

Amherst Island BEACON



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March 2003

THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

There are now a few off-Island services listed in our advertisements. Perhaps it is time to consider having additional pages in the May and September issues in which all the services available to Island residences and businesses are listed. It would be interesting to see just how many there are. Or, perhaps one of the service groups on the Island would like to prepare an annual pamphlet and sell it to raise money for good deeds. Feed-back is welcome and the subject will probably come up again in the April issue.

The Beacon does not endorse any of the services listed nor goods advertised. Be a wise consumer and check the offering.

Zander has come up with a very interesting article from a chance meeting.

Chris Gregg's brother (and Alan Glenn's uncle) Garth Orchard died February 16. We plan to run his eulogy in the April issue. His "Memories of Amherst Island" which originally appeared in Issue 54 (reprinted in Issue 265) and later issues are some of my favourite articles ever.

It is one of our goals, here at Beacon headquarters, to eventually re-print some of our favourite articles in special issues of the Beacon. I think many new-comers will be particularly interested in Bruce Caughey Sr.'s writings which convey so much of what life was like here long before most of us even heard of this Island.

Next month I will try to include an explanation of what 2nd cousin three times removed means. I have explained it to several people in person, but it's not so easy in writing. However, I will try.



A Harvard training aircraft down on the Island during the war.... Story by Zander Dunn on page 7

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to Leslie Gavlas and Barry Richmond. Belated get well wishes to Garnet McDonald, following eye surgery earlier in the winter.

Happy 50th birthday to Jackie Sylvester and Happy 70th Birthday to Elaine Wolfreys and Audrey Miller.

Doug and Helen Lamb returned from a recent trip to Florida. Leslie Gavlas is recuperating with her daughter in Cobourg. Lynann, Ben and Sarah Whitton spent a week in Banff and Lake Louise, skiing while Jim headed to Arizona to visit family and get in a little golf.

Good to see a lot of Island College and University students home over the last couple of weeks during their schools' reading weeks.

The silver fox has been quite popular this winter on the Front Road, as his/her human neighbours report seeing him/her daily.

The Rec Association's Friday night Euchres have been well attended this year - maybe everyone is looking for somewhere to go see friends and neighbours, but also

stay warm! Ladies recreational volleyball is also going well on Monday evenings (at 7:30).

This week has been a great week for seeing wildlife on the bus route. All the ice seems to have driven the predators out looking for food. Today alone we saw two coyotes, a fox, a snowy owl and an assortment of hawks.

Rumour has it that the Fisher has again been spotted along the South Shore and 3rd Concession area. A deer, freshly killed on the ice at the South Shore, has fed many for the last 2 or 3 days.

Still, I think man and beast alike will be glad of the Spring thaw and will be well ready to get on with warmer weather. A sign on the St. John's Church hall (in Bath) said "Who was complaining about the heat in July?". Maybe in July we will be longing for a bitter February day, but until then. . . .



Two of Mark & Cherry's sheepdogs out for a stroll on the South Shore.

photo by Joyce Reid

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Even MORE NEIGHBOUR- HOOD

- Ian Murray & Tom
Richmond

The sale of the *MV Amherst Islander*, as shown on the back page of the last issue, didn't happen. Apparently there was some mechanical problem(s) with the ferry which may have affected the bidding and the reserve bid was not reached. The good news is that Township CAO Dianne Pearce informs the Beacon staff that the ships log-books, lanterns, and the brass plaque have been secured from MTO by the Township. Kudos for all the township staff for this significant effort on our behalf.

David Baker, a lawyer who has a residence on the 2nd Concession, was featured in a Whig article on Feb. 8. He is representing a Napanee woman who is challenging a CPP ruling which prevents her from getting credit for the unpaid time she put in as a caregiver to 2 dying relatives.

Caroline Yull had a letter printed in the Whig defending the multi-grade classroom.

Francis Glenn, who grew up on the 2nd Concession, son of Gordon Robert Glenn and Nanette Lucinda Strain Glenn, has an article in the Feb. 18th edition of the Ontario Farmer. Francis is a corn breeder who grows plants in Chile as well as in Blenheim, Ontario. "When I was 17 and working in the cheese factory on Amherst Island, I hurt my back by being really young and stupid lifting." He describes how he got his back fixed in Chile within a few days for \$10,000. It would have been free in Ontario if he was prepared to wait a long time and if, while waiting, the type of equipment used in Chile became available in Ontario.

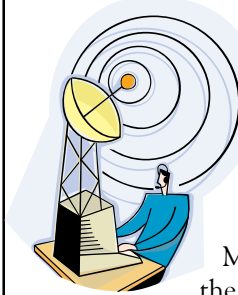


At the Victoria Hall for a performance, many years ago

from Vera Hogeboom

ERNEST JAMES APPS

Died February 1, 2003, at age 86. Husband of Paulette Dumortier. Father of Michele. Grandfather of 4 and great-grandfather of 5.



