

# Amherst Island BEACON



Issue 379

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October 2009

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*Praying Mantis*

PHOTO BY BRIAN LITTLE

## NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

September seems to be a quiet month with the summer over and kids back to school.

Congratulations to Leslie Gavlas on the birth of her 3rd great-granddaughter, born to her grandson Ray Fingus and his wife Carol; another great-niece for Ida and George Gavlas.

A.I.P.S. students and their families attended an Open House/BBQ as the new school year got underway.

September went out on a chilly note, with blustery winds and grey skies.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving, which is fast approaching. Unfortunately, the Quinte Loyalist will be here right after - just in time for the "November Gales" - should be a fun fall!

## A VISIT TO QUEBEC CITY

- Zander of DUNN INN

On September 11, Nance and I went by train to Quebec City. The modern train on which we journeyed was comfortable and efficient and arrived and left everywhere exactly on time. I wanted to see what would happen at Quebec City on September 13, the 250th anniversary of the Battle of The Plains of Abraham.

Quebec City is a beautiful place. It reeks of history. It is quaint, attractive, exciting, interesting and well worth a visit.

We stayed in a unique, old hotel in the Old City and from there we walked everywhere. The shops, the restaurants, the buskers, the churches, the statues, the houses and the row houses all enthralled us. The people we met were all polite and welcoming. It was an excellent experience.

Let me reflect especially on Sunday, September 13. We went to worship at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, the oldest English-speaking congregation of Scottish origin in



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Canada. It was formed in 1759 by the 78th Fraser Highlanders who had fought in Wolfe's army at The Battle of Plains of Abraham. The weekend we were there was the reunion of The Fraser Highlanders. They came from all over the world. One man came from the U.S., several travelled from Australia and many lived all across Canada. Of course the grand chief of the Frasers made the trip from Scotland for the occasion. The men were dressed in crimson jackets and tams, white and red socks and kilts of the Fraser tartan. Their ladies wore Fraser tartan sashes over their long-sleeved formal dresses. At the beginning and at the end, and twice during the service, the bagpipes stirred all of us. Nothing was said about the Battle of the Plains of Abraham.

But in the museum of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church we saw a picture of the Ursuline Nuns knitting the red socks with the white diamonds for the Fraser Highlanders. Even in those battle-weary and intolerant times there were Roman Catholics who served the needs of the enemy (many of whom were Protestants).

From there, Nance and I went to the Plains of Abraham where about 1200 people had gathered on a hillside waving Fleurs de Lys. They had gathered to listen to various presenters tell stories, recite poetry, make speeches, sing songs - all in French. Although my French is not good I did pick up a reference to Acadia where the British had expelled the French speaking inhabitants in a vicious way. The cruelty the British had meted out to the Acadians reminded me of how Wolfe, prior to the battle for which he is famous, had sent out raiding parties to burn the farm buildings and the crops of the people around Quebec thus rendering them homeless and starving. The only French soldiers in uniform we saw were six

men who were being filmed and interviewed by CBC in a park of flowers.

What a contrast between the two peoples. Although the British won the Battle of The Plains of Abraham they are not in control in Quebec today. They had to come from all over the world to make a good showing on September 13. The French and the Canadiens lost the Battle of the Plains of Abraham but they control Quebec now. Their flags and their language make that clear.

I was not disappointed that we did not see a re-enactment of The Battle of The Plains of Abraham. To have a re-enactment would have only emphasized the military fighting between our two founding peoples - a negative reinforcement. And, a re-enactment of one battle would not have told the whole historical truth. The truth is that after the British had won the battle they had a most difficult time trying to survive. That winter they inhabited the city of Quebec which they had demolished with their artillery. Because of the scarcity of food the plight of the British soldiers became worse than that of the French. A strong French force had formed in Montreal and was planning to attack and liberate Quebec, until a ship flying the Union Jack arrived to rescue the British cause. The French forces, knowing they did not have enough men to defeat the British settled for peace.

Now we live as Canadians in a country where both English and French are spoken. English Canadians think of Quebec as one of ten provinces; the inhabitants of Quebec think of Quebec as a nation beside the nation of Canada.

God has allowed us to muddle through until now as one country. Our challenge is to seek to understand our Quebec brothers and sisters and to encourage them to grow with us in peace, prosperity and love.

That's always been our task. It has never been easy. We must live together with care and compassion for one another.

Perhaps if we do that we won't have another Battle of the Plains of Abraham, nor even need or want a re-enactment.

