

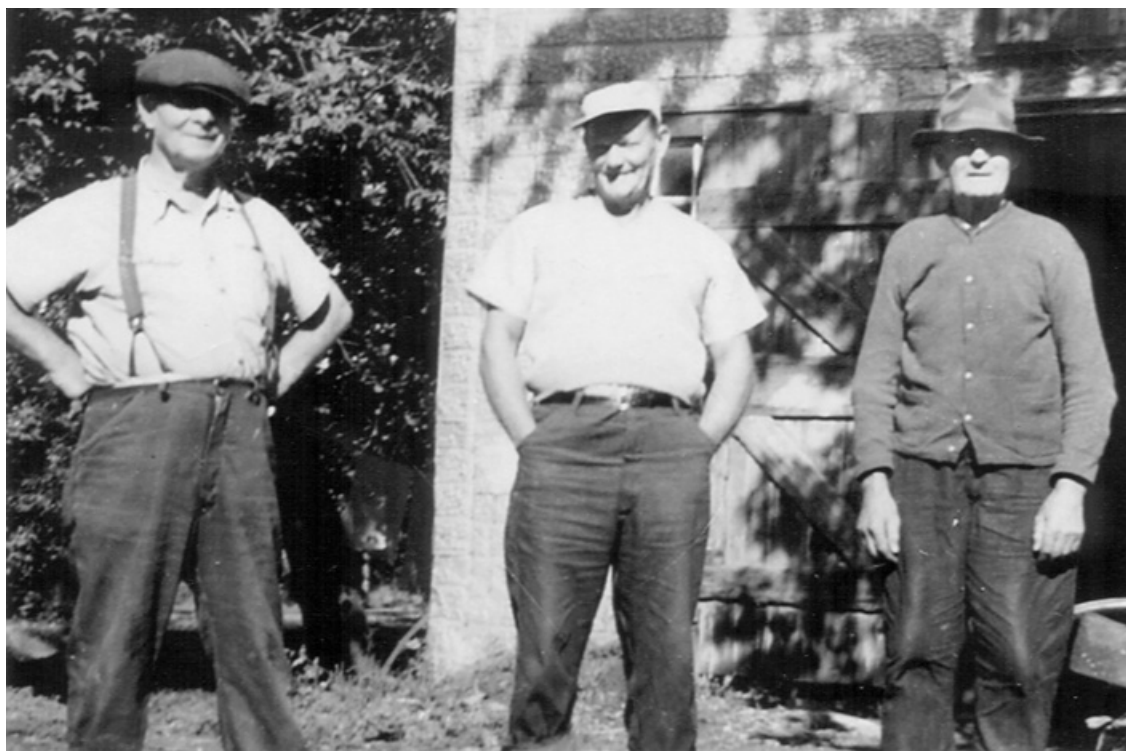
The Amherst Island BEACON

Newsstand
\$2.00

Issue 319

www.amherstisland.on.ca

September 2004



Wes Brown, William McCormick & Hugh McFern in front of Wes' Blacksmith Shop in Stella. See the article by Zander Dunn on page 3.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to Barb Reid and Dennis McGinn. Continued good health wishes to Harry Filson, Anne Turner and Sally Bowen.

Our sympathy to Rick Bedford and Liz Hogeboom and families following the passing of their mother, Betty Bedford. Betty was co-owner of Holbeth Farms, a large Island dairy farm, located where Mark Ritchie and Cherry Allen now farm.

Condolences also to Bob and Diane Horth on the recent passing of Bob's step-dad, and to Ray and Zelma Koenders who recently lost Ray's brother.

Happy 25th anniversary to Warren and Laurene Kilpatrick, who celebrated with family and friends at a party at Warren's sister Laurie's.

Congratulations also to John and Patry Gavlas who also celebrated their

25th anniversary on the Island with family and friends.

Happy 50th birthdays to Darcy Timms, Andy McGinn, Terry McGinn, Valerie Howard and Larry Fleming!

Torri Phillips has been busy this summer with her pony Rudy - a paint Appaloosa - at local horse shows. In two Trillium Hunter Shows at Dreamcatcher and Hawkridge Farms, Torri brought home a first place ribbon, a 2nd place, two 5ths and four

6th place ribbons. Congratulations Torri!

The Garden Party had another successful year at St. Paul's despite torrential rains keeping every one under cover!

"Jack and Jill" was held for Jeff Forester and his fiancée Susan at the Community Centre, where many friends and family from the Island and the mainland helped them celebrate.

About 50 people attended the 2nd of two Public Meetings that were held over the summer to discuss shore road relocation. The Steering Committee did a presentation and then answered questions.

Well, Summer (?) is over and the kids are ready (or not) to go back to school. My Mom heads home to Florida this month and will be busy having the damage done by Hurricane Charlie repaired. Several other summer



Torri & Rudy competing at local horse shows LF



The Amherst Island Beacon

Issue 319

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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!
September printing:
325 copies.

Subscriptions & Editorial:

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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 7.0.15
PhotoShop 7.0
Acrobat 5.05
Family Tree Maker 9.0

Photos by:

DT: Don Tubb
TR: Tom R.
CK: Chris Kennedy
JH: Judith Harrower
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...others as noted.

people have left or have checked with others to see how their homes made out in Florida.

Although the summer hasn't been exceptionally warm - or sunny, it seems the flower beds and newly planted trees have done well, while vegetable gardens have been slow ripening. We can keep our fingers crossed for the warm and pleasant fall that has been forecasted.

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott



It has seemed to be the pattern that I write about swallows as the summer draws to a close and they gather on the wires, so this year I vowed things would be different. When Gail Gault called and invited me to go birding with the group from Bath as they looked for shorebirds on Amherst Island I saw this as a chance to gather information for this month's article and happily joined them.

