

Amherst Island BEACON

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October 2008
November 2008



SPECIAL!!
Double Issue



PHOTO BY TERRY CULBERT

Ellis Wolfreys, host of The Wolf's Den on CJA1 Radio, with his guitar at the Amherst Island Folk Festival (AIFF). For more photos and story about the AIFF, see pages 8 & 9.

THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

I apologize to Beacon readers for being unable to get the October issue out to you. Computer breakdown and personal health issues got us so far behind that Sue and I decided it would be better to combine the October and November issues.

This is particularly disappointing for me as the November issue completes 30 years of Beacon production. I was hoping to do this on a more upbeat note. Having to apologize for one of the very few times in 3 decades that we couldn't get an issue out is depressing.

The December 1978 issue featured Shirley Miller's front

page cartoon of Township Clerk Diane Pearce cheer-leading the newly elected Council. There were 6 pages run off on a hand-cranked copy machine – the oft-maligned Gestetner. Madlyn Kerr typed the stencils – not an easy job – and her husband Jack did the cranking. The cost was 15 cents a copy.

Inside this Issue:

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Fall Garden Chores—Page 10
4-H Fall Harvest Fest—Pages 14 & 15



The Amherst Island Beacon

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October 2008
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NEIGHBOURHOOD,

OCTOBER

- Lyn Fleming

Get well this month to Helen Lamb, Sandra Reid, Madeleine Glenn, and Bob Gibson.

Condolences to Caroline Yull and daughter Fae following the death of their daughter-(sister) in-law, Melanie Gurnsey. Melanie was Caroline's son Jesse's partner and the mother of Kayleb and Osiris.

Condolences also to Sid and Myrna Alport following the passing of Sid's sister.

Ted Welbanks and Karen Miller spent 2 weeks in Ireland in September. Leah Murray met Kitsy McMullen in Ireland for 3 weeks of travel.

Duncan Ashley's parents travelled from Alabama to spend some time on the Island.

Zander and Nancy Dunn visited Zander's mom in British Columbia.

My mom, Kay Wolfreys, is back in Florida after her annual 2 month Island vacation.

Happy 50th Birthday to Wayne Fleming.

The new school year is off to a great start at Amherst Island Public School. Along with two new Junior Kindergarten students, there are new teachers and Education Assistants galore! Eva Little is now the Sr. Class teacher (head teacher), Matt Lang is the new Primary teacher and Gayla Williamson is the new Kindergarten Educational Assistant. Jamie Gray has been covering the science class and Outdoor Science program during the hiring process to fill the position permanently. Jamie spent some time on Amherst Island as a teenager when his family (parents Doug and Pat Gray) lived in the Fowler House. Unfortunately, as a supply teacher, Jamie was not able to apply for the Science position. Theone Cooper was the successful candidate for the position and joined

the staff during the first week of October. Rounding out the new staff is the new vice-principal, Melanie Allport. Janet Scott returns as the half time planning/resource teacher and Jean West returns as the casual E.A.

September turned out to be a beautiful month, weather wise, when all the good weather we didn't get all summer, finally appeared. As the days get shorter, fall colours are starting to fringe some trees and bushes and the birds are gathering to head south.

NEIGHBOURHOOD, NOVEMBER

- Lyn Fleming

Get Well this month to Pauline Pepper, Rick Bedford and Sandra Reid.

Condolences to Emily Tugwell, on the passing of her sister, Hilda Foley.

Our sympathy also to Jean Tugwell, following the passing of her former sister-in-law and dear friend, Gracie Tugwell, in Montreal.

Our condolence to Zelma Koenders, who also lost her sister recently.

Also condolences to Mrs. Joseph Wlasuk (Anna Miller) on the passing of her husband.

Two more former A.I.P.S. students have become 2 of the newest Ontario Scholars at their graduation from NDSS. Congratulations to honour students Talia Fleming and Ashley McGinn.

Kudos to Sue Frizzell, who kept a long standing, much loved, Island tradition - the Halloween Masquerade - alive for another year. Sue rounded up a group of volunteers to put on a great evening.

The annual 4-H Harvest Festival was held on a beautiful, sunny October afternoon at the Reid farm on the North Shore. About 200 people passed through and enjoyed the many exhibits, games, live entertainment and BBQ. Congratulations to Karen Fleming, who won first place in the Apple pie baking contest. Second and 3rd prize went to Beth Forester, who had entered two different apple pies. There were 7 pies entered all together.

We have had a beautiful fall on the Island. I think maybe the wetter than normal summer may have helped prolong the fall colours this year. We have had a week of high winds, rain and cold late in October, but November seems to be coming in with a milder, sunnier weather forecast. The geese are flying and there seem to be a lot of hawks in the fields again.

Windmills are starting to pop up on Wolfe Island and are visible from the South Shore.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE,

OCTOBER

- Sharen English

On Wednesday, Sept. 17, twelve members of the Women's Institute of Amherst Island held a meeting at the beautiful home of Kirsten Bennick.

Kirsten our co-president thanked all the volunteers who helped with the Amherst Island Folk Festival. Kirsten thanked the program directors for organizing our August outing.

Standing Committee Reports were given and correspondences were reported and read.

Thank you letters were received from Tom Richmond for the volunteer help we gave to the Amherst Island Folk Festival, a thank you note from a charity in Guyana to which we gave yarn, patterns and needles so that they may have an exhibition and sale, and a thank you note from Puddy and Dick Dodds. The Reidville W.I. has invited us to their 80th anniversary celebration on Oct. 28.

We will have a list of charities to which we will donate this year by the next meeting.

We will sell our travel mugs again next spring, summer and fall.

Our calendar will be launched on Nov. 15, in the back room of the Neilson Museum. This is the same day as the Christmas sales at Topsy Farms, the Neilson Museum, the Weasel and Easel and the Presbyterian Church Women's lunch and sale at the Community Hall. We will add birthdays to the calendar if they are submitted. Brian Little's photos will be featured in the calendar.

The bench the W.I. donated to the Neilson Museum is in place at the front door of the museum. We will have the ceremony dedicating the bench on Victoria Day weekend.

The planning of the cookbook in honour of the 110th anniversary of the Women's Institute is coming along well. Planning is being done by Liz Harrison and Joyce Reid. Jackie Sylvester is working on the update page for the Amherst Island telephone directory.

We are starting to plan our Christmas Seniors' dinner. A committee has been formed for this.

In July of next year we are responsible for finding a speaker or theme for the area annual meeting of the W.I. Next year the Kingston area and the District of Lennox and Addington's W.I. will be hosting the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario annual meeting. We are thinking about having the meeting on Amherst Island. We would provide the venue and a lunch.

We will provide our cart, coffee and muffins for the AIMS auction on Oct. 11. W.I. Volunteers have offered to make muffins and buy extra coffee. If it rains on this day, the auction will take place at the radio station's barn.



ALL-CANDIDATES MEETING

-Claire Jenney

There were more questions than answers on Oct. 6th at the WI sponsored all-candidates meeting on Amherst Island as the clock and the ferry schedule cut short the long line-up of concerned citizens at the microphone. This was the first Federal debate held on the Island since Sir John A MacDonald was Prime Minister and Chris Walker, the Green candidate, said it was the largest group he has addressed up to now on the campaign trail.

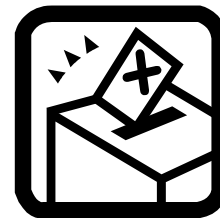
The meeting was diplomatically moderated by John Schram and commenced with a 5-minute opening statement by each of the four candidates: Scott Reid, Conservative, David Remington, Liberal, Chris Walker, Green and Sandra Willard, NDP

Then came Question Period and the issues ranged from the local, such as ferry fairness and the pros and cons of wind turbines to the general, like Health Care and the Arts; in addition, a question was raised about the possible use of the Bank of Canada to finance, at relatively no interest, infrastructure, health, education and welfare.

The meeting was recorded by Tom Richmond of the AI Radio Station, CJAI, 92.1FM, to be broadcast on Tuesday night, Oct 7 at 7:00 and Sat., Oct. 13th at noon.

Although the formal part of the meeting finished at 8:45, an informal group of civic-minded souls gathered around the coffee urn, enjoying homemade goodies supplied by WI members while debating the debaters!!

[Editor: It is impressive the WI was able to arrange this very interesting and entertaining event. Things were well organized and the large audience was both enthusiastic and polite.]



The business meeting adjourned.

