

“bonum apporto nuntium, tristem nuntium, sed non malus nuntium”

THE



BEACON

BINGO BONANZA BEFITTING BOISTEROUS BUNCH

FIRST ISLAND WINNER!



Our first Amherst Island BINGO winner, Nick Appleton.

So, the big news. In week 5, we had our first ISLAND WINNER.

Nick Appleton, out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> concession, was one of two winners of the full-card BINGO. We certainly hope he gets some Holiday cheer out of his winnings and that he continues to play.

The station pays out \$800 a week in prizes, plus there are expenses and overhead. If we don't sell enough cards, we actually LOSE money every week. We're hoping we can make it work, and we're getting closer to the break-even point. The next two months will see if this becomes a permanent feature for the station schedule.

So, have fun, support our charities, and support our chilly broadcasters. Play often. See you Thursday. Trivia Question: How can you tell our graphic designer has never played BINGO?



CJAI Radio, Island Radio 101.3 FM Launches a new weekly charity BINGO event.

Radio Station Launches Charity BINGO

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

About a month ago, CJAI Radio welcomed listeners in our new, expanded coverage area to participate in a once-a-week charity BINGO event. If successful, we hope to give everyone a lot of fun, donate a BUNCH of money to charity, and increase our revenues ... maybe to the point where we can afford to move out of our barn (it gets drafty in winter).

With these lofty goals in mind, we risked some seed money, bought a Bingo machine and a whole bunch of cards, then secured a license (Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario Lottery License # M752595). I wish that I could tell you it was easy, but to be truthful, there are a great number of rules and regulations you must follow. It's a lot of work. Still, we kept our focus on the eventual goal, (running water?), and pressed ahead. So, how does it work? Well, our retail partners throughout our listening area sell our sheets of cards, starting Friday of each week and going until the following Thursday.

Bingo is played on Thursday night, and the sheets are all stamped with the date they must be used on (remember, you cannot carry them over). A sheet of six cards costs six dollars. The vendor who sold them keeps a percentage of the take and returns the rest, as well as the unused sheets, to the station representative who does the pickup. They are then given sheets for the following week, typically in a different colour.

On the evening of the BINGO (always Thursday at 6 PM), we start to call the numbers over the air. Players listen for the numbers, mark their cards, and phone in when they complete a BINGO (if the line is busy, the winner should wait for 30 seconds, and try again). There's lots of time, and if there are two or three BINGOs, they split the prize, not first-come takes it all.

*Read more about Charity BINGO for the Radio Station on page 5...*

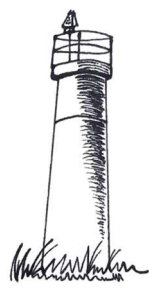
IN THIS ISSUE

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JANVIER (8,9)

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JANUARY DAYS

National Dress Up Your Pet Day

JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>

Celebrate National Dress Up Your Pet Day this January 14<sup>th</sup> by dressing up your pets! Much to the pets’ dismay perhaps, this day can be entertaining for pet owners.

Perhaps this means a visit to the groomers, or a nail trimming. Or, perhaps maybe this means dressing your pet up in costumes or matching outfits. Personally, as most of you know by now, I quite enjoy dressing up pets for fun. In the October 2021, I dressed my duck up as a ghost, in the spirit of Halloween (pictured below). Enjoy dressing up your pets!



(above) Contestants in the *Pied Piper Duck Show*, an annual duck fashion show in Sydney, Australia. Dresses were designed and created by farmer Brian Harrington.

(left) My duck Freckles, dressed up as a spooky ghost for Halloween in October 2021.

OBSERVE

National Cheese Lover’s Day,  
January 20<sup>th</sup>

As some Amherst Islanders have said in the past (Carrie Sudds) “I don’t know about you, but the idea of online school without a fridge full of cheese is simply unacceptable!”. Cheese has remained a comfort food for many people for many years.

See page 8 for more information about how to support the Amherst Island Public School AND acquire delicious cheese at the same time. The information required for making an ISLE cheese order is on page 8. Happy National Cheese Lover’s Day!