Luck was with us as the very first bird we spotted was a Baird's Sandpiper feeding by itself on the muddy edges of the shore. He is the same size as the familiar Spotted that nests here on the Island but has dark legs and, when he's standing, the wing edges are longer than his tail. He appears to have a buff breast like a bib with a light belly below.

Naturally we were elated to see such an excellent bird so we continued along the shore, climbed the berm, and then were greeted with a sound and sight that I have never experienced before. Every little shrub and bush standing in the water of the pond was filled with twittering birds. I used my "rule of thumb". Holding my

thumb at arm's length I covered about ten birds. The patch of scrub was about ten thumbs by 21 thumbs in size. I estimate there were over 20,000 birds resting and chattering in that area. They were swallows. Mostly Rough-winged but some Barn and Tree Swallows. I imagine the Martins had already left but these swallows were flocking to go. There may have been some Cliff and Bank Swallows in the mix but with the shifting and distance it was difficult to say. We were amazed. There was no wind at the time and all was still at 8:30

AM but by the time we returned that way at 10:30 or thereabouts there was not a bird to be seen. I may have been unwilling to talk about Swallows but once again Nature had the last word and it was awesome.

Down on the gravel bar we were able to watch Caspian Terns fishing and resting. They have such bright orange beaks, sleek white bodies and black caps. The Bonaparte Gulls were already losing their black heads and changing to partial black spots on the side of their heads as they change to winter plumage. They were only about 13 inches long while a resting Black-backed Gull dwarfed it at 30 inches in size. There was a Great Blue Heron, several Cormorants, and both Herring and Ring-billed gulls on the bar. Behind us an Osprey still sat on the edge of the nesting platform. The young are the size of the adults but look a little

scruffier. In the bay west of the bar there were Black, Mallard and Blue-winged Teal feeding or just sunning themselves. This is kind of Middle-Aged time for birds. Their young are raised and they are contemplating a trip down south. Just a quiet and reflective time of life before the stress of "Hunting Season" hits.

On the walk back we got to see a Semipalmated Plover. It looks like a Killdeer but has only one stripe around its neck and a shorter beak. It is smaller than a Killdeer and breeds in the Arctic so it also was migrating. If you could see his toes you would see slight webbing which is the meaning of his name.

The Kingston Field Naturalists have two trips planned to Amherst Island in September. On September 6th they are combining a trip to look for shorebirds with some time to

look for butterflies as well. I hope I can attend that one as I know next to nothing about Butterflies. On September 19th another trip is being organized to watch for shorebirds. The mud flats at the Foot of the Island are an excellent spot to watch migratory shorebirds as they stop to rest and feed before flying across Lake Ontario.

Watch for birds. Get your feeders started & enjoy!

Good Birding,



Judy Miller's Wheelbarrow

JH

INTERVIEW With JANIE McCAUGHERTY

- Zander of DUNN INN

Many of Amherst Island's oldest sons and daughters do not live on the Island. Several are in Kingston and Napanee and some reside in retirement homes. I found Janie McCaugherty in Room #6 in the Fairfield Manor, a Retirement Residence at 805 Ridley Drive, Kingston, near the Cataraqui Town Centre.

Janie was born at home in Stella (in the residence, now gone, behind the house where Doug Shurtliffe and Helen Trotter live) on 23 August 1918 to Wesley Brown and Margaret Filson. Wes was the blacksmith in Stella and worked in the old barn near the four-way stop next to which Doug Wilson now lives.

Janie was the fourth and youngest child in the family. She was preceded by Ida (Mack) now deceased, the oldest, then Stewart, who lived for many years in Trenton before he died. Next came Mike Brown who resides in the same building as Janie.

Janie grew up in Stella, a different place then than it is now. There was no electricity, few telephones, no movies or T.V. and radio was in its infancy. As a result, the kids had to make their own fun. Ball games of all kinds kept most of the kids in the town occupied and happy. Those children who lived on farms in the country were much involved with farming chores.

Janie's friends, with whom she spent most of her time, were Mildred and Muriel Glenn, Margaret McKee, Eileen Parker (whose father was the United Church minister), Isabel Richards and Mary Glenn (Hall). Janie never had to work on the farms but she was busy at home and with her friends. Indeed, one friend, Muriel Glenn lives on Scott St. in Kingston and together they used to get over to the Island for the fall suppers.



Janie's father never allowed her inside his blacksmith's shop. It was too dangerous for a young child. So Janie and her pals only got to see the shop from the outside. The closest Janie ever got to the shop was the time she rode one of the Richards' horses toward the shop to be shod. Unfortunately the horse bucked her off and she landed unceremoniously in front of her father. She never rode a horse again.

Janie's grandfather, William Brown, had been a blacksmith before her father. Her father's brother, George Brown helped out at the shop also. They must have been busy because a Mr. Pringle also did some blacksmithing. The Browns did more than shoe horses; they also sold machinery and repaired what they sold. Of course, they tried to repair whatever was brought to them.

The brick No. 1 School, which is now the Maud residence on the Front Road, was the school Janie and her friends from Stella attended from grades one through eight. They enjoyed walking to school in the Spring and Autumn and they enjoyed the sleigh rides to school in the winter. Mr. Richards usually picked up the kids in

his horse-drawn sleigh and transported them to school but sometimes her father took them.

In those days the snow was so deep it covered the roads and light sleighs could ride through the fields over the fences. Once Janie's uncle steered the sleigh down into a deep ditch and that caused the sleigh to overturn. Janie was caught under the cutter but she wasn't hurt. The depth of the snow cushioned her fall and kept her from injury.

