

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

THE BEACON

LIGHTHEARTED LEVEE AT THE LODGE



Keith Miller providing the levee at The Lodge with spontaneous musical accompaniment.



Deputy Mayor Nathan Townend and Ward 1 Councillor Lorna Willis at the levee.



Janet Grace (left) and Molly Stroyman (right), engaging in conversation at the levee at The Lodge.

First, I must apologize for not getting an all-island mailer out about the Levee!

I relied on the Beacon article and Facebook and that was a mistake. I learned that some people did not hear about it. That won't happen again! I am augmenting the Lodge email list for next year as one more way to inform islanders about events.

With the encouragement of several folks, I plan on doing it again nest year...so save the date: January 1st. 2024 from 1-4pm! Happy New Year to you all!

The New Year's Levee

MOLLY STROYMAN

It was a joy to see about 60- 70 neighbours here at the Lodge to visit speak to Lorna and Nathan. We need to tell them what we are concerned about. We need to ask them what we need to do to support them in their efforts to support

Island needs. The Levee is a place to start.

A few folks could only pop in and dash, but many stayed and had good long visits with people they may not have seen face to face for a long time. Old fashioned visiting is a wonderful thing to watch! And a great way to catch up on the news of the island.

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AMHERST ISLAND ARTISTS

Shirley Miller

FEATURED ARTIST

Shirley is a long-time resident of Amherst Island, many of her art pieces reflect the life of the island, friends, and family. The below statement is a written description of her life as an artist, submitted to the L&A County Museum and Archives display in Napanee, ON in 2019.

Shirley Miller; “Many years of school bus driving taught me that every day ordinary places that I had passed morning and night for many years could suddenly be spectacular because of the sun, a storm or season.

Special moments can happen anywhere, and a camera let me take them home. If I got excited enough, a painting would happen and sometimes a poem as well. I often say, ‘if you aren't excited how can you expect your viewer to be excited’.

I could always draw. David Wick came to the Island in the early 1970s with a night school class in watercolours, it is there I learned about real paint and paper and brushes. I have been painting ever since and had my first show in 1979. I started teaching friends about painting, but I think I have learned the most.”



A Shirley Miller original watercolour.



One of Shirley Miller's first paintings.



Shirley Miller in her studio on Amherst Island.



Shirley Miller's painting of the Amherst Islander.



POETRY

A Wee House



A Shirley Miller painting of Keith Miller in his Wee House at the Landfill.

Shirley Miller: “Every once in a while I enjoy writing a bit of nonsense, so here is a fun poem I wrote in Scotland in the middle of the night. It has nothing to do with the painting above, but it has a bit of Keith’s sense of humour in it. This was the “office” he worked out of when he first started at the dump. It was a retired outhouse.”

SHIRLEY MILLER

We bought a wee house in a quaint English town
But the windows were sideways, and the doors upside down
The problem compounded when we got inside
For the whole of the house was just three feet wide
When we came to the stairs, we were really in luck
They only descended; they never went up.

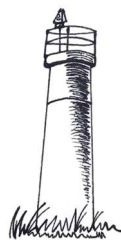
Our attempt to redecorate got off with a bang
They had sold us the wallpaper that just would not hang
We decided to paint then, and that was a scream
The paint was all lumpy and smelled just like cream
The carpets are fine ones, made of horsehair
They whinny when stepped on but don’t go anywhere

We we went to the kitchen in search of a suite
The table fits grandly but no room for a seat
The cook was there smiling, dressed as white as could be
It seems that he only makes weak English tea
The reason he gave us and I’m sure its quite true
The house has no stove and that just would not do

We have two fine chimneys one at either end
But the smoke, like the stairs, will only descend
Being a fixer, I needed proof
So I looked for a ladder to get to the roof
I went to the barn and encountered a cow
Who quite shortly informed me, ‘it’s not milking time now’

‘I’ve come for a ladder, do you think you can help?’
‘It’s out by the pig pen, go get it yourself’
The pigs had the ladder stretched twix two rocks
And they all set upon it like a shelf full of pots
They grunted and grumbled as each one climbed down
‘How can we get sun tans with all this mud on the ground?’

I arrived at the house with the ladder in hand
And stood there admiring how lovely, how grand
I was just setting the ladder to get to the roof
When mother awoke me, it was only a spoof.

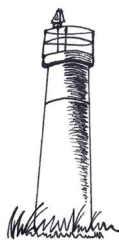


ARTS AND CULTURE

Keith and Shirley Miller by Chris Laffin



An oil painting portrait of Shirley and Keith Miller, March 2021, Christopher Laffin (Chris Laffin Art).



EVENTS

Community Calendar – January 2023

Compiled and Provided by Deb Barrett

Ongoing recreation programs at the AI Community Centre.
Please see flyer and check with organizer for the current schedule.

January 1 Happy New Year!

1:00 to 4:00 at The Lodge on Amherst Island 325 McDonalds Lane. Molly Stroyman has kindly agreed to host the Island New Year's Day Levee. Come greet old and new friends and meet Deputy Mayor Nathan Townend and Councillor Lorna Willis.

Sundays January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

10:30 Worship at St. Alban's

11:00 Worship at St. Paul's

Note on January 1 St. Paul's will celebrate Christmas Eve with readings and carols as the service was cancelled due to the blizzard.

Monday January 2 at the AI School and Community Centre

8:00am 123rd annual Amherst Island Christmas Bird Count. Meet for coffee and muffins at the AI School and Community Centre. Assigned birder groups will start their routes at 8:30 am. Return to the community centre at noonish for a free lunch of soup, chili, rolls.

Of course, if COVID continues to rise in this area, plans may change. We have our fingers crossed, but we will let you know as soon as possible if group gatherings become restricted again. If you're planning to join the Amherst Island bird count, please e-mail Bonnie Livingstone bonnie.livingstone@gmail.com Or if you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Bonnie at 613-389-8516. Routes and groupings are planned in advance, so it's helpful to know if you plan to participate. Thanks to Janet Scott and Bonnie Livingstone for maintaining this important tradition.

Monday January 2

Renewable Energy Fund Grants open. Applications are due February 1 but please plan ahead as some proposals require multiple quotations. Also please note that this replaces the community grant of up to \$1000 that was available to community groups such as ISLE, AIMS, WI, Community Alliance and the Back Kitchen. The application form and additional information are available at: [https://www.loyalist.ca/en/living-in-loyalist/community-grants.aspx#:~:text=Loyalist%20Township%20is%20now%20accepting,50\)%20for%20each%20application%20period](https://www.loyalist.ca/en/living-in-loyalist/community-grants.aspx#:~:text=Loyalist%20Township%20is%20now%20accepting,50)%20for%20each%20application%20period)

Friday, January 6 at St. Bartholomew's 12520 Front Road

7:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Concert now on The Twelfth Night
Dress warmly! Donations invited.



EVENTS

Community Calendar – January 2023

Monday, January 9th Updated - Virtual Meeting

7:00 pm Amherst Island Agricultural Society - Annual General Meeting Guest Speaker- Yvonne Compton, President of the Kingston Fair Board. Everyone welcome. Please contact: a.i.ag.society@gmail.com to obtain the link for the meeting and for information about membership.

Friday January 13 at the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre

7:00 pm Annual General Meeting of the Neilson Store Museum followed by a Back Room Talk.

We will have a quick meeting to enable discussion on the 2022 Annual Report, followed by a very special Backroom Talk presentation by the Amherst Island resident artist and Neilson Store Museum Board member, Peter Large.

