

The Amherst Island BEACON

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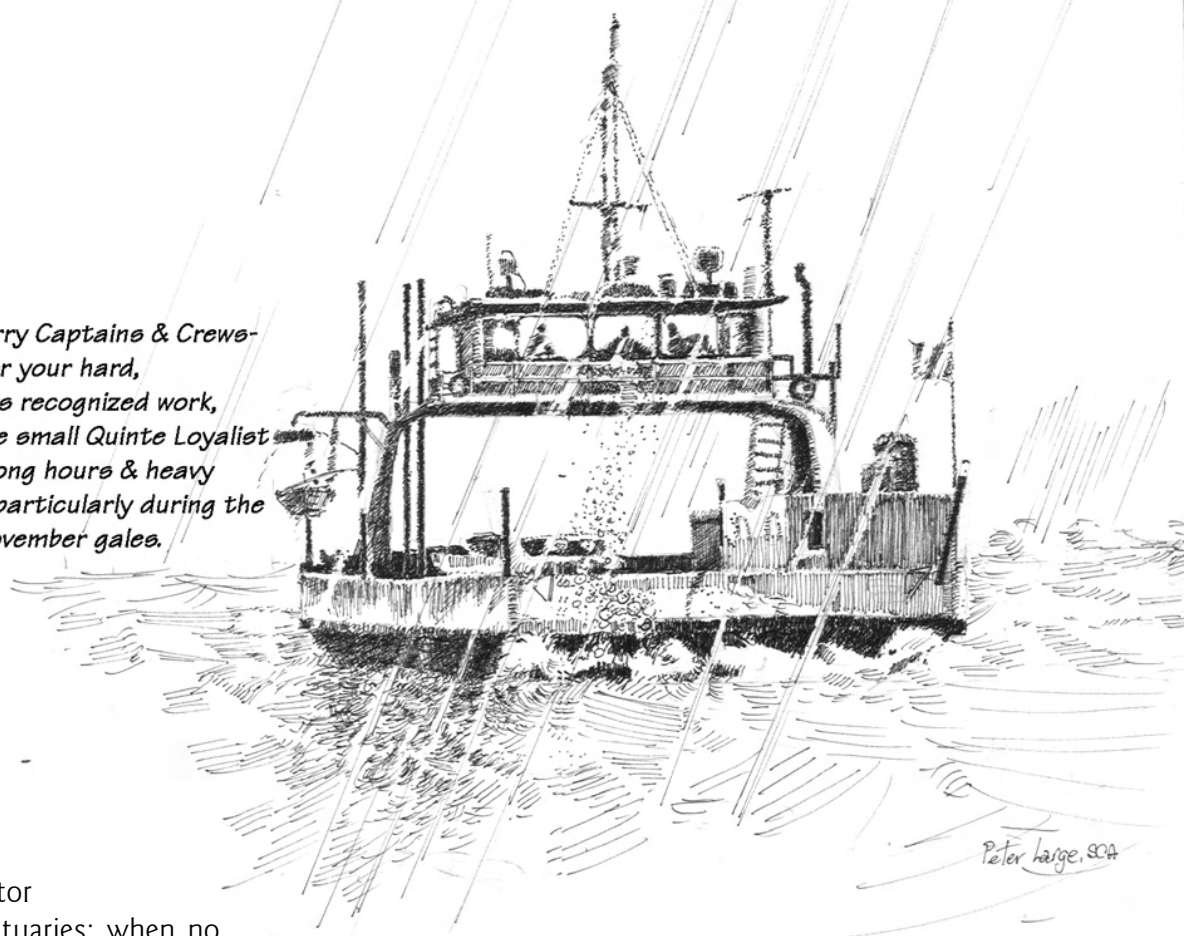
Issue 322

www.amherstisland.on.ca

December 2004



*To our Ferry Captains & Crews-
Thanks for your hard,
not always recognized work,
sailing the small Quinte Loyalist
through long hours & heavy
weather, particularly during the
recent November gales.*



THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

Regarding obituaries: when no one volunteers, I do the writing using information from newspapers, family and neighbours. Please let me know if there are errors or, ideally, if you can provide a more appropriate obituary or eulogy.

Terry Culbert, who has been a prolific - and valued - contributor to the Beacon since he settled here, has told me that he has "to significantly scale back on my contributions to the Beacon for the next four to five months. My book, 'Linger Longer in Lovely Lucan', that I've been working on for the past two years must be published by next summer."

Terry still plans to contribute pho-

tos and some small articles.

The Beacon staff has expanded by one. Our nearest neighbour, Sean Daly is now in charge of photographic reproduction. Sean and his wife, Jennifer Allen, have moved to the Head. Their son Jethro has helped swell the school population. Tom Richmond will continue to do layout and the usual suspects will do proofing.

I apologize to Christopher Kennedy who submitted a LETTER HOME for the last issue and I forgot to put it in.

A reminder: if you send me something by e-mail and you don't get a reply in 2 days, e-mail me again.

WILLIAM BAXTER

Passed away peacefully at home, with his family, on October 29. He was in his 83rd year and was the husband of Lois Jean Alexander for 56 years. He is survived by his sons Ron and Dennis and several grandchildren. He is also survived by his siblings Ernie and Yolanda. He was buried in Cataraqui Cemetery.

Mr. Baxter bought the Sand Beach farm in the 1950's. He also owned Baxter Supply in Kingston - where you could get nuts and bolts no one else carried.





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Island Beacon**

**Issue 322
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RODGER CLARE HOLDEN

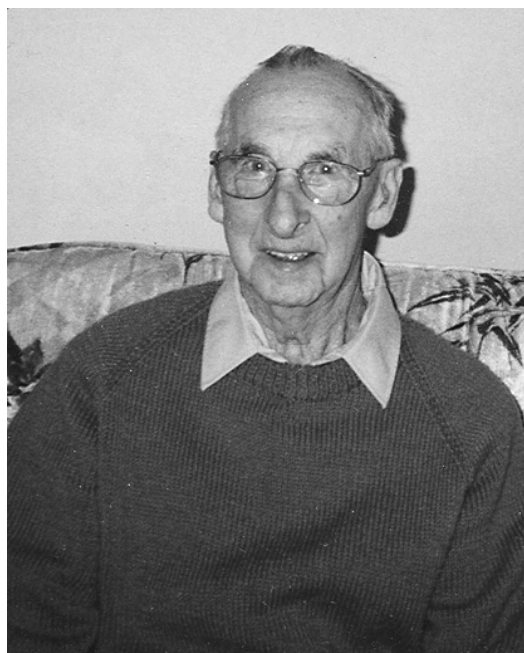
Rodger died suddenly on Friday, November 19th in his 66th year. He is survived by his wife Christine and his children: R o d g e r, Shelly, and Crystal. He also leaves behind several grandchildren and siblings Maxine, Marilyn, Patricia, and Thorpe.



Rodger and his partner Betty Bedford owned Holbeth Farms which was a large dairy operation located on property now owned by Mark Ritchie and Cherry Allen.

HARVEY LORNE EVES

January 16, 1918 - November 5, 2004



Harvey was born in Westbrook and moved with his family to Amherst Island. He was one of four children born to James Eves and his wife Marion Willard: Isobel, Norman and Wilmer all predeceased Harvey.

When the second World War broke out Harvey enlisted and went overseas. He met his future wife Kathleen (Lena) in Scotland.

Harvey's unit was dispatched to Normandy where they were sent to secure a nearby airport. Of the 8 man unit, Harvey was the only survivor. He was seriously wounded and spent a year in hospital before returning home to Canada. His wife and baby Patricia joined him here.

In the 1950's Harvey bought the north half of Lot 2, Concession 1, at the Head which he kept until 2001. Harvey worked on the ferry as a purser and on the roads. When anyone asked him, he always said proudly that "Amherst Island is my home."

He later moved to Kingston, acquired a back hoe and dump truck, and did contract work for Bell.