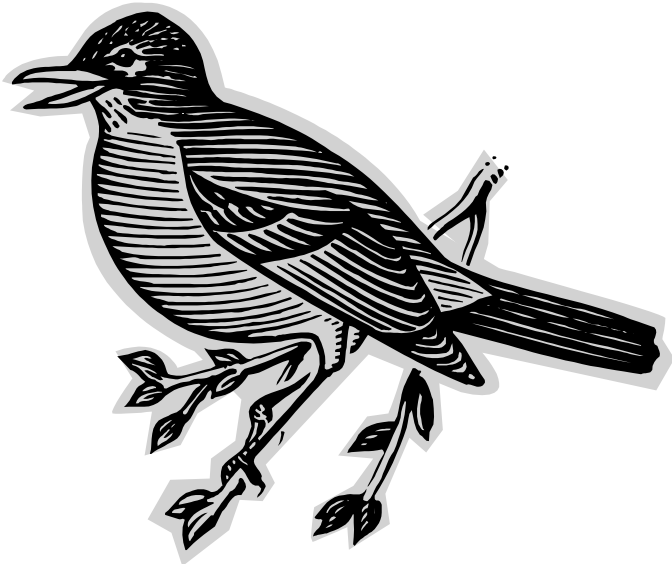
A brown bag auction took place after a snack was served. Sharen English was the auctioneer. The proceeds of the auction will go to providing clean water for Third World Countries.

Thanks were extended to Marilyn Pilon and Mary Kay Steel for providing a delicious snack for our meeting and Kirsten was thanked for hosting our meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Wed., Oct. 15 at St. Paul's Church. It will be an open meeting, meaning the public is welcome. A speaker from the Canadian Podiatric Medical Association will give a talk on foot care.

JANET'S JOTTINGS, OCTOBER

- Janet Scott



As we walk, bike, jog or drive the roads of Amherst Island we cannot help but be awed by the changes in colours and textures of our beloved Island.

Every Hawthorne now has brilliant red haws and the Goldenrod and Purple Asters are spectacular. Their cheery heads wave and bob above the drying grasses along the roadside. Where the hay has

been baled the fresh green of the cut fields is an excellent backdrop for bronzed bales, scarlet sumacs and the ever changing colours of the trees. The Cherry, Chestnut and Black Walnut trees are loaded with bounty and if Roxanne's Zucchini is any example of garden produce then our Island gardens have done well too. The Tamaracks along the foot have put out long shoots of new growth. As most of you probably know Tamaracks are the only deciduous conifer. They look like evergreens in the summer but lose their needles in the Fall. Now they wave fairy fronds of lacy green that will soon turn golden and then fall to make the tree look like a sadly used Christmas tree.

Birdlife is on the change as well. Robins are moving to hedgerows and thorny thickets. The Chickadees have returned to the feeder and in every bush lot the Blue Jays are calling loudly. We still see Sparrows, Goldfinches and Crows but their numbers are increasing as birds from the North push in.

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.

The spectacular Autumnal Ballet of the European Starling is taking place. They gather in large flocks; the one on Amherst Island looks like about a thousand birds. They wheel and dive flowing in and out like an immense bubble. Without a leader they expand and then draw the flock back into a ball again. These birds are using this tactic to avoid pursuit by Hawks and Falcons but they are also in migration mode. In 1890 50 or 60 Starlings were released in Central Park in New York. Some well-meaning philanthropist wanted to introduce all the birds mentioned in Shakespeare's writings to New York. Well the Starlings, a relative of the Myna Bird, thrived here in the New World. They competed for nesting cavities with native species like Bluebirds and Flickers. They were adaptable, excellent parents and aggressive. Now there are an estimated 200 million in North America. They are found from Mexico to the tree-line and like living in either urban or rural settings. Whoever brought them however forgot to programme into them the way to migrate.

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In Europe they used star patterns to guide them to Africa for the winter. Here they circle and gather and search for the right clue but cannot migrate. Where do we go? Where do we go? Please don't blame the birds for their numbers. Man's intervention once again! Just think though of the numbers of cutworms, cinch beetles, millipedes and other creepy crawlies that disappear into those two hundred million gaping beaks and celebrate the Starlings. They don't ask for much and

they sure don't get any respect.

Most insect eaters have gone or are leaving soon. By the time you read this my Hummingbirds will have departed, although they were still here on September 27th. Our singers are leaving and our chirpers arriving.

The feeding noises made by House Sparrows will attract other birds to your feeder. The goldfinches are emptying my Niger feeder in two days and the Blue Jays are back fighting over the peanuts in the shell.

Can't wait for the Owls!

Good Birding Everyone.

ALL HALLOW'S EVEN OR HALLOWE'EN

- Zander of DUNN INN



Hallowe'en is the night before All Saints' Day in the Church Calendar. On All Saints' Day the Church celebrates all the saints, dead and alive, who are within God's loving care.

On All Saints' Day some churches will pray for the saints - the followers of Jesus - who

have gone before us or who are living and working among us. Some churches consider the saints to be extraordinary Christians in devotion and work; while other churches believe all Christians are saints.

The medieval church moved All Saints' Day from May 13 to November 1, partly so it could follow All Hallow's Eve. The Church had taken over All Hallow's Eve from the so called "pagans" who believed October 31 was not only a time to celebrate the harvest but was also the time when the distance between the living and the dead was very slight.

According to the Celtic religion of the Scots and Irish, the dead might return on October 31 for good or ill for those who were alive on earth. That led to the living dressing up in the costumes which reminded them of the dead. The Celts would also hollow out turnips or rutabagas, carve faces in them and put candles inside them. The light was to express life and to ward off evil. The turnips reminded the people of human heads which were the most important part of the body - housing the brain, the source of thought and feeling. When these customs came to North America, it was the pumpkin which quickly replaced the turnip for this purpose because it was bigger and easier to carve.

We continue to enjoy some of the Hallowe'en games which are centuries old. Bobbing for apples floating in a barrel of water, eating candied apples and peeling apples and then throwing the peels over the shoulder to see what letter shape they would fall into. (That letter would be the first letter of the name of your future spouse). Why so much about apples? Because apples were harvested about the end of October and had the cachet of being the forbidden fruit of the Bible (although the Bible doesn't say that).

But it was the dead that Hallowe'en was all about. The ghosts or the spirits of the dead were everywhere to be found and felt. The people built fires to frighten away the evil spirits. But other people went into cemeteries hoping to encounter their long-dead relatives or friends.

That attitude to the dead prevails among us today. While there are some of us who don't believe in ghosts, there are many others - both religious and non-religious - who believe the dead are all around us and nearer to us than we realize. That's why the church has set aside a special day

to remember them.

Many of us have had experiences in which we meet the dead or feel the dead near us or are led by the dead. Most people who have had such experiences don't talk about those times because they know others would mock them or would consider them crazy.

The church talks about "the communion of the saints" by which it means that the saints alive relate to one another in love here on earth (or should) and also that all the saints, both dead and alive, are bound together in the love that God has for all people in Jesus. They consider the dead to be all around us, although unseen. I read about a bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church who was asked how many members he had in his diocese. He replied he had about three billion members in his diocese. He was counting all the dead as well as all the living.

Many Christians believe their Celtic ancestors were right to think that there are times when the separation between the living and the dead saints is so thin as to be non-existent. When the dead make themselves known to us we are truly involved in "the communion of the saints."

Unfortunately Hallowe'en has become merely a dress-up time for children and for them to go around begging for candy. That's fine, but let's not forget that they represent, in their costumes, those who have gone before and who may be "on the other side" praying for us, working for us, even guiding us.



COUNCIL GLEANINGS, OCTOBER

- Ian Murray

Special Meeting,
Sept. 2:

Refer to Council
Agenda for 2 CPAI
letters. There are also
letters from Janet
Grace, Sheila Whiting,
and Paul Gooch.

Regular Meeting, Sept. 8:

The 2009 budget meeting schedule was considered.

The Committee of Adjustment dealt with 3 severance applications from Amherst Island.

Regular Meeting, Sept. 22:

A presentation was made by Algonquin Power regarding their interest in putting wind generators on Amherst Island.



AIMS—OCTOBER

- Hugh Jenney

Sixteen men sat down to a delicious, full breakfast prepared by Janet Scott assisted by Caroline Yull and Faye MacArthur. Woody thanked these early risers and we gave them a rousing round of applause in appreciation for their hard work on our behalf.

Marc Raymond reported that his tree planting crew has fulfilled all contracts from last year and has six more to do for this year. Just sign up at the store if you want a tree or two. Marc said that Chris Laffin, Doug Martin and he filled up Bruce Findlay's half ton with plastic sleeves that they were able to rescue from a failed (and now very overgrown weed-patch) tree-growing nursery. He estimates saving well over one thousand dollars of these plastic sleeves for future Island plantings. Congratulations to our Island planters.

It was agreed that all Island not-for-profit groups can use our new industrial BBQ for free. All we ask is that it be returned cleaned top and bottom. We will charge a for-profit group \$50 with the same stipulation that it be returned cleaned from top to bottom. In both cases we will supply the propane at no cost to the borrowers.

It was agreed that we pay for the restoration of the Mary Muckle headstone at a cost of \$474.60.

Bruce Caughey has once again agreed to be our auctioneer for our Thanksgiving Auction. Details have been mailed out to all Islanders thanks to Terry Culbert. Ross is manning the BBQ.

