

The Amherst Island BEACON

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Miller family reunion on Amherst Island (for the article and a "who's who", see page 14)-

Gord Miller photo

THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

We unfortunately set a lateness record with our last issue. It is, as most will understand, a little harder to get things done in December. There seemed to be holdups at every stage of production. I apologize for the inconvenience caused to our readers.

Tom and I have agreed that the DEADLINE for the next issue will be January 25, midnight. This deadline will apply to articles, thank you notes, notices, ads, photographs and so on. We will do our best to include notices of death and birth and such like.



Harold Redekopp cuts the rug with Zelma Koenders at the New Years Eve dinner & dance.

TC

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to Helen Miller, who made a trip to the hospital and Tom Richmond, who spent the holidays recuperating from a fall.

Our sympathy to Diane Hieatt, whose mom passed away over the holidays in New Zealand.

Congratulations to Adam and Barb Miller on the unexpected, early arrival of their son, Allan Anthony on Friday, December 31st. Allan is a grandson for Keith and Shirley Miller.



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TC:Terry Culbert
BL:Brian Little
BH: Bill Harris
TR: Tom Richmond



*Has it really been
seven years since the
big ice storm of
January 1998?*

*Here's a picture taken
by Don Tubb of the
Township snow plow
rounding the corner
where the Third
Concession meets the
Sand Beach.*

*This might remind us
of those days of cold
and no electricity...
or was that just a few
weeks ago? Never
mind!*

Congratulations to Jason and Angela Fleming on the birth of their first child, a daughter, Tia Rose. Amherst Island's 2005 New Years baby arrived on January 5th. Larry and I are thrilled with our first grandchild and "auntie Steph" can't wait to spoil her. Alan and Tia will be great play-mates!

Congratulations to Tom Ivison who was married in Argentina in December. Neighbours Tom and Jackie Sylvester traveled to Argentina for the wedding.

About a hundred people came out to the A.I. Public School's Christmas Café in December. Guests enjoyed treats and sweets while watching the school's production of "The Jingle Bell Jury". Every student in the school had a part in

the play and it never fails to amaze me at what pros the kids become when they get the costumes on and the lights come up.

Congratulations all!

AIMS hosted the New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance again this year and was a popular place for Islanders to ring in the New Year.

The best Christmas present Amherst Islanders received was the Frontenac II's return to service the week before Christmas. It sure made the last minute shopping and traveling a little easier and calmed the tempers of those who were caught in the "ferry line-up games".

So far it has been a mild winter, with not much snow - although we did manage a white Christmas. I think I prefer the snow to all the rain and

slush that we have had over the last couple of weeks. The days are starting to get longer, if we could just see a little more sun . . .

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Joyce Haines

The Women's Institute Christmas pot luck dinner was held Dec. 15 at St Paul's hall. A wide variety of scrumptious food was enjoyed, followed by a short meeting. The president thanked Kirsten and Claire for organizing the Seniors' Dinner and all members for their parts. We have heard praise from many of the attendees. The Finance Committee will meet in January and all members were asked to forward fund spending ideas. A lively gift exchange followed leading to a carol sing with Beth Forster on piano.

The next meeting will be on January 19th at 7 pm at the home of Joyce Reid. Peter Trueman will be our guest speaker.



Amherst Island Mutual Insurance president Wayne Fleming presents a \$1000 cheque to the Neilson Store restoration at the opening ceremonies last fall. L-R: Alan Glenn; Keith Miller; Hugh Jenney; Wayne Fleming; Bruce Caughey.

TC

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

Well, when we chose December 20th back in late October as the date for the Amherst Island Christmas Bird Count we didn't get to pick the weather! When I rose at 5:00 AM it was only -13 degrees Fahrenheit with northwest winds of 7mph. Not only was it cold, it was a



drastic temperature drop since the preceding days so our water temperature was still higher. As one of my intrepid fellow birders commented, "In the navy we call this Arctic Sea Smoke!"

If my fellow Islanders have not already labelled me an ECCENTRIC over the last twenty years they certainly thought me slightly touched to be meeting other eccentric birders in the fog and the cold on the Stella dock that morning. It was definitely very cold with the radio giving wind chill warnings of -38 and the fog making it nearly impossible to see one another let alone birds. We went immediately to the welcoming warmth of the Community Centre and planned our strategy. A dozen birders fanned out to cover the Island with the promise of warm chili or soup when they returned. Did I know that the power was going out? Of course not!

The morning light brought a fair-land of frost. Every blade of grass, fence wire, tree and bush was covered with intricate veils of frost. It was



Cows in the snow at an Island stone fence

TC



"How's it goin'?"

TC

amazing but not the easiest of light conditions in which to spot birds. There may have been lots of ducks, gulls and swans out there but we couldn't see them for the fog and if you looked inland the sun glinted back at you.

Our birders were great though and found with some Islanders help a total of 37 different species of birds. Some birds were expected but a few were late fall migrants. Betty Wemp once again came through with her

Red-bellied Woodpecker and both Chris Kennedy and Peggy Coulter got us Bald Eagles. Other raptors seen on the count were Rough-legged Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, a Northern Harrier and a Merlin but the numbers were low. We were really lucky that Bruce Ripley, Bud Rowe and Barry Pinsky were able to find a Boreal Owl in the Owl Woods. That's a great find at anytime but especially on a bird count. Bruce said he was on the ground, in a sunny spot against a pine trunk so I

guess he was trying to stay warm. They saw the regular Snowy Owl at the Foot and Gail Gault and Faith Avis walked the Back Beach to identify another Snowy Owl there.