Harvey developed a passion and talent for restoring Model A Ford cars. He restored several cars and trucks. He was always a familiar sight at parades, car shows, and chilli fests. He was a long-time member of the Model A Restorers Club.

His wife Lena predeceased Harvey in 1990. He moved in with his daughter Patricia and his son-



Harvey and Lena Eves

in-law Gord in 2001. Harvey loved to travel and spent many winters in Venezuela. He enjoyed visiting Florida, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Myrtle Beach and Vancouver.

Harvey died on November 5 and was buried in Glenhaven Memorial Gardens in Glenburnie. A celebration of his life was held on November 13 at James Reid Chapel followed by a reception at his home.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to Hazel deHaan and Kaye McGinn.

Congratulations to Bruce and Susie Caughey, who were thrilled with the birth of their third granddaughter, Bronwyn Caughey Godden, born on November 10th to daughter Lori and her husband Ben.

Congratulations to Tom and Audrey Miller, who celebrated their 50th anniversary with family and friends at a dinner and dance held in their honour in Kingston.

About 45 family and friends attended a surprise going away party for Stephanie Fleming recently, prior to her move to North Carolina. (Miss you Steph!)

Alan and Cathy Glenn took a bus tour to Branson, Missouri, followed a day later by Jack and Beth Forester who took the same trip!

Duncan Ashley's parents spent a few days with Duncan and his family when they visited from Alabama recently.

Michael and Bobbi Shaw have returned from visiting friends and relatives in Devon, Dorset and Cornwall. They hiked the English countryside and coastal trails. Wet through a couple of times by rain, they were glad to tumble into some welcoming rural pubs with blazing fireplaces and the usual refreshments.

Bluesman Guy Davis completed the



Splash & Boots perform at the Community Bonfire in November **BL**

final stop of his Canadian Tour at Victoria Hall recently where about 75 people enjoyed an evening of blues. It was as fascinating to watch Guy play an assortment of guitars, harmonica and banjo as it was to hear him sing.

The PCW held their annual Tea and Sale at the end of November. New this year was chilli and soup for lunch, which I understand became a quick favourite and sold out.

The Amherst Island Recreation Association held their 5th annual Bon-

fire and in conjunction with the A.I. Emergency Services, the 3rd annual Festival of Lights Parade. The turnout was great and the rain even let up as the parade started. The parade was followed by the Bonfire and entertainment for the kids by Splash n' Boots!

A preview of the 20 minute video "Penguins Can Fly!", produced by Dave Brady in support of Vicki Keith's program at the YMCA for disabled children and John Monro's Y-Knot campaign was shown to an audience of about 50 people at the Community Centre. It was an inspirational and moving video! Kudos to Vicki, John and Dave!

Well here we are into December and we are still wondering how long the Quinte Loyalist will darken our waters!

Winter weather hasn't arrived as I write this, but any day now .

.....

Wishes for a happy, healthy and safe holiday season to all the Beacon readers!



Guy Davis performed in November **TR**





The ISLE "Santas Workshop" float

AS



Fire Association "Quinte Loyalist/SS Minnow" float AS



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Joyce Haines

Our November 19th meeting was held at the home of Claire Jenny with 18 members and one guest present. Minutes were read and standing committee reports given.

The addendum to the telephone directory is expected to be ready by

mid-December. Mary Kay, president, thanked all calendar committee members on a job well done. We would like to thank the members of the community who attended making the Calendar Launch a success. A special thank you to Molly Stroyman for the use of the Lodge. The Amherst Island door poster is also enjoying successful sales. Both the calendar and the poster are available at the General Store or from Freda @ \$10 and \$15 respectively. Sales have been brisk so don't delay.

Plans for the light parade were com-

pleted. The regular meeting was closed and everyone enjoyed the delicious lunch provided by Claire Jenney and Diane Hieatt.

Jackie Sylvester then led us in a Christmas Wreath decorating endeavour. Claire's house will never be the same and a jolly time was had by all. There were some very creative wreaths produced. Thanks for the fun Jackie.

The next meeting is our Christmas Pot Luck December 15 at St Paul's Hall.

Thank you for your support in 2004. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all from the Women's Institute members.

KUDOS To The WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Leslie Gavlas, Tweedsmuir Curator

The work of the Women's Institute in repairing/rebuilding the stone fences at Pentland Cemetery the summer of 2004 has received many favourable comments, both here on the Island and elsewhere.

On Thursday, July 17, Robert Leverty of the Ontario Historical Society, gave a public talk, sponsored by the W.I., on the topic, "Ontario Cemeteries Struggle for Public Interest". During his time here he visited the Pentland Cemetery and took some pictures of the work on the stone fences in progress at the cemetery.

Further, in the Whig Standard of Wednesday, October 20, Loyalist Township printed a notice to the effect that the Corporation of Loyalist Township proposed to designate the Pentland Cemetery as of value historical and/or cultural as per Part IV of the Heritage Act. This designation is a first step toward the request for an historical plaque.

The Bulletin of the W.I., HOME & COUNTRY, Fall 2004, reports that the Tweedsmuir Curators of the Ontario



AIWI Calendar Girls: Freida Youell, Mary Kay Steele, Coralee Marshall TC

W.I. have been awarded the OHS Scadding Award of Excellence. This award recognizes an historical society or heritage group "which has made an outstanding contribution to the field of history".

The Tweedsmuir History of Amherst Island has been compiled over a period of 50-60 years. There are 3 volumes currently held at the Lennox & Addington Museum (copies are also held here on the Island) and the work is ongoing.



Amherst Island Public School

- Lyn Fleming

Both classes have gone on field trips this month. The Primary Class took part in a workshop at Agnes Etherington Art Centre at Queen's, where they created their own crests. Senior Class students attended a play at the Grand Theatre called "the Nose from Jupiter", a play about bullying.

The Intermediate students continue to practice for the upcoming Volleyball Tournament on December 8th.

Senior Class students have already

begun fund-raising for their year end trip by holding a movie night in November and selling Amherst Island sweatshirts and T-shirts.

All students and staff, as well as some volunteers, are busy rehearsing or building sets and making costumes for our Christmas Celebration on December 15th at 7:00 p.m. This year we will hold a "Christmas Café" with sweets and drinks served in a

café setting, while students perform a short play called "The Jingle Bell Jury". Admission will be \$2.00 per person. ISLE will again hold a raffle for a variety of prizes.

We welcome Jess Jardine as our student teacher until Christmas break.

About 30 members of the community joined the staff and students at A.I.P.S. for our annual Remembrance Day service. Students honoured Veterans past and present and current Peace Keepers, by laying wreaths, singing several songs and reading poetry and short stories.

Our biggest news this month is the birth of Mrs. VanDyke's (senior class teacher) first baby. Edward Mark was born early on November 11th. Congratulations to Anna Kidd who was the only one to guess the right date and sex of the baby.

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

November is slipping away and by the time you read this article December will be with us. December brings the Christmas Bird Counts all over the world. It began over 100 years ago as a substitute for the annual Boxing Day Shoot. In those

days the count was of the number of kill made in one day.

Now using binoculars and high powered scopes Birders walk the fields and byways watching and recording species.

Our local count began on Amherst Island over ten years ago and lasts for 24 hours while birders scan the skies and lakes and local feeder-watchers record their regulars. We average around 55 species and its great fun and a good excuse to be outdoors.

Amherst Island's count will be on Monday, December 20th so if you or any of yours wish to join please give me a call. The birders will arrive on the 7:30 ferry so that we will have some light. Ron Weir, a local and very avid birder will probably start on the 6:30 ferry counting species as he passes the halfway point on the ferry and scanning the lake as far as he can see.

I am seeing a large number of Goldfinches at my feeder and also spotted them at Val and Dan Wolfrey's feeders as well. They have lost their jaunty black caps and are wearing their more subdued winter outfits of dirty yellowish green but still sporting white wing stripes and exhibiting that merry flight pattern and cheery calls. With the Goldfinches are my local House Finches with red heads and bibs sharing the thistle seed and being very vocal about the situation.