KEEPING TOASTY WARM IN A COLD COMMERCIAL WORLD

- Hans Krauklis (hjkstella@yahoo.com)

Except for the lucky or smart few who have their own wood lot or access to cheap firewood, the rest of us have to deal with ever rising heating bills. What is the outlook? It appears that pretty well everyone is aware of "Peak Oil", shorthand for the long-term trend in rising global demand for energy and a peak and looming decline in the supply of fossil fuels (petroleum, natural gas, eventually good quality coal) which largely power the global economies and heat our homes. Heating oil (basically diesel) and propane have premium alternate uses as transportation fuels, the prices of which may well rise to European levels, even though the gathering global recession may soften prices for a short spell. This situation is playing out against the backdrop of "global warming" which may induce our governments to institute carbon taxes on top of rising prices, as British Columbia has already done.

How can we lower our dependence on fossil fuels and remote and volatile suppliers, do our share in cutting CO2 emissions, and at the same time reduce our heating bills? Apart from using firewood, a viable option is a pellet stove for space heating. Wood pellets, made from sawdust and other wood residues, are available in 40 lbs bags. Pellet

stoves have hoppers holding 30 to 60 lbs or so, enough for up to two days, and have temperature controls. A mid-sized house is estimated to need about 3 metric tons of pellets for the average heating season. At current prices of \$300 to \$330 per ton (plus taxes and delivery charges) this works out to roughly \$1000 annually. You can estimate your fuel cost savings using the calculator at www.dell-point.com, for example. (Click on Technical, then Calculator). A pellet stove plus installation will cost about \$3000 to \$4000 and could pay for itself in a few years. Of course, by switching we would lose the convenience of a fully automatic heating system, a price perhaps worth paying.

Pellets can be produced from many plant materials. Much attention has been given to fast-growing switchgrass. This type of grass is a perennial, grows on marginal soils and needs little drying for pelletizing. An estimated 10 tons could be harvested from one hectare (4 tons per acre), giving a net yield of 6.7 tons with an energy content equivalent to 20 barrels of petroleum. On this count, barely 300 acres would be needed to produce the heating fuel for all the homes on Amherst Island. One issue that would need to be fully resolved is the avoidance of clinker-type ash that switchgrass pellets would produce in current pellet stoves, since switchgrass has a higher mineral content than wood. Dell-Point Technologies, a Quebec manufacturer of pellet stoves, has been working with Natural Resources Canada and the Ontario Agricultural Adaptation Council on solving this problem, to name one manufacturer. Other biomass such as corn stover or wheat straw could be used as well; however, net yields would only be approximately one half and one quarter per hectare respectively, compared to switchgrass.

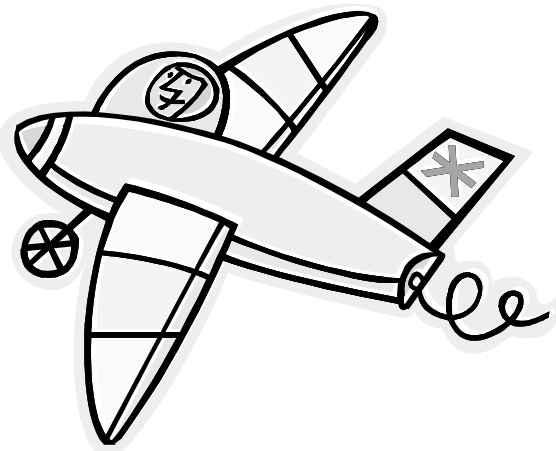
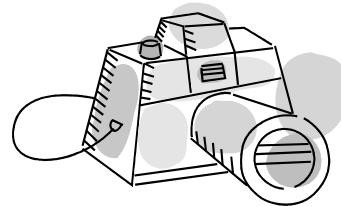
Cement giant Lafarge is also experimenting with replacing some of the coal and petroleum coke it uses at its Bath plant with biomass (Kingston Whig-Standard, 20 September 2008). According to the report, Lafarge is developing an "energy farm" at Bath in partnership with Performance Plants, Inc., Queen's University, and the University of Guelph. Sorghum, maize, miscanthus and switchgrass have already been planted on 10 hectares and will be pelletized. Lafarge also plans to plant hemp on 4 hectares on Amherst Island as well as willow and poplar trees on their Bath property.

While the cost of heating a home with pellets is roughly one third cheaper than with oil, pellet prices seem to increase in step with fossil fuel (and electricity) alternatives, not surprising in a profit-oriented market economy. One way to mitigate these increases might be to invest in energy-producing enterprises and share in their profits. We might imagine setting up a regional or local co-operative enterprise: Farmers would grow biomass – switchgrass or other plants. This biomass would need to be converted into pellets, packed, stored and delivered to co-op mem-

(Continued on page 10)

IN THE SKY WITH ALAN KIDD: OVER WOLFE ISLAND—OCTOBER

I flew over Wolfe Island again in late September to take a look at the progress in construction on the windmill project over there. There has been more progress since late July, when I could see construction at about 10 sites. This time I could see work in progress on about twenty sites, with associated road building. These sites are still at a considerable distance from any houses, but since there are over 80 turbines to be installed that may change. The attached picture give an idea of the scale of these activities.



PHOTOS BY ALAN KIDD



AMHERST ISLAND FOLK FESTIVAL 2008

- Barry Ludwick

The Amherst Island Folk Festival was held August 16th at The Lodge on Amherst Island, taking the place of the three-year-old CJA I Lamb-and-Pig-Roast fund raiser. The event was moderated by Second City Alumnus Deb Kimmett, and the artist in residence was Mr. Wallace Edwards, who painted a wonderfully whimsical piece in honour of the occasion. The performances took off right on time, and continued like clockwork all afternoon through one of the most glorious days the summer allowed us. Located at the Lodge on Amherst Island, the stage was roofed with a white tarp suspended by ropes from the towering maples nearby, with coloured lights playing across its underside (an effect that didn't become obvious until the later performances).

Deb kept everyone on time and filled the space between acts with the light and witty banter she is known for. Musicians from both the local area and from as far away as Toronto and Ottawa wowed the audience throughout the afternoon- we only wish each group had more time than the 30 minutes or so they were allotted. I suppose you are better to go away wanting more, and if that was the gauge, then none of the acts disappointed. The local five-piece band Mill Creek was an audience favourite, as was Dave Martin and young John MacPherson. All the other groups like Fireweed, Crooked Wood, Kate & Hollis were a delight, playing a lot of original material. Jason Fowler & Sahra Featherstone closed out the day as evening fell, with the sounds of guitar, fiddle and celtic harp drifting over the crowd of 200+ and across Stella Bay into the night as the moon rose and glittered across the water.

The lamb, pig and corn roast by Harley Gurnsey of Prince Edward County was a real crowd pleaser, with plenty to go around. The WI and AIMS provided great drink services. In the end, though the star of the day was the music. It will be hard to top this volunteer-run event in years to come, but I am sure they will try. Don't miss it next year!

For more photos see page 11.



Above: Singer-songwriter Dave Martin

Below left: The Buckwalter family from Pennsylvania were vacationing on Amherst Island, and decided to check out the Folk Festival.

Below right: Amherst Island Men's Society Beer Tent

PHOTOS BY TERRY CULBERT





Clockwise from top left: Judi Chui won Wallace Edwards' donated painting. Left to right in photo are Elmer Jones (Judi's Husband) Judy, and Wallace Edwards.

Top right: Food at the folk festival is always excellent. Above: Sahra Featherstone and Jason Fowler closed the 2008 Amherst Island Folk Festival

Middle Left: Victoria Cuyler and Cherry Allen were the keepers of the gate.

Left: Soft drinks, juice and water were sold by the Amherst Island Women's Institute members Joyce Reid and Judith Harrower.

(Continued from page 6)

bers and other customers. It would be locally grown, minimizing transport costs. Suppose a base of 5000 customers/co-op members, less than 10 percent of households in the Loyalist/Napanee /Kingston area. Demand would be 15,000 metric tons of pellets annually. The biomass could be produced on 2200 hectares (5600 acres) of marginal land. Voilà, a secure local supply of heating fuel, local jobs, greater income for farmers, reduced CO2 emissions, and increased price stability for co-op members. Is there a role for governments at the local, provincial and federal levels?

FALL GARDEN CHORES

- Doug Green (www.douggreensgarden.com)

I'm taking a bit of a break from the design process this week to turn my attention to some basic fall chores I'm doing in the garden. Rather than simply do these in silence, I thought I'd share my love's labour with you.

To begin with, I'm taking a good look at what we euphemistically call a lawn. This hayfield cut-short has a very long way to go before I'll willingly call it anything more than green "turf-stuff". I think the weed content is the only thing keeping the darn thing green. The month we went without a lawn mower left us with a hayfield out there rather than the turf and when I mowed it with the new mower, I had piles of grass that had to be raked and removed or it would smother everything underneath. While this was tempting, we raked. Or rather the Princess raked quite a bit and I hauled and moved and have set up the compost bin to handle it all. This week when I go to town, I'll pick up some perennial rye grass seed (or a mix containing a high percentage of perennial rye) and spread it over the lawn at the rate of 2-3 pounds per 1000 square feet.

