

# The Amherst Island BEACON

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December 2003



Peter Large, SCA

## THIS ISSUE

### - Ian Murray, editor

The big change this month is that the mailed Beacons are going in a larger envelope so that there won't be that annoying fold. I personally folded the 130 or so Beacons that were mailed out last month and I didn't like the experience or the result. We'll use up our supply of smaller envelopes when there are thinner Beacons.

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD

### - Lyn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to Jean Tugwell, Freda Youell and Ken Albertan.

Condolences to Chris Gregg and Alan and Cathy Glenn and families on the recent passing of their brother and uncle, Keith Orchard.

Our sympathy to Jean Tugwell (and family) who recently lost her husband Earle. He was a well known face on the Island, who worked for many years on the ferry. My favourite memory of Earle, was



On October 10th, 2003, Peter Ginn of MTO (right) presented some artefacts and additional log books from the MV Amherst Islander (1955) to Loyalist Township.

Here, Township Clerk Diane Pearce (centre) & Senior Captain Earle Willard (left) have a lifebuoy, a kerosine lantern, and the ships' plaque.

Alex Scott photo



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...others as noted.

of him playing baseball, well into his 70's.

Our condolences also to Angela Fleming and husband Jason, who recently lost her grandmother, Rose Joyce.

Congratulations to Garry and Anne-Marie Hitchins on the birth of their 1st grand-daughter. Reese was born to their daughter Tracy and husband Craig, and is also another great grandchild for Anna Hitchins.

Congratulations to Janet Scott who has 2 new grandsons this month! Daughter Sarah and her husband Donnie Wemp welcomed their 3rd son, Cameron at the end of October. A few weeks later, son Jamie and Sarah McGinn welcomed their 2nd son, Wyatt Reginald Carl. Wyatt is also Jane and Russel McGinn's 2nd grandson as well as another great-grandchild for Susan McGinn.

Congratulations to John Munro who was awarded a YMCA Peace Medal.

Mark Ritchie and Cherry Allan were off to England, where Mark's father was being honoured in a ceremony and presentations being made by Prince Andrew.

Diane Hieatt recently returned from New Zealand, where she visited with her mom, who was recovering from a fall.

Gwen and Paul Lauret spent some time in Calgary this month visiting family, celebrating their grandchildren's birthdays as well as a pre-Christmas celebration.

Dick Shurtleff and grandsons spent a week in Florida at Disney World.

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary to Keith and Cora McGinn, who celebrated with a dinner for family and friends at the Community Centre followed by an open dance.

We say farewell to long time Islanders, Tom and Audrey Miller, who recently sold their Front Rd. home and moved to Kingston.

The A. I. Rec. Assoc. and A. I. Emergency Services held their annual Festival of Lights parade on a cool, clear night in November, followed by the Community Bonfire. The floats were amazing and a lot of time was obviously spent on ideas and decorating. Any of these floats could have been a contender in a "big city" parade!

The PCW held their annual Christmas Tea and Sale and as usual was well received and attended.

Anyone lucky enough to be out in the evening in late October, would have caught one of the most spectacular displays of Northern Lights seen this far south. They were enhanced by a solar flare and the sky literally glowed red for a half hour or so.

Well the Frontenac II has left and returned this week for some mechanical maintenance, but not without problems. Islanders were again left stranded in foul weather for a good part of a day, due to an "oversight" that hasn't yet been explained by MTO. It's a good thing Amherst Islanders are so easy going and accepting - I doubt this sort of thing would be accepted over and over again by other Islands!!

I would like to wish our readers - and the community - Happy Holidays, filled with family, good food and safe travels!

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*Reverend Zander Dunn tends his flock.*

*Shown here on November 4, Rev Dunn, a member of the South Shore Wranglers, pedals his two-wheeler as he helps Mark and Cherry move their sheep to greener pastures.*

TC

## WILMER CLAUDE (BILL) EVES

Mr. Eves passed away October 12, 2003.

He is survived by: his children Sylvia, Dennis, Marion, and Barb; 10 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; and, 1 great-great-grandson. He is also survived by his brother Harvey Eves of Kingston.

He was predeceased by his parents Marion Willard and James Eves of Amherst Island, a sister Isabel Groves and a brother Norman (Marion Willard was a sister of Eldon Willard's father, Claude Willard).

Wilmer spent 26 years in the military and another 10 years at C.F. Base North Bay as foreman of works before retiring in 1975. He also served in WWII and Korea.

He enjoyed many winters in Florida and was an avid shuffleboard player. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing and was a great hockey fan.

A legion service was held the night of visitation.

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## AUDREY LORRAINE SMITH

Died at KGH on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003. She was predeceased by her husband Patrick Vincent McGinn. Survived by her children Terry and Elaine and their children. Also survived by her sister Shirley Belmont.

Audrey Smith is related to most of the old Island families.

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## DAVID EARLE TUGWELL

Died November 25, 2003, at the Lenadco Home in Napanee in his 87 year. Predeceased by: parents, Irvin Tugwell and Mabel McGinn; son, Jeffrey Earle; sisters Gladys & Edna; and, brother, Samuel Chester.

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## EULOGY FOR EARLE

- Jean Tugwell

'My Earle', a small, delicate baby at birth, could have been placed in a shoebox. Earle, who developed 'whooping cough', was nursed by the loving hands of his mother and grandmother and grew to be a healthy, active child.

From a young age, Earle was interested in things mechanical. He could assemble and make anything work. He made a harness for his favourite cat Thomas and hitched it to his little wagon, so Thomas could pull it around. Another accomplish-

ment was walking a tightrope in the haymow, keeping up with his brother Chester. At the age of sixteen, Earle underwent an appendectomy, a serious operation in those days. After he recuperated, he increased in height by a foot!

As a teenager, Earle helped on the family farm. He also drew milk from the farmers, delivering it to the cheese factories in Stella and Emerald. He loved the outdoors and many times he walked the five miles from his parent's farm on the Third Concession to the old brick high school in the village. Earle delighted in hunting, fishing and sports. He especially loved hockey, horse-shoes and softball. Although small in stature, he could pitch a mean game of softball and horseshoes. He was also quick to handle a hockey stick. Earle continued to play softball until the age of 75 and was upset when I suggested he maybe should have a base runner.

Then came the war years. Earle joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, serving four years as an aero electrical mechanic. He served with the RCAF in France, England, Belgium and Holland before returning home to Amherst Island in 1945.

Working as an electrician in Kingston, Earle became acquainted and subsequently married a young Island girl named Jean Wemp. I was working as a secretary in a



law firm at the time. Together, we purchased and operated Earle's family farm. Earle became the Island telephone repairman and later worked on the Island ferry becoming a first mate. He was a Township councillor for many years and was an active member of the Anglican Church. He loved music and was a sharp card player. Earle and I loved being part of Amherst Island and on the first of November this year, we shared 57 wonderful years of marriage.

Even though Earle was very ill, he was able to attend and relate to the November 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day service at Lenadco Nursing Home in Napanee. He wore his Legion uniform, decorated with his five war medals. At home on the Island and in the nursing home, Earle was praised for being an excellent patient.

My Earle was a hard working, God loving, quiet spoken man with a keen sense of humour that he never lost. I thank and give praise to God for Earle and for our son Jeffrey.

(These words of tribute were written by Jean and read to the mourners by Reverend Faun H. Harriman on Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Amherst Island).



## JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott



We sometimes get complacent about the variety of birds on Amherst Island. It takes a visitor to awaken our interest and shake us out of a rut. We have a student teacher visiting Amherst Island Public School who comes from Montreal and is an avid Birdwatcher. I was getting somewhat tarnished around the edges until he started commenting on the Hawks that could be seen along the island roads and in the fields. I tell you regularly about them but we forget that our daily view of these magnificent Rough-legged Hawks is not an everyday occurrence in most areas. We have begun to take our bird population, as we do our Heritage, for granted. A hawk large enough to fly here from the Arctic tundra and spend the winter here at home on our open fields and wind-blown trees is a naturalist's gift!

Lyn Fleming reported a Snowy Owl on the North Shore near Pentland Cemetery on November 11<sup>th</sup>. I guess Will Reed and I will have to relinquish the First Snowy Crown to her this year BUT we will be back in contention another year. While you're looking for the Owl don't forget your Heritage lesson. There is a stone in the Pentland Cemetery that reads "Fell from the mast". As a reader of Patrick O'Brien and Alexander Kent, that phrase brings a terrifying and historical era to mind, but that too is part of an Island History.

Ted Gow phoned to alert me that the Tundra Swans are back. If you haven't yet seen this magnificent sight watch around the foot between Mark Ritchie's and Harris' house. When conditions are right as many as 100 of these magnificent white birds can be seen feeding in the sheltered bay. This too is a bird of the Arctic Tundra nesting along the coast of the Arctic Ocean but now adapting to life on Lake Ontario, our Inland Sea. The gulls are neat to watch as well. You may see the small Bonaparte's Gull at 13 inches or the Great Black-backed Gull at 30 inches in length dancing with our waves.

The birders are reporting Saw-whet Owls, Long-eared Owls and

Short-eared Owls in the Owl Woods. Soon the Great Horned Owls will be calling on their nesting sites preparing for nesting in February or March. Makes me cold just thinking about it!