Until 1973 these friendly fellows were not seen in the Kingston area but are now a common and cheery year-round visitor. When the weather gets very severe here on the South Shore they seem to move to the more densely sheltered north side and appear back as soon as the weather improves.

Both Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers are visiting my suet. They are identically coloured in dress black and



white with a prominent white stripe down the back. The males sport neat red caps on the backs of their heads. The Hairy is 2 to 3 inches bigger than the Downy and his beak appears longer than the width of his head which helps in identification.

I still have a White-crowned Sparrow hanging around the feeder. He is immature and perhaps didn't listen when his elders said to go but he is still here as of November 29th.

Last week I still had a Red-winged Blackbird eating at the feeder as well.

The late fall has fooled us all into complacency.

Elsewhere there are reports of exciting sights.

On Wolfe Island there were over 300 Tundra Swans in total seen at Button Bay, Sandy Bay and Reed Bay on the week-end and 25 Snow Geese were also seen. A Red-bellied Woodpecker was spotted on the 8th concession over there so Betty keep your binoculars ready and see if you can find one for us at your feeder.

Birders spotted a Snowy Owl on The Kingston Field Naturalists' property on our East end and a Saw-whet in the Owl Woods on Nov. 13th. Coralie Marshall saw a Long-eared Owl on her property and I saw one

on Avery Brown's Hill at night this past week. Chris Kennedy spotted a Barred Owl out his way. There was a Northern Shrike on the Marshall Forty Foot and lots of ducks both on the lee shore and riding the waves on the South Shore.

Keep your eyes open and watch for those birds. With the leaves gone it's a lot easier to see them.

P.S. Thanks for the comments about Blue Jays and the article received. Just one more Blue Jay story. This one happened today. The Blue Jay put one peanut in the shell in his mouth, got it in lengthwise and then tested the others until he found one small enough to get his beak around and thus flew off with two.

Greedy or clever???

Good Birding!

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

The following students received \$298.84 each from the Ameriks scholarship fund: Marlene Kilpatrick, U. of Western Ontario; Bonnie Marshall, York U.; Alison McDonald, U. of Ottawa; Andrew McDonald, Queen's U.; Jacob Murray, U. of Waterloo; Shawna Phillips, Queen's U.; Tabytha Trotter, St. Lawrence College; and Shannon

Y o u e l l ,
Algonquin College.

The sources of the \$2390.70 that was distributed were: South Shore Enterprises (Amherst) Ltd., \$2000.00;

Youth Group, \$25.00; Amherst Island Women's Institute, \$125.00; and, interest on Ameriks Trust fund, \$240.70.

Council accepted bids for insulation and windows for the Neilson Store Museum.

Council adopted Reeve McEwen's resolution regarding Lafarge Canada Inc.'s application to burn alternative fuels - Councillor Ashley opposed the motion. The resolution stated that "Council does not support a designation for a full Environmental Assessment subject to the following conditions . . ." There are 7 conditions listed including: that MOE hold a public hearing "to review the technical issues relating to the proposals"; that MOE "require the use of Best Available Control Technology"; that various testing be carried out; that Lafarge "release a user friendly annual summary report" detailing various items of concern; and, that "Lafarge develop a Fire Protection Plan for the storage of waste derived fuel acceptable to the Fire Chief for Loyalist Township".

AIMS MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 2004

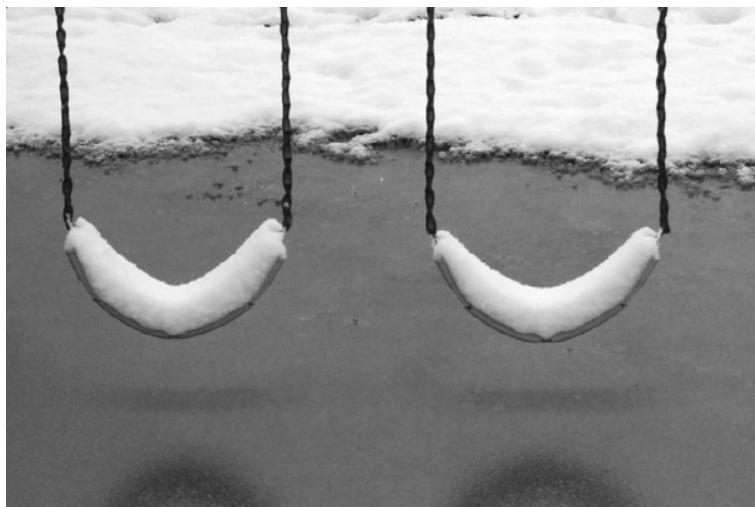
- Terry Culbert/ Recording Secretary

Eighteen AIMS members and two guests attended the 8am breakfast at St. Paul's Church Hall. Chairman Allan Kidd brought the meeting to order at 8:35.

Zander Dunn thanked John Kuti for organizing and purchasing the breakfast supplies. AIMS members prepared breakfast.

Chairman Alan Kidd welcomed guests Gene Karr and Richard Tkachuk. Both men are building homes on the South Shore Road.

Ken Albertan reported that the New



TC



(Submitted to the Beacon layout department by email)

Year's Dinner/ Dance will take the same format, same caterer and same musical group as last year.

Alan Kidd noted that the Neilson Store Project is nearing the end of the construction phase. A final cleanup of the second floor needs to be organized. New windows and insulation were approved by Loyalist Township Council. The museum is in reasonable shape. Alan Kidd is working on a Federal grant. After project completion and a furnace installation, plans are to make the museum available for other events.

A new home must be found for the AIMS Farmers Market wagon as the present storage space has been rented to McCormick Excavating.

Neil Johnston suggested 'Bicycles for Tourism'. Painted bright orange, the bikes would be made available to visitors, free of charge. Hopefully the visitors would leave their cars at the Millhaven Dock, freeing up the ferry for local traffic. Liabilities and repairs would be the biggest challenge. Marc Raymond thought the idea was sound. Apparently Kingston has a viable bicycle program with thirty bikes. Alan Kidd and Dave Brady are willing to donate bikes to the program. Ross Haines made a motion to look into the feasibility of bikes for tourism and

felt the AIMS membership could maintain them. This project was agreed to.

Jim Whitton presented the Amherst Island Public School's wish list. The items included science kits, social studies books, phys-ed equipment. Zander Dunn moved to issue a cheque to the school in the amount of \$495. Dave Brady seconded the motion. Carried.

Chairman Kidd suggested AIMS sponsor a letter to MP Leona Dombrowsky and the Loyalist Township about the ferry situation. Islanders have concerns about November-December winter seas. Keith Miller claims that in the past 25 years, there has never been an alternative or proper back-up ferry. Dave Brady suggested approaching the Federal Government for new docks. Bruce Burnett pointed out that the ferry situation is a major problem and affects the Island economically. Guest Gene Karr feels a standing committee may help. Hugh Jenney moved that an AIMS standing committee is put in place. Seconded by Don Pepper. Carried.

The guest speaker was AIMS member Neil Johnston. He spoke about his forty years in advertising. "I was going to be a dentist," said Neil, "until I looked into a person's mouth. It was absolutely gross!" He left pre-dentistry and at the age of twenty-four, he be-

came a radio-television advertising representative. Neil spent four years in Vancouver and another four in Toronto before joining an advertising agency in Toronto. His clients included Chrysler Canada, IBM Canada and Hewlett-Packard. Neil was part of the advertising team that launched the Toronto Blue Jays. After nineteen years he left the agency business, becoming a consultant for small ad companies. Thirteen years later he decided to retire. He happily moved to Amherst Island with his buddy Bernice Gould.

Chairman Allan Kidd thanked Neil and declared the meeting over.

Next AIMS breakfast meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 11th 2004.

WEDDINGS FROM THE GOOD OLD DAYS

- Zander of DUNN INN

Do you remember the detailed write-ups of important weddings The Kingston Whig-Standard used to present to its readers? Those accounts described in detail the bride's dress, the attendants' gowns and the flower arrangements.