EXPERIENCE

Data Privacy Day

JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>

This day is an important reminder to review how your data is used. The below recommendations are all pieces of advice to keep your private data more secure.

- Check your privacy settings, adjust them as necessary.
- Use strong passwords. Change passwords often.
- Use virus protection or a firewall.

- Do not bank or shop online while on unsecured wifi.
- Keep an eye on credit card statements, report suspicious activity and cancel the card if it has been compromised.
- Never provide personal information over phone, email, or text.
- Stop taking online questionnaires that seem innocent – they’re not. They are mining for your data.





UPCOMING FEBRUARY DAYS

Valentine’s Day

FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>

Celebrate Valentine’s Day this February 14<sup>th</sup> by eating too many sweets and watching a romantic comedy, or doing whatever brings you joy.

The origin of Valentine’s Day began as a religious celebration of one or more early Christian saints named Valentius, or St. Valentine. These early saints would marry couples in secret, against Emperor Claudius II’s decree that outlawed the marriage of young soldiers. By the height of the middle ages, as courtly love was flourishing, this day became more closely associated with expressing love. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century in England, St. Valentine’s Day became a day specifically to celebrate love.

These days, Valentine’s Day has become more of an excuse to eat chocolate and enjoy the company of the person you love most. Happy Valentine’s Day!



OBSERVE

National Random Acts of Kindness Day,  
February 17<sup>th</sup>

Random Acts of Kindness are always such a welcome surprise for the person on the receiving end, and they come with such a rewarding feeling for the person on who is acting. In short, there is no downside to a random act of kindness.



EXPERIENCE

National Skip the Straw Day

FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>

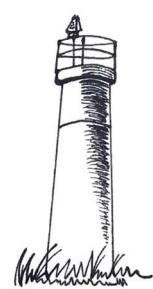
The fourth Friday in February is National Skip the Straw Day. On February 25<sup>th</sup> remember to skip the straw or opt for a paper straw instead!

- Yes, the paper straws may decompose halfway through your enjoyment of that drink, but they are environmentally friendly!
- If the environmentally friendly straws are too cumbersome, literally skip the straw entirely and drink from the cup.

- If you want to go one step farther, bring your own reusable cup.







SPOTLIGHT SPECIES

Eastern Red Cedar

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

The eastern red cedar, or *Juniperus virginiana*, is an aromatic tree found in eastern Ontario along the St. Lawrence River and along the shores of the Great Lakes. The eastern red cedar can also be found in other areas of North America. This tree sized shrub is often seen along roadsides and in abandoned fields or flat stretches of land near shores. This plant is well adapted to dry soils and harsh growing conditions, and it can thrive near roads despite the salt spray from treating roads in the winter season. The eastern red cedar appears to be a cedar tree from a distance, but it is a tree-sized juniper bush. A tall shrub.

The eastern red cedar can grow to be up to 10m tall and is intolerant of shade; it thrives in well drained, sandy, or rocky soils, in full sun. It is a type of evergreen and is often used as a windbreak.

The small bluish berries on the female red cedars are called juniper berries. The berries are consumed mainly by the cedar waxwing birds, but many other birds and small animals will eat them.

The wood and bark of the eastern red cedar is extremely aromatic, so the wood is a favourite for use in cabinet making, carvings, and even fenceposts. The smell of the wood is also enjoyable when burned.

For about one week in the springtime, during rainy weather, orange spiked growths can appear on the cedars. The eastern red cedar is often plagued by a fungi called cedar-apple rust. Although this orange, tentacle bearing fungi, looks like it is attacking the plant, it will not leave lasting damage on the red cedar. Instead, the cedar-apple rust fungi develops on the red cedar, but then uses the wind to release tiny spores that are carried to nearby apple or hawthorn trees. The fungi can be harmful to unresistant apple trees and hawthorns, as it tarnishes leaves, disfigures the fruit, and can affect the yield.

Experts recommend removing eastern red cedars in close proximity to valuable apple or hawthorn trees, since the cedar-apple rust cannot be eradicated by fungicides.