***Amherst Island's 3rd August Wedding— August 29, 2009—  
Angela Pennington and Ryan McGinn***



*Above: The wedding party poses for a dock shot*

*Right: Ryan and Angela*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JANICE MCGINN



## TOURISTS IN OUR OWN TOWN -

### W. I. REPORT

- Nancy Dunn

Well, it wasn't Stella, but in many ways King's Town a.k.a. Kingston is "our town" and a group of fifteen (Amherst Island W.I. members and friends) spent a good part of Wed. 19 Aug. as tourists there. At ten a.m. we boarded the Confederation Tour Trolley in front of the Tourist Bureau on Ontario St. and proceeded past Fort Frontenac, across the causeway, past Fort Frederick (at RMC), up to Fort Henry and then back through RMC. Maintaining a constant patter, our guide, John, related interesting facts, figures, and anecdotes about all these places and pointed out significant locations and buildings, including the several Murney Towers for which Kingston is noted.

Returning along Ontario St. we gathered information about City Hall, Sir John A. Macdonald, the former Grand Trunk Railway Passenger Station (now Frankie Pestos Eatery), the site of the first sitting of the Parliament of the United Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada (the hospital) and many grand homes.

We went all the way to Portsmouth hearing about the prisons, Portsmouth's town hall and the pubs and came back along Union Street through the centre of Queen's campus, past the Court House and eventually to our starting point.

A most interesting historical tour.

We then had yet another glimpse of history through the eyes of our guide at City Hall, Brigitte. Highlights included: an explanation of the architecture - a symmetrically designed building which dates from 1844; the Memorial Hall with a famous painting of Sir John A., and wonderful stained glass windows in honour of the soldiers, airmen, sailors and nursing sisters of World War I; very wide banisters and railings carved by ships' carpenters; and portraits of Kingston's mayors beginning with John Counter the first mayor who served for eight one-year terms.

When we reluctantly left this impressive edifice by the main entrance (not one of the false doors that lead to nowhere but are "necessary" to maintain the symmetry of the rooms) we made our way two blocks to the Radisson Hotel where we appreciated a delicious lunch in the Aqua Terra Restaurant overlooking the marina. All agreed that it was an educational, entertaining and enjoyable outing and expressed our thanks to Jackie Sylvester for organizing it.

Back to routine meetings on the September 16th at 7p.m. That one will be at the home of Marilyn Pilon and will include a brown bag auction. New members welcome!

## JANET'S JOTTINGS FOR OCTOBER

- Janet Scott

Everywhere the earth and the fields and trees are announcing that Autumn in all its glory is here but our feathered friends greet the new season with rather drab and dull outfits. Gone are the glowing throats of the Blackburnian Warbler and the emerald green of the Mallard male. The bird world has gone into eclipse. Ducks, warblers, shorebirds, loons and bobolinks are wearing dull coats with drab colours until they go through a complete moult in time for the breeding season.

The Flickers can be seen on every lawn and in bushes along the South Shore Road as they gather in flocks. In the north and eastern parts of North America the Yellow-shafted race is the species we are seeing. Both sexes show a flash of white as they take off and yellow under the wings. The male sports a black moustache but females as well have red on the backs of their gray heads. They also will be heading for warmer wintering areas as far south as Mexico. By October 27th almost all of our Flickers will have gone.

On October 2nd, I still had a Hummingbird visiting my feeder but soon this little fellow will start his journey for warmer climes in Central America and all will be gone by Thanksgiving. The little emerald and ruby friend buzzing around my flowers has been a bright spot in the garden but it is time and a long journey awaits him.

Also on Friday last, a gray and white Phoebe was gathering cluster flies from the screen on my kitchen window. My Grandson Cameron really liked the name Phoebe and kept rolling it around on his tongue when he was learning new words. Phoebes are efficient little flycatchers, only 7 inches in length. You'll see them on the sunny side of the house (that's where the flies hang out) on crisp autumn days and they frequent a favourite perch, so return to the clothesline or railing after each fly catching flight. Our Phoebes will probably all have departed by October 21st and on to new fly catching adventures in Florida or Mexico.

I still hear loons calling but they too will fly south by late November and into December. We enjoy them just slightly longer than those northland lakes that freeze sooner. The new baby loons that were born this spring and struggled valiantly into the water will not return again to land until they are two or three and old enough to nest. It's hard to believe that they are always swimming or flying. What an amazing bird!