When I was going through the many scrap books of Janey McCaugherty I came across four weddings of great interest to the island. Although none of them was dated in the scrapbooks we know the year of each wedding. Here are four examples of how the newspapers used to do it. (It is interesting to note that in every case only one of the spouses remains alive on Amherst Island. Those still with us are Helen Caughey, Vera Hogeboom, Helen Miller and Garnet McDonald)

Ferns and autumn flowers provided a decorative background in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church at Stella on Saturday afternoon, September 3, for the marriage of Helen Myrtle Marshall,



L-R: Douglas Miller; Donald Miller (ushers); Patricia Murphy (jr. bridesmaid); Vera & Maurice Hogeboom; Clarence Hogeboom (best man); Dorothy (Miller) Murphy (maid of honour); Jean Miller (jr. bridesmaid); Ruth Howland (bridesmaid).

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Marshall, and Allan Bruce Caughey, son of Mrs. Mary Caughey and the late M. David Caughey.

The ceremony was performed by The

Rev. R.K. Earls, minister of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a gown of white embroidered taffeta cut on princess lines, and

carried a shower bouquet of Orphelia roses and lily-of-the-valley. Her tulle veil, which was that worn by the groom's mother on her wedding day, fell from a coronet of orange blossoms. Miss Ruth Marshall, sister of the bride, was maid of honour, wearing a frock of capri blue chiffon and matching velvet turban. The bride's youngest sister, Miss Rhoda Henrietta Marshall, was bridesmaid, and wore a frock of powder blue chiffon with a matching tulle face veil held by a coronet of roses. Both carried bouquets of American Beauty roses. Little Miss Ruth Artwynna Drumgoole,

niece of the bride, was flower girl, wearing pink net with a garland of rosebuds and forget-me-nots and carried an old fashioned nosegay.

Mr. Malcolm Filson of Garden City, Long Island, acted as best man. The ushers were Mr. Frederick Kohler of Staten Island, NY and Mr. Estel Strain of Stella. During the signing of the register Miss Mildred Caughey sang, "O Promise Me," accompanied by her sister, Miss Helen Caughey.

Following the ceremony a reception was held at the home of the bride's parents, where the guests were received by the bride's mother, wearing a gown of navy georgette and a corsage of Johanna Hill roses, and the groom's mother, wearing a gown of printed chiffon and a corsage of Talisman roses.

The bridal couple left on their honeymoon amid a shower of rice and confetti for a motor trip to Montreal, New York and Buffalo, NY

Among the guests were : Miss Ann



L-R: Rhoda Marshall (Barr); Mr. Marshall; Ruth Marshall; Mrs. M. Caughey; Helen Marshall Caughey; Ruth Antwynna Drumgoole; Bruce Caughey; the Rev R.K. Earls; Mac Filson.



L-R: Marjorie Wemp; Helen (Miller) Wemp; Donald Miller; Charlie Howard.

Filson of Montreal, Mrs. Gertrude Filson of Kingston, Mrs. Harold Marshall, Conneaut, Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. H. Card, Napanee, and Mrs. Janey Caughey and Miss Eliza Caughey of Kingston.

FOLLOWUP

- Ian Murray

From Zander's column last issue: "When [Morrison] Scott went to return home at the end of the meeting, he found the ice had deteriorated. Another Islander suggested they tie themselves together with a 30 foot rope and walk over the ice to the Island."

Helen Bulch phoned to tell me that the other Islander was her husband William (Bill) Bulch. Bill had been looking for the body of his brother Clarence who went through the ice and drowned on March 5, 1945. Helen said that Bill and Morrison

were the last to walk the ice that year.



DECEMBER SKIES

- Alan Kidd

I noticed that in last December's column I commented that the previous month had a lunar eclipse and a great display of Northern Lights. Well, I can start this month's column in the same way. Indeed, last month's display of Northern lights was even better than last year's – one of the best I have ever seen. Although we don't have a lunar eclipse this month, the winter stars are now visible, and these are the brightest of the year. We will explore the con-

stellation of Andromeda and some of her neighbours this month.

In Greek Mythology, Andromeda was one of the original damsels in distress. She was chained to a rock in order to be a victim of a sea monster, only to be rescued by Perseus riding his great winged horse, Pegasus. Today neighbouring constellations represent all of these figures. Andromeda is almost directly overhead at 8:00 PM in early December, and is situated between Perseus to the East and Pegasus to the West. To the North of Andromeda, also high overhead in the early evening is the bright constellation of Cassiopeia, the mother of Andromeda in Greek myth. The stars of Cassiopeia form a flattened "W" and lie in the centre of the Milky Way. On the other side of Andromeda is the dimmer constellation of Cetus, the Whale. This was the sea monster that threatened Andromeda.

In our time, Andromeda is best known as the location of the Great Andromeda Galaxy. Although it is 2.5 million light years from us, it can still be seen with the unaided eye, on a clear moonless night. It appears as a dim foggy patch between Andromeda and Cassiopeia.

Perseus also has its notable sights. It contains the star, Algol, which is an eclipsing variable star. It dims noticeably every 2.87 days as an unseen companion star passes in front of it. The Ancients must have noticed this odd behaviour, since Algol means "the Ghoul" in Arabic.

We finally have a planet visible in the evening sky. Saturn rises about 8:00 PM at the beginning of December and at twilight at Month's end. Saturn makes a sort of crooked line with Castor and Pollux in Gemini, but is brighter than either twin.

Jupiter continues to be a very noticeable object in the early morning

sky. It is shining high in the south at the break of dawn. On the morning of December 7th the crescent moon occults (or hides) Jupiter for a brief period. This will start about 3:45 AM. It will take about an hour for Jupiter to reappear on the other side of the Moon.

Venus and Mars rise close together just before dawn at the start of December. On the morning of December 9th, they are just below the waning crescent moon.

Late in December you may have a chance to catch a glimpse of Mercury if you are an early riser. For the last few mornings of the month Mercury and Venus are quite close in the pre-dawn sky.

Finally the Gemini meteor shower will occur in the sky between the nights of December 12 – 14.

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray



I wonder if there is anyone that hasn't been severely inconvenienced by the little ferry. The ferry cannot handle the size of grain and livestock trucks that usually service our farm. This, I suspect, is a minor problem compared to what the commuters and ferry crew have to deal with every day.

I have heard that there is a lot more visiting going on as a result of the small ferry - both on the ferry and in houses. The optimist can always find a silver lining, no matter how thin.

The ground has become quite muddy in the past few weeks and we are leaving ruts while feeding hay to the sheep. It must make harvesting corn and soybeans much more difficult.

The corn and soybeans have certainly helped the resident deer population put weight on for the winter. I understand that perhaps 200 deer

have been killed by hunters. It will be interesting to see if the population is significantly reduced. How could that be determined? It would be great if someone would look into this and write it up for the next Beacon.

Both Covertite and Amherst Roofing report a successful year. The relatively cool summer and the relatively mild fall made for a more pleasant work environment than usual.

CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO ZIMBABWE NOT IMPRESSED BY CANADIAN MEDIA.

- Terrence Patrick Culbert



TC

"One of the things that I've never understood in all my years in Africa, is the fact the Canadian press isn't the slightest bit interested in any good story coming out of that continent!" This was the opening remark made by John Schram, Canadian Ambassador to Zimbabwe, at a recent public meeting sponsored by A.I.M.S. (Amherst Island Men's Society), held in St. Paul's Church on Amherst Island. "When Canada does something really good over there, the Canadian media just cannot get interested in telling this

kind of story."

John Schram and his wife Alena were assigned to the Canadian Embassy in South Africa from 1988 to 1992. It was during the last two years of the state of emergency, prior to Nelson Mandela being released from prison. This was followed by two transition years as the country moved towards democracy. "Those four years were easily the most enervating, frightening, exciting, demanding, satisfying and rewarding years of our career in the Department of Foreign Affairs," said Schram.

