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THE BEACON

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

THE



BEACON

DEER DETERIORATING FROM DEADLY DISEASE

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

In October 2021, sampled from several deceased deer in the Kingston area were tested by the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC). The test results confirmed the deer were positive with epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV or EHD). Dead deer that tested positive for the EHD virus were found on or near Wolfe Island, Gananoque Lake, in Stirling, Kingston, and Lansdowne. EHD is a virus transmitted by midges throughout populations of white-tailed deer. This is not the first outbreak of EHD in Ontario amongst white-tailed deer populations, that was back in 2017 in the London, Ontario area.

A white-tailed deer suffering from EHD would likely be feverish, depressed, or struggling with respiratory distress. The deer may have a swollen head or neck, lack an appetite, or present with lameness due to hoof deterioration. Many deer that succumb to the EHD virus can be found in or near bodies of water.

There are currently outbreaks of the EHD virus in Michigan and New York State, near where they border southwestern and eastern Ontario, respectively. EHD is one of the deadliest diseases of white-tailed deer in the United States currently, especially in deer populations who have not been exposed to the virus before. Outbreaks can result in the death of between 4-1,000 deer, a wide range. At its worst, there was a reported outbreak in the USA in 2012 that killed 15,000 deer. The deer in Ontario may be incredibly vulnerable to this virus, as there has not been prolonged exposure to EHD in Ontario.

A NOTE TO HUNTERS

Hunters often are an early source of information about the status of species such as white-tailed deer in Ontario. If a hunter sees a deer that is acting abnormally, is visibly ill, or is dead in or near water, they should file a report with the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) at http://www.cwhc-

rcsf.ca/report and submit.php.

The above link is an online form that is short and easy to use, to help the CWHC track and understand more about diseases that may be affecting white-tailed deer in the wild in Ontario.



White tail deer.

EHD Confirmed in Local Deer

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

A NOTE TO FARMERS

The Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) virus can infect domestic livestock, including sheep and cattle, but outbreaks are rare. The EHD virus displays similar symptoms to that of the Bluetongue virus (BTV), which is a different disease that more commonly affects domestic livestock.

Like the bluetongue virus, EHD can result in the animal having a blue tongue as a symptom of hemorrhaging and a lack of oxygen in the blood as an effect of the virus. The main difference in these two diseases is found in the midges that transmit the virus, and animals they infect.

Both the EHD virus and BTV are spread by midges of the genus *Culicoides*, and present with similar symptoms, but they involve slightly different pathogens. EHD predominantly affects white-tailed deer but can infect domestic livestock. BTV is mostly limited to livestock such as sheep and goats.

Outbreaks of EHD usually occur in late summer or fall, and often end when the virustransmitting midges die off in the winter frosts. Once the midges die off, there will not be continued transmission, since the virus does not travel from deer to deer. The carcasses of deceased deer are also not a source of infection.

A NOTE TO THE PUBLIC

The midges carrying the EHD virus do not pose a threat to humans.

An EHD infected deer that is free from ulcers, abscesses, or other signs of sickness, can still be safely consumed as a source of meat.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the sources below.

NDMNRF Natural Resources Information and Support Centre:

Phone: 1-800-667-1940

CWHC ON/NU regional centre: Phone: 1-866-673-4781 E-mail: on-nu@cwhc-rcsf.ca

Sources:

- "Epizootic hemorrhagic disease in deer". NDMNRF. 2021.
- "EHD in White-Tailed Deer in Kingston, ON". CWHC. 2021.

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NOVEMBER DAYS

National Cook for Your Pets Day

NOVEMBER 1ST

Celebrate National Cook for Your Pets Day this November 1st, 2021. This day is a reminder to spread the joy your pets give to you by cooking them their favourite meal once in a while.

Personally, I attempted to make a charcuterie board style feast for my pet ducks. Finely diced carrots, strawberries, lettuce, kale, cucumber, sunflower seed, corn, and mealworms were all laid out on a plate for them. The meal probably took me almost an hour to prepare, in order to get the vegetables chopped finely enough for them to eat safely, but my ducks made it all disappear in a matter of seconds. Still, it was worth it to see how happy they were to have a treat.



11 12 1 10 2 3 8 7 6 5

OBSERVE

The End of Daylight Savings, November 7th at 2:00am



REMEMBER

Remembrance Day

NOVEMBER 11TH

Lest We Forget

The Canadian Forces School of Communications and Electronics (CFSCE), in association with the Lions' Club of Odessa and District, will conduct the annual Remembrance Day service at the Wilton Cenotaph in Wilton, Ontario, on Thursday November 11, 2021 at 1000 hours. Attendance this year is by invitation only, in order to respect provincial gathering size limits. To protect all attendees and veterans, wearing a mask is mandatory.





THE BEACON

SPOTLIGHT SPECIES

Wild Canadian Grape

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

The wild Canadian grape plant, or *vitus* riparia, is also known as the 'frost grape' or 'riverbank grape' since it thrives along bodies of water such as the St. Lawrence River. This plant is native to North America. The wild grape vines can grow up to 50 feet in length and will climb almost any structure. Wild grape vines use tendrils to latch onto surfaces such as barns, fences, branches, or other plants. Due to the voracity of this species, it is sometimes called a weed, as it can grow unchecked and overtake other plants in its path; it is considered to be invasive. The wild grape vines are resilient in harsh winter seasons, adaptable to most types of soil, and are disease resistant. Due to their resistance to disease, frost grape vines are often used as the base root for grafting.

The leaves of this species of grape usually contain three wide lobes that are serrated and are 5-12cm in length, vaguely reminiscent of a maple leaf. The branches and vines are a brown and gray combination that appear to be shredded or scratched. The smaller stems that lead to leaves or fruit are often a smooth red or green colour. Long clusters of green flowers appear on the plant in early spring and summer.

The fruit of the wild Canadian grape, or river grape, ripens in the late summer and early fall, usually in October. The grapes grow in clusters, are usually blue, purple, or black in colour, and are smaller than commercially grown grapes. Each grape should have two or more, sometimes up to four, seeds within the fruit.

If the grape only has one, crescent shaped seed, it is not a frost grape or river grape and it is not safe to consume. Grapes that look quite similar, but have only one crescent shaped seed, are called Canadian moon seed grapes. Canadian moon seed grapes are highly toxic ad should not be consumed.

