

Amherst Island BEACON



Issue 376

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July 2009

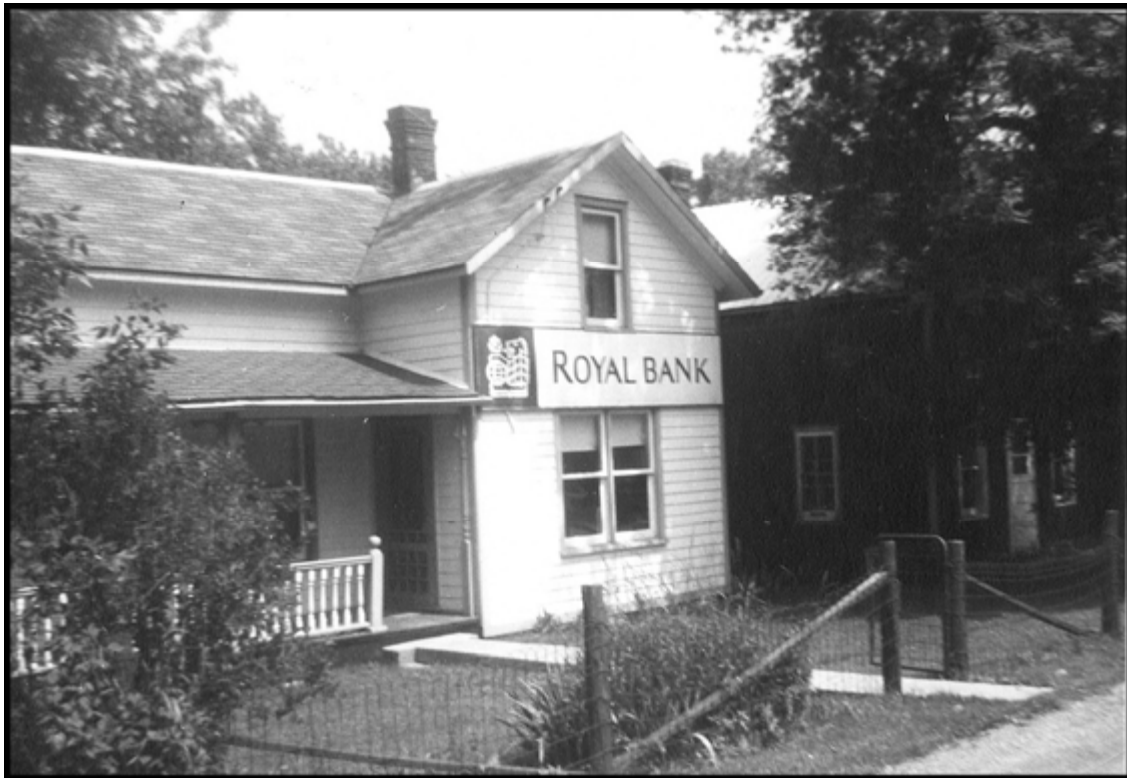


PHOTO COURTESY OF RBC

Amherst Island RBC Branch, 1972.

THE AMHERST ISLAND RBC BRANCH

- Leslie Gavlas

According to Gord Rabchuck, Head Corporate Archives, The Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) history in Bath started with the opening of the Crown Bank of Canada's branch in October, 1906. The Crown Bank amalgamated with the Winnipeg based Northern Bank in 1908 and assumed the name "Northern Crown Bank". The Northern Crown was purchased by RBC in 1918.

Records from the earliest dates show Amherst Islanders were clients of this bank. The Stella branch bank opened in July 21, 1920. Space was leased in a cottage (now 5620 Front Rd.), the home of members of the Corke family. The bankers worked behind a counter topped by a metal cage. There was a small room behind for an office. The limited space allowed only 2 clients at a time – others would have lined up outside on the veranda.

The bank at Bath had only 2 employees, and for the Wednesday bank day on the Island the Bath bank was

closed. It was not uncommon at that time for Wednesday to be a business half-day so this may not have been a big inconvenience. Later RBC Odessa "loaned" an employee to enable the Bath bank to remain open.

According to "Everything We Needed The Story of Bath" by the Bath Historical Recording Group, Mr. G.W. Cuppage – was the bank manager. "Every Wednesday morning he and his teller went to Stella to open the bank there for the day They would drive to Millhaven and board the Islander to Stella, or alternately would leave in 'Cupp's' own boat"

During the winter when the channel froze over there was no boat travel. The bankers then travelled by horse and sleigh with the mail man until 1971 when the installation of the 'bubble system' permitted the ferry to make regular winter crossings.

Bank hours at Stella, every Wednesday, were 10 am to 2:45 pm. The first location did not have washroom facilities so the bank closed for a period at noon for a health break.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Condolences to the children, grandchildren and large extended family of Bob Gibson, who passed away on July 1, after a long battle with cancer.

Get well wishes to Barbara Filson.

Congratulations to Keith and Shirley Miller on the birth of their 4th great grandchild, a girl, who was born to granddaughter Jennifer Topping. First grandchild for Scott and Sandy Topping.

