

Amherst Island BEACON

Newsstand
\$2.00

Issue 360

www.amherstisland.on.ca
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March 2008



Introducing...



PHOTO BY SUE FRIZZELL

THREE GENERATIONS OF MURRAYS POSE FOR A QUICK PHOTO. JACOB HOLDS HIS ELDEST SON, NATHAN (3), WHILE PROUD POPPA IAN, HOLDS JACOB (AND SUE'S) NEWEST ADDITION, MICHAEL. MICHAEL WAS BORN ON FEBRUARY 21ST AND WEIGHED 7LBS10OZ.

THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

Two of the concerns expressed by those responding to our survey were Beacon availability and a desire for more Island history articles.

Sally's Christmas present to me has finally arrived – a newly painted newspaper dispenser. We hope to have the arrival of each issue posted on the ferry dock message boards and announced on CJAI. Beacons will still be available in the store.

Allan Glenn has given us the first of what we hope are a series of articles on Island houses and other buildings.

Alan Kidd has written about 1971 – an important year on this Island.

The past year has seen the passing of 3 old Island farmers: Garnet McDonald last March, Denis McGinn in January, and now Ralph Wemp in February. Each of these men were respected by their neighbours and loved by their families. They've left holes in that part of the community that I think of as "old Island". This issue we'll remember Denis and, at his family's request, memories of Ralph will be in the April issue.

We wish to express our deepest condolences to family and friends of Dale Willard.

Sue and I apologize for somehow forgetting to include the "Notes for Hope Concert" notice that Inka Brockhausen sent us.

Please continue to let us know when we have made a mistake; it encourages us to be more careful in the future.

Note: next issue we plan to insert a "Goods & Services – Amherst Island" pamphlet. We'll use the usual ads from previous issues. Sally will probably call everyone but please don't hesitate to contact her – (613) 389-3802 (not in the afternoon) if you want changes made. New ads welcome.

We will continue to run ads from mainlanders providing they have a record of good service over here.

There is still no charge for ads as we consider that these ads provide a service to the community.

Policy shift: brief articles from Islanders on their travels are encouraged along with a pertinent photo (or 2).



**The Amherst
Island Beacon**
Issue 360
March 2008

*Published monthly, the
Beacon is wholly
funded by paid sub-
scriptions and at the
Amherst Island Gen-
eral Store.*

Subscription Rates:
Canada \$30/yr
USA \$35/yr
Overseas: Contact Us!
E-Mail \$20/yr

March Printing
250 Copies

**Subscription & Edi-
torial**
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**Deadline for all sub-
missions:**
25th of each Month

Printed By:
Burke's Printing,
Napanee

Credits:
Word 2003
Microsoft Publisher
2003
Pagemaker 7.0
Acrobat 6.0
Family Tree Maker
9.0
Microsoft Clip Art

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Correction to last month's column; it was Ralph Wemp who traveled to Florida with his daughter Marie (& Brian), not Ralph Woods. Apologies to all.

Our sympathy to the the family of the late Ralph Wemp; his son David (Betty), daughters Marie Ward (Brian), Kathy Reed (Stewart), all of Amherst Island; Joyce Titley (Grant), Kingston; and Maureen Tasker (Andy), PEI and their families. Condolences also to his sisters Jean Tugwell and Helen Miller, Amherst Island; Marjorie Tooke, Burlington and his brother Nielson of B.C. and their families, as well as Ralph's many extended family members on the Island. Ralph enjoyed one last trip to Florida in January with Brian and Marie.

Condolences also to Dennis McGinn's extended Island family

Get Well wishes this month to Gian Frontini.

Congratulations to Jacob and Sue Murray & big brother Nathan, on the birth of their second son, Michael William, who arrived on February 21st. Congratulations also to proud grandpar-

ents Ian, Sally, Carol, Steve and Uncle Kyle, Aunt Leah, and Aunt Lesley.

Jack and Beth Forester spent a couple of weeks in sunny Florida as did Lloyd and Elaine Wolfreys.

Peter Large and Margaret Maloney spent a week in Cuba as did John & Alena Schram.

Eric and Janice McGinn and Peter and Pam McCormick traveled to Mexico.

The Amherst Island Rec Assoc., along with the A.I. Fire Dept., held their belated bonfire on a crisp February evening. Close to 100 Islanders enjoyed time by the fire, and warmed up in the fire hall with hot chocolate, chili and hotdogs.

The Rec Association's Community Euchres have been quite well attended this year.

Thirty to forty Islanders took advantage of a bus trip to Tug Hill in New York to visit the Maple Ridge Wind Farm. The group toured the area, and heard from a land owner who has wind mills on his farm.

Students at A.I.P.S. held their annual Heritage Day on February 15th. [See Janet Scott's article below.]

March came in like a lion in the early hours of March 1st, so hopefully it will go out like a lamb! It has been kind of nice, having a "real" winter this year, but by March I think we are all ready for spring to arrive. The good news about so much snow is that it will, hopefully, have a positive effect on the low water tables we had in the fall. There are daffodils poking through in the flower beds at the school.

Hoping everyone has safe travels over the March Break and Easter holidays.

Waiting for Spring



PHOTO BY JIM GOULD

TAKEN IN THE MAR 8, STORM ON SOUTH SHORE, JANET SCOTT'S YARD

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Liz Harrison & Jackie Sylvester

At our February meeting, we welcomed a new member, Nancy Pearson. Our Provincial Conference is being held in Kingston this year in June. We have decided to cover the registration fee for our President, and other members will have some of the costs covered if they are able to attend and represent our group.



Joyce Haines reported that requests have been made to the Community Foundation of Greater Kingston and Loyalist Heritage Committee for grants to cover expenses associated with the Stone Fences project which we hope to continue this summer. Volunteers are welcome to join in this rewarding project.

Our group supported the Notes for Hope Concert (organized by Inka Brockhausen) to benefit the Arthritis Society (one of our ROSE partners) by providing volunteer help at the door, paying for a general Island mailing, and by providing light savoury snacks for the reception following.

This year our group is sending a donation to help Artezan Designs, a group of Afghan women artisans in Kabul who make shawls using silk from Herat on wooden looms. This project currently supports 10 extended families of nearly 100 people. Daily classes provide the girls and women with literacy classes to help them move towards financial and social independence.

Our meeting concluded with a social afternoon of a movie and pizza. Our next meeting, on March 19, will highlight the services of Seniors Outreach Services in our area. Everyone is welcome to attend.



HERITAGE FAIR 2008

- Janet I. Scott (On behalf of the staff and students of AIPS)
Heritage Fair, Friday, February 15th

For the past few years Amherst Island Public School has celebrated Heritage Day on our flag's birthday, February 15th. This gives our small school, 27 students in total, a chance to display History and Social Studies projects to our community.

This year our senior students began working on their projects in January. Grades 5 to 8 needed to research a historical subject pertinent to Amherst Island or a genealogical study of their own family. This develops research and communication skills. The Grade 3 and 4 class made peasant houses as part of Medieval Studies and Grade 1 and 2 studied Traditions and Celebrations so that tied in nicely with Family Day.

We began the day by making Stone Soup which then simmered happily away until lunchtime. To include Family traditions we made Grandma Betty's tea biscuits to serve with our soup.