RED CEDAR USES

Different uses for red cedar in the kitchen:

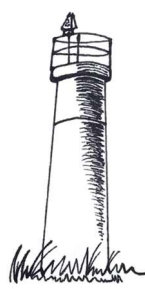
- Juniper tea: 12 young, berryless twigs can be placed in 1L of water, boiled, and then simmered for 10 minutes. Can be strained and used as a regular tea.
- Dried juniper berries: the berries can be collected and dehydrated mechanically or set out to dry. They can be used as a delicious and aromatic seasoning on meat dishes.
- Gin: juniper berries are known for lending that signature pine flavour to gin. Generally, the juniper berries used in gin are from the *Juniperus communis*, but other species can be used for different gin flavours.
- 

Sources: Government of Ontario, “Eastern Red Cedar”, 2021.

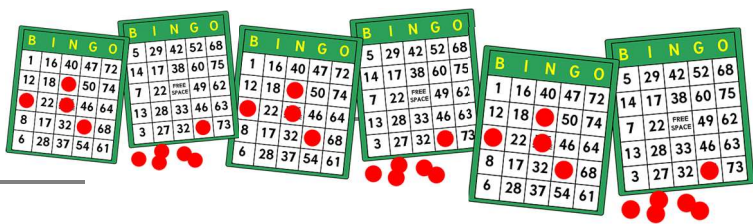
Finneran, Rebecca. Michigan State University, “Cedar-Apple Rust”, 2020.







Island Radio Charity BINGO continued...



PLAY FROM HOME

The below article is a continuation of the story from page 1.

- Bingo one is four corners, or one line and it wins \$100.
- Bingo two continues the same cards and is two lines, winning \$200.
- Bingo three continues the same cards. You must get a full card for \$500.

The whole thing takes less than an hour. The prizes will be delivered to the winners by one of our representatives. Please keep the winning card for us (We have to be able to show it to the auditors).

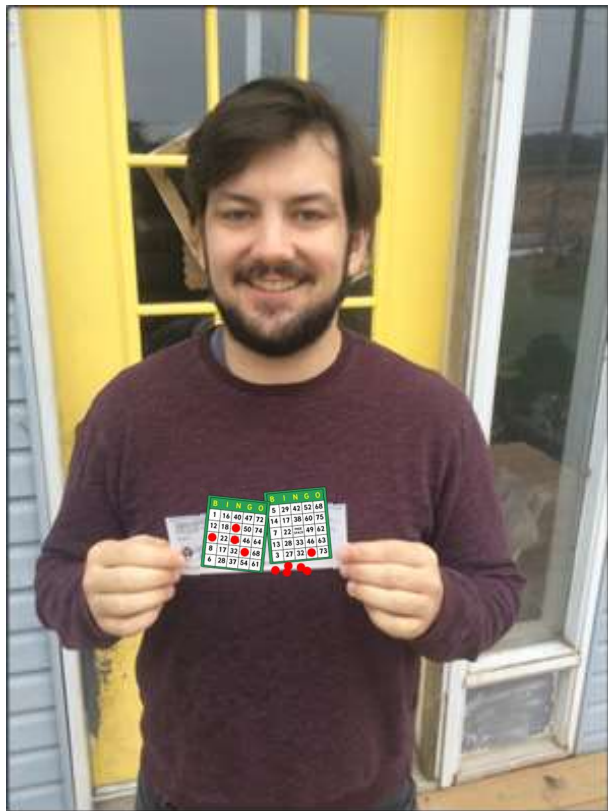
By now, I’m sure you are all wondering, “Where can I get cards?” Below is the current list of vendors. Watch for a poster similar to the one seen on page 1.

- **Amherst Island:** Amherst Island General Store
- **Amherstview:** Amherstview Foodland and Amherstview Convenience Store
- **Bath:** Heritage Point Antiques & Gifts, Schell’s Grocery Store and Fast Freddy’s Free Flow Petroleum
- **Camden East:** McCormick’s General Store
- **Kingston:** Bayridge Grocery (Development Dr), East Side Market (877 Division St) and Sunshine Variety (Weller Ave)
- **Napanee:** Camden Variety (Camden Rd) and Becker’s Convenience (Dundas Street East)
- **Newburgh:** Fast Freddy’s Free Flow Petroleum
- **Odessa:** Pop-In Food Market
- **Tamworth:** A-One Restaurant
- **Wilton:** Wilton General Store
- **Yarker:** Lucky Dollar Store and Quinn’s Meats

Thank you, all our partners!