After graduating in Electrical Engineering, he served as a Radar Specialist with the British Navy in WWII. He was awarded the Order of Merit and retired from the Navy with the rank of Commander. Ernest received the Degree of Doctor of Military Science from RMC in 1996 in recognition of the contribution by him and his fellow radar specialists towards the victory in WWII. After retiring from the Navy, he bought a farm near his native Paris, Ontario, and taught at Mohawk College. He later moved to Amherst Island where he and Paulette built the house now owned by Eric and Susan Friesen.

Ernest was pre-deceased by his brother Syl Apps who owned Farnham which is now occupied by Janet Grace, Syl's daughter, and her family.

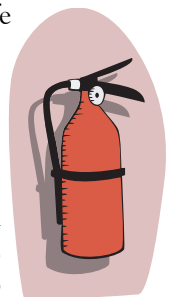
COUNCIL CLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

Waste management: The Township is selling home composters for \$20 per unit. "Amherst Island residents will be required to pre-purchase the composters at the Ferry office, and the composters would then be delivered . . . on a specified date . . ." **

Emergency services: Calls by station in 2002: Amherst Island, 15; Amherstview, 116; Bath, 58; Odessa, 110. Calls by category: medical, 34%; false alarms, 27%; fire, 21%; vehicle accidents & extrications, 11%; training, 3%; carbon monoxide, 2%; hazardous materials, 1%; and, public service, 1%. There were no fire fatalities in 2002. Total emergency incidents: 299 in 2002; and, 327, in 2001.

"Because of our limited resources on Amherst Island for Fire Fighting we conducted an "Alarmed For Life Program" on Amherst Island. Fire personnel conducted a door to door program installing smoke alarms where necessary, and ensuring that all Amherst Island residents have a minimum of two



working smoke alarms in their homes.” This program cost almost \$3000.

Training Officer Fred Stephenson is now qualified to conduct driver licence testing for Class “D” and the “Z” air brake endorsement.

Derek Ethridge, the Fire Prevention Officer, has been using a cooking simulation device in area schools to show how to deal with cooking related fires. “A recent risk assessment conducted” by the Department indicated that over 2/3 of fire losses in this municipality are due to cooking fires and the careless use of matches. **

New councillor: congratulations to Joe Hudacin on being selected to replace Cathy Storms as Ward 2 council representative. I have often seen Joe over here to meetings that were important for this Island and I expect that he will continue to show interest in Island problems as well as looking after the interests of his Bath constituents. **

Cataraqi Region Conservation Authority: The total operating budget for 2003 is \$1.66 million. The Loyalist Township Natural Heritage Study is budgeted at \$50 thousand. Facts: watershed jurisdiction, 3500 sq. km.; population served, 180 thousand; owns more than 4000 hectares; conservation area visitors, 450 thousand each year; operates 7 dams and 3 water control structures; planted 1.5 million trees since 1983; average cost per capita to local taxpayers is \$4.31 per year. The CRCA consists of ten watersheds with Amherst Island included for convenience (as it is part of Loyalist Township).

Amherst Island Emergency Services Association

We still have numbered copies of the print “*First Run*” advertised in the Dec. '02 Beacon. \$25 each.



ALSO: Burn Kits: Do you have a wood stove? Small children or the elderly visiting? Protect your family in case of a burn accident: these industrial quality kits come with full instructions, special burn cremes & dressings saturated with Water-Gel protectant. \$60 & shipping, 10 day delivery. **634-1855**



CPR recertification training took place at Amherst Island Emergency Services Station on March 2. Instructor Claude Duval (standing), with (clockwise from left) David Brady, Maureen McGinn, Janet Scott, John Munro, Vicki Keith-Munro, Don Miller Jr, Ted Gow, Gary McDonald, Leslie McDonald, Dick Shurtleff, Wayne Fleming, Chris Kennedy, Bill Phillips & Tom Richmond. (with Alex Scott Jr. taking the picture)

moved; Warren Kilpatrick, 2nd cousin once removed, and 3rd cousin; Wilfred McCormac, first cousin once removed; Elsie Reid Willard, first cousin; and, Donna Strain Willard, 2nd cousin and 2nd cousin once removed.

Leslie Wemp: Tracey Filson, first cousin 3 times removed, and 2nd cousin 2 times removed; Annette Glenn Phillips, second cousin 2 times removed; Garry Hitchins, 3rd

RELATIONSHIPS NOTES

- Ian Murray

[This article was bumped from last month's very full issue.]

Mel Filson, Leslie Wemp and Carman McKee each came from old Island families and together, through birth and marriage, were related to virtually all of the old Island families.



