

# The Amherst Island BEACON

Newsstand  
\$2.00

Issue 315

[www.amherstisland.on.ca](http://www.amherstisland.on.ca)

May 2004



## THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

Congratulations go to the W. I. for their latest Directory. I use it often while working on the Beacon and so do those who proof each issue. We assume all the information in this Directory is correct - please let us know if you see any errors.

\*\*\*

Another reference tool that I often use is Google - the internet search engine. I must have googled a dozen times for this issue. The Britannica and the OED are both within arm's reach but are seldom looked at anymore.

\*\*\*

Photo up-dates:

1) Issue 310, December, page 14. Mary MacGillvary pointed out 2 corrections to the school photo: to the right of Edwin Hogeboom is his twin sister Isabelle (who married Morrison Scott) and to the left of Edwin is Edna Cork (whose married name was Edna Hefford).

Mary Cork MacGillvary is in the front row on the far right. She mentioned that the pinafores worn by herself and several other girls came from a pattern sent back east from an Island girl who went west to teach.

2) Issue 314, April, page 11. Four people phoned and one person e-mailed and all agreed that from left to right the men are: Francis Welbanks, Ray Smith and George Bilkey. It appears that the photo was taken sometime in the 1930's and that the sturgeon was a big one and worth a lot of money. Ray Smith lived on the farm where Gord Forbes and Bonnie Livingston now live. George Bilkey was Helen Jones' father - "a short



***The General Store in Emerald, April 20, 1932. Madeline Glenn in the carriage, Arthur Kilpatrick & Estel Strain on the porch. The pony belonged to the Tugwells and was named "Dainty" as it had a particularly good step pattern for use on thin ice.***

stocky man of immense strength".

The Fishing Village was a fascinating place to live back when it was possible to make a living from fishing. I hope that the Beacon gets a chance to publish more photos and stories from that area of the Island.

\*\*\*

To those who take trouble to make their ads and notices look good by putting extra effort into the formatting - bold, italics, interesting fonts, different size letter-

ing and so on - please don't. You are wasting your time and mine as Tom needs unformatted copy so I have to put everything into Times New Roman 12 as well as removing all formatting.

Also when you mention a time for whatever reason, please do not include "2004" unless there is any chance of misunderstanding. It should be clear that a notice referring to an upcoming event is unlikely to occur in 2005 or later.

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to Barb Reid, Bea Wemp, Ralph Wemp and Ann Turner. Continued good health wishes to Sally Bowen, Syke Fleming, Faye Wemp, Lillian Miller, & Phyllis Henderson.

Our sympathy to Guido and Jeanie Visitin on the sudden death of Guido's son Dan. Danny worked with Guido for many years at Capri Pizza. Sympathy also to Ann Turner, who lost her mom, Edith McLellan, as well. Mrs. McLellan has lived with Bob and Ann here on the Island for quite some time.

Condolences to Judy Miller and family following the passing of her brother.

Congratulations to Dave Willard and Laurie McEwen on the birth of their son, Ronan David, who arrived over Easter weekend. Ronan is another grandson for Wilbert and Gayle Willard.

Congratulations to Eric and Janice McGinn, who celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary with a trip to Myrtle Beach. Best wishes also to Wilbert

**Continued on page 2**



## The Amherst Island Beacon

Issue 315

May 2004

Published monthly, The Beacon is wholly funded by paid subscriptions and by copies sold at the A.I. General Store.

### Subscription rates:

Canada \$30/yr  
USA \$35/yr  
Overseas:  
contact us!  
May printing:  
325 copies.

### Subscriptions & Editorial:

Headlands Co-op  
14775 Front Rd  
Stella, Ontario  
K0H 2S0  
Voice & Fax:  
(613) 389-3802  
E-mail:  
topsyfarms@  
on.aibn.com

### Layout:

Tom Richmond  
tantonn@  
kingston.net

### Deadline for all submissions:

25th of each month!

### Printed by:

Lori & the crew  
at: Kwik Kopy  
Printing, 655  
Arlington Park Pl.  
Kingston, Ont.  
(613) 634-1311

### Credits:

CorelOffice 2000  
PageMaker 7.0.1  
PhotoShop 6.0  
Acrobat 5.05  
Family Tree Maker 9.0

### Photos by:

DT: Don Tubb  
TR: Tom R.  
CK: Chris Kennedy  
JH: Judith Harrower  
TC: Terry Culbert  
BL: Brian Little  
...others as noted.

## ~Passings~

### TERENCE LAVERTY

- Ian Murray

Island friends were sorry to learn of Terence's death on the Easter Weekend, apparently from a virus that affected his heart.

Terence spent many summers at his family's residence at the south end of the Emerald 40'. He was an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Western Ontario. His research focussed on the "coevolution of floral traits (flower design, colour, scent, shape, symmetry, rewards) and pollinator behaviour." Terence was also interested in the "systematics and biogeography of bumble bees, bumble bees as pollinators of greenhouse crops, and conservation of native pollinators in urban/agricultural landscapes."

I got to know Terence a bit when I helped do some renovations for him in the late 70's or early 80's. He was conducting research on bumble bees at that time and one could often see his little tents in fields beside the Emerald 40'.

I found Terence to be a modest, friendly man with a good sense of humour. His family must be greatly saddened by his passing.

\*\*\*\*\*

Terence Laverty (1952-2004) - Thomas Sylvester  
We've got 11 of North America's 13 species of Bumblebees right here on Amherst Island and we know it because of Islander Professor Terence Laverty, Department of Biology, University of Western Ontario, who died April 12. He was 52.

Terence, a.k.a. the bumblebeeologist, developed the Laverty orchard at the south end of the Emerald Forty Foot into a field research station circa 1980. His clandestine activities required entire weeks spent inside tents with bees, monitoring sugar levels in nectar and walking Charlie Howard's woods. He was our authority on the Island forest.

Terence had more success than most in planting a forest. The entire mixed woods to the east of their house was his garden. He was less successful stabilizing the esker shoreline that the same house teeters on. While his exertions over the decades strengthened him physically and mentally, one storm erased his efforts temporarily.

Terence persisted through postdoc fellowships to land a professorship at the University of Western Ontario in 1986. His research visits to the Island became fewer and more hectic. Terence was in mid career and fondly looked forward to more time for everything. He sincerely accepted he had a time-share with a family of raccoons.

We cherished his brief visits in his over packed station wagons with his wife Andrea Purvis and children David and Anne. Terence loved what he did and loved the Island.

## Continued from page 1

& Gayle Willard who celebrated their 50th anniversary at an Open House held at the Tea Room.

Joyce Reid recently returned from a trip to Florida.

Lynanne and Ben Whitton spent a week skiing in Banff. Ben, I hear, has become quite an accomplished "snowboarder". Meanwhile, Jim Whitton headed for warmer weather, spending the week in Arizona visiting his daughter and playing golf!

Adam and Barb Miller traveled to B.C. in mid April for a belated honeymoon as well as to visit family and friends.

In the small world department, Bobbi and Michael Shaw, visiting Portugal, ran into Hugh and Claire Jenney while enjoying a boisterous carnival celebration in the hill town of Loule. Both couples were staying in different parts of the Algarve region of the country, were aware of each other's presence, but had yet to make contact. On returning from warmth to winter, the Shaws drove south to spend a few days with some other Islanders, Bill and Bev Harris, at St. Simon's Island, Georgia, before heading to Sarasota for yet more calls on friends.

The Rec Association's weekly Community Euchre nights ended the season with their final night of cards this month. Prizes were awarded for the highest accumulated scores (as well as the lowest!). Everyone seems to have enjoyed the weekly games of cards over the winter.

A.I.R. (Amherst Island Radio) held a public information meeting, signed up over 30 members and elected directors in late April. Although there seems to be interest, even if all goes smoothly with applications and equipment, it could be a year + before the radio station becomes a reality.

The A.I.P.S. Senior Class held another successful movie night in April with a great turnout of family and community! With popcorn and a variety of treats available at the canteen, who needs to go to Kingston for a show. Two more movie nights are planned for April and May.

The snow and ice are gone, and we have had a few teaser days of mild weather - when it usually rains or blows! Hopefully the May flowers will soon be up along with the temperatures. Welcome back to our Cottagers and Summer People who are starting to return.

There are new calves and baby foxes in the fields and we are waiting to spot lambs, fawns and goslings as a sure sign that Spring is here! Soon we will be grumbling about the heat and humidity and the vicious circle will begin again!

**AHH, SPRING !**

An exercise in mathematics.

-Tom Richmond

I left the village last Sunday morning, heading for the South Shore. As it had rained hard all the night before, I had a relatively clean van, and a clean windshield. In the seven minutes it took me to reach my destination, I passed through what was nearly a continuous stream of bugs. You know the little critters, they show up around May first each year, and mostly disappear by the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, hanging around lined up in the middle of the road and on the non-windy side of your house or car.

By the time I arrived, I had a relatively uniform coating of bugs on the front of my vehicle (Fig 1 & 2). I measured a random spot and counted about 30 bug spots in a one inch square. My van windshield is nearly vertical and roughly 2 feet high by 6 feet wide, or 1440 square inches of surface area. That makes 43,200 bugs on my windshield, at a rate of 6,172 bugs per minute, or 103 bugs per second in a seven minute drive.

If each bug weighed a hundredth of a gram, then I picked up a HALF-KILOGRAM of bugs, or roughly one pound of bugs, in my seven minute drive. If I con-

tinued to drive, adding bugs at that rate, I would have picked up 3.7 KILOGRAMS of bugs per hour on my windshield alone (How long would it take to exceed my vehicle weight capacity, or at least blow out the tires, at that rate?... Hmmm...)

