-class citizens to flee to the countryside, and for the rest of the 1870s the economies of Europe sat in a depression. But with France under new management came a fresh, more liberal acceptance of new styles and approaches to art. Keep in mind this is only a convenient narrative to set the stage, the whole story requires a book! But these were the waters waded by Pissarro and the other emerging Impressionists.

Camille Pissarro (1830-1903) was born in what is today the US Virgin Islands, but at that time it was a Danish colony. His father was a merchant businessman and the family lived comfortably, with Pissarro being educated in French boarding schools. At 16 his father installed him as a cargo clerk, however his interests did not align with those of the family business and in his early twenties Pissarro left his home to focus on painting as his profession. In 1855 he relocated to Paris to work as an assistant for the Danish master Anton Melbye, whose support helped encourage and establish the young artist. Although he never saw much wealth, by all accounts Pissarro was a patient, sensible, and encouraging man whom in his later years was known by many affectionately as "Papa". His exposure to progressive art theories in the Paris art scene pushed him more towards experimental art than the styles expected by the academies, and with the influence of his friend and tutor Camille Corot he focused much of his work on the burgeoning practice of 'plein air' painting. 'Plein air' (out-in-the-open) is essentially proto-Impressionism. These painters felt it was important to capture the pictorial truth of what lay in the world beyond their studios. Capturing the resonance of light was the ultimate goal of these painters. For any of you who have tried life drawing you know this means that your execution of the piece has to be much, much faster than if you were painstakingly recreating a scene in Realism. As light shifts, as winds blow trees and clouds while animals move unpredictably about, you have to capture the essence of a moment quickly before it has changed too much. This makes the brushwork of this style rough and broad, more concerned with capturing colours than lines. Through the end of the 1860s Pissarro was working regularly alongside Monet, Renoir, and Sisley in plein air excursions around Paris. More and more this group of young artists were using bright palettes and alternative approaches to composition, capturing ordinary pastoral subjects instead of the grand deeds of social elites.

Because of his citizenship Pissarro and his family fled to England at the onset of the Franco-Prussian war, but they returned as soon as they could, largely because English audiences had no interest in his style of painting. Pissarro reconnected with his circle of artists and together they would put on their own exhibitions of "Impressionist" art, the first in 1874 and the final one in 1886 (the term "Impressionism was coined by an art critic of the day, a description that was unpopular with many of the artists). With the reach of the established taste makers and middle-men diminished, more and more artistic ideas and creations were given room to flourish. The new political and intellectual realities after the war allowed Impressionism to finally come into its own and appeal to a wider audience. Ideas about how an image could look became more important than the subject matter itself, and more artists engendered a dislike of creating the scenes of artificial grandeur that were expected in traditional circles. Pissarro joined with other young and experimental artists around Paris in forming their own anonymous society (Société Anonyme des artists...) in 1874, independent from the official Salons, who began to exhibit their works independently. The phenomenon of artists taking promotion and exhibitions into their own hands had a democratizing effect on art very much like the internet has done for artists, writers, and musicians here in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Although the first exhibition endured a lot of public criticism, they confidently continued to auction their works.

In its maturity Impressionism strove to capture for the viewer a feeling of being outside right at that very moment, like the memory of walking through a flourishing orchard on a hot sunny day. In a strange way, this approach to painting was unconsciously concerned with time in a way that would become much more important to artists in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In this painting the brushwork does not give much precise detail – the workers in the field are faceless, some of the more distant branches seem not to be attached to their trees, and details along the horizon are even less defined, giving the sense that they are obscured by the haze of a hot day. Is it a crop field perhaps? Or a fence? A lone cypress tree, and possibly some stony hills? When you look at any section too closely you lose any semblance of image, seeing nothing but irregular and illegible strokes of colour. Yet while taking in the whole image each viewer can imagine for themselves what the tan and brown shapes in the distance might be. It is much like how we experience the memory of our walk through the warm orchard. At the end of the walk we are left with the feelings we experienced, the impression of which remains in our memory. The Impressionist painter hopes to take you away somewhere, for just a minute, to where your mind wanders as thoughts intermingle with memories. Audiences do not have to be steeped in classical or historic knowledge to engage with this type of imagery, it is an experience based purely on aesthetics and reverie.

Impressionism was a very important gateway for the rise of the many modern art movements that came in its wake. As the 19<sup>th</sup> century drew on towards its end most of those painters who had made a name as '*plein air*' Impressionist painters moved off on their own artistic journeys, experimenting more personally with colour and theories about representation. That era, now seen as Post-Impressionism, was an explosion that became a tentpole of Modern art. But that's a story for another day.