River grapes, frost grapes, and Canadian wild grapes that have two or more seeds in them are safe to consume and harvest for jams, jellies, and wines.



WILD GRAPE JAM RECIPE

Delicious Homemade Grape Jam:

- Ingredients:
 - 4 cups grapes
 - 2 cups sugar, honey, stevia, maple syrup, or your favourite sweetener
 - 1 tbsp lemon juice
- Separate grape peels and grape pulp
- Simmer pulp on the stove and pass it through a fine mesh strainer to remove seeds
- Combine grape pulp and peels and add sugar or honey as sweetener
- Add lemon juice and increase heat
- Boil for about 10-15 minutes, or until the jam reaches the gel stage or 220°F
- Fill jars leaving ¼ inch headspace and process in a water bath canner for 10 minutes
- Let the jars sit undisturbed for 48 hours

Sources: Canadian Wildlife Federation, "Wild Grape".





THE BEACON

Obituaries

MARY KAY STEEL (1926-2021)

The below statement was written by Melissa, Mary Kay's daughter.

My mother, Mary Kay Steel (Rombout), passed away peacefully on Friday afternoon, November 19, in the wake of complications following removal of a large brain tumour. She was able to gaze out over a spectacular Lake Ontario panorama of sky and water, listening to her favourite pieces of classical music.

My mother had a remarkable life, starting as small-town New Brunswick nurse then catapulted into Canada's vibrant and voluble contemporary art scene while married to Luke Rombout. She was a First Wave feminist and blazed trails in Ottawa as senior public policy advisor to several federal portfolios. In her retirement, she returned to frontline caregiving and service as a member of the Women's Institute.

She lived through the most interesting of times and travelled the world for work and pleasure: to paraphrase Mad Men Bert Cooper's effusive tribute to secretary Ida Blankenship, she was an astronaut.

She is mourned by daughters Melissa Rombout and Aleida Rombout, as well as her grandchild Lukas Cockburn and son-in-law Lorin Russell. She expressed her wish that any tokens of remembrance be directed to the Ontario SPCA Lennox and Addington Animal Centre in Napanee.



Drips and drops, all photographs taken by Vicki Keith.

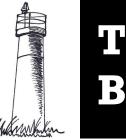












Remembrance Day Ceremony 2021

AMHERST ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL

Photography by Brian Little, at $\underline{http://www.brianlittlephoto.com}$







Island Information



THE BEACON

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 use of the new docks has begun. The paving of the new docks has been completed.

The Amherst Islander II, the new electric ferry, has arrived in Canada. It is currently in the Picton area.

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.

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

Instructions

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

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

LOYALIST LANDFILLS

Dump Hours and Protocol

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

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

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

STORE SERVICES

McGinn's General Store

POST OFFICE

Open Hours 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

Phone Number: 613-519-2331





Amherst Island Agricultural Society Update

DAYLE GOWAN (submitted by Dayle Gowan, Secretary of the A.I. Agricultural Society)

MARK RITCHIE (written and hosted by Mark Ritchie, President of the A.I. Agricultural Society)

DON (WOODY) WOODIWISS (photographs by Don 'Woody' Woodiwiss, https://woodiwissphotography.com/)

Many years ago, Amherst Island was locally famous for its annual Fall Fair, and in 1921 acquired 7.1 acres of land for a fairground in the Village of Stella. As best we can tell, the last Agricultural Society fall fair was held in the late 1940's and the remaining structures were removed in the 1960's. After that, the Society was essentially dormant.

In late 2018, a group of islanders, with the assistance of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, restored the Society with a full Board of Directors and a new constitution. During 2019 new members were added to the Society, liability insurance was arranged, and by fall, a parking area was created for future events. Plans for a July 1st, 2020 community event were well underway. Then COVID-19 hit, and public events were no longer possible. Fortunately, by the end of summer this year, restrictions were relaxed to allow moderate sized outdoor events to take place (up to 100 participants). The Board of Directors of the Society felt it was finally time to host an event. Although a community event was preferred, it was decided that due to COVID limitations, the event should be limited to Society members, and invited friends or neighbours who might be interested in joining the Society.

On Sunday, September 26th, 1:00 - 3:00 PM, the Agricultural Society held its first event on the fairgrounds in perhaps 70 years. The agenda for the event included:

- Brief welcoming speech by the President of the Agricultural Society, Mark Ritchie
- Free BBQ of hotdogs, hamburgers and drinks
- Introduction to a couple of sheep breeds from Foot Flats Farm (Mark Ritchie) followed by a lamb shearing demonstration by Gayla Bonham Carter
- Dog agility demonstration by Tucker (Susan Corbett)
- Duck herding demonstration with two border collies (Eadie & John Steele)
- Team of horses harnessing demonstration (Linda & Dave McGinn)

Fortunately, the weather took a turn for the best, so it was a lovely afternoon. Slightly over 100 members and guests were in attendance, and by all accounts, had an enjoyable time.

Thanks to everyone who turned out to support our event.

We are planning events and activities for 2022, so stay tuned for more information in the spring.

Mark Ritchie,

President- Amherst Island Agricultural Society













ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH

Clothing Drive

Thank-you Amherst Islanders!!

St. Alban's Anglican Church would like to graciously acknowledge and gratefully extend our gratitude to the wonderful outpouring of generosity demonstrated by the Amherst Island Community. Through our Charity Winter Clothing Drive, we collected 46 large bags of warm winter clothing, boots, blankets and sleeping bags to support two Kingston Charities. The Kingston Integrated Care Hub on Montreal Street received the bags with great enthusiasm and expressed that the need is great with the clients that they serve, who are the city's most vulnerable population in terms of homelessness. Donations such as the ones we collected are always in very high demand and are so very much appreciated. Their mandate is serving the adult community and any items received in children's or youth sizes will be forwarded to The Salvation Army.

Thank-you for "Giving the Gift of Warmth" by supporting those in need of care and helping to raise their spirits during these colder months.

Blessings,

Your friends and neighbours of St. Alban's Anglican Church

Our doors are always open!









These pictures were taken with Parker Robb of their staff, and includes pictures of the donations made at the Church.