At 10:15 Mrs. Helen Caughey, aged 94, and a former teacher at our school joined us to talk about days past and the difficulties children had getting to school. Her daughter, Beth Forester also a former teacher told of the winters until 1973 when the ferry didn't run in the winter and children were sometimes snowed in for weeks at a time. Pictures of schools then and now were shown and another former student Elsie Willard shared about the closing of the five little schools to make one larger one that included the Continuation School. They patiently answered questions from the children and opened their eyes to a world two generations ago.

After a short break for Snack Time we listened to Ellis Wolfreys and his musical friends, Richard and Hazel MacKinnon share their musical memories and the children got to listen to old fashioned guitar and violin music.

Ellis demonstrated the same song on 6 string and 12 string guitars so they could hear the difference. The children were shown the inside of a violin and Richard explained how the sounding board determined the pitch of the violin.

After lunch the Senior class showed their projects in the gym and members of The Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre judged the projects. The Primary projects were on display. Prizes were supplied by the Museum Board of Directors for the top three students: Daniel Little, Brandon Reid and Riely Lambert. Two other students, Dakota Wolfreys and Muressa Fabian-Robinson received Honourable Mention. Our secretary, Lyn Fleming made parchment certificates for all the students as well.

Our special guest Mrs. Helen Brown brought greetings from the Limestone Board and words of encouragement to all the children, staff and visitors. It was a great day!

Thank-you to all the volunteers and community members who made our day so wonderful.

**The New Beacon Box
Has Arrived!!!**

We now have the paper box for the Beacon. We are considering a couple of locations for the box at this time. The price for the Beacon from the paper box will be the same as it is at the store, \$2.00.

We will have more info in the April issue.



ANOTHER NEIGHBOUR GONE

- Ian Murray

The first time I noticed Denis McGinn was in a baseball game in 1970. He was playing first base and, as I came up to bat, Denis asked the first base coach who I was and was told that I was married to the new teacher.

My next memory of Denis was in the summer of 1978 and I was working across the bay earning money to keep the farm going. I worked late and, when I got to the dock intending to take the 8:30 P.M. ferry home, there was no ferry. Already waiting for the ferry was Denis McGinn. I got in with him and we wondered why there was no ferry and would there ever be one again. We couldn't think of who to phone to find out if and when the ferry would arrive to take us home. I remember saying to Denis that I was fed up with not knowing what was going on and I would do my best to get the Beacon going again. The Beacon got going again later that year and I wonder if it would have happened if Denis and I hadn't had that conversation. (I know we got home but I don't remember how long we waited or why the ferry was late.)

Denis was a man who kept pretty much to himself and I doubt if we averaged a conversation per year over the past 30 years. We always waved and I always knew that if he was needed Denis was a man who would help if he could. I also knew that he was not someone who would ever ask for help except perhaps from a close relative.

A few days ago I had a visit with our neighbour and friend Gord Miller. I hadn't seen Gord for a while so I stopped the tractor and we chatted on the road. I asked Gord about Denis as I knew Gord grew up on the farm beside Denis' family farm.

Denis was about 10 years older than Gord which to a young Gord was "old". He remembers Denis working and visiting back and forth with his family and particularly his kindness toward a younger neighbour. "He'd take me to ball games in the village.... Denis was a calm, gentle man who I always wanted to be around."

1971 – A YEAR OF CHANGES

- Alan Kidd

1971 became known as the hippie summer to Amherst Island residents when a varying number of young people (mostly from Florida) spent the summer on the island. A number of the visitors that stayed for the summer even joined one of the Island Softball teams (the Reds) and of course were regular patrons of Filson's Café, indulging in a chocolate milkshake after every game. And the whole thing was my fault, since the place they were staying was my farm.

The hippie arrival, however, was only one of the events occurring on the Island that year. One could make an argument that 1971 was a watershed year on the Island – things haven't been the same ever since then.

Most residents would say the biggest change was the start of year around ferry service. 1971 was the last time the ferry tied up for the winter. And what a winter we had here in early 1971. The snow storms started in December of 1970 and didn't stop. The snow banks on the Island roads got higher and higher. And then came the March 1971 blizzard. So much snow came down that the old grader the Island had (we were our own township back then) finally broke down trying to push the snow away and

additional heavy equipment couldn't be brought over to the Island on the ice road. By that time the tops of the snow banks on the Stella Forty Foot were already reaching the telephone wires, and once the plowing stopped the drifting snow filled all that space. Soon nobody could move on the Island except on foot or by snowmobile. This meant the public school had to close, since the children and teachers couldn't get there. Also milk deliveries to the island cheese factory became very difficult, although some milk was delivered by sleds pulled by snowmobiles. Fortunately we had a couple of well provisioned stores in Stella, which were able to bring in supplies via the ice road. The only problem for those of us who weren't residents of the Island metropolis was – how do you get to Stella? For those who had snowmobiles, and just about everyone acquired a snowmobile that winter, this wasn't too much of a problem. However, I couldn't afford one, and I lived seven miles from Stella. Fortunately I did have a pair of snowshoes – so that was how I got my groceries. I would hike across the marsh to the Third Concession, then down that road to the Stella Forty Foot and then on to Stella. Generally the going was easier if you avoided the roads – they were nothing more than a series of snow drifts, generally deeper than I was tall. I would make my way through the fields. Fences were no problem since they were generally underneath the snow. I had a couple of standard stops along the way to visit and have some tea. With these stops, the trip would occupy the entire day. I didn't mind however, there really wasn't a lot else to do.

Finally, the snow stopped and the weather turned warmer. Spare parts sent across the ice road enabled the Township crew to get the grader going again and the tedious job of pushing a way through the snow drifts started. Calls to neighbours kept us informed as to progress. The Front Road was open as far as Emerald! They've reached the Second Concession! Finally the big day arrived and I could actually drive to Stella and get some fuel oil – I got the space heater going that night and could actually venture further that three feet from the wood stove in the kitchen. Of more importance for parents was the reopening of school after three weeks of house bound kids. However, the biggest effect of the storm was year around operation of the ferry. Since the province, through the Ontario Milk Marketing Board, had to guarantee the delivery of milk from dairy farms (there were a lot of them on the Island then) it was forced to compensate those farmers whose milk couldn't get to the cheese factory. This, combined with the risks that the shutdown of transportation caused, pushed the province into installing a bubble system which would permit the ferry to operate throughout the winter. In 1971 this bubble system from Millhaven to Stella was the longest in the World. There were a number of difficulties, and service was irregular the first winter, but the ferry kept going. Island life would never be quite the same again.

That wasn't the only big change – we got dial telephones that year also. Up until 1971 you placed a call on the Island by connecting to the operator in Stella and have her (it was always "her") place the call. In some ways this made things slower, but there were a lot of advantages with that system. For one thing if you were visiting a neighbour, you could let the operator know and she would route your calls there. Actually I found that it often wasn't necessary to tell the operator where you were, she would know anyway. People just always seemed to know where you were – for better or worse. Anyway, the Bell Automatic switchboard took over in the summer of 1971 and the Stella op-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

erator became a thing of the past – things on the Island weren't the same after that event either.