At my feeder I am seeing Blue Jays, Tree Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Mourning Doves, Goldfinches, House Finches, Juncos, Cardinals, a Ring-necked Pheasant, one Starling and one Red-winged Blackbird. Watch your feeders for me as the annual Christmas Count will be taking place on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Birders will be checking and making a census of bird populations in this area as Birders do all over the continent at this time of year. Give me a call if you would like to help as either a Feeder Watcher or a Field Watcher on that day. Every pair of eyes helps!

Good Birding



## Amherst Island Public School

- Lyn Fleming

It's been a busy fall at A.I.P.S.

Senior Class students competed in two Cross Country meets in Parham and at Fort Henry, went to K.C.V.I. to see a presentation of the story of Harriet Tubman, and are now practicing for the Volleyball tournament in December.

Senior Girls have competed in one Volleyball tournament already.

Students from JK to grade 8 participated in songs and readings for the Remembrance Day Service held at A.I.P.S. with about 30 members of the community attending.

Students are now busy getting ready for our annual Family Christmas Celebration.

Kindergarten and Primary students visited Bath P.S. to see a presentation of Wind in the Willows, performed by retired Limestone School Board teachers.

People Savers, sponsored by the Red Cross, spent a day at the school with students of all ages teaching First Aid and Life Saving Skills.

The school interior is in the process of being painted, but most importantly to the public - The GYM Has Been Painted!!

The Primary Class travelled to MacPherson House and the Lennox and Addington Museum in Napanee.

Many thanks to the Women's Institute for the use of the new sound system and to Bruce Burnett for setting it up for us. Also to the PCW for their muffins and snacks for the kids who occasionally forget lunch.

ISLE has been busy fund raising this fall for the school and also won the prize for "Best Lights" on their float in the Festival of Lights parade. Students rode on the float in the parade.

Our Library/Resource room has been undergoing an upgrade as well.

From Students and Staff at A.I.P.S. we wish you Happy Holidays!

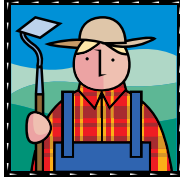


*The ISLE "Candyland" float at the 2003 Festival of Lights Parade in November won an award (as many of the floats did). A great time was had by all, and the bonfire was huge too. Much hot chocolate and many donuts were consumed! JH*

## AIMS NOVEMBER MEETING

- John Kuti

The chairman welcomed new member Brian Little as well as Paul Laurett's father, Joseph.



It was decided that Aims guarantee \$100 to organizations agreeing to provide breakfast with five dollars for each breakfast to include toast, eggs bacon, coffee and juice. There was some discussion about sharing breakfast assignments between Isle and the Girl Guides, and it was agreed this could be worked out because it involved almost the same people. The final decisions would be left to the executive.

John Munro reported that Andy Higgins' book would be made available soon as a part of AIMS fundraising. He also reported on the beach party at Beach Grove pool to thank people for supporting him on his Y-Knot Swim. He also announced that he would be the grand marshal in the Kingston Santa Claus parade.

John Kuti agreed to put together next year's speakers list, after the current speakers program is complete.

There is to be a \$500 emergency fund to be used at the discretion of the executive.

The Chairman asked members to agree that there be some funds made available to graduates from the Island going onto

higher education. It was agreed that the executive should make this award this year to those who graduated and went on to higher education.

Jim Whitten thanked members for assisting with the school Garden project. He asked whether members would like to approve some financial assistance to school trips. It was agreed to provide up to \$500 for school trips, offering \$70 per event.

Terry Culbert then spoke after he presented Zander Dunn with a photo of Zander on a bicycle herding sheep. It was pointed out that he was as successful with them as with the two legged variety.

Terry then spoke about his family history and how they came to Ontario in 1840 from Tipperary, Ireland. His family settled in southwestern Ontario near London. He was raised in Lucan, home to the infamous Black Donnelleys. He told the story of how one of his relatives was involved in a fight with one of the Black Donnelleys, and how the fight was thrown to make money.

He explained how he went to work at CFPL TV in London at 17 in an apprenticeship program. He explained how he was in TV news for 42 years. He met our Peter Trueman when he was 30 at the CBC where he worked for seven years. He moved to global television in 1979 where Peter was the anchor reporter.

Terry then told the story of travelling with Bob McAdorey to the Ards Peninsula in Ireland the place from which many Island families originated in the mid-19th-century.

He told of how he came to Amherst Island to see Peter and to do some stories for Global Television. It was through that exposure that he came to love Amherst Is-

land, eventually moving here to retire.  
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## W.I. REPORT

- Nancy Dunn

Hollyhock Farm, home of Claire Jenney, was the venue for the regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Island Women's Institute on Wed. 19 Nov. 2003.

Fifteen members were present. Due to circumstances beyond our control (or his) our planned speaker was unavailable but we managed to fill the evening with business, socializing and congratulating ourselves on winning the award for "Best Seasonal Spirit" in the Festival of Lights Parade on Nov. 15th. Since we weren't carrying our banner you might not have recognized the seven women wound up in Christmas tree lights and wearing red antlers as the local W.I.

The afore-mentioned lights are now festooning the trees at the dock - part of our ongoing efforts to spruce up the entry to our beloved and lovely Island.

After the usual opening and standing committee reports, we attended to unfinished business such as: the selling of the 2004 calendars (still available at \$10 each); the Seniors' Dinner on 7 Dec. (open to all Islanders 65 and older - if you get this before then and are eligible but have not received an invitation, call Kirsten at 389-0636); and, the Daniel Fowler painting of Dempsters' Point. Prints of this lovely water colour of the north shore towards Emerald are available at \$75.00 each. (If a \$10 calendar is too little to spend on a certain someone at Christmas why not consider a Fowler print?)

Thanks go out to Terry Culbert for donating his original drawing (which became May's calendar picture) for a silent auction at the calendar launch. It sold for \$70.00. Appreciation was also expressed to AIMS for the Nov. 16th afternoon tea they hosted to thank us for our support of some of their projects over the past year.

We were glad to hear that the new sound system purchased for public use was well



*Joyce Haines, Elsie Willard and Judity Harrower taking part in the 2003 Festival of Lights parade for the AIWI*

used at the annual Hallowe'en festivities at the School/Community Centre.

Among items of new business were: thanks to Mary Kay Steel for updating the WI segment of the A.I. web page (see "www.amherstisland.on.ca"); a proposal to assist in the repair of the Pentland cemetery stone fence under the guidance of Bill Hedges next summer; formation of a committee to produce a new Island phone directory in the spring; and information about the White Rose Earth Day school program of which we could be a part along with ISLE.

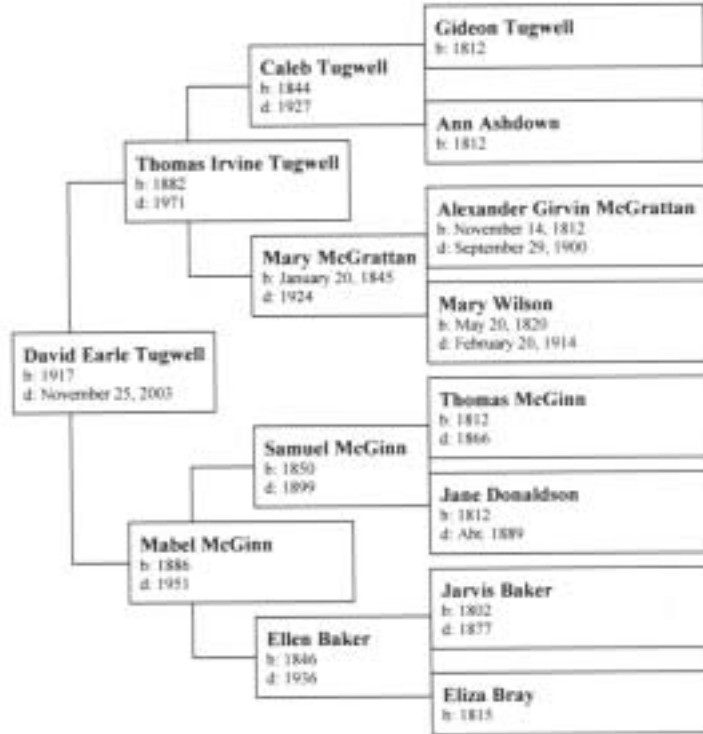
President Joyce Haines gave a report on the area convention which she attended in Selby on 21 Oct. Our branch was the second highest donor in the area in the "Focus High for W.I." project for this year. Some money has gone to the upkeep of the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead. Adelaide Hoodless not only founded Women's Institutes which became a worldwide organization but she also played an instrumental role in forming the Macdonald Institute, once a free-standing Home Economics school but now part of the University of Guelph. That Institute recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

Other "Focus High on W.I." funds were sent to the ACW - the Associated Country Women of the World for various projects around the world - especially in developing countries.