As October takes most of our species away on their long flights south, don't forget that the jet stream also delivers Saw-whet Owls around October 6th. If we have voles, the owls will stay, if feeding is scarce they will leave. Watch for Snowy Owls in early November and Rough-legged Hawks in October. Our feathered friends are on the move with ever a changing tapestry of sound and colour!

Good Birding.

## Fall Speaker Series at The Lodge



*Margaret Maloney chats with children's book illustrator Wallace Edwards after her talk: *Children's Books Mirror Their Times – Six Centuries of Reflection*.*



PHOTOS BY TERRY CULBERT

*Doctor Andrew Patenall gets a last minute pep talk from his wife Leslie Coates and moderator Harold Redekopp. Patenall's talk: "The Irrelevance of Art".*

## HELEN FRANCES MILLER (WEMP)

Looking back on the life of Helen Miller, many of us would see hardship and sadness, but Helen often described her life with words such as 'wonderful, exciting and blessed'.

Born in 1918 to Kathleen and Arnold Wemp, she was one of 5 siblings; Neilson, the oldest, living in Kelowna B.C., Helen, Ralph, Marjorie Tooke, living in Hamilton, and Jean Tugwell. Just 2 years ago they were all together for the last time, and the youngest was then 83. At the time Helen considered that quite remarkable and attributed it to the genes they had gotten from their mother who had lived to 103 years of age.

Helen left high school after grade 11 to help her brothers run the farm as her father had passed away and left a young family. She married Donald Miller in 1940 after a courtship which developed through the mail as Helen would laughingly relate. Donald delivered the mail with horse and buggy. A nephew often talks about travelling the mail route with his uncle and when they reached the Wemp farm, the horse would be tethered to the gate and he would be left to keep it company while Don took the mail to the door. He didn't realize until Don and Helen were married why the Wemp family had special delivery and why the delivery took 20 to 30 minutes.

After only 18 years of marriage, Helen was widowed in 1958 when Donald died of cancer. Once again she had 3 young children to raise and a farm to run. With the help of the Amherst Island community, she made it through those hard times and was grateful every day of her life for the support she had been given. Through these extremely difficult years, Helen's loving, patient and gentle disposition never altered. Her gentleness sometimes caused her grief around the animals. During haying season, Helen did the raking with the old horse Queenie. When Queenie decided she had worked long enough, she would walk up to a tree or fence post and hook the wheel of the rake on the post and come to a stop. Although Helen would get very angry with the horse, she could never bring herself to hit her with the whip to make her back up. Watching this spectacle provided lots of laughs for others working in the field and eventually someone else would go to Helen's rescue.

She married Wilfred Miller (Donald's older brother) in 1961 and had a little more time for herself and a little less responsibility until his death in 1970. Following his death,

and with the family all adults, Helen began a whole new life at the age of 52. She moved to Kingston, enrolled at St. Lawrence College, completed her high school diploma and continued on to take a clerk typist course. She went to work for Empire Life for 10 years, retiring in 1983. Although this must have been a very difficult and scary step for a girl who had lived on the Island for over 50 years, she always talked about the wonderful opportunity it was for her to try new things and make new friends. And try new things she did. She joined Eastern Star at the urging of her niece Elaine Wolfreys and became very involved in the great work of that group; she took up bowling in her 60's; had her ears pierced along with her great-

granddaughter Shawna in her late 50's and started to do some travelling; to Scotland and Florida with her sister Marjorie and to B.C. to camp in the Rockies with brother Neilson. She lost 80% of her eyesight the year after retiring, but even that did not dampen her great spirit. It was a huge challenge indeed but she acquired a variety of magnifying glasses, switched to extra large print crossword puzzles and copied out recipes in large bold print so that she could still bake cookies for the grandchildren and contribute to St. Paul's and the Women's Institute. Through her entire lifetime her church and her beliefs

carried her through and being appointed the 1<sup>st</sup> woman elder of St Paul's was her greatest honour.

When Helen moved to Helen Henderson Care Centre, the staff immediately began remarking on her beautiful smile and her caring attitude toward others. So many friends have said or written in their cards how they will always remember her warm and welcoming smile. We, her family, were privileged to see that smile every day of our lives (whether we had been bad or good) and we thank everyone for reminding us of just how special it was. We will carry the memory of that smile with us always.