This show, known as “Traces” is a visual trip back to a past way of life. It is a collection of drawings portraying many of Amherst Island's historical buildings, landscapes and relic farm equipment. Each image is like the cover of a book hinting at the tales within. We hope, with audience participation, to uncover some of these stories as we view the beautiful images together. Light refreshments will be served after the show. Free admission (donations are always welcome).

Wednesday, January 18 at St. Paul's

7:00 pm Monthly meeting of the Amherst Island Women's Institute. All welcome. Please contact Judy Greer if you plan to attend.

Saturday, January 21 at St. Paul's

2:00pm the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Amherst Island Community Café (“the Back Kitchen”).

Saturdays January 21, February 18, March 18 at the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre

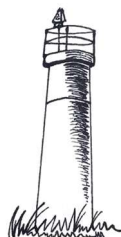
10:00 am to noon Winter Community Market in the Back Room. Enjoy coffee, muffins and treats offered by the Women's Institute. Escape the cold and catch up with your neighbours.

Ongoing

Amherst Island Cookbooks in support of the Amherst Island Medical Clinic available from Ida Gavlas. E-transfer \$20 per cookbook to: aicmc2021@gmail.com

Additions and corrections invited!

You can sync your calendar in Google, Outlook, whatever, with the community calendar on the St. Paul's web site. Go to <https://stpaulsamherstisland.com/calendar/> At the lower right click on "subscribe", select your calendar and you are in sync.



AN UPDATE

A Letter from the Editor

KAYLEIGH GRAHAM

Thank you all for your messages of support and continued dedication as readers of *The Beacon*.

After re-launching the new format, I was hoping the community would embrace it, and I was absolutely stunned by the positive reactions that came after releasing the December 2022 issue.

As some of you may have noticed, the printed copies of the December 2022 paper were strictly black and white, which made the images difficult to view. I am still searching for a printing company that will provide grayscale printing at a reasonable price. Printing the paper in grayscale will allow a variety of tones in each image, making them easier to view. The current company prints grayscale on a laser printer only, so the cost increases from black and white printing by about 700% for a large job such as this. If anyone has any ideas, please let me know, I'm open to recommendations!

For those of you who wish to see the images in their original quality, the previous issue will have been loaded onto the archives any day now.

The publication will continue to be printed in 8.5" x 11" page format, as that seemed to be both a popular and cost-effective change!

In order to keep publishing issues on a regular schedule, and alleviate the pressure of monthly deadlines, *The Beacon* will continue to be produced every other month. This will mean that 6 issues will be released yearly. I will continue to post the article submission deadlines along with the issue release dates on this page.

THANK YOU

The return of *The Beacon* is largely thanks to the support and organization of Andrea Cross, who has been instrumental in public outreach and article collection.

I would also like to thank all of the community members and organizations who have submitted articles and provided ideas for new content for the paper.

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/>

SUBMISSION & PUBLICATION DATES

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

2023 Publication Schedule

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 March 2023 issue.



BUSINESS

Handy Fairies

PHUONG MACNEIL

In an interview recently with Andrea Cross, Phuong MacNeil answered several questions about her business *Handy Fairies*.

Why did you decide to live on Amherst Island?

“I love sailing and wanted to find a home that would allow me to sail as much as I could, so we started to look for property that had easy access to water. We didn't know this island even existed. Our first time on the island was in September 2016, and it made us feel like we were transported back to 200 years ago, when it was just farmland and water. Our lovely neighbor came over to give us a dozen fresh eggs from his chickens. So, we just fell in love with the place.”

Tell us how you developed your business and what now is the region you serve?

“I started my business back in 2005, but it wasn't quite the time. So, I decided to return to my software career to gain more Canadian working experience. In 2017, after was laid off from my position (Avaya reduced size)

I was so happy finally, as I saw an opportunity to focus on my business. I started the business with a post on our community Facebook page, and I got calls. I would like to say I am extremely lucky to have started business on the island because everyone really wanted to help. They called me for cleaning services, or recommended me, or gave me suggestions that helped me land larger contracts. I was a shy person, and many islanders helped my business keep growing and growing. I know for sure I wouldn't have gotten this far without the community support from my neighbours. I am truly grateful for this support; Amherst Island is a very special place.”

What are your goals and dreams for your business?

“My goal for Handy Fairies is to create opportunities for women immigrating to Canada to have a way to blend into the community as I did. I remember back in 2005 I don't feel confident and I struggled, but as soon as I made some money on my own I gained more confidence. That is why I want Handy Fairies to help newcomers to become financially independent as they immerse themselves in this community.

The women I hire can just focus on their cleaning skills and let the Handy Fairies management team take care of the administrative side of the business for them.

We are an international team, our team members are from Vietnam, Mexico, the Philippines, Ukraine, and Canada. So, to make everyone feel proud of what they are doing, we call ourselves Cleaning Specialists. We are not just cleaners, but we all have a variety of educational backgrounds and still chose to do this because it fits our lifestyles and schedules.

What do you love about the work you are doing?

“I love to see my employees succeed and become more independent, and our clients enjoy their clutter-free and clean homes.”

Contact Handy Fairies at:

[instagram.com/handyfairies/](https://www.instagram.com/handyfairies/)
[facebook.com/handyfairies/](https://www.facebook.com/handyfairies/)
<https://handyfairies.com/>





POLITICS

Council Corner



LORNA WILLIS

Happy New Year! The big question these days is “will we see the new ferry in 2023?”.

To address community concerns, at the Dec. 12 Regular Council Meeting, Deputy Mayor Nathan Townend made the following statement:

“I want to take the time to acknowledge residents’ questions and concerns with respect to the in-service launch of the Amherst Islander II. Council and staff share public frustration with the apparent lack of explanations for delays, and updated timelines going forward. As such, we acknowledge that communication is a general and ongoing challenge, and leaves much to be desired. Loyalist remains committed to providing the most accurate information when it comes available. Part of the challenge at this point in time is that Loyalist Township is not responsible for the Amherst Islander II. The Ministry of Transportation is the body responsible for the procurement, possession, ownership, maintenance, and current storage of the vessel. As such, any information pertinent to the current status of the vessel, such as remediation of any deficiencies and other tasks yet to be completed, remains the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation.

We acknowledge that in the absence of more information, theory and speculation arises. I will briefly address some of the misinformation that has been expressed on social media and other channels.

Firstly, I can confirm that the electrification infrastructure required to charge the new vessel has yet to be installed. The Ministry is addressing this situation, however contrary to what some have suggested, this is not an impediment to the Amherst Islander II being in service. The Township has been advised that it is expected that the new vessel will operate using back-up diesel power until the necessary electrification has been installed.

Secondly, I can reassure residents that Loyalist Township has qualified staff to operate the new vessel. Staffing challenges pertain to the numbers of those qualified staff that are required in order to be in compliance with federal regulations. As will have been noticed, The Township has been advertising and hiring more staff in anticipation. To date, staffing has not been the cause for delay in the in-service launch of the new vessel.

Staff hiring is only one example of the substantial amount of work being done to prepare for the arrival of the new vessel. Other examples include development of staff training plans including provisions for service continuation during this phase, preparations to negotiate a new operations agreement with the Ministry of Transportation and the development of new manning documents. Staff have been working diligently to anticipate and proactively address operational considerations for the new vessel in order to ensure that when it arrives, we are able to operate it promptly.