Sources:

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Camille Pissarro.

- Huyghe, Rene. "Introduction" in Impressionism: A Centenary Exhibition. Tr. Richard A.H. Oxby. Paris: Imprimerie moderne du Lion. 1974.
- Tinterow, Gary. "The Impressionist Landscape" in *Origins of Impressionism*. The Metropolitan Museum of Art. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc. 1994.



### JANET'S JOTTINGS

### The American Goldfinch

#### JANET SCOTT

We have reached the last few days of summer and migration is underway. Shorebirds having nested in the Artic and Hudson Bay Lowlands are returning south and stopping on Amherst Island to refresh and refill their stored fat levels before pushing on south. An exciting bird this week was captured in Wayne Fleming's field by the wonderful and local bird photographer, Sherri Jensen, is the whimbrel. It is on its long flight to South America as far south as Bolivia. whimbrels are  $17^{1/2}$  inch shorebirds with a boldly striped crown, dark eye line and that distinctive curved beak. This reminds you of a curlew.

To reach their nesting grounds in the spring, they leave the Guyanas in South America, then fly over the West Indies going inland to the Atlantic coast. From New Jersey, they head northwest to the marshy lowlands of the James and Hudson Bays. This route brings them over the Great Lakes, so we usually see them here in the spring. Sherri's sighting in the fall is rarer, as their route south is usually over the gulf of St. Lawrence.

The swallows are lining up on the wires and most of the chattering purple martins have headed south. Huge flocks of blackbirds are feeding in the fields and the bobolinks have changed their feathered outfits to buffy striped coats and look like large striped sparrows. Rubythroated hummingbirds are squeaking and fighting over your hummingbird feeders as they fatten up for travel to Central America. Their trip south will be more leisurely than the frantic nonstop crossing of the Gulf of Mexico that they completed when flying north back in May. Busy, busy time for our bird friends, but ... who are these cheery little fellows bouncing across the fields in a roller coaster flight accompanied by the swe-eet, swe-eet call?



A whimbrel, photographed by Sherri Jensen on Amherst Island.

The American goldfinch has completed a late nesting time. The female gathered materials and built her nest of woven plant fibres. She lined it with soft cattail fluff and thistle down while the male fed her with the thistle seeds. She incubated the eggs for 12 to 14 days and then both parents fed the young for another couple of weeks, on regurgitated seeds like a pablum. Goldfinch nests can be found right into September. In the fall the goldfinches go through a complete moult and males and females will now look alike without that distinctive black cap. There is some seasonal movement, but they are year round residents of North America. As Bonnie and I worked as volunteers at the Woolly Bully Race this past weekend, the flocks of goldfinches were feeding busily on weed seeds along the fence thickets

and happily bouncing along the roadsides. Once called wild canaries, they have been recorded in the Kingston area since 1864.

The wonderful photo taken by Colleen Pattison of Amherstview was taken in Prince Edward County in Wellington at Millefleurs Lavender and Honey Farm. The sunflowers were busy with bees.



Photograph taken by Colleen Pattison at Millefleurs Lavender and Honey Farm.

**PAGE 11** 



### **DARLENE'S DICTÉES**

A Tale of Wild Turkeys

### DARLENE MARTIN-STUART

#### A Tale of Wild Turkeys

One day, several years ago, a singular wild turkey walked right up to Ross, cocked its head to the side, and regarded him.

Focused on outdoor carpentry at the time, Ross didn't notice the turkey straightaway. "It was unnerving and unnatural" he told me and preceded to provide great detail to describe exactly what he meant by that.

Last summer, I was working away in the garden, myopically focused on something that is rather forgettable now. I was in deep thought on something completely unrelated to what I was doing, or, perhaps, deep in no thought at all.

Slowly, I became aware of a presence. It started me thinking about the people who lived here before me, as I often do.

I firmly believe, as does Ross, that rossland is haunted. Both Ross and I feel the entities are deeply interested in what both of us work away on together, albeit independently, here on this very old farmstead. We discuss this frequently.

I lifted by head, ever so slowly, from a crouched position. Staring straight at me was a wild turkey. It felt like the scene in The Black Stallion whereby the shipwrecked boy wakes up in the sand, turns his head ever so slowly, and comes face to face with a cobra. It was unnerving and unnatural.

Would it be outrageous to consider the spirits of rossland were watching us through the turkeys' eyes?