David Fleming, and son Tom, recently visited daughter Mindy in Scotland.

I started my summer with a trip to Vermont and New Hampshire with my daughter Stephanie and niece Talia Fleming.

Congratulations to Fae MacArthur, who was the graduating class at A.I.P.S. this year. Fae will begin her high school career at KCVI in Kingston.

Moving on to "full time" school at A.I.P.S., are Senior Kindergarten students Wyatt Scott and Finn Varette.

Congratulations to high school grads, Melinda Laing and Katie Little, who will both be off to Nipissing University in the fall.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Mary Kay Steel

The June meeting was held the evening of the 17th at the home of Claire (and Hugh) Jenney with thirteen members present. Our program for the meeting was a most informative and entertaining presentation by Gary McDonald and son Andrew on the Island's emergency response and fire-fighting services. We all learned much new information about these vital topics and enjoyed a few chuckles generated by our questions and comments to the two experts. (Details of these services were ably presented in the last Beacon, so are not repeated here.) Suffice it to say we have on the Island a dedicated team and top-notch equipment. We rewarded our presenters with our usual fine refreshments, provided by Claire and Jackie Sylvester, then on to our business meeting.

Claire, co-president, opened the meeting and various reports were made, including a treasurer's update from Marilyn Pilon, back from a winter of sailing, and updates on our various projects. Continuing this summer is work on the restoration of the Pentland Cemetery fences, led by Judy Harrower and Joyce Haines, with help from Bill Hedges and hard-working volunteers. Anyone wanting to pitch in should check in with Judy or Joyce. Some of our members have been busy replenishing planters and grooming the little park at the ferry dock. Our refreshment wagon at the Saturday market is popular, and we are pleased to have a super new coffeepot; Judy Greer is the competent organizer of this initiative. As well, we are planning our annual day-long outing for August, and we will be helping out with refreshments at the July 11 Car Rally to raise funds for the Neilson Store museum. We are a busy group, especially in summer. Our next meeting will take place on July 15, 3pm, on Elsie Willard's lawn, where we will share experiences of living on the island, past and present. Guests are as always most welcome.



Left: In his John Deere tractor, Allen Caughey hoists Dayle Gowan up to a hook as he places one of thirty potted plants on telephone poles in the Village of Stella. Beautifying Stella has been an Amherst Island Men's Society project for the past few years.

PHOTO BY TERRY CULBERT

(Continued from page 1)

This was provided, as well as a meal, by neighbours. Initially this was Meta Moutray, followed later by Florence McCormac, and lastly by Susie Caughey.

I've been told that Barbara Franklin was the first teller to accompany the Bank Manager, but have no proof. Brenda Hare advised me that in the 50's – early 51, she accompanied the Manager, Bob Bell, and Barbara Franklin as a threesome. She mentioned that the wicket was large and said there was an office behind. Security on the Island was not considered to be a problem, though I was told that the tellers carried a gun, but no ammunition. During the later years Police protection was provided between Bath and the ferry.

In 1977 the RBC Branch Bank moved into new Quarters. The Bank had authorized innovations to the building still known as the Neilson Store, 5220 Front Road. The Bank took over the eastern half of the ground floor. This was walled off from the rest of this floor. This was a considerably larger space. There was a counter for the tellers. There does not seem to have been a wicket. Behind it was as private room with a door. A narrow hall lead to a wash-room with water! The waiting space was quite generous and 'bank' day became a social occasion.

The Branch Bank closed December 17, 1993, and its space was opened up and later rented to the Weasel and Easel Gift Shop when the building became the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre. The Township currently owns the property.

The Branch Bank was very welcome on the Island. At

the time many of the Islanders rarely went to the mainland as the trip required two boat rides in summer, or a trip by horse and sleigh over the ice in winter. The Bankers carried all necessary equipment for the banking activities expected, and, before the advent of electronic banking, the records for manual up-dating for the pass books. The same tellers returned regularly and became good friends of the Islanders. The Bath Branch took the running of the Stella branch seriously also. On Monday, August 22, 1945 the Bath Branch was the victim of robbers. On a subsequent write up in the Napanee newspaper there was the report that the robbers took their loot away in the bags used for the weekly trips to the Island. However, the weekly trip to the Island proceeded also that week.

On the wall in the Ferry Office is a bronze plaque reading –

In Memory of William R. Pringle
A MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF THIS BANK
WHO GAVE HIS LIFE IN THE GREAT WAR
1914-1918

W. Ross Pringle was born and raised on Amherst Island. After primary schooling on the Island he went to Kingston and graduated from the Collegiate. He entered the employ of a bank, but later decided to join the 11th Canadian Field Ambulance as private 523380. He saw action at Lens, Amiens, Arras, Canal de Nord and Cambrai. He was fatally wounded at Cambrai and died the 19th of September, 1918. 'THIS BANK' was probably one, or both of the banks which preceded the RBC in Bath.