By 11:00 we still had not seen a Canada Goose but remember that fog was lying everywhere along the shore. I heard Canada Geese flying over the school so knew that I could count them but not in numbers.

Gadwall, Goldeneye and Mallards were the duck species seen from the ferry but I'm sure there were other ducks out there.

Some late migrants were Rusty Blackbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, Cowbirds, a Catbird and a Hermit Thrush. Sometimes they stay this late but usually they are gone and safely into warmer climates by now.

The Birders returned to my sad announcement that the power was off



Great Blue Heron

and that I had no hot food for them. They were all being very gracious and kind when suddenly the power returned and thanks to the modern invention of microwaves their bowls were served piping hot and the miracle of flush toilets reappeared. I may wander around in weird weather and like swamps and bush but I like my creature comforts too!

Later during the holidays I got a really good look at a Boreal Owl. You would think he was posing for camera shots and sitting out in one of Rod Barr's pines as happy as could be to find sanctuary on Amherst Is-



The Codes & The Running Kind Band performing at the New Years Eve Dinner Dance

TC

AIMS MEETING MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 2004

- Brian Little



Eighteen AIMS members and one guest attended the 8 a.m. breakfast at St.

Paul's Church Hall. The Girl Guides prepared breakfast.

Kudos were given out to those who were involved in the building of and displaying of the AIMS Float in the Festival of Lights Parade. Despite the weather, a good time was had by all.

Allen Caughey has once again provided an off-season home for the AIMS Farmers' Market Wagon.

A monetary donation to the "Christmas Basket" was made on behalf of AIMS.

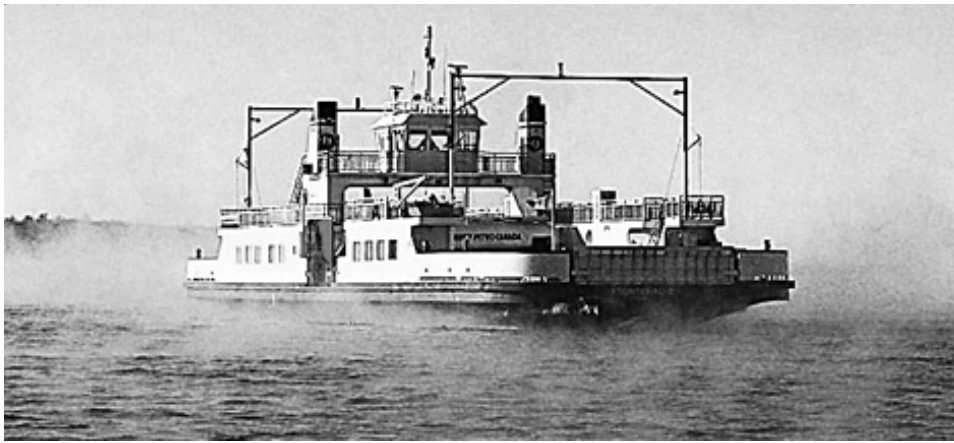
The AIMS bank account is still in very good shape according to Treasurer Jim Whitton.

There were three requests for home care and Alan Glenn handled them on his own.

Alan Kidd briefly discussed the ongoing efforts to secure further grant monies for the Neilson Store Museum to assist with the final renovations.

Guest Speaker Alan Kidd presented a computer slide show of photos from space. Many of which were taken by the Hubbell Telescope. Many questions were asked and Alan's impressive knowledge of "all things space" was tested and he passed with flying colours.

The next AIMS Breakfast Meeting is to be held on Saturday January 8th. Annual dues will be collected at that time.



The Frontenac II returns from a trip through a fogbank

TC

land. The children with us got a good look at this little fellow who has travelled so far to spend Christmas with us. They probably will never realize what a special sight they saw. I hope he found a good vole for his holiday fare.

Thanks for all the help and support with your calls and sightings. Keep up the great work.

Good Birding in 2005

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

"Moved by Councillor Bresee and seconded by Councillor Ashley that the correspondence from Joyce Haines, November 24, 2004 re: Christmas Lights on Amherst Island be received and that Council approve the request to install Christmas lights on four trees in the park on Amherst Island at the Ferry Dock and to hook into the power source in the park for six weeks, in principle, subject to staff investigating the safety of the hook-up and taking necessary action to upgrade the electrical connection at an upset cost of \$250.00;

And further that Mrs. Haines be advised that any requests to use municipal property must be brought before Council for approval to ensure the safety of residents and visitors.

Motion carried."

"Councillor Ashley congratulated Tom and Audrey Miller on celebrating their 50th Anniversary recently."

Council, municipal staff and MTO are considering end-loading docks.

Tags for garbage bags will cost \$2.00 starting Feb. 1st. Old \$1.50 tags can be exchanged for the new kind.