The last big change doesn't sound as earth shaking for the Island as the other two events, but it also had a lasting impact. This was the creation of a Volunteer fire department on the Island. There had been some fire fighting equipment on the Island before then, a service provided by the Amherst Island Mutual Insurance Company. I have every reason to be grateful to that service – they saved my house when I had a chimney fire a few months after moving to the Island. However, an official Fire Department meant better insurance rates, and easier mortgages. And that had its effect on the Amherst Island real estate market.

All of these changes put together made life easier in many ways for Island residents, but also had the effect of making Island life a bit less distinct from life on the mainland.

[Editor: Alan gave me a ride home from the Nathan Rogers concert at the Lodge (March 1) and we talked a bit about March 1971. There had been a fair build up of snow that winter but it was the heavy snow falls in March that really shut things down.

We were pleased to see that the road crew has diligently winged this year's snow banks back so that there is room for a lot more snow. And we both hope not to have a lot more snow.]

VIVIENNE ANN MOODY

(reprinted from the Globe and Mail, Feb. 26/08)

Vivienne died in Toronto on February 17 in her 70th year of a chronic lung disease.

She was predeceased by her parents Professor George Brownell and Genevieve Brock of Winnipeg and by her son Christopher. She is survived by her husband of 45 years Paul of Toronto and her daughter Sacha Thoman (Michael) of Brooklyn Ontario and her grandsons, Macgregor and Colton Thoman; also by a sister Caroline Fairley of Vancouver and a brother Gregory Brownell of Winnipeg.

Vivi was born in Winnipeg and was educated at the University of Manitoba where she earned a masters degree in French and Russian literature. She then taught French and English at private and public high schools in Winnipeg and in a cross cultural setting in Yellowknife. Her greatest interest was European cinema which she studied at the University of Manitoba and at the Sorbonne in Paris. She taught this at the University of Manitoba. She designed, staffed and taught a remedial English course for first year students at the University of Winnipeg. As a final career, Vivi was at the CBC for 10 years on staff for a program on the arts called "Adrienne Clarkson Presents".

Vivi was a hugely attractive lady who was intellectually curious and loved having fun. She bore her long time, uncomfortable disease with great bravery, stoicism, humour and wit.

A memorial service for Vivienne will be held at Bishop Strachan School chapel, Toronto, March 28, 2008.

[Editor: Vivienne & Paul Moody built their new house beside Back Beach, off Art McGinn Road. I regret that I didn't have the opportunity to know this lady better: so many interesting new Islanders, so little time to visit.]

THE GLENN HOMESTEAD



THIS IS THE OLD GLENN HOMESTEAD. PLEASE SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE _____.



DENIS RICHARD

MCGINN

- Monsignor Lynch

The simple life has its own truth to tell.

That sentence could, in a way, describe the life of Denis Richard McGinn. He was born on Amherst Island; he lived almost all of his life on Amherst Island; and, except for his last few hours, that is where his life came to a close, as well.

He was the third youngest of thirteen children, born almost seventy-five years ago. He attended elementary and secondary school on the Island; he worked on local farms; he made some preliminary plans to work elsewhere, but, when that did not work out, he quite readily returned to the homestead, where, by now, his parents needed someone to look after them. And that is what he did – until his father died some forty-four years ago, and his mother, some thirty-eight years ago. He worked in carpentry and roofing, yet always remained on the homestead. It was, indeed, a life that seemed, in many ways, simple and quiet. But....

The simple life has its own truth to tell.

What truth to tell? Perhaps one of the truths that this simple, gentle life tells has to do with family – surprising, perhaps for a man who did not have a family, himself. Family was very important to him. He chose to stay at home to look after his parents. Nieces and nephews visited him often. Whenever there was a celebration, he would be there – and they would make sure that he was. He was kind to people, and people were kind to him, in turn. And is that not what family is to be about?

This simple life also had its truth to tell about nature and gardening and animals. For Denis McGinn, the animals on the farm were almost like pets. In gardening, he was just cooperating with nature, in order to provide vegetables for himself and members of the family. He would go hunting, hoping, perhaps, not to shoot anything. That is why the Gospel was chosen. It should be assurance to you who mourn most today. *“If God can clothe in such splendor the lilies of the field which bloom today and are gone tomorrow, will He not provide so much more for you?”* Denis McGinn believed that God would look after him; and we believe that God will, indeed, look after him.

For years, Denis maintained the cemetery at St. Bartholo-

mew on Amherst Island – taking care in death of those of his family gone before and many others, as well. He was also instrumental in refurbishing the little church and getting it to the point that it could be used in the winter time. Here again was the gentle, quiet life simply going about his work, providing an opportunity for other people to praise and worship their God. When you add to that the fact that he did not find it easy to meet strangers in groups, though one-on-one he was fine, the fact that he was quite set in his ways, his T.V. shows and the newspaper, you begin to get the picture of the man.

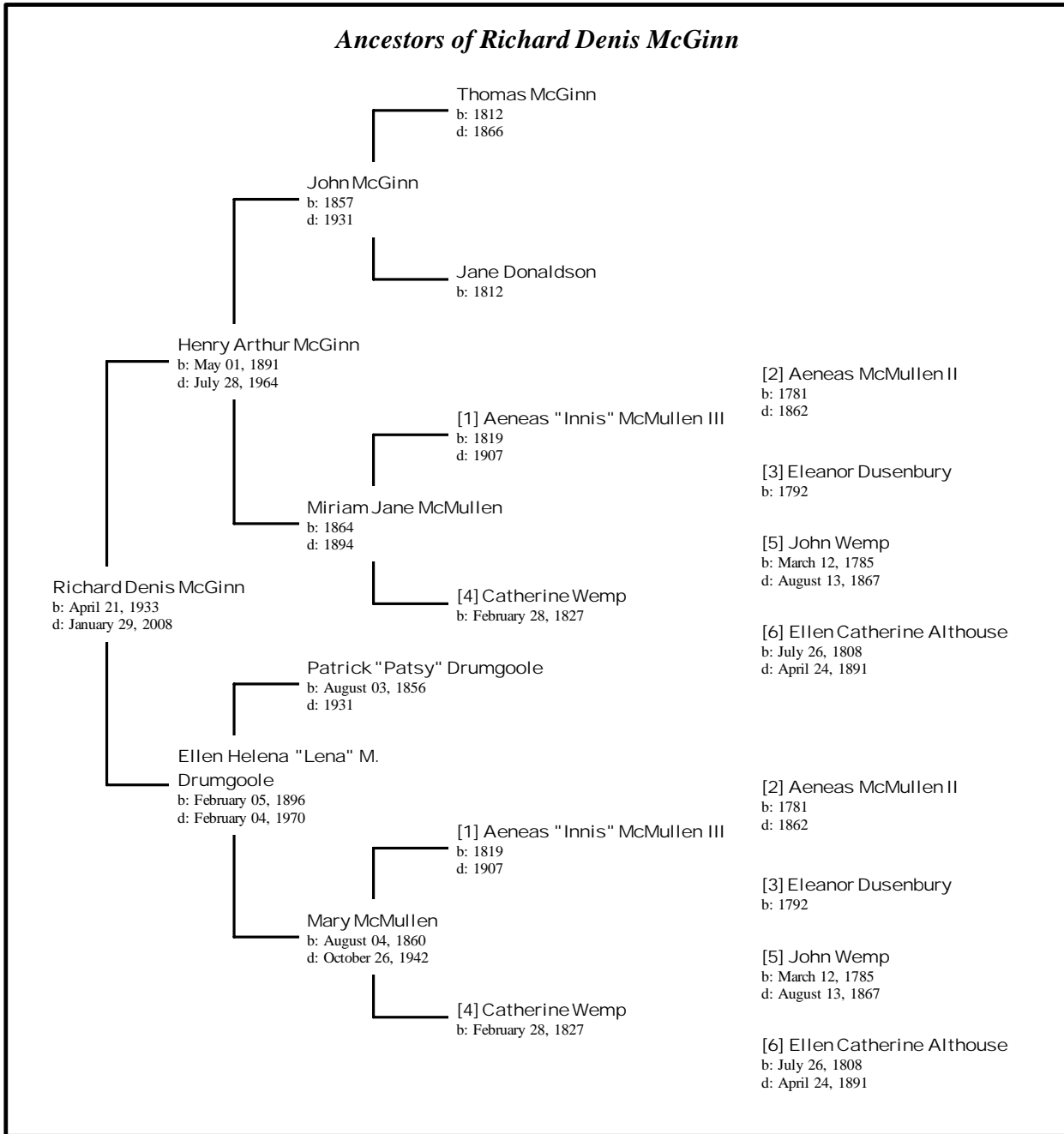
There was one final lesson that I learned from Denis, and it had to do with the death announcement. At the bottom of it, I noticed two possible ways suggested to make donations: one was to the UHKF-SOCC. With a little effort, I understood that this would mean University Hospitals Kingston Foundation – Southeastern Ontario Cancer Centre. The other option was AIMS, and I had no luck at all there. I had to be told by Eleanor that it stood for Amherst Island Men’s Society – and that you are a group of men available to take people to medical appointments and therapies and treatments, to provide help, as needed. I wanted to mention you specifically because it is such a needed service in a community: and it is, I think, typical of the ingenuity shown by Islanders that you should have formed such a society.