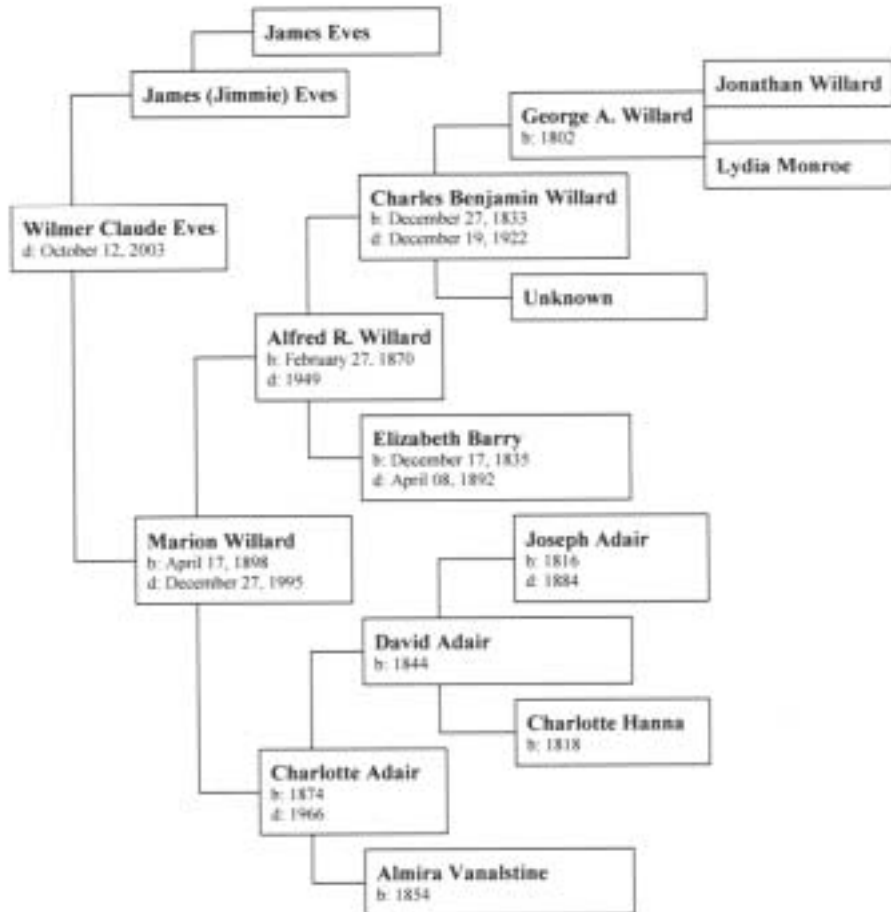
To end the evening, fine refreshments were served by hostess Claire and Anna Hitchins. Our next meeting will be our Christmas Potluck Supper on Wed. 10 Dec. at 6 p.m. at St. Paul's Church Hall.



*Ancestors of David Earle Tugwell*



*Ancestors of Wilmer Claude Eves*



## INTERVIEW with HARRY & BARBARA FILSON

### - Zander of DUNN INN

Harry and Barbara Filson have moved from the centre of Amherst Island and the centre of its activity to retirement in a house close to the foot - the most easternly part of the Island. They warmly welcomed me into a house warmed by a wood stove and a house full of warm memories.

Harry was born in 1926 on the South Shore across from where Laurie Kilpatrick and John Moolenbeek live today. Harry's parents, Ross and Tina (Glenn) Filson lived there in a log house owned by Charley Gibson from whom they rented their farm.

In 1931 Harry's family moved to the Second Concession to a brick house on today's Quinte Community Pasture opposite the unmaintained road to the Garbage Recycling Centre. From there Harry attended #3 Public school - at the end of that road on the North Road. Harry refuses to admit to any pranks or foolishness at school. He contends other kids may have been involved in such shenanigans, but not he!

Although he cannot remember anything his teachers taught him, he does remember his teachers with fondness - Clarence Hogeboom, Edith Scott, Ruth Gibson and Nanetta Strain (who married Gordon Glenn). The high school teachers he remembers best were Alice Hogeboom and Glen Miller. To attend the public school he walked a mile but took a horse and buggy to the High School in the Brick Building on Stella's main street.

Barbara was born in Chatham in 1925 to Simon Cole (known as Babe) and Irene (Grant). When Barbara was about 14 her grandfather Aylesworth George Cole died, leaving a fishing business at Long Point on the South Shore of Amherst Island to her father. The family moved to Long Point to take up where the elder Cole had left off.

From there Barbara walked to #2 Public School which was located on the land where The Martin Hauschilds live today. That was such a long way to walk her that father bought her a bike to ride. She remembers giving Franklin and Bernice McCormac a ride in her carriage, and on her seat, respectively, as she peddled them as quickly as possible past the home of Bob Bray of whose cattle they were all terrified.

Barbara can't forget her first day at school on the Island. Her mother delivered her and left. Barbara contends her mother did not get home much before she did. Barbara, used to the discipline and order of a big



*Barbara and Harry Filson at home on the Foot.*

guiding business in the summer months. Beautiful boats from the U.S. would tie up at the government dock, or, as in the case of the Kodak people from Rochester, their huge boat, too big for the dock, dropped anchor in the bay and a small dingy brought the passengers to shore.

Barbara's family, in the winter, lived for awhile in the house in Stella where Elsie Willard lives today (105 McDonalds Lane) and later they bought, from Francis McKee, the house where The Lambs live now - 305 Stella Forty Foot.

In the summers Harry started guiding for the Cole family in 1948. Barbara, who worked in the restaurant cooking, baking, serving, had gotten to know Harry and decided she could spend the rest of her lifetime with him. They were married on October 11, 1947 in the United Church (now the Ferry Office and Library) by the Rev. Mr. Caswell. The reception was held at the Cole home on Long Point.

In the autumn of 1948 Harry and Barbara purchased a beautiful brick house on a choice piece of land on The Second Concession and lived there until 1969. They farmed the land and did well raising purebred Holstein cattle until 1953 when the price for farm produce dropped drastically. The Americans no longer were purchasing as many Canadian farm products.

To compensate for his losses on the farm, Harry got a job helping to construct the C.I.L. plant across from the Island near Millhaven. After construction had been completed, he signed on with C.I.L. and worked as a stores receiver. During this time Barbara remained at home to run the farm and to raise the children - Garry and Valerie. Harry, after work, pitched in to help on the farm also.

By 1963 Harry wanted to return to farming and so he left C.I.L. and gave himself full-time to the farm. But, in 1969 ARDA,

ZD

made him an offer he could not refuse for what is now part of The Quinte Community Pasture - a large parcel of land on The Second Concession. where cattle from the mainland are fattened up for the market.

Harry and Barbara and their children moved up into the upper section of the house (now the Lamb Home) where Barbara's mother and father lived below. They got along well in that arrangement. While Harry's parents, Ross and Tina Filson, ran a coffee shop in the brick building in Stella, Barbara worked as an agent and operator for Bell Canada.

In 1967, the brick building in which Harry's parents had run a coffee shop in what is now the Back Kitchen, burned down. Ross and Tina did not want to start again so Harry and Barbara took over their work in a new location. They erected a new building which is now Freda Youell's house in which they lived and ran a coffee shop and gas bar.

They were busy! Many Islanders patronized them but it was mostly strangers who made their business thrive. They appreciated the patronage of the men who installed the Bubble System for the Ferry. Of course, they had more customers in the summer than in the winter.

But, by 1974 things were slowing down, so Harry worked for a year as the road engineer for the Island. From there he laboured on the roads in Kingston for the next six years. When the opportunity came for him to serve the Island as an engineer on the ferry, The Amherst Islander, he took the job and held that position until 1991 when he retired.

Harry quips that nobody saw him; nobody knew him; nobody could blame him; he worked down in the engine room and kept out of trouble - at least any trouble that could be seen. A beautiful photograph of the Amherst Islander in winter, presented to him on retirement, is a reminder that without him the ferry would not have been able to serve the Island.

Harry was not completely occupied by farming, construction, road maintenance, engineering, running a shop. He seemed to find time to join with his pal, Les Glenn, to cross the ice many times for many years to bring needed supplies to the Island. Harry refuses to admit to any disasters or

close calls. He contends he and Les were always careful with the sleds and cars they ran over the ice and, because they were so careful, they came through every trip safely.

Harry also served as Fire Chief of the volunteer Fire Department. He was one of the founding members in 1970 and served faithfully in that capacity until 1987. The plaque he has mounted on his wall pays tribute to his long and devoted service. Harry says there was no training provided in those days. The men taught themselves and learned about new techniques wherever and whenever they could.

Meanwhile Barbara was also much involved with Island affairs. She worked diligently within The United Church until it closed. She is perhaps best known for two things - her work as a hairdresser and her pies.

As a hairdresser, Barbara worked out of her house on the Second Concession at first, but then set up a shop in The Brick Building in the village of Stella. She has helped beautify the women of the Island from before she was married in 1947 until she quit the business in 1987 - over 40 years. Nobody, since she left the job, has been able to sustain such a record in hairdressing on Amherst Island.

As for her pies, Barbara began making pies for her family restaurant at Long Point, continued through her years on The Second Concession, at the coffee shop she ran in the village, and wound up her efforts with nine years of pie making for The Back Kitchen when her son, Garry Filson and his wife, Susan, ran the eatery.

Barbara cannot count the thousands of pies she has made - pies of every kind, size and shape, but she shared with me the two secrets of her success. The first secret is from Harry who generously states, "I taught her everything she knows." The second secret of her success is that she makes pies for others as she would make them for herself - only the best.

While working for Garry and Susan, Barbara would get up early each day and make four to eight pies - all from fresh ingredients. Some she would freeze for future use but all would be prepared so Susan could bake them.