Helen Sylvester (who married Wilfred Miller and became the mother of Elaine Wolfreys, Tom and Keith Miller and Rosemary Miller) was Janie's favourite elementary school teacher. Another favourite teacher was Hazel Strain. When pressed to choose, Janie said Spelling was her favourite subject; History was her least favourite. The school room was filled with her friends and Janie had a good time. But the boys did not make it easy for the girls to enjoy school. The boys were forever turning over rocks, finding and catching the snakes they uncovered there and then chasing the girls and terrifying them by threatening to put the snakes down their backs.

The Browns were members of The United Church of Canada (whose building now houses the Library and the Ferry Office). The congregation was small but active. Janie taught Sunday School when she was in high school. Other members of the congregation she remembers are Tommy and Billy Cochrane and their families and Stephen Tugwell and his wife.

When Janie went to High School it was to the brick building where the Back Kitchen now stands. The teachers she remembers best are Alice Hogeboom, Dorothy Brown (her aunt) and Mr. Lowrey. Janie was only able to finish

grade nine before she had to leave school to look after her mother who took sick.

She cared for her mother until she died in 1944. Not only was her mother unwell, her father, as the result of an accident, had his leg amputated. The story is told that before his stump was healed he got himself around his shop by placing nail kegs with padded tops in strategic places along the route he normally took so that he was able to move quickly from place to place by one leg on the ground and the other leg on the nail kegs. Artificial legs were not available in those years so Wes Brown moved on crutches.

Even after she married Edgar McCaugherty, a Presbyterian, on March 13, 1939 at Conway (near Adolphustown) in the United Church, she came back to her parents' home to care for her mother. Edgar, who worked for Harris Beaubien, lived in his own house. That did not prevent them from having children. Their first two children, Raymond and Vivian, were born at The Kingston General Hospital while they lived on Amherst Island.

Janie showed me a genealogical chart someone had done on her family. It pointed out that the McCaughertys, originally McCaffertys, descendants of King Conn, came from Ireland. Those who arrived in the Kingston area were descendants of John McCaugherty and Mary Boyd of County Down who sailed to Canada on the "Lehitiaheyn" on May 21, 1843. They arrived in this area in July, 1843, after a rough trip. They purchased 200 acres on Lot 26, Concession 4 in what is now the Township of Pittsburgh.

After her mother's death, Janie moved with her husband and family to Kingston where Edgar got a job with the Kingston Creamery. He worked for them for 33 years until the company went out of business. When the Creamery closed

down, Mr. McCaugherty, always a worker, got a job with the Kingston Spinners which made carpets and rugs. Edgar, a workaholic, never retired. Janie remembers he worked so long and hard that there were days when he never saw the kids because he left for work before they got up and he didn't get home until after they



John Brown

had gone to bed.

The family lived on the third floor of a house on the corner of Frontenac and Johnston streets. Their third child, Stewart, was born while they were there. But his arrival caused the family to move downstairs where they stayed for four years while three more children arrived - Earl, Wayne and Barbara.

Their next move was to Portsmouth where they stayed for a year. When Edgar's grandmother died and left them a house on Wellington Street they moved there. The children grew up there. But when they left to find work, the house was too big for Edgar and Janie and so they purchased a smaller house on Conacher Drive. Even that was too big so they bought a little bungalow at 42 Lansdowne St.

It was while they were there that Edgar died in 1984. Janie lived there alone for another eight years before she sold and moved to an apartment on Portsmouth Ave where she remained for four more years. Her last house was at 27 Elwood St. She left there to move into Fairfield Manor in 2001. At first Janie did not like the arrangement. It was not home for her. But as she got to know the people and learned to get around she came to love it.

During my brief visit two people came to see Janie and said they would return another time. A member of the staff came to share some good news about winning some money in a lottery. As Janie said, her room is the gathering place for all kinds of people. Because she is well known, knows everybody else and is mentally alert, hers is the room in which to congregate.

All Janie's children are now retired except for her younger daughter, Barbara, who is the supervisor of the kitchen at R.M.C. Her oldest and her youngest sons, Raymond and Wayne both left school to take up work in Brockville at the Micratel plant. Her son, Stewart, now retired, was an electrician. Her son, Earl, retired at the end of June from Dupont. Her daughter, Vivian, married Earl Bilow (now deceased) who owned the Kingston Horse Race Track and the Autocar Race Track at one time. He also owned the Stock Car Track in Brockville and an autowrecker's business in Kingston. He and Doug Wilson were good friends and they purchased together the property on

Amherst Island where Doug lives which involves Doug's house at the corner of the Front Road and the Stella Forty Foot and the Brown's Blacksmith Barn plus a good patch of land.

While Janie used to enjoy getting back to the Island for a day's visit, she has not done so recently. She used to make a point of taking in the Church suppers and the Garden Party at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. She liked to visit with Emily Tugwell for a game of cards. Now she feels she has been so long away from the Island it is no longer home to her. The house she grew up in is gone. The Island has changed. She hardly knows anybody anymore. And it is difficult for her to get around now. She uses a walker to move about in the Fairfield Manor.

All the furniture in Janie's room is her own. And the room is full of pictures of the family. With six children, 9 grandchildren (she had 10 but one died - a great blow which affected Janie deeply) and 16 great-grandchildren, there are pictures all over the walls and on the tops of tables and dressers.

As Janie looks back she feels she has had a good life. She and her husband were able to put all the children through school. All the children got good jobs and all (except for Barbara who is too young) have retired well.

After her husband died and the children were all away, Janie joined St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Kingston when The Rev. Bill Duffy was the minister. After his retirement, The Rev. Bill Duffy served in a shared ministry at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church here on the Island.