Loyalist also continues to press our partners at the Ministry of Transportation for more up to date information on the current status of the new vessel. To this end, the Township is scheduled this week to attend a meeting brokered by our MPP Mr. Bresee, with the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation. At the meeting we expect to share our concerns and challenges, not least of all the availability of accurate information for our residents. We anticipate this meeting will help us all move ahead with greater clarity. Loyalist has long been an effective partner with the Ministry of Transportation in operating the Amherst Island ferry service, and we remain committed to that partnership.



POLITICS

Council Corner, continued...



LORNA WILLIS

In conclusion, while residents may remain perplexed by questions that are still unanswered, they should feel confident that their municipality is doing everything within its power to answer those questions and advance the arrival and in-service operation of the Amherst Islander II."

As Councillor for Ward 1, I was asked to provide any further comment:

"I appreciate the Deputy Mayor's comments and summary of the current situation. I, too, am looking forward to the meeting with MPP Bresee and ministry staff.

I am hopeful that the meeting will result in a clearly articulated plan, with realistic timelines, that defines the path forward to commissioning the Amherst Islander II. I am also hopeful that MTO will increase the frequency and quality of communication to the public.

The Township's portion of the ferry operating costs are 100% recovered through user fees. Given that there will be additional costs to operate the new vessel, I'm sure that residents will be reassured that their interests will be safe guarded in the negotiation of a new operations agreement.

I echo the Deputy Mayor's comments that Township staff are in a difficult position. In discussions with staff, I am left with no doubt that staff are competent and doing their absolute best to manage any items that are within their control. I'm disappointed when I hear suggestions to the contrary. For island residents, the ferry is our lifeline and concerns about the stability of the service are valid. Interest in the new ferry (or ferries) reaches beyond Amherst Island – as evidenced by recent comments on social media. Taxpayers, in general, are perplexed and frustrated by unexplained delays. The lack of

clear communication leaves residents feeling anxious and creates a vacuum to be filled with rumors and misinformation. This is the message that we need to carry forward in our upcoming meeting."

In response to posts on the Loyalist Township social pages, both Global TV and The Kingstonist published follow-up articles. As of the writing of this column (Dec 20, 2022), the promised meeting has not been scheduled. We are confident that MPP Bresee will arrange a meeting with the Ministry as soon as possible and we will report back to the community.

Do you have comments, questions, or concerns? I want to hear from you. Here is how you can reach me:

Email – lwillis@loyalist.ca

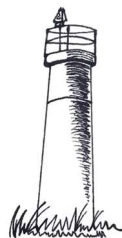
Phone/Text – (613) 389-1005

Facebook – My council Facebook page is @lornawillisward1

Newsletter – Since not everyone is on Facebook, I am 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.



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

See page 7-8, *Council Corner*, for an update from Councillor Willis.

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.

JANUARY // 2023

Island Information



THE BEACON

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

Jack Pine by Tom Thompson

DEREK OXLEY

Landscapes have become entrenched in the notion of a Canadian artistic identity, so this month we are going to look at one plain air landscape painter who has become legendary in the unfolding history of Canadian art. British critics have often commented on how fiercely Canadian artists stick to the subject of their own geography, but considering we are currently the second largest geographic country in the world (at just under 10 million square kilometers), with a population roughly on par with the state of California (around 38 million), it should be no surprise that we have a lot of land to look at. A century ago, when the population was more like 7 million people, the landscape was an even more unavoidable companion to many common people eking out a living in the vast territories. With this absolutely enormous amount of space per capita, and a steady rotation of seasons across every type of terrain, there was a lot of natural wilderness to explore. That is exactly what Tom Thomson (1877-1917) and his group of artist friends sought to capture in making their mark on Canadian art history. And so was born *Jack Pine*, a painting that became synonymous

with Canada during the twentieth century, with many generations feeling that the image was as important a symbol to Canada as the Bluenose or the Tragically Hip. Today it continues to be widely exhibited and generally well known to Canadians.

Tom Thomson grew up near Owen Sound, Ontario, spending much of his youth in the countryside learning from his father and cousins. He developed

a love of the wilderness and became an excellent woodsman and forager, which served him well on his later forays around Algonquin Park. When he was around twenty-four he moved to Seattle to study business, but he quickly dropped school in favour of working at a photo-engraving firm, where he trained his hand and gained some skills in design. In 1905 he returned to Toronto and got a job with the design firm Grip Ltd. as a commercial artist. Here is where



Thompson, Tom. *Jack Pine*. Oil on canvas. 1916-1917. The National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada.



ARTS AND CULTURE

Jack Pine by Tom Thompson, *continued...*

DEREK OXLEY

Thomson's story becomes inextricably tied to the early formative years of Canada's now famous Group of Seven (Go7) painters. Thomson did not start toying with paint until he was twenty-eight, and then never seriously until well into his thirties. Although he was a skilled and well-trained engraver, he had very little formal training in painting, having taken only a few evening school courses. But through the urging of his fellows, Thomson took up painting more seriously, adopting a bright palette and absorbing new painting techniques quickly. He was known to many as having a shy and moody temperament – something of a tortured romantic painter, but his circle of his friends remembered him as a generous and pleasant, albeit quirky soul. For instance, after selling a painting to the Ontario government in 1913 for \$250 (his first major sale), Thomson famously cashed the cheque into single dollar bills so he could toss them in the air and surround himself with the money.

The official founding members of the Go7 were James E. MacDonald, Lawren Harris, Alexander Jackson, Frank Johnston (who lasted only a year), Arthur Lismer, Frederick Varley, and Franklin Carmichael.

This group came together through their shared association with

Grip Ltd. (who employed most of them at one point or another) and through their membership in the exclusive Arts and Letters Club, which was held in a hall and suites on the top floor of the Assize Courthouse; a popular spot for artists and academics to meet on their lunches. This club went on to found the Art Gallery of Toronto in 1919, which is now the Art Gallery of Ontario. One of the aspirations of this club was to raise the bar in Canadian arts, which by 1910 many young Canadian artists felt was stagnating in the hands of the established academies of the era. This attack against stagnating academicism was not unique to Canada, with similar sentiments fomenting in other European countries like Sweden, the Netherlands, and Germany, as well as the United States, all of which saw landscape paintings that share a kindred quality with the Go7 style. Like-minded in their drive to establish a unique Canadian style, this group of friends solidified in the five years leading up to World War 1 and began taking trips to places like Manitoulin Island, Haliburton, the Laurentians, and Georgian Bay, to sketch and paint the Canadian wilderness in areas around Ontario. Sketches were primarily

made with oil paints on small wooden panels which could fit easily into a specially made sketching box for easy transport through the rough wilderness. We estimate Thomson created around three hundred sketches during his various treks in the wild, all in the space of just over 5 years. There are stories that he would often throw unfinished sketches into the bush when they didn't turn out. He did however keep those he deemed worthy, considering many to be finished pieces in themselves.

Of all the places Thomson visited his favorite place to sketch, by far, was the Algonquin Park area (a nearly 12-hour train from Toronto in his day). At Thomson's suggestion the group spent the summer of 1914 in the Algonquin wilderness, which was perhaps the most important of these early trips for the formation of the Go7 (and is why this early iteration is unofficially called the Algonquin School, with Thomson as a prominent member). Although the prolific trip was remembered joyfully, its conclusion aligned with the outbreak of WW1, which disintegrated many of their immediate plans with the Arts and Letters Club.