Sarah Vanstone of Amherst Island, won \$500 on December 23, 2021.



Jack Little of Amherst Island, won \$500 on December 30, 2021.



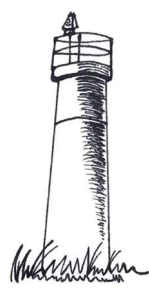
Katie Little of Amherst Island is a winner too!



Sharen English also won at Island Radio Charity BINGO!  
There have been FIVE Island winners so far!







*A Bald Eagle, a Familiar Neighbour this Year on the Island*

FRED LEMIRE

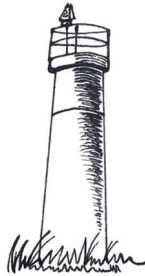
A bald eagle. Photographed by Fred Lemire Photography, [www.fredlemirephotography.com](http://www.fredlemirephotography.com).



© Fred Lemire Photography



Island Information



Ferry Schedule

The ferry leaves Stella (Amherst Island side) on the hour each day, 6:00am to 1:00am.  
The ferry leaves Millhaven (mainland side) on the half hour each day, 6:30am to 1:30am.



Aerial view of the progress made to the Millhaven dock, from [https://twitter.com/a\\_i\\_ferrydocks](https://twitter.com/a_i_ferrydocks)

Information and updates can be found at <http://www.amherstislandferrydocks.ca/> or [https://twitter.com/a\\_i\\_ferrydocks](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 2022.

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.

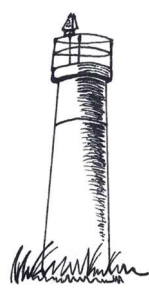
Open Hours

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 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







ARTS AND CULTURE

Morning Star – Gambeh Then’ by Alex Janvier

DEREK OXLEY

In 1956 a young man with drive and an inherent talent for visual art successfully enrolled at the Alberta Institute of Technology and Art (now the Alberta University of the Arts). Not so unusual, except that this young man was from the Cold Lake First Nations community in north-eastern rural Alberta. In that era, it was uncommon for First Nations students to be admitted into university programs. He was one of the first, graduating with honours in 1960, and for over sixty years now he has been something of a trailblazer for contemporary Indigenous artists in Canada. This unique and thoughtful oeuvre is an engaging combination of two different artistic and cultural traditions which have collided behind the eyes and poured out through the hands of Alex Janvier, creating something that could not have existed before. His paintings have been featured in gallery exhibits since the mid-sixties, and Janvier is one of the first Indigenous artists to have had a solo exhibit in a public gallery (Edmonton Art Gallery) in 1973. That same year he co-founded Professional Native Indian Artists Incorporated, which remains a collective for Indigenous artists in Canada to this day. Unofficially called the “Indigenous Group of Seven” they worked with others to combine the issues and aesthetics of Indigenous communities with the techniques and movements present in Western art.

Janvier’s output includes thousands of paintings and over twenty-five enormous civic murals in sites across Canada including the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Quebec, and Legislative Assembly of Alberta. I had the privilege of seeing his *Modern Indigenous Master* exhibit when it was showing at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Vaughan. He has received the Order of Canada (2007) and holds numerous awards including a Governor General’s Award (2008) and the Alberta Order of Excellence (2010). In retrospect he has had a wonderful career for a contemporary artist in Canada but living it has often been an uphill struggle against challenges like marginalization, exclusion, and dismissal from many corners because of his background.

