

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

THE BEACON

HULKING HORSES HAULING HEAVY HARDWARE



Dave McGinn helping to attach the weight the horses pull, so it can be dragged back to the starting position.

PULLING THEIR WEIGHT

A horse can generally pull 10% of their bodyweight in 'dead weight'. If wheels are added to the weight, however, they can pull double, triple, or even ten times their bodyweight. The record amount of weight pulled by a single horse is currently 58,000 pounds, and it was pulled by a Shire horse.



The Amherst Island Horse Pull Competition of 2022.

The Horse Pull

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

The Amherst Island Agricultural Society organized a horse pull competition that took place on July 1st, 2022. It was well attended, as over 400 people came to enjoy the show. It was a great success!

Thank you to the Amherst Island Agricultural Society; those that organized and helped run this event. It brought the community together after a couple of years of isolation, which was a welcome opportunity!

More agricultural events are eagerly anticipated in the future.

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AN UPDATE

Season's Greetings from the Amherst Island Agricultural Society

DAYLE GOWAN

It's that Holiday Season time of the year again, and it's also time for our 2022 Annual General Meeting.

This year, our AGM is planned for January 9, 2023, 7:00 p.m. at the Amherst Island Fire Hall.

The agenda will include:

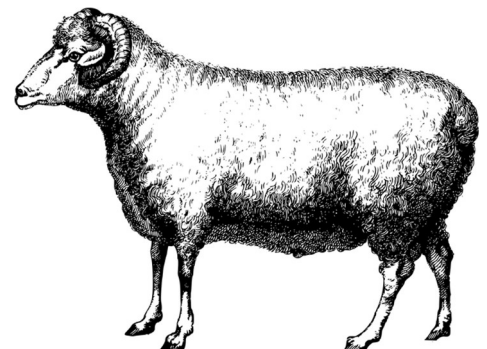
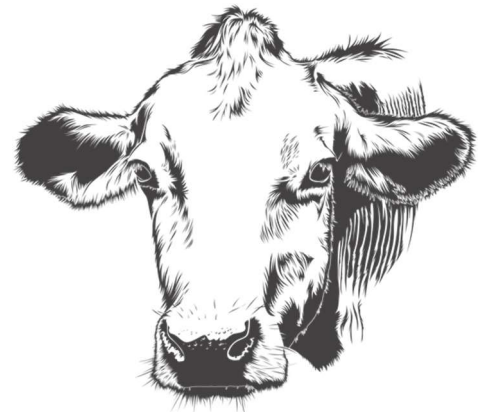
- a report of the activities and accomplishments of the Society since the last Annual General Meeting
- report on the finances of the Society for the 2022 fiscal year
- election of three Board of Directors for the next three year term
- appointment of auditors for the next term
- approval of additional motions as appropriate

This year we also are planning to have a guest speaker, Yvonne Compton, President of the Kingston fair board. She will give suggestions on events, grants and try and answer any questions we have about Agricultural Societies and our challenges in these changing times.

In 2018, the Amherst Island Agricultural Society began its change from a "dormant" organization (the term used by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs) to an active organization with a new Constitution, a new Board of Directors and new members (39 at year end, 2018). Although COVID struck in 2020 as we were planning our first public event on the Fairground in 50 years, we continued make improvements to our property (a parking area and general clean up).

Thanks to a generous COVID grant from the Ministry in 2021 we were in a financial position to make further improvements, and installed electrical service to the Fairground in December last year.

Finally, we were able to have our first public event, the Horse Pull Competition on July 1st, 2022. Over 400 people attended, and it was a great success.





AN UPDATE

Season's Greetings from the Amherst Island Agricultural Society

In September, the Society participated in the Amherst Island Harvest Fest with a Garlic Growing Exhibition.

Annick Mitchell was the driving force for this exhibition and information session.

This was followed up later with a Garlic Growing workshop at the Neilson Store Museum Back Room.

The Agricultural Society has continued to grow since 2018, and the membership now totals over 130.

We are now planning events and activities for 2023.

If you would like to know more, come out to the Annual General Meeting. Consider becoming a member. Individual and Family Memberships are available.

For more information, contact:

Mark Ritchie- President

Garry Filson- Vice-President

Wayne Fleming- Treasurer

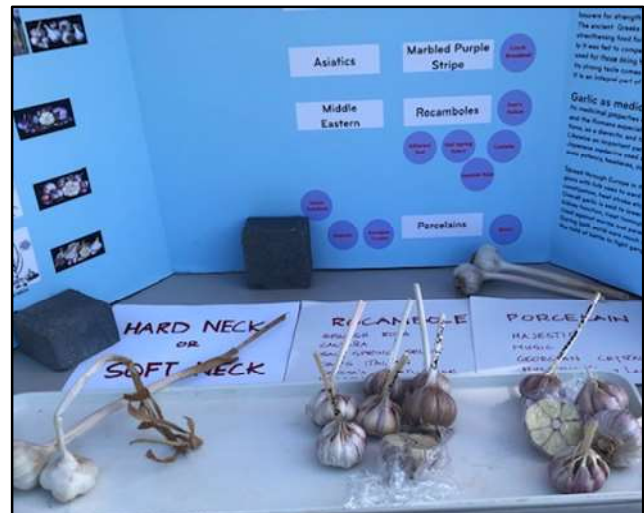
Dayle Gowan- Secretary

Happy Holidays from the Amherst Island Agricultural Society.

The horse pull competition was a great success! Many thanks to Dave McGinn for promoting this event, and to Dave and Lynda for their generous financial support to make it happen. Thanks as well to everyone contributed in so many ways to make it a success.



Annick Mitchell at the garlic growing exhibition.





Email *The Beacon* at
amherstislandbeacon@gmail.com

AN UPDATE

A Letter from the Editor

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

As some of you may have noticed, an issue of *The Beacon* has not been published since April 2022. I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update regarding the newspaper and its future.

In the spring of 2022, I was farming at Topsy Farms, teaching at St. Lawrence College, shearing sheep at a variety of local farms, and beginning a new career in the field of veterinary medicine. Needless to say, I became overwhelmed trying to keep up with all of these commitments, and *The Beacon* was put on the back burner.