I've seen many a turkey on our part of the island since then. I'm not sure if I am just more attentive to them now, or if their numbers have increased.

In both instances, the turkeys' eyes held a human-esque curiosity; a wonderment that carried neither approval nor disapproval. It was as if they wanted to know who we were and what we were doing.

Last fall, as I was driving back home from a trip to the village, I stopped the car, took this photograph, and with this my encounter with the turkey came back to mind. I realized, at that moment, that I had forgotten to tell Ross about it.

That evening, as I sat by the fire with no distractions, (save Ross playing his fiddle) I decided to tell him all about it.



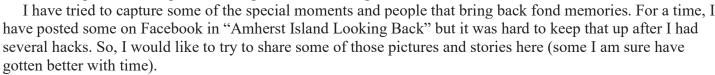
Photograph provided by Darlene Martin-Stuart.



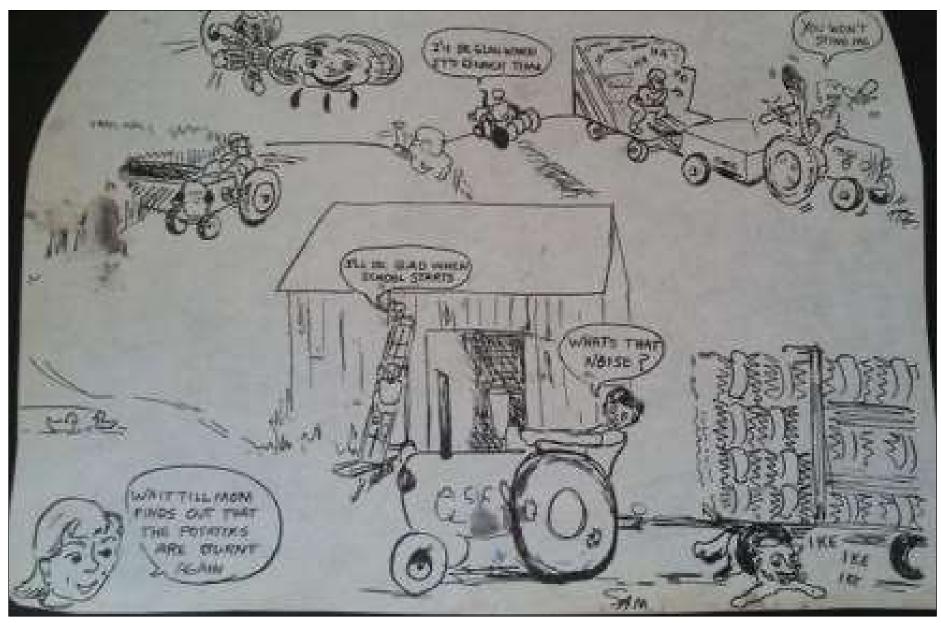
### shirley's stories The Way It Was

#### **SHIRLEY MILLER**

Everyone who has ever come to the island has wanted it to stay as it is, even me, and I came here in 1964. The roads were still all gravel. It was not unusual to meet a horse and sulky. The blacksmith still held court on the corner. The telephone was privately owned and manned 24 hours a day by Ada Filson. The General Stores (Neilson's and Glenn's) carried everything one needed as long as the boat ran. The post office was in Glenn's Store run by Leslie and Irene, and Herbie Wires delivered the mail. Neilson's store where Fred Neilson and Maurice Hogeboom carried screen for fixing your door, paint, even a television, to name some of the more unusual items (even stays for your corset I'm told). The gas pumps were out in front and just to the east. The Royal Bank came over on Wednesdays only. And very few people worked on the mainland. George Bierma still made cheese in the old cheese factory and most people farmed. Christmas concerts, suppers and dances were held in the Victoria Hall. Teena and Ross Filson ran Rossena's Café in the old brick building that stood where Stella's Café is now. While driving the school bus for many years, I took photos of island scenes that had the great advantage of morning and afternoon light.







This old cartoon of mine is how we haved in our farming days.

The Millers and the Hendersons worked together to fill the barns with hay to feed the cattle all winter. Everyone worked. Kids cooked, worked in the mow and on the wagon putting bales on the elevator. The women usually worked on the wagons as well where we grumbled that the bales were too heavy or too dry and dusty and were hard to make ride the elevator all the way to the mow. If a snake should have the bad luck to get baled Phyllis came unglued.