THE WAY IT WAS

The Way It Was At the Old Dock

SHIRLEY MILLER

When we drove off the old Amherst Islander I, the first place on the right was the home of Dave Willard. He retired from being first mate on lake boats about 1968. A tall, quiet man, who lived alone in a little grey insulbrick covered house. I understood he was blind, but Earl Willard said "maybe, but in later years he bought a violin that he wanted me to tune, so he wasn't blind for long". Seeing him come out of his house, walk to the gate, open it, and close it behind himself when there was no fence on either side seemed to support the notion that he was blind.

You could spend a lot of time parked in front of his house waiting for the boat.

He had two brothers, John and Charlie, who were the last two captains on the lake with licenses to sail schooners. Charlie ran the boat for an early Captain, Billy Cochrane, when he was not available. Billy was the only captain for many years, so the boat only ran three times a day.

Dave's father and Eldon Willard's father were brothers. Eldon was also a captain for many years. Eldon's parents, Claude and Ruth lived in the Salt Box house on the South Shore Road.

The two-crew system started in 1964, the year I moved to the island. I think Norman Brooks was captain then. Earl Willard, who helped me with this information, also worked on our boat for almost 40 years, from 1965 until 2007. He was captain for 39 years.

Sadly, Earl passed away on January 23, 2021. I always meant to go back and visit Donna and Earl. I hope his family are saving the stories.



Dave Willard and his house with the gate out front

Photographs provided by Shirley Miller.





ARTS AND CULTURE

Knight, Death, and the Devil by Albrecht Dürer

DEREK OXLEY

What's the first thing you remember that really scared the living daylights out of you? You were probably a kid. When I was a kid I had a fascination with scaring myself. (?) The first real terror that I can remember was, as a five-yearold, stumbling across a werewolf movie that I was watching alone on cable tv. Somehow, I remember watching myself from above as I ran up the stairs screaming. My parents will never forget it either. But even after that I still wanted to watch horror movies. I swore they wouldn't keep me up at night, even though they most certainly did. I spent nights staring around my bedroom, seeing eerie faces in the angles of every surface illuminated by the nightlight. Now and then I dreamt of poltergeists running amok in my bedroom and jumping on top of me. The gorilla monster from Creep Show lived in the depths of my closet. Once I even dreamt that my head was bitten off by the Beetlejuice snake while I was watching my afterschool cartoons. So, with Hallowe'en still in the air, this month I am going to rewind the clock 500 years to examine an image that might have been equally perturbing to the audience of that day. I'm also taking the liberty again this month of veering away from paintings to explore an image in the medium of engraving, a spooky little print called Knight, Death, and the Devil (1513) by the one and only Albrecht Dürer.

Albrecht Dürer was born in Nuremberg in 1471 and became one of the greatest artists of his day. It is boasted that he was able to swiftly adopt any type of craft that he approached, but he generally preferred to work in oil paint and printmaking. Dürer was incredibly important to the history of printmaking as a publisher, designer, storyteller, and technical innovator. He was one of the first artists whose work, through print, circulated widely throughout Europe, influencing artists for centuries to come. Because of this he was also one of the first artists to be widely plagiarized; in an early attempt to foil forgeries he developed a monogram signature to use on his work as a way of authenticating it. Both original prints and recreations of his work have been in high demand by print collectors for almost five hundred years.

At this point printmaking in Europe was still a relatively new phenomenon, with the Gutenberg press having only been developed around 1425. The production of paper in Europe had risen considerably since the late 14th century, which helped give rise to the printing industry. The content of the earliest prints (and printed books) was predominantly religious — the ability to create multiple copies of an image on an inexpensive medium made it easy for the church to circulate content aimed at reminding the illiterate population about morals and virtues in their day-to-day lives. But eventually printing

was also employed to create playing cards and political messages as well. When movable type was innovated in the 1450s, woodblocks were used to create both the letter characters and the illustrations that might accompany them. Nuremberg had become a major hub for printing and publishing, and Dürer's godfather Anton Koberger was a successful and well-to-do publisher.

In this era there were two forms of printmaking, the woodblock carving method and the copper plate engraving method. Woodblock came first in the late middle ages, a technique of carving away the negative spaces of the desired image – no simple feat. Engraving, however, allowed for far more intricate detail and atmosphere than woodblocks, and soon surpassed them in popularity. Engraving emerged around the 1430s as a byproduct of the craft of goldsmithing. When working with their metals, a smith would incise designs into the surface, ink them, then roll them across flat paper to doublecheck that their design was accurate. Artisans soon began experimenting with designs on flat copper plates using a tool called a burin – the grooves on the surface were filled with ink and the plate was pressed onto paper. It took quite a steady hand and a lot of skill. The image had to be drawn in reverse so that it would appear the right way around when







ARTS AND CULTURE

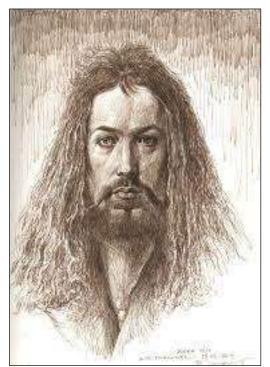
Knight, Death, and the Devil by Albrecht Dürer, continued...

DEREK OXLEY

standards), and as an extra challenge you really had no room to make a big, noticeable mistake, because if you did you had to start over again with a new plate. Both techniques are still used today.