PHOTO COURTESY RBS

Teller wicket, Amherst Island Branch, RBC, 1972.

Canada Day on Amherst Island



Bagpipes are always a popular part of the parade.



The folks at St. Paul's not only took part in the parade with a float, but they also hosted the Strawberry Social after the parade.



Kids on Bikes—another integral part of the parade.

Left: The Caughey Family made an appearance in the parade as well, with their freshly painted red wagon.



ALL PHOTOS BY VAL WOLFREYS





Nathan Murray (left), and Sammy Miller (right) got to ride in the fire truck. Sammy was on siren duty while Nathan waved to the crowd. The boys were accompanied by their dads, Jacob Murray, and Donnie Miller (driving).



Above & Right: The Amherst Island Women's Institute also took part in the parade.



JESUS LOVES YOU

- Zander of DUNN INN

I was at the market the other day when Lorna Willis came up to me with a gift she had just purchased. She said she thought of me as soon as she saw the item and wanted me to have it. It was a sign - a fridge magnet or a brooch which read, "Jesus Loves You, But I Am His Favourite."

We all shared a good laugh about that. I took the little sign and said I might work it into a sermon or even a story for the children at our church service.

I got to thinking about those words. They are amusing, but they are also most disturbing.

It is easy to say, "Jesus Loves You." It's easy because it's true. Most of the churches, the ministers, priests and the T.V. evangelists find it easy to say, "Jesus Loves You." Mind you, there are some churches and clergy who really believe Jesus does not love everybody (especially you) because Jesus only loves certain people. The certain people Jesus loves, according to them, are very much like they are. But, most ecclesiastical groups would have no trouble saying, "Jesus loves You."

They might think, "Jesus Loves You but if you don't love Jesus in return, he'll get you. He'll send you to hell." Their idea is that God's love, through Jesus, is conditional. It depends upon your response. If you don't accept Jesus as your saviour and follow him and serve him and do his will, then you're lost, damned forever.

But the truth of the Good News is that God's love for you, in Jesus, is unconditional. God loves you whether you love God or follow Jesus or not. God loves you whether you believe in or trust in Jesus or not. God loves you whether you follow the Christian way or not. God even loves you whether you attend worship at a church or not.

Unfortunately many people think evangelism is getting people to believe in and follow Jesus. Evangelism (which means Good News) is that Jesus loves you. Period. Jesus' love for you doesn't depend upon your response.

The second part of that sign is also amusing but very disturbing. For any one of us to declare that we are Jesus' favourite or God's favourite is the height of arrogance.

And yet, there are churches and people who do just that. They declare they are the only true church. Nobody can get to God except through their church. Or they declare their religion is the only way to God. Or they believe and an-



nounce that God is closer to them or favours them above all others.

That's why we have some churches which discriminate against black people or female people or homosexual people. Far too many of us actually think God does not consider black or coloured people to be as valuable as they are. We have gone through centuries of enslaving black people because white people thought they were not as favoured by God as were white people.

There are many churches who do not consider females equal to males. They contend that women are less than men and are there to serve men and to listen to men and to obey men. So, according to them, a man wearing a button which said, "Jesus loves You, But I am his favourite" could be speaking the truth if he showed it to a woman. In the same way, they could tell homosexual people that while God, in Jesus, loves them, they are not equal to heterosexual people, and are certainly not as valued or as important!

But again, the truth of the Gospel is that God has no favourites. God loves all creation and all the creatures therein. God loves equally men and women and children of every race, religion, culture and sexual orientation.

I write this, not to try to lure you into church or to win your soul for Jesus. I write this simply because it's true. I hope you'll be encouraged by such love and rejoice that God plays no favourites. You are as important to God as the greatest king, the most pious cleric, the strongest leader. Each one of us is God's favourite.

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

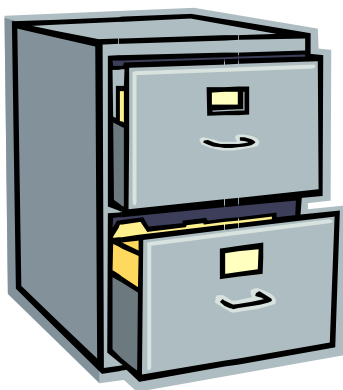
There were no building permits issued for new houses on Amherst Island for the first 5 months of this year.

Councillor Ashley requested that a 50th Anniversary plaque be sent to Kaye and Dorothy McGinn.



... misunderstandings and inertia cause perhaps more to go wrong in this world than slyness and evil intent. In any case, the latter are rarer.

- Wolfgang Goethe



From the archives...

FROM THE ARCHIVES: Issue 2, Vol. 3, Dec. 15/78
QUINTE COMMUNITY PASTURE

- Fred Neilson

In the spring of 1977 the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, ARDA Branch, purchased a parcel of land on Amherst Island (approximately 2200 acres) from a company known as "Nilomos Ltd." At the time the property was purchased the Government wasn't sure what they would be doing with it, but later that year decided to develop a community pasture which would be used by the counties of Frontenac, Lennox & Addington, Prince Edward, and Hastings.