Now...the thought occurred to me that, if you were driving a motorcycle and your mouth was 2 inches across when open, that would be an area of roughly 6 square inches. No... I'll stop. I'll let YOU do the math. Ughhh!

\*\*\*\*\*

**WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

- Leslie Gavlas

The regular monthly meeting was held at the home of Joyce Haines on April 22 at 7 p.m., with 11 members present.

The President called the meeting to order with the Ode, Collect and O Canada. After the Minutes and Treasurer's report, the only Standing Committee report available was the Tweedsmuir.

On Saturday April 24, a Tweedsmuir workshop will be held at the MacPherson House in Napanee at 10 a.m., followed by a Tea in the afternoon. Lesley Gavlas, Tweedsmuir Curator will attend. Mary Kay Steele and Diane Hieatt agreed to provide the cookies and squares requested by the organizing committee.

The President advised the group that further responsibility for the school dishwasher has been transferred to Pat Beyers of Loyalist Township. The cost of the dishwasher, \$3700, has been obtained, and the ownership will be in the hands of the new Recreation Committee.

Nancy Henshaw reported that the new phone directories are now available.

The President advised that a meeting for the Stone Fence Committee has been arranged with Bill Hedges on May 6 to make further plans for the repair

of the Pentland Cemetery fence.

Thanks were given to Mary Kay Steele and Nancy Henshaw for the beautiful new banner they prepared, and for the repair of the old one. Both are now available for use.

Diane Hieatt volunteered to be responsible for co-ordinating the W. I. table for the summer market Saturdays.

Elsie Willard presented an example of the "Angels for AIDS" which are being made and sold to raise funds for children in Africa whose lives have been severely impacted by this disease. A local group, Carol Finlay, Kirsten Bennick, and Claire Jenney are considering undertaking this project. The W.I. agreed to be helpful should the group form.

Nancy Henshaw, Leslie Gavlas and Joyce Haines agreed to help by counting funds for the "Jump Rope for Health" at the school on June 7, while Elsie, Anna and Freda will bake goodies for the children. The W. I. will buy juice for the occasion.

A Training Course for school grounds transformation is being planned at the Desert Lake resort on May 15. A local group is involved, and Joyce Haines, and other W. I. volunteers will also join the group.

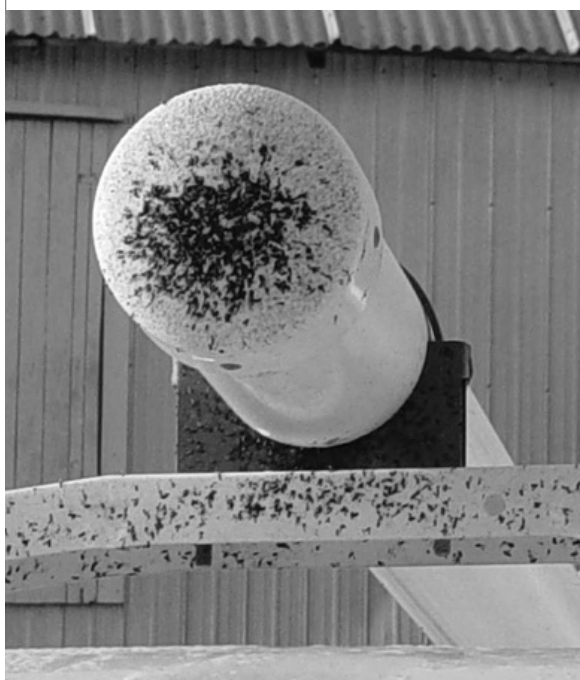
Joyce Haines gave a report on the District Meeting. Our branch has provided a very large portion of the Pennies for Friendship raised by the District.

The Annual Meeting will be on May 19 at Selby, and we are asked to thank the Speaker at the meeting and provide a prize. September 11 will be the District's annual 'market day' and it is our turn to provide SOS with \$75.

The District plans to give a special ROSE program in the fall, with assistance from all branches.

Leslie agreed to attend the Historical Association meeting in Napanee June 8.

The meeting closed with The Queen and was followed by our Annual Meeting. The New Executive - President, Mary Kay Steele; Vice President, Jackie Sylvester; Past President, Joyce Haines; Secretary, Nancy Henshaw; Treasurer, Freda Youell; and, Standing Committee members - were sworn in by the Chair-



Close-up detail showing bug-density on a tube mounted on the roof of the van TR



man, Anna Hitchens.

The evening concluded with a brown bag auction and a delicious lunch.

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEWS FROM



### AMHERST ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL

- Lyn Fleming

Public Speaking took place in April, with 17 students presenting speeches to family and guests. Congratulations to the successful speakers - the judges had a difficult job picking the top 3 in all 3 levels. Thanks to Rev. Faun Harriman, Peter Trueman, and Superintendent Dave Wyatt for taking on the task of judging. 1st place speaker in the Intermediate division, Caitlin McDonald, and 1st place speaker in the Junior division, Daniel Little, will go on to participate in the area Speakers Festival at Bath P.S. Good Luck!!

Senior Class fund raising for the year

end trip to Toronto for 3 days in June has been very successful. The class would like to thank everyone who has supported their trip!

A reminder to all that the next movie nights will be May 14th (suitable for families) and June 11th (suitable for older audiences).

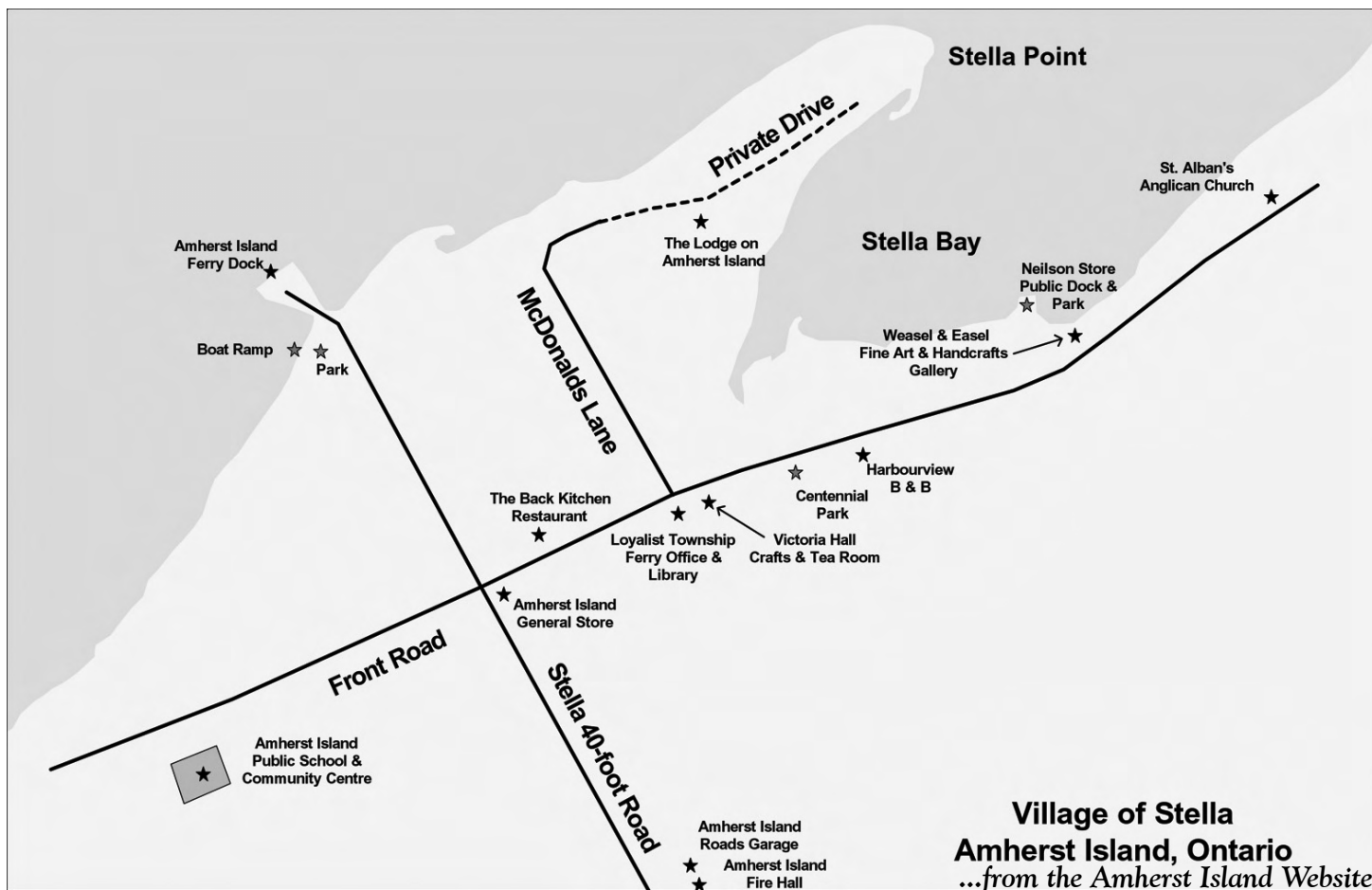
ISLE has ordered Amherst Island hats that will be on sale soon in the community.

Staff and students have enjoyed having 2 more teachers candidates again this semester, and understand that they have enjoyed the experience of teaching in multi-grade classrooms as well as the unique setting at A.I.P.S. Our 2 candidates from the fall semester have kept in touch and still visit when they can. We wish them all well in their future teaching positions!