I have immensely enjoyed writing stories, collecting articles, attending events, and learning about the Amherst Island community through my role as the editor of *The Beacon*. At times, I have struggled with funding the paper or finding the time to put an issue together, so I have had to modify how the paper will be produced going forward.

To mitigate the ongoing financial costs of printing issues, and allow for readers to print issues at home from the online archives with more ease, the

publication will now be in 8.5" x 11" page format.

In order to keep publishing issues on a regular schedule, and alleviate the pressure of monthly deadlines, *The Beacon* will be produced every other month. This will mean that 6 issues will be released yearly.

The Beacon has been both a way to learn about current events on Amherst Island, and a way to maintain a written historical record of island happenings. I understand the importance of staying as current as possible, and I look forward to restarting this paper once again.

This brief hiatus has allowed me to approach this project with fresh eyes and energy, and I am eager to collaborate with community groups and islanders to archive island news once more.

THANK YOU

Thank you to David Pickering for continuing to archive the files online where readers can access the paper for free, from home, and issues can be stored as part of the historical record at:

<http://amherstisland.on.ca/Beacon/>

Thank you to Andrea Cross who has offered support and has volunteered her time to help with *The Beacon*.

SUBMISSION & PUBLICATION DATES

- This issue was published on December 10th, 2022 and will be available online on *The Beacon* archives shortly thereafter.

2023 Publication Schedule

Submit articles by	December 20 th
Issue available on	January 10 th
Submit articles by	February 20 th
Issue available on	March 10 th
Submit articles by	April 20 th
Issue available on	May 10 th
Submit articles by	June 20 th
Issue available on	July 10 th
Submit articles by	August 20 th
Issue available on	September 10 th
Submit articles by	October 20 th
Issue available on	November 10 th
Submit articles by	December 20 th
Issue available on	January 10 th 2024

EXISTING SUBSCRIPTIONS

For readers who had existing subscriptions at the time of the last issue, all issues included in that subscription will continue to be delivered to your home.

The subscription package option will look slightly different going forward, and there will be information about that in the January 2023 issue.



LITERATURE

Ain't Nothin' but a Stranger in This World by Bruce Sudds

BRUCE SUDDS

Journalist Michael Sampson sat down with Amherst Island resident, Bruce Sudds, to talk to him about his new book, *Ain't Nothin' But A Stranger In This World*. Below is an excerpt from that interview.

What can you tell us about this novel?

“The book is based on a true story. And those true events were a way for me to explore issues that were compelling to me. Namely, how do we deal with grief and loss in our culture?”

That’s quite a difficult subject. What do you think you learned in writing the book?

“Quite a number of things, really. I think men, especially, aren’t given much room to grieve. We expect men to bottle up the pain, sorrow, and vulnerability. It’s honestly part of the reason we’re dealing with toxic masculinity. If we tell little boys that expressing emotion is wrong, they will eventually behave in destructive ways when faced with loss, pain, and other difficulties.

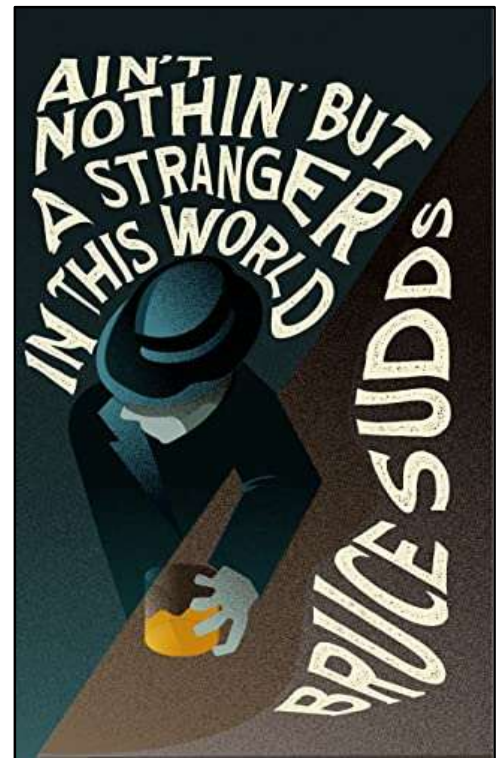
But what was most surprising to me in writing this book was those terrible things that happen to us, and our deepest fears, are really signals to where our gifts are hidden.”

What do you mean?

“Well, there’s a link in the book that sums it up: ‘Wouldn’t it be funny if the worst thing that happened to us was also a gift wrapped in a strange puzzle that’s difficult to complete?’ And what I mean is that the things that haunt us and hold us down, when addressed, often open doorways to where we find purpose or vocation in life. And in finding that, I know that I found joy.”

What did you find, in particular?

“Writing. Honestly, I was the world’s most frustrated writer. I had resisted the issues in my life that I needed to address. And not addressing them was making it difficult to write and just be at ease on this planet. In addressing them, I found the first thing I was always supposed to write and my voice as a writer. And now I feel compelled to write and it comes much easier to me now.”



It sounds like this story really resonated with you?

“It did, and to be honest, I was a character in it. That was the most difficult part of writing it. Not only did I have to face some difficult personal issues, but I had to figure out how to write about it while keeping some objective distance.”



THE BEACON

How did you do that?

“With great difficulty! But I think, especially as a man, it’s important to create fiction that explores the inner lives of men. So many books have focussed on the outer lives of men -- their achievements and struggles in the world but I’m really interested in the inner struggles of men. It does feel like we live in an era that is allowing men to do this. And, at the same time, I felt compelled to explore how women enter the world and the battles they face in doing so.”

Fair enough. Where is the book set?

“It starts and is largely set in this area. The book starts near Trenton, and we travel with characters across Canada, to the Arctic, Colombia, Mexico, New Orleans, and it finally ends on an island near Kingston. I really love writing about the area. This area feels often overlooked in literature. But writers like Al Purdy and Alice Munroe gave me the confidence to write about the lives of people in rural southern Ontario.”

The book ends on an island near Kingston?

“Ha! Yes, indeed. It’s definitely based on Amherst Island.”

What made you want to end the book on this island?