Harry said they both enjoyed, over the

years, the many parties, dances and Euchre parties the Island offered. Barbara corrected him quickly. They enjoyed the dances and parties but only Harry enjoyed the Euchre games. Barbara, who came from a family which seldom played cards, arrived on the Island with no knowledge of Euchre. She was invited to an evening of Euchre and was cajoled into playing. She did reasonably well until she was so badly blasted for a mistake by a sharp-tongued critic that she never went back to the game. As for the dances, Barbara could dance all night at Victoria Hall, at the Emerald Hall or in Bath (if the ice was good enough to permit passage).

Harry and Barbara moved to the house in which they now live in 1987. They had purchased it in 1984 from the Murphys who had used it as a cottage. For years it had been left unoccupied. Much work had to be done to bring it into the shape the Filsons wanted. Rooms were extended, additions were made and an ugly old fireplace was replaced by a set of patio window doors which offer a beautiful view of the lake and the white swans which come to visit that part of the Island every year.

The kitchen is a great place to make pies. The living room is homey and cosy. The enclosed verandah rooms let the sunlight flood in to brighten the atmosphere.

Harry and Barbara's two children, Garry and Valerie, were both raised in the brick house on the Second Concession and are now living not far from their parents. Valerie and her husband, Robert Howard (of the Howards of the Second Concession) live in Collins Bay. Garry and his wife, Susan live next door to Harry and Barbara.

Frequent visitors are Garry and Susan's son Derek and their two daughters - Ashley and Kristy, now Mrs. Nelson Cabral. (Barbara has a picture of the scores of pies she made for Kristy's wedding).

Friends also drop in for visits. While I was there Harry's cousin, Bob Filson, and his wife, Bernadette, came by to say "hello." Bob remarked that from his 68 years of knowing Harry and Barbara he can say that they are always the first to offer help to anybody in need. Is there any higher praise?

Harry and Barbara Filson continue to be an important part of Amherst Island.



Jackie Sylvester and Joyce Haines hold a copy of the 2004 Island Sights Calendar at the launch party. ZD

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## The LAUNCH of the WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CALENDAR for 2004

- Zander Dunn

The new 2004 black and white Calendar produced by the Women's Institute was put on sale at a special party at The Lodge on Stella Point on November 8.

The beautiful calendar which features a picture by an Island artist for each month of the year was a big seller at \$10 each.

Many Islanders attended the reception, hosted by Molly Stroyman, to see and buy the calendars and to view the various drawings, paintings and photographs which were submitted for consideration.

Artists of every age and stripe were represented.

Close to 40 items were on display, some of which were for sale.

Some of the pictures were humorous; some were delicate; some were nostalgic; some were bold; all were excellent.

The judges had a difficult time because some of the coloured items they valued lost their lustre and appeal when they were reduced to black and white.

This collector's item is not sold out yet. There is still time to purchase one or more of these excellent souvenirs of Amherst

Island. They will make great gifts for Christmas.

## CHRISTMAS PLUM PUDDING

- Terrence Patrick Culbert

My Collins English dictionary describes plum pudding as a rich, dark brown, boiled or steamed pudding made with flour, suet, sugar and dried fruit. According to Matthew Walker of Derbyshire, Britain's largest Christmas plum pudding producer, this scrumptious dessert originated in England during the 14<sup>th</sup> century as a 'porridge' called 'frumenty'. It was made by boiling beef and mutton with raisins, currants, prunes, wine and spices. In those days it

had the consistency of soup and was eaten as a fasting dish before Christmas. Around 1595, 'frumenty' evolved into a plum pudding, thickened with eggs, breadcrumbs, dried fruit, ale and other spirits. Years later, during Queen Victoria's reign, the Christmas plum pudding began to look and taste as it does today.

Why is it called plum pudding if plums are not part of the ingredients? During medieval times, dried plums and prunes were popular in pies, but chefs and bakers replaced them with raisins during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

My daughters' grandmother, Cicely Veighey, a wonderful English-woman from the Isle of Wight makes superb plum pudding. Served each Christmas, the pudding arrives at the table, drenched with a steaming hot caramel sauce. Mrs. Veighey believed in the age-old custom of putting coins in the pudding for health, happiness and wealth to those that were lucky enough to find them without chipping a tooth.

With the Christmas

season upon us, I went in search of one of Amherst Island's best-known bakers, Dorothy McGinn of O'Drain's Bay. I not only received a warm welcome from Dorothy, but also from the rich aroma of apple pie baking in her oven. As I placed my pen, paper and tape recorder on the table, I spotted a plaque near the stove with this inscription: 'Notice- this kitchen will be closed today because of illness. I'm sick of cooking!'

Dorothy learned to cook and bake early in life and she took those skills into her marriage to Kaye McGinn the day she turned seventeen. As a newly wed, their old farmhouse on the Second Concession Road was without electricity and would remain that way for another eight years. Dorothy became quite proficient with the woodstove. "You had to have the temperature just so! The woodstove had a gauge on the front," she added, "and if it got too hot, I had to prop open the door to let out some of the heat." Even under those challenging conditions, her baked goods were coveted by all.

When the McGinn's constructed their new home in 1984, they purchased a General Electric wall oven. After nineteen years of faithful service, Dorothy replaced it with a Kitchenaide convection oven. To give you an example of how much baking she does, Mrs. McGinn made 725 pies this summer alone for the Saturday Morning Market and the Back Kitchen restaurant.



**DOROTHY MCGINN'S PRIZE CHRISTMAS PLUM PUDDING RECIPE**

- 1 ¼ cups of flour
  - ½ teaspoon cinnamon
  - ½ teaspoon nutmeg
  - ¼ teaspoon ground mace
  - ¼ teaspoon cloves
  - ½ teaspoon salt
  - 1 ½ cups stale breadcrumbs
  - 1 ½ cups suet
  - 1 ½ cups brown sugar
  - 1 cup muscatel raisins
  - 1 cup sultana raisins
  - ¾ cup seeded raisins
  - 1 cup currants
  - 1 cup dates (cut fine)
  - 1 ½ cup chopped peel
  - ¾ cup sliced almonds
  - 1 cup mixed fruit
  - ½ cup honey
  - 4 eggs, beaten well
  - ½ cup brandy
  - ½ to 2/3 cup milk (the amount of milk depends on the dryness of the crumbs)
  - ½ teaspoon soda (dissolved in 1 tablespoon of warm water)
- Mix ingredients in the order given.  
 Fill buttered moulds 2/3 full.  
 Cover with foil and tie down.  
 Steam for five hours.  
 Add boiling water as needed.

\*\*  
 Dorothy is quick to add: "I always soak the fruit in brandy overnight. For a one-pound pudding I use a quarter cup of brandy, using a brown sugar sauce to top the pudding off. The sauce consists of brown sugar with cornstarch, mixed with hot water until the right consistency is reached!"

As we finished our interview, Dorothy placed a slice of hot apple pie with a slab of cheddar cheese in front of me. "An apple pie without cheese is like a kiss without a squeeze" she said jokingly!

By the way, Dorothy is accepting orders for her Prize Christmas Plum Pudding, bread, dinner rolls, pies, as well as her meat and shepherd pies. She needs two days notice.  
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**DECEMBER SKIES**

- Alan Kidd

Last month was certainly a great one for skywatchers. Not only a lunar eclipse with perfect viewing conditions, but also a major display of Northern lights. Now we are approaching winter, the season of the brightest stars. We won't get a Lunar eclipse in December (we'll have to wait until next October for that) but some of the brightest constellations are now visible in the early evening.

Probably the brightest and best known of these is Orion. Orion is a familiar sight in the winter skies. The three stars in his belt are as bright as any of the stars in the big dipper, but two of the other stars, Betelgeuse, marking one of the shoulders, and Rigel, marking a foot, are among the ten brightest stars visible in the night sky. Betelgeuse (a corruption of the Arabic phrase *yad al-jauza* meaning hand of al-jauza the Arabic name for the constellation) is a red supergiant star putting out about 38,000 times as much light as the sun. It is about 425 light years away, relatively close by galactic standards. Betelgeuse is so large that were it to be at the sun's location not only would the Earth's orbit be inside the star, but also that of Mars. Betelgeuse is nearing the ending of its life and will likely explode as a supernova sometime in the next two or three million years. When that happens it will easily be visible in the daylight sky.

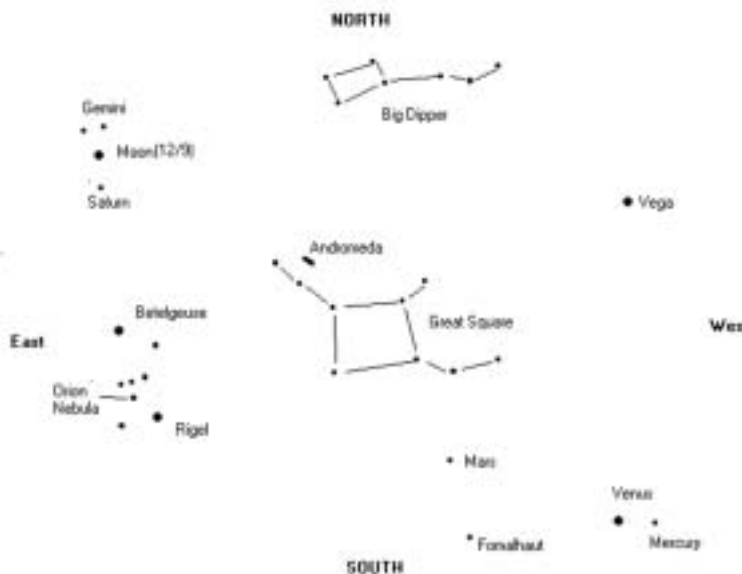
Rigel is even brighter than Orion. In fact Rigel puts out about 70,000 times as much

light as the sun, but since it's about 770 light-years away, only appears a bit brighter than Betelgeuse. Rigel is a blue supergiant star, and it, like Betelgeuse, is fated to end up as a supernova. Only about one in a million stars in our galaxy is a supergiant, a star with a mass about 100 times that of our sun, but they tend to stand out because they are so bright. Although these stars are massive, they have very short lifetimes when compared to stars like our Sun. Our sun is about halfway through a 10 billion-year lifespan, while a supergiant will go from birth to supernova in less than 10 million years. Rigel is at an early phase of this short life, while Betelgeuse is near the end.