A.I.P.S. Educational Assistant, Margo Virtue, was honoured at the April 14th School Board Meeting, along with other recipients, with an Outstanding Service Award.

Please mark your calendars now for this year's school play. "The Jungle Book" will be presented on May 27 at 7:00 p.m. Admission will be a donation at the door. ISLE will hold a raffle and provide refreshments following the play.

The Staff at A.I.P.S. would like to congratulate the students in Kindergarten to grade 8 who took part in the KFL&A Health Unit's "TV Turnoff Challenge". 71% of the students at the school shut off televisions, video games and computers for one week in March and played outside, went for walks and just got back in touch with their families. The prize for the school with the highest percentage of participants would win a visit from a K-ROCK radio "morning D.J." and a free pizza lunch. Unfortunately, although the staff promoted the TV turnoff challenge, and parents supported it and everyone played by the rules, when the numbers were in, the Health Unit changed the rules and decided that Amherst Island Public School was too small to be included in the contest as it



wouldn't be fair to other schools. The kids did a great job and took the "no TV" quite seriously, so of course were disappointed - but they will carry on as usual, proud to be A.I.P.S. students!! Way to go kids!

\*\*\*\*\*

### JANET'S JOTTINGS:

#### The Sights and Sounds of Spring

- Janet Scott



Everywhere you travel on the Island this time of year you will be bombarded with the sights and sounds of Spring. In the evening the air is filled with the peeping of frogs from the sloughs and dug-outs and along the marshes. In late evening you can see the herons stalking these tasty morsels.

The Great Horned Owls that nested in February have successfully raised their broods and you may come across one as you walk in the woods. The babies are not good flyers and are as big as an adult but are fluffier and lighter in the face.

Rebecca Scott reports seeing a mother owl and two young ones on Stella Point, April 26th. It would appear that the pair at Madeline Glenn's have once again been able to raise a brood in the hustle and bustle of downtown Stella.

Great Horned Owls, although our most common owl in these parts, are quite secretive and hunt at night. You don't expect to see a raptor of this size living in the village but they must find sufficient food in the village area to raise a brood.

Great Horned Owls mate for life so this pair must be getting on as Raymond Wemp has been observing their nestings for the past decade. LW Walker reports in his book, *The Book of Owls* that he observed a male Great Horned deliver to the nest during a 7 day period while watching four hours a night, a total of 17 rabbits, 10 gophers, 6 small rodents, 1 skunk and 1 ground squirrel. Raising babies is a lot of work.

There was still a Rough-legged Hawk on the 2nd Concession when I drove the bus on Monday. You will note its dark wrist patches and white tail as it lifts



*Fox cubs living in the bales this April.*

*Karen J. Fleming photo*

from the tree. There seems to be an influx of Northern Harriers in the open fields on the Island. They hunt in a low sweeping pattern across the fields and both sexes display a prominent white flash on their rumps. The male is smaller than the female and a very pale grey with dark wing tips and a white belly. The larger female doesn't even look like the same hawk with

her all over brown barred back and buffier front. They will nest right on the ground and raise their broods in the hayfields and grassy pastures.

The American Kestrels are staking their claims to suitable territories. They are the smallest of the falcons and display red-orange tails, brown backs and the males have blue wings. They will nest in holes





*Slow motion house razing - South Shore (Editor: I believe this house used to belong to Caleb Tugwell & family)*

TR

and cavities either natural or man-made.

In the village there is no doubt that Captain Bulch's Martins have returned as you hear their loud twittering as they dive around the birdhouses seeking a comfortable condominium. Bill used to say that if they wanted a box that a Sparrow had already claimed they would oust them. Unfortunately the gentler Tree Sparrows that live as single family units in holes are sometimes killed by House Sparrows right in their nesting boxes as demand for suitable housing makes for more aggression.

This is the time of year that I get asked about snakes. As reference I have a copy of *The Snakes Of Ontario* by E.B.S. Logier. As the days warm our hibernating snakes come out seeking warm stones or sun-warmed sidewalks to warm themselves. Our most common snakes

here are Eastern Garter Snakes or The Eastern Ribbon Snakes. They both have dark olive or brown backs with three brilliant yellow stripes but the lateral stripe on the Ribbon Snake is the third and fourth scale rows while on the Garter it is the second and third rows.

They come in a wide variety of shades and especially this time of year appear quite dark. They keep their eggs within themselves so their young will be born live in August with as many as 20 young although one reported Garter Snake produced 78 in a litter. They eat earthworms, small fish and amphibians. Occasionally they eat other snakes, small birds and mice. Ian wondered if they ate birds' eggs. I have heard this but so far haven't got written research to prove it nor have I observed it. Have any of our readers got the answer?

"The world would be a silent place if only the beautiful birds sang". Get ready for May and the wonderful choruses at dawn as our nesting birds court and greet. The Warblers, Orioles, Wrens and Towhees will return !

Good Birding,

\*\*\*\*\*

## COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

The Director of Engineering Services, Dave Thompson, indicated to Council "that a lot of the hardtop surfaces are being lost on Amherst Island due to deterioration and noted that they should be pulverized with gravel added and then repaved or surface treated. Traffic levels on the Island make many of these areas suitable for surface treatment."

\*\*\*

The amount of municipal taxation related material presented to Council is mind-boggling. If there's a Beacon reader who would volunteer to go through the documents and write something meaningful/understandable for the next issue - Amherst Island related information only - I would very much appreciate it. (I spent a lot of time in the last 3 months trying to figure how to change our farm accounting record keeping to satisfy the latest farm welfare program and I'm in no mood to deal with municipal finances. Municipal finances is a subject that can be included along with several others in the category: very boring but very important.)

\*\*\*

Council decided in a 4 to 3 vote to recommend that the Lafarge cement plant in Bath to hold another public meeting so that the members of the public can have another chance to consider Lafarge's plans to burn tires and other waste products in its kiln.

\*\*\*

Council decided: "That the Amherst Island ferry rates remain fixed for 2004," and "That the Director of Engineering Services provide a report to Council, in the fall 2004, that reviews costs and an analysis for the current rate structures and considers rate changes effective January 2005."

\*\*\*\*\*

### AMHERST ISLAND WEATHER STATION

Grade 5 & 6 students have been busy studying the weather as part of their Science Curriculum. They applied to the Y.A.C. Kickstart Mini Grants program with a proposal to build a "Stevenson Screen". 20 proposals were submitted and 9 were chosen, with A.I.P.S. being one. The class received a cheque for \$250.00 to build the weather station. With help from Mr. A. Glenn and teacher Mrs. Raeburn-Gibson the students built the weather station, which houses weather monitoring instruments such as a minimum/maximum thermometer, barometer, rain gauge, wind sock, pocket anemometer, sling psychrometer and a

liquid filled compass.

Students will monitor and collect data on local weather with hopes that this could lead to the site becoming an official weather station for Environment Canada.

The program will benefit the students at A.I.P.S. as well as students participating in the A.I. Science School program; community members wishing to access it and possible future sharing of conditions to a web site or Environment Canada, where Island visitors, birders and the public could check weather conditions ahead.

The weather station was officially put in service with the A.I.P.S. student body and staff present on April 29th. The next time you go by the school, take note of the small box on a post by the flag pole.

\*\*\*\*\*

### APRIL AIMS MEETING

- John Kuti

Alan Kidd chaired the meeting.

New Business:



### AMHERST ISLAND WEBSITE ANNUAL FUNDING APPEAL.

Each May, the "lease" for our internet website comes due. In the past we have seen the community support this service with donations to pay a portion of the website expenses. What you get for your money is a website that works well, provides current information on the community, and, for Island-based organizations and businesses, an inexpensive alternative for website hosting on the www.amherstisland.on.ca domain.

If you find the website useful, or have a business that advertises there, please take a moment to drop \$20 in an envelope to help us "pay the rent" for the upcoming year. If you have a website hosted there, if you could add about \$4 per page hosted to help cover storage space that would be a help. Until dona-

tions are received, the payments sit on someone's personal VISA card (not a pleasant experience) so please act now!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH from your website managers, Alex Scott & Tom Richmond.

Please address all mailed donations to: Rosemary Richmond, RRI, Stella, ON K0H2S0

## Community Support Potluck Dinner



at The Amherst Island  
Community Centre

Saturday May 15th, 5-8 PM

\*\*\*\*Dessert Auction 6:30 PM\*\*\*\*

Add your best creative dessert to the auction for a good cause!



### Raffle prizes:

Purchase tickets at the door & select the prize you want to be in the draw for.

Includes:

- 2 nights at the Lodge on Stella Point!
- electrical labour! -Lawn mowing!
- Luncheon at the Victoria Hall!
- Amherst Islander print! -Video rentals!
- Artwork!

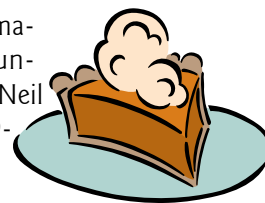
AND MORE! - call to add your item!

**All proceeds and cash donations to show our support for Diane and Michele, who lost their house on Front road to fire in early April.**

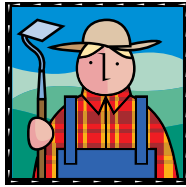
**Admission: Your Favourite Potluck Dish! (please heat hot foods at home & bring a serving utensil!)**

If you are unable to attend, donations can be made at: The A.I. General Store, The Victoria Hall Crafts & Tea Room, or through Lyn Fleming.

For further information, or to volunteer, please call Neil or Bernice at 389-5389



Bruce Burnett passed out maps for the Spring cleanup asking for volunteers to sign the accompanying list.