Moved by Councillor Ashley and seconded by Councillor Bresee that the presentation by Guy Laporte, Totten Sims Hubicki and the Director of Engineering Services' report, November 16, 2004 re: Shore Roads - EA be received and the following be adopted:

1. That Council adopt the recommendations of the Technical Steering Committee.

2. That Loyalist Township Council endorses the Class Environmental Assessments for South Shore Road and Front Road, Amherst Island EA, and instructs staff to notify participants that the EA is now complete.

Motion carried.



MORE WEDDINGS

- Zander of DUNN INN
(continued from Issue 322)

[Editor note: please refer to previous Beacon issue for the wedding photos.]

HOGEBOOM-MILLER (1939)

A lovely wedding was solemnized in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Amherst Island at 2 p.m. Saturday, August 26, when Vera Elaine, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Miller, and Maurice William, son of Mr. Joseph and the late Mrs. Hogeboom were united in marriage. The Rev. R.K. Earls officiated.

The church was beautifully decorated with ferns and white gladioli. The dark-haired bride, given away by her father, was a picture of loveliness in a gown of French Mousseline de soie, with Queen Anne collar and slight train. Her full-length veil fell from a coronet of orange blossoms, and she carried a bouquet of Calla lilies with knotted satin streamers.

The bride's attendants looked charming in Bouffant net gowns. Mrs. T.J. Murphy, Toronto, the bride's sister and matron of honour, wore turquoise blue, while Miss Ruth Boone, Kingston, bridesmaid, wore shell pink. Both wore matching tulle halos with velvet streamers and carried American Beauty roses. The two small flower girls, Miss Jean Miller and Miss Patricia Murphy, looked sweetly pretty in French organdy gowns of pale yellow with mauve velvet accessories, wearing a wreath of flowers with matching veils, and carrying bouquets of mauve phlox.

Mr. Clarence Hogeboom, the groom's brother, acted as best man; and Mr. Donald and Mr. Kenneth Miller, brothers of the bride, were ushers. The wedding music was

played by Miss Arline Miller, sister of the bride. During the signing of the register the congregation sang, "O Perfect Love."

Immediately following the ceremony a delightful reception was held at Mapledene, home of the bride's parents, where the bride's mother received the bridal party, wearing royal blue lace with matching accessories, and wearing a corsage of Briarcliffe roses. The house was tastefully decorated with summer flowers. Luncheon was served to about sixty guests, during which toasts were proposed to the bride which were ably responded to by the groom; to the parents, responded to by Mr. Samuel Miller; to the bride's attendants, responded to by Mr. Douglas Miller, to the little flower-girls responded to by Mr. Fred S. Neilson, reeve of the Island. Following which, congratulatory remarks were given by Mr. Allen Hitchins and Mr. Ray McMaster, old family friends.

Afterwards, the happy couple left on a motor trip through the Adirondack mountains and eastern New York state.

MILLER-WEMP (1940)

On August 17, at Christ Church Emerald, Amherst Island, a very pretty wedding took place when The Rev. H.C. Secker officiated at the marriage of Helen Frances, eldest daughter of Mrs. A. E. Wemp, and Donald Earl youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Miller. The church was appropriately decorated with flowers of all kinds.

The bride, who was given in mar-

riage by her brother [Neilson Wemp], looked very charming in her wedding dress of lace over white satin, her veil being held in place with a wreath of orange blossoms. She carried Johanna Hill roses. Both her bride's dress and veil had been worn by her mother.

The bridesmaid, Miss Marjorie Wemp, sister of the bride, also looked dainty in pink organdie, with a cap of pink net edged with blue flowers. Her bouquet was an old-fashioned nose-gay of sweet peas and pink roses.

The groomsman was Mr. Charles Howard and the ushers were Mr. Douglas Miller, brother of the groom and Mr. Ralph Wemp, brother of the bride. The wedding music was played by Mrs. L.R. Neilson, an aunt of the bride.

After the ceremony a reception and luncheon were held at the home of the bride's parents. Later, the couple left for a motor trip, the bride wearing a rose coloured dress with a navy blue hat and coat and other accessories. On their return they will reside on Amherst Island.

MCDONALD-McMASTER (1941)

A very pretty autumn wedding was solemnized on Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. at the home of the bride's parents, Stella, where The Rev. William Parker of Inverary, united in marriage, Margaret Beatrice Gene, second eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond E. McMaster and Garnet Edwin, oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin C. McDonald, Emerald.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a street length dress of midnight blue velvet with matching accessories and carried a bouquet of pink Ophelia roses. She was attended by her sister, Miss Helen McMaster of Ottawa, who wore a flag blue crepe dress with matching accessories and carried a bouquet of Talisman roses. Roger McDonald of Kingston, brother of the groom acted as groomsman.

The drawing room, where the ceremony was performed was prettily decorated with ferns, flowers and autumn leaves. During the signing of the register the Misses Doris McDonald and Dorothy McMaster sang, "O Perfect Love."

Following the ceremony, the guests, numbering about thirty, retired to the dining room which was decorated in pink and white. The table linen on the bride's table was brought from Scotland over 100 years ago, where luncheon was served.

The guests were received by Mrs. McMaster, who wore a blue crepe gown, with a corsage of pink roses, assisted by Mrs. McDonald who wore a soldier blue gown with corsage of American Beauty roses.

The happy couple left by the evening ferry, amid the good wishes of their many friends, on a short honeymoon. Upon their return they will reside on the Island where the groom is a successful farmer.