Janie does not get out much now but she keeps in touch with church, friends and family. She is also active in the Fairfield Manor as chairperson of the Residents' Council. She was surprised at being chosen by the other 40 residents and finds dealing with their complaints and troubles a challenge.

Janie McCaugherty is a most affable lady and would welcome a visit by anybody from Amherst Island.



The Kobe Handbell Chior

BL

A HELPING OF HANDBELLS

- Bill Harris

Another sold out concert by Waterside at St. Paul's church on Sunday August 8th featured the YMCA Bell Choir from Kobe, Japan.

How does a bell choir from Kobe, Japan, get to Amherst Island? Via Toronto following the 11th International Handbell Symposium?

Every two years hundreds of ringers from around the world gather together to ring side by side and share their love of handbells. Ringers from around the world visited Toronto for the 2004 Bell-ringer symposium which on their last day featured 600 ringers massed together in the Air Canada Centre to perform a remarkable concert.

From Toronto to Amherst Island seemed like just the right combination for a little rest and recreation following such an event. Long time Amherst Island resident, Janet Grace, received a telephone call from her sister, Joanne Flint,

one of the Toronto organizers. She needed help arranging accommodation, - and a chance for the Kobe ringers to play in a somewhat smaller venue! Janet is on our Waterside Committee and was able to help.

Since 1980 when the Kobe choir was founded it has been under the direction of Nozomu Abe. Its first international experience was at Exeter, England in 1988. Since then the Bell Choir has participated in many international symposia and become one of the leading handbell choirs in Japan. The Choir has pro-



Katie Little serving at the concert

BL



Stan Burke discussing technique with Chior members **BL**

duced four CDs entitled “Christmas Bells”, “Wonderful Words of Life”, “Our Favourite Rings”, and “Ring Alleluia”.

The fourteen bell ringers with their forty hand bells delivered a magical evening for our appreciative audience that included traditional English and Japanese tunes as well as American Spirituals, gospel hymns and the Maple Leaf Rag. For their part the musicians particularly appreciated the finger food and drinks provided at intermission by the Women’s Institute.

Our visitors were billeted for two nights at four Island homes spending their free time on Monday touring the Thousand Islands and Fort Henry.

THE MYSTERY OF THE EASTER LILY

- Lynn deHaan

Whether received or given as a gift, or perhaps purchased for your own enjoyment, the Easter Lily offers approximately three weeks of unquestionable beauty. But what is one to do with the plant once the blooms have died? The question arises, “Will an Easter Lily bloom again once Easter has come and gone?” According to Dr. Leonard Perry,

Extension Professor, University of Vermont: “Once an Easter Lily has been forced to bloom (such as for Easter) it will not bloom again”.

Not so for fellow Islander Ron Miller, who proudly displayed the bloom to all who were interested. From it’s majestic stalk of green leaves to it’s crowning glory of five perfect white lilies, Mr. Miller has managed to bring his Easter Lily to bloom again. He credited his success to plenty of light from a southern exposure, a moderately warm environment, careful watering, and a lot of hope. Once the weather broke, he planted the bloom in a sunny location (well as sunny as he could find!) and watered it only with captured rain water. His dedication and perseverance have paid off well.

The Easter Lily (“*lilium longiflorum*”) is probably one of the best know lilies of



Lynn deHaan



Lynn deHaan

today. With its dark green foliage and large, white trumpet shaped blooms, 95% of all bulbs are grown by just ten farms in a narrow coastal region along the California-Oregon border. The bulbs are harvested in the fall and shipped to greenhouses where they are planted in pots and forced to bloom in time for the Easter holiday. To many, the majestic white flowers symbolize purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life - the spiritual essence of Easter.

Often called the "white-robed apostles of hope", the lily is mentioned many times in the Bible. One of the most famous Biblical references is in the Sermon on the Mount, when Christ told his listeners: "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin; and yet I say unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was not

arrayed like one of these." Tradition has it that beautiful white lilies sprung up where drops of Christ's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow and distress. The pure white lily has also long been closely associated with the Virgin Mary. In early paintings, the Angel Gabriel is pictured extending to the Virgin Mary a branch of pure white lilies, announcing that she was to be the mother of the Christ Child.

Easter lilies are surprisingly hardy even in cold climates. The plant requires winter protection in the form of mulching with a generous layer of straw, leaves, pieces of boxes or bags. The mulch should be removed in the spring to permit new shoots to erupt, and with careful handling, the lily should provide beauty and elegance for years to come.

"If you've got puddles in your laneway, you shouldn't be worrying about how much water is in your well."

t.r.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

St. Paul's Church Sunday School- Everybody Welcome!

11am-noon every Sunday.

Kids join the main service for 15 minutes, which includes a short lesson with Rev. Dunn. Then they go upstairs to our Sunday School room for lessons, puzzles, games, crafts, etc. Light lunch/snacks at 12. Please phone Judy at 389-4334 for further info. or to arrange transportation.



SEPTEMBER SKIES

- Alan Kidd

We are getting closer to fall and the haze and mosquitoes of summer are starting to disappear. On Labour Day evening I was finally able to spend some time with my telescope without being chewed on at all. Of course, the wind helped but that too is another sign that fall is coming. I was looking at the constellations of Cygnus (the Swan) and Lyra (the Harp), almost directly overhead in the evening sky this time of year.

The brightest star in Cygnus is Deneb, which although 1600 light years away, is so luminous that it is still one of the brightest stars in the sky. Cygnus is also called the Northern Cross, and Deneb is at the head of the cross (or at the tail of the swan, the long arm of the cross being the neck of the swan). However, my telescope was pointed at the star at the foot of the cross (or the beak of the swan). This star is called Albireo, and is one of the prettiest double stars in the sky. Even my small four-inch reflector was easily able to show the close pair of a bright golden star and its vibrant blue companion.