The chairman reported that ISLE wants to do next month's breakfast.

There were some discussion about the amount of money earned by breakfast volunteers. It was decided to raise the breakfast fee to 7 dollars.

The chairman reported that aims is donating \$500 for the dishwasher to assist the Women's Institute's fund-raising campaign.

It was also decided that \$750 be donated to assist in the purchase of a motorized handicap device for an Island resident.

Peter Large reported on the art and craft tour preparations: four to five stops outside of Stella; four centres in the village; and, 20 to 25 artists and craftspersons involved. Brochures, posters and contacts have been prepared. Passports for all the venues will be sold for five dollars. The event will take place on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The chairman reported that the farmers market will begin May 22<sup>nd</sup>. John Kuti suggested that members bring one good item to the next meeting for the Aims table inventory.

There was some discussion about whether AIMS could do a canvas of the Island offering to replace and check the batteries on smoke detectors. Members agreed that should be done.

Peter Moes then spoke about the French poet de la Fontaine and amused members using two fable poems in which animals were used to teach moral lessons to a vain and indulgent French court. It was very clear that criticizing the nobility and offering moral lessons had to be done in the most humorous and delicate way. It was with such delicate humour that AIMS members received the same lessons. Members rose with a greater understanding of the nature of vanity and the foibles of foxes and crows.

\*\*\*\*\*

## COMMEMORATION OF CANADA'S D-DAY LANDING

- Leslie Gavlas

Canadian troops, 21,000 strong, landed at Courselle-sur-Mer on June 6, 1944. A survivor of the landing, retired general Richard Rohmer, chairs the federal government advisory committee preparing for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary D-Day ceremony at the Juno Beach Centre Memorial. Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, will be attending the ceremony.

In this respect, I thought it would be appropriate to print the attached clipping from the Napanee Express of Jan. 12, 1941, in commemoration of the wartime work of the Amherst Island Red Cross/Women's Institute in support of the soldiers. Some Island soldiers were among those who landed.

\*\*\*

## AMHERST ISLAND RED CROSS

The Amherst Island Red Cross Unit, which is affiliated with the Napanee Branch, has sent the following articles to Napanee during the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1940: 6 pairs wool blankets, 43 T-binders, 151 triangle bandages, 64 pairs of pyjamas, 43 hospital gowns, 5 ice bag covers, 6 pairs girls' panties, 54 towels, 18 st. binders, 150 handkerchiefs, 20 surgical gowns, 21 pillow cases, 1 quilt.

Besides this amount of sewing, on two different occasions during the year, a can-

vas was made for used clothing which was made over into garments for refugee children, and from this several large boxes of clothing, 3 quilts and pillows were sent overseas. Knitted articles completed during the year included: 442 pairs of socks (9 pairs donated), 17 pairs of mittens, 22 pairs wristlets, 13 scarves (1 donated), 16 sweaters, 1 pair rifle mitts, 1 helmet.

During the year from teas, entertainments and donations the sum of \$350.45 was raised of which \$226.20 was sent to Napanee to help buy materials. This did not include the money raised from two Red Cross campaigns, which both exceeded their objectives.

The Women's Institute also remembered 12 local boys who are in training with gift boxes at Christmas. The ladies are very pleased with the result of their year's work as the population of the Island is only about 500.

The ladies are very grateful to the Orangemen who gave them the use of the Orange Hall gratis for their meetings and to Mr. R. O'Connor for opening the hall and for carrying the parcels to and from the Island. All interested sewers and knitters will be welcomed to the meetings.

\*\*\*\*\*

Although Jim and Mary Neilson left Amherst Island in 1984 to move to Kingston, then to spend 12 years in Napanee



*Stella Point Continuation School (now the Lodge), many years ago.*





# INTERVIEW With JIM & MARY NEILSON



- Zander of DUNN INN

and finally to return to Kingston in 1997, they still have many connections with the Island.

Both grew up on Amherst Island. Mary, the only child of Alexander Glenn and Rose McMullen, was born on September 1, 1924, on the Third Concession in the house where Keith and Cora McGinn live today. (Before she was married Rose McMullen used to live in the house where Dave and Diane Hieatt now reside).

Jim was the first Amherst Island child to be born off the island in the Kingston General Hospital. He was born on January 5, 1931, the son of Fred Neilson and Nellie MacDonald. His mother had moved off the island months before her due date and stayed with relatives in Kingston so she could easily get to the hospital in time for his arrival. Jim's great grandfather, Mr. Billy MacDonald, lived in the house where Allen and Bonnie Caughey live today after it had served as an hotel. The MacDonalds always lived in Stella. That explains why the only lane on the Island (which runs past the Caughey house, down from Victoria Hall), is called MacDonald's Lane.

Sylvester MacDonald, Nellie's father, became a captain of one of the ships on the Great Lakes. Every winter he returned to the Island when ice prevented sailing on the lakes. There he enjoyed his holiday time. He had a great influence on many of the young men of the Island. He took a man like Had Marshall under his wing and served as his mentor as Had went on to be-

come a captain in the Great Lakes shipping industry.

Mary lived on the Third Concession until she was 16 years old, when her father moved her and her mother to Stella so he could work on the ferry. The ship he worked on was the old wooden one that went to Kingston twice a week. On Tuesdays and Fridays the ferry loaded cheese and left Stella about 9 a.m. It went to get cheese from the Emerald Cheese Factory, then back to Stella and then on to Kingston. Alexander Glenn worked up from deck hand to engineer. The ferry seldom took cars but often carried John Tugwell's livestock on deck. Sometimes the livestock would be off-loaded at Millhaven and he would herd them to Ernestown Rail Road Station for shipping from there.

Jim's father, Fred, and Fred's older brother, Rod, were the owners and op-

erators of Neilson's store, now being restored as a museum. The operation involved more than the store. The grist mill, the coal business and the gas pumps were all part of their holdings on the Island. The Neilson brothers influenced almost every part of the island in their day. If there was any division of labour it was that Rod looked after the books and the store and Fred was responsible for all that went on outside the store. People not only bought goods from them, they worked for the Neilsons as drivers, labourers and clerks. Rod and Fred chatted with all who visited their store. They gave good service and their word was highly respected.

Rod and Fred got involved in all manner of ways to help others. For years, before he lost his eye-sight, Rod was the treasurer of the Township. When he could no longer carry on, Fred took over



*Max Beaubien's Ice Cream Parlour many years ago, now the home of Caroline Ackerman*

from him. Fred composed wills; he drew up trust deeds; he even wrote letters for some people. When the Bank in Bath was robbed many Islanders put their money in The Neilsons' vault. Fred was also active in St. Alban's Anglican Church in Stella where he served as warden for many years. After his stint as treasurer of the Township he became reeve. Fred was told he should write a book. He replied he could not do that because he would not be able to put any names to the humorous and embarrassing stories he could tell about some of the characters on the Island.



*The school on the Third Concession, where Paul and Carol Glenn's home is now.*

Neilson's store had everything any Islander could want. There was a section for hardware, another section for dry goods and another section for food. Islanders not only purchased tools, machinery parts, bolts of materials, and underwear, they also picked up their work clothes and overalls along with their groceries from Neilson's store. It was truly a one stop shopping experience.

Although Jim grew up within this wide-ranging business and had to take his turn at working in the store, he never enjoyed serving behind the counter. He much preferred working in the grist mill. The family always lived in Stella - at first across from the store, then in the house where Doug Shurtliffe and Helen Trotter live today. They later moved back to be closer to the store, living in the house where Caroline Yull now lives.

Both Mary and Jim contend they enjoyed a rather uneventful school life. Mary, being an only child, spent most of her waking hours up at the home of Eddy Wemp. She played with Chris (Filson), Hugh, Ben (now dead), Marg (Bailey) (now dead), Grace (Bailey) and Nina (Churchill) - all of whom were her cousins.

She had a wonderful time with them all. By the time she was five years old Mary felt she was ready to go to school even though she would not normally be allowed to begin classes until she was six. She begged her mother to let her go to school with her older friends and cousins. Her mother relented and allowed her to begin at the age of five. But her first day at school was not what she had imagined it would be. She was dismayed when the teacher yelled at Mary Wemp. That was enough to convince Mary she did not need to begin school for another year.

When she began attending No. 5 public school on the Third Concession (where Paul and Carol Glenn live today) at the age of six her teachers were Gordon Osborne (who boarded with The Caugheys who lived next to the school) and Ellen (Nellie) Woods who later became Mrs. Had Marshall.

Jim started at No. 1 school, a brick building on the Front Road where Mrs. Maud lives today, and went for a couple of years to No. 3 school which was a clapboard building located across from the road to the dump on Front Road. He re-

members two special teachers - Edith Scott and Evelyn Cronkite. Jim never much liked school. He says his favourite subjects were holidays and recess.

When the new consolidated school was built in 1946 Jim attended from January to June in grade 12. After that he left schooling behind when he went into farming. Mary Glenn, who was Roman Catholic, married Harris Filson of The United Church, which raised some eyebrows in those days. Mary went with her husband to The United Church. Then one day in 1955, Harris, out hunting with Les Glenn and Francis Welbanks, was killed accidentally.

Mary, left with two children to raise, sold the farm she and Harris were running and moved to Stella. She got a job with the C.I.L. on the mainland at which she worked for quite a while until she got another job working for Jim's father in Neilson's store.

Mary enjoyed the work and especially working with Maurice Hogeboom, Fred's right hand man, whom she called "a lovely man." He was also Jim's saviour. When Jim was a small boy he fell into the water while playing on the raft which

was used to paint the ferry. Maurice dived in, rescued him from drowning and brought him to safety.

