

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

THE



BEACON

CULTIVATING CREATIVE CULTURAL CRAFTS



Traditional Ukrainian Easter eggs, dyed using the pysanky method.

PYSANKY

This tradition began long time ago, dating back to early Slavic cultures, and some of the classic designs continue to be made today. Traditionally, pysanky were talismanic, so the symbols and designs had meanings attached to them.

Designs were regionally and also locally unique, so pysanky from the Carpathian region are incredibly intricate and involve animal imagery and orange and yellow colours, but pysanky from the Podillia area have stylized serpent patterns and red, yellow, and black colours. Each pysanka is handmade with care and instilled with symbolism and cultural significance.

In Ukraine, gorgeous, handmade, traditional pysanky would normally be created over the Easter weekend as a way of celebrating with art and expression.



A Ukrainian Easter Egg dyed in the pysanky style.



Pysanky eggs created by local artist, Sheena Mordasiewicz, using duck eggs provided by Kayleigh Graham.

Traditional Ukrainian Easter Eggs, Pysanky

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

This year has been different, due to the current war that has resulted from the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Instead, Ukrainians and other creative people around the world have been making pysanky this year while reflecting on the history of art and culture from that part of the world.

The single oldest surviving pysanky exists in the L'viv National Museum in Ukraine and is a Trypillian ceramic pysanka. The Trypillians belonged to a late Neolithic culture from 5500-2750 BCE, so this pysanka is a testament to the ancient historical roots of this tradition. The designs on this ancient object celebrate water, so it presents a variety of ‘bezkonachnyk’ motifs, which are continuous lines reminiscent of waves.

Eggs have been seen as symbols of rebirth for many years, so they have been included in ritualistic burials and other celebrations too. The images on pysanky often celebrate water, trees, animals, time, plants, and the relationship humans share with nature.

Many people believe that the term ‘pysanky’ refers to any type of decorated egg, but it only refers to eggs created using the ‘batik’ method. This is a type of wax resist method.

The raw eggs used to be left intact to dry up over time, but now it is common practice to blow out the egg to empty it, so that it can be preserved for many years. Eggs can be emptied before decorating them, or after decorating them. Two small holes are bored on either end of the egg, and the contents are blown out carefully. There is a way to empty eggs by making only one hole, but it is more intricate and difficult.

Once the egg has been emptied, if that step is taken first, the first layer of wax can be applied. Wax is applied using a stylus or a pinhead, and the colour underneath the wax is preserved. So, the first layer of wax applied to a white eggshell, will remain white. Then, the egg can be dyed using the lightest colour, perhaps yellow. Once the dye has dried, the next layer of wax can be applied to preserve the areas of the egg that will remain yellow. Then, the next darkest dye can be applied, perhaps orange, then sealed with wax. This process continues until the egg is mostly, or completely, covered in wax. Lastly, the wax is to be melted off. Many people hold it near a flame and wipe the wax off with a soft cloth. This reveals the art below.

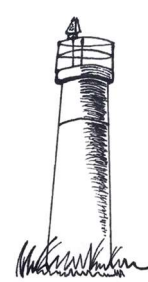
A truly delicate and intricate process, artists and creatives who attempt to create pysanky have wonderful talent and patience alike.

IN THIS ISSUE

SPOTLIGHT SPECIES:
SNOWDROP FLOWERS (4)

RUINS OF THE KREUZKIRCHE
BY BELLOTTO (6-8)

JANET'S JOTTINGS: I CAN
HEAR THEM! (9)



INTERNATIONAL PHILANTHROPY

Opportunities to Provide Support to Ukrainians in Crisis

ORGANIZATIONS OFFERING AID

One of the most accessible ways for Canadians to help during an international emergency such as the war in Ukraine is by donating money or time to an experienced humanitarian organization. The list of organizations below are all accepting donations for the work they are doing in Ukraine and with refugees.

- UNICEF Canada: currently providing safe water and sanitation supplies, medical aid and healthcare services, child protection and psychological care, and education supplies.
- Canadian Red Cross: currently providing trained personnel, first aid services, immediate support in the crisis.

People who want to provide more generalized help, including supplies, first aid, child protection, and sanitation services, may want to consider donating to the Humanitarian Coalition. The Humanitarian Coalition is a combination of 12 Canadian international aid agencies that can respond quickly with a diverse variety of supports and services in international crises. The agencies involved in the coalition are listed below:

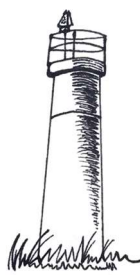
- Action Against Hunger
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank
- Canadian Lutheran World Relief
- Care
- Doctors of the World
- Humanity & Inclusion
- Islamic Relief
- Oxfam Canada
- Oxfam Québec
- Plan International
- Save the Children
- World Vision



Image of a Ukrainian protesting the war with their pet dog. Originally published in Quartz India on March 3, 2022.