Among the guests from outside the Island were: Miss Amy McDonald of Ottawa, Miss Edna McDonald of Kingston, Mrs. A. Filson of Balderston, Mrs. H. Young and Mr. and Mrs. D. Young of Erinsville, Mrs. D. Hannah of Enterprise, Mr. and Mrs. H. Finley and Ruth, of Sunbury and The Rev. and Mrs. William Parker of Inverary.

[Here are more Whig-Standard reprints from Janie McCaugherty.

AMHERST FERRY SETS RECORD (c.1966)

- Donna Willard, Stella Correspondent

The motor ship Amherst Islander this year has set a record for winter service. Last year she plowed through the ice until February 21, when a prop shaft broke, and the ferry had to be towed to the dock at Millhaven. Islanders were then dependent on ice travel until March 9, when the tug, Salvage Prince, came from Kingston to restore passenger and freight service. The ferry returned to service on March 16 after repairs had been made.

Captain Eldon Willard is optimistic the ferry can continue all winter, but says it depends upon the weather and ice conditions. The ferry is in good running order and steps were taken earlier this year to prevent last winter's breakdown from happening again.

The motor ship has missed only one morning this winter, that due to a severe snow storm on February 16. With an occasional trip missed in bad

weather conditions, she is still operating on a full summer schedule of 14 trips daily.

Service was interrupted somewhat on Tuesday while a new track was being broken in the three mile stretch of ice.

Captain Willard, who has been on the crew for 19 years, described the ice and weather conditions as normal for this time of year. When asked whether or not a tug is needed to help out in the winter, Captain Willard said it would, of course, make the task easier, but he thought the ferry was doing quite well by herself, to still be running on a summer schedule.

It is, however, popular opinion among Island residents that a tug



Captain Eldon Willard at the wheel of the MV Amherst Islander, about 1962.
...From Elsie Willard

would ensure faster and better service.

There is very little ice travel, though a few men who work on the mainland are crossing in old cars. A road has been bushed "just in case." The long service this winter has been of special importance to Island high school students attending Napanee District Secondary School this year for the first time. Bus service still picks the students up and delivers them home each night due to the good crossing situation. In case of poor crossing, each of the students was required to find a place to stay in Napanee.

The Amherst Islander is operated by two crews of five men each, headed by Captains Eldon Willard and Norman Brooks.

ONE MAN KILLED, ANOTHER HURT, IN FALL FROM ISLAND HOME ROOF (c.1969)

Stella - A 68 year-old resident of this Amherst Island village was killed Monday and an American worker received a broken pelvis when they fell from the roof of a house they were shingling.

Joseph Maxwell Beaubien, 68, of Stella, and Paul Cook, 65, of Belleville, New York, were shingling a two-storey frame house, owned by Howard Welbanks of Stella, when a toe-board gave way and they fell about 15 feet to the ground.

Provincial Police at Napanee, investigating the accident, said Mrs. Maurice (Vera) Hogeboom and Mrs. Rolf Stein heard screams and found the two men lying on the ground at about 4 p.m. An autopsy was being performed on Mr. Beaubien this morning at Kingston General Hospital. Mr. Cook is in "comfortable"

condition in KGH with a fractured pelvis.

[Staff: Joseph Maxwell Beaubien died in 1969.]

[This item is untitled but the date of June 21, 1974 was written on it.]

SIMPLE PLEASURES IN LIFE CAN SOMETIMES BE LOST AS ONE GROWS OLDER

William Henry Wilkinson lives in a house operated by Rideaucrest Home for The Aged. He misses being able to determine his own life-style and company. "I'd rather be on my own, you know," he said. "You don't know what you're going to eat. They don't have much choice."

Mr. Wilkinson said the people he lives with are not always friendly, and he misses the companionship of chatting. "They have a television," he said. "They don't talk."

The Sydenham street drop-in centre provides him with the opportunity to meet with other people and enjoy conversations. "I go to the centre to play cards, chess and cribbage," he said.

He is one of the lucky senior citizens who is active and can get around the city easily. At 64 years of age he bicycles around Kingston. Living in a home, Mr. Wilkinson is spared worries about inflation and the cost of food and rent. He misses managing his own affairs and having his own house and property. His assets have been given to relatives or to the home, he said. He is given \$35 a month spending money in addition to his room and board.

"They tell you when to eat and when to go to bed," said Mr. Wilkinson. "And they don't like you to have a cold."

But Mr. Wilkinson is well looked after. He has lived in Kingston a year and a half. He lived previously on Amherst

Island and in Montreal and Drummondville, Quebec. His father was a United Church minister.

Mr. Wilkinson said he is 64 this year. "I don't look that old but sometimes I feel it," he said. "I sometimes worry about when I'm going to die, but then I guess everybody does."

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray



The Whig-Standard of December 15 had a front page story on David Brady's new documentary film. "Penguins Can Fly" is about John Munro's 2003 marathon swim - from Sacketts Harbour to Kingston in 35 hours and 15 minutes - and the young disabled swimmers who are benefiting from the money raised by the event. David is quoted as saying that the 20 minute documentary would have cost about \$100,000 but so much was volunteered that the cost was only \$1500.

The 4 electrical power outages December 20-26 - the first 2 combined with phones not working - appear to have been caused by poor maintenance and testing procedures.