In the summer of 1977 three local men were hired to start a clean-up project on the property.

In 1978 ARDA officials interviewed people for the position of pasture manager. As a result, Fred Neilson of the island, a recent graduate of Kemptville College of Agricultural Technology was hired.

During the year of 1978 fencing has been completed on a parcel of land approximately 500 acres in size on lots 57, 58 & 59 Concession 2. Part of this fencing was done by a company from Enterprise, Ont. with the remainder being done by Keith and Don Miller. A water pressure system has been installed in the office on lot 57, and from there approximately 2200 feet of water line has been laid to a 1000 gallon cement trough which is to be used to water the cattle on pasture. A corral has been constructed near the office building and the corral consists of ten 14' x 16' pens with 2 large holding pens approximately 20' x 40' in size. In the early fall of 1978 old fence rows were removed with a bulldozer and the debris drawn away with two dump trucks. The bulldozer was also used to clean up old foundations, basements, etc. which were left after the buildings had been torn down.

The completed amount of land will be ready in the spring of 1979 to accommodate approximately 350 cattle which will be pastured from May until October. We hope that this will be a very successful venture and will be a great help to many farmers.

SENIORS HONOURED

- Elsie Densem

On Friday Dec. 1st, the Island Branch of the Women's Institute gave a dinner for the island's Senior Citizens. The place was the gymnasium of the school. It was most attractive with Christmas decorations. Tables were placed in a hollow square, covered with white cloths, candles, and beautiful jellies of every colour. Christmas swags adorned the inner side of the square.

Mrs. Lulu Strain and Mrs. Reta Miller greeted the guests at the door and gave to each woman a couple of roses, and to each man a mysterious green box. The food was superb! Never have I tasted a better meal; well cooked and nicely served. We all gorged ourselves and still there was more food offered. When we were finally finished the men opened their little green boxes and offered their partners an after dinner mint.

Then the women played for us. They have a band the like of which I have never seen before. Over the foundation of the piano, played by Louise Seamen, and the drum, beaten by Ena Baker, there soared the strains of 'Jingle Bells' played on kazoos, castanettes, tambourines, washboard, xylophone, and a really weird invention played by Anna Hitchins. It was about ten feet of red rubber hose, coiled round and round like a French horn, with a tin whistle at the business end and a watering can nozzle at the other. The women had a marvelous sense of rhythm and played with gusto, a very jolly performance.

We then had a showing of slides by Bruce Robinson of his and Madeline's frequent trips around the continent.

The local branch of the Legion donated some of the money for the cost of the dinner. It was such a nice, kind, thoughtful gesture on the part of these two groups - the Legion and the Institute. Surely us old fogeys must be the most pampered of any group of seniors for miles around. We all thank you very much.

ROBERT GIBSON

(SEPTEMBER 13, 1936 – JULY 1, 2009)

Mr Gibson died peacefully at his home on the Island surrounded by his loving family. He was predeceased by his parents Andrew and Myrtle Gibson and also by his son Carl. Bob is survived by his children Mai, James, Hugh, Jane, Jack, Tom and Jerry. He is also survived by his brother Wade and sisters Susan, May, Cora, Marion and Hazel. Bob was grandfather to 24 children and great-grandfather to 6 children.

[Editor: We plan to have a eulogy and photos of Bob in the August Beacon.]

AMHERST ISLAND MUSEUM

CAR RALLY (WITH A DIFFERENCE)

- Terry Culbert

Thanks to the suggestion, creativity and organization of Islander Gord Miller, the Neilson Store Museum & Cultural Centre is a thousand dollars richer. Mind you he did have a tonne of dedicated volunteers to help along the way. Gord Miller, retired deputy chief of the Waterloo Constabulary and growing up on Amherst Island, isn't a novice when it comes to organizing car rallies as he's done it many times in the Waterloo area.

The idea of the Museum fundraiser came about when Gord heard that it was far too much work to present the Open Studio Art Tour every year. He felt this could be an alternative and suggested his idea to AIMS (Amherst Island Men's Society), the sponsors of the art tour last year. AIMS gave the 'green' light.

On Saturday afternoon, July 11th, nineteen vehicles containing 54 people registered at the Museum. The cars and their occupants set off in search of clues, detailed on a fact finding questionnaire. For \$15. per person, \$7. for children 16 and under, all participants enjoyed a fun filled afternoon culminated with a barbeque and prizes. Folks came from our Island, Markham, Newmarket, Waterloo, Montreal, Kingston and one couple from Amherstview after reading the poster on the Foodland bulletin board.

The overall winners were Michele LeLay and Diane Pearce. The two womens' names will be etched on a car rally plaque to be hung in the Museum. They also won a fabulous gift basket from the Weasel & Easel. Michele and Diane put the basket up for auction adding another one hundred dollars to the fundraiser. The Museum would like to thank AIMS, the Women's Institute, organizer Gord Miller, all the hard working volunteers and the numerous donors of gifts for this the first of hopefully many Amherst Island Museum Car Rallies.