Jack Pine by Tom Thompson, *continued...*

DEREK OXLEY

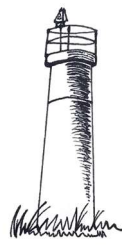
Jackson left to help with the war, but most stayed in the Toronto area and had to settle for working in a studio for the foreseeable future. There was a silver lining however in that during this time they matured their style, shifting towards a more decorative approach to their landscapes, an idea more in tune with Art Nouveau than with plein air impressionism. For a time, Thomson shared a studio with Jackson, who had joined him, along with Lismer and Varley, on that important 1914 experience. Thomson, however, grew ever more wary of city life and so began a pattern of leaving Toronto from early spring until late fall, often spending months at a time in solitude, making sketches of the landscape and returning only through the winter to commit his sketches to larger oil on canvas paintings. His friends helped set him up in a small apartment shack behind the studio where Harris worked, and the two would collaborate through the winters alongside Lismer, who visited frequently.

It was during the 1916 season that Thomson made his sketch for the now famous *Jack Pine*, which was made into a large canvas piece in the winter of 1917. The scene is a sunset from the shore of Grand Lake in Algonquin Park, with a lone pine tree beginning to suffer the fading light as it transforms into a silhouette

for the viewer. It captures a still and serene moment, without winds to disturb the waters or branches. As a studio piece it is a more polished image than the sketches. While his sketches were observed by his traveling companions as painterly and instinctive, it was the layer of Art Nouveau design that made the studio pieces far more picturesque. At this point I need to mention that this is the first time in years that I've been able to go and see the piece I am writing about in person, and I'd forgotten that it gives a very important extra layer to reflect on, far more than one can fully see in books or screens. The brushstrokes for the sky and water are painstakingly horizontal, so that when the shrubbery and pine in the foreground break this linearity it draws our eyes. Darker foreground colours play against warmer background colours, increasing the sense of dusk sapping the light from our eyes. There is an almost impasto-like brush stroke quality – the oil paint is thickly layered on, which when you can see it right in front of you gives more play and depth to the contours and shadows than if the imager were reprinted in a book. It almost feels like it's begging to be made three dimensional.

Seeing works of impressionism and expressionism in person adds much more gravitas to each style for me, even if I'm not warm towards every painting I see.

Thomson went back to Algonquin in April of 1917 once again to sketch and work occasionally as a local guide. But sadly in early July, having gone missing for a week, he was found drowned in Canoe Lake, leaving a mystery that has sparked uncertainty and controversy to this day. His right temple was significantly bruised, and a length of fishing line was tied suspiciously to one of his ankles, leaving some to think that he had been murdered, his body weighed down and submerged. On the other hand, the whole scene may simply be an unfortunate accident. His last written message spoke of heading to Canoe Lake to try and catch a large fish to play a trick on a friend he was traveling with. After his death MacDonald had a memorial stone cairn dedicated to Thomson on the shores of Canoe Lake, inscribed with a poem and a farewell message to his friend. As a further homage, Thomson's paintings were displayed at many Go7 exhibitions, alongside the newer works of his early collaborators.



Jack Pine by Tom Thompson, *continued...*

DEREK OXLEY

Looking around at the more mature works of the other Group of Seven painters, I think it's fair to say that Thomson's work would have matured nicely, and it's sad that we'll never get to see how much further he could have gotten. His primary output spans barely four years.

Thomson's unique relationship with the land means that he saw it in a very unique way, which doubtless would have helped during his studio time in the winter – understanding where things would be in the scene and how they naturally move. Although the work of Tom and his peers in the early twentieth century sits on a bedrock on impressionism (which had been evolving for 40 years at the time), and has strong elements of expressionism, landscape traditions, and Art Nouveau, the group never stopped insisting that the Canadian landscape itself had been far more important than any European style come overseas. Perhaps this is what imbues the *je-ne-sais-quoi* that makes Thomson's work so universally appealing. Perhaps to truly illustrate the Canadian wilderness and geography one must be comfortable with the life that comes with living in it, where fishing, foraging, canoeing, and chopping wood are just as important to the artistic skills set as brushstrokes, composition, and the selection of colour. Perhaps there is something in the muscle memory of these lived activities that helps bring to life the paintings of the places where they happen. Either way, Thomson's legacy in Canada over the past century has seen itself featured in songs, ghost stories, novels, and documentaries alike, and his name was adopted by summer camps on Canoe Lake in 1920. *Jack Pine* was purchased by the National Gallery of Canada in 1918 by its director at the time and has been part of that collection ever since.

Sources:

Burnett, David. *Masterpieces of Canadian Art from the National Gallery of Canada*. Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers Ltd. 1990.

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Hill, Charles C. *The Group of Seven: Art For A Nation*. National Gallery of Canada and McClelland and Stewart Inc. 1995.

Jansen, Marietta. "Terra Incognita: The Group of Seven and European Expressionist Landscape Tradition" in *Painting Canada*. London: Philip Wilson Publishers. 2011

Mayer, Marc. *Art in Canada*. National Gallery of Canada. 2017.

Mellen, Peter. *The Group of Seven*. McClelland and Stewart Ltd (Toronto, Montreal). 1970.



Thompson, Tom. *Jack Pine*. Oil on canvas. 1916-1917. The National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada.



Obituaries



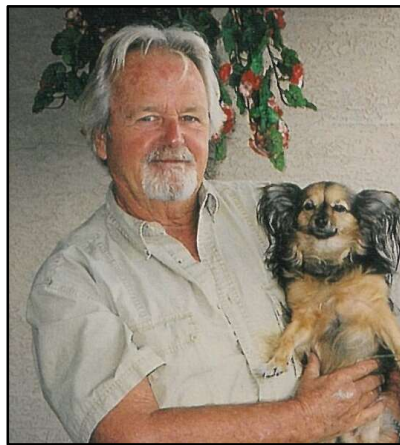
JOHN WEBSTER ADAMS (1942 – 2022)

John Webster Adams, Q.C., passed away on November 19, 2022 at his home on Amherst Island, ON. Born in Battersea, England on January 24, 1942. Survived by his beloved wife Ann, their children Samantha, Sarah and Fraser, sons-in-law Andrew and Rob, grandchildren Aley and Nate and step-grandchildren Olivia and Lili.

John became a sought-after and formidable litigator with many substantial clients over his long career as a partner at Fraser & Beatty (now Dentons). In retirement, he and Ann built a home on Amherst Island that quickly became a special gathering place for family and friends and a studio for his art.

We will forever remember his kindness, words of wisdom, zest for life, laughter, and, most importantly, love for his family.

The family held a small gathering in John's memory December 3, 2022 on Amherst Island. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Kingston General Hospital Cardiac Care <https://uhkf.akaraisin.com/ui/UHKFdonate/donations/start> or to the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area's Food Sharing Project ("4 Zal and Rose Yanovsky Breakfast Fund") <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/13730?v1=true>.



NEIL BABCOCK (1937 – 2022)

It is with great sadness that the family of Neil Douglas Babcock announce his passing on December 19, 2022, at the age of 85 years. Neil was predeceased by his best

friend and life partner of 51 years Henry (Hank) Bauer. He was always "the fun" Uncle and will be missed by his nieces, Stacey Babcock and Laurie Garrison (Rick) and his nephew, Greg Babcock (Julie), and their families, and his honorary nephew and niece, Bart and Glynis Miller. He will also be missed by his trusted companion and fur baby, Sam, who is continuing to be loved and well cared for by his new Mom, Stacey. Neil was the youngest son of the late Lt. Col. Harry Babcock and Ruth Wright. He was predeceased by his brothers, Harold (late Minor) and Richard (late Martha). Cremation has taken place. Private burial at St. Paul's Cemetery, Sandhurst On. The family wish to express our sincere appreciation to the staff on Orchard Trail at The John Parrott Centre for making Neil's final days as comfortable and peaceful as possible through their exemplary care, kindness, and compassion.