We always hoped we were done by the first of July so the other crops could be harvested as they ripened but the weather didn't always cooperate. If those bales got wet they had to be stooked till they dried. If they were mowed away too wet they could heat and burn so just in case salt was sprinkled on the layers of bales. I only worked in the mow once (another story) but it was hot and hard work. The bales could not be piled too close to the walls of the barn or as the mow filled the bales could flatten and push the boards off and they had to be packed tight together so you could walk on them while adding a next layer.

Now that machines do a lot of the hard work there is still the weather and break downs. Just guessing but I think this was a tricky summer for hay.

~Shirley Miller



# THE BEACON

#### GARDENING

### Must Love Mulch

#### VANESSA VAN

As the seasons change, I find myself with more lavender than I know what to do with. I have cut down our giant sunflowers and potted some orange chrysanthemums. The wheat wreath hanging on the front door is finally in season again, and I will soon be picking 'my own' apples (and pumpkins) at Wynn Farms.

Around the yard, I will be planting some bulbs, doing a fall cleanup, laying some mulch, and putting a new coat of stain on the freshly pressure-washed upper deck.

A highlight of my summer was getting to talk about gardening on Amherst Island Radio with Janet Scott and Darlene Martin-Stuart. Thanks again for inviting me to join in on two episodes of The Udder Morning Show. I was also kindly invited by a few of my neighbours to tour their lovely gardens. A big thanks to Marie and Brian Ward, Barb McDonald, and Sally Jane Bowen for their gracious hospitality.

I cannot express how much fun I have had this year in the garden, Burt's Greenhouses, Lee Valley, and various garden centers. At least 150 bags of mulch later, I look forward to the cooler weather and an absurdly large number of apples. I hope for a safe and healthy fall season for all. There will be plaid.

Happy gardening, and, until winter comes, mulch on !!









Vanessa Van, monthly gardening columnist

for *The Beacon* newspaper.





### AICA

### Amherst Island Blooms

### AMHERST ISLAND COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

#### **AI Blooms Recognition Awards Honour Roll:**

The Amherst Island Community Alliance congratulates the recipients of the AI Blooms Recognition Markers which were handed out in the past month. 50 locations were nominated and selected to receive the award that recognizes the efforts that have been put into their gardens. While we recognize many more gardens deserve recognition these ones stand out and were the ones that were nominated. Our congratulations and thanks to the gardeners who have devoted their time to make the Island a more beautiful place. We encourage everyone to do a drive-by and check out their efforts.

#### **Front Road**

- 20 Sharen English & David Pickering Marc and Marny Raymond 2400 2750 Joyce Haines 2860 3850 Julie Grabell-McKee 4700 4810 Barbara McDonald 4870 Diane Pearce & Michele Le Lay 5050 5245 5400 Renee & Claude Minville 5575 5580 Vicki Keith 5660 Saskia Wagemans 5675 8855 Dave Rattray 9530 Dawna & Paul Watson 9950 Ann Adams 10850 Sandra & Jim Reid 10930 Rosemary Vrooman 11450 Elena & Michael Steeves 12485 Brian Ray 14775 Sally Bowen
- 1350 Dayle & Eloise Gowan Diane Hieatt Susan Friesen Nina Krakowsky 4950 Lynann Laffin Paul & Victoria Cuyler Helen Trotter The Back Kitchen (Ali Mackeen Team) 5695 Dave & Linda McGinn 9480 Vanessa Vanzieleghem 9910 Judith Harrower 10120 Tim Griffin 10900 Roxanne Guttin & Kass Wronski 11100 Keith Mercer





Marie Ward in her A.I. Blooms Garden. Photographed by Kayleigh Graham, editor@thebeaconpaper.com.





John Schram in his A.I. Blooms Garden. Photographed by Kayleigh Graham, editor@thebeaconpaper.com.



Judith Harrower in her A.I. Blooms Garden. Photographed by Kayleigh Graham, editor@thebeaconpaper.com.



Warren Kilpatrick in his A.I. Blooms Garden. Photographed by Kayleigh Graham, editor@thebeaconpaper.com.



### AICA

### Amherst Island Blooms

Second Concession						
4505	Keith & Shirley Miller	6400	Darlene Martin-Stuart			
6900	Marie & Brian Ward					
Third Concession						
350	Janet Scott	850	Warren Kilpatrick			
2545	Barb & Adam Miller	5700	Terry McGinn			
7345	Sarah Vanstone		-			
Art McGinn Road						
550	Betty Wemp	1245	Ruthie Cummings			
2450	Jane McGinn	2850	Tom De Haan & Gord Heasley			
		<b>McDonalds</b> Lane				
125	Judy Greer	140	Alena & John Schram			
South Shore Road						
3000	Jackie Sylvester	4615	Andrea Cross			
8875	Anders Bennick					
	20 Emerald 40 Foot	Lynda Dignard				
	145 Dump Road	AI Waste Disposal Site (Keith Miller)				



Darlene Martin-Stuart in her garden. Photograph taken by Kayleigh Graham, editor@thebeaconpaper.com.