Facing Page: Top Right: Diane Pearce and Michele LeLay were the overall winners receiving a plaque from John Schutzbach, museum President, and a gift basket from Museum Director Gord Miller. The gift basket was donated by the Weasel & Easel. (Photo by Dayle Gowan)

Facing Page: Middle Right: Amherst Island Women's Institute volunteers Leslie Gavlas, Judy Greer, and Marilyn Pilon sold muffins, fresh fruit, and beverages before and during the rally.

Facing Page: Bottom Left: Gord Miller, Museum Director is the organizer of the rally.

Facing Page: Bottom Right: Woody Woodiwiss, Chair of AIMS, receives a thank you certificate from Loyalist Township Councillor Duncan Ashley as John Schutzbach and Bruce Findlay look on. (Photo by Dayle Gowan)

Top: The car rally began and ended at the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre.

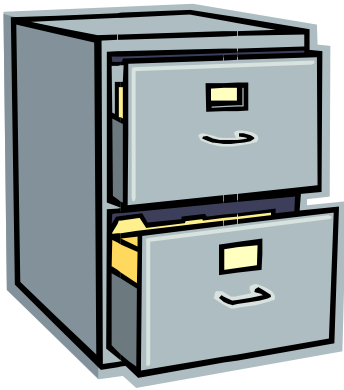
Middle: The couple on the right signing in had just moved from London, Ontario to Amherstview. They saw the advertisement for the rally in the Amherstview Foodland notice board.

Bottom: Participants preparing for the event are left to right: Dorothy Babcock, Barb Hogenauer, Caroline Ackerman, Michele LeLay, Gwen Lauret, and Diane Pearce.



ALL PHOTOS BY TERRY CULBERT UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.





More From the Archives.....

HERE AND THERE

- Ian Murray

Just finished reading "Red Tape Does Not A Fine Cheddar Make" in the latest issue (No. 15) of Harrowsmith Magazine. The gist of the article is that the Ontario Milk Marketing Board (OMMB) is not permitting the cheddar cheese factories of Eastern Ontario to receive enough milk to meet the proven market demands for their product. It is claimed that the amount of milk allocated to these factories has even been decreased in recent years. If these facts are correct, and a local dairy farmer assures me that they are, I am not very surprised.

The small cheese factory, locally owned and employing only a few workers, is not the kind of set-up that bureaucrats like. Their position appears to be "Thou shalt work for a large corporation or government, or thy life shall be made difficult."

Look at the regulations that continually rain down on small stores, small farms, and small businesses of all kind. I don't know why things happen this way. I do know that I prefer the cheddar cheese made in small factories to the homogenous product marketed by Kraft.

I really appreciate the action that was taken on the Millhaven dock that resulted in the new line-up system. An increasingly dangerous and chaotic situation has been greatly improved.

FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Ernest and Genevieve Fleming will be "At Home" to their relatives, friends and neighbours on Tuesday, December 26th on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary; 2:00-4:00 & 7:00-9:00.

OUT OUR WAY

- Dale Filson

From all reports the dinner given for our senior citizens by the Amherst Island Women's Institute, was a great success. Hopefully this dinner will become a yearly tradition.

Congratulations to Randi Murray and Chris Kennedy on their recent wedding. The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. Norman Allison at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Densem.

Mrs. Coulson sponsored a small euchre party recently at her home for the benefit of the Amherst Island Women's Institute. More euchres may be forthcoming later this winter at other member's homes.

Lyn and Larry Fleming and their son Jason will be flying to Orlando Florida on Dec. 19 to spend the holidays with Lyn's parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Neilson left last week to visit their daughter Mary in Toronto and are now in Bloomfield, Michigan with their daughter Kaye and her family for Christmas.

Lets not forget about the community Carol Service at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church this Sunday Dec. 17th at 8:00 p.m.

Bruce and Helen Caughey were guests at the Formosa Mutual Fire Insurance Christmas party which was held last week in Walkerton. The previous weekend they visited with Miss Mary Bass and her sister Mrs. Wilfred Jarvis at Smith's Falls.

Nessie Drumgoole has been moved from St. Mary's- On-The-Lake hospital to the Switzer nursing home at R.R. 2, Odessa.

Jack Forester received word Sunday of the passing of his grandmother, Mrs. Pinkney. Death 1

Dr. David Allison is holidaying with his parents Rev. and Mrs. Norman Allison. David has been with the Flying Doctors Service at Katherin, Northern Australia. Prior to leaving Australia he was doing some sky-diving, a hobby he enjoys, at Brisbane and also in San Francisco while enroute to the island. Following the Christmas vacation, he will continue with his medical career.



PHOTO BY DAN MARTIN

This pair of American Kestrel's has been protected by contractors Les Casselman and Dan Martin on a Front Road home. The American Kestrel is the smallest and most common of Ontario's falcons.