Janvier was born in 1935 on Le Goff Reserve in northern Alberta and spent his childhood living on his family farm. He is of Dene Suline and Anishnaabe descent, the son of a chief of the Cold Lake First Nations. By all accounts he had an innate artistic talent even in childhood. He would draw in the dirt with sticks and took an interest in the designs created by artisans working with beads and quills. When the adults would gather to meet with Hudson’s Bay traders, he would sit with community members and listen to them tell stories. Janvier has said that these stories and crafts he remembers from his childhood have

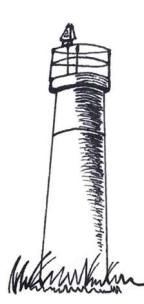
been an important influence on his philosophies about art. In 1943 the eight-year-old Janvier was sent to the Blue Quills residential school in St. Paul, Alberta, where he spent the next ten years. Like many others he experienced traumas, distancing from his family, and the attempted erasure of his cultural roots. They had art classes once per week and it became the one subject at which he thrived. He was able to enter his work into competitions in cities like Calgary and Edmonton, wherein he sometimes won cash prizes – money he would save to purchase better art supplies. Although he was self-taught, his skills by age 15 let him produce a number of large, quality drawings and oil on canvas works. The imagery of these early pieces is a unique mix of Christian and Dene imagery which reflects Janvier’s childhood and experiences at school. In his late teens he was brought to Edmonton by one of the priests at the school and was introduced to the German-born artist Carl Altenberg, where for two years on-and-off he received his first formal instruction in painting and drawing.

Although his early works were primarily figural, this evolved into abstraction through his exposure to other artists and art movements in university. He was particularly influenced by the abstract *Compositions* of Kandinsky and surrealist works of Joan Miró and was also attracted to the Bauhaus idea that visual abstraction could be a kind of universal language.



Alex Janvier, *Morning Star – Gambeh Then’*, 4,500ft<sup>2</sup> dome painting, 1993. Canadian Museum of History, Gatineau, Quebec, Canada.





ARTS AND CULTURE

Morning Star – Gambeh Then’ by Alex Janvier, continued...

DEREK OXLEY

The Dene bead and quillwork which he was exposed to in his youth, mostly applied to clothing and textiles, produced patterns and forms that share qualities with abstract expressionism, an association which allowed Janvier to explore layers of meaning in his work. His engagement with western styles of art and theory reshaped his visual lexicon while his choice of forms and colours remained intentionally symbolic to the Dene peoples, representing things like land and resources, as well as elements of spirituality and tribal identity. But despite it being represented in abstraction, the work is full of symbolic references to Indigenous history and culture - an abstract representation of elements of the oral history tradition of the Dene.

Politics and spirituality have played equally important roles in Janvier’s creative output throughout his career. In 1967 Janvier was made a member of the advisory committee for the Montreal World Expo to select Indigenous art and images for the Indian Pavilion; he pushed to use strong imagery which would convey a version of First Nations history that was not then widely recognized. Despite mixed reviews Janvier later said that his work on that committee is what emboldened him to further participate in discussions and protests surrounding land claims throughout his life and art. Knowledge and connection to the land is a major element of both the sacred and secular oral traditions of the Dene. Common threads in his work across the decades include a conversation about land ownership/ stewardship, the connection between the land and the individual, and the self-determination of the people who live on that land. Many of the titles he chooses are thoughtful critiques of things like treaties, legislation, and land developments that he sees as negatively impacting the lives of his community. Even his choice of circular canvas, by far the majority of his mature output, is meant to instill a sense of union with the land by using a shape like the planet we inhabit. It is here where spirituality overlaps, considered by Janvier to be essential and inseparable from the natural world. One source I looked at described the work as “Cosmototemic”, which (in a nutshell) pertains to seeing beyond our physical world, seeing the natural spiritual patterns behind it, and recognizing them as the connections that link the cosmos together. Janvier has stated that he feels his work helps illustrate a spiritual contract of complete equality between humans and the land they live upon.

I wanted to choose a piece which captures the important elements like land, history, and spirit, and I could think of no better example than the monumental *Morning Star – Gambeh Then’* in the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Quebec. It is a round mural four hundred and eighteen square meters in size, painted in the dome of the River Salon, seven stories above viewers on the ground floor. Janvier is a friend of architect Douglas Cardinal (who had designed the museum), and was invited to contribute a mural to the building; it was Janvier who suggested using the dome above the central staircase. Work began in June 1993 with his son Dean assisting and was completed in three months. Around that time