Obituaries

RAYMOND FERADAY (1927 – 2022)

March 29, 1927 - December 18, 2022

On December 18, 2022, Raymond Feraday passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by family in his 95th year. Beloved husband of 65 years of the late Betty Feraday (née Barratt), Ray is survived by his eight children, eighteen grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and his brother Gerald.

Well-read and self-educated, Ray worked hard from the age of 14 to help support his family in many different professions until he found his niche on the Police Force as an investigator. A well-respected veteran Detective of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force, Ray served and protected the public for 38 years in the heart of the city.

Ray's real passion in life was his family. Ray and Betty met in 1947 and it was love at first sight. By 1951 the young couple were expecting their first child. Thinking of their growing family and the hot confines of the Toronto summer, they were intrigued by a listing in the newspaper for Percy Tugwell's property on Amherst Island. Driving out to see the place, Ray and Betty met Percy and Bessie - forming a fast friendship with the elderly couple and falling in love with "The Farm". It took a little while to settle things (they had to sell their car in order to afford the place) but by 1954 the Feradays had arrived on Amherst Island.

Well, not quite. It took a while for the growing family to get back to the Island. From the early 1960s, Ray would bring Betty and the kids to spend the summers. Ray had to go back to Toronto to work, crying the entire way home (or so he told us kids!). Betty's pioneer spirit made the best out of tough living conditions - but the Feradays were blessed with wonderful Island neighbours and friends.

Our closest neighbour, "Grampa Johnny" Filson, was a lovely gentleman - and a true friend to Ray and Betty. His son Gordon Filson and his wife Ada were always there to help. Betty and Ray forged a particularly close friendship with the lovely Barbara Filson and her beloved husband Harry. A bit further away were Gordon and Georgie Reid - who were wonderful company along with Henry and Anna Hitchens, Irene and Les Glenn, and Clinton Kilpatrick. Billy and Helen Bulch will always be remembered fondly - young Ida was always welcome at the Feraday "Farm". Bert & Dora Mulders were also dear friends of Ray, Betty & family - selling Ray a little slice of waterside heaven on the south shore near their homestead.



Ray & Betty with the growing Feraday Family – Ray Jr, Michael, and Daniel.



Obituaries

RAYMOND FERADAY

As an athlete and mentor to many, Ray was a fitness advocate. He loved most sports: tennis, soccer, football, volleyball, and hockey (which he enjoyed playing right into his 84th year). Whether playing or coaching sports, all the neighborhood children were welcome to participate and enjoy his mentorship. Sports were big at the Feraday Farm too. Soccer games were held almost every sunny day - from 11am to 2 or 3 in the afternoon. One day Marion Glenn asked Ray what on earth we were doing - I guess she could see us from her farm up at "Glenn's Corners" (Ray's name for Marion and Marshall Glenn's farm on the 3rd). Ray and the older Feraday kids played softball in the summer with the Island team, striking up lifelong friendships with Dave Willard and his parents Wilbur and Gayle, as well as Vincent Eves and family (now part of our extended family too - through Charlene!). Ray and Barbara Filson were pretty good!

Ray was a Renaissance man who excelled at anything he put his effort to. With his beautiful singing voice, Ray was a much-loved member of the Saint Anthony's Choir and the Toronto Police Choir. Many Islanders will remember his singing during church services. Ray and Betty enjoyed the conversations and companionship (and euchre games) of Ray and Zelma Koenders, whom they met while attending St. Bartholomew's on the Island. In his retirement, Ray enjoyed a flare for writing and poetry. He composed over 2000 poems and penned three books of his memoirs.

Ray was happiest in the presence of Betty and his Grandchildren. Ray will be dearly missed by all that knew him, but his legacy of love will live forever.

The Feraday family would like to extend their thanks and gratitude to Saint Elizabeth Health Care for the care and compassion shown to Ray and the family, to the Reverend Don Bailey for his kindness and spiritual guidance, and to all of their Amherst Islands friends for their love and support over the years.



Ray with his daughter, Cat.
AMHERSTISLANDBEACON@GMAIL.COM



Ray at the barn with grandchildren Kevin and David.
AMHERSTISLAND.ON.CA/BEACON/



ARTS AND CULTURE

News from the Museum – Christmas Craft Day

JANET SCOTT

About twenty busy elves got together on Saturday, December 3rd in the Back Room of the Neilson Store Museum to create wooden decorations for the tree that had been set up outside. Our wild winds of that week had wreaked havoc with our plans and knocked over the tree that had been erected outside on the west side of the Museum. Fortunately, an early morning visit by the enthusiastic Loyalist team, on December 2nd, had our tree righted and ready in plenty of time for the decorating event.

Museum Board members and Loyalist Cultural Development Coordinator, Amber Meyer, had gathered craft materials, come up with ideas and patterns, and by 9:00 the museum was ready and waiting for enthusiastic elves. Fortunately for our tree, the Amherst Island creative community once again came through and supplied twenty enthusiastic elves to paint, glue, manipulate materials and generally have a wonderful time making over 100 interesting and unique decorations for the museum tree.

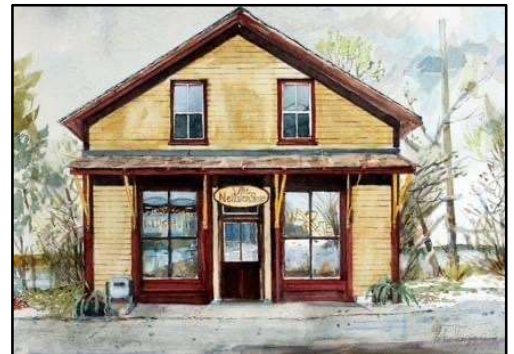
We proceeded to hang decorations on the tree as they dried in the warmth and shelter of the museum, but as the weather

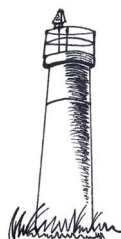
deteriorated, it was better to hang them on the bulletin board inside, and after our Museum Board meeting on December 6th, the taller Board Members transferred the decorations to the tree. Hopefully walkers and strollers through the village have enjoyed and appreciated



these decorations, each unique and made with love by our younger citizens and those still young at heart.

The Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre hopes that a tradition has begun and looks forward to next year's visit by the local elves.