JANET'S JOTTINGS: THE CALL OF HOME

I was struck, quite forcibly, at the recent Canada Day celebrations by the strong migratory call of Amherst Island families. The children come home! It was so neat and also so natural that families gather together at times of celebration. Children and grandchildren were there to celebrate Canada's birthday together. It is not just because Mom will nag me if I don't come home on that special day, whether birthday, Thanksgiving, or first day of bass fishing. It's not a guilt trip such as Great Aunt Matilda lays on me, when she says "This might be my last birthday, dear!" No, some deep and inner call makes us go to great lengths to join family members at special times. We want to share the joys and possibly sorrows with those of our biological or families of the heart. We will fight traffic jams, extra work before and after, packing and other endless tasks in order to make this migratory trip possible. As my daughter-in-law Sarah would say, "It's in the genes". We want to go home.

Just like us, the birds of Amherst Island want to come home. The tiny Ruby-throated Hummingbird that feeds daily in your flower garden decided months ago to fly non-stop from the Yucatan peninsula across the Gulf of Mexico. This wee mite loses half its body weight making the crossing because it is so anxious to reach its breeding grounds that it takes this dangerous shortcut and not the longer trip around the gulf and over land. The Killdeer nesting in the exact same place on Wyatt's laneway as last year came home to raise its family. It has flown from the Gulf area on a trip that meets storms and winds as it flies



PHOTO BY TERRY CULBERT

Contractors Les Casselman and Dan Martin checking out a pair of baby American Kestrels.

up the eastern seaboard and along the Hudson Valley. The Purple Martins establish family nesting sites here on Amherst Island and send scouts ahead to mark territories with males and later females following. They can only stay with us for such a short season because they are more susceptible to cold and unlike the Tree Swallows, who sometimes stay until December, the Martins will return to the southern states and Mexico in August.

Those genes drive them home to the nesting boxes of their family. It's tradition!

I am always amazed at how close to the average arrival dates our birds manage to show up. We have watched the Osprey family at the Kingston Field Naturalist's property at the Foot of the Island for the past twenty years and now the school children watch for the family that nests on the ball field light standard. Like clockwork they return the first week of April have babies by June and leave again by October. When you are flying hundreds of miles south to north across United States how do you find that one light pole, in one baseball field on one island in one of the Great Lakes? They do not carry GPS or maps provided by CAA. It is a marvellous mystery of Nature how these intrepid travellers manage to find just the site that they were looking for and just about on the same date as in past years.

For about fifteen years an extended family of Cliff Swallows nested under the eaves along the south wall of our house on the South Shore. Just about the time we were expecting them to return one or the other would mention, "You know it's about time for the Cliff Swallows to return." Sure enough about May 3rd we would hear excited chirping as they settled in to finding spots and building mud nests glued to the stucco. They look a lot like Barn Swallows but their tails are only slightly forked and the spot on their heads is buffy not reddish-brown. Cliff Swallows are so predictable that you can sing about them as in the song, "When the swallows return to Capistrano". They are noted for this dependable timing. Something drastic must have happened to our family or the natural materials for nesting changed in our area, because they no longer nest here. At one time there were as many as fifteen nests. Wayne Fleming has a family group nesting on his milk house this year and last year they tried McCormick's garage near the ferry dock. For a short time they are noisy, talkative and somewhat messy while they nest but in spite of that you'll miss them when they're gone. Swallows are sensitive and can be wiped out by sudden weather changes or changes in habitat.

Enjoy the summer of '09 on Amherst and welcome back those family visitors, old friends and new friends, feathered or otherwise. May all find a safe haven and a warm nest on our beautiful shores and know that for this brief time their hearts are at home.

Good Birding,

AIMS JUNE 13

- Hugh Jenney

Twenty-five men sat down to a delicious full breakfast prepared by the Littles.

Eva thanked us for our donation to the medical needs in Haiti. From her description of how the money was used to help a mother and her child we are certainly glad to have contributed to their well-being. She went on to say that Linda Bates raised \$35,000 in school books which relieves the local school board of that expense so now they can afford to hire more teachers.

The crates used to transport the books are now being used as bookshelves and stairs.

Hugh Jenney read the correspondence from St. Paul's Presbyterian Church thanking us for our one thousand dollar donation to help fix their roof.

Ross Haines reported that Marian Glenn is being helped even though she lives on the mainland now. He also reported that the flower baskets are up and that the water container is being painted to thank Glen Lasher for his generous donation.

Bruce reported for the tree-planting committee saying that last year we planted twenty-five trees. This year we have orders for ten and have planted three others. The sign-up sheet is in the store. They dig the hole and put in soil conditioning plus staking the tree and putting a plastic protector around it all for the price of \$10.00. The owner is to water it once a week in the warm season. If the tree dies, we will replace it free of charge.

Greg Latiak reported on the New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance. The name of our new band is "A Bit of Nostalgia". Some volunteers are still needed so please call Greg at 384-8367.

AIMS Market Cart: Woody asked the membership to invite new people to help. Greg asked that he be notified of any changes to the sign-up list which is on our webpage: www.aimsociety.ca.