One final feature of Orion is the Great Orion Nebula. This object can be seen in Orion's sword, and a good pair of binoculars will reveal it as a hazy cloud. This nebula is the most active area of star formation, which is visible from the Northern Hemisphere. Looking at the nebula through a large telescope, several bright young stars can be seen, shining through the dust and gas clouds out of which they were recently formed.

Jupiter continues to be a very noticeable object in the early morning sky. Venus has now appeared in the frosty morning sky. Mars continues as a bright object in the early night sky, but considerably dimmer than this summer. If the weather cooperates, it may be possible to get a glimpse of Mercury early in December, low on the western horizon just after sunset around the 9<sup>th</sup> of December.

On the chart I've added Orion, as well as the positions of Venus and Mercury. I've cheated a bit because Orion doesn't rise until after Venus and Mercury set, but the chart gives the relative positions.





to measure the two largest trees I could see from our house at the east end of the island.

There is a giant willow at the eastern end of the north shore. You can see in the photo below that it breaks up into several trunks right at the ground, so I measured the largest trunk- which was only 280 cm in girth! Too bad the tree didn't branch out higher up, but rules are rules.

The second tree I measured was the white oak on the ridge of Garry Filson's farm near the Kingston Naturalist's fence. This has one tall trunk, as you can see from the photo above, and it stands high above every-

thing around it. But it measured only 260 cm in circumference! Just half of the Peterborough champion!

I am sure there are bigger trees on the Island. Do you have your favourite? Just let me know and I would be happy to come out and measure it with you, - or you can send me your measurement. After a couple of months we should be able to honour our own largest Amherst Island tree. It might even make the Ontario Honour Roll!

## AMHERST ISLAND TREES – HOW BIG IS BIG?

- text and photos by Bill Harris

We know that when settlers first came to Amherst Island, two hundred years ago, there were large pine, oak and beech trees native to the Island. How large they were is guess work, but everyone thinks they were bigger than those we see today.

Or were they? Yes, there were many more trees, but just how big are the trees that remain on Amherst Island? Are there some really big ones?

As a forester, I have always been interested in the trees of Ontario, and in particular the Honour Role of Ontario trees. This list is kept by the Ontario Forestry Association - you can find it on their web site "[www.oforest.on.ca](http://www.oforest.on.ca)". There you will discover that not all the big trees are in the Carolinian forest in South Western Ontario. In South Eastern Ontario, I discovered that Ontario's largest White Oak is near Peterborough, the largest Basswood is north of Belleville, and the largest Black Walnut is in the Cataraqui Conservation Park near Kingston.

All these trees measure about 6 feet in diameter at breast height - breast height is 51 in or 130 cm above ground. You need a big pair of callipers to measure that big a tree! You can also use an ordinary tape measure and measure the girth around the tree, which is 3.14159 times the diameter. (72 inches in diameter is 226" in circumference). All the records are kept in metric, which is no problem as most tapes these days show both, (226" is 574 cm.).

Equipped with this information, I set out



## 104th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Bird Studies Canada (BSC) calls upon volunteers everywhere to join with birders across the country and participate in the longest-running winter-time tradition, the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This year, nearly 350 individual counts are scheduled to take place in Canada from 14 December 2003 to 5 January 2004. BSC is a partner with the National Audubon Society of the United States in this project - nearly 2,000 individual counts are done throughout the Americas each year.

During this year's count, the scientists are highlighting the fact that many of the birds to be counted are produced in the great North American boreal forest, extending from Alaska to Eastern Canada. In fact, about 20 percent of the birds counted at feeders in the United States were hatched in the Canadian boreal forest, according to research carried out by Pete Blancher of Bird Studies Canada. At the close of the count, the population status and trends of the birds of the boreal forests will be analysed to see how these species are faring. Boreal species that appear to be declining that have been traditionally seen on CBCs include Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and especially Rusty Blackbird.

CBC began over a century ago when 27 conservationists in 25 localities, led by scientist Frank Chapman, changed the course of ornithological history. On Christmas Day 1900, the small group of conservationists posed an alternative to the "side hunt," a Christmas Day activity in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds and small mammals. Instead, Chapman proposed to identify, count, and record all the birds they saw, founding what is now considered to be the most significant citizen-based conservation effort and a more than century-old institution.

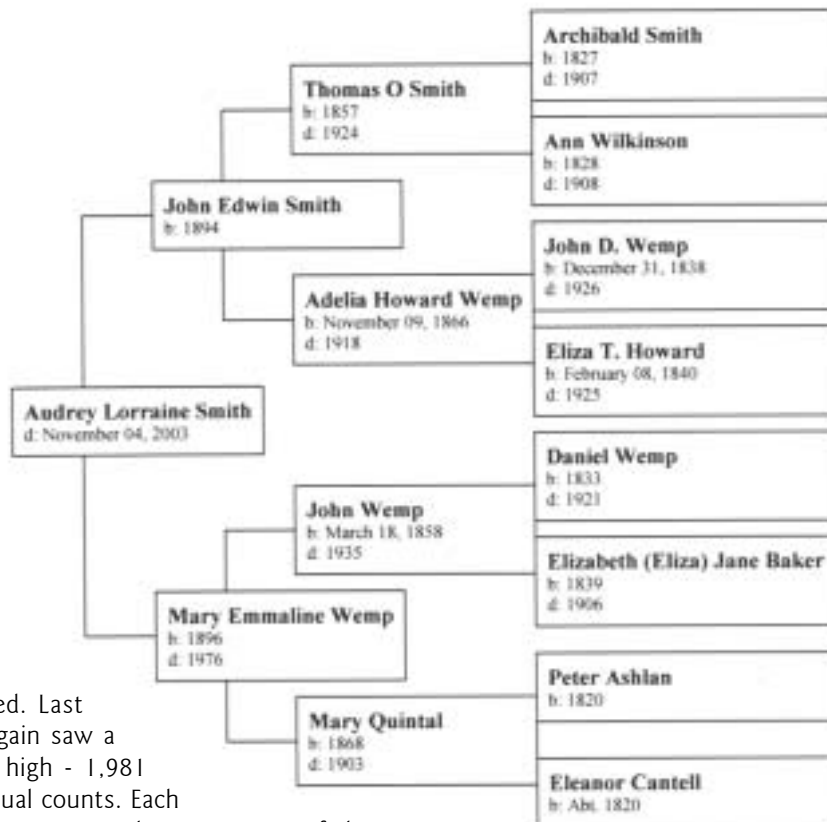
Today, over 55,000 volunteers from every Canadian province, parts of Central and South America, Bermuda, all 50 states, the West Indies, and Pacific islands count and record every individual bird and bird species seen in a specified area. During the 103<sup>rd</sup> count, about 73 million birds were

counted. Last year again saw a record high - 1,981 individual counts. Each count group completes a census of the birds found during one 24-hour period between December 14 and January 5 in a designated circle 24 kilometres in diameter - about 458 square kilometres.

Apart from its attraction as a social and competitive event, CBC reveals valuable scientific data. Now in its 104<sup>th</sup> year, CBC is larger than ever, expanding its geographical range and accumulating information about the winter distributions of various birds. It is vital in monitoring the status of resident and migratory birds across the Western Hemisphere. The data, 100% volunteer generated, have become a crucial part of bird population monitoring databases in the U. S. and Canada. Articles published in the 103<sup>rd</sup> CBC issue of "American Birds" helped ornithologists better understand the magnitude of the effects of West Nile virus on regional bird populations. In addition, count results from 1900 to the present are available through Audubon's website "[www.audubon.org/bird/cbc](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc)".

"Backed with over a century of participation and collected data, the Christmas Bird Count is the longest-running, volunteer-based bird census, spanning three hu-

### Ancestors of Audrey Lorraine Smith



man generations," said Dick Cannings, Canadian Christmas Bird Count Coordinator. "The CBC has evolved into a powerful and important tool, one probably inconceivable to any of the 27 participants on the first Christmas Bird Count. With continually growing environmental pressures, it seems likely that today's participants cannot possibly fathom the value of their efforts now and in the next century."

CBC compilers enter their count data via Bird Studies Canada's homepage "[www.bsc-eoc.org](http://www.bsc-eoc.org)", or Audubon's website "[www.audubon.org/bird/cbc](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc)", where the 104<sup>th</sup> Count results will be viewable in near real-time. Explore this information for the winter of 2003-2004 or visit a count from the past. See if and how the state of your local birds has changed during the last 25...50...or 100 years.

Bird Studies Canada is the pre-eminent, non-profit, organization committed to advancing the understanding, appreciation and conservation of wild birds and their habitats. Its National Research Centre is located in Port Rowan, Ontario.