Jackie and Tom Sylvester in their garden with a lovely harvest for the Loving Spoonful. Photograph taken by Kayleigh Graham, editor@thebeaconpaper.com.



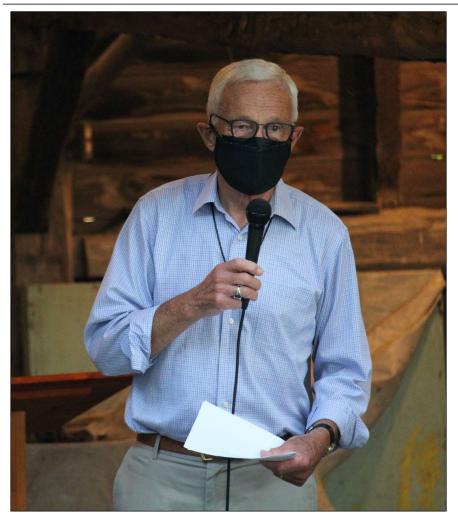
Vanessa Van in her garden.



# THE BEACON

### POLITICS

# All Candidates Meeting



The All-Candidates Meeting was recently held outside at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Amherst Island, ON. The event allowed islanders to meet some of the local candidates from Hastings-Lennox and Addington running in the upcoming election and hear their platforms.

John Schram hosted the event as a moderator and announcer, he did an excellent job providing time for each candidate to speak and answer questions. Thank you, John!

The candidates in attendance included Shelby Kramp-Neuman for the Conservative Party of Canada, Mike Bossio for the Liberal Party of Canada, a stand-in speaker represented Matilda DeBues for the New Democratic Party of Canada, and Reg Wilson for the Green Party of Canada.

Masks were worn for most of the outdoor event, with exceptions being made for candidates using the microphone, and COVID-19 social distancing protocols were followed. The attendance at the event was fairly encouraging, and there were many questions for the candidates. Hopefully this event provided islanders with the information they need to vote in the Canadian federal election in advanced voting from September 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> or on election day on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

The following pages outline some details on each candidates' passions and party platforms, including helpful links where people can find additional information.

Photographs were taken by Kayleigh Graham, editor@thebeaconpaper.com.





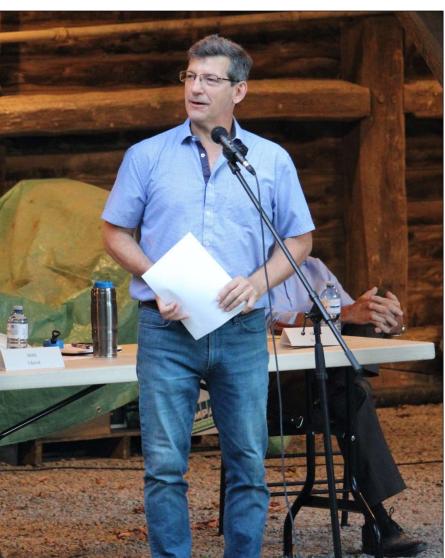
**PAGE 17** 



### POLITICS

# All Candidates Meeting





Candidate: Shelby Kramp Neuman Party: Conservative Party of Canada Riding: Hastings-Lennox and Addington Bio: A graduate of the University of Ottawa, where she studied Communications and Political Science, Shelby Kramp Neuman has worked in government, public service, and the private sector. For the last 12 years, Shelby has worked for Sun Life Financial as an award-winning Financial Advisor.

She has been a parliamentary assistant to the late Jim Prentice and worked for Senator Con Dinino. This experience was followed by employment with Global Affairs Canada where she was selected to become a Canadian representative in Seattle, Washington.

Shelby has spent almost six years as a teacher, including time with the Hastings & Prince Edward District School Board and at

Candidate: Party: Riding:

date:Mike BossioLiberal Party of Canadag:Hastings-Lennox and Addington

Bio: Mike Bossio grew up in Hastings—Lennox and Addington and moved back in 1994 with his wife Irene and their two children. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from York University. Prior to getting involved in politics, Mike owned Boscan Consultants Inc. where he was responsible for sales, marketing, and recruitment of R&D professionals globally for the telecommunications industry.