Janvier had been serving as a translator for land claims hearings in Primrose Lake, Alberta, and he recalls that this experience inspired him to begin a series of paintings in praise of ancestral Dene hunters and trappers; it was this project that evolved into the makeup of the dome mural. White light radiates out from the guiding star in the centre, which represents the north star that all hunters and trappers would have used for navigation. The next ring of prism-like colours is meant to represent the circle of nations, and the narrow circular band outside of that represents the spiritual cycle. From there *Gambeh Then’* (the Cree name for the morning star) becomes a circular narrative in four parts, read clockwise and starting with the yellow quarter of the circle. This yellow quarter is meant to represent life in the pre-settler past, intentionally idealized so as to create a deep sense of longing. Next, the blue quarter represents the conflicts and opportunities that arose from contact with Europeans – old values began to be replaced by new ones, weakening traditional practices and the social fabric of Indigenous communities. The red quarter represents an era of dispossession and relocation fraught with the struggles of individuals to retain their beliefs and practices in the face of a general disintegration of many Indigenous cultures. Bringing the piece around to a positive finish, the white quarter reaches in hope for a modern resurgence of Indigenous culture, religion, and enfranchisement. Although it is almost entirely abstract, there are a few recognizable forms in the mix, such as sweat lodges in the white quadrant, sailing ships in the yellow quadrant, and a cityscape in the red quadrant. Each quarter has also been fixed with its own star-like circle, each which has been given symbolic meaning by the artist. Domes are a type of vault that have been architectural phenomenon for millennia –

they can be made of a single material like cement or be comprised of different combinations of materials like stone, brick, wood, and metal elements. They can be modest to monumental, expanding the sense of an interior space and creating a sense of grandeur for important civic and religious buildings. Decorations on the interior of vaults and domes is equally as old – basilicas in ancient Rome and Byzantium were adorned with mosaics and painted elements, mosques from Istanbul to India have decorated domes with ornate patterning for over a thousand years, and the practice saw a resurgence in Europe from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century with fresco and sculptural elements used to decorate vaults and domes in churches, cathedrals, and palaces. In Canada today we still use a variety of domes for practical and aesthetic purposes.

I wanted to challenge myself this month by choosing something outside of my “comfort zone”, and I got what I asked for. Leafing through a couple sources about North American Indigenous art helped me realize how little I still know about art whose foundations didn’t come from Western traditions. To that end, I hope I did it some justice. An interesting reflection that I had was how much I rely on coded symbolism in art crossing cultural and national boundaries the way they do across Europe and China, allowing people to recognize meaning. The art of Alex Janvier is far more personal – the symbolism does not seem to be coded so that people across boundaries can read it. Instead, the imagery serves more as a memory device to accompany storytelling and oral histories for the Dene people. I’m looking forward to doing my best to better understand what I don’t yet truly understand.

Happy New Year to all! May be all have a safe and healthy year.

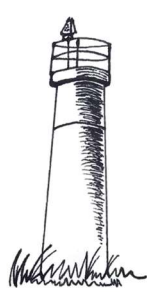


Alex Janvier, CM, AOE, RCA, LLD, taken from <https://www.alexjanvier.com/>

Sources:

- Canadian Encyclopedia <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/dene>
- National Gallery of Canada <https://www.gallery.ca/magazine/exhibitions/alex-janvier-the-circle-of-life-and-other-brilliant-forms-0>
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- Hill, Greg A., Chris Dueker, and Lee-Ann Martin. *Alex Janvier*. Ottawa: National Gallery of Canada. 2016.
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JANET’S JOTTINGS

The Christmas Bird Count Results

JANET SCOTT

Christmas Bird Count – December 30, 2021 – Amherst Island  
Travelling + Feeder Counts