I offer my sympathy, that of Msgr. Clement and of St. Joseph’s Parish, to Denis’ family: his sisters, Helen, Serena, and Eleanor and his brother, Mitchell, and your families, to his many nieces and nephews; to his neighbours and fellow Islanders, who have made this one last trip with him; and to the men of AIMS.

The writer of Wisdom says that, *“the hands of the just are in the hands of God, no torment will ever touch them.”* That is our hope, that is our belief, for Denis Richard McGinn. May he rest in peace.

The simple life does, indeed, have its own truth to tell.

Ancestors of Richard Denis McGinn



TRAVEL NOTE

- Michael Joll

Linda and I spent a week in England at the end of January to help her uncle, Owen Broughton, celebrate his 100th birthday on the 29th. While in London, Linda photographed the daffodils in bloom in St. James' Park on the 25th January! This was followed by a visit to the Battle of Britain memorial on the Thames Embankment close to the Houses of Parliament. My uncle, Pilot Officer I.K.S.(Ian) Joll, a Hurricane fighter pilot during the Battle of Britain, has his name inscribed on the memorial.

To see my uncle's name there as one of "The Few" was a proud and very humbling experience.



LEFT: MICHAEL AND LINDA JOLL VISITING THE MONUMENT

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MICHAEL AND LINDA JOLL



NEILSON STORE MUSEUM

BACKROOM SERIES:

SUE MEECH,

SANDY PINES WILDLIFE CENTRE

- Janet Scott

Sue explained that her work has developed over the past twenty years and that she has been a licensed rehabilitator for the past few years.

Although I was interested in her work with birds it was fascinating to learn how mammals such as porcupines, foxes, deer, raccoons and skunks come into her care. Orphaned squirrels require round the clock feedings and she explained that volunteers help her with their care.

She is able to return some turtles to the wild by first treating their injury with antibiotics and dressings and then repairs their shell with the glues you would use to repair canoes and boats.

I was amazed to learn that birds, because of their high rate of metabolism, require ten times the amount of pain killer that a human would. No wonder so many of the injured birds we find seem to be suffering from shock. She suggested that if birds flying off your feeder hit a window on a regular basis then either move your feeder three feet from the window so they can't get up enough momentum or move it back to thirty feet from the window so that they have time to adjust their flight pattern. Birds uninjured but in shock will often recover in a quiet safe place. Owls that are brought to Sandy Pines are given emergency care and then driven by volunteers to Kay McKeever's sanctuary in Vineland. Great Blue Herons often become victims of abandoned fishing lines and if found in time she removes the twisted line preventing them from eating and preening and releases.

At present the Sandy Pines is adding a larger, circular aviary so that birds can be exercised as they heal in a large enough area to strengthen their wings. Sue feels that a bird that cannot be returned to the wild should be humanely euthanized. Sandy Pines is not a zoo where you can look at the creatures as she tries to keep human contact to a minimum so that the patients do not become used to humans and thus not able to be released.

To all those who brought gifts from her wish list, such as soaps and bleaches, Canadian Tire money etc. and the generous money donations Sue sends along a big thank-you. She very much enjoyed her visit to Amherst Island.

NEILSON STORE MUSEUM BACKROOM SERIES:

AMY & JILL CAUGHEY

- Alan Kidd

On Friday, February 22nd the 2008 series of Backroom talks continued with a presentation called "Food for Thought." There was a full house at the Neilson Store to hear Jill and Amy Caughey discuss aspects of food safety and nutrition.

Jill started the evening with a discussion of the activities of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Jill works in the Bellevue office of the CFIA. The mandate of the CFIA covers food safety, animal health and plant protection.



Diseases such as Asian Long Horned Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer (which has now been found as far east as Toronto), and the Plum Pox are an increasing concern of the CFIA. Jill showed the group a specimen of an Emerald Ash Borer.

Jill herself works in the fish inspection part of the CFIA and gave a more detailed report of the agency's activities in that area. Jill pointed out that 80% of the fish produced in Canada are exported, while 80% of the fish consumed in Canada are imported. All the fish imported and exported come under the supervision of the CFIA.

Canada imports fish from over 140 Countries. The top five suppliers of fish to Canada are the United States, China, Thailand, Vietnam and Chile. Major imports include Shrimp, Tuna, Salmon, Pollock and Herring.

Shipments arrive in Canada from over 1150 Importers. Each of these must have an import licence and must notify CFIA within 48 hours of receipt of a shipment. All product is held in freezers until released. The importer must keep records for each shipment.

Jill told the group that anyone can sign up for Allergy Alerts & Food Recall Information by going to the following web site: www.inspection.gc.ca Also a potential Food Safety Incident can be reported at cfiamaster@inspection.gc.ca or by calling 1 800 442 2342.

Next Amy Caughey told the group about nutrition. Amy studied nutrition at the University of Guelph and the University of Aberdeen. She distributed the newly revised Canada Food Guide to the group, which was just released last year. This food guide breaks food into four groups. One change from previous guides is that most foods consumed are recommended to be fruits and vegetables.

Very few foods have naturally occurring Vitamin D so that the guide now recommends that adults over the age of 50 take Vitamin D supplements.