Here are some relationships to current (and former) Island residents.

Mel Filson: Rita Brown, 2nd cousin; Beth Caughey Forester, 3rd cousin; Garry Filson, 2nd cousin once removed; Hugh Filson, grandson; David Fleming, 2nd cousin once removed, 2nd cousin 2 times removed, 3rd cousin once removed, and 3rd cousin twice removed; Carman McKee, 2nd cousin; and, Beatrice Reid Wemp, 3rd cousin.

Carman McKee: Rita Brown, 2nd cousin; Harry Filson, 2nd cousin; Wayne Fleming, 4th cousin once removed; Paul Glenn, second cousin once removed; Garry Hitchins, 2nd cousin; Clinton Kilpatrick, 1st cousin, and 2nd cousin once re-

cousin twice removed; Corrie Hutchings, 2nd cousin three times removed; Noel McCormick, second cousin twice removed, and 4th cousin once removed; Brent McGinn, 2nd cousin 3 times removed, 2nd cousin 4 times removed, 4th cousin 2 times removed, 3rd cousin 4 times removed, and 4th cousin 3 times removed; Ralph Morrow, 1st cousin once removed; Chris Reed, 2nd cousin 2 times removed, 2nd cousin 4 times removed, 3rd cousin 4 times removed, and 4th cousin 3 times removed; Jim Reid, 2nd cousin 3 times removed, 3rd cousin 3 times removed, and 4th cousin 2 times removed; Earle Tugwell, 2nd cousin; and, Dale Willard, 2nd cousin 2 times removed.

As always, please let me know of any errors in the above or in the ancestor trees found elsewhere in this issue.



Detail from the wall of the Emerald Dance Hall

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The Frontenac II coming out of the fog and into Wright Bay

Don Tubb photo



AIMS

-Peter Trueman

Report on Feb 8, 2003 Meeting

David Brady, in charge of the Nielson Store Museum and Cultural Centre grant applications, told the February 8th AIMS meeting that he hoped to have responses from the Trillium Foundation and Heritage Canada by the end of March.

David said that Trillium representatives would be visiting the store on February 25, in what may be the final step of the process leading up to an announcement about the application for funds. David is cautiously optimistic that the museum corporation will get at least some of what it asked for. He felt that the application to Heritage Canada is also in good shape and that the Heritage staff is generally very pleased with the effort which went into the documents submitted.

David said he knew that some AIMS members were justifiably concerned about the time and effort being devoted to the museum project. But he wanted AIMS to know that the real work hasn't yet begun. A lot of the labour required to refurbish the store will have to come from the membership of the museum corporation and AIMS. Peter Moes reported that he is establishing a list of e-mail addresses for those who have paid \$5 to become members of the museum project.

Gary McDonald reported that after the New Year's Dance some things were not put away and the oven which had been used to cook one of the roasts had not

been cleaned. Hugh Jenney said this had been drawn to his attention by the Recreation Committee and that he had assured them it wouldn't happen again. He also sent them a \$50 cheque by way of apology. The Committee returned the cheque as a donation to the Museum and Cultural Centre. Hugh also noted that Rick Bedford and Larry Fleming had been happy to set up the stage, bar and lights as their contribution to the success of the New Year's event. Gary also reported that ISLE, looking for ways to earn money to support various projects

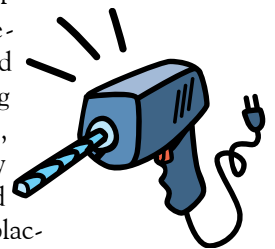


for public school students, had offered to serve the AIMS breakfast for the March 8 meeting. The AIMS membership gladly accepted.

Doug Williamson raised the question of the need to separate the Nielson Store Museum and Cultural Centre, as a limited liability not-for-profit corporation, and the fund-raising activities of AIMS on its behalf. It would make sense, he suggested, for AIMS to establish a steering committee of three people to take responsibility for fund-raising, and not have one person, scrambling to do everything. It was suggested that the house tour should be run separately, and New Year's Eve should be managed separately as well.

David Brady said he was concerned that Hugh would burn himself out, and that it would be appropriate to give some other people a chance to run some of these things, particularly the New Year's Eve event and the House and Garden tour. He again made the point that if and when the grants came through, or even if we had to finance it on

our own, the renovation of the Nielson property was going to require painstaking management and a great deal of labour. If the Heritage Canada grant is made, for example, the work done on the store would have to be finished by March 31, 2004. It will involve installing a furnace, re-wiring the old building, tearing down old walls, putting up dry wall, and refinishing and replacing sections of hardwood floor.



Help would also be needed to put up shelving, install counters, and arrange for wheel chair access among other things. He said Hugh's attention would be needed full time for these matters, and that he should not have to drop everything for fund-raising.