In those days, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Foreign Affairs Minister Joe Clark were both extremely interested in South Africa. "They gave us instructions to push as hard as we possibly could, even to risk being thrown out of the country, to push the national party government towards democracy. We were given substantial financial and human backing for the anti-apartheid measures, dialogue and organizations that eventually brought apartheid down," the Ambassador said. "I spent my days and many nights putting myself along with our Australian and Swedish colleagues, between the police and demonstrators. We were at every funeral, every protest, every police raid and every political trial. People would call at all hours of the day or night and say the police are coming into their union hall... please do something! We were to encourage the anti-apartheid activists in every way we could. We were to get the message across that the world was watching; that apartheid and its human ramifications were not acceptable. The threat of and sometimes actuality of tear gas, mass arrests and rubber bullets was very real."

While John dodged rubber bullets, Alena managed a 2-million dollar a year fund called the Dialogue Fund. It

supported human rights and anti-apartheid civil society. The money helped the Black Lawyers Association, the Anti-Censorship Action Group, the Legal Resources Centre and literally hundreds of other organizations working for democracy in South Africa. "Alena and I hosted dialogue dinners and parties which saw senior people in the anti-apartheid movement together with key players in the push for change. There were guests in our home who would never be seen talking to each other any place else," said Ambassador Schram.

In 1994, the Schrams were re-assigned, this time to Ghana. This was not a new country for John as he had graduated from university in Ghana in 1967. "Going back to Ghana made my job unique because all my classmates were now running everything. They were involved in government, business, the professions and some were academics. This gave us an opportunity not open to other diplomats, or even other Ghanaians. Often disguised as university alumni get-together, Alena and I set up our dialogue dinner parties. In reality, this offered a coveted chance for political enemies to talk together on neutral ground. The guests we brought together now agree that our home was instrumental in Ghana's new development. Canada has tremendous credibility in all of Africa and particularly in Ghana.

From Ghana, it was onto Eritrea and Ethiopia. "This is another area where Canada has had great success that I have yet to read about and I just don't understand why. Canada played a key role in the 1998-2000 fight between Ethiopia and its breakaway province called Eritrea. Eritrea is now an independent country. It was a very bloody, awful war. After a negotiated settlement, they were looking for peacekeepers. Canada sent 500 men

and women, most coming from the Kingston-Trenton area. Once again there was little knowledge or media coverage. I'll bet you didn't read about it and I certainly didn't. Everyone knows about the failures of Canadian Peacekeeping, but this was an astonishing success. These soldiers were good and they really did make a difference."

"We're now in Zimbabwe, in a country that's a bit of a paradise, but a country that has gone wrong," the Ambassador went on to say. "The economy is failing everyday. Life for the ordinary people becomes more and more difficult. What do we do in a country like Zimbabwe, where the government doesn't like us? Well again, it's dialogue! Canada and the Norwegians in this case, seem to be able to get people to the table once a week or so. The dinners provide an umbrella where they can thrash out their problems."

All of this comes down to the credibility that Canada has built up over the last forty-five years in Africa. "Very few Canadians appreciate the fact that we are regarded on the African continent as one of the very countries that are helpful and effective. Canada is a country that will continue to be helpful and be concerned."

Ambassador John Schram and his wife Alena have a strong connection to Amherst Island as they own a home in the village of Stella. They discovered the tranquillity and openness of the Island a few years ago and Amherst Island has become their God-given haven, far removed from the excitement of Africa.

From "EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS"

- L&A Economic Development Newsletter

By displaying a commitment to keeping its large property in pleasant

condition and for considering the community's beautification efforts, Lennox Generating Station won the Award for Site Enhancements [at the Manufacturer's Appreciation Evening]. Lennox Generating Station paid particular attention to the design of their site to ensure that it is attractive and pleasing and in harmony with the surroundings and wishes of the local community. The site boasts a 25-acre conservation area as well as a new park on the shore of Lake Ontario. The new park, to be named Lennox Heritage Park, is located on the shore of Lake Ontario, on a 16 hectare piece of land to be used as a recreational and picnic area for residents, tourists, and cyclists.

County Warden Clayton McEwen recognized the valuable economic and social spin-off effects of the manufacturing sector saying, "Your industry contributes more than 100-million-dollars to the local economy and it's your employees who live in our villages, shop in our stores and add vibrancy to our sporting clubs, volunteer groups and social organizations – all of the things that make a community a special place to be."

BEACON FACTS

- Ian Murray

November issue: 325 printed; 95 mailed within Canada; 9 mailed to USA; 3 mailed off-shore - Australia, France and Scotland; 13 delivered on Island - thanks Ange; 10 to Molly's Lodge; 10 to Loyalist Township; 4 kept at Beacon headquarters; and, about 165 sold at the store.

There was certainly some concern amongst staff when it was decided to double the price of the Beacon so that a better newsletter could be produced. Sales have remained steady and there is money in GICs to cover outstanding subscriptions. The Beacon has also

been able to give significant donations to the archives in Napanee and to A.I.R. (Amherst Island Radio).

THANK YOU NOTES

It is with great appreciation that I thank the first response team for so quickly responding to my call. Isn't it great having this service on the Island, and I congratulate everyone who takes the effort to make such a wonderful team.

To the ambulance attendance for their excellent care and also the ferry crew who stand by in such emergencies. To Bob Filson who alerted family members. Many thanks to our great neighbours Terry and Barb who looked after the home front. Casper loves you both for it!

Thanks to all who sent cards and the numerous phone calls and get well wishes, and of course my family for being at my side.

Once again, many, many thanks to everyone!

Kaye McGinn ***

I want to thank everyone who visited and purchased from my bake table during the past season. There is certainly a demand there and I appreciate each and everyone of you. How nice it is to gather and visit on Saturday mornings.

Season's Greetings, and I thank those who are now ordering for Christmas.

A healthy and prosperous New Year to all. Dorothy McGinn

Garry & Anne-Marie would like to thank the Women's Institute, Bill Hedges and the men and women who helped to repair our stone fence. It took a lot of hard work and a lot of hours but the stone fence is beautiful!

You people should be very proud of



Donald Samuel Miller, related to nearly every old Island family

yourselves so give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done.

Garry & Anne-Marie Hitchins

A huge thank you to our Island friends, neighbours and family in welcoming our new addition to the Island community. The gifts, cards, visits and of course the food were all greatly appreciated as we adjusted to Sam arriving to brighten our household.

Thank you all,

Sherry, Donnie and Sam Miller

[Editor: its always a pleasure to see an honoured Island name carried on. It was Reeve Samuel Miller, young Sam's great great grandfather, who had the courage and foresight to start the fund that bought the Island's first ferry. My family tree program shows that Sam is related to all the old families currently represented on the Island except for the McDonalds - and I suspect that if I had more information it would show that Garnet and Sam are distant cousins.]

The Amherst Island Recreation Association would like to thank all who came out for the annual Festival of Lights Parade and Community Bonfire. The floats again this year could rival any "big city" float! If I counted correctly, we had 11 floats, fire trucks, buses, horse drawn

wagons & vehicles lit up in the parade.

Thank you to everyone who took the time and effort to decorate and light up for the parade. To the home owners along the route that got their Christmas lights up in time for the parade - thank-you!

Thank you to "Splash n' Boots" who provided entertainment for the young (and young at heart)

following the parade, and to Cindy Lawson (Loyalist Township Recreation) who put me in touch with them.

Many thanks to the Women's Institute, who donated the large inflated snowman to be raffled off to a lucky A.I.P.S. student. (Congratulations to Angus Little!).

Thanks to Santa for taking the time to visit our community at such a busy time!

We would especially like to thank everyone who braved the less than perfect weather to come out and watch the parade and join us for the Bonfire.

Finally, thank you to Amherst Island Emergency Services for once again joining forces with us to put on the evening and for the use of the fire hall.

Congratulations to the following groups whose floats won prizes - ISLE for the best lights; A.I. Emergency Services for most unique; & Amherst Island Recreation Association for best seasonal float.