This piece belongs to a trio of images widely considered to be Dürer's masterpieces, showcasing the technical apogee of his oeuvre. Each piece in this trilogy is an expression of, and statement about, the three types of virtues of medieval scholasticism: theological, intellectual, and moral. Knight, Death, and the Devil, as it has come to be referred (Dürer himself simply titled this piece *The Rider*), sets a scene which explores moral virtue, although there is academic debate about whether that virtue is meant to be seen as good or bad. Here we have a Knight on horseback passing through an inhospitable ravine lined by barren cliffs. With sword, lance, and armour, he appears as if ready for battle, gazing stoically ahead while his hound runs to keep up. Beside him, Death appears as a shrouded, rotting corpse riding on a pale nag. Snakes wrap about its head and crown as it turns to address the Knight, waving an hourglass before him. Behind them, a monstrous amalgam of worldly beasts slinking in darkness, the Devil concludes this unlikely train. He too addresses the Knight, with a clawed hand reaching up as if to grab him. Is the knight easily weathering the taunts and temptations of his foul company, or is he taking their counsel? Since this is not a biblical scene the interpretation is more open to the individual, and there are plenty of symbols woven into the image to give the viewer food for thought. As we saw a few months ago with still life, every little detail, from the hourglass and skull as reminders of mortality to the salamander and foxtail symbolizing sin and deceit, held recognizable meanings to viewers of the day. More readily accepted in Dürer's day was that this Knight represented a stolid Christian warrior whose faith allowed him to bypass Death and leave the Devil behind him. But if you interpret the Knight as being in cahoots with these other two, then the image could stand as a warning not to waste what life you have left by falling in with the wrong crowd. And by the early 1500s there was a growing disdain for the behaviour of warrior knights who extolled medieval chivalry and pride to the point of brutality, much like the Holy Roman Emperor of the day, the progressive yet amoral Maximilian I, who presented himself as "The Last Knight". Some argue this print represents the emperor himself. The foxtail wrapped around the tip of the lance could be a reference to the order given by Maximilian that his cavalry troops use a foxtail as their standard. And the Holy Lance was an important symbol to the line of emperors, housed in none other than Dürer's Nuremburg. At the same time, Maximilian was one of Dürer's largest patrons in the early 1500s, so it seems unlikely that it would have been made to displease the emperor. But debates aside, the piece is truly masterful. The level of detail for a plate that was only 24 by 19 cm is astounding and I would recommend looking this piece up in Wikipedia so that you can zoom in.

Many artists from the Netherlands and German territories developed a style of representing devils and demons that was much more grotesque and macabre than their counterparts around the Mediterranean. Stemming from northern Medieval traditions, their work was less concerned about attaining exact proportions and angles in the representation of natural forms. To my eyes one of the major differences between north and south was the way they wielded the imagery of fear and horror. Southern images seem to use body horror to great effect, with realistic representations of bodies suffering injuries or plague, their expressions pained and pitiful, if not deceased. To the north there was a great deal more of a kind of fantasy horror employed, portraying unimaginably mixed-up monsters with distorted features to invade your nightmares. Beyond Dürer, artists of the era such as Michael Wolgemut, Martin Schöngauer, Matthias Grünewald, and the Hieronymus Bosch workshop all toyed with this style of imagery. If there is an odd familiarity to the monsters in this image it's because you probably have seen variations of them in contemporary pop culture. If you were to compare these images to our era, you will see direct influence in the creature creations of the Jim Henson Workshop in 1980s projects like *The Labyrinth* and *The*



Albrecht Dürer, Self-Portraits.

Dark Crystal. Director Tim Burton has also been influenced by this material as is evident in his creations for The Nightmare Before Christmas. The art design for many cartoons and video games over the past 40 years also owes a debt to this imagery, He-Man and Warcraft being the most prominent in my mind. And there is a strong thread of these renaissance prints seen in the comic book illustrations of Frank Frazetta in titles like Conan the Barbarian and others.

Examining the history of printing, in any corner of the world, is a wonderful way to get an idea of what the average person who was not wealthy or important enough to travel would have been exposed to in their cultural experience. If you imagine yourself in an era when people had fairly limited access to frightening content, then you can well appreciate the mingle of horror and titillation they might have felt when they were exposed to such imagery, either through public events like high masses, or more private exposure in places where print media thrived. Prints allowed people to collect images that suited their personal tastes, and I like to imagine that some young person 500 years ago might have been just as fascinated as I in finding and collecting scary things to keep them up at night.



Sources:

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THE BEACON

JANET'S JOTTINGS

White Pines, Owls, and Hooting as a Promise of Continuity

JANET SCOTT

What are we seeing this month? The winds and rains have whipped away in spirals and swirls the gorgeous display of fall colours we experienced in October and now the greens of the pines and spruce trees are highlighting the gold and yellow of the poplars and aspens clinging to the hillsides of Amherst Island. Drive the Third Concession but stop for a moment on the top of Marshall Glenn's hill and look down through that valley towards the bush lot on the Second Concession. There are several pines still standing in that wood lot. Imagine what it looked like long before the Irish settlers came and settled, long before Barnabas Wemp and the other United Empire Loyalists escaped the 1776 Revolution of our cousins to the south, long before LaSalle gave the island to his engineer Tonti and back when our residents harvested wood strips to make baskets and fished off the shores. Was the island then covered with majestic white pines? To the Haudenosaunee, the people of the long house, it was the spiritual symbol of the Great Peace when the six nations came together in a confederacy, with our Mohawk neighbours; the guardians of the Eastern Door. Stop long enough on that hill to see what you are seeing. Look at the tops of those trees, touching the prevailing westerlies, seeing across the land from the Bay of Quinte all the way to the Lake of Shining Waters. I try to imagine what our island looked like when it was tree covered. The pines became ships, buildings, mouldings and floors. Chatting with Ed Bongaard on a visit one day after slipping off the road on his corner, he was telling me that his father said the woods were so thick when his father was a boy that he got lost going between houses. The late Jim Whitton recognized the significance



of those White Pine trees. He talked about them as we talked birding in the woods across from Shirley and Keith Miller's house on the Second Concession. At that time, it was home to a lighter Great Horned Owl, that some birders felt might be the sub-Arctic species, and it had chosen a white pine as its nesting site. Last week I spotted two owls in the vicinity of Quinte Pastures, so that area must still be home to Great Horned Owls. They are hooting these nights as we slip towards winter. Alex Scott and Ida Gavlas have both reported hearing the hoots. The male, although smaller than the female, hoots lower and only five hoots while the larger female hoots with a higher pitch and more hoots, usually seven. Great Horned Owls do not build their own nests but instead occupy an old Crow's or preferably Red-tailed Hawk's nest. Eva Little had the joyous experience last winter of communicating most evenings with a Great Horned Owl that had chosen the woods just east of their place in which to nest. Eva could go out at dusk, hoot a few times and the owl would answer. Raymond Wemp in the