“Well, the narrator is based on me and his trajectory in the book is from his life in Toronto to back here to deal with the unresolved issues from his past in this area.”

What role does the island play in the book?

“Honestly, to me, place matters a great deal. I think the island has unique qualities that are particular to it. At the risk of sounding a little flaky, I find Amherst Island quite healing.”

In what way?

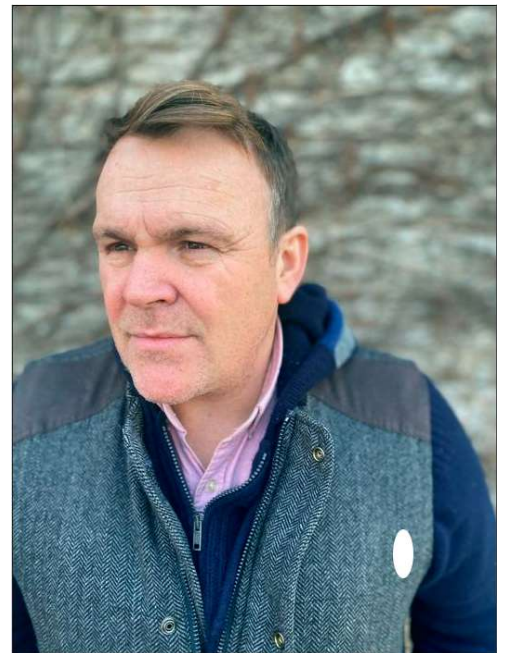
“I’m a little resistant to defining it too much as I don’t know if I completely understand why but I will say that we have a community but we also have space. And that space is largely filled with the natural world: the lake, meadows, and forests...It’s a pastoral setting. We don’t have industry here other than farms. I find that really relaxing and inspiring.

And I would say that I’m not the only one who lives here or visits the island, that feels that way. I also think we have a tight-knit community that is hard to find these days which is part of the joy of living here. More than ever, I think it’s vital to live in a community with a variety of people, with different backgrounds and views, but can still live together and often overcome those differences and enjoy each other.”

Well said. Thanks for your time. And thanks for your interest in speaking to me.

Where can people get the book?

“It’s just making its way to bookstores but can be purchased right now on Amazon or on my publisher’s website: AOS Publishing.”



Bruce Sudds.



POLITICS

Council Corner



LORNA WILLIS

On November 15, I was very proud to be sworn in as your representative on Loyalist Township Council. For those who missed it, here is a bit of what I said during the inaugural meeting: “I am both honoured and proud to represent the people of Ward 1 (Amherst Island) on this Council. The four years promise to be an exciting time for Loyalist Township. I was in this room 4 years ago, celebrating the newly elected Council. Just as they had no idea that over half their term would be focused on leading us through the pandemic, I’m sure that we, too, will be faced with challenges that we have not yet anticipated.

I feel confident, knowing that we have experienced leadership in the mayor and deputy mayor. I know that my fellow Councillors are thoughtful and dedicated, and that we share a passion for this community. Finally, I trust that we will be well-advised and supported by the expertise of Loyalist Township’s capable staff.

I am looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead. My commitment is to listen, learn, and work hard, alongside this team, to continue to make Loyalist Township a place where people are proud to live, work, and play”.

The island has a long tradition of showing up at the polls. In this election, 66% of eligible voters took the time to exercise their vote. I hope that you will continue to be engaged in our municipal government. I encourage you to visit the Loyalist Township website to stay up to date on Township news (www.loyalist.ca).

During the election, I promised to communicate and respond to your questions or concerns. Here is how you can reach me:

Email – lwillis@loyalist.ca

Phone/Text – (613) 389-1005

Facebook – My council Facebook page is [@lornawillisward1](https://www.facebook.com/@lornawillisward1)

Newsletter – Since not everyone is on Facebook, I will be sending a quarterly email newsletter and updates when there is Council news that is important to the Island. To subscribe, you can use the QR code or just call or email and I will set you up on the list.



I look forward to serving you and our community!

Lorna



Lorna Willis being sworn in as Ward 1 Councillor by Justice Geoffrey Griffin, who administered the Oaths of Office. Photograph taken by Lynn Wyminga.

Island Information



THE BEACON

THE FERRY

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.

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

New Ferry Arrival

??? Your guess is as good as mine ???

Information and updates can be found at

<http://www.amherstislandferrydocks.ca/> or

https://twitter.com/a_i_ferrydocks



A photograph of the new ferries waiting to go to their forever homes. Taken by Diane Irwin

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



Artwork by Terry Culbert (2011), depicting Keith Miller at the dump.



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



GENERAL STORE

Owned and operated by a 5th generation island family, Linda and Dave McGinn.

Masks are encouraged but not required.

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



A historic photograph of the Glenn's Store, or the Royal Hotel, circa 1930. Now, the McGinn's General Store.



ARTS AND CULTURE

Gothic Cathedral by a River by Karl Friedrich Schinkel

DEREK OXLEY

I'm happy to be back to writing again after taking a break for a couple of months. This is the first piece I am doing from my new location in Ottawa, a city that has been the seat of Canada's political life since the country saw confederation. I have been walking across the different areas of the city, trying to take in the vibe and learn my way around. Exploring cities has always been a pleasant pastime and distraction – something I started doing after I moved to Toronto in my early 20s, and I always enjoy the intimacy one can experience with a city by way of the heel-toe express. I would think nothing of walking for seven or eight hours at a time, tracing huge swaths and musing about the various neighbourhoods. And while I'm getting a bit old for such long jaunts, I have to say that Ottawa has given me an energy boost. I think this city is more in keeping with my speed, being visually eclectic like Toronto without the overwhelming size and economy and having strong historic and academic ties to help preserve its classical and gothic revival elements,

a character which keeps the city from becoming a post-modern megalith like Vancouver.