See you all next year!!

The Amherst Island Recreation Association

REMEMBRANCE DAY THOUGHTS

- Rosemary
Richmond

Earlier today, I attended the Remembrance Day programme at Amherst Island Public School. As usual, the children presented a moving combination of readings, poems and songs. Each year on Remembrance Day, I am struck by the vast differences between Canada and the United States when it comes to honouring its war dead.

Although I was born in Winnipeg, my family moved to the States when I was quite young. I spent more than thirty years living in North Dakota, Minnesota and New York state, and received all of my education from kindergarten through my university degree in the US. In all my years of schooling, I cannot recall a single assembly devoted to the remembrance of those who fought and died for their country. While it may not be true of all of the US, Veteran's Day (celebrated on Nov. 11th) was not made much of: the occasional parade in one community or other, and that was about it. Memorial Day (celebrated on or near May 30th) became not much more than an excuse for a long weekend, with perhaps a 60 second item

on the news showing the US President laying a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. While the US is known for its "in your face" patriotism, there is to my mind a serious lack of reflection of the cost of war on the part of the population.

Since coming home to Canada almost eight years ago, I continue to be extremely moved by the importance that Remembrance Day has for our country. Perhaps it is because a greater percentage of Canada's population has

been involved in serving in World War I and World War II, and because Canada was in both wars for a much longer period than the US. Whatever the reason, I believe that the honour and solemnity with which Canadians treat Remembrance Day serves us well, for it is only by reflecting on the true cost of war that peace can be maintained. Perhaps this explains the reluctance of Canadians to jump into military action at the drop of a hat, and may also explain our affinity for peacekeeping.



Gary Filson & Gavin Ashley placing a wreath at the AI service.

BL



TC

LOST & FOUND

I have a size 10 right foot Adidas shoe and two books at the office found at the Ferry dock.

Ida Gavlas

ANGELS

These Angels have been hand-crafted by members of our community.

If everyone on Amherst Island bought one Angel each, we could raise over \$2,000.00 – that would buy blankets for 200 orphans, or feed over 7,000 orphans for a month.

"If each of 400 people on Amherst Island bought 1 Angel for 5.00, that would raise \$2000.00; \$2000.00 would buy blankets for 200 orphans, or supply 220 bags of maize which would feed 7,200 orphans for 1 month. It's so little to us, but can buy so much over there. Please buy an Angel to help the victims of AIDs in Malawi."

Thanks Judy

CARROT PUDDING

I am still taking orders for Carrot Puddings for Christmas until December 18.

Barbara Reid, 389-0675

BACK BEACH: CONDITIONS OF USE

Loyalist Township advises that effective January 1st to September 5th, 2005 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 1st 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 me. Patrick Beyer, Recreation Director
386-7351, ext. 131



So where is this stone fence? Looks like an Amherst Island one doesn't it?

It's in Kentucky, where slaves worked under Irish stonemasons to construct these works of art along property lines.

Alan Kidd, Photo



TC

Amherst Island Radio Station: Finally some news!

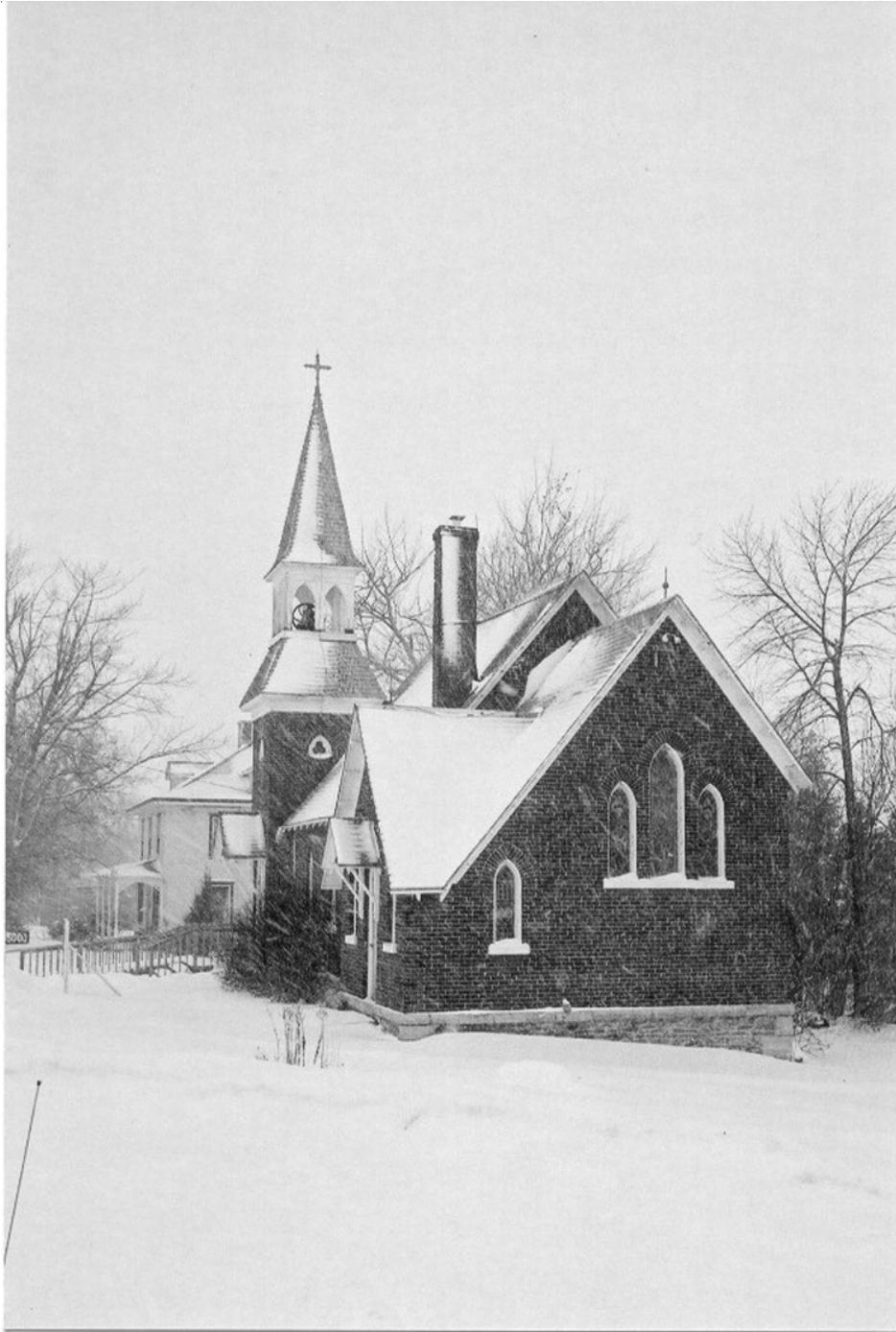
Well, after battling through the Ontario Incorporation red tape, it appears that we will be receiving our not-for-profit / non-charitable Incorporation charter in the next couple of weeks: to paraphrase a popular song, "what a long strange trip it's been!" We will be known as Amherst Island Radio Broadcasting Incorporated shortly.

The second exciting development is the tower! Tom R. drove down to visit a friend in early December and returned 700 miles later with 14 **free** heavy-duty tower sections, all packed into the back of Molly Stroyman's little blue Toyota truck. We now will have 100 feet of tower and 4 spare sections for any future repairs (we still will need to purchase guy cable, anchors, bolts, concrete, etc). We hope to have Township approval to install the tower this spring on the Third Concession, in the middle of the Island.

With any luck, we hope to be broadcasting by next fall... before the inevitable return of the Quinte Loyalist (groan!). Although it may not make waiting in line something we will look forward to, at least folks will have Island-related info to know if the boat is running, or full, or delayed, or shut down due to weather, etc.



Best wishes to all for the coming holiday season!