56 species  
4,348 individual birds

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Canada Goose             | 1,222 |
| Brant Goose              | 12    |
| Mute Swan                | 75    |
| American Black Duck      | 8     |
| Mallard                  | 152   |
| Redhead                  | 3     |
| Greater Scaup            | 110   |
| Long-tailed Duck         | 1     |
| Bufflehead               | 22    |
| Common Goldeneye         | 385   |
| Red-breasted Merganser   | 6     |
| Common Merganser         | 47    |
| Hooded Merganser         | 12    |
| Ruffed Grouse            | 1     |
| Wild Turkey              | 38    |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 9     |
| Great Blue Heron         | 1     |
| Bald Eagle               | 6     |
| Northern Harrier         | 35    |
| Cooper’s Hawk            | 2     |
| Red-tailed Hawk          | 26    |
| Rough-legged Hawk        | 26    |
| Merlin                   | 1     |
| American Kestrel         | 1     |
| Peregrine Falcon         | 1     |
| Ring-billed Gull         | 11    |
| Herring Gull             | 1     |
| Rock Pigeon              | 99    |
| Mourning Dove            | 215   |
| Snowy Owl                | 21    |
| Short-eared Owl          | 19    |
| Long-eared Owl           | 5     |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl    | 1     |
| Belted Kingfisher        | 1     |



Ruffed Grouse.

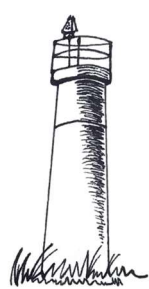


Wild Turkey.



Belted Kingfisher.





JANET’S JOTTINGS

*The Christmas Bird Count Results*

Stats for Christmas Bird Count – 2021

2021 – 56 species, 4,365 individual birds

- 2020 – 63 species, 7,049 birds
- 2019 – 57 species, 3,412 birds
- 2018 – 63 species, 4,113 birds
- 2017 – 58 species, 2,049 birds
- 2016 – 49 species, 5,044 birds
- 2015 – 51 species, 3,941 birds

Average over the last 7 years – 57 species on A.I.

35 participants this year

- Oldest participant - Janet or Bonnie? Hmmm.
- Youngest – Michael Murray – on his ATV

Unusual or interesting sightings

- Ruffed grouse – Sherri & Larry Jensen
- Pileated woodpecker – Alex & Julie Scott
- Marsh wren – Topsy Farms group
- Golden-crowned kinglet – Alex & Julie Scott
- Peregrine falcon – Nancy Pearson
- Great blue heron – Bonnie Livingstone & Jane Revell
- Murmuration of European starlings (~ 400) – Laurie Kilpatrick & John Moolenbeek

Largest number of birds of one species

- Waterfowl – Canada goose – 1,222, followed by common goldeneye – 385
- Songbird – European starling – 809, followed by blue jay – 156
- Raptor – Northern harrier – 35, followed by a tie between red-tailed and rough-legged hawk – 26 each
- Owl – snowy – 21, followed by short-eared owl – 19

Longest time spent observing – 5 hours and 59 minutes – Alex & Julie Scott

Biggest group – Topsy Farms – Colette Wigmore, Michael Murray, Sally Bowen, Rachel Hawkshaw and Robin Hutcheon

Most species observed by a single group – Sherri & Larry Jensen

Neatest and most complete documentation – Deb & William Barrett



Canada Goose.



American Kestrel.



# Amherst Island Community Medical Clinic



WENDY SHELLEY

Happy New Year! We wish you good health and happiness throughout 2022.

Our major project to end the year was a Covid Vaccine Clinic held in partnership with Loyalist Pharmacy (Amherstview), on December 23rd. In all, 90 islanders got their Covid Vaccines! Many thanks to Jen Baker (Loyalist Pharmacy), and islanders Maureen McGinn, Jill Caughey, Julie Forester, Charlene Feraday, Marilyn Pilon, David Fleming and Ida and George Gavlas for volunteering to keep our Island safe. Thank you also to St. Paul's for providing the venue.

The AICMC has Big Plans for 2022, including: finding a temporary space to use as ‘home base’, presenting informal and informative Information Events on a variety of Health and Wellness subjects, and spearheading a Foot Care Program...amongst other things. As well, we will continue to work on improving our communications strategy: through monthly Beacon updates, CJAi public service announcements, posters, community newsletters and email. We are still working on setting up a Facebook account. We have started to generate an email mailing list. If you would like to be on this list, please let us know.

We continue to investigate Grant Applications and will be planning Fundraising events this year. Because we have Charitable Status, we are able to issue tax receipts for donations received. If you made a donation to the AICMC last year, you will receive an emailed receipt for tax purposes for 2021.