### Page 7 Photos

*This Page: Helen, Jean & Marjorie*

*Top: Helen doing what she loved best—being a great grandmother to Torri Phillips on her left, and Mallory Glenn on her right.*

*Bottom Left: Helen's last New Year's party at the Community Centre, 2006.*

*Bottom Right: Helen & Don on their wedding day.*







**AIMS: SEPTEMBER 12**

- Hugh Jenney

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

Marc Raymond introduced our guest speaker, Mr. John Munro, who gave us a power point presentation on Kingston's 2010 Ontario ParaSport Winter Games this January 22 – 24/2010. Over 300 of Ontario's top ParaAthletes will compete.



Para means parallel. Competitive sports for athletes with a physical disability run parallel to able-bodied sports from grass roots to the Olympic & Paralympic Games. These athletes concentrate on what they can do, not on their disabilities.

John got started working with people with physical disabilities in 1977 when he took on, as a Big Brother, a 12 year old boy who had a disability as a result of the same type of cancer Terry Fox had. This young lad had undergone surgery on his hip which caused him to walk with a significant limp. He had also undergone chemotherapy treatments that had left him without hair. His prognosis was grim. Nobody else wanted to take on the emotional commitment that was required to work with this boy. John paired up with him for four years. At that point the boy's cancer had gone into remission.

John met Vicki in 1990 where he was introduced to competitive sports for athletes with a physical disability at Variety Village in Toronto and the rest is history, as they say.

2010 is the Olympics/Paralympics Winter Games year in Vancouver. What more fitting time for holding the Ontario ParaSport Winter Games could there be than next year? It takes a whole year just to get the nearly one thousand people involved organized.

John is the chairperson of the Games Organizing Committee for the first Ontario ParaSport Winter Games ever held here in Kingston. Seven sports are involved- ParaAlpine Skiing, ParaNordic Skiing, Sledge Hockey, Wheelchair Curling, Wheelchair Rugby, Wheelchair Basketball, and Swimming. Imagine racing down a ski slope at 105 km per hour on one leg. When a one-legged skier falls he/she gets up and keeps going just as any other skier would.

Swimming: Jenna Lambert, as a child, loved to swim. She joined the Kingston Y Penguins at age eight. At her very first swim meet, she came out of the change room and barely on to the pool deck. She immediately broke into tears and told Vicki that she just couldn't do it. Jenna at this point hadn't accepted her disability. She was afraid of what the able-bodied athletes would think of the scars on her legs from her surgeries, the way she walked with her squeaky wheeled walker and the fact that she swam

with only her arms. It took Jenna a whole year to gain the confidence to get in the pool and compete- and she was hooked. Today she is a leader that the other athletes look up to. She is confident, outgoing and successful. She has qualified to go to the Rio de Janeiro IPC World Swimming Championships in November of this year.

Wheelchair Rugby, also known as Murder Ball, is one of the most physical sports the athletes compete in. It is strategic, fast-paced, aggressive and hard-hitting.

John wants this to be a first class show. He has lined up entertainment for all the athletes and the volunteers to be held at the K Rock Centre. It will be the first time these athletes have experienced first class facilities. All of his hard work goes toward giving these athletes a feeling of belonging and being the best they can be not only in sport but in life. Their confidence is bolstered by focusing on their abilities, not their disabilities.

The Kingston 2010 Ontario ParaSport Winter Games will cost about \$225,000. The Ministry of Health Promotion has contributed \$75,000. Athlete Registration payments total \$24,000. KEDCO has pledged \$10,000. \$6,500 has been committed to date by small businesses and foundations. John is going to raise \$100,000 to make up for the shortfall.

Brian Grace suggested that RMC be involved. John reported that the military is very involved. Major Chris Carty from CFB Kingston sits on the Games Organizing Committee. CFB Kingston has also waived rental fees for the use of the Kingston Military Community Sport Complex. The Canadian military has a program called Soldier On. It is a rehab program, which includes sports, for soldiers that have been injured in combat etc.

Dayle Gowan thanked John on behalf of our membership for a very interesting and inspiring presentation. We all wish John the best of luck.

To become a volunteer and join in the fun, please go to <http://ontarioparasportgames.com/> and click on the Kingston Games.

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Galad Elflandsson, President of our Amherst Island Public Radio Station sent a very rewarding thank you to AIMS for our support for their 2009 AI Folk Festival.

Paul Lauret reported that we are solvent.

Marc Raymond reported that his Tree Planting Committee is waiting for wetter weather in order to be able to dig the holes for several more trees that are required. He was asked to trim some lilacs and tree branches away from the hanging baskets.

Allan Glenn has had difficulty raising teams for the horse-shoe pits. Please call him if you are interested in a weekly horse-shoe pit meeting in the park. 389-0214.