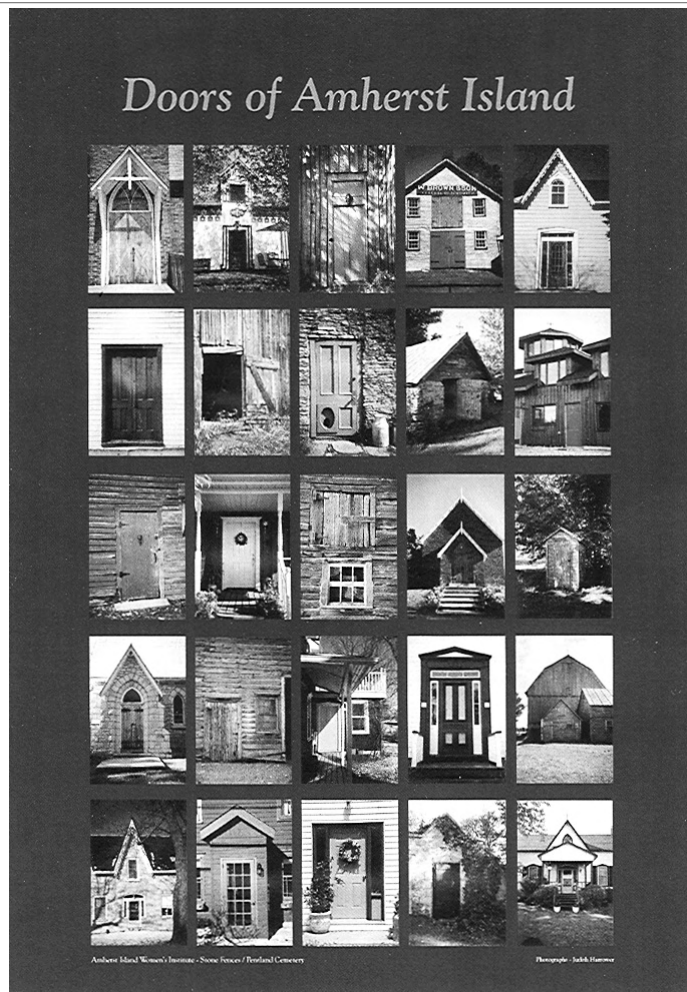
Early Winter's Snowfall

DT

DOORS OF AMHERST ISLAND POSTER

This poster is a fund raiser for both the restoration of stone fences and Pentland Cemetery. The poster consists of twenty-five various doors, representing a variety of doors found on the Island. The coloured poster measures approximately 11 1/2" by 17 1/2" and is suitable for mounting or framing.

Posters are \$15.00 (unmounted) and are available from Freda Youell at 384-4135, Judith Harrower at 384-0435 (evenings) or at the AI General Store.



Hosted
By
AIMS

Doors open at 6:30 pm
Traditional Hip of Beef Dinner at 7:30 pm

Featuring music by Gary and Mickie Code
And the Running Kind Band

Advance Tickets Only
Limited Seating
No Jeans

Auld Lang Syne Dance & Dine

New Years Eve
At the
Community Centre

\$50.00 / couple \$25.00 / single

Tickets will be available mid October from:

Bonnie & Allen Caughey 389-5729
Andrea Cross & Bruce Burnett 634-9734
Susan & Garry Filson 384-7866

THE ANGELS OF AMHERST ISLAND
- Zander of DUNN INN

You never know when you're going to meet an angel - especially on Amherst Island. I have encountered many angels on Amherst Island, but this Christmas they made themselves especially obvious. Let me explain.

Carol Finlay phoned and asked if she and a group of women could make angels at our church. I thought our church was already full of angels but I figure you can never get too much of a good thing so I agreed to her request. I agreed for many reasons. She wanted to recruit islanders to make angel figures out of clothes pins and bits of material. The angels, which could be hung on Christmas trees, were to be sold for \$5 each and the money raised would be sent to help victims of AIDS in Malawi.

I was pleased to comply because the need in Malawi is very great - as Nance and I saw last year when we visited there. Thousands die every day (never of AIDS) of pneumonia, malaria, tuberculosis, influenza because AIDS has robbed them of the immune system to fend off such diseases. We visited homes where the head of the family is a 16 year old boy who looks after 5 younger siblings because both parents are dead. We met a woman selling tomatoes to provide for 15 grandchildren whose parents have died. We saw several orphanages and care centres run by the church which are providing food and clothing for children who have no parents.

So a small group of women (Carol Finlay, Kirsten Bennick, Claire Jenney and Pat Gow) began to meet on Thursday mornings at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. They worked hard but things went slowly (and almost died out) until Judy Roberts got hold of the issue. She got excited and got others excited to make angels. Judy

built up a network of women, (too numerous to mention), some from the churches and some belonging to no church, who set to work with a zeal.

They made boxes of angels, piles of angels, scores of angels. They sold over \$700 worth of angels at the St. Paul's Luncheon and Craft Sale in November. Zander Dunn sold 28 angel figures to members of the Kingston Presbytery. Angels were sold to members of St. Paul's Church. Zander suggested each member of St. Paul's buy an angel and hang it on the church's Christmas tree - that would raise money, beautify the tree and encourage the workers.

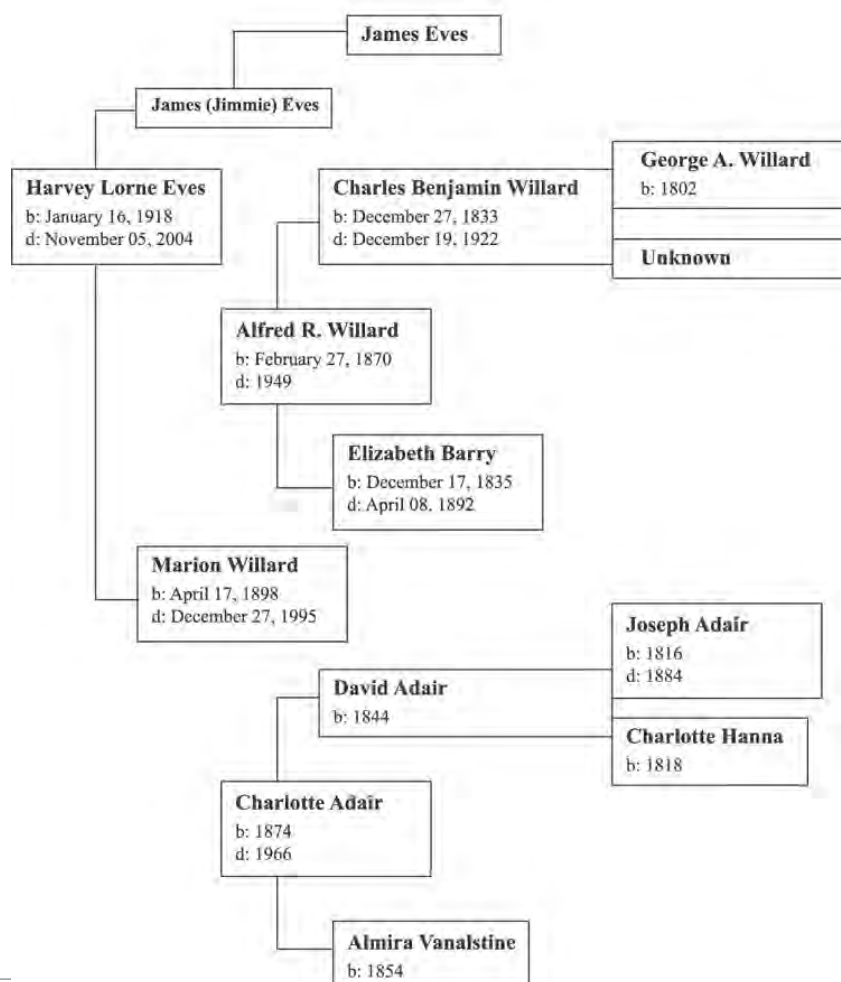
Angels were made available to buy at The General Store. When angels were sold in various outlets in Kingston hundreds of more dollars came in. By mid-December \$2,000 had been realized. (Caroline Yull has been especially adept

at finding new places to sell the angels).