It was while they both worked around the store that Jim and Mary became friendly and decided to marry. They were married on August 14, 1956 in an Anglican Church rectory in Kingston on what they remember as the "hottest day in God's creation - a terrible day."

Because at that time Fred owned all of Stella Point, Jim and Mary lived in a cottage there for a while. Later they bought the farm where Larry and Lyn Fleming now live from Jim's father. When they took over the farm the house was in horrible shape. They worked hard to make the place habitable. After they got things the way they wanted them they lived there for 25 years.

They were good farmers. They had the best milk-producing herd of Holsteins in the county one year. Jim can remember how the milk tester would come around once a month to test the milk. Their son Fred, who grew up on the farm, became the first manager of the Quinte Pasture in 1979.

Jim got into agricultural politics. He was recruited by Garnet MacDonald into The Holstein Association and before long Jim became the President. He also served for six years as reeve of Amherst Island from 1976 to 1982. He especially enjoyed the work on County Council. Jim remembers the good relations he had with the other members of Council. He speaks highly of the good things their M.P.P., Syl Apps, did for the Island. He also thought highly of Flora MacDonald.

As for Island life, Mary and Jim remember the dances, the dinners, the ice crossings. Jim always

tried to cross with Art Drumgoole who knew the ice well. But he was chagrined when Art told him to go ahead of him and the horse-drawn sleigh, with a pole to test the ice. Jim remembers one time when he and Art were walking across the ice when Art's foot went right through. That was enough to startle them both. Jim also remembers how his mother and his aunt Nessie MacDonald used to cross the ice. They tied themselves together with a big rope and kept the rope taut by walking far apart. Mary remembers her father, Alex Glenn, who was born in 1899, sending away to New York city for a course that taught him how to read and play music. He learned to play the violin and joined his sister, Tina, who played the piano. They would often play together for sing-songs and dances. Later they were joined by Sterling Glenn and then even later by Sterling's younger brother, Les. If one of the Glenns went to Kingston new music was purchased and brought home so they all learned the piece together. The Glenn Orchestra, as they became known, in some form or another entertained for many years on Amherst Island.

The dances and box socials at Victoria

Hall, at which The Glenn Orchestra frequently played, were always a highlight of Island life. Mary remembers that her grandfather, John Glenn, would call the square dances. Whole families would go to the dances. When the children got tired they went upstairs and lay on the coats stacked there and were lulled to sleep by the hot air and the good music. The only problem with most of the dances was that the women would socialize inside and the men met outside. The men often got into the booze and fights would break out.

The same men often met in the back of Neilson's store. These characters loved to chat and tell yarns. Usually they behaved themselves in the store. But Jim remembers a group of young men who used to hang around Max Beaubien's Ice Cream Parlor near where the Back Kitchen stands today. They stayed so late one night that finally Max said to them, "If you fellows don't know when to go home, I know when to go to bed." And with that, he turned out the light and retired for the night.

Both Jim and Mary smile when they remember the neighborliness of the Is-



*Can anyone identify these two men with a fire and two boiling pots- possibly doing some rendering, maple sugaring or making soap?*



land. Everybody knew everybody else's business, often by listening in on the party lines on the telephone system. As Jim put it, "Everybody knew your menu for breakfast. But if your back was to the wall those same people would have done anything to help you."

One example of helpfulness, which Mary recalls, concerns the time Eddie Wemp was bringing her and several other children and adults home up the Stella Forty Foot in his sleigh through a terrible snow storm. The storm was so fierce the horses got bogged down close to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. The horses, the adults and children made it to the manse where The Rev. R.K. Earls welcomed them all and made them warm in his snug house, under blankets with hot drinks. Although the group did not stay overnight because the winds abated, they knew they could have stayed there for as long as necessary.

Today Jim and Mary Neilson are happily ensconced in their apartment in the MacDonald Building at 26 Leroy Grant Drive. Although they seldom get back to the Island they remember it fondly. One reason they don't return to the Island often is because all their children live off the Island. They had Mary's two children, Glenn and Lee Filson, and their three, Patty-Jo, who died in 1996, and Fred and Lisa Neilson.

Lee is married to Clifford Sudds and they live in Westbrook. They have two sons, Jody and Chris.

Glenn Filson is married to Sandra (Miller) from the Island and they live in Kingston. They have a son, Todd, married to Andrea Morrison and they also live in Kingston with their three boys, Cameron, Tyler and Matthew. Glenn and Sandra's daughter, Kim, is married to David Redden and they live in Glenburnie with their daughter, Alex, and their son, Ben.

Fred Neilson is married to Cheryl Arthurs. They live in Lyndhurst with their daughter, Caitlin and their son, Andrew.

Lisa and her husband, Mario Rago, live with their three children, Vincent,

Anthony and Julia in the North York district of Toronto.

All these children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are precious to Jim and Mary and give them good reasons to go on living for many years yet.

\*\*\*\*\*

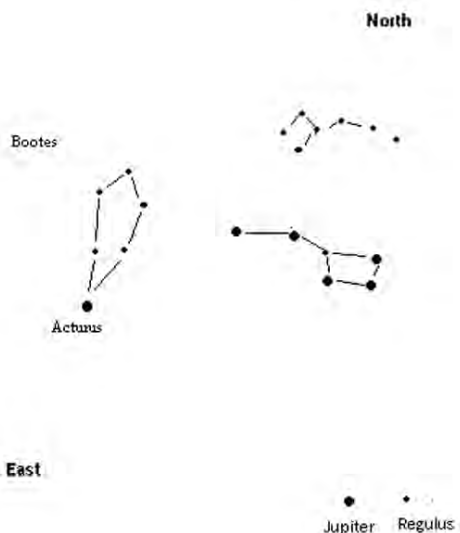
## MAY SKIES

- Alan Kidd



May will be a busy month for skywatchers. Not only do we have all five of the naked eye planets visible again, but also a fairly bright comet will make an appearance. And then, in early June, there will be a transit of Venus visible to early risers (with adequate eye protection).

This month's featured constellation in Boötes, the herdsman. Boötes is just to the east of the Big Dipper, and looks something like a narrow shoe with its brightest star, Acturus, at the toe. Acturus has a distinctive pale yellow-orange colour. It is fairly close to us, only 37 light years distant, and this combined with luminosity 170 times that of our sun make it the



third brightest star we can see here on the Island. An easy way to locate Acturus is to extend the curve of the Big Dipper's handle about one handle length. That will bring your right to Acturus.

Comet Neat is coming this month. It was discovered in 2001 but has only been visible in the Southern Hemisphere. However, it has now rounded the sun and will climb rapidly in the evening sky this month. It will be at its brightest early in the month and gradually fade after that as it moves away. The brightness of comets is very hard to predict, but Comet Neat may well be easily visible to the naked eye in the early part of the month. It will pass by Sirius on May 5<sup>th</sup>, then go by Regulus and Saturn on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. I have put its rough position on the chart. There is also another comet, called Comet Linear, coming later in the month. It may be visible low in the evening sky in late May and Early June. There are two websites that will give detailed information on where to find these comets: "www.heaveansabove.com" and "skyandtelescope.com/observing".

A rare event, occurring on June 8<sup>th</sup>, is a transit of Venus. A transit, in astronomical terminology, occurs when a planet crosses in front of the Sun. This can only happen in the case of Mercury and Venus, these two planets being closer to the Sun than Earth. Transits of the Sun by Venus occur in pairs about one year apart, each pair of transits occurring every 122 years! The last transit of Venus occurred in 1882. Eye safety is extremely important when observing anything near the Sun. The best way to see the transit is to use a safe solar filter (not sunglasses!) or an indirect projection technique. The other drawback to this transit for observers in North



America is the time it occurs. It is already in progress as the Sun rises, so this is not an event for night owls. The entire transit takes 6 hours and 12 minutes, so even if the first part of the transit is missing, there is plenty of time to see the rest.

Venus continues as the brightest object in the early evening sky, but will be rapidly descending throughout May and by the end of the month will be setting in twilight just one hour after sundown. Venus appears as a thinner and thinner crescent in a small telescope as it approaches our line of sight to the sun. Mercury reappears as a morning sight, visible very low in the east about 45 minutes before sunrise by the middle of May. Mars can be seen just to the upper left of Venus, but much dimmer. Saturn continues to be well situated for observation, located just above Orion. Jupiter appears in the south at sunset, then swings to the west later in the night.

\*\*\*\*\*

## HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

The April 3rd Companion section of the Whig had a very interesting article on Front Road resident, David Brady.

The Island seems to be attracting a lot of interesting new residents. Unfortunately, with the way that real estate prices are increasing, interesting people are also going to have to be well off financially.

\*\*\*

I just checked the e-mail to see if there were any last minute submissions be-



## A fisherman and his catch- does anyone know who and when?

fore sending what I have for Tom to do his magic on. Nothing there but another message from someone supposed to be in an African country who wants my help to transfer out some loot which he will generously share with my esteemed self in exchange for (eventual) access to my bank account. These ploys must work - and so must the many ads promising improbable enlargement of interesting body parts - but it is a mystery to me how someone with enough intelligence to dress themselves can be taken in by such a silly story. My sympathy is a bit muted for those whose greed & gullibility result in their losing money to these e-crooks.

\*\*\*

I am pleased that I was able to recog-

nize about 3/4 of the names in the new W. I. Directory. The Farmers' Market was a good chance for me to meet more people who have moved here since I was more socially active than I am now.