ARTS AND CULTURE

Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre

Back Room Talk

ISLA VISCOUNT

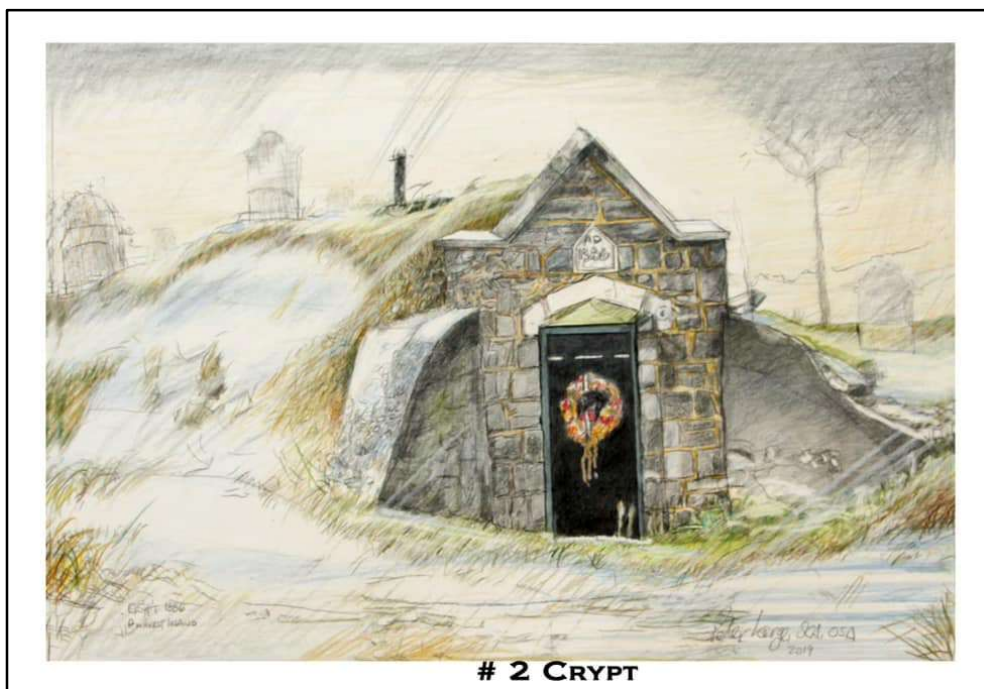
TRACES, by Peter Large
Museum Backroom Talk
Friday January 13th, 2023 at 7:00 pm

On Behalf of the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre, I would like to invite you to come to the Museum on Friday night, Jan 13th.

This month's Backroom Talk is known as "Traces" and is a visual trip back to a past way of life. It is a collection of drawings done by artist Peter Large, portraying many of Amherst Island's historical buildings, landscapes, and relic farm equipment. Each image is like the cover of a book hinting at the tales within. We hope, with audience participation, to uncover some of these stories as we view the beautiful images together.

There will be light refreshments after the show.

Isla Viscount (NSCC Secretary)



*An Article of Thanks from the
Weasel & Easel, which resides
within the Neilson Store
Museum and Cultural Centre:*

The Weasel & Easel would like to thank the people of Amherst Island for their generous support in 2022. It is this support that enables us to showcase the amazing talents of the artists and artisans in our community. We look forward to seeing you again in 2023.

#2 Crypt, a piece of art by Peter Large.



Amherst Island Women's Institute

WENDY SHELLEY

We hope you were able to with join the WI for our very first Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 2nd. What a wonderful way to welcome the Christmas Season to our community. Well over 70 people were there to enjoy the evening. You can't go wrong with Christmas music, hot chocolate, cookies, kids, family and friends.

Many thanks to everyone who made this event a success.

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

Contact Andrea Cross at: amherst4615@icloud.com if you are interested in participating. There is no cost to participate or attend.

Ladies... save the date:

Our second annual Women's Wine and Cheese Social will be held at The Lodge on June 10, 2023.

WI meetings are always open to guests and visitors and are usually held the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting is January 18, 2023, 7pm at St. Paul's. Join us if you can.

Please contact any WI member or Joyce Haines for more information.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the WI during the past year. We would like to wish you and your's health and happiness throughout the New Year.



Photographs from the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.



AN UPDATE

The Amherst Island Community Alliance

MOLLY STROYMAN



This past year was a complicated one for most of us! But despite the hurdles there have been some highlights.

For the second year we sponsored **A.I. Blooms**, a recognition program for any resident of the island that encourages and rewards their efforts to beautify their front garden as seen from the road. Gardens are nominated by July 1st.

An ongoing project is updating and revising the **Amherst Island Website** <http://amherstisland.on.ca> to keep it current and helpful to islanders and visitors.

Supporting efforts to enhance the **Community Calendar**, we held a series of meetings to see how we could help to the various volunteer groups, artists, artisans, musicians and businesses on the Island to get their info about meetings and events onto the Amherst Island website.

The **All Candidates Meeting** for the Municipal election was a success. About 60 islanders attended as did all but one of the candidates. Because it was recorded and re broadcast by CJAI, it had a lot of reach and impact even beyond the Island.

We are working on better signage for the island, to support island businesses and groups.

One of the first projects the Alliance led in 2019 was the **Island Census**... and now it is time to check in again with all of you. If you have questions, you want islanders to comment on, drop us an email at aicommunityalliance@gmail.com, or call me at 613-634-1388.

And then came a delightful surprise...Paul Juniper introduced us to the **Great lakes Island Alliance., GLIA**. In early December Peter Huston and his wife Amy visited us to discuss our participation in the group.

We were proud to show them our island and to introduce them to an array of islanders. We became the 20th island to join GLIA for the discussion and shared information about common island issues. How do you maintain a high quality, small school? Who controls your transport, ferry and other? What other infrastructure issues are you struggling with...garbage, internet, shoreline changes? It is quite a dynamic organization from both Canada and the U.S. We will report more soon.

We are looking for more members...if you have some time and or inspiration, give me a call. Molly Stroyman, 613-634-1388.



ST. ALBAN'S

St. Alban's the Martyr Anglican Church in Stella – A History

LYNANN LAFFIN

(the information below was distilled from a document "The History of St. Alban's Church" prepared by St. Alban's parishioners for the 100th Anniversary of St. Albans in 1990)

The first record of an Amherst Island Anglican church service comes from a letter written by Rev. John Langhorn of St. John's Anglican Church in Bath, which states – "I had the first service ever held on Amherst Island in 1793".

The French explorer La Salle bestowed upon the Island the name of his faithful Lieutenant Tonti. The next owner was Sir John Johnson, followed by Maria Bowes. The first Anglican church – St. James – was built by Maria Bowes, in 1836. It was situated about a half mile west of Stella Village, and was pastored by the Reverend William Agar Adamson, who formerly had been the Rector of Kilcooly, Ireland.

Maria Bowes sold the Island to the Earl of Mount Cashel, and in 1857 it became the property of Major R.P. Maxwell of County Down, Ireland, who was a relative of Lord Mt. Cashell. Major Maxwell's brother managed the "Island estate" until 1871, followed by W. H. Moutray, also a Lord Mt. Cashel relative. Mr. Moutray came to the Island and settled, and had the Island divided into 50-acre lots. Fourteen families came to settle from Ireland, and a like number of

Dutch from Pennsylvania and other places.

St. James Anglican Church was close to Stella village, however in the days of horse and buggy, having an Anglican church closer to the west end of the Island also was desirable. Thus a second Anglican church, Christ Church, was built at Emerald in 1877, on land donated by Mrs. Eva McGinness. The Hitchins and McDonald families, as well as Daniel Fowler, a celebrated artist from England, were all instrumental in the building of Christ Church in Emerald, which was later re-consecrated at St. Bartholomew's Catholic church in 1989.

After the building of Christ Church at Emerald, it was decided to sell the St. James church property and to build a new church – St. Alban's - in Stella, on land donated by Lord Mt Cashel. St. Alban's was built in the late 1880s and consecrated on February 5th, 1890. St. Alban's was built by J. Allen MacDonald, with the Moutray, Maxwell, Neilson and Patterson families all being instrumental in its construction.