As city councillor for Tyendinaga Township, Mike was a passionate advocate for his community. As Chair of Concerned Citizens of Tyendinaga and Environs from 2008-2015, Mike helped to lead a successful 23-year battle with the world's largest waste company, Waste Management Corporation, which was proposing to build a massive landfill on fractured limestone.

Mike served as MP for Hastings—Lennox and Addington from 2015 - 2019. He was a constituent-focused MP, who represented the interests and needs of his

Loyalist College. She has served on the Centre Hastings Municipal Council for 15 years, being re-elected three times and serving for four years as Deputy Mayor.

Born and raised in Hastings County, Shelby has lived most of her life in Madoc. Shelby has been happily married to Tadum Neuman for 15 years. They have two very wonderful school aged daughters, Tori and Reese.

Shelby is entering this race because she is concerned about the state of the country and the direction it's heading. For many Canadians, their biggest worries are economic recovery, security, and prosperity. Yet it is clear that debt loads on individuals and on all levels of government have exploded, putting businesses, jobs, and home ownership at risk. Communities and families are facing unprecedented challenges. Erin O'Toole and the Conservatives will ensure that Canadians emerge strong and prosperous post pandemic.

Email: <u>info@electshelby.ca</u> Website: <u>www.electshelby.ca/about/</u> \*Information taken from the website above. constituents, advocated within government for solutions to their challenges and applied a local lens to government legislation and programs that could impact their lives. In Mike's first term, he brought more than \$217M worth of funding to benefit our riding. These investments are having a huge positive impact, from broadband connectivity to infrastructure to economic development to protecting our environment. They are creating and preserving jobs, protecting our citizens and businesses, and promoting a healthy and safe environment.

As MP, Mike traveled to every part of this riding, meeting with constituents, organizations, businesses and municipalities to discuss the challenges and find solutions, Mike worked hard to find creative ways to get stuff done, including a \$71 million federal investment (\$213 million in total investment) to Eastern Ontarioto close the cell coverage gap. He also brought together government and industry to create \$42 million in investment, leading to 500kms of fiber optic cables and 50 to 100 micro-cell towers, which will be built in the riding.

Mike has always been a passionate advocate for his community and resilient in building a better future for families in Hastings—Lennox and Addington.

Email: <u>hlaliberals@gmail.com</u> Website: <u>www.mikebossio.liberal.ca</u> \*Information taken from the website above.



### POLITICS

# All Candidates Meeting



\*Matilda DeBues (pictured below) was represented by a stand-in speaker (pictured to the left) for the August 20<sup>th</sup> All-Candidates Meeting.



Candidate:Matilda DeBuesParty:New Democratic Party of CanadaRiding:Hastings-Lennox and AddingtonBio:Matilda DeBues is passionate about building strongercommunities for working people and their families – and fightingfor on offerdable, green, and equitable Canada. She is stending with

for an affordable, green, and equitable Canada. She is standing with Jagmeet Singh and the NDP team to work for a fair pandemic recovery and a more hopeful future we can all look forward to.

Matilda is optimistic and energetic – and she knows what a huge difference positive government action can make for everyday people. She is ready to fight for action on the specific issues that matter to people right here in Hastings-Lennox and Addington – such as improving internet access and public transportation for people in remote communities.

She knows that everyone needs a safe, secure, and affordable place to live. As your Hastings-Lennox and Addington MP, she will champion bold action to address Canada's housing crisis – fighting for additional measures on top of the NDP's pledge to build many new affordable units and implement a tax on home buyers who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents. As a young candidate, Matilda understands the urgency of addressing the climate emergency and developing a robust, sustainable economy. In Ottawa, she will back the NDP's proposals for making electricity carbon net free by 2030 and creating a million new jobs that will strengthen local economies through building green infrastructure. Born in the UK, Matilda moved to Ontario as a child, and is currently living in Peterborough, where works at the New Canadians Centre, an agency that helps settle and welcome newcomers to Canada. She has also lived in a nearby rural community and understands the diverse needs and challenges of people in Hastings-Lennox and Addington.



Candidate: Reg Wilson Party: Green Party Riding: Hastings-Le

Green Party of Canada Hastings-Lennox and Addington

Bio: Reg Wilson moved to Hastings—Lennox and Addington after a post-retirement seven-year sailing trip. He is active in his community, volunteering as a member of the Community Development Committee. He also operates a modest handyman service.