Treasurer Jim Whitton reported that there were now 31 members who had paid their dues for 2003. Jim reported that there was \$1,700 in the general account and \$126 in the help people fund. Since the Neilson Store and Cultural Centre now has its own budget, it was agreed that there was no need for two separate funds and they should be run together, making \$1,826 available for helping people. A new member, Tom Ivison, was introduced.

In Ralph Woods' absence, High Jenney reported for the Transportation Committee. There had been one request from a woman who needed to go to town, and the grateful recipient had donated \$25 to the Museum Fund. Allan Glenn reported that there had been two requests for as-

sistance from the Labour Committee. Peter Trueman said that the Care/Companion committee had no requests.

Under new business, Ross Haines said AIMS was “losing continuity” because of the informality of its operating procedures, and that we should consider a more structured organization, with a long-term executive and standing committees. There were a number of suggestions as to how we might better ensure continuity. Others expressed some concern that we were not doing many of the things we had set out to do, primarily in terms of educating ourselves perhaps by having interesting speakers at evening meetings. One member pointed out that AIMS should not devote its entire fund-raising effort to the museum and cultural centre project. We did, after all, have other community projects that required funds. It was decided that members should think about some of these questions, and return to the next meeting with some concrete recommendations.

Chris Laffin volunteered to speak at the March 8 meeting. Ken Albertan will chair. All Amherst Island men are welcome. The meeting is held at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church Hall at 8 a.m. There is a \$5 fee for breakfast and if a visitor decides to join, there is a \$20 annual membership fee.

QUIZ-TIME

- Judith Harrower

First of all I would like to thank all the Islanders who either talked to me or wrote answers to the first questions I asked in last month’s Beacon. The answers most frequently related will be used, but if you believe there are incorrect answers PLEASE let me know and I’ll make corrections.

Name of Inlets/Bays around the Island starting on the north shore: Preston Cove just west of Marshall Forty Foot, Stella Bay behind Neilson’s store, west along north shore past the ferry dock, to Wright’s or Scott’s Bay, Kerr’s Bay seen from Front Road by the empty yellow farmhouse, last north-shore bay is Barry’s Bay past Emerald Forty Foot. At the west end of the Island is Wemp’s Bay or O’Drain’s Bay, where the Second Concession meets the lake. On the southwest shore are



The former Catholic Church on the North shore

from Vera Hogeboom

Amherst Bay, west of Nut Island and South Bay, east of Nut Island. Amherst Bay is reached via Third Concession and South Bay is located by the fishing village. At the eastern end of the Island, The Foot, is Sand Bay located where the Lower Forty Foot turns into Front Road.

Islands within five kilometres of Amherst Island are: Nut Island on the South Shore, Grape or Isle Laforce off the southwest end of the Island, Brother Islands located between the Island and Amherstview. However, there appears to be two small islands off the eastern end of Amherst Island curving in an arc northwards, are these islands or a sand bar?

Burial Sites on the Island are: Pentland Cemetery, originally named after Samuel Pentland first interred there in 1831. Daniel Fowler and some of his relatives are buried in this cemetery. Wemp Cairn, located on the north side of Front Road (across from 9850 Front Road), contains the remains of Barnabas Wemp and his wife Katherine. Legend has it that a subsequent owner of the property buried two infant children beside the Wemps. The Roman Catholic Cemetery located just east of Topsy Farms’ large barn on Front Road contains some of the earliest settlers but when first used is

not known. The earliest readable marker is Catherine Nell, who died in 1859. The newest cemetery is Glenwood beside St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church on the Stella Forty Foot, with the first burial of Alexander Glenn on June 22, 1886, thus called Glenwood.

Former Names of Amherst Island were: The First Nation’s name of KASENESCO*, also Kaounesgo, is noted also in historical information, meaning ‘the big long island’. Then named in 1670’s, Isle Comtesse after Anne de la Grange for a short period of time. The next name was Isle Tonti, named after Henri de Tonti, an Italian fur trader/explorer, who with La Salle, established Fort Frontenac. Another spelling found was “Tonty”. The current English name was given to the Island by Lord Simcoe, in the 1790’s, after a British General, Lord Amherst. Wolfe and Howe Islands were likewise named after British Generals at



the same time.

As to the origin of the names, Stella and Emerald, no one was able to provide definite reasons but put it down to the Irish influence; Emerald for the Emerald Isle (Ireland), and Stella the first name of an early female settler and both were post offices. The Emerald Post Office was in the home of Ray and Zelma Koenders. The origins of 'The Foot and The Head' were commonly used to distinguish the eastern and western ends of the Island. A story repeated by several Islanders is that the early settlers named the Foot closest to Wolfe Island to give it the boot**.