With a clear sky and absent mosquitoes I then tried to see the Ring Nebula

in the neighboring constellation of Lyra. The Ring Nebula is the remains of an exploded star, which has blown off its outer layers, which appear to form a ghostly ring. However, my small telescope wasn't really up to the task, and the ring nebulae appeared to be nothing more than a small smudge. I'll have to get out the big scope if I'm going to see it. Still, with fall coming on, more opportunities for observing will be occurring.

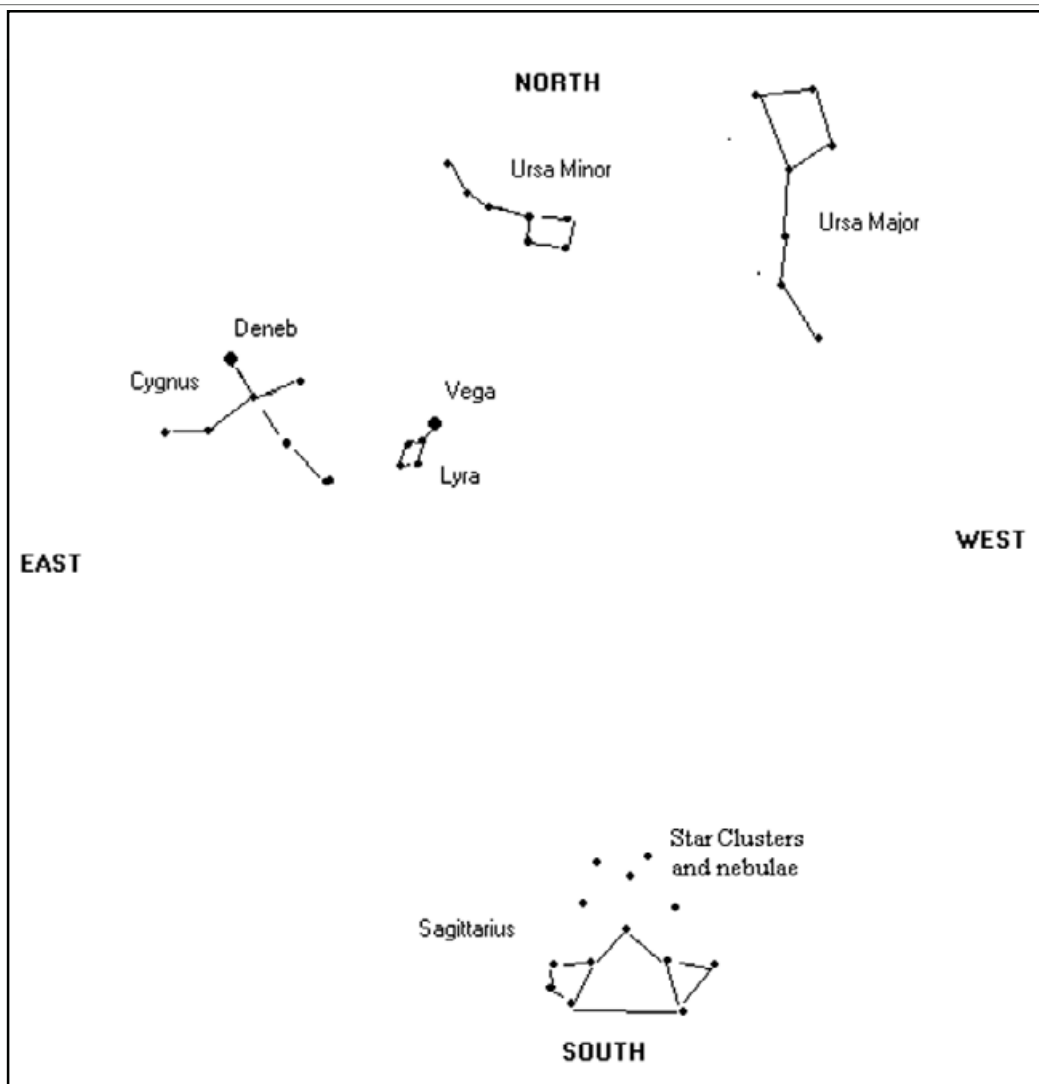
There are no planets visible in the evening sky this month. However, Venus is a spectacular object in the dawn sky. It is in the constellation of Gemini at the beginning of September, and Saturn is very close, just slightly above the much brighter Venus. By month's end, the fast moving Venus has moved over a couple of constellation and is in Leo, coming very close to Leo's brightest star, Regulus on October 3rd.

Meanwhile Mercury is emerging from dawn's glow at the beginning of the month. On the morning of September 10th, Mercury comes very close to Regulus, while the crescent moon is between Venus and Saturn. And with the dawn getting later and later, you don't even have to get up all that early to see it.

Finally on September 28th, we get the Harvest Moon to light our way.

Saturn reappears this month. However, you have to be up early in the morning to see it since Saturn does not rise until after 1 AM. Those early risers can see Saturn low in the eastern sky, in the constellation of Gemini.

For those interested in when and where to look for various astronomical objects, including short lived phenomena such as comets and even satellites, a handy website is "www.heavens_above.com". It allows you to enter a location (for some reason Emerald is listed, but not Stella) and then gives charts and times for al-



most any object one could imagine. Another site, which has lots of pretty pictures of all kinds of astronomical objects, is the Hubble Telescope site - "hubblesite.org".