Amy also pointed out that foods not on the list, including doughnuts, pop and candy are not recommended to be eaten regularly. She told us that 25% of the landfill in Nova Scotia is occupied by Tim Horton Garbage. In an experiment the total fat in a snack consisting of an Apple Fritter and an extra large double-double (25 grams) was passed around the room and compared with the fat in a yogurt and berry snack with an extra large coffee with milk (3 grams). The point was made even more strongly when the total fat in a KFC lunch of poutine and popcorn chicken (99 grams) was also passed around. Amy made the point that due to the relative low activity levels of a large part of the Canadian population, most people could not use up the fat they were consuming, which is the basic cause of the obesity epidemic now occurring throughout the western world.

After the talk the audience had a healthy snack of fruit and vegetables.

William Glenn and Family



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ALLEN GLENN

SEE ALLEN'S ARTICLE ABOUT THE GLENN FAMILY ON PAGE 13.

Full Lunar Eclipse, February 20, 2008

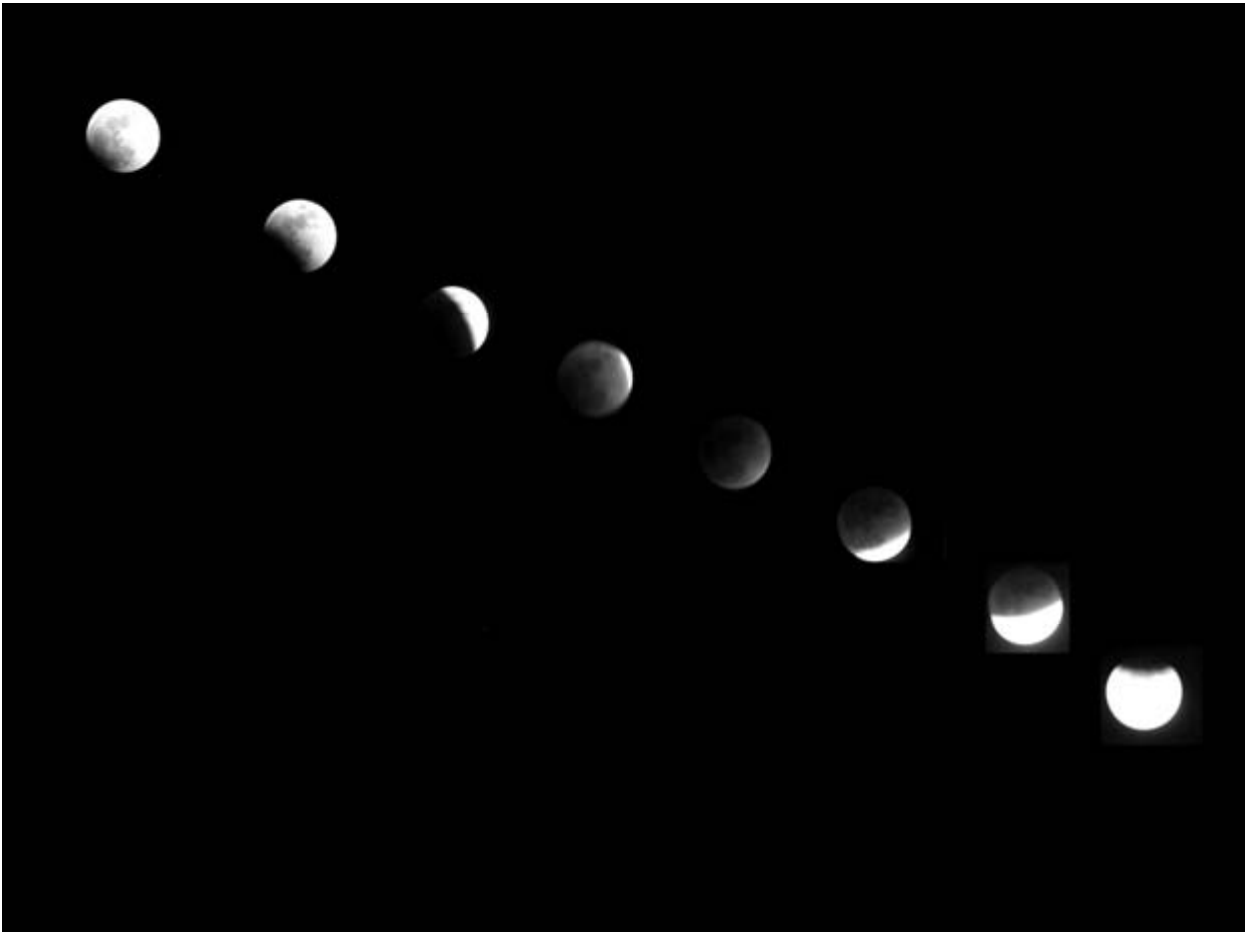
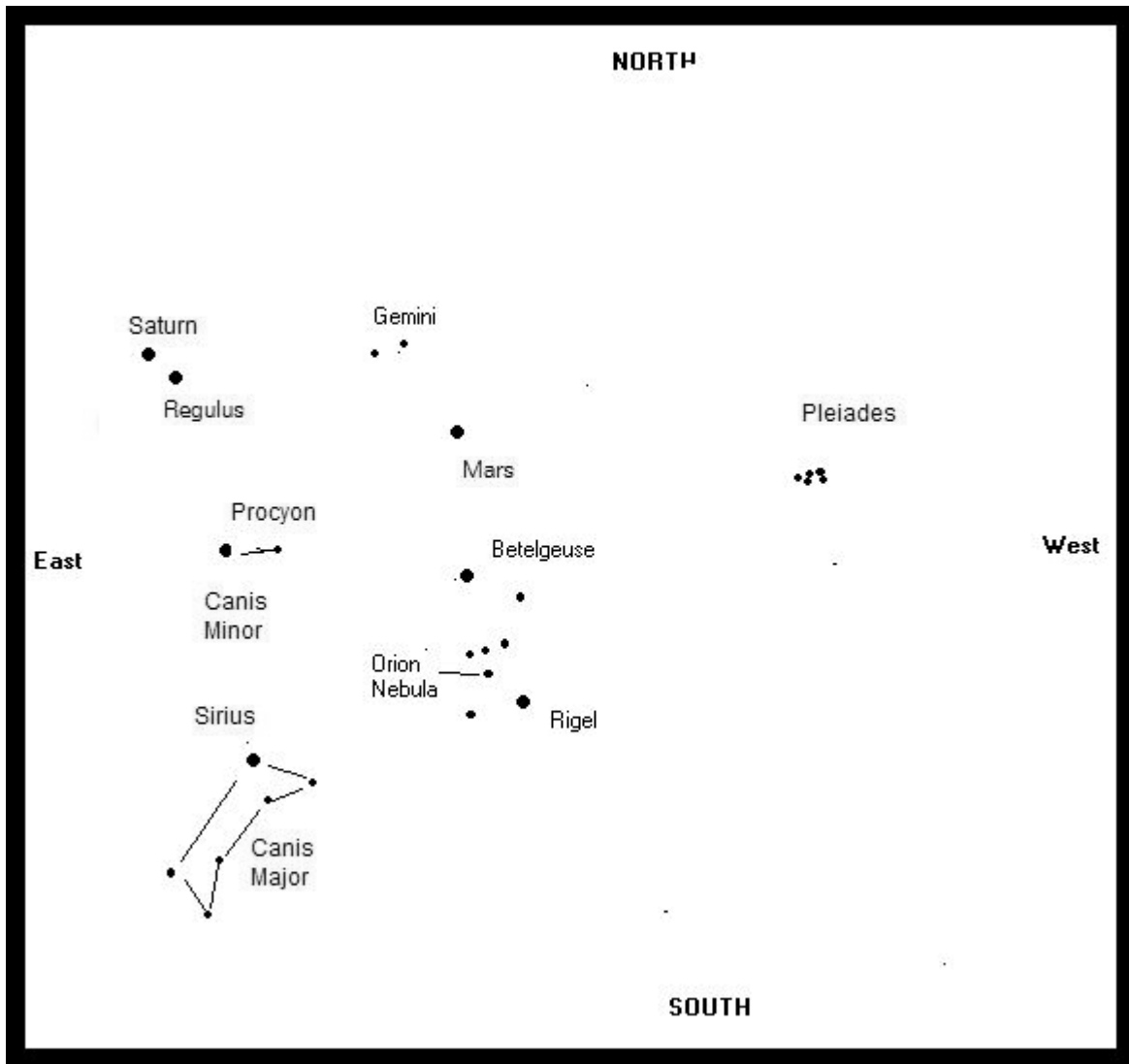