The views of both sides of the Ottawa River are gorgeous from the various bridges connecting Ottawa and Hull – a full panorama offers attractive Victorian neo-gothic government buildings beautifully sited at a bend in the riverway, the austere baroque monolith that is the headquarters of Canada's libraries and archives, the stern, black-roofed Greek-Deco temple that houses the Supreme Court,

and the modern glass and steel rocket ship spaceport that is the National Gallery, guarded by one of Louise Bourgeois' nightmarish *Maman* spiders. These sights and more dot the river through the heart of the city, wonderfully framed by manicured gardens, exposed rock faces, and corpses of trees. Deeper into the city there are two-century-old stone churches that stand at the feet of glass and steel-frame office buildings; streets running north/south which embrace the nostalgic brick rows of the 1890s are contrasted by east/west corridors wrought of thoughtful concrete brutalism.



Schinkel, Karl Friedrich. *Gothic Cathedral by a River*. Oil on canvas. 1813. Altes Museum, Berlin.



ARTS AND CULTURE

Gothic Cathedral by a River by Schinkel, continued...

DEREK OXLEY

As I criss-crossed the picturesque streets of my new home, I began to reminisce about the paintings of Karl Friedrich Schinkel, a Prussian artist and architect from the 19th century whose painting *Gothic Cathedral by a River* I am showcasing this month. I wondered if Schinkel, walking through the streets of Berlin and Cologne, felt this same sort of excited wonder, guessing at what the city might have seen over the centuries and imagining where it might go in the future.

Born in 1781, Schinkel spent most of his life in Prussia, although notably in 1803 he did travel to Italy for two years on a “grand tour” to study classical art in his early twenties. Schinkel lived during the time that Napoleon’s armies toppled the Holy Roman Empire into which he had been born, and he saw his homeland rise to greater levels of economic and industrial prominence in the 1820s and 30s. Prussia today no longer exists on the map, but it was an important entity in modern European history as a powerful and influential kingdom with a history of shifting borders and allegiances. Essentially, Prussia was a large region in the German and Eastern European territories that was born in Medieval Europe and proclaimed

the Kingdom of Prussia in 1701 as part of the Holy Roman Empire; the region swelled in power and influence for the following two centuries. When the H.R.E. was finally dismantled during the Napoleonic Wars (c. 1806), Prussia became its own individual kingdom (albeit under French occupation until 1815). With the defeat of Napoleon and the French, Prussia gained a great deal of territory. Later in the century Prussia, under Bismarck, was instrumental in the German unification that came in 1871.

In 1810, during the French occupation, the 30-year-old Schinkel took a job as a civil servant in the Prussian capital of Berlin with the K.T.O (Prussian Building Commission) where he worked as a city planner. Schinkel was widely considered an affable man in his day, witty but polite, well-spoken and peaceful, and zealous in his drive to create art. His friends spoke of the imagination that drove him, which perhaps made him the obsessive worker that he was. When the occupation ended it did not take long for the talented and driven artist to rise to the rank of councillor, overseeing major

civic projects in Berlin and other regions of the liberated kingdom. Although better remembered today as an architect and city planner, he also kept his hand in painting, although he never felt it was his forté.

Schinkel was well read in the German idealism of his day, and so he believed that he could influence and change society through his work; he truly believed that architecture played a crucial part in the growth of a society. He saw the challenges and changes in the world around him as both necessary and good, and he strove through his work to ennoble mankind, believing that all people who were exposed to aesthetic beauty would naturally become improved by it. In his heart he felt that gothic architecture was the rightful national style of the various German/Prussian peoples, and moreover believed that gothic was the most important style ever created. Through his writing we know that he felt gothic works aspired to the infinite, and that their reflection of the organic forms of the natural world gave the style an unconscious expression of spiritual energy, which the architect perhaps even saw as divine.



Gothic Cathedral by a River by Schinkel, continued...

DEREK OXLEY

Our painting this month is titled *Gothischer Dorn am Wasser* (Gothic Cathedral by a River) and is dated to 1813 in the latter years of the Napoleonic wars. Schinkel made a number of paintings that depict fantastic gothic churches, boldly set into their landscapes and highlighted by brilliant yet moody skies. He tended to refer to them as “historical landscapes” due to the prominent medieval, gothic, and classical Greek architecture they depicted; the majority of his gothic landscape paintings were done during the years of French occupation (1805 – 1815). The painting is truly a fantasy on the then unfinished cathedral in the city of Cologne. This cathedral, once touted as the “largest in Europe” in its scope, had nevertheless sat unfinished for centuries by the time Schinkel was born. Construction had begun in 1248, but the work had been completely abandoned in 1560 due to social and political instabilities and lack of funds. So, when the defeat of Napoleon caused a stir of nationalism throughout Prussia, and it was felt that a German cathedral would create an appropriately sentimental symbol to mark the freedom and independence of the Prussian people. Schinkel created this painting with his own vision

of what the cathedral could have been, skeletal yet stately, barely scratching the lofty requirements of honouring his divine gothic. However, in the terse economic realities that followed the years of war and occupation, a massive gothic cathedral project was too expensive for the government to undertake, and this aspiration did not come to pass (it is worth noting that a later construction project did finally complete the Cologne cathedral in the 1880s, over 600 years after it had started. You just can’t rush art). Monuments in a neo-classical style were more feasible and favoured by the aristocracy of the day, so Schinkel ultimately tapped his classical training and went on to design many buildings that still stand in important German cities today, especially in Berlin, where buildings such as the Altes Museum and the National Monument for the Liberation Wars reside. Schinkel made a mark on Berlin as strong as that which Palladio gave to Venice four hundred years earlier. He died in Berlin in October of 1841 after a prolonged illness and a coma. At the time it was said that the tireless man had worked himself to death, never letting himself rest when he took ill.

So far Ottawa’s architecture, to me, feels like it gives a steady

push towards measured control (ironically juxtaposed against a geography which makes the road structure anything but). Stoic government towers by Tunney’s Pasture see counterpoint in the lively streets of Byward Market – each attracting its own crowd. I think on my next walk I will try to consider Schinkel’s belief that architecture can affect us all on a deep spiritual and cultural level and see how much deeper my observation of this city can go. For now, as the sun sets on the bridge, I let my eyes imagine the possibility of new colossal gothic spires, stately classical temples, and mind-boggling space-age constructions yet to be realized, all which might one day dot this picturesque stretch of the Ottawa river. Schinkel’s unrealized cathedral is currently in the collection of the Altes Museum in Berlin.