A group photo from the 34th annual PIG FEAST at Alan and Judy's house which took place Labour Day weekend

TC



Katie Little gathering flowers

BL

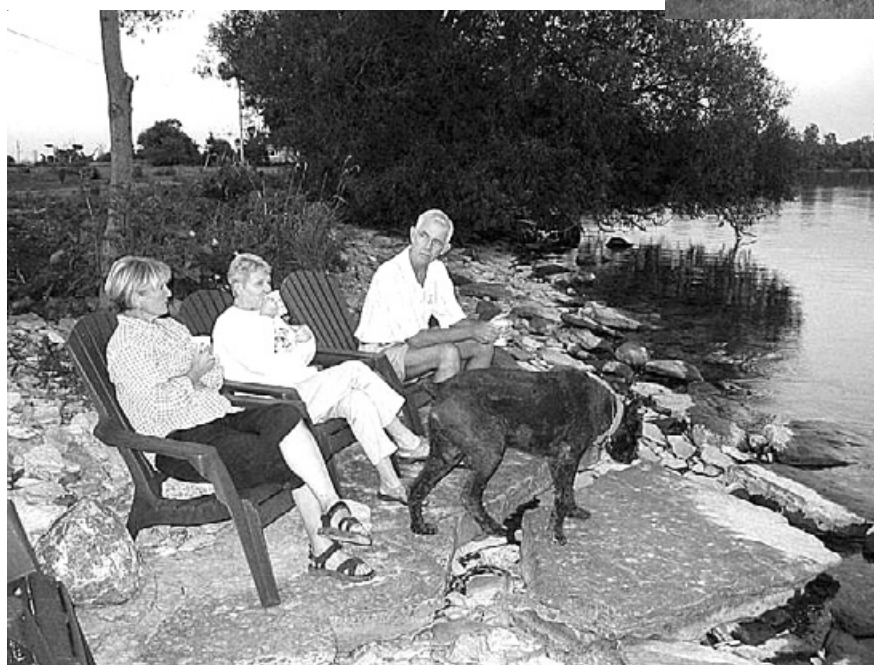


BL



Deanne and David Meikle of Hamilton visit the land on Second Concession Road they've owned for the past two years.

TC



Evening coffee

Barb Hoegenauer entertains Dana and Jack Garrett of London on the shore of her O'Drains Bay home.

TC



Leslie Gavlas, Jean Tugwell, Jean's sister-in-law Gracie Tugwell of Montreal and Helen Miller share a laugh at the Farmers Market. TC



Roger Bullock of Port Perry and Doug McLellan of Toronto chat with summer resident Brian Finlay aboard the Frontenac II. TC



Judi Gould of the South Shore Road is surrounded by her friends from Toronto Carol DeMarcado and Esther Harel. TC



Sheep drive on the Second, heading for the Stella forty foot

TC



Stephanie Rogers and her husband Frank Mahon of Toronto shop at the Saturday Farmers Market. TC



Ian and Dana Johnson of London purchased a pair of mitts at the Topsy Farm Wool Shed. TC



University student Marlene Kilpatrick refurbishes the exterior of her great grandfather Arthur Kilpatrick's general store in Emerald. Arthur's son Bill ran the store until its closure in 1965. The property is now owned by Stella O'Byrne of Emerald. TC



Storm-tossed fish on the shore

TC

DOCTOR JANET FARQUHAR KENNEDY AND HER SON THE SHEPHERD



TC

-by Terrence Patrick Culbert

A couple of weeks ago, I had the honour of meeting Doctor Janet Farquhar Kennedy. I was introduced to Doctor Kennedy at the Amherst Island Farmer's Market by her daughter-in-law Dianne Marshall. The petite, ever smiling, mother of sheep farmer Chris Kennedy had flown from the UK to visit her Island family for the 30th time. Last December, Janet, with the help of Chris and Dianne, moved from the south of England to Scotland to be near her eldest son Hugh. Chris's older brother is a professor at St. Andrew's University. Her youngest son, Alistair James, presently working in Kazakstan, is in the process of being posted to Moscow with the British Counsel. Two years ago Janet, Dianne and Chris travelled to that Central Asian

country to visit James.

In 1919, Janet Farquhar Atkins was born in Peterborough, Northamptonshire, England. She lived in India from the age of five until she was eleven years old. Her father was a missionary in that country. As a young adult, Janet moved to London to study medicine. During that time the Second World War broke out. Janet was evacuated to Aberdeen, Scotland, where she continued her studies. In 1943, she was called up as a doctor with the Royal Army Medical Corp (RAMC).

Working at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, she met David Kennedy, a surgeon-lieutenant with The Royal Navy. In 1944 they were married in Horning, County Norfolk, by her father, now a vicar back in England. "When the war ended, David and I went into general practice to-

gether", said Janet. "We took over David's god-father's doctor's surgery in Hythe, County Kent. It worked out well for us. We ran a very busy practice from 1947 until 1980. Upon retirement, we finally had time to do other things."

At almost 85 years of age, Janet is still a licensed doctor. "I haven't been crossed off yet. I don't often own up to it though, because everyone expects me to solve all of his or her medical problems. On the whole, I just call myself Mrs. Kennedy," laughed Janet.

Janet started coming to Amherst Island three decades ago with her late husband David to visit their son Christopher. She calls the Island her second home. "I love it here," she declared. Now she not only visits

Christopher, but his wife Dianne and all the friends she's made over the years. She also likes to help out in the garden or around the farm. "I love being part of the sheep drive, but I can't do as much these days! I also enjoy travelling the back roads and pasture land sitting behind my son on his ATV."

Although agriculture and farming was not part of Chris's primary years, he became interested in natural history while attending private school in Marlborough, County Wiltshire. From there, he went on to Cambridge University, obtaining his Master of Arts degree in Agriculture. "Most people don't realize that Cambridge and Oxford Universities have agricultural courses. Cambridge has a large veterinarian school as well. You can actually learn useful things there once in a while," Chris said with a laugh.