While the ants and mice will normally get a goodly bit of the seed, if I do it just before a rainy day I'll likely have a lot of luck getting the seed down to the ground and starting to germinate before those critters can clean it all up. On the small scale lawn where you have some hoses and sprinklers, I'd spread the seed and then immediately water it in and soak the lawn to get the seed in contact with the soil. It will germinate very quickly and you'll see a lot of tiny spears starting to shoot up between the larger grass blades. This is what you want. And you don't want to mow these off - you want mow the lawn as tall as you possibly can for the next little while to allow these new grass plants to establish themselves before getting whacked back by freezing weather. The very last mowing of the year can be a touch shorter if your lawn is healthy enough. Next spring, the new grass plants will start to fill in the spaces between the weeds and get into competition with those weeds. That's step one in getting a great lawn; you need

competition for the weeds. Because lawn chemicals will not be for sale in the province next spring, this is your first step to going lawn-organic this fall.

I've been collecting seed from my perennials and will be getting those ready for storage this week. Breaking the small seed from the pods and putting them in envelopes doesn't take a lot of time and will pay dividends next spring when I have my own perennial development programme to fill the gardens. If you do this, just remember to label the envelopes and store the seed cool and dry. I don't store them in the freezer (the refrigerator is fine) because I find that slows down germination next spring.

I've also taken a look at the leaf collecting. Last year, I allowed the wind to do most of my leaf cleaning and it happily obliged, pushing the leaves down into the bush area at the front of the property. I'd rather like to be able to use these leaves on the garden so I'm thinking of putting in some snow fencing along the edge of that area to gather the leaves. I figure if the fencing works, I can not only eliminate having to do any raking again, but can let them sit there all winter and rake them onto the nearby gardens in the spring. Or not. I might just let them stay there and make gardens right there. Let the garden come to the leaves kind of thing rather than doing all the work of moving the darn leaves. But if you have extra leaves, this is the best time to think about composting them, chewing them up with your lawn mower and putting them back on the garden, or any other use you can dream up. Remember that leaves are really cheap organic matter and to bag these up in the fall, landfill or give them away and then buy peat moss in the spring is really robbing Peter to pay Paul. Again, with the ban on chemicals, you're going to need all the organic matter on your gardens and lawns that you can obtain. Organic matter is the lifeblood of great soil and leaves are the easiest and cheapest way to get it.

The flower gardens themselves are a bit of a disaster quite frankly. There is really hard clay soil in these raised beds and I can hardly drive a shovel into this concrete never mind garden there. The original plan was to remove all these plants and beds as we insulated the basement (from the outside) next summer. I'm not sure about that plan so I'm about to tear all these beds out - save the good plants and do something with both the design and soil. All the perennials can move quite safely at this time of year and this is the next major job I'll be doing. All my perennials will be divided and replanted this month in anticipation of having a bigger perennial garden next year. That part of the design is done and September is a great month for perennial work. So even though the plants still look good, do not hesitate to do this work.

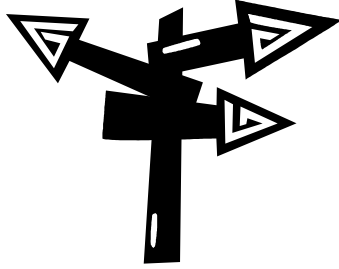
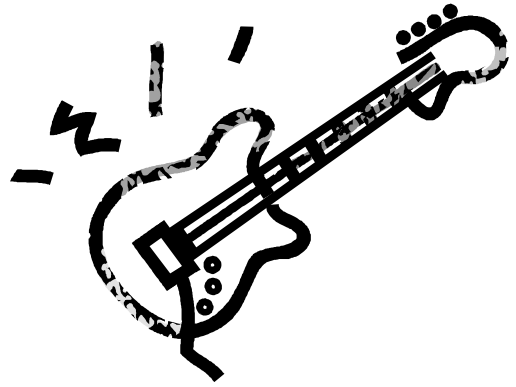
And finally remember that bulbs don't get planted until mid-October in our garden zone.

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

On our recent drive to Guelph, Sally and I enjoyed the landscaping that has been done along Hwy 401. The different colours and textures of the various plants make the drive almost enjoyable.

While bringing bales home along the 2nd Concession, I always admire the view looking south from Anna Hitchins' house. A water-scape is fine but I was raised on farmland and really appreciate the look of Garry's farm.

**MORE FROM THE AMHERST ISLAND FOLK FESTIVAL**

*Top Left: Amherst Island's own Deb Kimmett was mistress of ceremonies
Top Right: Michele Lelay won Shell Mad-den's original folk festival poster presented by Michael Rowan.*

Left: The Ontario Trillium Foundation presentation of \$25,000 to the Board of Directors



DOUG GREEN TURNS 60!!!



PHOTO BY BRIAN LITTLE

Mayo Underwood, Doug Green and his two daughters blow out the candles.



Introducing...Jett Newgren

On October 8th (Elizabeth's birthday), Jett decided it was time to see what life was like on the outside - checking in at 8 pounds and 10 ounces. He joins his brother Gideon, now 3, and Todd and Danielle who are all doing well. [Elizabeth Barry and Don Newgren are new islanders, and have a house in Emerald.]



All Candidates Meeting on Amherst Island



Scott Reid, PC



Chris Walker, Green



Sandra Willard, NDP



Dave Remington, Liberal

CJAI PRESS RELEASE



Amherst Island Public Radio (also known as CJAI-FM), one of Canada's smallest volunteer-operated community radio stations, is proud to announce a new outreach policy, which will take effect Monday, November 3, 2008.

In recognition of the fact that we are all connected to each other as citizens of the same small planet, CJAI will commence sending a shout-out to our fellow Canadians serving others around the world, often in very difficult situations. Each day, Monday thru Friday, at the start of every live show we will name a group stationed around the world to whom we are sending greetings and support.

The chosen group will get recognition on every live show that week, along with mention of a link to their website for more information.

At press time, our list includes: the Canadian Forces (various companies and units individually named); the Canadian Red Cross; Doctors Without Borders (Canada); The Canadian Friends Service Committee; Mennonite Central Committee (Canada); CUSO.

If you wish to nominate a group, you may do so by sending us the name of the group, a particular location or company or corps, or some other identifying terms.-by phone at (613) 384-8282 -by e-mail at: air@cjai.ca. You can tell your loved ones overseas to listen to CJAI online at <http://www.cjai.ca>

CJAI

Jim Gould, Chairman

The annual general meeting for CJAI 92.1 FM was held on Oct 29, 2008 at the Lodge on Amherst Island.

A presentation was made to Tom & Rosemary Richmond for their hard work in creating and bringing CJAI FM to the status we enjoy today.

An election of new Board members took place with six members nominated for the next two years bringing the total to 11 Board members.

HOUSEHOLD HINT

Judith Harrower

Do you have problems with calcium/rust/soap scum build-up in your bathroom sinks, toilets and tubs?

I have found a product that is what it says it is and actually works quickly with no hard scrubbing. At Home Hardware in Odessa you can find "Professional Toilet Bowl Cleaner" at about \$5 plus tax.

It is strong and I would suggest you do use rubber gloves and have plenty of ventilation. Within minutes it cleans away those nasty stains and build-up.

Your tubs and bowls stay clean for months.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

- Zander of DUNN INN

I have much sympathy for young people who say to me, "I can't remember anything about war because I wasn't even alive in the Second World War, let alone the First World War or the Boer War." I

tell them nobody expects them to remember specific events of those wars. But I suggest to them that they need to read history. They need to consider why those wars broke out. They need to learn something about some of the men and women who went to war. I tell them they don't have to agree with what happened but they need to find out how those wars affected them.

The Boer War, 1899 to 1902, involved a British fight against the Boers in South Africa. Canada was part of the British Empire and was expected to support the British cause. Britain was the Mother Country and needed her children in the colonies to help her stop the uprising by the Boers in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. I know of only one Amherst Islander who fought in that war -Ed Filson - who was killed at the battle of Liliefontein. He was a tall, good looking idealist who went to war to serve his God and King. In spite of terrible leadership by British generals the Canadians distinguished themselves in battle. Because of the efforts of Ed Filson and his fellow soldiers Canadians gained a sense of pride and began to think of themselves as a nation separate from Britain.

The First World War, 1914 to 1918, was a grinding ordeal which killed an appalling number of men and women. Canadians again rallied to the British call to arms and served courageously as they stood against the German foe. None of the islanders was known to me but some of those who enlisted in that war had names that are still important on Amherst Island - Miller, Smith, Willard and Wemp. They were all farmers who loved the land and their country. The battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917 which was won by the Canadians, after French and British troops had failed to take the ridge, marked the first time all Canadian units had attacked together on their own. The Canadians gained more ground, guns and prisoners than any previous allied offensive. It was such a magnificent victory that Canadians everywhere considered themselves an independent nation.

In the Second World War, 1939 to 1946, Canadians served separately from the British. The RCAF, the RCN and all the regiments of the RCA brought honour to our country. Men like Les Glenn, Billy Bulch, Ralph Wemp and Chester Tugwell are not far removed from us. One of the Islanders who went overseas - James Eves - was a unique character. I've read some of James' letters to his



(Continued from page 14)

parents and have read accounts of how he lost his legs in battle. After the war, James returned to farm on Amherst Island and a finer, more fun-loving man it would be difficult to find. He regaled us with stories in the Legion and he loved to joke about his two artificial legs. He worked hard and played hard. He represented to me the brightest and the best of our land. Because men and women like him volunteered so readily, at the end of the war Canada had the fourth largest air force and the third largest navy in the world.