For further information contact Janet Scott at 389-4608.

# Things I remember from growing up on Amherst Island

-Grant Filson

I remember the Arbor Days we had during our elementary school life. They were usually held in May. The idea was a general clean-up of the school and schoolyard. For me, it was always an exciting time. After only one class in the morning, the work would begin. The boys would work outside raking dead leaves and grass. The girls would do some cleaning inside the building, such as windows and desks. After the clean-up the teacher lit a bonfire to burn the rubbish.

Our school, S. S. No. 1, a red-brick, one-room structure, was located about one mile east of Stella. After the bonfire was extinguished we would hike across the fields to Uncle Eddie Fleming's bush. At the top of one his trees was an eagle's nest. We often saw an eagle perched on a branch near the nest. We ate our lunches and picked mayflowers while we were there.

The pupils I went to elementary school with were as follows: Dick Saunders, Juanita Gibson (one year only, I believe), Vaughan and Vincent McMullen, Stirling and Stuart Kilpatrick, Wallace Wemp, Margaret, Isobel and Jim Richards, Jack Instant, Raymond Reid, Lorne and Phyllis O'Connor, Mildred and Muriel Glenn, Leslie and Mary Glenn, Mike and Janie Brown. My older sister, Janet, and a younger brother, Edward, also went at the same time as I did.

Our teachers were Kay Heinmiller, Ethel Gunter, Hazel Strain, Mr. Diamond, Miss Burns and Edith Scott.

Trinity United Church Sunday School picnics were held at Kerr's Point (which we called Fish Point). The Point, at that time, was owned by the Arthur Anderson family of New York City. Tommy Cochrane would put the hayrack on his wagon and drive some of us to the



**A few who also grew up on the Island, in a picture from 1930- Back Row, L-R: Wallace Kearney; Arthur Kearney; Edwin Hogeboom; Leonard McCormick. Front Row, L-R: Gerald Kearney; Tom Brown; Bill Bulch.**

*...from Elsie Willard*

picnic.

It was always great when the summer visitors arrived, especially the young people. I remember the Sherry boys, John and Earl, who were grandsons of Samuel Suth-

erland, of St. Louis, Missouri. Mr. Sutherland owned the building, now known as The Lodge, on Stella Point. They also had a small golf course, or putting green in front of the building.



**More Island kids, around 1925-26: BACK ROW L-R: Gladys Cork; Freddie McCormick; Clarence Bulch; Gertrude Cork; Monroe Willard; Hugh McCormick; Fred Hitchins. MIDDLE ROW L-R: Leonard McCormick; Helen McMaster; Edwin Hogeboom; Edna Hefford; Alice Kearney; Reta Beggs;. FRONT ROW L-R: Arthur Kearney; Wallace Kearney; Jean McMaster; Emily Cork; Arthur Beggs; Mary Cork. ... from Elsie Willard**

Mr. and Mrs. Clute, of Staten Island, N. Y., owned the cottage at the end of the point, known as Journey\*s End. Their children were Jimmy, Eddie, Pete and Jeanette.

Other summer visitors were the Jim Cochrane family of Buffalo, N.Y. His wife, Minnie, and their children, Murray, Margaret, Ross and Warren, often stayed a month.

Arthur Douglas, and Betty, son and daughter of Harold Neilson, came to the island to spend the summer with their grandmother, Mrs. J. S. Neilson.

Vernon and Edith Craig and their two sons, John and Gerald, often came to spend a week or two with relatives.

For us, who lived in the village, summers were always enjoyable. We went swimming at the Neilson Dock, and sometimes at the Sand Beach. We did a lot of fishing and had plenty of boat rides. There was a ball diamond at the fair grounds.

Howard and Irene Welbanks owned a pony which they drove to school. The Welbanks family resided at Long Point, during the fishing season but returned to

Stella for the winter months.

There were two general stores, one in Emerald, owned and operated by Arthur Kilpatrick, and one in Stella, The Neilson Store. A grocery store, also known as The Royal Hotel, in which the present General Store is located, was owned by Hugh and Florence Glenn. Hugh Glenn owned a boat with which he brought his supplies from Kingston.

One day, in late 1929 or the early 1930\*s, on his way home from Kingston, the boat somehow caught fire. He was carrying some shingles and drums of gasoline which exploded, spraying the burning gasoline into the water. They were rescued by an American tourist who had a speedboat and was soon on the scene. Hugh and Ray Smith were on board. Hugh had some serious injuries to his hands and face while clinging to the boat. Ray, who was younger and a much stronger swimmer, was not as badly injured.

In early September, the schools participated in school fairs. There were exhibits of farm produce, arts and crafts, for which

prizes were awarded. In the afternoon, sports were held in the fair grounds.

In late September, the Amherst Island Agricultural Society held a fall fair, in which most Islanders participated. There were exhibits of livestock, farm produce, needlework and baking. Horse races were held in the afternoon. Local churches took turns catering in Victoria Hall, to the large crowds that usually attended the fair. The day ended with a dance, also in Victoria Hall. One of the highlights of the fair, for me, was the raising of the huge marquee tent, in which exhibits were displayed.

I want to thank Anna Hitchins, Ann Large, Muriel Glenn and Mary Hall, for their help in jogging an old man\*s memory.

In Part 2, I will write about the cold Amherst Island winters, winter sports and High School experiences.

[Editor: Grant was born in his parents' house at 5675 Front Road - presently owned by Bob Horth - in May 26, 1921.]

## HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

The Loyalist Township website has been improved and is now much easier to use.

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I've heard that last week Lance Eves counted 60 deer in one of Eves' soy bean fields. I met Vince in the store yesterday and he said that they've harvested enough beans to last their cattle for a year. The rest of the beans will be harvested after freeze-up and will be sold.

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There were 133 votes cast at the Island poll in the recent municipal election. The deputy reeve chair was the only one being contested. Carl Bresee received 78 votes and Mark Hanley 55. The turnout was 22% which, on the surface, appears quite small. The Island electorate must be  $133/0.22 = 605$ . This number is more an indication of how many people own property but don't live here. Not included in this number are foreigners and children.

I wonder just how many people are on this Island on a summer week-end.

## LONG DISTANCE BALLOON

- Terrence Patrick Culbert

How often have you seen a movie or a television commercial depicting a marooned survivor of a shipwreck, stranded on a tropical island, tossing a message for help into the sea, in a corked bottle? Well, I've never come across such a message, but I have come close here on Amherst Island. Just over a month ago, I was showing my friend Doug McLellan of Toronto, our newly acquired property on the Second Concession Road. While admiring the spectacular view, Doug and I spotted a small, bright yellow, ordinary store-bought balloon clinging by its red ribbon to the rocks along the shoreline. As we untangled the ribbon from the limestone boulders, we noticed felt pen writing on the balloon surface: IF YOU FIND ME: CALL 905-576-XXXX. Aware that 905 area code belongs to the huge land-mass surrounding Canada's largest city, we were astounded at the distance the balloon had travelled.

Returning home, I showed my partner Barb 'our find' and were told that she'd seen it the previous day but had thought nothing of it. That same day, I called the phone number given and a woman answered the telephone. With a slightly embarrassed laugh in her voice, she told me what had happened: "My nine year old son Eric sent it adrift at his sister Chelsea's fifth birthday party! He launched it from our yard in Oshawa. There wasn't any wind that day, but the tiny balloon, filled with helium, rose straight up and out of sight. I never expected to hear from anyone", Gail explained.

This birthday balloon, which had been sent aloft during the afternoon of Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, had drifted from Oshawa, across the length of Prince Edward County, coming to rest on the north shore of O'Drain's Bay. We will never know exactly when it touched down, was the

same day or the next? We do know that Barbara spotted it Monday, one day after its launch. Given the jagged shoreline between Oshawa and Amherst Island, the odds of that balloon landing here are probably the same as finding the elusive corked message in a bottle.

(TR Note: last summer on the Stella Bay shore of the Lodge, I found a balloon from Chase Pitkin, a RONA-like chain only operating in Rochester, NY, 75 miles SW of here.)

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## DOWN TO EARTH

- Judith Harrower

Now with the cold weather, rain, sleet, snow and hail upon us gardeners have time to reflect and think about next spring and summer. Bulbs have been planted, cutting back, trimming and pruning along with winter protection and "OH NO" vole protection are done. These pesky little beasties are everywhere even in the stones surrounding my back yard fireplace and have already destroyed two fall mum plants. They cut the large plant off at the soil level and did nothing with it except throw it aside and went after the root system.

Remember to finish up in the garden should another spell of good weather appear: garden hoses drained/stored, shovels, rakes, trowels and forks cleaned and stored. Cleaning off last season's dirt prevents diseases being spread and prevents rust on garden tools. Cover rain barrels/containers so beasties don't fall in and stay there all winter. A garden tip passed onto me that I find useful is when washing your hands after gardening use a little dishwashing soap with sugar, which removes all dirt even under your nails and leaves your hands soft.