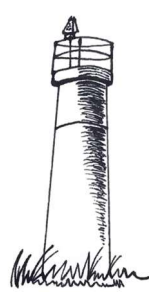
Keep your eyes open for further information on our: Website: <https://amherst-island-community-medical-clinic.constantcontactsites.com/> Should you want to contact us, our: email address is: [aicmc2021@gmail.com](mailto:aicmc2021@gmail.com) Look for more information in next month’s Beacon...



A short-eared owl, Amherst Island, Ontario. Photographed by Don Woodiwiss Photography, <https://woodiwissphotography.com/>.

After taking this photograph, Don (Woody) Woodiwiss explained that many islanders can relate to this short-eared owl. Once take-out food is on the ferry, it will rarely survive the trip home. This prey animal (likely a vole) probably didn’t survive the trip back to the owl’s home either. There are so many similarities between the habits and actions of animals and humans, especially when hunger is involved. Excellent capture, Woody!





AIWI UPDATE

Amherst Island Women’s Institute

WENDY SHELLEY

Happy New Year!

If you have made a resolution to become more involved in the Amherst Island Community this year, why not join the Amherst Island Women’s Institute? We meet on the third Wednesday of each month.

Due to Covid restrictions, January’s meeting will be a zoom meeting, on January 12, 2022, from 10am-12pm. Please contact Sharen English for more information, at 613-384-6535.

Guests are always welcome.  
We are in the process of updating the Tweedsmuir Books, which document island history as it occurs and to preserve past history. If you would like to check these out, older books are kept at the L&A Museum Archives, they have been digitalized and are available to anyone.

Missed from my December update: We presented a donation of \$500 to Joe Wilkinson of the Bath Lions Club for the Bath Food Bank. Island residents are welcome to use the Food Bank in times of need. The Bath Lions had recently made a large donation to our island school for sports equipment.

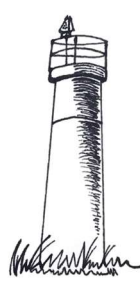
Don’t forget to check us out on Facebook for postings and updates, and remember, Guests are always welcome.



A male mallard duck, Amherst Island, Ontario. Photographed by Don Woodiwiss Photography, <https://woodiwissphotography.com/>.

To get this photograph, Don (Woody) Woodiwiss set up the blind several days in advance to let the wildlife grow accustomed to its presence. The morning he took this photograph, arriving at about 6am, the duck was content to venture close. Beautiful photograph, Woody!





CLASSIFIEDS

Support Local Businesses

**Pharmasave Bath Family 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.



Bath Family Pharmacy  
in your neighbourhood

1-220 Main Street  
Bath  
Email: bathfamilypharmacy@gmail.com  
www.pharmasave.com

**Tel: 613-352-7700**  
**Fax: 613-352-1177**  
**Store Hours:**  
Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm  
Saturday: 10am – 3pm  
Sunday: Closed



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

**Reward Yourself**  
Collect points. Redeem  
and **SAVE.** *Join today!*



**Walk-In Clinic**  
**NOW OPEN**



**Age**  
has its  
**privileges**

**Seniors Save 20% OFF**  
Regular Priced Items In-Store

the last **Thursday** of every month.

\*To be eligible for the discount, a customer must be at least 60 years of age. Valid at participating 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.

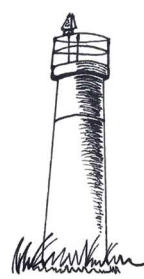
**Buy 2 Get 1 Free**

Pharmasave  
Brand  
Product



\*Subject to applicable taxes after discount. One coupon per customer. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer. Excludes codeine products, sale items, gift and phone cards. Valid only at Bath Family Pharmacy. Valid until December 31st, 2021.





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](http://www.lodgecoffeehouse.com)

**Rossland Gallery**



**Topsy Farms**



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](http://www.topsyfarms.com)

**Your Ad Here!**

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



# Services

**Thank-you!**

Many thanks to Chad Osmond, who re-lamped 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 495 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 [editor@thebeaconpaper.com](mailto:editor@thebeaconpaper.com) The submission deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

If you are interested in advertisement space, contact [editor@thebeaconpaper.com](mailto: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.