village of Stella had a Great Horned Owl nesting in a broken tree on the very edge of his laneway. He taught me a lot about their habits. Young owls can be noisy as they screech, demanding food from their hardworking parents. The adults are quite quiet, communicating with their soft low hoots and once the owlets leave the nest the parents only feed them at night, hence the demanding calls of the young. Great Horned Owls are 22 inches in length with a wingspan of 41 inches. They weigh 3.1 pounds. They are strong enough to take mammals the size of cats and rabbits. Like most raptors on the island voles seem to be the preferred meal. In some areas, smell doesn't seem to be a problem and even skunks become an acceptable meal. This morning, November 5, 2021, at 4:30 AM I could hear that muffled soft hooting coming to me across the farm fields from your direction, Eva! Is your hooting friend back looking for a spot still vacant in which he can set up housekeeping? Peace brother owl. I have heard the owl calling from the treetops. He may not be calling my name but hearing that hooting for over thirty years on our island, at this time of year brings a promise of continuity, peace and hope. The old poem "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer says "I think that I shall never see, a poem lovely as a tree." I think Covid-19 isolation and the beauty of the autumn season has combined to make us aware of the beauty of the trees around us. We have enjoyed the shade and coolness, we have exercised on country lanes and tree-lined parks, we have entertained in the safety of tree sheltered yards and celebrated camping in Provincial Parks. Be thankful, we are blessed here. The white pine is the spirit of peace and Joyce Kilmer says "Only God can make a tree".



Blessings, Janet





DARLENE'S DICTÉES

The Foxes

DARLENE MARTIN-STUART

The morning was as cold as a mid-November morning should be. Sweater-weather. The cookstove was heating up and the espresso pot was making its telltale hiss; the heady aroma combining with the onions, eggs and potatoes spitting and sputtering away in the heavy cast iron pan.

The radio was on; Janet was talking about the brutal beauty of shrikes.

The view from the kitchen counter was new. Twenty weeks it took for the windows to arrive. The scene was as serene as a mid-November morning should be. In the high layer, there were still leaves in the trees. Yellow lilac, orange oak. In the mid layer, merlot red Persicaria orientalis, biscuit beige amaranthus. The lowest layer? Utterly black heliotrope, toad green rosemary. All blanketed by a shallow layer of winter white sleet-slush.

Ross handed me my favourite Mayo mug. Hand ground beans taste better, somehow. Muscle-powered all metal behemouth grinder extraordinare with a big crank and a wide bowl under the funnel to catch most of it. No matter what, a few grounds invariably escape the bowl and dust the wooden counter and floor. That's just all part and parcel of the morning coffee ritual in a very old house, I reckon.

As the steaming mug rose to my lips my eyes lifted with it and I caught sight of two

Rossland visitors. Russet with satin-black gloves, bushy and healthy. Bonnie and Clyde, elegant and sly.

Building The Cutting Garden over the last twenty months has been nothing short of an honour. From start to finish, the entire process was an indefatigable exercise in planning, perseverance, and endurance that, in only my mind's tendency towards excessive dramatization, mirrored that of Vicki's. The project started as a way to occupy my mind and body during lockdown; as a way to build a beautiful view that could be enjoyed from those yet-to-arrive windows. Property beautification. Mental and physical wellbeing.

Half way through, however, there was a paradigm shift. A dramatic change in the fundamental way of thinking about The Cutting Garden's meaning and purpose.

The Cutting Garden, above all else, is for our wildlife.

Biodiversity. Focus on native plant species. Managing invasives. Providing a water source and installing habitats. Feeding stations. Selecting plants that deer and rabbits would give a pass to, so that pollinators and birds could delight in them, and that would survive our 'split-island' drought phenomenon. The Cutting Garden was no longer just about landscape design, it was about wildlife design.

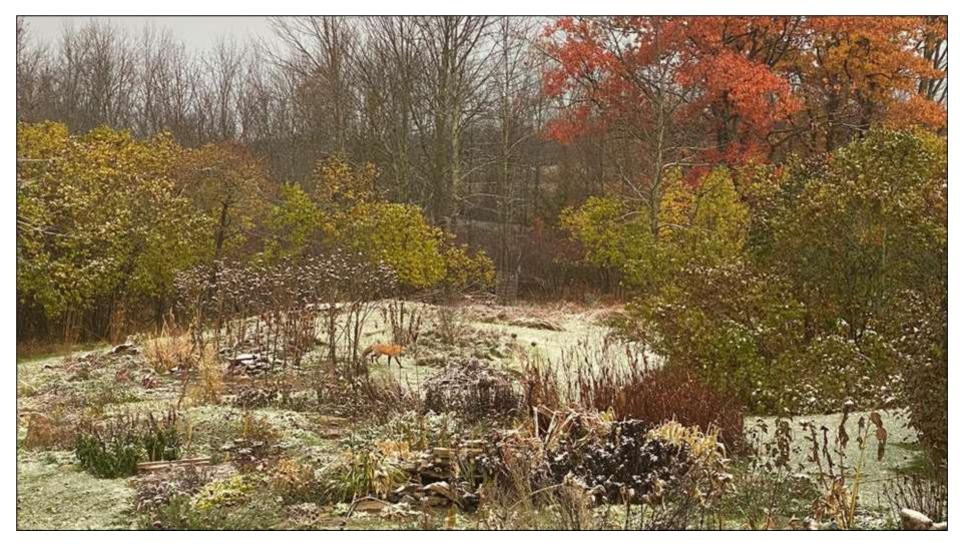
A wide swath of this to attract this type of bird, a large stand of that to protect that type of mammal. 'Planting' the wildlife right into The Cutting Garden's design scheme.

Many have asked what was involved with 'putting the gardens to bed' this fall. The short answer is, nothing.

Leaving the plant material alone is of massive benefit to wildlife. It provides places for overwintering. It breaks down to put nutrients back into the soil. It provides shelter from the elements and predators. It provides winter interest, and a vital food source of seeds and berries during that long gaping chasm of cruel winter barrenness. Somewhere to perch. Somewhere to rest. Somewhere to feel protected. Somewhere to feel safe.

With my mug half as full and half as steamy, the pair of foxes stopped frolicking by the fire pit. One headed for the olde apple orchard, the other behind the outbuilding hidden in a lilac stand where the tractor, a myriad of plastic pots destined for Terry, and other garden tools are stored for winter. I watched them disappear from sight.