Keith Miller must know more Island residents than anyone as almost everyone makes use of his services at the landfill site.

\*\*\*\*\*

## LESLIE GAVLAS: THE ULTIMATE VOLUNTEER

Terrence Patrick Culbert

[Editor: Somehow I missed copying all of Terry's article in the April Beacon, so here's the rest of it.]

Every Tuesday morning for the past ten and a half years, barring storms and holidays, Leslie catches the 9am ferry to the mainland enroute to her job at the museum in Napanee. The magnificent limestone building was erected in 1864 and used as the County Gaol. The morning I visited Leslie, she was scanning microfilm from the Napanee Express, established in 1861. "I search and write out the birth, marriages and deaths for archivist Jennifer Bunting,"

said Leslie. "Jennifer then arranges to have them typed on filing cards, which are made available to people searching for genealogical information." Periodically, Leslie discovers articles on microfilm pertaining to Amherst Island. The following is an excerpt from one of them:

STELLA- Nature has once more bridged the sheet of water lying between the Island and the mainland and some of the Islanders have crossed with horses. The Island is a little world in itself no longer, for even this week, strange faces have appeared upon its shores.

Some parties from here attended the concert and ball at Bath on Wednesday evening of last week. The evening was fine and the night passed off with much

mirth and jollity, but oh, what a difference in the morning. The weather changed during the night and when the morning broke the earth had a snowy mantle of some feet in thickness, so I surmise that the homecoming must have been anything but pleasant, especially as most had skated over on the previous evening.

Archivist Jennifer Bunting noted: "The Lennox and Addington Historical Society began collecting before 1907. It's one of the oldest archival collections in the province. Archives are not like libraries, things aren't organized by subject, and so you have to use your clues, which at times can be challenging. Leslie and I have noticed that most people don't give themselves enough time to do historical research. They often work with a deadline of two to three days, which just isn't enough. For instance, we have a group at the moment that is publishing a small book on the Napanee Golf Course. When they first began, they thought they'd be in here for two to three weeks. Well, the project has now been running for three years. They've got what I think is a very interesting and exciting venture, because they're taking the time to do the necessary research."

According to archivist Bunting, Amherst Islanders are one of the bigger user groups linking it to the Beacon newspaper and the Neilson Store Museum project. "I would like to see even more Amherst Islanders using these facilities," Leslie said. "People in general may not realize this wonderful museum and archives exists only twenty minutes from the Millhaven Dock."

The County of Lennox and Addington Museum and Archives give everyone the opportunity to discover not only Amherst Island and area history, but also the romance and beauty of one of the oldest settled counties of Eastern Ontario.

COUNTY of LENNOX and ADDINGTON  
MUSEUM and ARCHIVES

97 Thomas Street East

Napanee, Ontario K7R 3S9

#### HOURS:

Museum 10am-4:30pm (Monday-Saturday)

Archives 10am-noon and 1pm-4:30pm (Tuesday-Friday)

(613) 354-3027

\*\*\*\*\*

#### FORMER ROYAL NAVY SUBMARINER NOW WORKS ABOARD THE MV FRONTENAC II

-Terrence Patrick Culbert

On the cold winter evening of January 14<sup>th</sup>, I discovered a former British Royal Navy sailor hard at work on board the Frontenac II. Marine engineer Don Jones shared his story with me on how he ended up in this part of the world.

As a teenager in Luton, Bedfordshire, England, the Royal Navy had a strong, exciting appeal. "Travel and see the world, they'd say! All nice girls get a sailor they'd tell us. It was the thing to do when you were a kid back then," Don said.

At the age of seventeen, with his father's consent, Don joined the Royal Navy. In February of 1952, after basic training in Plymouth, he was posted to a minesweeper. For six months they combed the sea between Holland and France, searching for mines left over from the Second World War. Following that, they were reassigned to the Norwegian coast, including northern Russia, collecting weather information and fish protection research. "We were ordered to travel along the south coast of Russia and through the Black Sea," claimed Don. "On board our ship were quite a few ci-







*Don Jones while a seaman in the Royal Navy*

submarines for the Royal Canadian Navy. The British Government set up a squadron to train Canadian sailors. Don became part of that group and was stationed in Halifax, Nova Scotia. "I thoroughly enjoyed the work and instantly fell in love with Canada," he said. "After 18-months, we returned to Portsmouth, England and during the following year, I became a crew member on a depot ship, training submariners off the coast of

worked aboard the Sir John A Macdonald, in the Arctic. Completing his third class ticket, he took a position with Canadian National, working on the MV Bluenose, a 600-car ferry, making her run between Yarmouth, Nova Scotia and Bar Harbour, Maine. Then, he was transferred to a similar size ferry operating between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. "I worked oil tankers carrying crude oil from Venezuela to the Eastern United States and Canada as well as seismographic survey ships off the coast of Guyana and Columbia. I spent 10-years aboard tugboats in north-western Canada, plying the waters of the MacKenzie River. The following twelve years were spent on board grain and ore carriers owned by Upper Lake Shipping, between Thunder Bay and Sept Isle, Quebec.

"In 1990," Don said, "as I thumbed through my marine 'Red Book,' I discovered that the MTO, (Ministry of Transportation Ontario), owned a fleet of ships. I wrote MTO inquiring about possible job opportunities. A few weeks later I received a call at my St. Catharine's home. The voice at the other end, asked if I'd be interested in working on the Glenora Ferry in Picton? Where the heck's Picton? I asked."

Don took the job, working part time on the Glenora and Wolfe Island ferries. It wasn't long before the Amherst Island ferry was added to his roster. Twenty months ago the Loyalist Township offered Don full time employment in the engine room of the MV Frontenac II. "My wife Mary Fay and I, now have a home in Picton. We also rent a small apartment from Leslie Gavlas in Stella, which works out well when I'm on the night shift or the weather's bad."

"I'm 69 years old and still enjoy my work aboard ships," he said. "It's now mandatory for me to have a full physical every two years to keep my engineering ticket current. I'm extremely grateful the way my career developed – it's certainly been an interesting life. If I hadn't joined the Royal Navy in 1951, I would have remained in Luton, following in the shoes of my dad and grandfather, building Vauxhall automobiles."

\*\*\*\*\*

vilians operating special electronic equipment. As young sailors, we began to wonder about these activities." Unbeknownst to Don and his colleagues, they were in the middle of the Cold War on a spy ship. "There were a lot of fun times in the navy as well," Don said, with a grin on his face, "especially when we visited the Mediterranean Sea ports of Gibraltar, Istanbul and Malta."

At the age of twenty, Don volunteered for submarine duty. "I received my first tot of rum on a submarine," he said, smiling again. "After 3-months of training, the final and hardest test was making our way up through the water-filled cylinder to the escape hatch. If you crack up in there, you were done! Two reasons why I joined the submariners was the money, and the fact that submarine sailors were looked upon as heroes. That combination appealed to me."

In 1955, Canada decided to purchase

Londonderry, Northern Ireland."

Fond of his first commission in Halifax, he applied and received a second tour of duty in Canada. In 1959, the young English bachelor obtained his discharge while stationed in Nova Scotia. He rented an apartment in Halifax and the following day filed papers at the immigration department. His first job was dirty heavy work, re-treading tires. Over the next few months Don took a radio-television repair course at night school and worked as a door-to-door Singer Sewing Machine salesman. One evening while quaffing a beer in a Halifax tavern, he met one of his old navy mates. "He wore two gold stripes and was now a third class engineer with the Canadian Coast Guard. He told me that the Coast Guard would recognize my navy experience in the engine room."

After writing his fourth class engineer's ticket, he was promptly hired by the Canadian Coast Guard. For 18-months he



## HISTORIC METAL STRUCTURE TO BE REBUILT IN LEEDS COUNTY

- Terrence Patrick Culbert

During the latter part of the 1950's, the late Ed Goodman, a Toronto businessman purchased various farms on Amherst Island as he ventured into the beef cattle business. "Goodman bought 300-acres from my father, located along the Lower 40 Foot and the South Shore Roads," said Islander Ted Wemp. According to folklore, Ed Goodman had in his possession a number of new, easy to assemble, oblong metal structures. Just before he was to ship them to a buyer in Saudi Arabia, the order was cancelled. Goodman then decided to ferry them to Amherst Island and erect them on his and some of his friends' properties. One became a hunting cabin and still sits on the south side of the Third Concession Road. Others dot the Island as storage or garden sheds. The most well known sat at the east end of the Village of Stella.

Last year, the Loyalist Township decided it was time to get rid of the build-

ing. Patrick Beyers, Recreational Director placed the following advertisement in the newspaper: BUILDING FOR THE TAKING. The small building, located on the old Neilson Store property on Amherst Island, is available, at no cost except for a relocation permit. Please contact the Building Department at 352-3361 for details re: removal regulations. Deadline for submission is Friday, June 30, 2003.

Michael O'Connor, a Kingston artist, had not seen the ad, but spotted the unusual structure while touring Amherst Island. He was visiting his friends Robert and Judith McKenzie of Front Road, who told him that the building was available. Michael wasted no time getting in touch with the Township. After a deal was struck, Michael began meticulously dismantling the old metal dwelling, numbering each piece as he took the building apart. "I started in late February and have enjoyed every day," Michael said, "the people I've met, the birds, the environment and the coming of spring. I hope to have the structure erected by Labour Day. I'm relocating it on our family homestead

in Leeds County, on land that was granted to my great, great grandfather Daniel O'Connor. He immigrated to Upper Canada from Ireland in the 1820's and worked on the Rideau Canal construction project. The building will become my workshop-studio and will sit in a clearing overlooking Lost Bay on the Gananoque River. It's very close to Charleston Lake Provincial Park."