It is important to tell Hydro and Bell when their systems are not working. Some patience with robotic phone answering systems is required but usually one gets to a human.

The hassles with weather, utilities, and small ferry are certainly insignificant compared to the horrifying earthquake and tsunami damage around the Indian Ocean.

The Beacon would like to hear from anyone having knowledge about the possibility of a tsunami hitting our Island. This is a relatively stable geological area but there was an earth

tremor in the mid-1980's.

THE SURVEY

- Zander of DUNN INN

When Nance and I sought a building permit from the authorities of Loyalist Township (so we could improve the entrance to our house) they would not issue one to us until we submitted to them a survey of our property. So we had a survey done.

The survey showed the configuration of our property, the limits of our property and the location on our property of our house, our outbuildings and even of our 10 by 10 stone-block patio.

As I looked at that piece of paper I recognized all the features and was interested to see them all so clearly marked. But I also saw so much that the survey had missed - which no survey could ever show.

One thing the survey could not show is our view. We have a magnificent view - as do many waterfront properties on Amherst Island. We can see, from our north shore vantage, not only the prominent features on the mainland, but also the sunsets, the skylscapes, the waves and the ferry coming and going. I have many pictures of spectacular sunsets, of magnificent skylscapes, of calm and angry water conditions, and of three different ferries.

Another thing the survey could not show are the birds and animals which come onto our property. Although Nance does not like to see rabbits, we both enjoy watching them cavort on the lawn and outside our fenced garden. We have become adjusted to the snakes which sun themselves on the bushes near our house. The voles can be a nuisance but we admire

them for their industry. A fisher, the closest thing to a beaver we have, lives under the rocks near the water and he is a pleasure to watch. He has no trouble playing around the geese and ducks who swim within our view. A blue heron swoops about in the summer and sometimes stands at the end of our dock. Our bushes are home to blue jays, cardinals, hummingbirds, sparrows, blackbirds, to mention only a few.

One thing no survey can show is the history of this place. I am told it used to be where boats landed to off-load goods. It provided a play ground and swimming area for kids years ago. When Alan Glenn and his mother, Chris Gregg, took over the land they erected on it a very functional house about 15 years ago. Our house was built with Island labour - Alan Glenn, his uncles Keith and Garth Orchard, his children (we have his daughter's initials and footprint in a concrete sidewalk). Chris planted trees and flowers all over to beautify the place.

A survey is a dull, two-dimensional look at a piece of property that speaks to me of God working through people and things to bring loveliness to light.

The survey has been filed away - probably never to be consulted again until the property is sold - but God speaks to us every day through the wonders of creation.

In other places I've lived, I seldom took pleasure or spent time with the view. But here, the view is alive with God. Some days the best thing I can do for my soul is to sit still, look, listen and enjoy the free gifts of God no survey can ever show.



BURNING OF WASTE

As a public service, Loyalist Township wishes to inform residents of Loyalist Township that the burning of waste in woodstoves and in backyard barrels is hazardous to your health and to the environment and is not a good environmental practice.

According to the LAKE ONTARIO LAKEWIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE '04 sponsored by Environment Canada, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Ontario Ministry of Environment and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, "The chemical dioxin produced by burning garbage in woodstoves (and in backyard burn barrels) is emitted through smoke and is also concentrated in the residual ash. The burning of garbage at home or at the cottage is the fifth largest source of dioxins in Canada."