A little wistful that the show was over, but knowing I had to get going down to the station, I put the empty mug down on the counter. When I lifted my eyes again, I saw one of the foxes in The Cutting Garden, russet and black, a perfect colour match to the magnificent oak tree backdrop. What a sight. What a blessing. What a privilege.



Photograph provided by Darlene Martin-Stuart.





ISLAND FAMILY HISTORY

McFern Brothers at War

ERIC WELBANKS

In the late Nineteenth Century a young Irishman by the name of Joseph E. McFern (McPhern) arrived on Amherst Island by way of Florence, New York, USA. He married Rose Jane McCormick of Amherst Island, whose family was of Irish decent and also had a connection with Oswego, New York, USA. Their homestead was on Front Road on Amherst Island at what is now the property of Hazel de Haan. They raised seven children in the persons of the following:

Mary Ethel McFern (Tugwell)
Robert McFern
Born March 21, 1884
Lillian McFern
Born April 25, 1887
Inez McFern
Born April 12 1890
Josephine McFern
Born August 3, 1891
Hugh McFern
Born May 30, 1895
Thomas Edward McFern
Born October 16, 1899

Lillian McFern married Thomas Glenn and they had three children; Harry Glenn, Nessie Glenn (Welbanks), and Herbert Glenn. Nessie Welbanks was mother to me and my brother Ted. Lillian McFern was grandmother to me, my brother Ted, and numerous other cousins.

Hugh McFern and Thomas McFern would have been our great uncles. Both were in the Canadian Corps in the Great War of 1914 to 1918. At the outbreak of the war Hugh was working in a factory in Fulton, New York. He enlisted on December 5, 1916 and went overseas where he joined the 14th Battalion in France. His younger brother Thomas, who had been working in Three Rivers, Quebec as an electrician, and served in the 86th Regiment Three Rivers, Quebec, enlisted in Montreal, on August 11, 1916 at the age of 16. He joined Hugh in France and they saw action at the battle of Lens and at Hill 70 Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.

On August 17, 1917, Hugh and Thomas were sitting in a trench talking to each other when Thomas was shot in the head by a sniper. He was only 17 years old.

Thomas had a gold ring on his finger given to him by his classmates from School #3 on Amherst Island. His distraught brother Hugh was unable to remove the ring, but instead cut the buttons off of his tunic. I have the six buttons in my possession. I also have a bronze plaque that was sent to his parents which states as follows "He Died For Freedom And Honour – Thomas Edward McFern".



(left) The buttons from Thomas McFern's tunic, removed by his grieving brother, Hugh, after Thomas was fatally shot. (right) The bronze plaque that was sent to Thomas' parents. Photographs provided by Eric Welbanks.



Thomas' name is on the Vimy Memorial, as #1054188 14th Battalion, stating that he was killed in action North East of Loos. There is a memorial cross erected in his name about $3^{1}/_{2}$ miles North West of Lens, France.

M.D. 244th Battalion Amherst Island Roll of Honour circa 1946.

Hugh continued through several skirmishes and was wounded twice, August 7, 1917 by a gunshot wound to his right knee and in the Battle of Amiens, August 18, 1917 with shrapnel to his left side. In October 1918 he was captured by the Germans and held until the Armistice on November 11, 1918.

When I was a young student at Amherst Island Public School, some men, who I believe came from the mainland, over a short time erected a Cairn from local field stones near the school. It remains today and Thomas Edward McFern is recognized on that Cairn.

Lest We Forget





ISLAND FAMILY HISTORY

McFern Brothers at War, continued ...

ERIC WELBANKS

Letter from Thomas E. McFern Somewhere in France, June 24, 1917 Sent to Rev. Mr. Cumberland in Stella, ON

Dear friend –

Having a few hours off duty today and as usual thinking of home and the friends whom I promised to write to when I got in France –

Well I have been here some time now and am beginning to get used to the Humdrum, I decided to write you a few lines.

I hope that you and all at your home are well as I am at present, also my brother. We are in the same battalion and we have a fine crowd of men and old Fritz doesn't at all like to see us come over the top. We are pretty well situated out here only the weather rather wet and things mad[e] rather uncomfortable by the mud.

France is a very nice country and it seems too bad that the Huns haven't been a little more considerate in destroying some of these fine cities. Nevertheless he has done about all the damage he is going to do as it is eas[y] to see that he is being beaten and I guess most of us will be back in Canada for Xmas. I have met a lot of my former friends out here, and some of the Island boys are only a few miles away from us.

Well Rev. Cumberland I cant say much in my letter on account of Censor as I can only wish you the best of health and my best regards to Robbie and Mrs. Cumberland and I will close for now.

I am yours respectfully, PT. T.E. Mcfern

Below is a copy of a clipping from *The Daily British Whig*, published on Thursday, September 13, 1917 (page 3).

STELLA YOUNG MAN KILLED

PTE. THOMAS MCFERN MEETS
DEATH AT FRONT

He Was Only Eighteen Years of Age
—Went to the Front With the
72nd Battery.

Stella, Sept. 10 .- The sad message was received here last week, stating that Pte. Thomas McFern had been killed in action on August 17th. The late Pte, McFern was born on the island, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. McFern. "Tommie" as he was commonly called was one of the island's youngest boys, who answered the call to the colors, being only about eighteen years of age. He was educated in the public school and later attended the high school in the village, there he was well liked by his fellow pupils. He enlisted about eighteen months ago with his brother, Hugh in the 72nd Battery at Montreal, going overseas last winter. He had only been in the trenches about three months. Hugh Mc-Ferm brother of the deceased was wounded at the knee on the same day; also Charles Heffron

The threshing machines are now running full blast. Grain seems to be turning out very well.

The schools have all re-opened after the summer holidays. The campers on Stella Point have nearly all taken their departure. Quite a number from here attended the Toronto fair last week.

Visitors: Miss Wilson, Kingston, at W. H. Moutray's; Mrs. H. McDonald, Kingston, spending a few days with friends; Pte. Ernest Instant of the Queen's University Highlanders Battalian spending a few days at his home here; Mr. and Mrs. D. Tugwell and little daughter, Oswego, at J. E. McFern's; Mrs. H. Fleming and H. G. Fleming, Bingston, renewing acquaintances here. Rev. J. Cumberland of St. Paul's church is spending a few weeks in St. Catharines.