There are also animals in Ukraine who will need first aid and emergency assistance and rehoming as a result of the current war. The Humane Society International (HSI) is providing aid through their Animal Rescue Fund and are accepting donations.





UPCOMING MAY DAYS

National Garden Meditation Day

MAY 3RD

May 3rd is National Garden Meditation Day. On Amherst Island the gardens won't be in full bloom for a while, but some gardeners have already started plants inside and made plans for their gardens this season.

Garden Meditation Day is all about taking some time for yourself to be thoughtful while in nature. Restoring your soul and refreshing your mind are both possible outcomes of time spent in a garden or outside. Try to spend a few moments in the fresh air. Perhaps you can plan your garden. Perhaps you can water or encourage some plants that need it. Perhaps you can admire someone else's garden from afar. Whatever you do this May 3rd, hopefully you can enjoy the outdoors for a few moments.

Happy National Garden Meditation Day!



Sally Bowen's Garden at Topsy Farms, Amherst Island.



OBSERVE

National Odometer Day,
May 12th

National Odometer Day celebrates the instrument the measures distance traveled in a moving machine. Odometers were first developed in the 1600s for wagons and horse-drawn machines in order to measure distance traveled. The first odometer for an automobile appeared in 1903. Since then, odometers have been combined with other devices to help measure fuel consumption, oil pressure, speed, and RPMs. How far have you travelled in your vehicle? 0km? 999,999km? It is amazing that we can measure how far we have travelled.

Happy National Odometer Day!

EXPERIENCE

National Learn to Swim Day

MAY 16TH

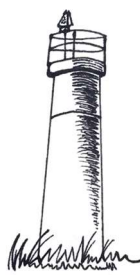
Living on an island comes with some blessings and some risks. Island residents are constantly reminded that we are surrounded by water, so it is important we learn how to swim.

In May the water may be a little cold for some of us, but other, more optimistic people may just call it 'refreshing'.

Take a dip this May 16th, on National Learn to Swim Day! Or, decide to learn to strengthen your swimming skills this summer.

Happy National Learn to Swim Day!





SPOTLIGHT SPECIES

Snowdrop Flowers

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

The snowdrop flower, or *Galanthus nivalus*, is one of the first spring flowers to bloom. It is a perennial bulb plant that requires little to no maintenance and is not bothered by either pests or diseases. Snowdrops are related to both amaryllis and daffodils, but bloom before either of them.

Snowdrops can appear in February, March, or April, depending on the region, and can push through a blanket of snow as they grow. Snowdrops are small, and deceptively delicate looking plants, only 8-15cm tall, with 2-3cm long bell-shaped white flowers that hang downward as if they are dropping.

Snowdrops are toxic to both animals and humans, which also makes them immune to being eaten by pests.

Snowdrop bulbs are to be planted in the fall, about 7cm deep and 10cm apart in loosened soil with the thin end of the bulb facing up. Snowdrops are ideal for rock gardens because they require good drainage.

Snowdrop flowers require full sun to grow, which is usually available because they sprout up and bloom before trees grow their shade-providing leaves. This plant is extremely cold hardy, but does not thrive in areas with high heat or humidity.

Snowdrop flowers should not be pruned or trimmed. The foliage should not be cut, and the spent flowers should not be deadheaded. The entire plant will ‘die back’ naturally when it is ready to go dormant for the year. The nutrients from the plant will be re-absorbed into the soil and allow for a strong bloom the next season. This is another one of the reasons snowdrops are considered so low maintenance. Snowdrops will overwinter outside on their own without any additional protection measures.

Snowdrops will multiply and spread over time via bulb offsets. Bulbs can be dug up and divided to propagate the species elsewhere.

Snowdrop flowers provide an early source of nutrition to pollinator species, so adding some to a garden can also help the bees.



Snowdrop flower.

SNOWDROP FLOWER FACTS

- Snowdrops can grow from seeds or bulbs, but people generally buy bulbs because this requires less labour and is inexpensive.
- Snowdrop seeds are disseminated by ants.
- Many people accidentally dig up their snowdrops in the summer when the plant has gone underground and dormant for the year. Place a marker or a plant that will cover the area with foliage later in the year, close to where the snowdrops are so they are not disturbed while dormant.

Sources:

Beaulieu, David. “How to Grow and Care for Snowdrop Flower”. *The Spruce*. 2022.



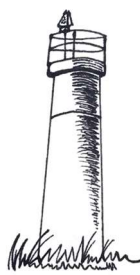
Snowdrop flowers.



Snowdrop Flowers breaking through remnants of hardened snow.



Snowdrop Flowers in the dark.



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.



The terminal buildings are now open!

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.

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.

The buildings on either side of the ferry route are open.

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	11am – 2pm
Saturdays	10am – 12pm
Sundays	2pm – 4pm

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

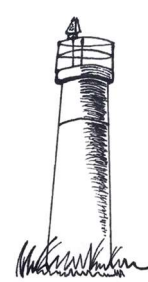
COVID-19 Precautions: curbside service only, masks at the curb would be appreciated.