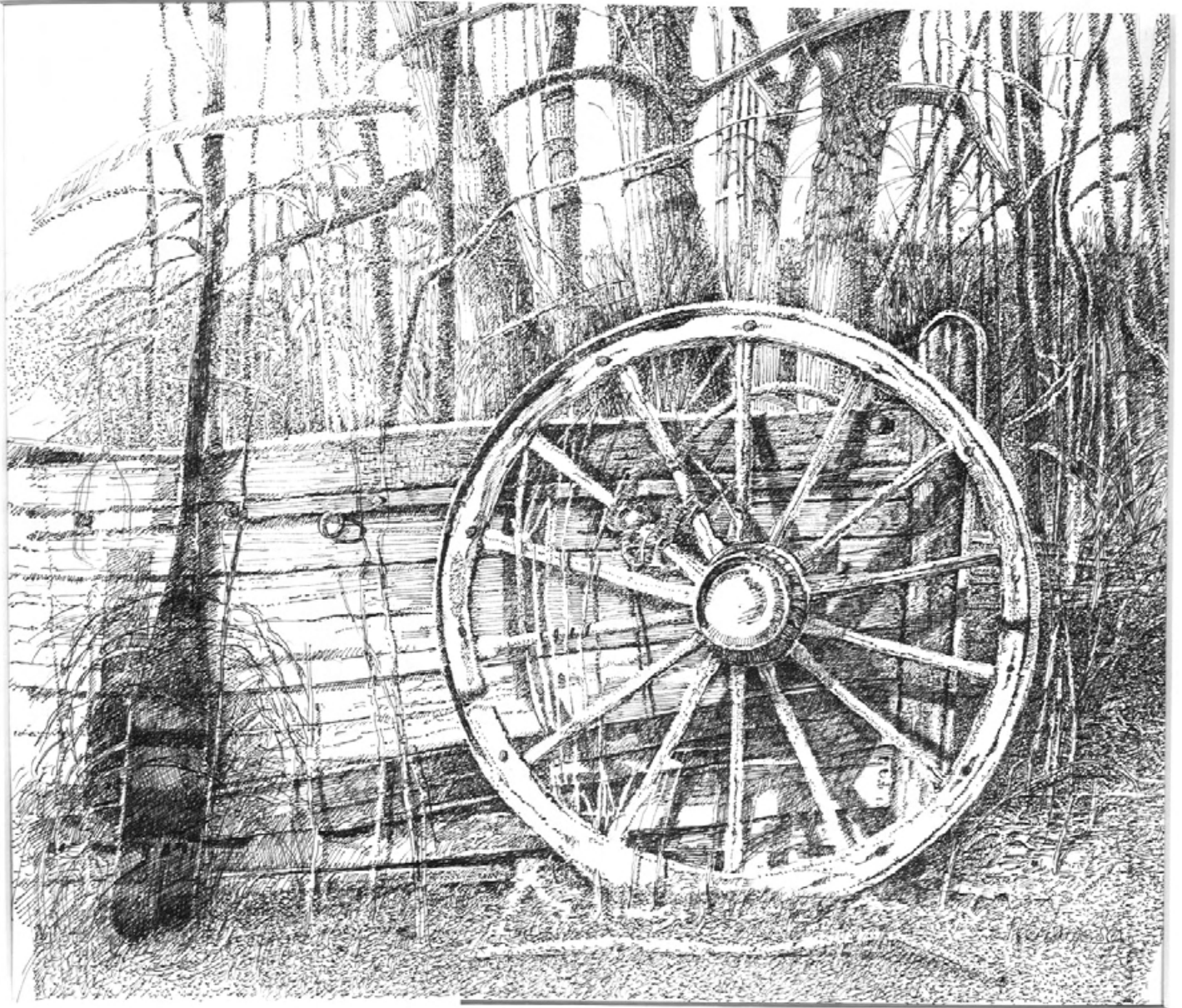
What do we have to fear from the smell of burning garbage? The toxins in the visible smoke - the particulates - tend to land close to home. The dioxins created by burning garbage virtually all make their way into the atmosphere. The problem is that this seemingly individual action of burning waste outside or in a woodstove contributes a measurable and irreversible portion of the dioxin load to the atmosphere when many individuals take that action.

One difference between second-hand cigarette smoke and ambient levels of dioxin in the air is that the primary route of exposure is not the lungs. Instead, dioxin's main pathway into our bodies is food, most particularly milk, eggs, cheese and other dairy products and all meats. Plants actually absorb dioxins from the air in minute amounts and basically accumulate an amount that is related to the amount in the air. The



New grader: Heavy equipment operator Don Miller smoothes the pot holes along Second Concession Road at O'Drains Bay. Don is driving a 2004 '740 Volvo Grader' the Loyalist Township purchased for Amherst Island. It replaces a (1985) twenty year old '740 Champion'. The new grader has a 245 horse power Volvo engine and was built by Champion Road Graders of Goderich. It was a demonstrator with just 500 hours on it and has a full warranty. The grader has a unique feature, it has an articulated joint in the centre enabling the front wheels to be in the ditch while the rear wheels stay firm on the road.

TC



Lifeboat, North Shore

Peter Large, SCA

more dioxins in the ambient air, the more dioxins are absorbed by plants exposed to those levels. When farm animals consume plants, dioxins become highly concentrated in the animals. In other words, the ambient air levels of dioxin are largely responsible for dioxin levels in plants, which are responsible for dioxin levels in animals. The level of dioxin contamination in the ambient air can be correlated to the contaminant levels of dioxins in the plants eaten by animals on which we depend for food.

When presented with this information, Reeve Clayton McEwen commented that, "I hope all Township residents continue to reduce the amount of waste generated for disposal but not through burning in woodstoves or open air burning."

LETTER HOME

- Christopher Kennedy

I think that deep down all farmers must be optimists, or we would never put another crop in the ground, or put the rams in with the ewes. We put in the rams on December 10th, so we hope that most of the ewes are bred by now. Next May 1st should see the first lambs on the ground. The ewes were in good fettle when the rams went in, so we hope for a good crop. The summer was so wet that a lot of our hay is not the best. We'll have to give the ewes some corn through the winter to keep them going. Fortunately for us there was a good corn crop in North America this year, so the price is not too steep for us. Peter MacKinnon, who grows corn to sell, has a different view of the price.

There is also a touch of optimism on the BSE front. The U.S. has published the regulations that will allow live cattle under thirty months old to

cross the border for feeding or slaughter in the States, starting in March. The regulations also include live lambs under twelve months old for feeding or slaughter. This probably won't change the price this winter, but may help next fall. The rising Canadian dollar means that the lamb trade is unlikely to return to its former level, but lamb prices in the U.S. are high at the moment. This opening does not cover older cows, which is where much of the damage to the beef and dairy industry has occurred, and some of the protectionist groups in the U.S. will almost certainly appeal the ruling. We just have to hope that the United States Department of Agriculture have done their homework this time. When the border was set to open last April a group of U.S. ranchers had the USDA regulations overturned in the courts.

After feeding the stock we opened presents on Christmas morning, and started to look at where they were made. More than half were made in China, including most of the clothes, cooking utensils and all the electronic gizmos. Only the books seemed to be from North America. We thought next year we might try for a made-in-Canada

Christmas.