PHOTO PROGRESSION BY ALAN KIDD



MARCH SKIES

- Alan Kidd

Lets hope that March will bring some mild weather and clear skies so that one can enjoy being out in the evening. This month Venus will disappear from the dawn sky, while Saturn and Mars will continue to dominate the evening sky.

This month the constellation of Gemini is overhead around 8 PM. Castor and Pollux, the twin bright stars of Gemini, are not exactly alike. Yellowish Pollux, 34 light years away, is slightly brighter than the pure white Castor, which is 45 light years from us. Actually the greatest difference between the two can only be seen with a medium sized telescope which reveals that Castor is a multiple star system with three components while Pollux is a single. If you do have a telescope you might be able to see NGC 2392, better known as the Eskimo Nebula, located 11 degrees south of Castor. The name of this nebula comes from the fact that its appearance suggests a face wrapped in a parka. However, in a small telescope what one sees is a bluish haze surround a central star. The haze is a shell of gas emitted in a explosion in the central star.

Mercury will put in an appearance slightly above the eastern horizon just before dawn at the beginning of the month. However, even on March 3rd, when it is furthest from the Sun, you

will probably still need binoculars to see it, about 30 minutes before sunrise. However, you should be able to use Venus as a guide, since it is located very close to Mercury, but even closer to the horizon. Mercury and Venus should be in the same binocular field of view. On the 5th of March the crescent moon will join Venus and Mercury to form a close trio low on the East South East horizon. Once again the three should all be visible in the same binocular field of view.

Mars is still bright and visible all night long. On the night of the 14th and 15th, Mars and the Moon will be just one degree apart.

Jupiter rises earlier each evening but is still fairly low in the East at dawn. In Early March it will be found low in the South East at Dawn.

Saturn is now in Leo, a few degrees east of Regulus, high in the evening sky. It is a spectacular sight in a small telescope and a careful observer can see the shadow of the planet's disk on the rings. On March 18th Saturn, Regulus and the moon will line up in the eastern sky to form a nice grouping for observers.

On the chart I've added Leo and Gemini, as well as the positions of the planets.

THE CHRISTIAN ALLAH

- Zander of DUNN INN

I read in the latest issue of The Presbyterian Record an interesting article which said that The Christian Federation of Malaysia had expressed "deep disappointment and regret" at the government announcement that only Muslims were allowed to use the word "Allah." The Government declared that the word "Allah" referred only to the Muslim God and that non-Muslims were banned from using the expression.

The article then went on to state that Bishop Paul Tan Chee Ing, a Jesuit cleric and head of the Malaysian Christian Federation, responded in a statement: "The word "Allah" is a pre-Islamic word used by Arab Christians before Islam came into being."

I was shocked by several things in this article. First, I was shocked that the Government (Muslim I am sure) would refuse to allow anybody else to refer to God as "Allah." I would consider the use of "Allah" a compliment to Islam.

Second, I was shocked that the people of Islam did not know that Christians had used that name for God before Islam came into being. Mind you, the name may have evolved over the years. It probably began as the old Hebrew word "El" which means God and became "Al" and then "Allah."

Third, I was shocked that there is a Muslim God. Muslims, like Jews and Christians are monotheists which means they believe in only One God. So for the Muslims to say "Allah" is the name for the Muslim God is to imply there are other gods - Christian, Jewish, Hindu gods etc. The three monotheistic religions believe nobody can be outside or beyond the One God, whatever name we give to that deity.

Fourth, I was shocked that there would be a disagreement or fight over the name for God. The Jews went so far as to refer to God as "Yahweh" which is not a proper name for God at all. It is more a verb which states "I am who I am" or "I will be who I will be." When Moses asked God for his name, God responded with "Yahweh" which tells us only that God is, was and will be. It's another way of telling us we can't label God or limit God with a name. The word "Yahweh" is so sacred to Jews that when they come to it in the Bible, they never pronounce it, but always replace it with another word, "Adoni" which means "Lord." When Jews write in English they never use GOD, but only G-D.

Obviously God's name (if you know it) is important. But it is not exclusive. God is the creator of all and loves all parts of creation - even us foolish humans who try to make God into a Muslim, a Christian or a Jewish God.

If Jesus were among us today he'd probably tell us the story of the Good Muslim or Homosexual or Black (anybody our society rejects) to make the point that God's love is not limited to one group no matter how good or holy it is. As I recall the story, the Good Samaritan (whom the Jews hated) stopped to help a Jewish man (whom the Samaritans hated). The Jews had left the man to die in a ditch. The Samaritan man saved his life and paid for his rehabilitation.

I don't care what name you use for God but I do care if the God you worship and follow leads you and empowers you to show love to others - even if they are enemies. I believe El, Allah, Yahweh, God does that.

ORGANIC LAWN & GARDEN CARE

- Doug Green

[Reprinted from Doug's web site with permission, with some editing, also with his permission.]

If you've been paying attention to gardening magazines, organic gardening has finally become very, very popular. Now that global warming is clearly here, we're all being asked to do our parts in small ways to make a difference. Regular readers will know I rarely write about any other techniques but let me highlight the things you're going to do this summer so you can make a difference in both the health of your own garden, your body and your community.

Let's start right at the food store. Don't buy anything that comes with clear plastic packaging. I'm told there's no market for those clear egg containers and other clear plastics and while you may not see it, they're simply landfilled rather than chopped up and sold for recycling. So don't buy anything in clear plastic. That's easy enough because there are alternatives for everything in this class of packaging. What's that got to do with gardening? It sets the stage for the next level and that is to compost the things that come into your house. Ask yourself a simple question before you pick something up at the supermarket. Can I compost or recycle the packaging? If the answer is "No", then simply pick or substitute another product.

Compost is the heart and soul of the garden and the more research that's done on soil structure and health, the more that compost and composting becomes important for both home and commercial gardening. If you do nothing else this summer, get the compost bin working. And if you have compost working and want to take it one step further for your lawn and garden health, learn to make compost tea. Making tea properly allows you to take the small amount of compost you make and multiply it like loaves and fishes so your entire property gets the benefit.