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

Ruins of the KruezKirche by Bellotto

DEREK OXLEY

Last month’s article focused on art taken as spoils of conquest and the role of war artists, a topic I will tie up quickly before moving on to focus this month on cultural materials that are often destroyed in the act of military conquest. With the Russian incursion into Ukraine going on seven weeks now, I have a growing concern about what cultural treasures might be targeted by belligerent factions. My greatest concern of course is for the welfare of those civilians caught in the middle, for their immediate safety and for the future survival of their lives and way of life. But for today we’re just going to discuss the cultural elements in harm’s way, using the German city of Dresden, a place which has seen its fair share of conflict and destruction through the centuries, as the primary hub for the discussion.

It was in Dresden and its surrounding region in the 16th century that the practice of amassing giant collections of art reappeared in modern Europe. Initially it was renaissance princes and the aristocracy who began to see a respectable collection of art as a way of showing off their wealth or dynastic importance; collecting art

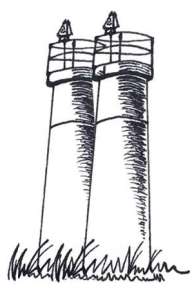
began to take on a political function which caught on in many wealthy courts. This practice was adopted by the empires of the 19th century, who displayed spolia for their citizens as a symbol of their power, and again by nation states of the 20th century, who created national museums with the function of presenting the history and memory of the state in a more-or-less splendid character. National schools of art developed in tandem with these museum collections and over time more focus was placed on public access to these collections. The early 20th century also saw a great proliferation of new government departments in most western nations and empires. So many new departments created the need to develop new systems of self-organization for the recording of events and information, and this in turn affected the scope of subject matter that war artists were expected to capture. War art was more traditionally categorized as images of generals, fighting soldiers, and the events of famous military or naval battles, but as more military concepts were examined by the avant-garde it helped generate a consciousness interested in

looking around at the less exciting realities of wartime. The idea that our societies were embroiled in a campaign of Total War meant that there was a new appreciation for capturing “what it felt like”, not just on the front lines, but also perhaps for the factory workers making munitions, or the supply convoys in hazardous waters, or the survivors of a firebombing, or whatever might deepen our understanding of the lived experiences of the average person in wartime. Artists would often be deep into the danger zone with their fellow soldiers, and many in harm’s way ended up being killed.

Beyond the loss and destruction of life and art, perhaps the next most disheartening cost of war is the loss of knowledge, religious traditions, and architecture, both to an immediate culture and to the world heritage at large. As early as the Hague Convention of 1899 there had been consideration given to the idea of safeguarding and preserving buildings (at least in Europe) dedicated to religion, science, and art, and that any physical takeover of a sovereign territory should



Bernardo Bellotto, *Ruins of the KruezKirche*, oil on canvas, c. 1765, Gemäldegalerie, Dresden, Germany.



ARTS AND CULTURE

Ruins of the KruezKirche by Bellotto, continued...

DEREK OXLEY

come with the responsibility of sparing as many historic cultural sites as possible. All well and good on paper, but there is often nothing to enforce it in practice, and unfortunately an event early in the First World War set the tone for many reprisals.

The university library of Leuven in Belgium was utterly destroyed by German battalions early in WW1. The library was home to a collection of rare and unique medieval manuscripts, prints, and thousands of books. Most of it was irreplaceable. It was collateral damage at the hands of angry Axis generals who reacted violently against the unexpected resistance they met from Belgian forts and non-professional militias alike as they sought a quick advance towards France. Two German army companies outside of Leuven accidentally fired on each other, and each thought the attack had come from the local Belgians. German soldiers razed the town for three days, killing hundreds and reducing much of the town to ash and rubble, including the centuries-old library. This act, and others like it through the autumn of 1914, had the effect of galvanizing Allied propaganda against the German campaign – postcards showing the destruction of the Leuven library circulated worldwide. These acts had the sad effect of setting a precedent of intentionally burning other libraries and cultural centers as an acceptable strategy in 20th century warfare.

The postcard images of the ruin are not dissimilar to the painting I want to showcase this month. In 1765 the Venetian painter Bernardo Bellotto (1721-1780) painted the remnants of a church in Dresden that fell during the Seven Years War (1756-63). The aptly titled *Ruins of the Kreuzkirche* (oil on canvas) depicts the burned-out ruin of the gothic era Kreuzkirche (Church of the Holy Cross), one of the oldest churches in Dresden with foundations dating to the 12th century. The church is depicted here after having been shelled by Prussian artillery in 1760, an act which damaged over 200 buildings and left little that could be salvaged after the ensuing fires. An immense pile of rubble sits at the foot of a collapsing tower as workers begin the job of sifting through it all. The structure is already dead. Arch shapes cast shadows like exposed rib bones while the blue sky peering through broken windows gives the haunting impression of dead eyes left open. The whole scene is miserable despite the sun and blue skies, and that’s probably what it felt like for the survivors of the war. Although the church was rebuilt during the latter half of the 18th century, the citizens of Dresden lived next to the collapsing ruin for over a decade. Bellotto was living in Dresden during the war and witnessed its destruction, including his own residence. He was the nephew of none other than my favourite cityscape painter Giovanni Canaletto.