I'm writing this on New Year's Eve, Dianne is working on the ferry, and it is a good time to reflect how lucky we are to live in Canada, for all our moaning and groaning about the health service or the small ferry. I think the disaster in Asia will temper all our celebrations this year

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

-Terry Culbert

Have you ever wondered about the origin of the name Amherst Island? I've been curious but never gave it much thought until our friends Bruce and Rosy Findlay of Toronto and frequent visitors to Amherst Island, returned from a trip to the Magdalen Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It was there that they discovered an old postcard, circa 1765, depicting one of the seven Isles de la Madeleine named Amherst Isle. Settled in the 1700's by wandering Acadians and shipwrecked British sailors, it is one of the largest islands of the Magdalens. The Island's name was changed to Ile du Havre Aubert dur-



ing the 'Quiet Revolution' last century as ninety-five percent of its inhabitants spoke French.

In Canada, we know of Amherst, Nova Scotia, Amherstburg, Ontario near Windsor and Amherstview on the North Channel overlooking our beautiful Amherst Island. The name Amherst is well represented in the United States as well. There's an Amherst, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Virginia, Texas and Massachusetts, just to name a few.

...he had been appointed commander-in-chief in America, a substantive major-general, a lieutenant-general, the Baron Amherst of Montreal, [and] knighted.

Why is there such a proliferation of places named Amherst? Well, they all link back to one man: Jeffrey Amherst, army officer and commander of England's armies in North America. He was born at Riverhead, Sevenoaks in the County of Kent, England in 1717. Jeffrey was born to Elizabeth Kerrill and her husband Jeffrey Amherst, a prosperous barrister. As a boy of twelve, he was placed into service as a page for Lionel Cranfield Sackville, the 1st Duke of Dorset. Two years later, now only fourteen, Jeffrey joined the army. Amherst was appointed aide-de-camp to General John Ligonier, seeing his first active service in Germany during the war of the Austrian Succession. In 1745, he was made a captain in the 1st Foot Guards.

Captain Jeffrey Amherst sailed to America in March of 1758 and was appointed commander of the Louisbourg expedition. He successfully led the attack against the French, which was quite remarkable as he was a very junior army officer

at that time. Amherst's success was marked by his thoroughness and de-liberation, which soon became his trademark and earned him the rank of commander of all of England's army in North America. With his capture of Montreal in 1760 his success became legendary. However, he was also known

to occasionally employ unsavoury tactics, such as attempting to contaminate his enemy with smallpox infected blankets and handkerchiefs. It has been recorded that Amherst used this type of germ warfare against American Indians at the siege of

Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh) during the summer of 1763. Amherst's army duties took him to Boston and Albany, New York. After a short period of time, he and his men moved along the waterways and over the portages to Lake Champlain, eventually arriving at the port of Oswego on the American side of Lake Ontario. From there he proceeded east along the St. Lawrence River to Montreal to fight yet another battle.

Late in the year 1763, after more than five years of success in the Americas, Jeffrey Amherst returned to England. By this time he had been appointed commander-in-chief in America, a substantive

major-general, a lieutenant-general, the Baron Amherst of Montreal, culminating in his being knighted. He died in 1797 at the age of eighty and was buried in the parish church of Sevenoaks, County Kent. Sir Jeffrey Amherst was much honoured by his countrymen.

According to Catharine Anne Wilson's book: "A New Lease On Life", the first white man to own Amherst Island was Rene-Robert Cavelier de La Salle. On the 13th of May 1675, King Louis of France granted La Salle the land of Fort Frontenac and the land stretching ten miles west, including the islands now known as Amherst and Wolfe. La Salle turned around and gave his gift to his lieutenant Henri Tonti, who named his island Tonti Island or Isle of Tante. Author Wilson wrote that there was a good chance La Salle or Tonti never set foot there and the island remained unpopulated.



After the defeat of the French, Colonel Sir John Johnson of the 1st Battalion of the King's Royal Regiment of New York was granted the Island on the 29th of December 1788. He renamed it Johnson's Isle. For the purpose of parliamentary representation, Upper Canada was divided into counties in July of 1792 and Johnson's Isle became Amherst Island, named after General Amherst. There is no doubt that Sir Jeffrey Amherst was a powerful army officer who obviously left his mark all over North America including our wonderful Island.

MILLER FAMILY REUNION

- Ian Murray

The children of Doug and Reta Millar - Ronald, Marilyn, Gordon, & Darrell - and their families have been holding annual reunions for 18 or 19 years. Usually the event is held on Amherst Island. This year it was at Gord and Lynn's place at 14245 Front Road.

Each year the hosts pick a theme for everyone to dress up for. This year it was Canada-&-USA theme as the reunion was held on the July 4 weekend. A trophy is awarded for the best costume with voting by secret ballot. Themes in other years have been: western, Disney cartoons, Christmas in July (turkey on the BBQ), Spanish, medieval, game show, circus and Olympics.

Doug and Reta Miller farmed on the property now owned by Steve Street.