First settlers to the Island were United Empire Loyalists, names still found on the Island are Hitchins, Wemp, McDonald, Tugwell, McMullen, and they settled near the western end of the Island on the North Shore. Irish settlers, mainly from Ards Peninsula, were the next to arrive between 1820 and 1870. Common names still found on the Island are Glenn, Gibson, Reid, Fleming, Henderson, Miller, Bailey, Baker, Caughey, Filson and Kilpatrick. These Irish settlers settled near the Head of the Island. If I have excluded other family names I apologize and will include them if you let me know.

This month's questions:

There were several public schools on the Island, prior to the current one. Give the location where they were originally built, still exist today and if so what are they.

The stone walls on the Island were built by whom, how much did he charge?

When did the Island get electricity, telephone service, first road paved when, and who owned the first television set and car on the Island?



“Gertrude Stein
drank vintage wine,
While Anais Nin
made do with gin”

*Helen & Peter Murucci, from the Globe
& Mail book section competition*

MORE ON THE QUIZ

- Ian Murray

* Tom Sylvester used this word in his “Amherst Island: A Detailed Survey . . .” and it appears to be from a way to write Iroquoian.

** What I’ve heard is that, on a map, the Island resembles a pig - well, some people can see mythological characters in a few stars - and that the west end of the Island is the head, with the snout at the north-west corner and the foot being at the very east end, with the Brother Islands representing the tail.

more with our enthusiasm, support and professionalism.

Ruth Mott told us that the whole committee will meet on March 28th to decide which, if any, of all the worthwhile applications from our area, will be approved and that we were welcome to call her in the afternoon to see what the outcome was. She hoped that the committee would have made their decision by then. Hopefully the Heritage people will let us know by then too. In any case our executive should meet soon to decide whether or not it is advisable to contact Andre Schineman at



The Neilson Store

from Vera Hogeboom

NEILSON STORE UPDATE

- Hugh Jenney

Many thanks to all who were able to attend our site visitation with Ruth Mott, Larry Morris and Barb Snyder. The ferry delay did not dampen our spirits and worked to our advantage by inducing the Trillium trio to stay for the four o'clock ferry. David Brady's intro and overall presentation was very well received. Ruth, Larry and Barb all asked penetrating questions which were answered to their satisfaction by all assembled. We have a deep bench as they say in the basketball world. Sixteen of the eighteen members (we now have 53) contributed well thought-out answers. ie we could not have impressed the Trillium people

that time to see what his thoughts are about what exactly we wish to see developed in our museum and cultural centre so that if we are fortunate enough to acquire all or some of the funding at that time, we can start designing the layout. Once he has done that or the decision has been made to do it on our own because of the lack of funding, we can set up a construction schedule. As usual any member is welcome at our executive meetings. I would like to call a general meeting on Thursday April 3 at 7 PM at the Presbyterian Church to bring everybody up to date on what monies we have, or have not received so far and to decide what is the best way to proceed at that time. If anybody wants this time or date changed, please RSVP.

A UNIQUE ARRIVAL ON AMHERST ISLAND: The Day A Harvard Aircraft Landed Here

- Zander of DUNN INN



At a recent social event in Toronto I met a friend of a friend who asked me where I lived. I told him he'd probably never heard of the place - I had a home on Amherst Island. He replied, "I know Amherst Island. I was forced to land a Harvard there during the war." I responded, "I know you. I've heard about that event from several Islanders."

Since that conversation Bob Young (that was his name) now retired in Sarnia, has told his story to me so I can share with the Islanders another tid-bit of our history.

Bob, who grew up in Moore Township, south of Sarnia, was born on the family farm and had embarked on a career in farming prior to enlisting in the RCAF in 1942. At the time of the incident Bob was a flight instructor at Kingston's Collins Bay Airfield.

The site, known as 14 Service Flying Training School, was the only Canadian location jointly operated by the Dominion of Canada's RCAF and the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm. The RCAF supplied all the flight training resources (including instructors) and all the students were from the Royal Navy family - Great Britain, Ireland and all the British Colonies. English was the common language but with Scottish, Irish, Welsh, Indian, Australian and New Zealand accents.

Those who graduated from the program became pilots with the Fleet Air Arm on various Allied Aircraft Carriers. Most students were young and new to the Armed Forces but many older experienced seamen - both commissioned and non-commissioned officers - had re-mustered hoping to become pilots. All were strongly

motivated and rewarded their instructors by developing excellent flying skills.

The aircraft used was the North American Harvard - a single engine trainer affectionately known as "The Yellow Peril." The Harvards at the base resembled a swarm of angry, noisy yellow hornets. They were equipped with a variable pitched propeller,



Photographs provided by Bob Young

which reverberated noisily with engine power demands.