What little is known of him speaks of a cheeky, adventuresome, and ostentations character who was known on several occasions to falsely present himself, sometimes as his more established uncle, and sometimes as a wealthy foreign Count. Living in Dresden from 1747 to 58 he made numerous

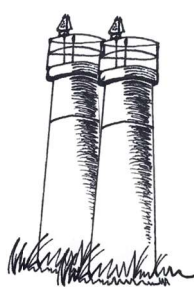
paintings of the city and its surrounding region. He is famed to have climbed what was left of the ruined Kreuzkirche to get a better idea of how extensive the damage to the city was. This painting was commissioned by the church, meant to document the extent of the damage, but we know that by the time reconstruction began more of the ruin had fallen. Bellotto had also painted this church before it was destroyed, and it’s interesting to hunt up the image to compare them. His surviving works have been among the primary sources referenced in the recreation of historic sites in Dresden.

But the artillery damage of 1760 was nothing compared to what would happen to Dresden during the Second World War. Being among the first cities to start amassing collections, by the 1930s the museums in Dresden, including the large Semper Gallery, had collected a comprehensive collection of historic art and objects from around the world. When WW2 broke out in 1939 many of the artworks from the museums and churches were crated and moved, often to the local mines, in hopes of preserving them in case of a disaster. And disaster did come once again to Dresden when, in 1945, it faced one of the most intentionally concentrated Allied

firebombing of the war. The historic inner city was annihilated, killing thousands, and destroying architecture that was nearly a thousand years old including every museum within its radius; estimates say at least two hundred immovable and irreplaceable works of art were lost. When the war ended Dresden was under the control of the Soviets in East Germany. The Soviet army had art specialists like any other, and these specialists worked to quickly rush as much surviving material to Soviet capital cities for conservation (including Kiev), which was successful in saving some of the damaged material. But the Soviets did not have the funds for major rebuilding programs, and so once again the survivors had to live for decades among the many blocks that remained ruins. Some areas of Dresden were so utterly destroyed that they were simply leveled and buried under concrete; today only a few of the core palaces and churches have been rebuilt. The Semper Gallery reopened in 1992.



Bernardo Bellotto, *Square with the KruezKirche in Dresden*, oil on canvas, c. 1751



ARTS AND CULTURE

Ruins of the KruezKirche by Bellotto, continued...

DEREK OXLEY

So, let’s bring this around to the reality unfolding today in Ukraine, where civilian residences and civic spaces have come under fire from the Russian military as they advance. As I write this, Russian forces are surrounding the historic city of Kyiv (Kiev), which is home to a great many cultural centers and landmarks from the past six hundred years. Kyiv is home to the National Library of Ukraine, the primary academic and scientific library in the country and one of the largest national libraries in the world. It was founded in 1919 with a mandate to collect as much material from and about the Ukraine as possible (especially works published in Ukrainian). Then from 1929 through 1934 the quickly growing library was transformed into the main state library for the whole of the USSR, increasing the amount of socio-political literature agreeable to the Soviets, but also becoming much more accessible to the public at large. The building it currently inhabits was finished by the Soviets in 1989,

just before the collapse of the USSR, and since Ukrainian independence in the early 1990s the library has returned to being a center for the historic and cultural works of the nation. It has been a foremost entity in the development of library information sciences, it is the primary library for polytechnic institutes in Kyiv, and today it holds the most comprehensive collection of Slavic writing in the world. It would be an outright tragedy to see this, or any other important historic cultural center demolished.

To be sure both countries share a great deal of common history – the territory was part of the Russian Empire for centuries and was later an integral part of the Soviet Union. But Ukraine cannot help but to have developed independently since the USSR disintegrated in 1991. In the interim, as its own country, Ukraine has developed its own sense of identity, despite its hand in shaping the region over the past centuries. For the generations born after 1991 there is no doubt

now an independent character emergent that is unique from either a Russian or Soviet identity. Art and culture are vital for a healthy lifestyle when groups of people live together. After eras of great destruction many of the buildings and practices that were part of individual and collective identity are gone and civic identity has no choice but to evolve and adapt to the new circumstances. Undoubtedly, a painful process. Bellotto captured very well the sad fragility of a ruin, which we could see as a metaphor for the state of the entire culture that surrounds it. I hope this will not be the fate for the survivors of the Ukraine invasion. *Ruins of the Kreuzkirche* is in the Gemäldegalerie in its hometown of Dresden.