Most of those Islanders who did not join any branch of the armed forces were farmers who were deemed too important to be enlisted in the military. Their role was to produce foodstuffs to fuel the war effort and feed the victims. They didn't face danger but their task was especially important.

What do these ramblings have to do with Remembrance Day? Simply that Islanders have contributed to this nation's growth toward independence and prosperity. They have been willing to put their lives on the line to serve a larger cause and to protect those whom they loved. Some Islanders were killed in the service of their country. Others were wounded and affected for life by the cruelties of war. Our land is free and strong because Canadian men and women entered the armed forces to serve our country in times of crisis and need.

That some of those people were from Amherst Island should make us proud.

And where is God in all this talk of Remembrance Day? God is opposed to war and violence and killing so how can we see anything of God in those wars?

I can't see God in the fighting, but I can see God in the men and women who fought. Their concern was to be helpful, to bring peace, to stop death and destruction. That they had to kill and be killed to stop killing is one of the ironies of life. That they had to sacrifice themselves to prevent the sacrifice of others is hard to understand. That they had to devote their time and energy to violence and death so that violence and death would not rule makes me question the sanity of humanity. But behind all of them is God who can use the worst we do - even wars - to build nations, who can use even disasters to build character, who can use even people like us Amherst Islanders to win peace.

I can't see God in the fighting, but I can see God in the men and women who fought.

PERENNIALS

Doug Green [www.douggreengarden.com]

Doug was asked: "Can I dig up my perennials and store them in my basement until moving into my new house in the spring? This should work with bulbs like Iris and lilies, shouldn't it? but can you do it with other perennials? I live in southern Ontario."

Doug says that you can do this if:

- 1) the perennials are kept around 40F to keep them dormant;
- 2) They are kept in the dark to keep them dormant; and,
- 3) They are kept in relatively high humidity so they don't dry out

In other words, if you can keep them cold, dark and damp, (like they are in the ground) they will live. If you keep them cool and dry as you would a bulb - you'll kill them.

Iris "might" make it if you keep them cool enough but don't let them dry out too much or they'll wither away.

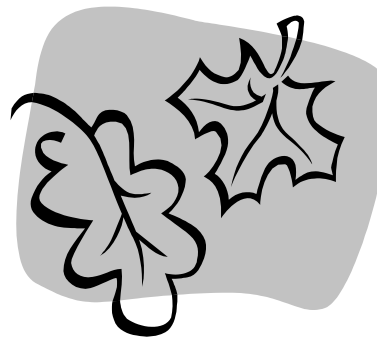
Lilies are bulbous plants and once they go dormant can handle being cool and dry (but not hot and dry) for the winter.

These are two separate kinds of plants with different needs.

But you *can* do it if you provide those conditions. Otherwise, leave them for the next owner and treat yourself to new plants.

LEAVES AS BEST FALL FERTILIZER

Doug Green [www.douggreengarden.com]



It's a bright sunny morning as I write this column, the wind has been whipping leaves off the trees and there's whitecaps on the water. My tomato support cages were blown over this past weekend and it looks like the vegetable garden has finally gone down for the season.

The leaves are nicely covering the ground and pretty wet after all the rain we've had so they're not blowing too far at the moment. My plan this week is to run the lawn mower over them to blow the bits onto the new shade gardens. And that of course got me thinking about how to use leaves in the garden.

We already know that the single best use of leaves is to return them to the garden soil around the trees. Doing this will keep your trees healthy and happy. Given that grass under trees never grows very well anyway, making sure the leaves are chopped up and left under there is the single easiest way of keeping a tree healthy. It always amazes

(Continued from page 15)

me that folks take away the leaves in the fall, never feed the tree in the spring and wonder why the trees get sick or don't grow very quickly. The deal here is that allowing tree leaves to stay around the base of the tree is the single best thing you can do for your trees.

I know. You're afraid of smothering out the grass. Well, if you have anything other than maple trees, this isn't a major concern. Do run the lawn mower over top of these leaves to chop them up and the grass (such as it is in the shade) will be just as happy with the extra organic matter as the trees are. If you have maples, the leaves will indeed mat down and prevent grass from emerging. So chopping them up is step one and blowing the extra leaves onto the gardens is step two. The perennials and vegetable transplants will benefit from the extra organic matter and your lawn won't suffer from being matted under leaves. I note that matting leaves is one way that maples deal with the competition; they simply smother it.

The second thing I'm coming to understand is that there are some chemical effects of leaves that act to delay the germination of some seeds. This is true of many plants, from evergreens to deciduous plants. The hormones in the leaves or needles work in the ground to delay the germination of competitive plants. It is only when the leaves are several years old that they begin to lose their ability to stop seeds from germinating (the hormones wear out). So a layer of leaves under and around trees also acts to stop weed seeds from germinating. This little known fact is why you want to be careful about adding a lot of fresh leaves to vegetable gardens when you're starting a lot of your plants from seed. Started plants or transplants are not bothered by these chemicals but seed germination is slowed down or stopped. Personally, I love getting rid of weeds in my perennial beds so a layer of leaves is exactly what the doctor ordered.

If you have a great many maple trees and you want to have a lawn around them, then yes, you're going to have to rake up these leaves because the excessive layers of maple leaves will really slow down grass. But these leaves should then be composted and the compost spread under the trees if you want the trees to thrive and continue growing. In the larger scheme of things, a tree is either healthy and growing or dying. There's no middle ground. Handling leaves properly and ensuring the composted leaves get returned to the trees is the first step in long term tree growth.

I also note that with the changes coming to the herbicide and chemicals available to homeowners next spring, the first line of defence in your garden is going to be compost



and leaf mould. If you have large amounts of this material now, then you're already ahead of the curve in getting ready to make the transition to organic gardening. You see the core component of a great garden, a weed-free lawn and garden health without chemicals, is compost. And starting by chopping up and collecting leaves this fall is an excellent first step.

A better first step if you don't have tree leaves is to plant trees now. There are some great deals going on and you can plant deciduous trees right up to freeze-up. Not only will this give you a source of garden leaves in the future, it will increase the value of your property now. Numerous studies show that trees increase property values and that each tree adds several thousand dollars to the value of a home. Not only that but several studies point out that property owners who have trees on their properties tend to get along better with their neighbours and tree lined neighbourhoods are seen as better places to live. And to make the entire property value thing even greater, it is now understood that trees even work to prolong the life of nearby roads and sidewalks. The shade from trees cools down the roads and sidewalks lessening the impact of tires and wear. The hotter the asphalt or concrete, the more likely it is to wear and produce dust from traffic so trees actually protect infrastructure instead of being a problem for it.

Bottom line. You really want to get out there, save your leaves and plant even more trees. Your garden will thank you and so, it turns out, will your friends and neighbours

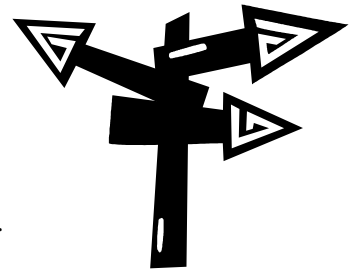
HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

The Indian summer in early November really brought out the cluster flies. I must have vacuumed at least a thousand. It has been suggested that they are able to pass through window glass.

The cluster fly lays her eggs in cracks in the ground. An egg has to be eaten by an earthworm before it can develop into a larva. The larva then eats the earthworm. The mature cluster fly lives on flower nectar. Cluster flies can live up to 4 years.

This is the second year in a row that I've have little success in harvesting wild mushrooms. There should have been lots this year with all the rain we had. I suspect that there were lots but the profusion of green plants prevented me from finding them. I also didn't have a lot of time to spend looking and that is probably a factor too.



AIMS: NOVEMBER MEETING

- Hugh Jenney

Sixteen men sat down to a delicious, full breakfast prepared by Janet Scott assisted by Caroline Yull and Faye MacArthur. Woody thanked these early risers and we gave them a rousing round of applause in appreciation for their hard work on our behalf.



Marc Raymond reported that his tree planting crew has fulfilled all contracts from last year and has six more to do for this year. Just sign up at the store if you want a tree or two. Marc said that Chris Laffin, Doug Martin and he filled up Bruce Findlay's half ton with plastic sleeves that they were able to rescue from a failed (and now very overgrown weed-patch) tree-growing nursery. He estimates saving well over one thousand dollars of these plastic sleeves for future Island plantings. Congratulations to our Island planters.

It was agreed that all Island not-for-profit groups can use our new industrial BBQ for free. All we ask is that it be returned cleaned top and bottom. We will charge a for-profit group \$50 with the same stipulation that it be returned cleaned from top to bottom. In both cases we will supply the propane at no cost to the borrowers.