Terry Culbert has volunteered to do the poster for the October 10<sup>th</sup> Auction. Donations should be put on Allen Caughey's hay wagon located in the drive shed next to the

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8)

Radio Station. We need volunteers for parking, bookkeepers and movers of goods to the Market. Call Greg Latiak at 384-8367 to become part of the fun. Marc Raymond will look after the BBQ tickets while Dayle Gowan mans the BBQ. Brian Little and Terry Culbert are the dynamic duo auctioneers to replace Bruce Caughey who cannot attend this year. Could somebody please tape this show? Don Pepper & Hugh Jenney are trucking the goods over from Dayle's barn. We could certainly use another truck or two as there are many big, valuable items to transport.

Gord Miller's bird houses are selling well at the Market so we hope he continues this rewarding project for us all. Brian Grace suggested giving some birdhouses to some of our local artists for decorating to add to the auction. Another good idea by Brian!

Woody thanked Brian Grace for transporting about forty water sample bottles.

## COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray  
Regular Council Meeting,  
Sept. 14

Loyalist councillors and bureaucrats have begun the annual budget process. This started Sept 13 with a review of the Proposed Budget Schedule and should end May 24, 2010, with the Adoption of the Tax Levy By-law. [It would be great if one (or more) of our loyal and interested readers would attend some of the budget meetings and prepare Island-focused reports.]

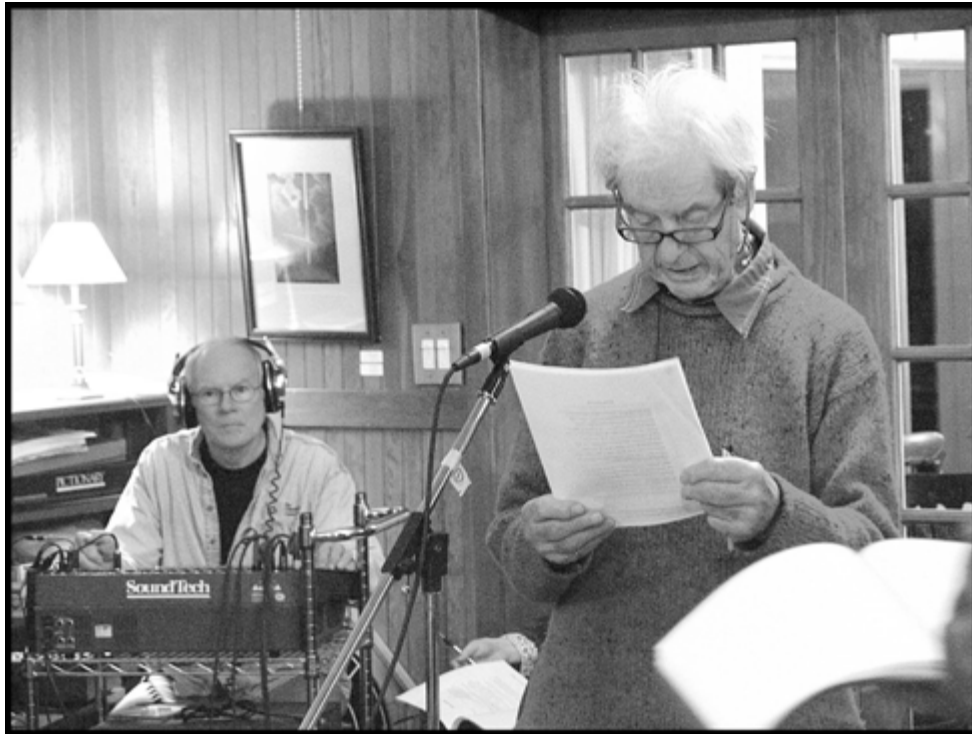
Council approved the development of a park at the south end of the Stella Forty Foot.

A building permit for a house was issued in August; the second new house permit for this year.

Staff recommended: "That the contract 2009-13 for the installation of steel beam guiderail on the North and South Shore Roads be awarded to Hughson Fencing and Guide-rail at the tendered amount of \$197,032.22 taxes included."



## St. Alban's Ghost



Bruce Burnett records the voice of Stanley Burke in a new one-hour play written by Amherst Islander Micheal Joll. Stanley plays the part of Major General Rupert Blunders in the production of *The Ghost of St. Albans*. The CJA 92.1 FM broadcast will go to air at Halloween.