Below is a transcript from the image above (right) *The Daily British Whig*, published on Thursday, September 13, 1917 (page 3).

"Stella Young Man Killed"

PTE. THOMAS McFERN MEETS DEATH AT FRONT. He Was Only Eighteen Years of Age – Went to the Front With the 72nd Battery. Stella, Sept. 10. – The sad message was received here last week, stating that Pte. Thomas McFern had been killed in action on August 17th. The late Pte. McFern was born on the island, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. McFern. "Tommie" as he was commonly called was one of the island's youngest boys, who answered the call to the colors, being only about eighteen years of age. He was educated in the public school and later attended the high school in the village, there he was well liked by his fellow pupils. He enlisted about eighteen months ago with his brother, Hugh in the 72nd Battery at Montreal, going overseas last winter. He had only been in the trenches about three months. Hugh McFern, brother or the deceased was wounded at the knee on the same day; also Charles Heffron was wounded.



THE BEACON

ISLAND FAMILY HISTORY

McFern Brothers at War, continued ...

ERIC WELBANKS

Stella, September 22, the following letter was received by Joseph McFern, from Lieut. Col. Gault McCombe, commanding the 14th Canadian Battalion.

Dear Sir: You have probably heard ere this of the death of your son, Pte. T.E. McFern who was killed in action on August 17th while doing his duty in the trenches with is company. While only with us a short time your son had all of the qualities of a splendid soldier, and I can assure you his loss is sadly felt by all of us, especially his close friends, of whom he had many. Canada has lost still – another good soldier and all of us a very brave comrade.

As time grows older and peace is again restored I trust that the fact of your dear hero, who sacrificed all for his King and Country, and bravely met a hero's death, will somewhat assuage the grief and anguish you have to bear. To you Sir and your family I extend the heartfelt sympathy of all ranks of the Royal Montreal Regiment.

A note from Robert Cumberland Jr.

Like many other loyal and patriotic young Canadians the McFern brothers heard the call of duty and enlisted in the Montreal Regiment. Thomas E, the younger, has paid the price of his young promising life for Liberty and Justice. The letter from his colonel [left], shows the high esteem in which he was held by all ranks of his regiment.

The people of Amherst Island, where he was born and brought up, deeply regret the loss of one who was a general favourite and gave promise of a bright and prosperous career.

Mr. Cumberland, in a letter to my mother Nessie Welbanks, stated that he had been Tom McFern's school teacher at School #3 on Amherst Island. He described him as a boy of unusual ability. He recalled the last time he saw Tom was when Tom was probably on his last leave and Mr. Cumberland drove him home from the boat. Tom told of his plans for the future. He did not talk of the dangers of which most face but hoped after the war to become a lawyer.

Below (left) is Hugh McFern, (right) is Thomas McFern. Photographs and records provided by Eric Welbanks.





If you have a family story that is related to Amherst Island or the community somehow, and you would like to preserve the tale within *The* Beacon, send an e-mail: editor@thebeacon paper.com The editor will work with you to memorialize your family's island history.





TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

A New Generation of Deer Rifle?

JEREMY EDDY

A deer rifle is a point of pride for a lot of people. We all have our favorites, and we tend to defend them jealously when someone brings up a "better" rifle or calibre. For a long time that debate largely sat with the 30-30, 30-06, and of course, the .308 Winchester. In recent years, a new cartridge has come into the conversation, the 6.5 Creedmoor.

Initially gaining popularity in long range competition shooting circles, an aggressive marketing campaign has seen the 6.5 Creedmoor skyrocket into becoming one of the most popular hunting cartridges today. While indisputably a great round, the claims of its capabilities have been somewhat inflated by an over-eager fanbase and enthusiastic salesmanship.

Unsurprisingly, this surge in popularity has led to a massive debate on how the 6.5 Creedmoor actually compares to its closest relative, the .308 Winchester. Over the years, with enough field time under their belts, both rounds are known to routinely take everything from deer to black bear or elk, but is one actually better than the other?

We can go into depth on numbers with velocities, bullet drop, or lbs/sq inch, but that's been covered elsewhere by shooters who are a lot smarter and more talented than I am. All we need here are the basics.

The .308 Winchester is a solid workhorse that most of us are familiar with. It can reach out comfortably to 400m and beyond, it has plenty of stopping power to deal with most common North American game, and ammo is still relatively easy to get ahold of without breaking the bank.

The 6.5 Creedmoor is honestly quite similar in a lot of ways. When the math is run, most of the numbers aren't wildly different from what you can see from a .308. There are some moderate advantages when it comes to dealing with wind and bullet drop, and a slight reduction in actual damage done due to it having a smaller bullet face. Where it does shine, and where it does start to set itself apart, is at long range. At anything past 400m the flatter trajectory and reduced wind drift of the sleek 6.5 Creedmoor allows it to maintain stopping power at much further distances. It also has the huge selling feature of having noticeably reduced recoil.

So what does this all mean? Well, unless you're taking deer at 800m (which most of us aren't) both the .308 Winchester and the 6.5 Creedmoor will fill your freezer and put food on the table. The question comes down to which you prefer shooting. The .308 Winchester will be a bit easier on the wallet, but the 6.5 Creedmoor will be easier on your shoulder. The Creedmoor is also a great round to introduce new hunters or younger shooters who want a bit of a more manageable recoil while they learn the fundamentals.

The bottom line is this, they'll both take a deer. Knowing that the numbers line up won't stop the debate over the perfect deer cartridge, and that's part of the fun. None of this will keep me from showing off my own rifle and talking about how it's the real best choice. If anything, now we all have an excuse to make sure we have a .308 Winchester and a 6.5 Creedmoor in the gun safe, just to help settle the debate.





Photograph (top) of a 6.5 Creedmoor, provided by Jeremy Eddy.