It was agreed that we pay for the restoration of the Mary Muckle headstone at a cost of \$474.60.

Bruce Caughey has once again agreed to be our auctioneer for our Thanksgiving Auction. Details have been mailed out to all Islanders thanks to Terry Culbert. Ross is manning the BBQ.

Bill Harris introduced our guest speaker, Christopher West, whom he had heard warning people about the unintended moral consequences of the bio-fuels movement. Chris is an investment advisor working with the oldest investment dealer in Canada—MacDougall, MacDougall & MacTier Inc. Chris also serves on the board of the Kingston Community Foundation which has given money to our AI Museum, AI Radio and the WI's stone walls project.

Chris started by telling us that about twenty years ago he visited our Back Beach with his family. It was a wonderful picnic and he was thrilled to ride the ferry over once again to be on this beautiful Island.

Chris did warn us that he was not an expert in any particular investment field. He is a generalist who relies on his many years of experience as an investor and entrepreneur and the team of research analysts at his firm to guide him. That said, he embarked upon his first topic, the credit crisis and the 'MORAL HAZARD' associated with it. In his view, we are in danger of suffering from the moral hazard of saving all these failing companies just because we fear they could bring down our financial system. One bailout may be justified, but if the government backstops everybody's risk then this failing system is encouraged to take

on more risk knowing that they will be bailed out once again.

David Dodge, the retired Governor of the Bank of Canada, is now speaking out calling for more regulations. Chris advised that it might be wise to let Lehman Brothers fail. Warren Buffet has been speaking out against boards of directors who authorize huge payments to their senior managers at the expense of the shareholders. Basically what it comes down to is privatizing the profits and socializing the losses. This has to stop if investors are to have faith in the system, i.e., let Ford fail. Chris said that if one or more of the Big Three failed, the auto industry would go on. He said that Honda and Toyota are doing just fine in North America and providing equivalent jobs and spin-off effects in the economy e.g. the parts makers that used to service the Big Three are now servicing the Hondas, Toyotas, et al. So those jobs won't go away. He mentioned that our government let the Auto Pact die which has caused severe hardship for the Big Three. We left the discussion agreeing that governments everywhere, rightly or wrongly, are subsidizing their auto industries.

Chris then switched to comparing the US and Canada. He thinks the US dollar over time is vulnerable because Americans spend more than they make, both societally and individually. The quagmires in Iraq and Afghanistan are extraordinarily costly to the country's balance sheet. The solution for the current credit crisis ... massive infusions of cheap money ... will only exacerbate the problem down the road. He advises against investing in U.S. companies, unless a preponderance of their revenues and profits derive from offshore.

Chris addressed the oil situation. U.S. oil production peaked in 1970 as predicted by a geologist years before, the so-called "Peak Oil" theory. In the '50's, the dominant U. S. oil companies supplied nearly 50% of the oil produced overseas. Today it is only 10%. America has become a very thirsty oil importer nation. Sarah Palin may think she has the answer but it will be a long time coming. Chris looks for trends and he sees the long-term trend for the price of oil to be up. There are twelve countries in OPEC, the cartel that produces about 40% of the world's oil. Each country is assigned a quota in order to keep the price of oil stable. Eight countries are producing at capacity and just maintaining their quota. Three are failing (Libya, Nigeria and Venezuela). Saudi Arabia is the only country with immediately available excess capacity, about one million barrels a day, if required. However, global demand, in spite of the slowdown in Europe and North America is still growing at about a million barrels a day annually. Things are not looking good. Alternatives such as shale gas are very expensive. The cheap sweet crude is gone or it is in very expensive places to get at e.g. six kilometers below the sea off the coast of Brazil. Exxon's production is down 8% in the face of rising demand. The

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other majors tell a similar story.

Hans Krauklis mentioned that he was in Saudi Arabia last year. He learned that the Saudis have a huge oilfield, but it is in decline. The Saudi price of gas is only 20 cents a litre. And much like the US they are wasting this non-renewable resource by using it to desalinate sea water and to produce electricity.

Chris then switched topics to talk about the Food Crisis. It was being talked about a lot in the media, but now they are off on election news. But the food crisis is still with us. He said that the World Bank's unreleased Gallagher Report says 100 million people are threatened with starvation because of shortages and high prices in grain stocks (rice, corn, soy beans & wheat) and 75% of the cause is directly attributable to the diversion of crops to bio-fuel. Unfortunately, he says, it is not possible to turn back the clock and cancel the ethanol and bio-diesel initiatives. Too much of our transportation energy supply is now dependent on these sources. (Not to mention the political repercussions.) The intelligent and moral investor should invest in the fertilizer sector where Canada is particularly blessed e.g. with companies like Potash Corporation and Agrium. Saskatchewan has the largest producing potash mines in the world. By contrast there is no potash in China.

Greg Latiak spoke up to let us know that he has tested his car with ethanol and found it to be 20% less efficient. Therefore he is using 20% more gas. Not a wise move.

Chris then changed the subject again—this time to Heavy Metals. We are near the end of the rock opera as he called it. This saga has three distinct acts. 1980-2000 was the dark ages. Mining was under-invested because production was more than adequately meeting demand. Now thanks to the emerging nations of China and India, and others, production is barely able to meet demand in a number of essential metals. The trend-line is similar across a surprising number of essential metals. Stocks are tight and although prices have fallen lately, we are headed for the Third Act and boom times before the fat lady sings . . . i.e., buy metals.

Wind-farms vs. Nuclear: Wind is intermittent, HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED and as we are learning from Germany and Denmark, not a very wise investment. Nuclear is the 'least worst' option for producing environmentally clean, base load electricity. Even though they can take 10-15 years to plan and build there are over 400 nuclear plants on the drawing boards around the world. Invest in uranium, another mineral of which Canada has in abundance.

Chris is generally opposed to Mutual Funds. He cited an influential international study (finance profs at Harvard, Georgia Tech and the London School of Business in the UK who analyzed thousands of mutual funds in 18 countries around the world). The study concluded that Canadians by far pay the highest total for fees, expenses and commissions at about 3%. By comparison, the

average figure for Americans is 1.5%. No country is even close to Canada for this dubious distinction. Chris said there appears to be a combination of complacency and naiveté in Canada that is hard to explain. His strongly worded advice is to avoid mutual funds and instead invest in the hugely profitable Canadian mutual fund companies. He mentioned IGM and Power Financial among others as being the kinds of companies that have consistently grown their earnings and dividends at double digit rates for decades. Chris also issued a warning to stay away from structured products like "Principle Protected Notes". He said the only "guarantee" with these products is that the issuers and the vendors, charging 4% or so in fees, expenses and commissions are guaranteed to do well.

Chris gave an illustration of the importance of fees and expenses. Say you are planning on making 8% on your investments. If you give half of that away (4%) for fees and expenses and commissions, you are only left with 4%. Of course you have to pay tax on that at, let's say, 45% so now you are left with 2.2%. You are not home free yet. The Bank of Canada's target inflation rate is 2%. This represents your loss in purchasing power. Your true after expenses, after taxes and after inflation return is negligible. Wise investors are willing to pay for good money management advice, but they are aware of the pitfalls of overpaying.

Next up in a packed agenda was China. Chris told us that the China doubters will be proven wrong. China is undergoing an extraordinary industrial revolution in triple time. Despite all the admitted failing and headwinds—human rights problems, lack of regulatory transparency, corruption, global recession—the Chinese contradiction, communist capitalism, is extremely potent and not about to go away. Chinese GDP, at the worst, will increase by 8 or 9 percent this year. China's pace of development is difficult for us in the West to understand. By way of example, they are commissioning, on average, one new coal-fired electricity generation plant every week. China consumes 45% of the world's iron ore and 35% of its steel. These figures are rising inexorably. Chris advised us to ride the China wave by investing in the companies that produce these commodities.

Chris concluded by recalling for us that Sir Wilfred Laurier FAMOUSLY declared the 20th century as belonging to Canada. In Chris's view, he was only off by a century. While it is a pity (and a strategic mistake) that we have allowed companies like INCO to slip away with no reciprocity agreements. (Brazil, by their laws, would not let Canadians buy INCO back nor would they allow Canadians to buy their potash mine.)

Canada is still riding high in this new century. We have an abundance in both the material and human resources that the rest of the world is clamouring for. We have the best balance sheet in the G8. Better still, the TSX is re-

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markedly inexpensive considering the earnings record of its constituent stocks. Chris told us that earnings of the TSX Composite have risen from \$840 in January to \$925 this September. A rise of 10% is a good thing. As we all know, the market for its own impenetrable reason, has not recognized those earnings and is discounting them severely. Chris says this the time to buy these bargains.

Robert Mackenzie thanked Chris for letting us know what trends to watch and for his fascinating and informative talk on our financial future.

P. S. Chris publishes The West Letter Monthly. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, you can reach him at cwest@3macs.com

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Sharen English

On Wednesday, Oct. 15 fourteen members of the Amherst Island Women's Institute met at the lovely home of Nancy and Zander Dunn. Kirsten Bennick our co-president presided over the meeting. The Ode, Collect and Pennies for Friendship followed. For Roll Call each member spoke of the most unusual food they had eaten. The foods were varied and interesting and from many countries.