The first person to be baptized at St. Alban's was Kathleen Downey Neilson (later Kathleen Wemp) on July 6th, 1883. Kathleen's daughters were Jean Tugwell and Helen Miller. The first wedding was performed on Feb 9th, 1891 – Thomas Henry Saunders to Annie Sarah Patterson (noted in the records respectively as "Bachelor", and "Spinster"). The first wardens (deacons) were J.S. Neilson and Mr. Moutray, (d. 1929) who represented the church for 50 years.



Father Don delivering a sermon at St. Alban's.



ST. ALBAN'S

St. Alban's the Martyr Anglican Church in Stella – A History, *continued*...

LYNANN LAFFIN

(The information below was distilled from a document "The History of St. Alban's Church" prepared by St. Alban's parishioners for the 100th Anniversary of St. Albans in 1990)

In addition to the church itself, the following items are of historical interest:

- The Bell – was cast in 1836 and was likely the original bell from St. James Church.
- The stained-glass windows are all original from the late 1800s. These were funded by various Island families, in memory of loved ones. Many have the dedications included on them.
- Of particular interest is the stained-glass window depicting a pelican and her young, on the north side of the church. In ancient legend, the mother pelican fed her dying young with her own blood to revive them from death, thus becoming a symbol of Christ's blood saving mankind.

Without a doubt, the history of St. Alban's church is intimately intertwined with the history of our beautiful Amherst Island! Feel free to drop in and visit the church anytime – and please sign the book at the back. And of course, we have both in-person and Facebook live services, every Sunday at 10:30.



**CHRISTMAS 2022**

St. Paul's & St. Alban's Nativity Scene & Community Carol Sing

On Sunday, December 18, 2022, St. Paul's and St. Alban's co-hosted a community Christmas Carol Sing with a Live Nativity Scene in the old drive shed behind St. Paul's Church. This was a full-blown Amherst Island community event – with animals provided by our local farmers, St. Paul's choristers and guitarist, outdoor fire pits from St. Alban's, with hot chocolate and Xmas cookies delivered by the women of Amherst Island. The weather was great on Sunday evening – cold, but not unbearably so. The warming fires and hot chocolate thawed everyone out after the heart-warming performance by the cast of the Nativity Scene and the opportunity to sing our hearts out with our favourite carols. About 100 Islanders joined our newly-elected Loyalist Township Mayor – Jim Hegadorn and his family – in welcoming the Christmas season. Father Don Bailey and Nathan Townend led the crowd in Advent and Christmas readings from the bible, while Stephen Kendall, with his favourite outdoor guitar, led the carolling.





CHRISTMAS 2022

St. Paul's & St. Alban's Nativity Scene & Community Carol Sing

There are many people to thank for their contributions to this island event. Number one were the creative geniuses (genies?) and dreamers behind the event – Carol Glenn along with Janet Scott. They delivered an excellent Christmas program for us to enjoy, gave direction to the players and the choristers, and were the prime movers getting this event off the ground. Thank you, Janet and Carol!

We also need to thank the following: Nathan Townend and Father Don Bailey; Lynann and Chris Laffin (for recording the event and providing heat with the outdoor fires); Sandra and Jim Reid (sheep); Dixie (Nathan's jersey cow); the Fleming family (Wayne & Karen, Talia & Jon) for their donkeys (Dora and Finnigan); and Mike Walhout (straw bales and set-up).

The Nativity cast included: Koren Bellman (Joseph); Talia Fleming (Mary); Bill McKee (Isaiah and the inn-keeper); Anna Walhout (support to the angels); Shayle & Temperance Patterson and Estee Sudds (angels); Georgie & Lionel Appleton (shepherds); Kiki Sudds, Mary Gordon & Ross Stuart (the three wisemen); Andrea Cross (bell-ringer); and last, but not least, Bruce Burnett (technical support and without whom the event wouldn't have happened).



Our appreciation to Judy Miller, Bonnie Livingstone & Alison Kendall for serving hot chocolate and cookies, and to all those who provided those delicious Christmas cookies. And thank you to Karen Miller (& the Neilson Store Museum) for her assistance with flyers and song sheets. You can find Lynann's recording of the event at this link to St. Alban's Facebook page -

<https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansChurchAmherstIsland/>

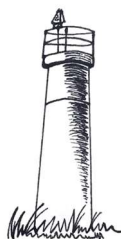
St. Alban's and St. Paul's would like to thank everyone who joined us for this community event. Best wishes for 2023! Our doors are always open for you to join us on Sundays (10:30 a.m. at St. Alban's and 11 a.m. at St. Paul's).

A Thank You from Diane Pearce:

"To all who were involved with planning, organizing, rehearsing, costuming, directing people of all ages, reading, singing and leading the songs, transporting animals of all types and natures, sound and lighting, providing and tending wood fires, cookies and hot chocolate, and on and on, thank you for making tonight's wonderful event happen. You even managed to have perfectly appropriate weather. Please pass this message along to anyone I missed (or whose contact info I don't have, like Father Don) because everyone involved should know how much their efforts are appreciated.

Love, Merry Christmas, and Let There be Peace on Earth."

Diane



CULINARY

The Back Kitchen

Notice of Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Amherst Island Community Café (“the Back Kitchen”) will be held on January 21st, 2023, commencing at 2:00pm at St Paul’s Church, Stella, ON. To the extent possible, this meeting will also be held virtually for those who cannot attend in person.

AGENDA

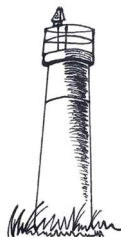
1. Report of the Chair on the operations of the Back Kitchen for 2022
2. Report of the Treasurer on the finances of the Corporation
3. Election of Directors to a two-year term
4. Election of Auditors for the coming year
5. Bylaw amendments – to remove the restrictions on term limits for Directors, modify the membership and quorum requirements and modify the list of Officers and standing committees of the Board.
6. Corporate motion to ratify the acts of the Directors in the previous year
7. Any other business that may properly come before the meeting
8. Adjournment

DATED at Stella, Ontario, this 20th day of December 2022

By Order of the Board of Directors

Kirk Corkery, Secretary to the Board

The Back Kitchen
-- Amherst Island --



CULINARY

The Back Kitchen

Happy New Year from the Back Kitchen!

As an ongoing supporter of the Amherst Island Community Café (AICC) you might have already received a notice advertising the Back Kitchen's Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday, Jan 21 (2pm) both virtually and in person at the St Paul's Presbyterian Hall.

Although the AICC's bylaws require that the Board of Directors reports to its membership annually, this year's meeting is crucial to the Back Kitchen's post-COVID renewal and its ongoing existence. In addition to the four vacancies on the Board of Directors (out of nine positions) this meeting is also an appeal for volunteers to help with operations and service, training staffing, accounting, facility maintenance, marketing, fundraising and volunteers' coordination. Like several small businesses, the continued existence of the Community Café depends on the availability of people to make it happen.

Since 2016, The Back Kitchen has been incorporated as a not-for-profit organization. The Café is owned by the community and managed by volunteer Board of Directors. Over the last 7 years, we are proud that we were able to provide a service to residents and visitors and offer opportunities of summer jobs to students aged 15 and up.

We hope that you can attend our Annual General Meeting, consider joining the Board of Directors or lend a hand (a few hours each month) in any of the areas where help is greatly needed. I would be pleased to provide details if you have any questions.

I can be reached at (613) 929 2979 or by email mlelay@kos.net

Michèle

The Back Kitchen
-- Amherst Island --



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The AICMC



Happy New Year!