Reg is the proud grandfather of 12 grandchildren. The looming climate crisis and the impact it could have on the lives of his grandchildren and future generations motivated him to stand as a candidate for the Green Party of Canada.

Reg has held management positions in manufacturing, marketing positions in technology, and owned and operated a modest mixed farm. Prior to moving to Lennox and Addington county, Reg served on the board of a children's mental health organization, and as president, guided it through the acquisition of a similar organization to secure its viability.

Email: matilda.debues@ndp.ca Website: www.matildadebues@ndp.ca \*Information taken from the website above. As a farmer, he led a grassroots organization that lobbied and eventually succeeded in persuading the provincial government to amend policies under the milk marketing act. His experience has shown him what it takes to affect change, and he feels a great urgency to act.

Reg received his MBA at the age of 50. He supports free or reduced-cost post-secondary education based on the maintenance of a reasonable level of academic performance by students.

Reg's grandparents had a policy during the Depression of ensuring everyone who came to their door looking for a meal got a meal. This attitude to support the less fortunate of society compels him to support the concept of a Guaranteed Livable Income for those members of our society who are unable to participate effectively.

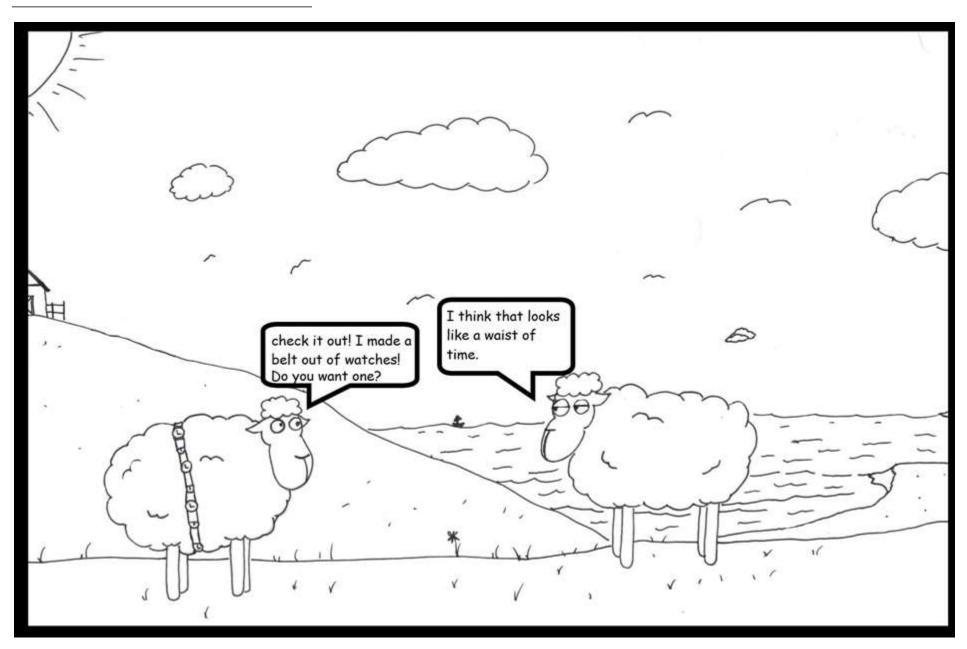
Email: <u>wilreg@gmail.com</u> Website: <u>www.greenparty.ca/en/riding/2013-35039</u> \*Information taken from the website above.