The Women's Institute October's guest speaker was Dan Coust of Connon's Nursery located on highway #2 east of Trenton. In last month's Beacon, Freda Youell gave a synopsis of the meeting and indicated that the talk was geared to planting on the Island. Mr.Cloust kindly provided copies of plants that should do well, and I have bought some of the trees he recommended. I have planted two types of oaks, English and Pin, Linden, White Mulberry and, my





By Peter Large, SCA

most favourite, a tulip tree. As a child my parents had both Pin Oaks, graceful braches sweeping downwards to the ground and a tulip tree. This tree when mature does produce greenish-yellow tulip shaped flowers in the late spring. The leaves are very different from any other common tree and are always recognizable once seen. However, the Island is borderline for the tulip to grow so it needs protection. I hope I have provided enough for mine and hope it will survive its first Island winter. I was encouraged by Donna Thompson, who works at White Rose as she has been success in growing a Kentucky Coffee Bean tree. She has also pointed out the as our climate changes trees that would not tolerate our severe winters are surprisingly adapting.

Try and experiment as a seasoned gardener told me "it's ok to fail not every plant will be a success". Freda will provide copies of Mr. Cloust's lists - 384-4135, and I have copies as well (evenings) at 384-0435.

During the winter months plan your new garden beds or consider changing some of them. The professionals say to think about location in regards to:

- 1) Place flower beds where you are able to enjoy them from inside your home- many gardeners say your garden should be an extension of your home liking adding another room.
- 2) Beds should be irregular in shape, contain various heights, shapes, plants that flower at various times throughout the growing season, and most of all lure the viewer into the garden and beyond.
- 3) Include large permanent trees in the beds so that you have a natural blending of planting. The only tree that prevents you from planting underneath is the black walnut whose root system releases poison

into the soil. Over time it will even kill large evergreens as I know first hand.

Add whimsical garden ornaments to bring a smile as you work and for your visitors. Natural logs or large stumps of trees break up a large flat area and create focal points in the garden. When planting any plants be it shrubs, trees or plants, place them in groups of similar type for a dramatic impact or in sweeping curves. Curves reduce the box-like shape of most properties and add depth and interest. Once the flowers have disappeared, it is the leaves of plants that remain, so look not only at flowers but the colours, shapes and textures of the various plants.

Another way to reduce the flat appearance of a large area is to created height by adding large amounts of soil. This may be expensive but use local Island soil as the primary amount with good topsoil on top. Plants will adjust to the good soil quickly and then adjust to the clay or poorer soil later.

Look on the Island as you're driving and see what has grown over the years, then use the same in your garden. With the wind in the winter I have established several wind breaks using shrubs that grow naturally on the Island and other that are known to be hardy. Several nurseries carry our local shrubs, red orsier dogwood, also available

in yellow and variegated, serviceberry, lilacs, sumac not just the staghorn but fragrant and shining (winged) and alpine currant are all excellent ones. Most are for zones 2,3,4.

White Rose has initiated a new program geared to school children making every day an earth day. This is a win-win situation not only for Amherst Island School but also everyone who buys at White Rose. Each school is given 'starter cards' and the students give these to friends and relatives. Once you have a card then present it at the checkout at White Rose and receive 5% off your purchase. The cashier then logs this on the tracking system and the school will be credited with 10% of your purchase before taxes. Example would be if you purchase items totalling \$299.99 you save \$15.00 and the school would be credited with \$28.50.

As the school earns credits then in the spring this credit goes towards 2004 plants for the school's Green Space. If the school were to reach \$500.00 then White Rose would donate a park bench for the school's Green Space.

Amherst Island School has become enrolled and anyone who wishes to participate may contact the school for a school identification card. I encourage everyone who buys gardening items to become in-



**A Willard Christmas, 1963. BACK ROW L-R: Vernon McGinn; Dave Willard; Chris Willard; Karen McGinn. FRONT ROW L-R: Sherry Eves; Dale Willard; Sandra Willard; Diana Willard holding Connie Eves; Barbara Willard; Garnet Willard with Rick Eves in front.**

volved as it is a win-win situation for you and the school.

For more information call Lynn Fleming at the school 389-4582, Donna Thompson at White Rose 384-5653 or myself at 384-0435 and we will be glad to answer your questions.

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### LOYALIST TOWNSHIP Conditions Regarding the Use of the Back Beach

Loyalist Township advises that effective January 1<sup>st</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004 Back Beach is available for public use under the following conditions:

1. All terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, dune buggies and other motorized vehicles and bicycles are prohibited. All vehicles must be parked in the designated parking area.
2. No persons shall be allowed to camp, light fires, hunt or discharge firearms on the Beach.
3. Use of the Beach is permitted only during the period from January 1<sup>st</sup> to Labour Day and at no other time.
4. Persons using the Beach do so at their own risk as the Beach is unsupervised.
5. Keep the area clean by placing all garbage in the garbage receptacles provided. Users are encouraged to take their garbage with them when they leave the Beach.
6. No one shall use the Beach for sleeping or residential purposes or for the storage of personal effects or articles.
7. No trees of any nature may be cut or destroyed in the Beach or adjacent areas.
8. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
9. Management reserves the right to make such other and further reasonable rules and regulations as in its judgment may from time to time be needed for the safety, care, cleanliness and appearance of the Beach.

-For information concerning this notice, please contact: Patrick Beyer, R.D.M.R.



*The Neilson Store*

*Peter Large SCA*

Recreation Director, W.J. Henderson Recreation Centre, 322 Amherst Drive  
Amherstview, Ontario K7N 1S9  
Phone: (613) 389-3648, ext. 208  
Email: "pbeyer@loyalist-township.on.ca"  
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### THANK YOU NOTES

A huge thank you to all the groups and individuals who spent time and money to decorate floats, vehicles and even themselves to make the 2nd annual Festival of Lights parade such a success. The floats were amazing!

The parade was bigger and better than we had hoped. Thanks also to Amherst Island Emergency Services for being such great "co-organizers" and hosts for the Bonfire.

Many thanks to Councilors Bill Lowry & Duncan Ashley, Deputy Reeve Carl Bresee and Reeve Clayton McEwen for participating in the parade and Bonfire and to the Bath Legion - Branch 623 for their donation towards prizes.

Special thank you to Santa Claus, who made an early trip south to put in an appearance at the parade and to our judges who really had a tough job!

Finally, thank you to everyone who came out for the parade and Bonfire!

Congratulations to the following parade entrants:

**"Most Unique"** - Amherst Island Emergency Services" (Smoke breathing sea monster);

**"Best Lights"** - ISLE (Candy Land Float);

**"Best Spirit"** - Women's Institute ( Ladies walking with lights);

**Honourable Mention** went to Peter Morgan for the Christmas Village float.

Many thanks again, we are already looking forward to next year!

The Amherst Island Recreation Association

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I want to thank my friends, family and neighbours for the many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy extended to me during the tragic death of my grandson, Reginald. Thank you for the phone calls, visits, people who brought me food, and the many sympathy cards I received.

It was all most appreciated.

Anna Hitchins

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The family of the late Reginald S. Hitchins

would like to thank you all for the lovely food, cards, flowers, & phone calls.

Reginald would be very pleased with the flowers & great food, etc. as he loved the Island & his friends. We shall all miss Reginald very much.

This has been a tragic loss but as Reginald would say "live for today, not for tomorrow" and Reginald did just that!

Garry & Anne Marie & Family  
\*\*\*

I would like to thank all my market customers and also all who came to the farm for vegetables.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Barb Reid  
\*\*\*\*\*

### NOTICES & ADS

#### PRINTER

Canon BJC-210 printer with two BC-02 black cartridges for only \$150.00. Thirty day warranty. Call Hugh Jenney 384-7830  
\*\*\*

#### TO RENT

Village Cottage for rent in Stella. Walk to the ferry. By the week or weekend, year round.

Call Jan at 519-451-1197.  
\*\*\*

#### DISHWASHER FOR SALE.

Portable Kenmore unit- 6 years old. works great! Black/white \$200

389-5385 Garry & Anne Marie Hitchins  
\*\*\*

#### PHONE DIRECTORY- NEW EDITION

The Amherst Island Women's Institute will be producing a new edition of our phone directory.

We are currently accepting advertising copy for this new edition. If you wish to place an ad, please contact Jackie Sylvester 389-1320 or Nancy Henshaw 384-0799 as soon as possible.

We have a limited amount of advertising space available.  
\*\*\*

#### MARY KAY

For your Mary Kay products or free facial Please call Dorothy at 389-2947

#### HOME MADE BAKING

Fruit pies, soft pies, meat pies, shepherd's pie. Breads, whole wheat, oatmeal and molasses. Buns, dinner rolls, jams and marmalade (For baked goods please allow three days notice).

Call Dorothy at 389-2947  
\*\*\*

#### FOWLER PRINTS

The Amherst Island Women's Institute is pleased to offer for sale a limited edition of fifty prints of Daniel Fowler's "Dempster's Point - High Water 1890".

This watercolour painting was presented to the Amherst Island Women's Institute in 1954 by Mr. Fowler's three grand daughters, Mrs. W. W. Howard (Florence), Mrs. A. G. Hitchins (Aida) and Miss Edna Fowler.

The unframed prints are \$75.00 each and the proceeds will be used by the W.I. in the community. Cheques to be made payable to the Amherst Island Women's Institute and may be ordered by calling: Judith Harrower at 384-0435 (evenings); or Joyce Haines at 634-7894.

Order forms are also at the Amherst Island General Store.

A copy of the print may be seen at 9910 front road (Judith's home) or at the General Store.

The print itself measures 9"x13", however, on the print we have left the tack holes where Mr. Fowler tacked his sheet of paper to the easel and on one side his fingerprints are still visible.