Michael showed me an identification mark he'd discovered on the interior wall: SUMMERS, England, Galvatite WU 94676. With a bit of research, I was able to obtain the history from Andrew Merton, Managing Director of Conport Structures Limited, headquartered in Sloane Square, London, England. "Uniports were designed in 1948. They were manufactured and marketed until 1965 by Booth Trading Company Limited of England," Mr. Merton told me. "In 1965, Conport Structures Limited took over the manufacture and marketing of Uniport from Booth. Peregrine Churchill, the nephew of Sir Winston Churchill, set up the company with Sir Winston's son Randolph, being one of the Directors. Peregrine died in 2003 at the age of 90. He was still the Chairman at the time of his death. His widow is on our Board of Directors. We still manufacture the 160 square foot Uniport from our plant in the Midlands," Mr. Merton went on to say.

Tens of thousands of the unique structures have been erected in the Canadian Arctic, in Kuwait and in Africa. They are used for survey and border-crossing huts, guardhouses, polling booths and even changing rooms. Uniports are a cost-effective dwelling with a lifespan of 40-years.

With the new lease on life that artist O'Connor is giving his Amherst Island Uniport, it could easily be around for another forty or fifty years.

*"...for those who belong nowhere, and for those who belong to one place too much to belong to anywhere else."*  
~Alden Nowlan



## ISLAND HIKERS

- Terrence Patrick Culbert

Standing next to my pickup truck, waiting for our sun porch windows to arrive on the ferry, a couple carrying backpacks bid me a 'good morning'. An hour and a half later, I passed the same pair on the Second Concession Road midway between the Stella 40 Foot and the Emerald 40 Foot. After meeting them a third time, my curiosity took over. I pulled my 1990 Dodge Ram over on the shoulder and asked where they were from.

Not from far away it turned out! Vince Jewitt is a retired operating engineer, living across the North Channel in Amherstview and his Glaswegian-born friend Audrey Sanger resides in Kingston. Audrey, a retired sales supervisor with Marks and Spencer met Vince in the Rideau Trail Hikers Club. "We hike all year long, even on the cold, cold days of winter," said Vince. "We started walking Wolfe Island in the summer and finished it in January. We've done every single, solitary road on Howe, Simcoe, Wolfe and now Amherst Island."

"Amherst Island is our favourite because it's so cosy!" laughed Audrey.

"I love this Island as well," claimed Vince, "I love the openness of the farm fields!"

"We didn't intend to hike 16-km today, but the weather was great and we

just kept going. As long as you've got food and drink, hey, it's brilliant!" Audrey said with a chuckle.

The following day they were hiking, but this time doing trail maintenance, one of their volunteer tasks as 'Friends of Frontenac Park'.

\*\*\*\*\*

## THANK YOU NOTES

*Beatrice Wemp's family* would like to thank the First Response Team for coming so quickly after Bea's fall. We are so lucky to have these trained people when we need them. Special thanks to Ted Gow for phoning 911 and to Ida & George Gavlas for all they did to help us.

\*\*\*

*"Barn's burnt down ... now I can see the moon."*

— *Masahide*

Our home and all of our possessions burned to ashes on April 5<sup>th</sup> ...now we can see the bird feeder from the road ...but more importantly, now, more clearly than ever before, we can see the wonder of this community.

Our very deepest gratitude and affection goes out to each and every one who came to our support in words and in many gestures of generosity, assistance and kindness.

Special thanks to the Fire Department for their valiant efforts and their thoughtfulness; to Dayle and Elly for being there for us in every possible way; to Gwen and Paul for being there when they were really needed; to Zander and Nancy and Peter and Eleanor for immediately offering us shelter; and to the Beacon for honouring our beloved home, front and back, on the April Issue.

It will take a long time for us to get over our loss but it will take much, much longer for us to properly convey our heartfelt thanks to everyone for their many kindnesses.

Diane Pearce and Michele LeLay

\*\*\*

*I would like to say thanks* to our family for always being here for us and a very sincere thanks to the response team and ambulance crew. They were truly all great and so quick to respond.

Its times like this that all your friends and wonderful neighbours are so caring and thoughtful. Bless one and all.

Barb Filson.

\*\*\*\*\*

## NOTICES

Amherst Island T-Shirts and Sweatshirts are available for sale from Beth Forester 389-5582 or Nancy Henshaw 384-0799.

\*\*\*

## AIMS SERVICES CONTACTS

Transportation(emergency services for those needing short term transportation help): Ralph Woods, 389-7235

General Assistance (for those needing help with particular tasks not requiring professional skills): Alan Glenn, 389-0214

Home Care (short term help with food preparation or domestic tasks): Peter Trueman, 389-3548 or John Kuti, 389-0890

Farmer's Market (information): Bruce Burnett, 634-6696

\*\*\*

## WATERSIDE SUMMER SERIES 2004

Another Summer of Music on Amherst Island Once again, the organizing committee of the Waterside SUMMER SERIES has put together a series of five concerts with a wide variety of music with some world class performers!



*Gloria Saarinen & Mark DuBois*

At St. Paul's.

All times: 7.30 pm

July 8, Thursday, Arkady Yanivker, violin



and Olga Tcherniak, piano... \$15.

Arkady was last heard at Waterside 1995 with a program of Gypsy music July 22, Thursday, Gloria Saarinen, Piano and Mark DuBois, Tenor... \$25.

Gloria and Mark have previously performed together internationally. Gloria performed at WSS last summer and so loved our Island that she convinced Mark to join her at our Celebrity concert that is sure to sell out.

August 8, Sunday, Japan's Kobe YMCA Bell Choir... \$15.

Janet Grace heard that these unique performers were looking for a break in their world tour, and she knew that Amherst Island was just right-for them and for us.

August 14, Saturday, The Abrams Family + Clarendon Station... \$15.

Andrea and Bruce heard this group from Snow Road Station (that's about 80 km north of here) and loved their unique Bluegrass Gospel sound. So will you. At St. Alban's (final arrangements not yet confirmed with the church).

Tickets go on sale June 1<sup>st</sup>, and can be purchased by telephoning the WSS ticket line at (613) 384-2153. Tickets must be paid for before orders can be confirmed. They can be ordered singly or for the entire season.

Last year there were two sold out performances, the Anton Kuerti/Kristine Bogyo piano and cello concert in July and the Night Sun concert in August. We hope that, as last year, Islanders will take advantage of the early notice in the Beacon to buy their tickets promptly for themselves and their guests from away

\*\*\*

### ISLAND DIRECTORY 2004

The Women's Institute new 2004 Island Directories are ready.

They are available from the following:

Kirsten Bennick, 389-0636

Nancy Henshaw, 384-0799

Freda Youell, 384-4135

The General Store

Victoria Hall Craft & Tea Room

How many copies do you need for your home, car and each member of your family? Buy yours now - only \$8.00 each.

\*\*\*

## Arts at The Lodge on Amherst Island Summer 2004

**Botanical Painting w/Pamela Stagg-** June 5<sup>th</sup> to June 7<sup>th</sup>

**Get into the Thick and Thin of Things Acrylic!** w/Andrew Sookrah-  
June 14<sup>th</sup> to 18

**Watercolour Basics And Beyond** w/Shirley Miller - June 21<sup>st</sup> to  
June 25<sup>th</sup>

**Mixed Media** w/Jean Campbell- June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Watercolour Basics And Beyond** w/ Shirley Miller- July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 9<sup>th</sup>

**Nature Photography Workshop** w/ William Reynolds- July 9<sup>th</sup> to July 11<sup>th</sup>

**Fresh Seeing: A Photography Course** w/ Diana Harding Tucker- July 12<sup>th</sup> to July 16<sup>th</sup>

**Step-by-Step Watercolour: Let Nature be Our Guide** w/ Barry Lovegrove- July 19<sup>th</sup> to July 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Landscapes in Oil** w/ Lucy Manley - Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> to Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>

[www.amherstisland.on.ca/thelodge](http://www.amherstisland.on.ca/thelodge)

**For information contact Molly Stroyman:**

**Toll Free- 1-866-552-3535, [ms@mollystroyman.com](mailto:ms@mollystroyman.com)**



### WANTED TO RENT: ROOM/BOARD

Room with/without meals, from May through to July (while house is being built). Call 389-9294

\*\*\*

Blue Bed-sitting couch. Claire is redecorating. A good buy at \$250 or best offer. Call Hugh or Claire Jenney at 384-7830

\*\*\*

### FOOD BANK BLITZ

The annual Partners in Mission Food Bank Blitz will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Here on the Island if you could leave your goods at your door or at the store volunteers will pick it up between 4 and 6pm.

Thank you,

Amherst Island Girl Guide Units

\*\*\*

**1984 Pontiac Firebird** TBAR roof, certified, e-tested ; 4hp Troy-Bilt rototiller ; 1972 mint condition Kawasaki 100 mtcl; steel lawn chairs ; red canoe with paddles. 389-3199

\*\*\*

**Yard Sale** Sat. May 20, 6750 Front Road kitchen ware, rototiller, motorcycle, lawn chairs, Knick knacks.



### Mark your calendar!!! St. Pauls Presbyterian Church Garden Party

July 31<sup>st</sup> 11am – 3pm. Donations for auction or flea market table gratefully accepted anytime. Phone 384-5027 or drop off on the Whitton's front porch

### WE MADE A MISTAKE!!

The Amherst Island 2004 Directory has a missprint in the cell phone number for Noel McCormick Excavating. The ad should have read:

**McCormick Excavating -Backhoe & Truck Rental. Noel McCormick, Stella, Ontario K0H 2S0.**

**613-389-5172 / 613-561-3531(Cell) 613-389-5755**

We apologise for the confusion this has caused and will provide labels with the correct information.