The National Library of Ukraine, Kiev, Ukraine.

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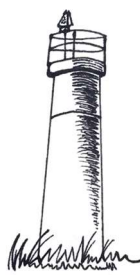
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JANET’S JOTTINGS

They are Coming Back! I can Hear Them!

JANET SCOTT

A wonderful miracle happened for me on March 31st. I was fitted with a hearing aid for my left ear only. Twenty some years ago I was told that for one ear a hearing aid would not work, but in 2022, a tiny bud and battery fitted to my left ear has made it possible to hear the birds again. I walked out of the office and a robin was singing his heart out at the corner of Taylor Kidd and Gardiner’s Road. It was possible to sort out traffic noises and the high sweet tones of this happy songster telling me how wonderful the world is!

By the time I reached my friend Susan’s home, I could hear a cardinal whistling and singing over and over again. Both male and female cardinals sing but this scarlet songster was happily telling everyone on Parkview that he was thrilled with spring. They don’t migrate but settle in this part of North America year round. Only since perhaps around 1950 has the weather mellowed enough to permit the northern migration of this species to survive in the Kingston region. That day I enjoyed their song everywhere we stopped. The next day they were singing in Bath near Fast Freddie’s and also at Schell’s. Little had I realized how so many of the high sounds I had lost. The funny thing was on Saturday on the island, when I didn’t wear my seatbelt, I was shocked at how loud my seatbelt’s warning beep was.

For years I have compensated by lip reading when I couldn’t hear what a person was saying in a family gathering or a group of teachers sitting around a table, but one thing COVID did was show me how much I was missing. No longer could I fill in a conversation by sight. The masks took away my conversations. This tiny gadget has restored my auditory power. Now I wake up to song sparrows singing to greet the sunrise, slip on my magic ear and can locate where that wee brown fellow is sitting. The cowbirds have a high tinkling sound, did you know that?



Yellow warbler.



A Cardinal.

Richard LaPointe has told me the woodcocks are doing their dance. They are sometimes called skydancers because they fly way up in ascending circles with their wings whistling loudly, and as they plummet to the ground you hear this fantastic liquid chirping sound and once back in the field you hear a ‘peeetz’. This happens in late March and early April just after sunset or about half an hour before dawn. In the 19th century the introduction by pioneer farmers of earthworms to Ontario farms provided food that these long probing bills could easily find in the muddy soil and the numbers of American woodcock thrived. The breeding atlas for 2005 estimated about 5000 nesting pairs in the Kingston region.

Speaking of whistling, it reminded me that just as I left the radio station on Monday morning, a swan flew over Anthony and my heads and we both heard the steady, strong wingbeats and whistling wings as it crossed Stella against a clear blue sky. The snow white bird a contrast in the bright morning light to the blue sky.

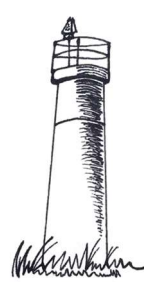
Our warblers and thrushes will be flowing through our skies in their bright, breeding outfits and singing their trills and tweets and feeding on the myriads of tiny midges along the lake. These tiny bits of fluff travel at night, flying many miles trying to reach the nesting areas in our bogs and forests. They will arrive tired and hungry. I wonder if they land grumpy like I do after a long trip? They feed voraciously in the tops of our evergreens and move slowly down the tree as the rising sun warms the tips and causes the insects to awaken. Find a quiet opening in a sun dappled

forest, take a chair, 7x35 binoculars because they focus quickly, and I suggest a thermos of tea (or your choice of beverage) and wait for the sun.

You should catch already the bright lemon yellow flashes of our yellow-rumped warblers, the beautiful blue from the black-throated blue warblers, the rich, warm browns on the chestnut-sided warblers. The lime green on the parulas or the green on the black-throated green warblers, followed finally by the black and white warblers. Don’t miss the Blackburnian warbler nicknamed ‘Fire Throat’. The yellow warbler is going to nest here in every wild raspberry patch or roadside ditch, and I will be able to hear again the ‘sweet, sweet, shredded wheat’ of the bright yellow male with his orange flecks on his breast.

I am looking forward so excitedly to the sounds of our thrushes; robins, bluebirds, hermit, wood, Swainson’s or Veery. With two working ears I trust you will no longer see me rotating strangely trying to triangulate where these sounds are coming from. The islanders know I am strange, I think the polite label is ‘eccentric’, but I cannot wait for the spring sounds to start again. BRING ON THOSE SPRING PEEPERS! I and my battery ear are waiting and ready.

What a Wonderful World!



Amherst Island Community Medical Clinic



WENDY SHELLEY

The **AICMC** has a new home base! We are pleased to announce that we will be using **St Paul’s** Fellowship Hall this year as our regular site for AICMC Information Events, Programs, Clinics, and meetings!

We are hoping to have a **Covid Booster Vaccine Clinic** in May and a **Flu Vaccine Clinic** this coming fall. ...more information will follow as it becomes available to us.