The Island location in the painting is believed to be an artist's impression of the shoreline in front of Garnet McDonald's home at 11655 Front Road. The name 'Dempster' was researched by Leslie Gavlas. Mr. Dempster was a mainland seasonal fisherman who owned land on the Island but did not reside on the Island. In the painting there is a rack for drying fish nets, which is keeping with Leslie's research.

The colours are primarily green, yellow and brown and depict the Island shoreline looking over towards the mainland in the distance.

This print would make an ideal Christmas gift and already several prints have been sold.

\*\*\*

Happy Anniversary, Kitten.

Thirty-five more to go.

Love  
Bob  
\*\*\*

#### COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

"Oh Come All Ye Faithful"

St. Alban's Anglican Church invites the community of Amherst Island and the surrounding area to join us for a service of Lessons and Carols, December 14, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ISLE Cheese Orders  
from the Wilton  
Cheese Factory:**

**Order by: Pick up on:**

*Dec 12 / Dec 17  
Jan 16 / Jan 21  
Feb 13 / Feb 18  
Mar 11 / Mar 24  
Apr 16 / Apr 21  
May 14 / May 19  
June 18 / June 23*

*Phone Sandra / Jim:  
389-4484  
or Roxanne: 389-4630*

**NEWS FROM THE GENERAL STORE**

New movies for rent:  
 The Hours- Nichole Kidman,  
 Meryl Streep  
 The Hulk  
 Legally Blonde 2- Reese  
 Witherspoon  
 Finding nemo- Disney/Pixar.  
 Terminator 3- Governor Arnold  
 George of the Jungle 2  
 Bruce Almighty- Jim Carey  
 Santa Clause 2- Tim Allen  
 X-Men 2- Rebecca Rommjin-  
 Stamos  
 Laura Croft Tomb Raider 2-  
 Angelina Jolie  
 plus many more to choose  
 from  
 New Releases: Now \$3.75  
 Older Titles: \$1.49

All of us at the store extend our very  
 best wishes for a Merry Christmas  
 & a Happy New Year 2004. Our  
 Hours for the Christmas Holidays  
 are:

**Wed 24th** 9am-5pm  
**Thurs 25th** Closed  
**Fri 26th** 9am-5pm  
**Sat 27th** 9am-6pm  
**Sun 28th** 10am-5pm  
**Wed 31st** 9am-5pm  
**Thurs 1st** Jan Closed  
**Fri 2nd** Regular hours resume.  
**Regular Store Hours:** Mon.-Sat. 9  
 a.m.- 6 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

**VICTORIA HALL  
 CRAFTS & TEA ROOM**

-New winter hours for lunch  
 afternoon teas and early dinners  
 Noon to Six Wednesdays to  
 Sunday,  
 -New and improved menu includes  
 Godden Pork and Willard Lamb  
 Sausages on homemade garlic and  
 Parmesan cheese buns with Napa  
 salad.  
 -Hot specials include homemade  
 soups, lasagna, and smoked ham  
 & cheesy macaroni.  
 -Hall available for private func-  
 tions.  
 -Wednesdays are card days from  
 1:30-4:00 ...Call 389-5389 if you  
 plan to attend.  
 Christmas Crafts Gift Suggestions:  
 - Tea Room Gift Certificates  
 - John Munro Y-Knot T-Shirts  
 @\$10.00 each  
 - Commemorative Swim  
 buttons @ \$3.00 each  
 - Shirley Miller cards and  
 paintings

- Tole painted Island sap buckets  
 & milk cans  
 - Topsy Farm wool products  
 - Quilts and throws by local  
 quilters  
 - Local Authored Books  
 Tom Sylvester's Loyalist Roots  
 Cycling Tours @ \$8.00  
 John Kuti's Archtypes of Self  
 Esteem @ \$25.00  
 Nicole Florent's Walk, Hike or  
 Jog Kingston @ \$20.00  
 Hans Krauklis Amherst Island  
 Video @ \$16.95  
 For reservations call Bernice or  
 Neil @ 389-5389

**Babysitter available**

-After school and  
 weekends.  
 -Responsible.  
 -Red Cross Certified  
 -Call Whitney Fleming 389-9869

**Babysitting**

Red Cross Certified Babysitter.  
 Available early evenings &  
 weekends. Torri Phillips:  
 389-0512

**Babysitter**

- Red Cross Babysitting &  
 CPR certified - available  
 after school, early evenings  
 & weekends. Call Beth Albertan:  
 389-2662

**Seasonal Winter Storage for Boats,**

**etc,** right in beautiful Down-  
 town Stella! Indoor, reason-  
 able rates. Dayle Gowan,  
 634-3815

**Amherst Island Sweatshirts,** Golf  
 Shirts & T-shirts. Embroidered Logo.  
 Wide Selection of colours & sizes.  
 Now available at Victoria Hall Tea  
 Room

**The Lodge on Amherst Island**

Rental available for special  
 occasions. Call Molly at:  
 (613) 634-1388  
 or (416) 533-5997  
[www.amherstisland.on.ca/thelodge](http://www.amherstisland.on.ca/thelodge)

**2 BEDROOM COTTAGE**

on Stella Point: By the week or week-  
 end, April-October. Call Molly (416)  
 533-5997

**NORTH SHORE COTTAGE**

for rent year around. By the week or  
 week-end. Please phone 389-2012.

**SOUTH SHORE COTTAGE**

for rent on private, secluded peninsula.  
 Over 2000ft of limestone shoreline.  
 \$650 weekly. Call (613) 389-5536 for  
 further information.

**LAKESHORE RUBBER STAMP**

I can provide business and art  
 stamps, daters, signature and similar  
 products. All stamps are custom made  
 on the premises and can be ready in 24  
 hours.  
 Please call 389-8441 or fax 389-9770.  
 Email: selc.welbanks@sympatico.ca  
 This is a home-based business and  
 available most days. Linda Welbanks

**Tim Hicks Plumbing and Heating**

Water treatment, pumps, heating; in  
 floor; radiant; forced air; solar. Certified  
 Master Plumber. Phone 545-3541

**Frozen Meals Designed for Seniors**

offered by Lennox and Addington Senior  
 Outreach Services. Restricted and special  
 diets can also be accommodated. Con-  
 tact: Freda Youell at 384-4135 for menus,  
 meal descriptions and prices.

**FOR SALE:**

Tales of Amherst Island by Dr. H. C.  
 Burleigh call 389-3943

\*\*\*

**Mindfulness Meditation Workshop**

Developing calmness, understanding,  
 and richness of the present moment.  
 Jocelyne Leyton, 384-6488, 9060C Front  
 Road.

\*\*\*

**Complementary Health**

Jocelyne Leyton, RPP, has a Cranial Os-  
 teopathic practice, a manual therapy to  
 restore health and balance to improve  
 the overall structure of the body. For  
 information/appointment 384-6488

\*\*\*

**Audio recording restoration:**

cassette tapes or LP's burned to CD  
 by computer using the award  
 winning Pinnacle Clean Plus 4.0  
 program.  
 Tom Richmond 634-1855

**LANDFILL SITE HOURS**

Wed 11-2; Sat 10-noon; Sun 2-4.

**FERRY OFFICE HOURS**

Mon, Wed, Fri: 9-noon & 1-4

Ferry fuel-up days are Tuesday and  
 Friday (be prepared for a delay).

**Topsy Farms:**

sheepskins, wool  
 blankets, yarn, socks  
 etc. Queen size blan-  
 kets, \$99.95



Phone 389-3444 to arrange a visit  
 to our Wool Shed or see us at  
[www.topsyfarms.com](http://www.topsyfarms.com)

NOTE: The Topsy Wool Shed will  
 be closed December 11-14  
 because most of our products will  
 be in our booth at Craft Creations  
 at the Portsmouth Olympic  
 Harbour. Sorry for any inconven-  
 ience. A big thank you to those  
 who have made the trip to the  
 Head to see our shop.

**Ted Gow Painting, wallpapering, til-  
 ing, home maintenance and repairs.**

Free estimates. Island references.  
 634-5404

**Thomas A. Richmond, Certified  
 Electrician.**

Home, Farm & Commer-  
 cial wiring and repairs, right here on  
 the Island. Ontario Electrical Safety  
 Authority Authorized Contractor  
 Program. 634-1855

**HAY BALES FOR SALE on  
 the Island:** 40-45lb bales.  
 Wayne Fleming 389-9869



**Bookkeeping &  
 Property Management Services**

Rosemary Richmond. Home, Farm,  
 Cottage, Small Business. Island ref-  
 erences. 634-1855

**WANTED: an experi-  
 enced dictation-typist to  
 help transcribe audio  
 tapes of interviews done  
 by Kathy Wilson. Phone  
 Iam Murray 389-3802**

**AIWI 2004 PHONE  
 BOOK!**

**Advertizing space  
 available- contact:**

Jackie Sylvester 389-1320

or

Nancy Henshaw

384-0799



The Salvage Prince, frequently seen in the Bay of Quinte in the 1930's. At least once it towed the Amherst Islander out of the ice in Stella Bay ...Tnx Elsie Willard



The sloop Grainger , here seen in Stella Bay around 1917. "Captain John Willard... recalls that he and his late brother Captain Charles Willard, sailed the single masted sloop... to bay of Quinte ports when they were fifteen and seventeen years old respectively"

Text from "Canvas and Steam on Quinte Waters" by Willis Metcalfe, photo from Elsie