Flying Officer Bob Young remembers well the flight path out over Collins Bay and Amherst Island. The well-kept family farms with their small fields of mixed farming reminded him of his own home farm area and presented a pastoral scene of serenity and beauty. When flying over the Island Bob often thought of the local residents whose tranquillity he interrupted with his boisterous "bird." But Islanders knew the war effort demanded sacrifices from everyone and nobody ever complained about the noise.

The morning of October 18, 1944 dawned crisp and clear when Bob Young went up in Harvard 3310 with his student from Eng-

land named Able Leading Airman Dawkins. They had made a familiarization flight a month before and both had been flying regularly during the interim. Dawkins was an excellent student and he and Bob enjoyed working together.

Over the Island the aircraft lost power - something guaranteed to capture the attention of both pilots. Both had prepared well for such an emergency and went quickly through their memorized checklist to pinpoint and correct the engine failure. Nothing worked so they were forced to look for a landing site. The field they chose was a well-cropped pasture free of farm animals and relatively dry.

The wheels-up belly landing was a success - no injuries and minimal damage. The propellor, badly bent, suffered most. Young and Dawkins were thankful for

their safety and proud they had executed a text-book landing. They also learned to appreciate the life-saving role of their safety harnesses.

As regulations required, Dawkins stood by the aircraft while Young went to a nearby farm house to find a phone. The occupants readily permitted him to use their wall crank phone with its party line to call back to the base to explain the situation. Meanwhile other Harvards did low level passes over the accident site to check for injuries and radio back to headquarters.

Young and Dawkins stayed with the downed Harvard until a base vehicle arrived to return them to the airfield. A security group to guard the site and an engineering group to ascertain the cause of the power failure



remained until the machine was moved out. The major concern was that there might be a fuel leak which could lead to a fire. The wings of the Harvard were detached and the whole aircraft was loaded onto an air-force truck which transported it, via the ferry, back to the base for repairs.

At the base an intense and comprehensive inspection quickly took place and it was ascertained that the power had failed because a cylinder rocker arm in the engine had proven to be defective. This was reported to Young by the Chief Engineering Officer in the Officers' Mess at lunch-time on the same day. That afternoon Bob Young, cleared of any responsibility for the forced landing and praised for responding "by the book," was back to business as usual. He flew with two other students before he called it a day.

Harvard 3310, only slightly damaged, was quickly repaired and was soon ready to fly again. And Bob Young has not forgotten his unique arrival on Amherst Island 58 years ago.

MORE ON THE ABOVE

- Ian Murray

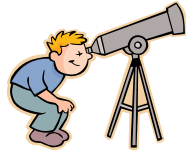
I asked Clinton Kilpatrick if he could remember this incident and he said he remembered 3 planes coming down during the war (and there could have been more). A Harvard landed in Avery Brown's field and flew out again after the engine was repaired. Another Harvard



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came down at Art Drumgoole's. A "ferry-battle" which was a plane that towed a target for other planes to shoot at came down on the South Shore near where Janet Scott lives.

Clinton said that there were targets in the lake that were used for bomb practice. The bombs weren't armed and several years after the war, Clinton remembers, Francis and Howard Welbanks used a grappling hook to haul the bombs up and sold the lead from them.



COLUMBIA

- Lyn Fleming

The first of February saw the sudden and tragic end to the space shuttle Columbia and it's crew, just 15 minutes from home. I have to admit, that despite my father's love of anything aeronautical, I have never had much interest in space exploration (or flying!). However, from the 1st time I saw an Apollo launch from the shores of the Banana River, I was hooked on the launches and returns of each ship. 17 years ago, we had just moved back to Florida and had been to the coast to see our 1st shuttle launch, and two weeks later waited, after several delays to see our 2nd. Unfortunately, it was the Challenger we watched on it's fatal last launch. We still remember watching the contrails from the shuttle explosion slowly dissipating late in the afternoon in the cool, calm, blue Florida sky. Every time you looked out the window, you were reminded that it was real!

It was 2 years before another shuttle launched. I always thought that re-entry was the easy part, and maybe it was, compared to a launch. (It amazes me that there is virtually no way of repairing damage to the underside of a shuttle while in space!). The loss of the Columbia was just as shocking and unbelievable. The

noise and sight of a shuttle lifting off is thrilling and amazing, but so is the sound of the sonic booms and a glimpse as the shuttle passes over, speeding to a landing at the Cape. Whether we support the space program or not, we have to admire and respect these "explorers". *****



FINE WINES FROM AMHERST ISLAND? - IT COULD BE IN YOUR FUTURE!

- Dayle Gowan

Grape growing and wine-making have recently taken off in Prince Edward County, and now a Lennox & Addington winegrowers group is being formed.