Many thanks to **Ida Gavlas** who sold her home baked **pies** earlier this month, as a fundraiser for the Clinic. Ida raised \$555.00.

Our **“Happy, Healthy Feet”** Information Event was a great success, with 15 people in attendance. Did you know that, in general, our feet are the most neglected part of our bodies? Many thanks to **Jenn Morris**, RN and Registered Foot Care Nurse from the Napanee Area Community Health Centre, who talked about the importance of looking after our feet, the benefits of regular foot care, the different types of foot care and what proper **foot care** entails.

We received \$70.00 in **donations** at this event, many thanks to those who attended and those who made donations.



J and J Walking Group: Walking is one way to keep your feet happy and healthy.

Don’t miss our upcoming **Information Event** on **May 11th, 2022 at 1:00 pm**, at **St Paul’s**. **Melissa Smith RN**, Diabetes Nurse Educator with the Napanee Area Community Health Centre, will be talking about **“Staying Healthy with Diabetes”**. Melissa is sure to have some tips we all can use for healthier living.

Everyone is welcome. We ask attendees to respect the health of others by wearing a **mask** during our events. All current **Covid protocols** will be respected and hand sanitizer is provided. If you are feeling unwell, we ask that you stay at home.

We are currently **planning** more monthly **Public Information Events** on a variety of Health and Wellness topics that will provide information all of us can apply to our daily lives, to enable us to remain active in our community. These Events will run from spring till this fall and will be presented by **professionals** who work in the **Health and Wellness** field.

We also continue to look for **new ideas** from you, our community, for additional programs and events.

Our **Website** is in the process of being updated. Many thanks to **David Pickering** for taking on this important responsibility. We have also recently changed our Domain registration and address. We are now much easier to access. Just type <http://AICMC.CA> into your browser, and you’ll be there! Check us out.

Our **email list** is also starting to grow. If you would like receive up to date information about upcoming events and AICMC news, please let us know. Just scroll to the bottom of our Home page and enter your email address in the location provided. It’s that easy.

Keep your eyes open for further information on our website and in next month’s **Beacon**.
Website: aicmc.ca **email:** aicmc2021@gmail.com

Wendy Shelley

Amherst Island Women’s Institute

WENDY SHELLEY

This month marks my first anniversary as an official Member of the WI.

Although I had attended a few Amherst Island Women’s Institute meetings over the past 10 years or so as a guest, I only became a member last year. I know the meetings I have attended by Zoom are far different from the in-person meetings held prior to Covid, but an open-air meeting last year at The Lodge, two summer luncheons out with other members and a couple of stints helping out with the coffee cart at the Museum on Saturday mornings last summer, has shown me that the WI is not just a group of women getting together to socialize, but that there is a real purpose and history supporting this great, worldwide organization.

The Federated Women’s Institutes of Ontario, of which the AIWI is a member, works with and for women in rural and small-town Ontario. Through a network of WI Branches, the WI offers education, programming and community support; advocates for social, environmental and economic change, and works towards the personal growth of all women, for home and country.

The WI envisions ‘an Ontario where women work together for safe, healthy communities and pursue an enriched and balanced lifestyle.’

And values: ‘Mutual respect, Communication, Mutual support, Healthy Members and healthy environment; Safe communities; and Versatility and adaptability.’

The more I learn about the Women’s Institute, the more proud I am to be a member of this progressive and supportive group of Amherst Island women.

Meetings are always open to guests and visitors and are usually held the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Join us if you can!

Wendy Shelley

Sat July 9, 2022 @ 2pm: Save the Date

The Amherst Island Women’s Institute is hosting a book launch for **At Last Count**, the debut novel from Claire Ross Dunn set in Toronto and on Amherst Island, and released by Prince Edward County’s Invisible Publishing.

Join us on **Saturday, July 9, 2022 at 2pm** at The Lodge for a reading, Q&A, and book signing with the author.