Want to take step two? One of the interesting things that crossed my desk this week was the higher ratio of abnormalities in fish populations closest to centres of farming or human populations. Runoff from agricultural and human waste/chemicals entered the water and fish were the victims. In our community, we can reduce chemical runoffs by not using chemicals on our lawns and gardens. My own experience running the nursery showed me pretty clearly that organic alternatives work in all cases. This is contrary to the drumbeat that commercial spray and grow operations promote, that we'll be overrun with weeds and bugs. My experience is that there is an organic remedy for all lawn and garden problems. You don't have to spray for cosmetic purposes. Period.

Understand however that going "organic" doesn't mean doing nothing. It does mean changing the things you do for your own lawn and garden health. It means starting to recycle and use compost on the garden as a first great step. It means really learning about what goes on in your lawn and garden. So yes, chemicals offer a really simple solution. Nuke the lawn of all pests and problems in one simple spray.

The problem with that second step is that it requires you actually learn something. You have to understand the garden and lawn requirements and the interaction between the various components.

The steps to good gardening are deceptively simple. You start with compost, move to compost tea so your overall garden health is improved. You stop spraying and learn how to establish

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

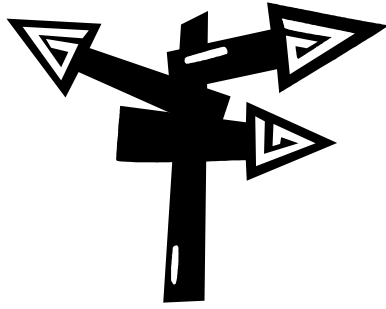
The Whig has been running full page service ads supporting Kingston's new sports & entertainment centre. The ad features photos of prominent Kingstonians who support the facility.

Marc and Marny Raymond were included in the Feb. 19th photo spread.

Terry McGinn, Larry's son, has been chosen as one of the Whig's Community Editorial Board.

Laurie Kilpatrick told me that she has twice seen a Bald Eagle swoop down on a duck and fly off with it. The Beacon would appreciate a photo of something like this if anyone can oblige.

I am still marvelling at Nathan Rogers (Lodge Concert, March 1) being able to do a Mongolian throat chant while enthusiastically playing his guitar and keeping time with his left foot on his microphoned foot-stomper-thingamagig. It was worth the ticket price just to see that.



tograph shows William and Rachael (second row) and their 9 children. My grandfather is in the back row, the only one who parted his hair in the middle. I was 12 years old when he died, his hair still parted in the middle. The picture must have been taken at Samuel's as there was no frame home on our farm until around 1920.

It was my grandfather Thomas who purchased our land in 1919 from Mr. Maxwell, next to inherit the Island from Lord Mount Cashell. Thomas was married to Lillian McFern in 1907 and they had 3 children, one of whom was my father, Herbert Glenn. Thomas built a frame home beside the log shanty. That structure is the west half of our present home built as stated earlier, around 1920. The second photograph shows the 2 buildings with a large tree obstructing the view of the log building. Photograph 3 shows a closer view of the two buildings with Rev. R.K. Earls, Garth and Jean Orchard and Evelyn Gamble relaxing in the shade of that big tree.

Herbert (Bert) Glenn, born 1914 , married Christine Orchard in 1937 and had 3 children, one of whom is yours truly. The two families lived in that frame house for a number of years with the log house being used in the summer time. In the winter, it was a giant freezer with beef and pork hanging frozen. For meals, you took a meat saw and cut off a chunk proportionate to the number of people to be fed.

It was about 1946-7 that the log house was torn down and a frame addition put in its place. That is now the east half of our house. It was a welcome addition as our family now had our own space. It was built by Rob McFern, grandmother's brother, who was known to take the occasional drink while on the job. I do believe that is the reason nothing is straight, or level in the east half of our house!

My father and grandfather somehow eked out a decent living by farming together - mixed farming with a few dairy cows (the Island cheese factory was the outlet for the milk), some pigs and poultry. Money was scarce but my 25 cents a week allowance was enough for a Friday night show in Victoria Hall (sponsored by Maurice Hogeboom) and a drink and chocolate bar afterwards at Max Beaubien's store.

Mixed farming soon went the way of the dinosaur, especially when the factory closed. Dad took on the job of road superintendent to make ends meet. Meanwhile, I became a teacher, married Catherine Twofoot in 1961 and we moved home to the farm in 1969. With chainsaw in hand, we cut out new windows where small windows and doors used to be, removed the front porch and virtually converted the 2 homes into one. This is as you see it now.

What's the future of the homestead? None of our three children is currently interested in Island living. No one can make a living anymore from 100 acres of farmland. The situation is similar for many of the farms not only on the Island but elsewhere as well. Who knows?

P.S. Yes my great great grandfather, great grandfather, grandfather, and father are resting in Glenwood cemetery. I guess I qualify as an Islander!

NOTE: See photo of the Glenn Homestead on page 5, and photo of the Glenn Family on page 10.

(Continued from page 12)

natural balances in your lawn and garden. The first few seasons are going to be wonky as the balances are established but a little patience will pay off as your garden comes into balance. The lawn will be thicker, the insects will be eating each other controlling the bad guys, flowers are bigger, vegetables have more nutritional content and taste better and the river fish will thank you for your efforts. It doesn't happen overnight and there is no magic bullet. There is good gardening or there is polluting.

Which do you pick?

OUR GLENN HOMESTEAD

- Allan Glenn

I have been asked to do a short history of the farm whereon we presently reside, Lot 50, Amherst Island.

The historical facts are as close to accurate as can be determined.

The Glenn family descended from Robert Glenn of County Down, Ireland. One of his sons, Samuel (my great-great grandfather) immigrated to Amherst Island in 1827. He then married Rose Ann Farley of Ernestown and together they settled on Lot 49 (now Wayne Fleming's farm). At that time the Island was owned by Lord Mount Cashell who leased the land to tenant farmers.

Samuel and Rose Ann had 8 children, one of whom was my great grandfather, William Glenn, born in 1842, and married to Rachael McCormick. They leased the land next to Samuel (lot 50) and built a log home. I am told that, due to leasing uncertainties, log shanties were the buildings of choice and more costly frame houses were built after the land was able to be purchased (1873)

William and Rachael had 9 children, one of whom was my grandfather, Thomas Glenn, born 1879. The accompanying pho-

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray
Third Session of Council,
Jan. 28th

From the 2007 Emergency Services Report: medical calls, 24%; false alarms, 19% (down 11% from 2006); and, 19 Amherst Island calls.

“All Amherst Island personnel attended the training facility twice for an extended evening training.”

Fourth Session of Council, Feb 4th. This was a closed meeting with no published result.

Fifth Session of Council, Feb 11th. There are several pages of ferry subsidy numbers. Operating costs are budgeted to increase modestly.

Council also had several budget and administration meetings.

A householder mail-out from Loyalist dated Feb. 27 updated Islanders on the Township’s communications with MTO regarding a better deal on the ferry operation.