Public Information Events

Throughout 2023, we will continue to offer monthly **Information Events** on a variety of **Health and Wellness** topics. These events are provided by health-care **professionals** who are experts in their fields, and offer good, comprehensive information. They are always followed by an interesting Question and Answer discussion. 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. 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. There is no charge for these events. Donations are always welcome.

December 13, 2022 was our **Christmas Season Get-together** at St Paul's. We had a number of people drop in for mulled cider, cookies and a chat. Thank you to Loaves and Fishes for providing their delicious home-made cookies, and thanks to those who stopped by. We will definitely do this again next year.

Coming up on **January 17, 2023...** **Paul Osborn**, with the **County of Lennox and Addington Paramedic Service** will be offering a **Blood Pressure Clinic** at St Paul's from 1:00-3:00 pm. Come and have your Blood Pressure checked. Paul is the **Superintendent of Community Paramedicine**, a pilot project that provides services to help keep people in their homes. We are hoping to tap into the Community Paramedicine Project further as the year goes on, so the AICMC can bring other services to our Clinic.

Paul will also have **Flu Vaccine** and **Covid Bivalent Vaccine** with him, for anyone who missed our Covid and Flu Vaccine Clinics, and would like to **update their immunization**.

Water Testing

The AICMC started a new **water testing** program last month. Eleven families took advantage of our first pick-up on December 12, 2022. We are hoping to have more participants next time.

The AICMC will be collecting Water Sample Bottles again on **April 24, 2023** and **July 5, 2023**.

Frozen Meal Program

We received and delivered our first order mid-December. There are a **variety** of meal choices, and **special diets** are available. 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. 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**.

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.

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.

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

Check out our website, add your name to our email list and keep your eyes open for more information on our AICMC flyers...let us know if you would like to be involved, volunteer, or have any ideas for future events.



AN AIMS UPDATE

Amherst Island Men's Society

RICHARD LAPOINTE

The Amherst Island Men's Society (AIMS) is a voluntary service organization providing support for the Amherst Island Community and individuals in the community, striving to preserve and promote the culture, pride, and spirit of caring which have made the Island unique. In 2001, AIMS confirmed they would continue to be of service to the Amherst Island community, particularly to younger and older people and to raise funds for worthy island projects. This was reconfirmed at a meeting in 2019. Since then, AIMS, as well as other community groups struggled through Covid, and had not met until Monday, December 12th, when five long-standing members finally got together to discuss concerns and plans for the future.

Here are a few highlights from our meeting:

PRESIDENCY

David McGinn has decided to step down as President. It was agreed that Richard Lapointe would take over the position.

AIMS members would like to thank David for the time and effort he has put in over the years that he has had the position of President.

AIMS FUTURE

Those present agreed that AIMS has been and should continue on as a service organization, providing support for the Amherst Island community. However, to grow the membership and better service the island community, a different approach needs to be considered. Ideas on how best to do this will be discussed at future meetings.

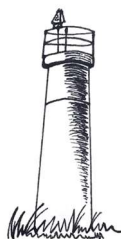
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In the past, AIMS has provided financial support to the community through the AMHERST ISLAND SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP, and the AMERIKA SCHOLARSHIP FUND. It was agreed to continue with contributing to these funds, if and when AIMS has funds available.

NEW MEMBERS

AIMS would like to welcome the following new and returning members: Jacob Murray, Keith Mercer, Bruce Suds, Stephane Levac, Chris Patterson and Larry Jensen. We look forward to your participation.

AIMS is always interested in new members with new ideas. If you are interested in finding more about us, please contact Richard Lapointe at rlapointe52@gmail.com or via phone at 613-888-1575.



AMHERST ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL

ISLE Cheese Fundraiser 2022/2023

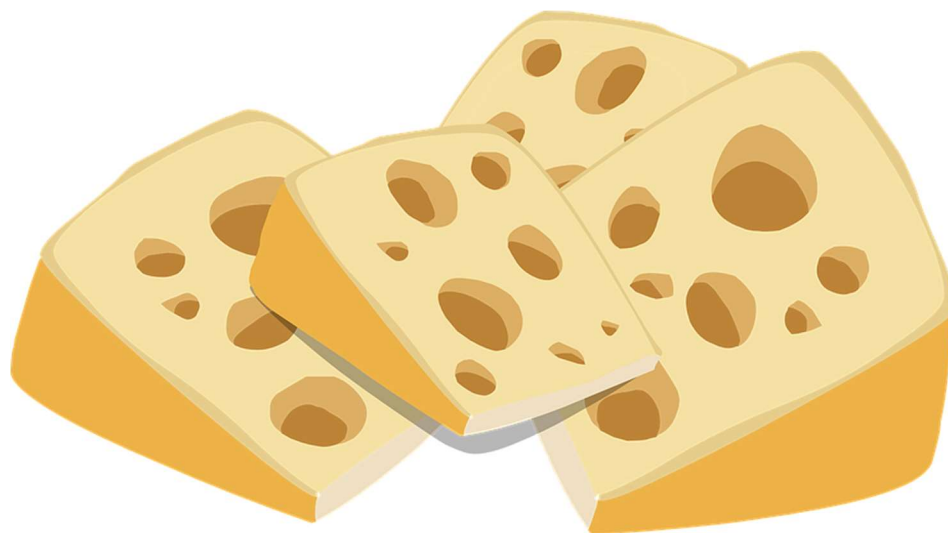
ISLE

Once again, ISLE is offering cheese from Wilton Cheese Factory on a monthly basis. We have a wide variety of types available. Cheese is ordered monthly, picked up fresh in the morning, and delivered to the school. The price you pay is at a factory price (less than the grocery store), and the profits go to support the school-community liaison group.

To place an order, please contact Chelsea at (613) 888-5726, or email your order to amherstislandisle@gmail.com. Monthly standing orders are welcomed. Please note the deadlines for ordering, and the corresponding pick-up times at the school below.

Payment is due upon pick up and can be e-transferred to amherstislandisle@gmail.com

Order Date	Pick-up Date
Wednesday, January 18 th	Tuesday, January 24 th from 1-3pm, or Wednesday, January 25 th from 9am-3pm
Wednesday, February 15 th	Tuesday, February 21 st from 1-3pm, or Wednesday, February 22 nd from 9am-3pm
Wednesday, March 15 th	Tuesday, March 21 st from 1-3pm, or Wednesday, March 22 nd from 9am-3pm
Wednesday, April 12 th	Tuesday, April 18 th from 1-3pm, or Wednesday, April 19 th from 9am-3pm
Wednesday, May 10 th	Tuesday, May 16 th from 1-3pm, or Wednesday, May 17 th from 9am-3pm
Wednesday, June 7 th	Tuesday, June 13 th from 1-3pm, or Wednesday, June 14 th from 9am-3pm





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

Canada's community pharmacy

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**

good doctors
MEDICAL CLINICS

Age has its privileges

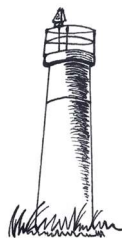
Seniors Save 20% OFF
the last Thursday of every month.

*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 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

Rossland Gallery

rossland gallery

rosbilt.com · bijouxbead.com

stringed metal instruments
artisanal glass jewellery

by appointment
gallery@rosslandgardens.com

Your Ad Here!

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 5 incontinence pads that fit a King size or Queen size bed. 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 January 2023 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.