Amherst Island Community Medical Clinic WENDY SHELLEY

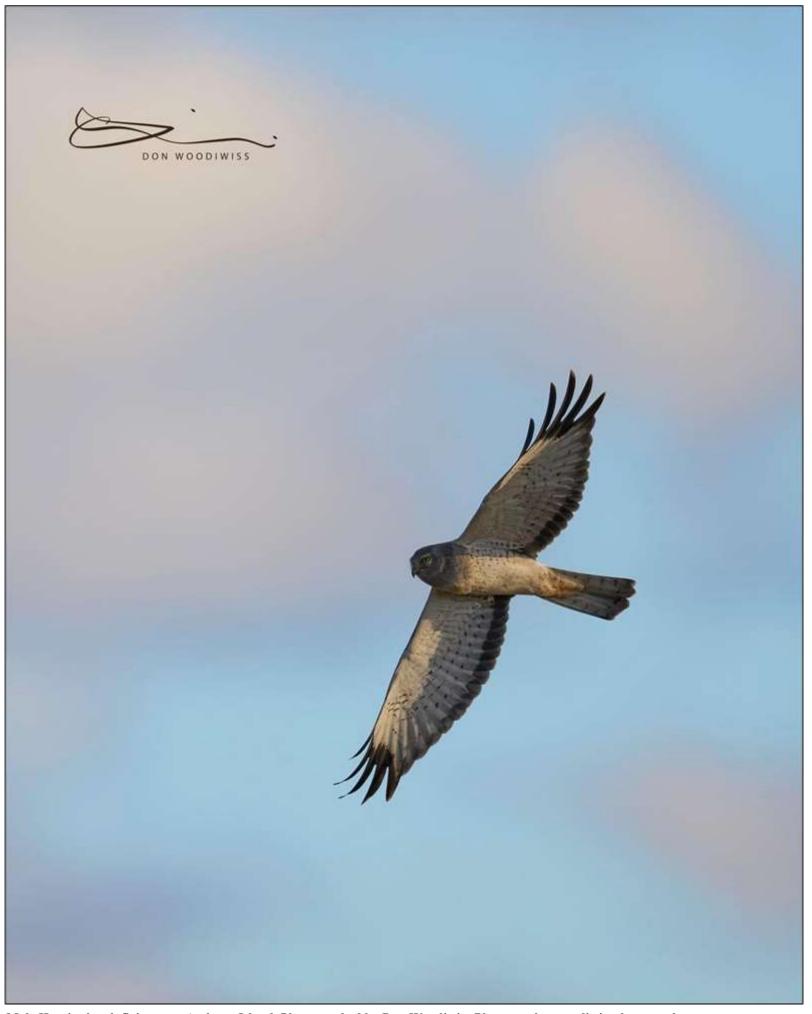


The Amherst Island Community Medical Clinic, a federal Not for Profit corporation, has received its Charitable Status and is now able to issue tax receipts for donations.

As mentioned in our last update, we will be holding a Flu Vaccine Clinic again this fall at The Lodge. Unfortunately, we do not yet have a firm date for the clinic, but will distribute a flyer through the mail, providing all pertinent information as soon as we have a definite date. You will be able to book a date and time for your Flu Vaccine, we will make follow-up phone calls. All Covid guidelines: screening, masking, distancing and use of hand sanitizer will be respected.

We are planning to arrange Public Information Events on a variety of Health and Wellness subjects in the near future. More information to follow...

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



Male Harrier hawk flying over Amherst Island. Photographed by Don Woodiwiss Photography, woodiwissphotography.com.



AIWI UPDATE

Amherst Island Women's Institute

WENDY SHELLEY

The fall donations from our fundraising efforts this year include the Ameriks Scholarship Fund, The Back Kitchen, Amherst Island First Responders, Hospice Lennox & Addington, Lennox & Addington Interval House and KIVA. Not in this list are contributions agreed upon but not yet made, and our use-of-space donation to St. Paul's for our meeting.

We would like to thank everyone for supporting our projects over the year.

Just a reminder, aprons and totes are still available from our members - they make great gifts!

The AIWI meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Guests are always welcome.

Please contact Sharen English for more information, at 613-384-6535. And don't forget to check us out on Facebook for postings and updates.



An island 'speed trap', a snowy owl on Amherst Island. Photographed by Don Woodiwiss Photography, woodiwissphotography.com.



CLASSIFIEDS

Support Local Businesses

Pharmasave Bath Family Pharmacy

community pharmacy

We provide free drop-off of prescriptions to the Amherst Island ferry. We have a virtual walk-in clinic inside the pharmacy. We are also providing the flu shot this season, no appointments necessary.



Store Services

- Quick & Easy Prescription Transfers
- Convenient Medication Packaging
- MedAlign Manage, Review & Synchronization
- Free Local Delivery*
- Diabetic & Ostomy Supplies
- Vitamins & Supplements
- Home Health Care Products
- Footcare Clinic
 - ...and more! *see store for details



*To be eligible for the discount, a customer must be at least 60 years of age. Valid at participatir Pharmasave Ontario locations only. Does not include prescriptions, products with codeine, insulin, Ideal Protein products, lottery tickets, gift and phone cards. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. See store for details.







CLASSIFIEDS

Support Local Businesses

The Lodge Coffee House



Visit The Lodge at 376 Main Street, Bath. Serving coffee, teas, artisan sandwiches, from-scratch baked goods, and more!

Currently open Tuesdays-Fridays 9am-2pm and Saturdays 11am-2pm. Check us out at www.lodgecoffeehouse.com

Rossland Gallery

rossland gallery

rosbilt.com · bijouxbead.com

stringed metal instruments artisanal glass jewellery

by appointment gallery@rosslandgardens.com

Topsy Farms



EST. TOPSY FARMS 1972 AMHERST ISLAND.

In 1972 a boatload of free-thinking, peace-loving hippies showed up at the West end of Amherst Island. Since then, Topsy Farms has prioritized stewardship of the land and harmony with nature above profit.

Topsy raises happy sheep; winter makes better wool. Topsy offers 100% Canadian sheep wool blankets and natural products to the eco-ethical kindred spirits out there. Our 'Connect to the Land' programs give back to the community by offering green spaces of calm and quiet to visitors.

Come see for yourself. Get dirty, leave happy, stay cozy. Follow the adventure @topsyfarms, and www.topsyfarms.com

Your Ad Here!

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



Services

Thank-you!

Many thanks to Chad Osmond, who relamped the star on Dayle's silo, where the various antennas are now. We all appreciate having that star shining once again.

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 493 of *The Beacon* will be available in print, for \$5 at McGinn's General Store, Stella, ON.
- 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.