Here's who is in the photo: 1, Lynn (Gord's wife); 2, Miranda (Lillian's granddaughter); 3, Tom (Lillian's son); 4, Gloria (wife of Tom); 5, Carol (Lillian's granddaughter; 6, Jimmie (Lillian's son); 7, Matthew (Paul's son); 8, Marilyn Miller Eves; 9, Darrell Miller; 10, Royce (Marilyn's husband);



Reprint of Miller family reunion picture from page 1



11, Paul (Marilyn's son); 12, Marlene (Marilyn's daughter); 13, Rebecca (Paul's daughter); 14, Doug Harold, Marlene's husband; 15, Samantha (Marlene's daughter); 16, Kyle (Lillian's grandson); 17, Lillian (Ron's wife); 18, Ron Miller; 19, Troy (Gord's son); 20, Trisha (Troy's wife); 21, Tracey (Gord's daughter); 22, Roycene (Marilyn's daughter); 23, Amanda (Marlene's daughter); and, 24, Nicolas, (Marlenes' son).

Gord Miller took the photo.

LETTER To BEACON

- Nellie Marshall

In the November issue of the Beacon you asked for information on older photographs appearing in the Beacon. In the May issue you had a picture of Tom Hill. I boarded with Tom and his sister Maggie some 76 years ago when I came to the Island to teach in the Continuation School. I will be 96 years old next month. . . .

I am giving you a picture of Tom and



Mr. Kohler who came from New York City to visit the Clutes who lived on the Point in the cottage "Journeys End" which Harold and I bought in 1974 when Harold retired from sailing. We enjoyed Island life there for about twenty years.

Tom Hill had retired from the farm and enjoyed fishing and life on the

water in his row boat. He and Maggie lived in the house now the property of John and Alena Schram.

Another picture is of Tom & Maggie & great nieces I think. Another is of Raymond Reid who lived next door &



spent much time with Tom.

THANK YOU NOTES

I want to thank everyone who has supported me by purchasing Rawleigh products. I became a Rawleigh representative in January, 2004 and have had a great year selling these products. Thank you and Happy New Year to all of you.

Marie Ward

With the surprise arrival of Allan there are some people we would like to thank.

First of all the boat crew, Raymond Wemp, Hugh Filson, Diane Marshall, & Earl Willard, who knew that it must be important if Barb and I were leaving the Island at 1:00 AM. To Wayne Fleming for helping us by looking after milking when needed. To Duncan Ashley, who helped get that first milking done so I could get back to the hospital fast. To Doug Williamson who has helped with chores since Allan's arrival. To Donnie and Sherry Miller for dropping off some clothes for the baby.

A very big Thanks to Mom and Dad (Shirley and Keith Miller) and to Barb's Mom and Dad (Rhonda and Donnie MacLeod) for all their help and support.

Also we would like to thank everyone who has dropped us a line over the past few days.

Thank You Again

Adam, Barb and Allan Miller

I would like to thank all of my newspaper customers for their patience and support over the last year that I have been doing the papers. As of January 3rd, I will be off for 4-



Barb Hogenauer on a New Years Day walk along the shore TC

6 weeks to have and spend time with our new baby. Sandra and Jim Reid have agreed to take over the papers while I am off. If you have a problem or need to start or stop your delivery, please call Sandra at 389-4484.

Many thanks to Jim and Sandra for their help and to my father-in-law, Larry, for being there & answering the early morning calls for help! A special thank you to everyone who remembered me at Christmas. Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Angela Fleming

Happy Anniversary Kitten.
35 years to go.

Love

Bob

[Staff: this note should have been in the December issue but we misplaced it. Sorry.]

TREE REMOVAL SERVICE

Phone 389-3901

FROZEN MEALS DESIGNED FOR SENIORS offered by Lennox and Addington Senior Outreach Services. Restricted and special diets can also be accommodated. Contact: Freda Youell at 384-4135 for menus, meal descriptions and prices.

I would like to extend a huge note of thanks to everyone who was involved in the New Years dinner-dance.

A special thanks to AIMS, as well as those who sold tickets (and I won't name names, as you know who you are). The gym was so tastefully decorated, the food was excellent, as was the music. It was one of the best New Years' Eve parties I have attended, and I have attended many... a simply good time was had by all.

Elsie Willard



The last of four 15,000 lb., 13'X28' modules squeezes off the Frontenac II enroute to the construction site of Eric and Grace Bailey's new South Shore Road home.



MOVING DAY! December 20th, only 3 hours after the return of the Frontenac II, the pieces began arriving. They had been lined up along County Road 4 for hours waiting their turn as soon as the boat was ready for them. It was an amazing sight... good thing they didn't wait to bring them over on the ice!

Photos and text by Terry Culbert



The four modules making up the Bailey home were made by Guildcrest Homes in Morewood near Ottawa. Elliott, Sage Construction Services has the exclusive rights to the assembling of these homes.

NEWS From the GENERAL STORE

Happy New Year!

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
 after school, early evenings & weekends. Beth
 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,
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HOUSE FOR RENT: year-round, by the week, weekend or
 month...on the North Shore. Call Cherry 634-1212

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 limestone shoreline. \$650 weekly. Call (613) 389-5536 for
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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).

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RAWLEIGH PRODUCTS

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PICNIC TABLES & WEATHER VANES FOR SALE

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 Wedding or Shower 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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Island references. 634-1855.



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.



TC

Dessert at the New Years Eve Dinner Dance: Amherst Island art in one of its' truest forms!