Sources

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Lewis, Michael. *The Gothic Revival*. London: Thames & Hudson Ltd. 2002.



Obituaries



MADLYN JEAN KERR (1927 – 2022)

Madlyn Jean Kerr (nee Kilpatrick) passed away surrounded by her family on Sunday, November 13, 2022 at Trillium Long Term Care. Predeceased by her husband John Sheard Kerr. Loving mother of late David (Brenda) and Suzanne (late Peter) Wemp. Caring grandmother of Lindsay (Mac), Sarah (Nathan), David (Crystal), and Tracey (Jason). She will live on in the hearts of her many great-grandchildren. Madlyn was predeceased by her brother Bill Kilpatrick and wife Dorothy. Fondly remembered by her many nieces and nephews.

Friends desiring may make memorial donations to St Paul's Presbyterian Church or the charity of choice in memory of Madlyn. Online condolences and donations at www.wartmanfuneralhomes.com.

The above statement was published in the Kingston Whig Standard on November 15, 2022.

The below statement is an excerpt from Madlyn Kerr's eulogy, written by Laurie Kilpatrick.

"Madlyn grew up in Emerald where her parents were in the process of building a new house. Her father operated the Emerald Store and her mother Leith was a nurse and a mid-wife. Madlyn attended the Emerald School for grades 1-8.

Jack Kerr from Toronto was hired to teach on Amherst Island, Madlyn and Jack met, Jack asked Madlyn to attend a dance with him and by 1949 they were very happily married. By 1953 they had two children, David and Suzanne; and a farm on the Front Rd. which is the property where Suzanne now lives.

Madlyn was very active as a volunteer in many community activities. Madlyn and Jack often worked as a team. As one example, they both recognized the importance of the Amherst Island Beacon to the Island community. For a number of years they helped with the production end of it... Madlyn typed, they both collated and they printed The Beacon every two weeks....and that was before computers and printers! We will always remember her calm grace, steady nature, her love of family, and her service to community. We also will remember Madlyn's quick mind and dry wit that lasted her lifetime."



BARBARA FILSON (1925 – 2022)

Barbara Ann Filson (nee Cole) passed away peacefully at the Kingston Health Sciences Centre on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, in her 97th year. Predeceased by her beloved husband Harry Filson. Dear and loving mother of Garry Filson (late Susan) and the late Valerie Howard (Bob). Cherished grandmother of Ashley, Derek (Eva) and Kristy (Deryk). Also missed by her great-grandchildren.

The above statement was published in the Kingston Whig Standard on October 29, 2022.



Obituaries



MARC FRANCIS RAYMOND
(1943 – 2022)

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Marc, our beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, in Kingston on Monday, October 10, 2022.

Marc will be forever missed by his loving wife of 57 years, Marny, his children, Courtney Raymond (Tammy), Jason Raymond (Sarah) and Mary Bryn Raymond (Jevon Austin) and treasured grandchildren, Kayla Raymond (Phill Smith), Brayden Raymond, Zach Austin, Gaike Austin, Ayana Raymond, Tyler Raymond and Spencer Raymond. Marc was predeceased by his parents Joffre and Alice Raymond, and in-laws Don and Faye Millar. He was the dear brother of the late Reina Reddy (Larry), Richard Raymond (Debbie) and their children Julie and Christine, Patricia Raymond (the late Stan Pon) and Kevin Raymond (Dianne) and brother-in-law to Susie Patrick (Dr. Larry), the late Geoff Millar, Douglas Millar

(Charlotte), Ann Marie Gallant and their families.

Marc was a Kingston businessman, heavily involved in the Kingston community and preserving downtown Kingston's heritage, including being instrumental in the updating of Market Square. He was involved with the College of Opticians and the Ontario Optician Association. Marc was the Past President of the Kingston Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Past President of the Kiwanis Club of Kingston. He was an avid boater and took great pride in teaching safe boating to boaters through the Power Squadron.

Marc's family will receive friends on Sunday, October 16, 2022, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the James Reid Funeral Home (1900 John Counter Blvd., Kingston). A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, October 17, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church (490 Days Rd., Kingston), Father John J. Brennan to officiate. Donations in Marc's Memory may be made to the University Hospitals Kingston Foundation-Cancer Centre of Eastern Ontario.

The above statement was published in the Kingston Whig Standard on October 13, 2022.



ARTS AND CULTURE

News from the Museum

ANDERS BENNICK

After a hiatus of two years due to Covid 19 the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre was finally declared open for the 2022 season by a declaration from our town crier at a museum event on May 20.

Closed, but not forgotten for 2 years, more than 1500 people visited the museum in the past season. This is at par with pre-pandemic attendance, so clearly the museum is still considered worth a visit.

The attendance has been helped by the increased cultural and tourism promotion by the township, such as a township wide event (Doors Open) and promotion of the museum and museum related events on the township website. Also, thanks to the township, look forward to an illuminated Christmas tree decorated by island children at the museum this year.

The museum also sponsored the annual Woolly-Bully Run on the South Shore Road organized by Joe Duval of Ottawa. About 150 runners completed the run on a sunny summer day in August. All the proceeds of the run go to the museum, and they are an important source of income.

Later, Halloween brought out the museum witches handing out treats

to an assortment of goblins and other colourful characters.

The continued interest in the museum by both island and non-island residents is also illustrated by the number of artefacts received this year. Thank you to all who donated to the museum.

Thanks to a government grant the cataloguing of artefacts has continued, and once completed the resulting catalogue will be publicly accessible, thereby facilitating access to anyone interested in the holdings of the museum.

The past year also saw the creation of a virtual tour now posted on the museum website, so from your armchair at home you can now see all that the museum has to offer, which should whet the appetite for a visit to the museum.

An annual report was issued to all members earlier in the fall and an electronic vote was held to approve the report and to elect the new board. Unfortunately, the recent Annual General Meeting had to be cancelled due to the weather. It will be rescheduled in the new year, giving members a chance to voice any concerns they may have.

I think that we can be proud of our museum, and this is in no small measure due to the dedicated work of many people over the years, including present and past board members, making it not only a custodian of the island past, but also a cultural resource addressing current needs of present islanders.