The minutes were amended and accepted. The financial statement was accepted.

Standing committee reports were presented. Leslie Gavalas is collecting pictures from the area to put in the Tweedsmuir books.

The district bus trip to St. Jacobs will take place on Oct. 16. The area meeting is in Selby on Tuesday, Oct. 21.

Judy Harrower told the group that we are considering applying for a grant for more flower beds at the ferry. The cap stones at Pentland Cemetery are completed Judy reported. She has applied for another grant to help finance the work on the Pentland Cemetery fences next year.

Liz Harrison spoke about the W.I. 2008/2009 calendar launch on Sat., Nov. 15 at the Neilsen Museum. We plan to sell calendars on Sun., Nov. 16 at the Museum too. The hours of the sale will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days. Brian Little whose photos are in the calendar will have his photos for sale at the event.

Jackie Sylvester is working on the Amherst Island telephone book amendments.

Kirsten thanked all the W.I. members who worked on the Federal election All-Candidates Meeting on Oct. 6. She also thanked Bruce Burnett for working the sound system for the meeting. Kirsten thanked Judy Greer for her hard work at the Saturday morning markets this season. Kirsten thanked the bakers and sellers too.

The planning of the Seniors Christmas Party has begun with all members planning to help out. The date of the

party will be Sunday, Dec. 7. Liz Harrison is organizing this event.

Liz is also organizing the planning of the cookbook celebrating the 110th anniversary of the Women's Institute in Ontario.

Our yearly donations to various charities were discussed.

It was decided to donate the soft drinks we purchased that were left over from the CJA Folk Festival to the Halloween Masquerade Party.

Kirsten thanked the hostesses of the evening Nancy Dunn and Judy Wamberra for a superb snack that we all enjoyed. The meeting was adjourned. After the refreshments Jackie Sylvester taught us a fun craft. We made beautiful felt balls from sheep's wool, mohair and silk.

The next A.I.W.I. meeting will be held on Wed., Nov. 19 at St. Paul's Church at 7 p.m. It is a Rose meeting, which is an educational meeting. We will have a speaker talking about foot care, and the public is welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS

Judith Harrower

Congratulations to Molly Stroyman along with Rosemary and Tom Richmond for creating a multi-cultural centre right here on Amherst Island. They have provided an outlet for a variety of artists both locally and from the mainland. The Lodge is offered to musicians, painters, quilters, photographers, singers, potters, including all the children from our school so that these artists have a centre to display their talents. It is wonderful to have such a centre right here without having to travel off the Island. The current showing at the Lodge highlights the works of Islanders and their use of artistic mediums.

I encourage everyone to go to the Lodge and experience, learn and appreciate what is offered from the winter concerts to the on-going artists' shows. You do not have to spend a fortune for the concerts and nothing when you attend the artists' shows. By attending the varied showings you have the opportunity to enhance your own appreciation of the arts as well as acquiring an appreciation of the wide spectrum of the arts.

Well done Molly and her staff for the well presented displays, excellent food, varied artists, but most of all for providing ALL Islanders with an opportunity to experience Canadian culture right here on the Island.

Show your appreciation by coming out and supporting this wonderful centre. Well done Molly.

(See photo next page)

FROM THE LODGE ON AMHERST ISLAND



PHOTO BY JUDITH HARROWER

*From Left to Right: Rosemary Richmond;
Owner, Molly Stroyman; and Tom Rich-
mond.*

NOVEMBER SKIES

- Alan Kidd

Now that we are well into autumn, the Great Square is overhead during the first part of the night. The stars visible in the evening in autumn are not as bright as the stars of the summer and winter evenings, but there are some interesting objects that can be seen at their best this time of year.

The Great Square is actually part of two constellations, Pegasus and Andromeda, but it is a pattern that is easy to recognize, even though its four stars are only of medium brightness. It is right overhead during the early evening (8 PM) in November. The three stars that run northeast of the Square (I include the corner itself as one of the three) are the brightest stars in Andromeda. If one looks a little north of the middle of these stars, a somewhat blurry smudge of



light can be seen glowing among the stars. This is the most distant object visible to the unaided eye, the great nebula in Andromeda, better known as the Andromeda galaxy.

If you keep looking along the same line of stars running northeast of the Square, you will come to the constellation Perseus. This constellation runs from the Milky Way to the Pleiades, and contains a good Halloween star. This is Algol, which is Arabic for the ghoul. Algol presumably got this rather sinister name on account of its odd behavior. Most of the time Algol is the second brightest star in Perseus, but every 2.87 days Algol dims considerably and becomes only the 6th brightest star in the constellation. It turns out this is because Algol is not one star but two, orbiting each other so closely they almost touch. The dimming occurs when the larger but fainter star passes in front of the brighter one. Astronomers' name for such a pair of stars is an eclipsing binary, which is a handy fact to know for your next trivia game. Algol remains faint for about two hours then brightens again. Minima that occur in November at convenient times are around 11PM on November 8th, 8 PM on November 11th, and 12:50AM on November 29th.

The early evening sky is dominated by Venus and Jupiter. The best time to see these two brilliant planets is right after the sky gets dark. As an extra treat, during the first and final weeks of November, Venus and Jupiter are joined by the crescent moon.

Meanwhile Saturn is the only bright planet that is high in the dawn sky.

In early November, Mercury comes away from the sun far enough to be seen in the skies just before dawn.

The Leonid meteor shower can be seen on the night of November 16-17th. However the waning moon which rises around 8 PM will make viewing difficult.

On the chart I've added Perseus, as well as the positions of the Andromeda Galaxy and Algol.



“RIDING ALONG IN MY AUTOMOBILE...”



Okay, so it may not be an automobile, but Alan Miller (left) seems to be quite enjoying his ride with his grandfather, Keith Miller (aka Dr. Love).

AMHERST ISLAND SCARES UP A MASQUERADE



On October 25th, 2008, ghouls and goblins (and a very cute lion-train) convened at the Amherst Island Community Centre for an evening of fun and games. We estimate about 75 adults were in attendance, and many more children.

A super-huge thank you to Candace Youell—she is a whirlwind, and she provided a great deal of help in all aspects of organizing, planning, and decorating.

Thanks to judges, Pierre Thiffeault, and Denise Wolfe, who had a difficult job with so many great costumes, and to MC Dave Youell.

Thanks also, to AIMS, Amherst Island Rec. Committee, ACW, Amherst Island Women's Institute, CJAI, Amherst Island General Store, everyone who donated time, money, decorations, and anyone else I have overlooked.

One of the things that I first fell in love with upon coming to Amherst Island is the strong sense of community, and the eagerness to help and to be involved. This island is a magical place, and this type of community is a rarity indeed! Thank you all for keeping the Amherst Island Masquerade alive.

Sue Frizzell



ALL PHOTOS BY DAVE
YOUELL (BOTH PAGES)





JANET'S JOTTINGS FOR NOVEMBER

- Janet Scott

A Walk In the Owl Woods:

A few weekends ago before the Island was battered by terrific winds Sandy, Debbie, Rachel, Rebecca and I had a wonderful Autumn walk through the Owl Woods on the Marshall Forty-foot. Earlier in the day I had met some birders coming out of the woods and they had informed me that they had seen



both a Long-eared Owl and a Saw-whet Owl in the pines. After locating the Saw-whet, I phoned the family and they came out to see the little fellow. The air was clear and cooler with that beautiful blue sky of the autumn that makes an excellent backdrop for the golden leaves of the Sugar Maples and the deep bronze leaves of the Red Oaks. We scuffed happily through leaves as we wandered along the paths cut years ago, through the bush, by Stuart Miller.

At the benches the Black-capped Chickadees were eager to take our offerings of black sunflower seeds right from our hands and quickly hide them so that they could return for more. Now even Rebecca feeds them easily. It does not seem that long ago when as a little one she would snatch back her hand just as they were about to land leaving the bird fluttering madly to regain his balance.

An old copy of Travel, a magazine put out by Canadian Geographic had a birding article about the Owl Woods. It called it a magical place and that's just how I feel when I stroll among fall leaves or see snow drifts like waves or delicate spring flowers or fairylike Fireflies in summer. It is a biological treasure and thank-you to the late Stuart Miller and Rod Barr who recognized its value and protected it for this generation. Now through the generosity of the Laurets and the Barrs many school children, adults and even we old folks get to enjoy wildlife and nature close-up and personal.

I don't get to see many owls in the old part of the woods anymore but we do find them in the Jack Pines that Rod Barr planted about thirty years ago. The trees cling tenaciously to the thin soil on this height of land and have grown thick and sturdy against our prevailing westerlies. It was on the eastern side of this tree plantation that our little Saw-whet was roosting for the day.

Northern Saw-whets are about 8 inches in height and

have a wingspan of 17 inches. Their warm butterscotch stripes and light facial disk make them appear like soft fuzzy kittens sitting in the pine but by night their sharp talons and hooked beak change them into expert Vole Hunters. You probably won't hear their calls at this time of year but during breeding season they sound like Noel McCormick backing up the Backhoe. There is a repeated beep, beep, beep.