Terry Culbert reported on the July 11th Car Rally for the AI Museum: \$7.00 for children 16 and under; and, \$15.00 for adults. All tickets include a lunch, map and a Fact Finder Questionnaire. The winner is the car with the most accurate report of what they have found. Sign up at 12:30 at the AI Museum and have a fun-filled day.

Ross Haines volunteered to put up a new sign for the Weasel & Easel over the Back Kitchen sign near the ferry. He will do it after he returns from Ireland. Thanks, Ross.

AIMS Guest Speaker, Bill Hedges was introduced by Hugh Jenney as no stranger to this Island. Bill built the twelve-sided stone house presently owned by Amy Caughey and Dr. Marcus Berman, as well as a host of other masonry projects spanning a career of about 35



years. A lot of us learned how to build these famous Irish stone walls working on the west wall of the Pentland Cemetery several years ago. We then went on to work on the beautiful stone walls with their rounded entrance ends at Garry & Anne-Marie Hitchins farm on the 2nd Concession.

Bill started his speech by saying that he was not going to give a speech, but rather he was just going to talk.

Born in the US, kicked out of Oberlin College - a liberal college which was the first to admit Blacks and the first to admit women - in 1969, just one course short of his degree in biology. (He was granted this degree after the fact, four years later.) This was in the 60's. Bill sent his draft card to President Nixon. After three days in jail for passing out the Black Panther Newsletter, Bill headed for Toronto to evade the draft and spent two years there with many others. He found A.I. through a friend who was visiting Alan Kidd. They traveled to the Island in a black hearse, smoking pot all the way. Bill and others in this entourage, along with Ian and Randi Murray, were struck by Island Fever and decided to form the "Commune" down Topsy Farms way. He claims it really wasn't a commune, but the name stuck anyway.

Bill was here for the Great Debate about using a bubble system for the ferry. Many claimed it would change the Island and it did. He used to skate across the ice to go to work at the cement plant and the hydro plant. Sometimes he drove across. If there was water on the ice, it was safe. No water meant the ice was cracked, so beware.

Bill has been building stone walls ever since he constructed his first stone wall under water when he was twelve years old. His father built stone walls without mortar as a hobby, so Bill had a good teacher to start with. Bill, in addition to being a jack of all trades, also has a biology degree with a minor in geology, from Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio. He became a teacher at 46 years of age when he developed a masonry course at Kingston QECVI High School between the years 1994 to 1998. Bill still works in the trade on smaller projects in the Kingston area when he and his wife Lisa are not in Mexico (think winter!)

When the Commune reorganized in 1975, Bill was granted this property as his equity portion. After reading a book on tipi construction, Bill decided to build one himself, and subsequently sewed a canvas tipi with a 1925 sewing machine. "Living in that tipi was like having a license to freeze to death," said Bill. Living in all this roundness gave Bill the idea to build a twelve-sided stone house mainly for the thermal mass that it provided for warmth. Having tons of rock on the inside and wood and insulation on the outside really took advantage of the resulting thermal mass.

He built his twelve-sided house in 1978-79. It contains 110 tons of locally collected limestone. Many alternative

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energy programs like the building of this house were inspired by the Fed. Government forays into the alternative energy area during the late 70's.

"As we age, we become more interested in history," said Bill. About five years ago, he did some stonework for Laurie Kilpatrick on the South Shore. When Joyce Haines and Judith Harrower got wind of his expertise, they decided to hire him to lead a group of Islanders to repair our old stone fences. Joyce applied for a grant from Trillium Ontario and got it, so they were off to the races.

Bill thinks that our modern education system does not put enough emphasis on hands on experience and learning, the acquisition of which is good for a person's soul.

Peter Trueman thanked Bill for his humorous and informative "talk" and wondered what his "speech" would be like. He complimented Bill for building such a work of art for Amy & Marcus which was hand made from beginning to end. He presented Bill with a picture of the Hitchins' wall taken by Brian Little, saying it is in black and white the way God intended.

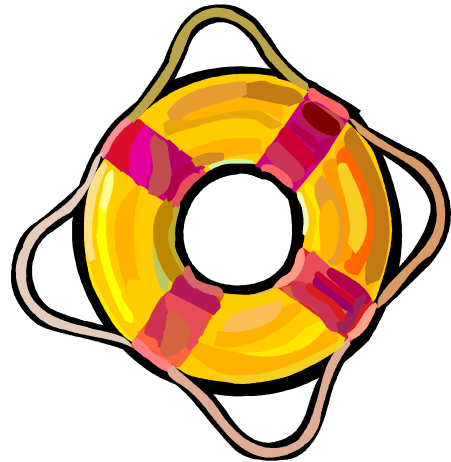
Bill thanked us for inviting him saying that social landscapes make physical landscapes which provide community goals that pull people together.

Stone wall building workshops and seminars are planned for parts of this summer as well. The north wall of the Pentland Cemetery is the site of this year's focus of restoration.