If you are not already a member of the museum, please consider joining for a lifetime membership fee of only \$10. To join please send an email to andersbennick@kos.net.





Amherst Island Women's Institute

WENDY SHELLEY

Summer went by quickly, and the WI was busy...

Every Saturday, we set up our Good Morning **Coffee Cart** outside the Museum, a great location to meet people and share some time together. Delicious coffee and tasty muffins too!

In June, we held a **Women's Wine and Cheese Social** at The Lodge. This event was such a success and we received so much positive feedback, that we will repeat it again at The Lodge next year.

Save the date: **June 10, 2023**. Watch for further information next year.

Last July, we hosted a **Book Launch** for *At Last Count*, the debut novel written by Claire Ross Dunn. Books make great Christmas gifts, especially ones with Amherst Island as a setting. We still have a few copies left, contact Joyce Haines if you would like to purchase one.

September 15, we had a relaxing summer **Luncheon** at the Loyalist Golf Club

Andrea Cross was presented with her **10-year pin** at our October meeting. Congratulations Andrea.

We hope you were able to with join us in welcoming the Christmas Season to our community at our **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony** on December 2nd. Music, hot chocolate, family and friends...bring on the Christmas Spirit!

Once again, the WI will be sponsoring the **Saturday Winter Community Market in the Museum's Back Room**. Come for fresh hot coffee and muffins, visit island vendors or just stop by to say hello. We will be there between **10-12** on **January 21, February 18** and **March 18, 2023**.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the WI throughout the past year. WI **meetings** are always open to guests and visitors and are usually held the 3rd Wednesday of the month. **Join us** if you can! Please contact any WI member or Joyce Haines for more information.

Don't forget to check us out on **Facebook** for postings and updates.

We would like to wish you and yours a peace-filled Christmas season, and good health and happiness in the New Year.



AN UPDATE

The Amherst Island Community Alliance

MOLLY STROYMAN



Here is what we have been working on.

AI Blooms ran again and over 50 gardens were awarded their first or second “thank you leaf” for making the island even more beautiful. Although it just feels like we are getting January in November, plan on nominating your garden for next year. Nomination forms will be out Victoria Day weekend and must be returned by Canada Day.

The **All Candidates meeting** on September 27th went extremely well. Almost 60 people turned out to hear what our aspiring politicians had to say. Having the capacity to record and broadcast to the whole township over CJAI is a huge benefit! It means that the mainland candidates will come to the island because they would look really silly if they didn't! Thanks CJAI!

All Island Calendar on the Website – Now it is possible for any of the non-profit groups to put their ‘open to the public’ events up on the Amherst Island Website (www.amherstisland.on.ca). Sooner is better than later to avoid conflicting events. If you need help learning how just let me know and we can give you a hand in getting set up to put your events on the calendar. We hope this will be a resource for all residents to consult about what is happening on the Island.

I think we have made a new friend, the **Great Lakes Island Alliance**. It seems there are about twenty other islands in Canada and the US that have formed this alliance to discuss common issues. How to keep small/rural schools alive, how to provide community services etc. By the time you read this, Peter Huston, their executive director, will have come for a visit and tour on the island. I look forward to reporting on that in the next Beacon.

And it is time for **another census**. The last one was done in 2019. We are already drafting questions to distribute in late May with responses due back shortly after Canada Day. Do you have questions you think we should be asking about what services, needs or wishes you have for our Island?

AICA is looking for new directors for the organization to help with some of our programs. No experience is necessary but if you have a few hours a month to help by volunteering we would love to hear from you.

Send any comments or questions to aicommunityalliance@gmail.com

For now, Happy Holidays and stay warm and healthy,

Molly Stroyman, Chair



CULINARY

The Back Kitchen

MICHELE LE LAY



The Back Kitchen represented by Michèle Le Lay (left) presenting a donation to the Amherst Island Community Medical Clinic represented by Ida Gavlas (right) as a result of the collaborative fundraising project.

GOOD FOOD - GOOD FUN - GOOD CAUSES

At the end of its 2022 regular season, the Amherst Island Community Café (Back Kitchen) was thrilled to partner in a fundraising project with the Amherst Island Community Medical Clinic (AICMC).

This fundraiser initiative was the first post-COVID opportunity that allowed the Back Kitchen to progressively return to its original mission and goals to have volunteers in the kitchen, provide a community service, use local products as much as possible and collaborate with other Amherst Island community groups.



CULINARY

The Back Kitchen

GOOD FOOD - GOOD FUN - GOOD CAUSES was the first of several fundraising initiatives the BK Board intends to organize in the upcoming months to raise the balance of capital funds needed to pay off the mortgage in full (app. \$22K) by June 2024 and, therefore, allow the community to become the sole owner of the property. When approving this initiative, the Back Kitchen Board of Directors also decided to share the profits of this fundraiser with the AICMC. As both organizations are not-for-profit and share a mission to provide services to Island residents, it was important that the **GOOD CAUSES** component brought awareness and financial benefits to both groups.

GOOD FOOD: The Back Kitchen's volunteers prepared dishes using recipes from the newly published AICMC's Amherst Island Cookbook 2022. It was an opportunity to promote the cookbook and to offer everyone a chance to sample some of its amazing recipes submitted by our neighbours and friends: Karen Fleming; Dave Willard; Bev Harris; Sally Bowen; Eloise Gowan; Sabina Sormova; Sarah Vanstone; Paula Pike; Marie Ward; Janet Scott; Gwen Lauret; Diane Pearce; and Charlene Faraday.

GOOD FUN: More than 200 meals (appetizer/soup, main dish and dessert) were prepared and sold by a dedicated group of Back Kitchen's new and returning volunteers. The success of this project is the result of their enthusiasm, dedication and commitment in planning, shopping, cooking, cleaning, packaging and delivering the meals. Their team spirit, creativity, skills and problem solving made this experience exciting and fun. Kudos to Amanda Bateman, Tim Griffin, Bev Harris, Janet Heath, Kate Hefferon, Ali MacKeen, Karen McWilliam, Mary Pat Moore, Diane Pearce, Stephane Levac, Karen Fleming, Lynann Whitton, Kitsy McMullen, Sabina Sormova, Annick Mitchell and Lynn Wyminga. Volunteers' engagement and dedication are vital to the continued existence of all not-for-profit organizations so every action, big or small, to boost cooperation is crucial and the Back Kitchen is grateful to all for their time and efforts.