### COMICS

### **More Puns from Sam**

SAM EVES





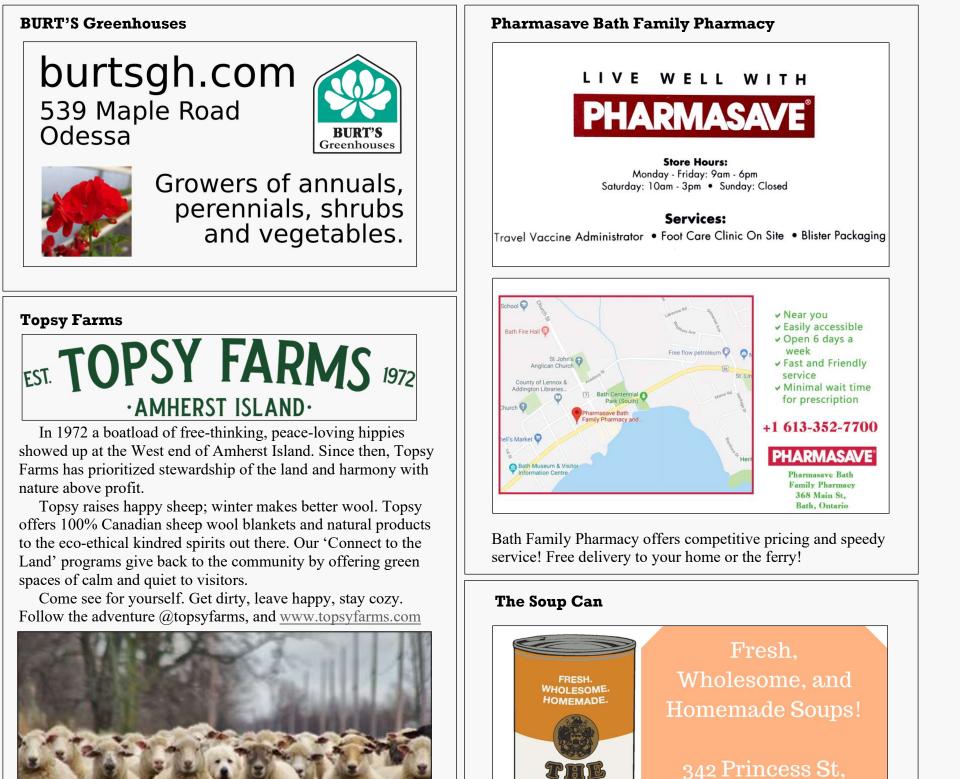
Photographed by Don Woodiwiss Photography, woodiwissphotography.com.





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"Rosie Peeking Out", photography by Don Tubb.

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### rossland gallery

rosbilt.com · bijouxbead.com

**Rossland Gallery** 

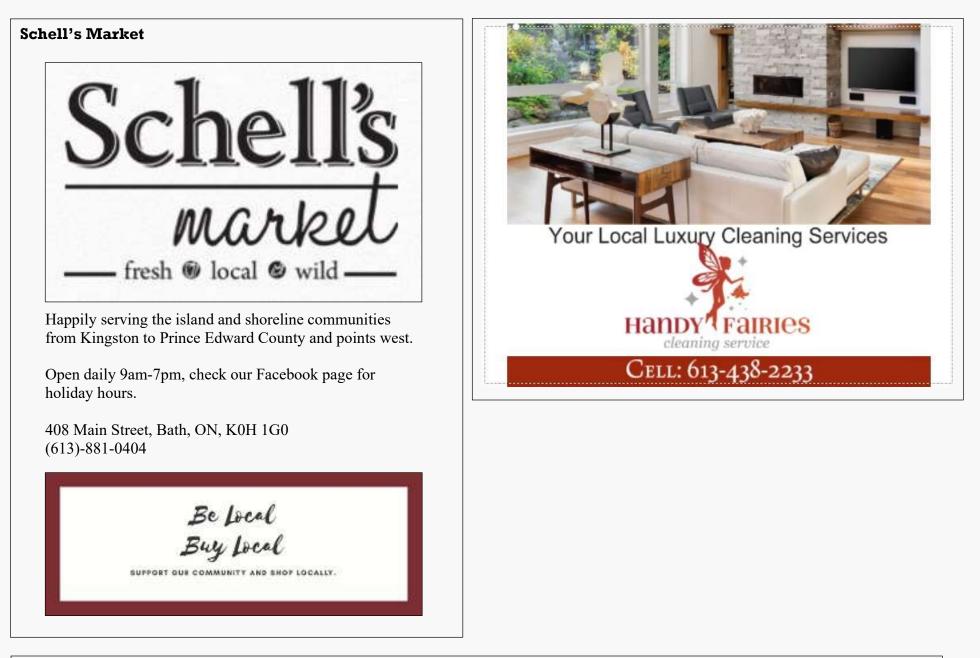
stringed metal instruments artisanal glass jewellery

by appointment gallery@rosslandgardens.com



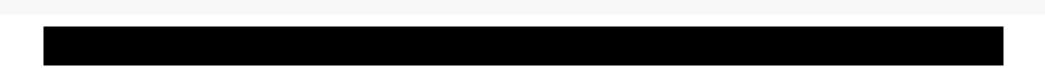
### CLASSIFIEDS

### Support Local Businesses



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





# THE BEACON

### 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 491 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 <a href="https://www.thebeaconpaper.com/">https://www.thebeaconpaper.com/</a>.
- This edition of *The Beacon*, as well as archived editions will be available as a downloadable PDF files midway through the month on <u>http://amherstisland.on.ca/Beacon/</u>.

#### 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 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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

Thank you!



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