It was then I realized the angels were not the things being made. The angels were the ones who were making the things to hang on the tree. God works through people. God also works through angels. I've never seen an angel with wings, but I have seen angels with glue guns, pinking shears, face paint and woolen hair who create beautiful creatures to help others.

Angels are messengers of God. The angels on Amherst Island are among those who are crafting figures to remind us of the plight of the people of Africa overwhelmed by the AIDS pandemic, and are also trying to help them. I thank God for angels - especially the angels on Amherst Island.

Ancestors of Harvey Lorne Eves



NEWS From the GENERAL STORE

Happy Holidays!

New Video/DVD releases available:

Connie & Carla- Nia Vardalos
 Passion of the Christ
 Home on the Range- Disney
 Thirteen- Holly Hunter
 Jersey Girl- Ben Affleck
 The Human Stain- Anthony Hopkins, Nicole Kidman
 Taking Lives- Angelina Jolie
 Drama Queen- Lindsay Lohan- Disney
 Mean Girls- Lindsay Lohan
 Man on Fire- Denzel Washington
 The Punisher- John Travolta
 The Ladykillers- Tom Hanks
 We now carry Homemade frozen pies, uncooked.
 Just bake, cool & serve! \$12 each

Canada Post Hours:

Mon.-Fri. - 9 to 11:30 a.m., 2:30 to 5 p.m.

Sat. - 9 a.m. to noon. Sun. - closed.

VICTORIA HALL CRAFTS & TEA ROOM

-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.

-Hot specials include homemade soups, lasagna,
 and smoked ham & cheesy macaroni.

-Hall available for private functions.

Gift Suggestions:

- Tea Room Gift Certificates

- John Munro Y-Knot T-Shirts @\$5.00 each&
 Commemorative Swim buttons @ \$2.00 each

- Shirley Miller cards and paintings

- Tole painted Island sap buckets

- Topsy Farms wool products

- Quilts and throws by local quilters

- Locally 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

AMHERST ISLAND T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS are available for sale from Beth Forester 389-5582 or Nancy Henshaw 384-0799.

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
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 Albertan: 389-2662

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 April-October. (Phone numbers above.)



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for rent. Private with good swimming. By the week or weekend,
 end, May-October.

HOUSE FOR RENT: year-round, by the week or weekend-
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for rent on private, secluded peninsula. Over 2000ft of
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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
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Gary McDonald: 384-1456.

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Godden's Whole Hog Sausage is available in four distinct flavours - Salt & Pepper; Honey Garlic; Tomato Oregano; Hot Italian - using ALL natural ingredients (no MSG, preservatives, colouring).

New! Breakfast Sausages - Salt & Pepper or Maple Flavour! Our frozen sausages are available in 5 and 10 lb. boxes at Poplar Dell B&B, 389-2012.

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Keith Miller 389-2588

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).

LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday 7-9PM, Wed 10-Noon,
Friday 1-3pm.

TOPSY FARMS:

Looking for a Christmas Gift? Want an interesting outing for visitors? Come visit our Wool Shed at 14775 Front Road. We offer lambskins & sheepskins; yarn & hats; slippers; mitts; blankets; lap robes; and wraps. GIFT IDEAS: we have several new products available, including: muffs (warmth for winter ferry crossings), felted purses & other items, & chibis (3 darning needles in a plastic container - for pocket or purse). Prices \$2 to \$105. We'll mail orders anywhere. CALL TO MAKE SURE WE ARE HOME: (613) 389-3444.



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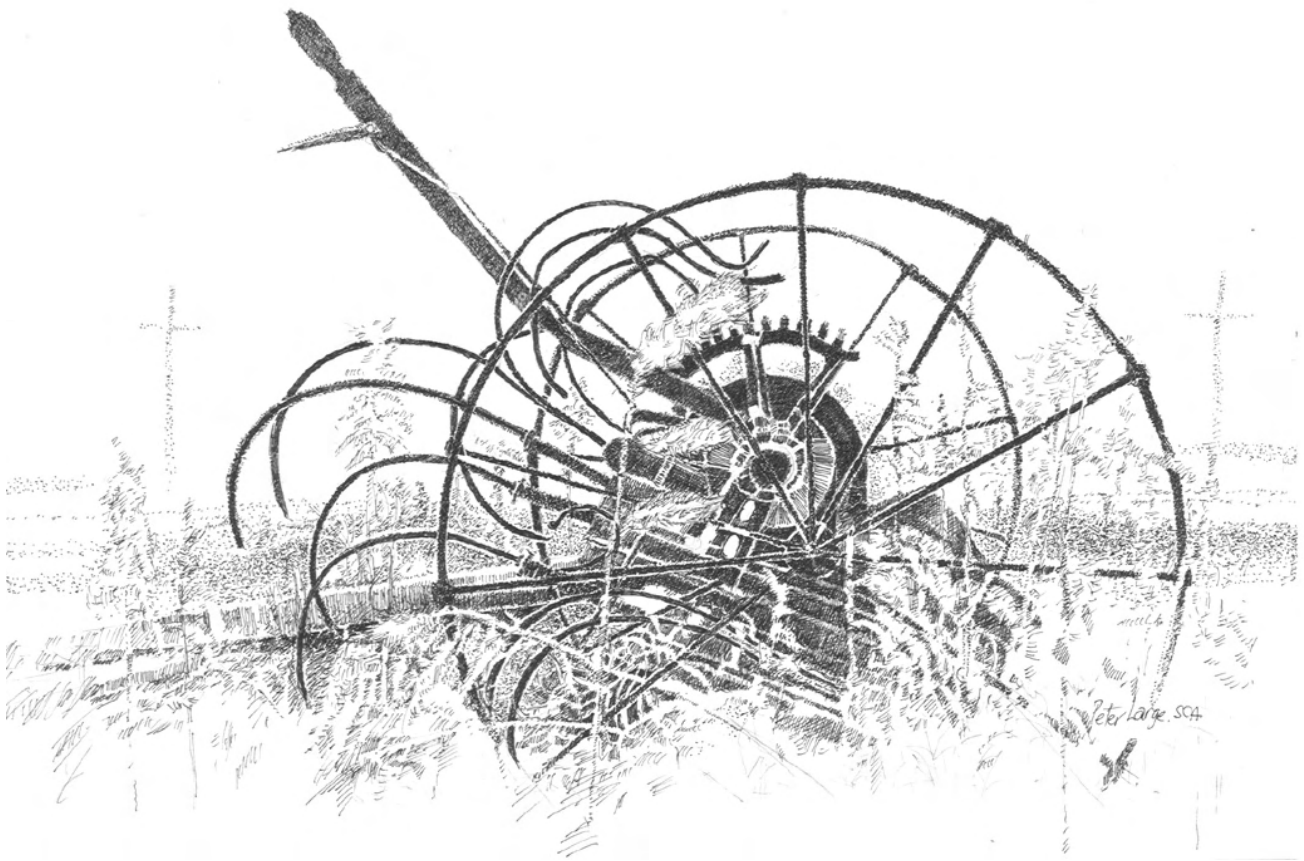


I am collecting used stamps- any kind for the guide dogs, clean used clothing and books for the "Cat's Meow." Used towels, cleaning products, A&P tapes and 12" x 12" knitted squares may be left in my front porch or call for a pick-up. The animals really need our help. Freda 384-4135.

Mindfulness Meditation Workshop

This practice deepens our connection to the richness of the present moment and develops concentration, insight and compassion.

Complementary Health- Jocelyne Leyton, RPP, offers treatments in Cranial Osteopathy. This is a very subtle and gentle approach recognizing the subtle mechanics at work within the head, spinal column, viscera and pelvis. The understanding of the cerebrospinal fluid has a profound influence on the health of the whole body. For an appointment telephone 384-6488, 9060C Front Road.



Horse-Drawn Cultivator, Front Road

Peter Large, SCA