Achieving the goals of **GOOD FOOD - GOOD FUN - GOOD CAUSES** would not have been possible without the tremendous and generous response from the community. Once again, the Amherst Island residents' reaction to community initiatives was uplifting, gratifying and very encouraging for future projects.





A THANK YOU

St. Paul's

To our A.I. Community – Some Thank-You's from St. Paul's

Thank you to all who came out to share in the "conversation" on November 13th. We are now sorting and compiling all those great ideas into a workable document which we will share with the community soon. Once that document is distributed, everyone will have another opportunity to add suggestions and other new ideas.

Thanks to everyone who came out to enjoy lunch and do Christmas shopping at our Bazaar on November 19th. That poor weather forecast on Saturday didn't stop folks from enjoying the opportunity to see friends and neighbours again and take advantage of some fabulous Christmas crafts and home-baked goodies. Thanks to all who contributed and bought!

Advent and Christmas Services

As we approach Christmas, St. Paul's would like to invite everyone on the Island and their guests to join us for our services during the Advent season. Nathan Townend will be in the pulpit. All services start at 11 a.m. (except for those noted below).

Sunday, November 27th – **Hope**

Sunday, December 4th – **Peace**

Sunday, December 11th – **Joy**

Sunday, December 18th – **Love**

Sunday, December 18th at 6 p.m. – **Live Nativity Scene & Carol Sing*** – at St. Paul's

Saturday, December 24th at 7:30 p.m. – **Christmas Eve Service** – with readings, carols and Communion

Sunday, December 25th – Christmas Day – no service that day

*Live Nativity and Carol Sing

Sunday, December 18th

A live Nativity and Carol Sing will be held outdoors at St. Paul's on Sunday evening, December 18th at 6 p.m. Bring your family to this unique event, but make sure you dress warmly. We will be serving hot chocolate and cookies to all who attend. This is being organized jointly by St. Alban's and St. Paul's.





HEALTH AND WELLNESS



The AICMC

The AICMC has been busy this past summer and fall, bringing you **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 help us remain healthy and active in our community. These are provided by health-care professionals, experts in their fields, who always provide good and comprehensive information on their areas of expertise.

Our information events are held at St Paul's Presbyterian Church, generally on the third Tuesday of each month, at either 1:00 pm or 7:00 pm. There is no charge for these events. Donations are always welcome.

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May 11th, 2022 – Melissa Smith, Registered Nurse and Désirée Mathias, Registered Dietitian, both Diabetes Educators with the Napanee Area Community Health Centre, presented "Staying Healthy with Diabetes". They provided various tools, resources, and the latest information to help us live well with diabetes.

August 17, 2022 – Mitul (Mike) Pavagadhi, B.Sc. Pharm, Pharmacy Manager and Owner of the Bath Family Pharmacy discussed the importance of understanding "Drug Interactions and Over the Counter Medications", providing the answers to the many important medication-related questions we might have.

October 18, 2022 – Kristin Kelly, Registered Massage Therapist discussed the mechanics of "Back Pain", massage therapy, and how to combine the science of healing with the art of relaxation. Kristin gave us some of the latest information and techniques for alleviating back discomfort.

November 15, 2022 – We changed our format, and added Chair Exercises led by Judy Greer, a delicious Loaves and Fishes soup and sandwich lunch prepared by Janet Scott and Karen Fleming, and followed these 2 events with an Informative Discussion by Ashley Blay, an Audiologist from Hearing Life, about "Hearing and Hearing Loss".

And, coming up – December 13, 2022 between 1:00-3:00 pm Drop in and join us for mulled cider and cookies at our Christmas Season Get-together at St Paul's. Come see what we have accomplished over the past year and hear our plans for 2023.

We would like to **thank** all our information event presenters for **volunteering** their time and expertise. We are pleased to have received positive feedback from event attendees. The question and answer time after the presentation always generates a lot of good discussion. Thank you also, to St Paul's for providing us the space for meetings and events.

We are always looking for new ideas for additional programs and events. Please talk with us or email and let us know what you would like to see.

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Apart from information events, The AICMC has been busy providing Immunization Clinics on the island. Many thanks, again to all the volunteers who made these immunization clinics possible.
Covid Booster Vaccine Clinic: September 29, 2022 (97 people immunized)
Flu Vaccine Clinic: November 10, 2022 (107 people immunized, with some also receiving a Covid booster at the same time)

The AICMC is offering two new programs to Amherst Island Residents.

Water Testing

If you are on a well, Ontario Drinking Water Standards state that you should test your drinking water at least 3 times a year to ensure it is free from harmful BACTERIA. Is your Drinking Water SAFE? Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Public Health Department will test your drinking water free of charge, and the AICMC will take your water in for testing*.
All you need to do is:

- Pick up your Public Health Water Test Bottle from the vestibule at McGinn's Store
- Carefully follow the instructions for collecting and labelling your water sample
- Collect your sample no more than 48 hours before pick-up, and place your water sample in the labelled cooler in the vestibule at McGinn's Store, before 9:30am on December 12, 2022

NOTE: *the AICMC will be collecting Water Sample Bottles again on April 24, 2023 and July 5, 2023.
For more information, and step-by-step instructions on collecting your water sample, go to: kflaph.ca/drinkingwater

Frozen Meal Program

The AICMC, in partnership with the VON is piloting 'Apetito', a frozen meal program for residents on the island. This program is similar to a 'Meals on Wheels Program' offered in other communities. Meals will be available on an emergency basis, or by regular ordering.

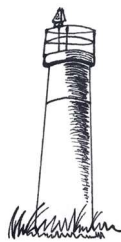
There are a variety of meal choices, and special diets are available: low salt, no added sugar, low fat, gluten free, vegetarian and vegan. Meals are nutritionally balanced, and available through a monthly order. The AICMC will do scheduled monthly meal pick-ups from the VON in Napanee and store them. Meals can be picked up at the church or delivered if necessary.