The Prince Edward County Winegrowers Association (PECWA) has been lobbying to have the region designated as a Designated Viticulture Area (DVA), and an application for this designation is underway.

Charles Wicks, Business Development Adviser for the Prince Edward/Lennox Addington Community Futures Development Corporation sent me some background information and an update on what is currently underway. The following is from his email.

"The local area wine industry began several years ago when Grant Howes and Ed Neuser planted some vines and began experimenting to see which varieties were most likely to weather the local climate. Ed planted in Waupoos in PEC while Grant had some land in Adolphustown. The PEC industry has grown relatively quickly because it is an easily identified area. In PEC there are now 32 vine growers and 3 wine producers, with a total of about 430 acres under cultivation. The industry has taken off. The climate is similar to Niagara but a little cooler in the winter so people are still experimenting with varieties as well as planting and harvest-

ing methods. The first wine grown and produced in PEC was sold last year by the Waupoos Winery. The climate and terroir in the Adolphustown area is similar to PEC. i.e. south facing and sloping towards the water with temperatures moderated by Lake Ontario. Therefore it was a natural fit for prospective vine growers to consider this area for a possible investment. To date there is no processing facility but there are plans for these to be in place within the next 2-3 years. As it takes 5- 7

years to plant vines, grow them, harvest them and process the grapes to a suitable maturity the time scales for a local processing facility are quite in line. The new L&A winegrowers group consists of 9 actual or potential vineyard operators (including yourself, Dayle) and more interest is being shown annually. We see this industry as an important economic driver and we want it to be an industry integrated with the tourism and hospitality sectors to leverage, one from the other, the impetus that we are already seeing in PEC. There is

a local industry association, Prince Edward County Winegrowers Association, which has, over the past 3 years done a tremendous amount of good work in holding workshops/seminars, making the case to provincial government bodies, and designating a Designated Viticulture Area . Our local growers are members of this association and have been able to work harmoniously to the benefit of the L&A area. Consequently we are included in the proposed DVA which will run from County Roads #21 & #8, westwards to Brighton with the northern boundary being the south side of Hwy #2.

Of course all of Amherst Island is also included. I would strongly recommend that you attend future meetings of both PECWA (which is currently the driving force), and our own L&A group.”

Upcoming events and website information:

- Starting a Vineyard seminar, Friday, March 7 @ Ross Street, Picton, 8.30 - 4.00pm, contact: “webmaster@pecwa.org” for further info; contact “www.thecounty.ca/wine”, click on starting a vineyard.

- if anyone would like to have their name added to the email list for the L&A Winegrowers Group, please contact Charles Wicks, e-mail: “cw@pelacfdc.ca”

branches, from the weight of ice, and a lot more are bent right over, and the Road Crew have been out clearing up branches. The electricity on the Island survived, though I hear parts of Wolfe Island were not so lucky. A large branch did take down the line between the pole and our grey barn, but the power stayed on. Tom came and we helped him string it up again, after Ian had severely trimmed up the offending tree.



On the Front road, west of Stella at Wright Bay, 1947 or 48

Every morning I take our Border Collie pup out for a walk down the road. She has been having great fun finding out where the foxes have crossed the road during the night. Sometimes the smell of them is very strong, and I have seen a pair several times running along a fence-row. From the remains that the pup finds they seem to be thinning out the rabbit population this winter. The voles may be buried too deep under the snow and ice for them to catch . There have been a lot of coyotes moving around as well, probably finding their territories for the spring. This morning, Feb 28, I saw one of our guard dogs put a coyote out of one of our sheep wintering areas.

The sheep survived the ice storm very well, though they do rattle a bit as they walk. The ice stays on the surface of their fleece and they are quite dry underneath. With March coming we should get some warmer days, and the ice should melt off. There may be quite a mess as all the snow goes.

Unfortunately there have been a few side effects from the ice. A lot of trees have lost



A LETTER HOME

- Chris Kennedy

It is the end of February, and I think that we have had one day since Christmas when the temperature went above freezing, and that day it rained all day. Shirley said that we are having an old fashioned winter, and it really feels like one. Most remarkable though was the freezing rain last week-end. By Monday every twig on every tree was covered by an inch of ice, as well as all the roofs and cars. The trees looked as if they were made out of glass, and glowed when the evening sunlight shone through them. It has stayed cold all week, with very little wind, so the fairy-land show has lasted. Don has been taking his camera with him everywhere.

Unfortunately there have been a few side effects from the ice. A lot of trees have lost

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

- Ian Murray

We at Topsy Farms have never had a significant problem with the assessments on our real estate property; that which seemed a bit high was usually balanced by that which seemed a bit low. We realize that municipal services have to be covered by municipal taxation and we have no objection to paying our fair share.