Boating to Work

Brian Bell, a purser on our vehicle ferry, the Frontenac II, crosses the North Channel from the mainland in his aluminum commercial fishing boat to begin his shift. Photographs taken at sunrise, Friday, July 10, 2009.

PHOTO BY TERRY CULBERT





THE AMHERST ISLAND FOLK FESTIVAL

August 14 - 15, 2009

Folk, Bluegrass, Celtic, Country, Blues and more

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*Friday evening members & sponsors
Sponsored by Lifford Wine Brokers*

Doors open 6:30pm, Music begins 7pm at The Lodge on Amherst Island:

Jon Jones & Tim Ryan Fireweed Jason Fowler

Wine and Cheese will be available

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Saturday

*Gates open 10am, Music begins 10:30am, music ends 8pm. This is a
rain-or-shine event.*

--Visual Artist in residence: Wallace Edwards--

*Rick Fines Jason Fowler Phil Shapiro & Carrie Shore Kristin
Sweetland*

*Jay Linden Steve Kennedy Seamus Hannah Christina Fenn &
Elwood Trumble*

Tom MacIntosh Dave Martin John MacPherson

Lamb & Pig Roast by Harley Gurnsey served at 4:30 pm

Saturday BBQ all day until 4pm

Wine and Beer by AIMS

Soft drinks and Juice by AIWI

No Coolers will be allowed this year.

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TICKETS \$30 each in advance only for Saturday. Bring a comfy chair!

*Members and sponsors of CJAI-FM may attend Friday at no additional
ticket expense by presenting their Saturday ticket at the door,
others are \$10 each for Friday night.*

ALL TICKETS BY PRE-PURCHASE ONLY - THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT!!!
There are a limited number of tickets available

Tickets (613) 384-8282 during the day, or at The AI Saturday Market from





I would like to thank everyone who came and called, sent food and flowers. Even though no one knows why I had double vision it was a bit scary.

A special thanks to Peter and Eleanor Trueman for the ride home.

We are blessed here on the Island to have such a professional team of first responders. They take charge, are calming and businesslike but friendly at the same time. Even the ambulance attendants commented on how well-trained and efficient they are.

Thanks again.
Shirley Miller

NAPANEE SPCA NEEDS OUR HELP

I am collecting Canadian tire money, used postage stamps, towels and blankets etc. New fundraising efforts include "pop can" donations. This is a great way to recycle all those used cans and help the shelter take care of the animals in need. If you could please leave all items in my porch it would be greatly appreciated.

Help us speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. On their behalf I thank you.

Freda Youell

GARDEN PARTY

You don't want to miss it!

The 62nd Annual Garden Party

At St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

On Saturday, July 25th, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Home baking, Flea Market, BBQ, Tea Room Plants, Produce, Preserves, Entertainment, Raffles, and an Auction at 2 p.m.

"We're Raising the Roof"

Or rather funds to pay for a new roof.

Please donate: Items for the flea market or auction can be dropped off at the Whitton's in the Village.

~ CLASSIFIEDS ~ ~ CLASSIFIEDS ~

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CALENDARS

Featuring Brian Little's photographs, are still available. The cost is \$10.00. They are available at the Weasel & Easel or from Joyce Reid (613-634-8716).

If anyone has any **photographs of past years ice travel**, I would like to know about them for a museum project.

Please call me at 613-389-2588.
Thank you. Keith Miller

AIMS would appreciate donations of items for the Market Cart and Fall Auction fundraising activities. Please contact Hugh Jenney (384-7830) or Dayle Gowan (634-3815) or Woody Woodiwiss (384-0887) to arrange for pickup.

WEASEL & EASEL

Come and browse through our selection of fine Arts and Crafts.

This season we are featuring:

Beautifully hand painted silk scarves with matching jewellery

A variety of watercolours and acrylics from Island artists

An exciting selection of cards with new designs

The latest Museum Print by Peter Large featuring The Blacksmith's Shop

Fine wool Ponchos and Prayer Shawls
Pottery, Jewellery, Afghans, quilted items, stained glass, and more.....

Our hours of operations are:

WEEKENDS up to and including Thanksgiving:

Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sundays from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Holiday Mondays from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m.

WEEKDAYS throughout July and August from 12:00 to 4:00

We are pleased to accept cash, cheques, debit, Visa and MasterCard.

Our volunteers look forward to welcoming you to the store at 5220 Front Road. Our telephone number is 613 634 9512 during business hours. If you would like further information, please contact Sherrill Wright at 613 634 7038 (sherrillw@ca.inter.net) or Linda Joll at 613 634 8213 (thejolls@kos.net)



FOR SALE

Two lots for sale next to the Fowler house at 14005 Front Road. \$85,000 each. One is wooded and the other is cleared. Call Hugh or Claire Jenney at 613-384-7830.



Celebrating Canada



Val Wolfreys snapped this photo of grandson Drew, who drove a battery operated car in the Amherst Island Canada Day parade.

The



Foot