After graduation, he worked for various farmers in the UK. "In Britain you can only farm if you're wealthy as land and start-up costs are so prohibitive. Not having the money to go it on my own, I came to Canada. It was 1972; I was a 23-year-old hippy with a degree in agriculture but no job. I travelled the country looking for opportunities in my chosen field until one day I learned of a hippy commune on Amherst Island. It only took one visit and I decided to stay.

Because I had extensive experience in both England and Scotland with sheep farming, I persuaded them to get into the sheep business. We started with fifty animals and have steadily expanded since then." In the beginning, the commune was called Amherst Island Organic Farms. It was renamed Topsy Farms in 1977.

"Today we have 1250 breeding ewes, 1800 lambs and 32 rams. Those little stud champions sit around for eleven months doing absolutely nothing", claimed Chris. "then they go wild for a month, get extremely exhausted and lose about thirty pounds. When you do the math, that's a ratio of 40 sheep to 1 ram," Chris said with a chuckle.

About five years ago, Chris started writing a column in the Beacon, entitled 'Letter Home'. "I write the column with Mum in mind", said Chris. "My mother has a subscription and looks forward to reading it." Chris's column does not appear monthly as his farm duties take first priority. He's also vice-chairman of the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency as well as serving on the Board of Directors representing five counties. "Mum may not see my column every month, but I do phone her every Sunday or Monday. The telephone connection is always excellent. It sounds as if Mum is in the next room," Chris said with a big smile. *****



In 1944, Royal Navy lieutenant Doctor David Kennedy married Royal Army Medical Corp Doctor Janet Farquhar Atkins in Horning, County Norfolk, England.



TC

If you have more information on any of the older photographs appearing in this or any other issue of the Beacon, please write or phone us at our Global Headquarters.

*Ian's number is (613) 389-3802
Tom is at (613) 634-1855*

*-Who is in the photo?
-Where was it taken & by who?
-What was the occasion?*

Thank you! Your assistance is greatly appreciated!



As Mary Kate Kerr snaps a photograph, Stella O'Byrne of Emerald paddles the lead canoe in Algonquin Park.

Photo: Barb Hoegenauer

FOR THE LOVE OF WILDERNESS CANOEING

- Barbara Hoegenauer

Two Amherst Island residents are not quite Olympic material, but nevertheless they are up to gruelling physical challenges. For the past ten years, Stella O'Byrne and I have been part of a canoe-tripping group of women ranging in age from 46 to 64. For the most part, our group has explored all of Killarney Provincial Park, Ontario's crown jewel of wilderness parks, as well as parts of the French River. For a change in scenery, this past August we travelled to the west side of Algonquin Park, an area also known as Algonquin's Wild West. This lake-covered highland, situated in the oldest and largest Ontario Provincial Park, is a haven for flat-water canoeing and boasts one of the world's most famous canoeing areas.

Each year in February we all get

together to discuss our trip options. Once the route has been decided upon, the planning begins in earnest. Muscles need to be strengthened, meals need to be planned and the most important question "what can I do without?" is continuously agonized over. With advancing maturity, we are painfully aware of the fact that everything needs to be carried on our backs. Ingenious use of multi-purpose clothing, preparation of tasty exotic meals reduced to the size of a sandwich bag through dehydration, all earn deep respect from the group.

This year we had to plan for eight days in the wilderness, which exceeded our four to five day trips in previous years. We paddled across 7 lakes and worked our way over 16 portages, the shortest being a mere 55 metres and the longest a heart-pumping kilometre of slippery ups and downs. We had more than our usual share of rainy days. Adversity seems to strengthen the

bond of our group and we never cease to see the humour in our trials and tribulations. Sleeping on the ground, cooking on a small stove or open fire and carrying heavy equipment over often arduous portages is certainly not everyone's idea of a vacation. However, very few things come close to listening to the wild sounds of wolves and loons while paddling under a full moon on a darkened lake. The comfortable camaraderie while sitting around a campfire, laughing and sharing the day's experience has certainly a way of putting life into perspective.

Over the years we have experienced difficult conditions including rough waters, slippery rocks, steep portages lined with endless tree roots and getting lost in a pounding rainstorm. Somehow, they all blend into a melange of experiences and surprisingly we all come back for more each year.

UPDATE ON THE "MUD HOUSE"

- Leslie Gavlas

Sadly I must report to people who, inspired by the write-up in the Beacon (From the Napanee Beaver & submitted by Gwen Robertson, printed on "the Foot" of the August Beacon), had desired to visit this unusual building, that it no longer exists. The Scott family sold the property to the Ben Nightingale family (she was a Scott daughter), and they used it for storage. Unfortunately, at some point, the roof was broken and the rain, frost etc gradually wore down the walls.

When the James Eves family took over the farm about 1955-6, the remains were still visible, but now there is no way to identify the site.

A report to the Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History by Mrs. Beatrice McMaster (née Scott, born and raised in the Mud House) stated that the damage had started as early as 1946.

Living in the mud house must have been very pleasant from family reports of life there, and, judging from a report in the Napanee Express of Feb. 21, 1928, it was also very healthy. This report tells of the 91st birthday party of Mrs. M. Scott (Matilda Morrisson, born in Ireland, the wife of the builder) at Lilac Cottage where she was living with her widowed daughter, Mrs. Beatrice O. McMaster.

When the Gavlas family bought the McMaster farm (Front Road, 6750), Ray McMaster retained the smaller house, Lilac Cottage, on the property (Front Road, 6880). It was here that the party took place. Among the guests were her daughter, Mrs. A. Hitchins, Amherst Island; Mrs. Patterson, Buffalo; her son, Mr. W. A. Scott, Amherst Island; Mrs. W. A. Scott and family; Mr. A Hitchins and family; a grandson, Mr. R. McMaster with Mrs. McMaster and the Misses Helen (later Mrs. Earl Smith) and Jean (later Mrs. Garnet McDonald) - her great-grandchildren.