However, when we got an assessment that was twice as much as before on 50 land-locked acres - no road frontage and no right-of-way - it was time to seriously query the new assessment. I made a phone call on the 800 number a few days into the new year. Today, Feb 28, I got a response from Art Merrill of the local assessment office. Mr. Merrill apologized for the delay in contacting me but he said they have over 1000 complaints to deal with and only 4 people on staff.

He advised me to file an appeal by filling out the requisite form and sending in \$50. The money will be returned if the appeal is successful or the local office are able to reconsider the assessment and we withdraw our appeal.

Part of our appeal, and we are considering appealing on 4 different farm properties, will be that farmland should be evaluated as farmland and not as a very large building lot or as recreational property as we think that this has affected the assessment of land classified as farmland. Considering that we rent considerable land for an amount not far off the property tax paid by the owner, it could be argued that this land is worth very little when actually valued as farmland.

THANK YOU NOTES

My many thanks to all who called, send cards and gifts, and especially your prayers during my recent illness. I feel I now have my life back. God bless you all.

Audrey Miller

CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONS

- Ian Murray

Issue 300: the truck on the front page may have belonged to Max Beaubien; and, Leslie John Wemp's mother's name was Emily Hollywood not Emily Howe.



OPEN MEETING OF THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Wed. March 19 at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church Hall.

Topic: Strategies to Maximize Memory
Speaker: Dr. Wendy Kilik, behavioural psychologist

Everybody welcome - male and female.

Arts at the Lodge on Amherst Island

Gardening with Giant Perennials, with Marion Moore and Bill Roff



May 2nd - 4th, 2003 Friday through Sunday, an evening, two days & two follow up days, one in high summer, one in late October. Class limit is 10 students

The Plants: Giant perennials can bring drama to any garden, large or small. Using them simplifies maintenance - you need fewer plants and weeds fade into insignificance beside them.

The Workshop: - Friday evening - slides and information on growing perennials in the garden. Light refreshments.

- Saturday - Plant a Perennial border. Instruction on how to choose, place and plant perennials. Discussion on how the border fits into the garden as a whole and how the border is maintained.

- Sunday - make two more plantings. Instruction on how to plant in rough grass and how to prepare a planting bed from scratch. Discussion on how to choose plants for a specific site or purpose.

- The Summer Visit - How are the plants doing? Instruction on maintenance and discussion on the maturing of plants.

- The Fall Visit - Preparing the plants for the first winter. Instruction on what needs to be done now and what is best left until Spring.

Accommodation: The Lodge facilities offer bright, generous rooms on a double occupancy basis. There are no private rooms or ensuite baths.

Fees include instruction, two nights accommodation, all meals and snacks from Friday night supper to tea on Sunday afternoon and your Ferry ticket. It also includes lunch on each follow up day.

Registration: By April 18th

Contact **Molly Stroyman 416-533-5997**

ms@mollystroyman.com

MUSIC ON AMHERST ISLAND



The WaterSide Summer Series announces its 2003 Tenth Anniversary Concerts Highlight of the season will be the July 17 appearance of International piano star Anton Kuerti with cellist Kristine Bogyo.

Now is the time to mark your calendar for these 2003 WaterSide Summer Series concerts, all of which begin at 7.30 p.m.

June 21, Saturday: Gloria Saarinén, piano at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

July 5, Saturday: Bruce Kelly, baritone and Dina Namer, piano at St. Paul's

July 17, Thursday: Anton Kuerti, piano and Kristine Bogyo, cello at St. Paul's

August 2, Saturday: Deirdre Piper, organ at St. Alban's Anglican Church

August 23, Saturday: Night Sun, 5 players and singers of Folk Music at St. Paul's.

--Tickets are \$14, except for the July 17th concert which are \$25. Reservations can be made by telephoning the Waterside Ticket Line at (613) 384-2153 after April 1 2003.

All tickets can be picked up on the day of the performance after 6:30 p.m. Those not picked up by 7:15 pm may be sold to others.**

The Series was first presented in 1994 as a fund raiser for St. Alan's Church. Now a community based volunteer activity, WaterSide offers quality music entertainment in the friendly rural setting of Amherst Island at both St. Alban's and St. Paul's churches. For more information visit us at "www.AmherstIsland.on.ca"

Those interested in participating in Waterside as performers or volunteers should contact Inka Brockhausen, Artistic Director. Email "Inka.JSBach@sympatico.ca". Telephone (613) 389-3525

GEOGRAPHICALLY BI-POLAR

A Sneak Preview of Deborah Kimmett's One Woman Show, Saturday March 22, 2003, 8pm.

Deborah will read from her new one woman show. Light refreshments to follow. Advance Tickets \$5.00. Available @ The Victoria Hall Crafts and Tea Room.

For enquiries: Call 389-5389