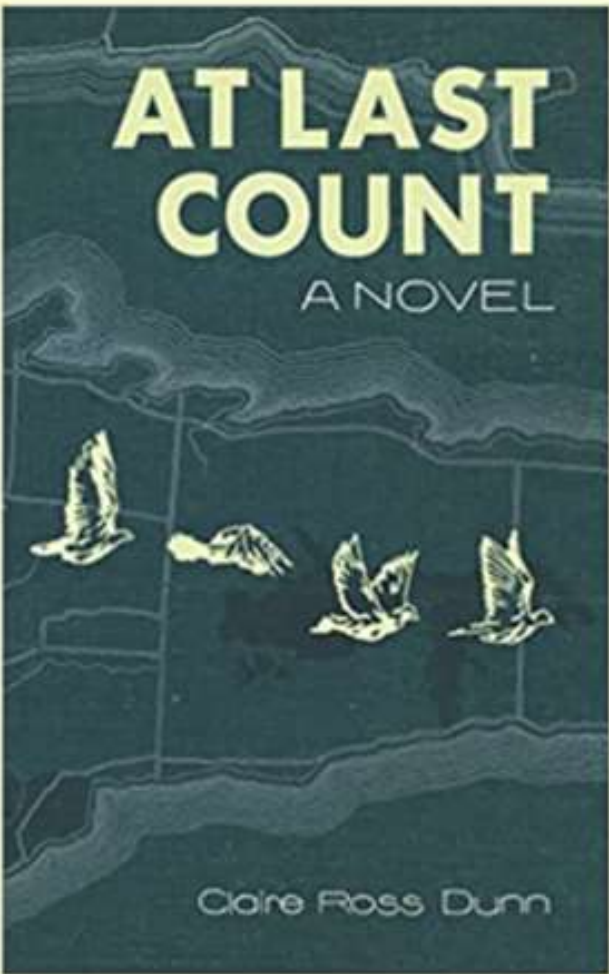
Book sales benefit the Amherst Island Women’s Institute.

Door prizes: a signed copy of the book, and a book-themed pillow designed and knit by Kirk Dunn with Topsy Farms yarn.

On the day, cash or e-transfer welcome.

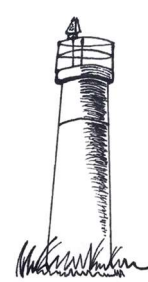
Thereafter, books will be for sale at amherstwi@gmail.com, and at the Weasel & Easel.

For more info, contact Andrea Cross at andrea@meriton.ca.





Old blossoms that survived the winter on Amherst Island, Ontario. Photographed by Vicki Keith.



AN UPDATE

The Amherst Island Community Alliance

UPCOMING EVENTS

All Candidates Meeting

The Amherst Island Community Alliance will be hosting an All Candidates Meeting at the Lodge on Apr 26th from 7pm until 9pm. Come and hear our panel of journalists (the Editor of the Beacon, the President of CJA and a representative from the Napanee Beaver) quiz the candidates on the issues of the day. Have a question you want answered, send it to aicommunityalliance@gmail.com and we will pass it along to the panel for their consideration. Weather permitting it will be held on the back deck to encourage social distancing. We encourage masking.

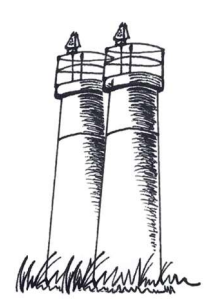


Free Grant Writing Seminar

The Amherst Island Community Alliance will be hosting a free, two-hour seminar for community organizations on how to write a successful Loyalist Township grant application. These grants to enhance and enrich our community are funded by the Community Benefit Agreement with Windlectric and the next round of applications are due June 1st. The seminar will be held on May 3rd at the Lodge beginning at 7pm in the Sunroom. Anyone interesting in learning more about the Renewable Energy Fund Grant Policy and how to apply for a grant is welcome.



Gulls on the shores of Amherst Island, Ontario. Photographed by Vicki Keith.