- Time & Talent Auction- tabled for future consideration. Anyone willing to offer their talents for auction please advise the executive.
 - End of Season Auction- agreement to proceed with this. Two flyers should be sent out, one early in the spring and one later in the summer advising community of auction, and requesting donations and/or consignments.
 - Birdhouses for AIMS wagon: Ross, Greg, Doug, Brian L., Chris and Dayle volunteered to participate. Dayle to call meeting in near future to get project started. It was agreed that a large Martin house could be a good item for a raffle prize.
 - Wheel Chair ramp at the school: Since there is an opinion that perhaps the school board is required to have a wheel chair accessible facility, we should follow that route first. This was passed on to Lyn Fleming, who passed the request on to the school board. She reported that the request is being circulated within the board, and will advise us when a decision has been made. AIMS can provide a temporary ramp if a long delay occurs.
 - Annual Roadside Cleanup: Bruce Burnett will bring maps to the next meeting for volunteers to sign up for individual sections.
 - Village Flower Baskets: Dayle reported that a grant application has been made to Loyalist Twp for funding to help in the maintenance of the baskets, but no response as yet. The watering system will be upgraded to speed up the process. Brian Lasher (Glen Lasher Home Comfort Service) has kindly donated a new 100 gal. oil tank that we will use as a water tank. A higher capacity pump has been purchased, and Paul Cuyler has offered to work on the tractor mount for the tank. It was agreed to pay for the pump. (approx. \$60)
 - Fishing Derby: Paul L. suggested that we consider a fishing derby for the summer. He offered the use of the shoreline at his place.
- Speaker: Greg Latiak discussed security issues when cruising the internet. He talked about viruses, firewalls, bots, Trojan programs, key stroke monitors, pop-ups that can take control of your computer, etc., etc. leaving most members in a bit of a daze. If you use dial-up, this is generally not a big problem, other than viruses from email attachments. If you are on high speed, always connected, make sure you have a good firewall.
- While Greg doesn’t normally do consulting for home computers, he said he could perhaps help members with particular problems.

AIMS MEETING, FEB. 9TH

- Chris Laffin

Please note: the report of the AIMS Meeting for January 12th stated that the cost of a projection screen for the church meeting room would shared between AIMS and the church. The cost is actually being shared by the Amherst Island Women’s Institute and the church. We apologize for this error.

Twenty members sat down to a great breakfast, prepared by Bonnie Caughey.

Chairman Dayle Gowan welcomed a new Island resident, John Dauvergne to the meeting. John and his wife have just moved into their new home at the fishing village.

Project Updates:

- Artists Studio Tour: flyer has been sent out requesting interested participants to respond.
- Market: Brian Grace agreed to have flip up tables attached to the side of the building for merchandise displays.
- Weekly BBQ: there was a concern that this could become an onerous task for members, since we sometimes have difficulty staffing the AIMS wagon. In addition, we didn’t want to compete with other organizations. It was suggested that perhaps we could purchase a BBQ that could be stored close by, and used by other groups at the market (public school, 4-H, etc.). Brian Little offered to look after keeping the propane tank full. Dayle Gowan will research the issue with potential interested groups.



JANET'S JOTTINGS

“A Valentine in the Snow”

The dusk has fallen soft and low
 On we mortals here below
 And soon beneath the window hear
 The sharp chip, chip of a Cardinal clear.
 Early morning or late at night
 Our beautiful Cardinal is out of sight
 Hiding in shrubs the fence along
 He only appears when the light is gone.
 But now that February's here
 Out by the feeder very near
 Our brilliant Cardinal puts on a show
 A glowing Valentine against the snow.

One hundred years ago you would not have seen Cardinals on Amherst Island. They were a non-migratory bird of the woodlands, gardens and swamps along the eastern coast of United States. During the last century they began to push their northern limit north and the first Cardinal nesting reported in Ontario was at Pelee in 1901 with subsequent nestings in Chatham in 1909, London in 1915 and Toronto in 1922. The first report of a Cardinal in Kingston was in 1951 on Collingwood St. at a feeder.

They have continued to adapt and have been reported on every Christmas Count in the Kingston area since 1964. The spread of ornamental shrubs, the increase in feeding stations and the creation of edge habitat as forests were cleared has probably allowed their expansion into our area.

I saw my first Cardinal nest in the early 80's in an area known as Clark's woods just west of my home in Henderson Place. (This wonderful area had nesting Great Horned Owls, Screech Owls and Barred Owls as well as Pileated Woodpeckers. Now it is a housing development around the Quarry near No Frills.) At that time we discovered a male Cardinal feeding a young one still in the nest, the ugliest baby you could ever imagine. It was olive green and brown with very few feathers and a kind of brush cut effect where the crest would eventually be. I wondered if a cuckoo had left a foster child but no, this ugly chick belonged to Mr. Elegance, The Cardinal. We found mother on a second nest nearby sitting on eggs while father raised nestling number 1. She was so well hidden that only her red beak would sometimes show above the nest in a Hawthorne thicket.

The Cardinals will answer if you can whistle their high, clear /purty, purty, purty/ and will come out to challenge what

they perceive to be an interloper on their territory. Alex and Debbie had one when they lived in the village that insisted on fighting its image in their garage window. The female cardinal is duller but almost an olive green with a bright red beak and the juvenile is dark with red tones and a dark beak.

Ann Marie Hitchins used to have a regular nester out her way and Leslie Gavlas and Shirley Miller have reported them at their feeders over the years. Today I watched a lovely pair at Coralie Marshall's feeder as they feasted on sunflower seeds. I have been blessed with a pair this winter at my feeder and until the recent snows they only appeared early morning or as the day faded but now they come on the sunniest days as soon as the feeder is replenished. His red feathers absolutely glow against the snow. What a wonderful gift. A Valentine in the Snow!

My other absolutely wonderful gift today at Coralie's feeder was an excellent view of her resident Carolina Wren. Like the Cardinal the milder winters are encouraging expansion into this area. This was my very first sighting of this bird so a new bird for my personal list. It was a rich warm brown with the warmest cream and buff under belly and a prominent cream-coloured eye line. It scurried around on her deck with the typical upright tail of a wren and showed definite barring under the tail. The beak was longer than the House Wren's beak and was down turned at the end.

Coralie's feeder is a very active one with two species of woodpeckers, Juncos, Tree Sparrows, lots of Goldfinches, House Finches, Chickadees, Nuthatches, two Carolina Wrens and an Eastern Towhee. She hears Great Horned Owls hooting so that sounds like a definite nesting report and on top of that she makes a great cup of tea.

Thank-you Coralie.

Also a great big thank-you to the Suet Fairy who left a gift of suet in my bus this week. Much appreciated by both the birds and myself.

Good Birding

[Editor: Janet wrote the poem.]



PHOTO BY BRIAN LITTLE

NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE **THE FERRY OFFICE** WILL BE

OPEN THURSDAY MARCH 20
 CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 21
 CLOSED EASTER MONDAY MARCH 24
 OPEN TUESDAY MARCH 25.



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The Henry McGinn Family at Loughborough Lake, 1959



*FRONT ROW: ELEANOR (TAGGART), HENRY MCGINN, LENA DRUMGOOLE MCGINN, OLGA (AUBIN),
MIDDLE: SERENA (TRENT), HELEN (INSTANT), ANGUS, LEO, VINCE
BACK: NEIL, MITCHELL, DENIS.*