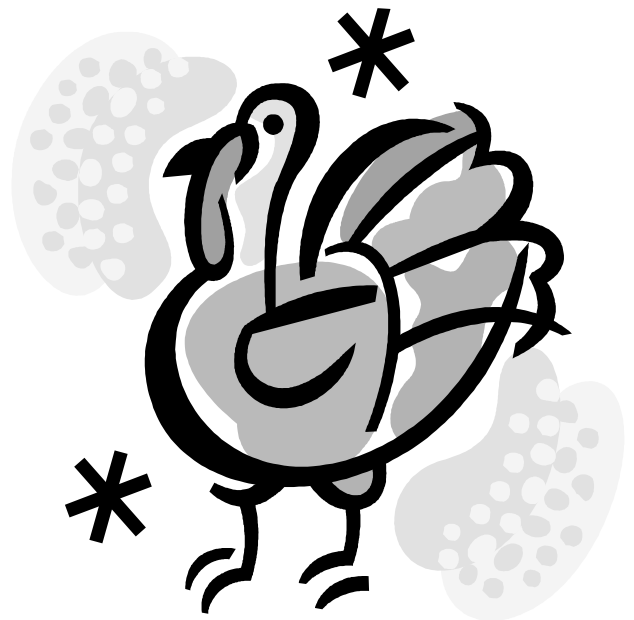
Susan Filson reported that a couple of Saw-whets flew into her window but recovered after a prolonged rest and then took off again. They keep a kindly eye on them to keep them safe until they can fly again. On full moonlit nights they migrate and misjudge their windows as part of the landscape.

After admiring the Saw-whet we took our time rambling back through the woods and frightened Fox Sparrows up from the forest floor and woodland edges. They are a 7 inch sparrow with very strongly streaked feathers in a rusty red colour. They make a scuffling noise as they turn leaves over in the thickets. They are passing through on their way from the far northBird

to the south-eastern United States. By November 4th they will be gone but should return next April.

When Bill Coulson described to me the number of cars that park on the Marshall Forty-foot during Owling time, I really didn't believe him. Of course that was back in 1973 and I wasn't an active Birder then. Little did I know that much later I would join the countless birders looking for Owls in the Owl Woods and even later buy the Coulson house. Some blessings come when we least expect it and take a few decades to fully appreciate.

Good Birding Everyone



COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

Regular Council meeting
October 14.

The following resolution
was passed by Council:
NOW THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED THAT the
Council for The Corpora-
tion of Loyalist Township

requests that the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Health immediately develop and implement scientifically defensible wind turbine monitoring programs in Ontario to determine actual noise conditions at various wind farm sites and to decide if the actual data collected supports current Ministry of Environment guidelines, or whether the guidelines need to be adjusted in order to protect human health, and that Council strongly encourages that the two Ministries cooperate with the Consumer and Clinical Radiation Protection Bureau – Acoustics Section of Health Canada for collaboration purposes and to



broaden the study scope to include installed wind turbine arrays in other locations in Canada.”

AND FURTHER, that this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Environment, Minister of Health, local M.P.P.'s, Health Canada, Chair of 'AMO and concerned groups from Amherst Island.

**

Council authorized staff (regarding Long Point Dock) to:
Seek a legal opinion on the status of Amherst Island By-law 377;

Request written confirmation from Fisheries and Oceans that they will reimburse the Township for costs associated with a) above, as well as costs to reach agreements with upland owners to transfer land to provide adequate access to the dock and, if necessary the costs of a third surveyor's opinion on ownership of the lands surrounding the dock and

Obtain a time line from Fisheries & Oceans on how long the Township has to pursue the matter.

**

There have been 2 building permits for houses on Amherst Island issued this year.



PAINTING BY JANE ECCLES

Susanne Robinson also lives here but trains at Amherst Island with Vicky Keith and at our swim club here in Bowmanville. She swam Lake Erie and broke the record by one hour and is now training for a Lake Ontario swim next July. It would be lovely to feature her in some way. She is the daughter of Eric and Linda Welbanks

4H FALL HARVEST AMHERST ISLAND 4-H CLUB



Dylan McMullen

Thank you to all the folks who came out to support the Amherst Island 4-H Club at the Harvest Festival held at the grounds of Barbara Reid. The Amherst Island Dairy Club consists of 6 members: Ashley McGinn, Brooke Reid, Katelynn & Crystal DeHann, Cody & Dylan McMullen.

The Dairy Club did well this year, as we attended and showed cattle at 3 local fairs, the Odessa Fair, Napanee Fair & Belleville Fair. As a result of the above 3 fairs, and going on a points system, there are 3 individuals qualified to show cattle at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto: Brooke Reid, Dylan & Cody McMullen. Unfortunately due to age restrictions, Cody is not old enough to show at the Royal Winter Fair.

We will have 2 members, Brooke & Dylan, representing Amherst Island 4H Dairy Club at the Royal Winter Fair on November 9 & 10.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Volunteers for their support on October 4 at the Harvest Festival, the community for their attendance and on- going support, Barbara Reid & family for their input into the Festival and Mike & Jill Walhout for their team leadership in the 4-H Dairy Club.

Congratulations to All Members of the Dairy Club for a great year in 4-H!



PHOTOS BY BRIAN LITTLE



Hopefully we'll be done lugging hay by the time you read this.

A thank you to those who were inconvenienced by our haying operations and reacted by cheerful waves rather than rude gestures. Ditto for our sheep moving expeditions.

A special thank you to Gary McDonald who warned Don that there was smoke coming out of our round baler. Don was able to extinguish the fire before it became serious. A bearing had disintegrated and produced a lot of heat.

Topsy Farms

My sincere thanks to Amherst Island Emergency Services.

Your prompt response & kindly care to my call on Sept. 2nd was great as always. Jean Tugwell

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who gave me and Hugh such support during my diagnosis and treatment. Your cards, flowers, gifts and those kind words on the ferry made all the difference.

Claire Jenney

I would like to thank my family and friends for all the calls while I was in hospital. Also for the lovely flowers, fruit basket, gifts and cards I received while in hospital and after coming home. All was appreciated very much.

Emily Tugwell

WATKINS PRODUCTS

Feel a cold coming on? Achy muscles? Sore joints? Sore nose from blowing? Chapped lips?

Medicated ointment is your friend. Call me for details and to find out about Watkins other useful products. All natural cleaning products, spices, etc. all available.

Sue 613-384-2478

sue@topsyfarms.com

CLEANING HELP NEEDED

The Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre needs someone to clean about two hours weekly or as needed. If interested Islanders would like to submit a proposal as to salary expected and have inquiries about the job requirements, please contact: Bruce Burnett 613-634-6696.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ON AMHERST ISLAND

Saturday & Sunday, November 15th & 16th

The following are taking part: The Weasel & Easel; Women's Institute Birthday Calendar Launch in the Neilson Store Museum's Back Room; PCW's Christmas Bazaar; Blacksmith Shop; Topsy Farms Wool Shed; and, CJAi is open for tours.

WANTED

To purchase a very good quality used cordless telephone.

(I want used not for cheapness but because of the emissions from new plastic.)

Please call Sally at 613-389-3802.

FOR SALE

The stock market may be going down, but waterfront property is going up. Invest in this grassy lot overlooking the Bay of Quinte on Amherst Island. Promise not to build for ten years and the price drops from \$150,000 to \$100,000. Pay cash and the price drops to \$75,000. This 1.92 acre property is located next to the Danial Fowler House at 14005 Front Road.

We would never consider selling this appreciating investment except that we need the money to buy a winter place in Chapala, Mexico where the sun shines every day.

Call Hugh or Claire Jenney at 613.384.7830 for an appointment. hcjenney@hotmail.com

COOL MEADOWS GALLERY & BAKERY

30 Front Road

613-634-8716

Tue – Sat.

10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Peter Bigras

CHIROPRACTOR

Opening October 1, Amherst Island Chiropractic, Dave Meikle D.C., 11450 Front Rd., Appointments Tuesday and Thursday 8-10 am. 4-6 pm. For appointments or any questions call Dave at 613-384-5363 or 613-328-

ISLAND BOOK

Once Upon An Island by Doris Henderson.

Four copies left, \$20 each.

If interested call 613 389-1872.

CARROT PUDDING

I am now taking orders for Carrot Pudding for Christmas.

All orders have to be in by Dec. 15.

Phone Barbara Reid at 389-0675.

FOOT CARE ON AMHERST ISLAND

Some of you may not be aware that this health service is available on the Island. Once every six to seven weeks a registered nurse who specializes in foot care comes and provides her services.

\$25/half hour and includes nail trimming, paring down of corns, calluses, and sanding of dry skin.

Anyone Recognize this ferry???



Although Amherst Islanders do not expect to see this ferry back any time soon, it might be interesting to note that it is now being featured in a film called "Island of the Dead". It is a sequel to the film "Night of the Living Dead" and is being filmed in Port Dover, Ontario.