COMMUNITY HISTORY

ISLE Cheese Order

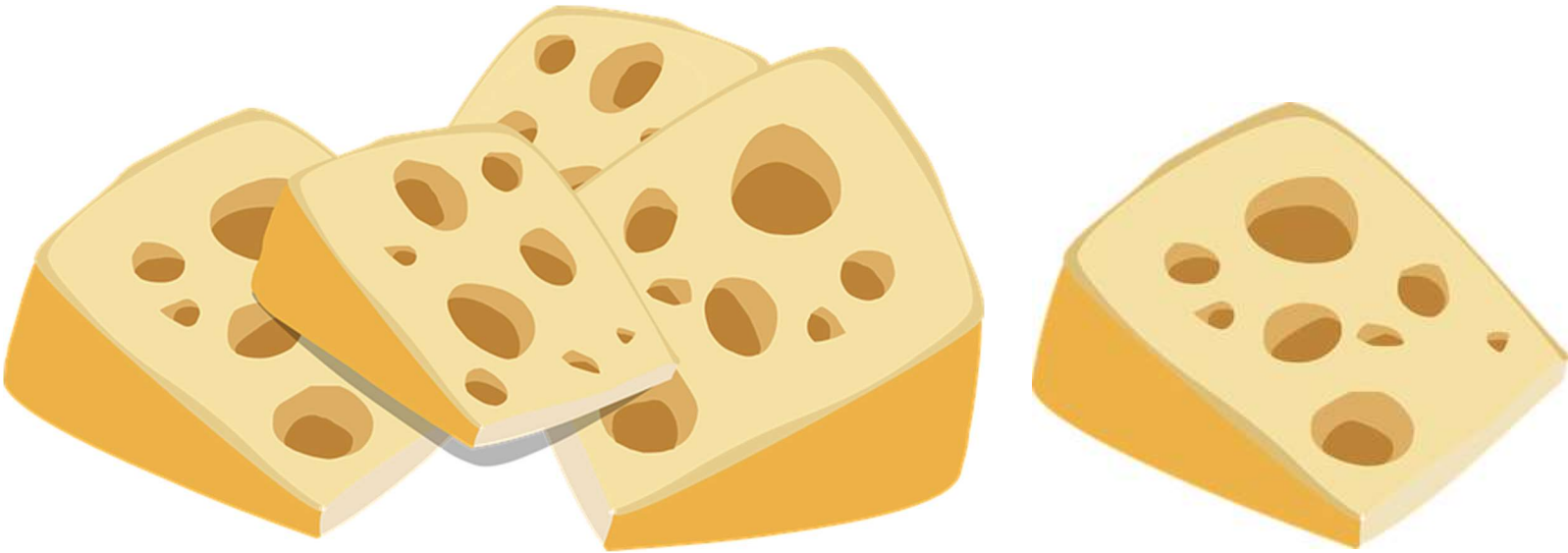


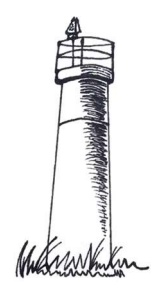
ISLE CHEESE ORDER

Email your order to amherstislandisle@gmail.com

PRODUCT	PRICE (\$ per pound approx.)
Extra Mild (tastes like curd in cheese form!)	\$8.94/lb
Mild Cheddar	\$8.94/lb
Medium Cheddar white / colour (please specify)	\$10.00/lb
Old Cheddar white / colour (please specify)	\$10.00/lb
Extra Old Cheddar white/ colour (please specify)	\$11.42/lb
Colby	\$8.94/lb
Mozzarella	\$8.94/lb
Mozzarella- Grated	\$9.36/lb
Grated Casserole (Cheddar and mozzarella)	\$8.94/lb
Onion and Garlic	\$10.00/lb
Hot Pepper	\$10.00/lb
Marble	\$10.00/lb
Swiss	\$10.99/lb
Havarti	\$13.06/lb

- The funds raised from the ISLE cheese order goes toward the Amherst Island Public School (busses for field trips, weekly lunches, and contributions to bigger ticket items such as playground upgrades).
- The cheese order happens every month, with pickup happening at the school.
- Contact amherstislandisle@gmail.com for more information, or to place an order!





AN UPDATE

The Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre

OPENING SOON

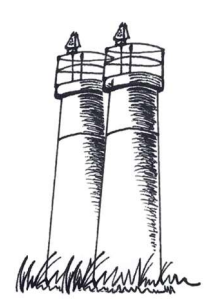
Opening May 20th, 2022

The Museum will be bringing back our ‘Backroom Talks’. Yes, yes, we are opening at 7:00pm on Friday, May 20, 2022. Our own town crier, Bill McKee, will officially make you aware of this exciting announcement. We planned this two years ago, but COVID shut us out! Our guest is willing to return to the island. Come and hear the historical ballads, written and performed by Stephen Bruce Medd. All donations and sales from his book, ‘If Lilacs Could Sing’ will be donated to the Red Cross Ukrainian Relief Fund. Light refreshments to follow.



Stephen Bruce Medd.





ISLAND VIEWS

Wildlife Photography

DAVID PIKE



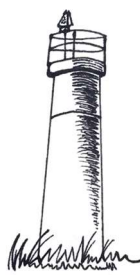
The last woolly mammoth left on the island, photographed by David Pike.

A woolly bear caterpillar early to emerge this spring, photographed by David Pike.

VICKI KEITH



An old blossom that survived winter on Amherst Island, Ontario. Photographed by Vicki Keith.



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.

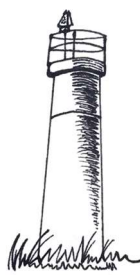
*To be eligible for the discount, a customer must be at least 60 years of age. Valid at participating Pharmasave Ontario locations only. Does not include prescriptions, products with codeine, insulin, Ideal Protein products, lottery tickets, gift and phone cards. Cannot be combined with any other offer.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

Rossland Gallery



stringed metal instruments
artisanal glass jewellery

by appointment
gallery@rosslandgardens.com

Topsy Farms



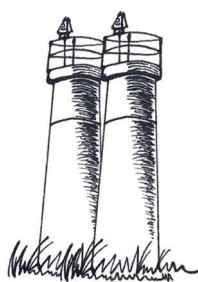
In 1972 a boatload of free-thinking, peace-loving hippies showed up at the West end of Amherst Island. Since then, Topsy Farms has prioritized stewardship of the land and harmony with nature above profit.

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](https://www.instagram.com/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 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.

Thank-you!

Thank you to David Pickering, who diligently posts each issue of *The Beacon* as a downloadable PDF online at: <http://amherstisland.on.ca/Beacon/> .

The Beacon

Available to Read at:

- Issue 498 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 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.