The Clinic plans to have a few meals on hand for 'emergency situations' so we can assist those who find they are in a situation where they are unable to prepare a meal for whatever reason.

At present, anyone can order up to 7 meals at a time, at a cost of \$37.00/7 meals, or 5 meals + soup or dessert \$37.00. Eventually, those who would like to register for regular meals, will be set up as clients with the VON.

If you feel you might be interested in this program, please let us know. We will set up a date to meet with you to discuss your needs and review the menu with you. Menu choice forms are available to order specific items.

Please note: The AICMC phone number for calls regarding meals and other programs is: 613-893-2192



**The Amherst Island Community
Medical Clinic**

Invites you to a

Christmas Season get-together

Drop in and join us for mulled cider and cookies.

Come see what we have accomplished over the past year,
and hear our plans for 2023.

Tuesday, December 13th, 2022 between 1:00 – 3:00 pm

at St Paul's Presbyterian Church

**NEWEST ISLANDER**

A Baby Born on Amherst Island

**TIMOTHY ANDREWS
LINDSAY TATTERSALL**

It is rare these days for a baby to be born on Amherst Island. Back in the day, without a reliable ferry service, or dependable transportation to the mainland, at-home island births were more common. This year, Amherst Island welcomed a baby born in a family cottage on the north shore.

Although Timothy and Lindsay are not full time Amherst Island residents, the island has always been a part of their lives. Gayla Bonham-Carter, Cherry's granddaughter, has been close friends with both Timothy and Lindsay since they were all infants themselves. The friends grew up visiting the island and spending time at the family cottage together. As Timothy and Lindsay's relationship blossomed in the summer of 2020, they realised that they had both grown up rather transient, moving frequently, and they never really considered any residence to feel like home. However, they consider Amherst Island to be the place that most feels most like home to both; the island, and the cottage, were special. Naturally, it was the birth of their child that would bring them back home to spend that time together.

The environment in which Lindsay delivered the baby was very important to her. Timothy explained she wanted to give birth in front of a woodstove, in a peaceful area, with nature close by. Naturally, the cottage on Front Road, Amherst Island, came to mind. To them, the cottage, and the simple living that comes with living there, was what they desired for the time leading up to the birth of their child. They booked the cottage through Mark Ritchie, for two months, around the time they expected the baby to arrive.

As a healthcare provider, as a midwife herself, Lindsay knew she didn't want to have the baby in the hospital. She wanted an intervention free birthing process and leaving the house to drive to the hospital is a type of intervention. Additionally, the baby was destined to arrive during the various lockdowns and restrictions related to the pandemic, and Lindsay wanted multiple people to be both present and able to visit at the time.





NEWEST ISLANDER

A Baby Born on Amherst Island

TIMOTHY ANDREWS
LINDSAY TATTERSALL

Lindsay was finishing her Bachelor of Health Sciences degree in Midwifery and working overtime hours each week in her field as well. She knew that she would have about six weeks after finishing work before the baby arrived, and she wanted to spend that mental and emotional preparation time in a place she could feel safe and comfortable; on the island. Lindsay is keenly aware that there is an element of the birthing process that begins long before labour, the mental and emotional preparation. The baby must feel safe enough to come out as well, so Lindsay understands that birthing is a processing relationship between the body and the baby.



Gayla Bonham-Carter and a newborn lamb (left), and Lindsay Tattersall with newborn Sojourner (right).



Baby Sojourner (Soji for short).

Many islanders understand there are risks involved with delivering a baby on the island, relatively far from hospital and intensive care. Timothy and Lindsay discussed the risks, and with their team of midwives, created a variety of emergency plans if additional intervention may become necessary.

The only two things that they identified as not being immediately available to them on the island, were an emergency Caesarian section, or an emergency blood transfusion. If they were going to need to transfer to a hospital, they believed the midwives would see ample warning signs in time to safely transfer to the hospital. The entire time a transfer to the hospital was an option, if necessary, it just was not one of their first choices. Midwives provide low risk pre-natal care, and Obstetricians provide high risk pre-natal care. Fortunately, Lindsay's pregnancy and delivery was deemed to be relatively low risk.

The first signs of labour began on May 21st and they called the midwives to join on May 22nd at 2:00am, as labour became more intense. After the realisation that the baby was not making much progress, it seemed that Lindsay's labour had stopped. Lindsay thought the baby may be facing the wrong way, and she was tired. It was around 7:30am at this point. The midwives began talking about a potential transfer to hospital, but Lindsay fought the fatigue, stood up and started moving around. They collectively realised the baby was backwards, so she started doing lunges to encourage the baby to turn.

Eventually, on May 23rd at 8:39am, little baby Sojourner was born. Baby Soji is healthy and happy, and already enjoying life on the island.

Congratulations to Timothy and Lindsay on their child, and welcome to Amherst Island little Sojourner!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Tree Lighting Ceremony

MERRY CHRISTMAS

On December 2, 2022, islanders gathered at the ferry terminal in Stella for a Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony sponsored by the Amherst Island Women's Institute (AIWI). Lots of cookies, candy canes, and delicious hot chocolate was provided by the AIWI to help everyone into the spirit of the holiday. Donations were accepted for the local food bank to help others this season as well. St. Paul's choir provided musical accompaniment for the event, which was lovely. Overall, it was a great turnout and a fun event!

Thank you to Andrea Cross for organizing the majority of this event! Thank you to everyone involved who helped to make the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony a success. Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas everyone.



Photograph of the Amherst Island Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony sponsored by the AIWI, taken by Don Woodiwiss Photography, woodiwissphotography.com.



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

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Bath
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www.pharmasave.com

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Fax: 613-352-1177

Store Hours:
Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm
Saturday: 10am – 3pm
Sunday: Closed





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*Subject to applicable taxes after discount. One coupon per customer. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer. Excludes codine 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

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

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.



The Beacon

Available to Read at:

- The May – December 2022 issue of *The Beacon* will be available in print, for \$5 at McGinn's General Store, Stella, ON.
- This issue 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 amherstislandbeacon@gmail.com



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