PHOTO BY TERRY CULBERT

## 4H HARVEST FEST 2009



*Lorna Willis shows her award-winning smile.*



*JP Leeder demonstrates how to bob for apples.*



*There was no shortage of energy or participants for the Tug-of-War.*



Two of Amherst Island's newest residents—Julia Kennedy (above left), and her father, Stephen Kennedy (above right), of local band, Crooked Wood.



*A festival isn't a festival without music!*

ALL PHOTOS BY BRIAN LITTLE

See more photos on next page.



*Joyce and Ross Haines enjoyed the day.*



Dave Willard, of Stonebrae Farms, helped out with the bobbing for apples.

Photos by Brian Little

## DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS CREATURE?



*These two images were sent to the Beacon by readers who saw this creature while visiting the island. They are wondering what it is, and if anyone has seen one before.*

*Its body is orange in colour, the spots are yellow.*





# The Lodge on Amherst Island

320 McDonald's Lane  
Stella ON K0H 2S0

## CHRISTMAS PARTY?

Looking for a place to hold your family  
Christmas Party?

why not try The Lodge.

we can cater or serve your meal

The best part is that we will do the clean up.

Dinner can be served in the formal dining room or a buffet can be  
set up.

After the meal you and your guests can relax in the  
Eldon Willard Room in front of the fire and reflect upon the  
season and the family.

Call and book your date

613.634.1388

(pricing will vary depending on size and type of event)

Mid November to December 21





Our deepest thanks to everyone for the many cards, donations, food and acts of kindness extended to our family following the recent loss of our Mom. A special thanks to Beth Forster and all those who contributed and served the delicious luncheon following the service.

Your caring thoughts and memories shared truly helped us in the celebrations of Mom's life.

The Miller family

### THE RELEVANT DEBORAH KIMMETT IS GOOD FOR A LAUGH

Located at Amherst Island's St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on November 7th, 2009 starting @ 7:15. Purchase tickets for \$25.00 from which \$5 of each ticket is donated to the church.

Reserve Tickets: 613-389-9675 or online: [www.kimmett.ca](http://www.kimmett.ca)

\*Don't miss the Boat! It leaves Millhaven @ 6:30\*

### HONEY

Fresh Island honey at Topsy's Wool Shed. Dave Meikle's bees found a lot of flowers in our fields.

613-389-3444

Also available at the General Store, and at the Weasel and Easel.

## ~ CLASSIFIEDS ~ ~ CLASSIFIEDS ~



The Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre invites all those who love history, all those who care about heritage, all those who are interested in our local museum, all those who are curious about our museum to attend the Annual General Meeting. To be held on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, in The Backroom of the Museum at 7:30 pm  
Light refreshments afterwards.

### Pre-Christmas Sale—

#### Amherst Island

Saturday & Sunday November 21, 22. Weasel & Easel, W.I. Anniversary Calendar launch, PCW Christmas Bazaar (Saturday only), CJA 92.1 FM Radio Station (Saturday only), Topsy Farms Wool Shed (draw for \$50 gift certificate). At the wool shed, Lavender Products, and Watkins will also be available.

### PET SITTER

Muressa Fabian-Robinson is available day or evening to walk, feed, & visit with your pet.

Reliable, animal lover.

Call 613-634-3075.

### WEASEL & EASEL

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

please mark your calendar for the Christmas Sale which will take place on

**Saturday November 21 and Sunday November 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

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

(sherrillwrightfl@gmail.com) or Linda Joll at 613 634 8213

([thejolls@kos.net](mailto: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.

### CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC HOURS

Tuesdays 5:30-7pm

Saturdays 9am-11am.

Call 613-384-5363



How do you feel about having fresh frozen **WILD PREMIUM BC SALMON** delivered to your door?

Well, now you can, on Amherst Island!!

If there is sufficient interest on Amherst Island for this service, I will begin taking regular orders for these products and will deliver them to you.

Available for September: Salmon (5 varieties), Black Cod, Albacore Tuna, and Rock Lobster Tails.

Selection may vary month to month.

All products are wild caught, individually quick frozen and vacuum packed. All varieties are skin-on and boneless.

Please call or email for pricing.

Sue Frizzell 613-384-2478

[sue@topsyfarms.com](mailto:sue@topsyfarms.com)



Foot Care at the Ferry Office/Library back room Please call Sue Irwin R. N. 613-545-9379



*Laura Gartner, daughter of Amherst Island's Laura Gartner was a guest on the Friday Morning Show with Terry Culbert. Laura had been visiting her mother and was on the eve of returning to her home in Christchurch, New Zealand.*

PHOTO BY TERRY CULBERT