### 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

Tel # 389-9371

**NEWS FROM THE GENERAL STORE**

New Releases available to rent:  
 The Cat in the Hat - Mike Myers  
 Mambo Italiano - Mary Walsh  
 Good Boy  
 Looney Tunes - Brendan Fraser, Steve Martin  
 Under the Tuscan Sun - Diane Lane  
 Mona Lisa Smile - Julia Roberts, Julia Stiles  
 Duplex - Ben Stiller, Drew Barrymore  
 Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star - David Spade  
 Runaway Jury - Gene Hackman, John Cusack.  
 Regular Store Hours:  
 Mon.-Sat.: 9AM-6PM.  
 Sun - 10 AM. to 5PM

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

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

**FOR SALE:** Antique Oak Dining Room Table with **6 chairs & 2 leaves.** Table is **40 x 70** full size. 389-2515

**Picnic Tables & Weather Vanes  
 For Sale**

Keith Miller 389-2588

**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

**Seasonal Winter Storage for**

**Boats, etc.** right in beautiful Downtown Stella! Indoor, reasonable rates. Dayle Gowan, 634-3815

**The Lodge on Amherst Island**

Rental available for special occasions. Call: (613) 634-1388 or (866) 552-3535  
[www.amherstisland.on.ca/thelodge](http://www.amherstisland.on.ca/thelodge)

**2 & 1 BEDROOM COTTAGES**

on Stella Point: By the week or weekend, April-October. Phone numbers above.

**NORTH SHORE COTTAGE**

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

**HOUSE FOR RENT:** by the week or weekend- North Shore. Call Cherry 634-1212

**SOUTH SHORE COTTAGE**

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

**2 BEDROOM HOUSE ON WATERFRONT** Available from 1 June, for rent. Call Diane 389-7074

**VILLAGE COTTAGE FOR RENT IN STELLA.** Walk to the ferry. By the week or weekend, year round. Call Jan at 519-451-1197.

**LAKESHORE RUBBER STAMP**

I can provide business and art stamps, daters, signature and similar products. All stamps are custom made on the premises and can be ready in 24 hours. Please call 389-8441 or fax 389-9770.

Email: [selc.welbanks@sympatico.ca](mailto:selc.welbanks@sympatico.ca)

This is a home-based business and available most days. Linda Welbanks

**WATER WELLS & WATER TREATMENT**

John Jeffery Phone 561-7867.

**BURNETTS PLUMBING of Napanee** - Renovations & New, Submersible & Jet pumps, Water Softeners & Purification, Sales, Service & Rentals. Fully Licensed & Insured. Many satisfied Island customers (613) 354-9223

**Tim Hicks Plumbing and Heating**

Water treatment, pumps, heating: in floor; radiant; forced air; solar. Kingston licensed plumber. Phone 545-3541

**Archangelo Construction**

Certified tradesmen in all construction disciplines: Framing, masonry, drywall, finishing. Complete services. Walter Saccon 561-5922

**FOR SALE: Tales of Amherst Island by Dr. H. C. Burleigh: ONLY 9 COPIES LEFT.** call 389-3943

**GODDEN'S WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE**

Our sausage is produced on a small family hog farm. We specialize in coarsely ground whole hog sausage.

These sausages are just as they sound - the WHOLE HOG including hams, shoulders, and the valuable tenderloin. All the good stuff goes into our sausages, resulting in a product that's not just better - it's DIFFERENT!

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.

**RAWLEIGH PRODUCTS**

Rawleigh Products include delicious flavourings and extracts, household items for heavy-duty cleaning, home remedies which are well-known for their healing abilities, spices and seasonings. Herbal remedies and nutritional products are also available. To place your order call Marie Ward at 389-5767 or E-Mail: [bmward@ihorizons.net](mailto:bmward@ihorizons.net)

**Topsy Farms:**

To encourage knitting (and to increase sales), we have lowered the price of our natural pure wool yarn to \$3.25/4 oz. skein (was \$4.35). Dyed yarn is now \$3.75/skein (was \$5.22). We will mail an order, regardless of size, anywhere in Canada or the continental USA for \$10. [www.topsyfarms.com](http://www.topsyfarms.com) (613) 389-3444

**Ted Gow Painting, wallpapering, tiling, home maintenance and repairs.** Free estimates. Island references. 634-5404

**Thomas A. Richmond, Certified Electrician.** Home, Farm & Commercial wiring and repairs, right here on the Island. Ontario Electrical Safety Authority Authorized Contractor Program. 634-1855



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

**Bookkeeping**

**Property Oversight & Management Services** Rosemary Richmond. Home, Farm, Cottage, Small Business. 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 Youell 384-4135

**Mindfulness Meditation Workshop**

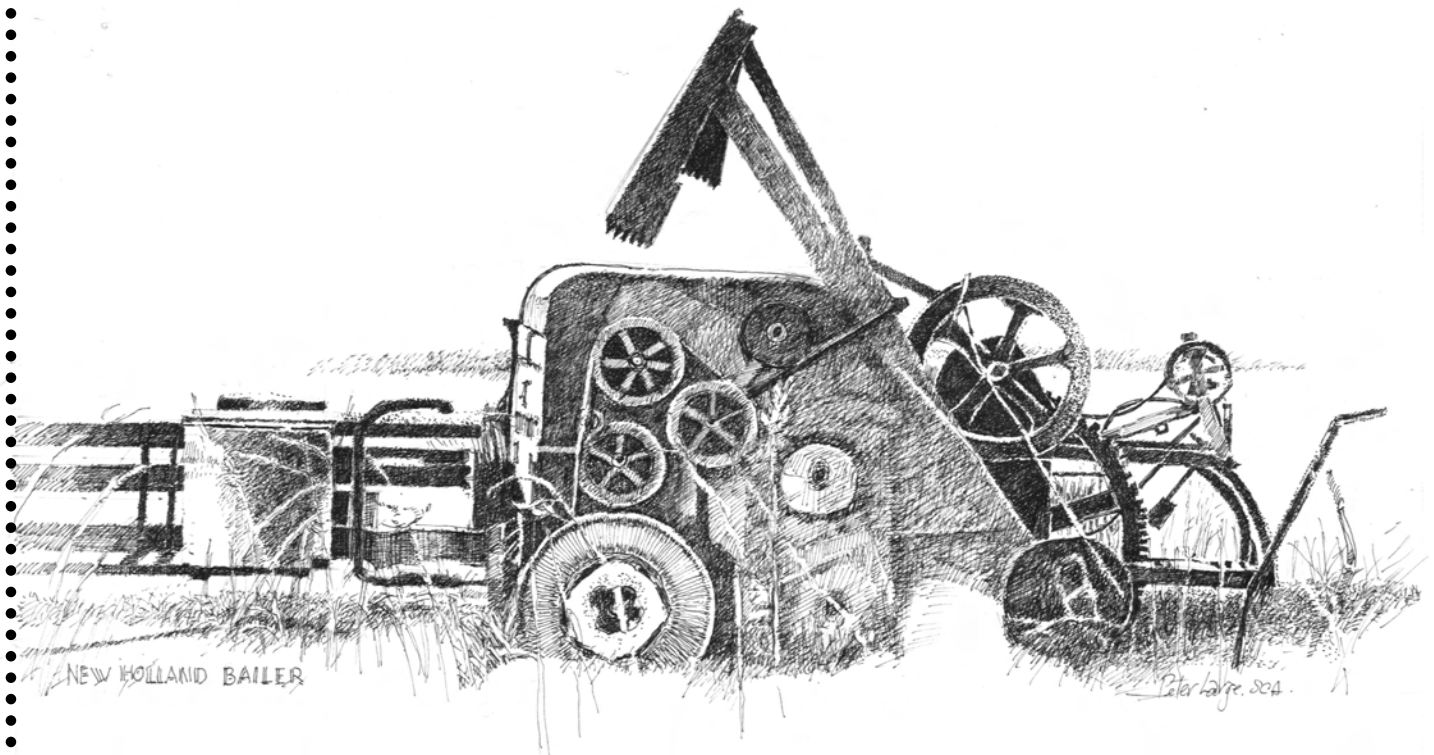
Developing calmness, understanding, and richness of the present moment.

**Complementary Health**

Jocelyne Leyton, RPP, has a Cranial Osteopathic practice, a manual therapy to restore health and balance to improve the overall structure of the body. For information/appointment Jocelyne Leyton, 9060C Front Road. 384-6488

**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.



*Illustration by Peter Large, S.C.A.*

“So the fields are stubble, the garden is done where the scary scarecrow stands and sees her holding up horizons with her hands. She’s so tired of reading Daddy’s lips- that essay on a frown. Watch her memories of human voices drown. Let horsey bray break between the thunder boom. Make grasses’ swish meet cricket’s ring. Let every sound consecrate our whispering the words that Betta never heard The back lanes tie the city down; a mess of dirty string. Winter dies the same way every spring. As the sky tries on its uniform of turned off t.v. grey and the way we watched her watch us walk away, let every rain clatter down at groaning streets. Make footsteps tick, talk to echoed walls. Let every sound consecrate our whispering the words that Betta never heard. Let every wind howl and creak the creaking doors to rooms that too much happened in. Let every sound consecrate the words that Betta never heard.”

*The Weakerthans- Elegy for Elsbet- Left and Leaving*