Lilac Cottage was later willed to Mrs. Earl Smith and has recently been purchased by Diane and John Badger.

*McMullen's Gate*

JH

THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

A big thank you to all those who are sending Tom photographs. Unfortunately, there are more photos than there is space for them. Tom has the responsibility of choosing what goes in and what doesn't within the constraints of available space.

Thanks also to those who made the effort

to produce written material for this and other issues.

Correction to the caption on the Glenn Picnic, Issue 318: the date should be "August 1941".

*At the Farmers Market*

L-R: Zander Dunn, Dave Brady, Margaret Maloney, Peter Large

JH

THANK YOU

I would like to thank my friends, neighbours and family for cards, phone calls, visits, prayers, flowers and food this past year.

Especially I thank Elsie, Hazel, Don and Pauline for getting me to appointments, to Dr. Harley Smythe for his visits and advice, and to Elsie, Jim and Sandra for all they have done for me before and after my two operations.

Thanks also to my sister Linda Brown for coming several times and staying with me.

Without you all I would never have made it.

Thank you everyone.

Barbara Reid.

THANK YOU

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Family and Friends for the beautiful cards, flowers, delicious food, charitable donations, and words of comfort, after the loss of our Mom, Betty Bedford.

Your kindness is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Rick Bedford, Liz & Kerry Hogeboom and families.

ACW TURKEY SUPPER & SALE

Saturday October 2 At Community Centre

5:00 P.m. - 7:00 P.m.

Adults \$10.00, Children (5-12) \$5.00, Preschool Children Free

Advance Tickets Only

Please Phone: 389-4327, 389-0482, 389-6939, 389-4874, 389-5328, or 389-7907

TO RESIDENTS AND FERRY SERVICE USERS:

The M.V. Frontenac II will be out of service between October 1, 2004 and approximately November 15, 2004.

Please note that the M.V. Quinte-Loyalist will be used on the Amherst Island service to serve the residents of Amherst

Island for the above period. This notice is to advise you of the change and the service limitations during the use of the Quinte-Loyalist.

The Quinte-Loyalist was modified to a side loading ferry with a capacity of between 15 & 22 cars and one single axle truck with a length not to exceed twenty-eight feet (28') (normal roadway weight restrictions will apply).

School buses will also be restricted to a maximum length of 28'. School buses, as per normal practice, will not be given priority on commuter trips. However, during the trips when school children would normally cross at 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. and the return trips of 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. there will be a shelter on the ferry to provide students safe passage.

MTO has commissioned the construction of a shelter with seating to be utilized on the M.V. Quinte-Loyalist for use on the Amherst Island crossing.

The Quinte-Loyalist has a smaller capacity than the Frontenac II so delivery and trucking companies are requested to schedule deliveries during non-peak hours. The ferry capacity will vary depending on vehicle size and Loyalist Ferry Service Staff will make every effort to accommodate the needs of the ferry users. There are no public washrooms and the size of the passenger lounge is limited on this ferry.

Loyalist Township regrets any inconvenience this reduction in service level will cause, but proper maintenance of the Ministry's vessels is necessary to provide dependable service. If you have questions please direct them to Ida Gavlas – Ferry Office, at 389-3393 or e-mail ferry@loyalist-township.on.ca.

Gabe Gagnier, C.E.T.

Transportation and Solid Waste Manager

WI CALENDAR 2005 Art entry and community event listing deadline Tuesday October 5th. Submit your art entry for the 2005 Calendar. All ages are invited to participate. Submissions must be capable of being scanned and printed on a paper for-

mat. Works in any medium are eligible. The originals entered remain the artists' property. Entry guidelines can be obtained at the W.I. Farmer's Market stall, or by calling 389-1320 or 389-0636. Community groups are invited to send in their meeting and special event listings so we can all be reminded when these take place. Please drop these off with Freda Youell (345 Stella Forty-Foot).

AMHERST ISLAND PHONE DIRECTORY ADDENDUM

An addendum to the Phone Directory 2004 will be printed and distributed in the early fall.

If you know of any additions/corrections /omissions(including spelling, phone numbers or addresses), please call: Nancy Henshaw, 384-0799; Jackie Sylvester, 389-1320; Kirsten Bennick, 389-0636

CALLING ALL GIRLS!

Sparks, Brownies, Girl Guides and Pathfinders:

We will be starting on September 15th with our first meeting from 6:00PM to 7:30PM at the Community Centre.

The registration fee will be \$55.00 and may be paid in instalments. Last year we planted trees, went bowling, hiked and cooked our supper out. We did crafts, helped with the Food Bank and completed "The Sing Ontario Sing Challenge".

We can't wait to see what we'll try this year so come join us and bring your ideas.

For information call: Janet Scott, 389-4608; or, Valerie Wolfreys, 389-8513.

PLEASE NOTE

The Frontenac II will be shut down Tuesday September 14, 2004 from 10:30 a.m. to approx. 2:30 p.m. for repairs.

4-H HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday, Sept. 18, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Stonebrae Farm, 600 South Shore Rd.

Everyone welcome. Free admission.

Livestock Exhibits

Children's Petting Farm

Farm Produce

Island-produced, barbecued Sheep Sausage and Beef Burgers

Staged by the Amherst Island 4-H Sheep Club

CONGRATULATIONS on your scholarship Shannon. We're very proud of you . Best of luck to you and John for a great year at Algonquin.

Love Mom, Dad and Candace

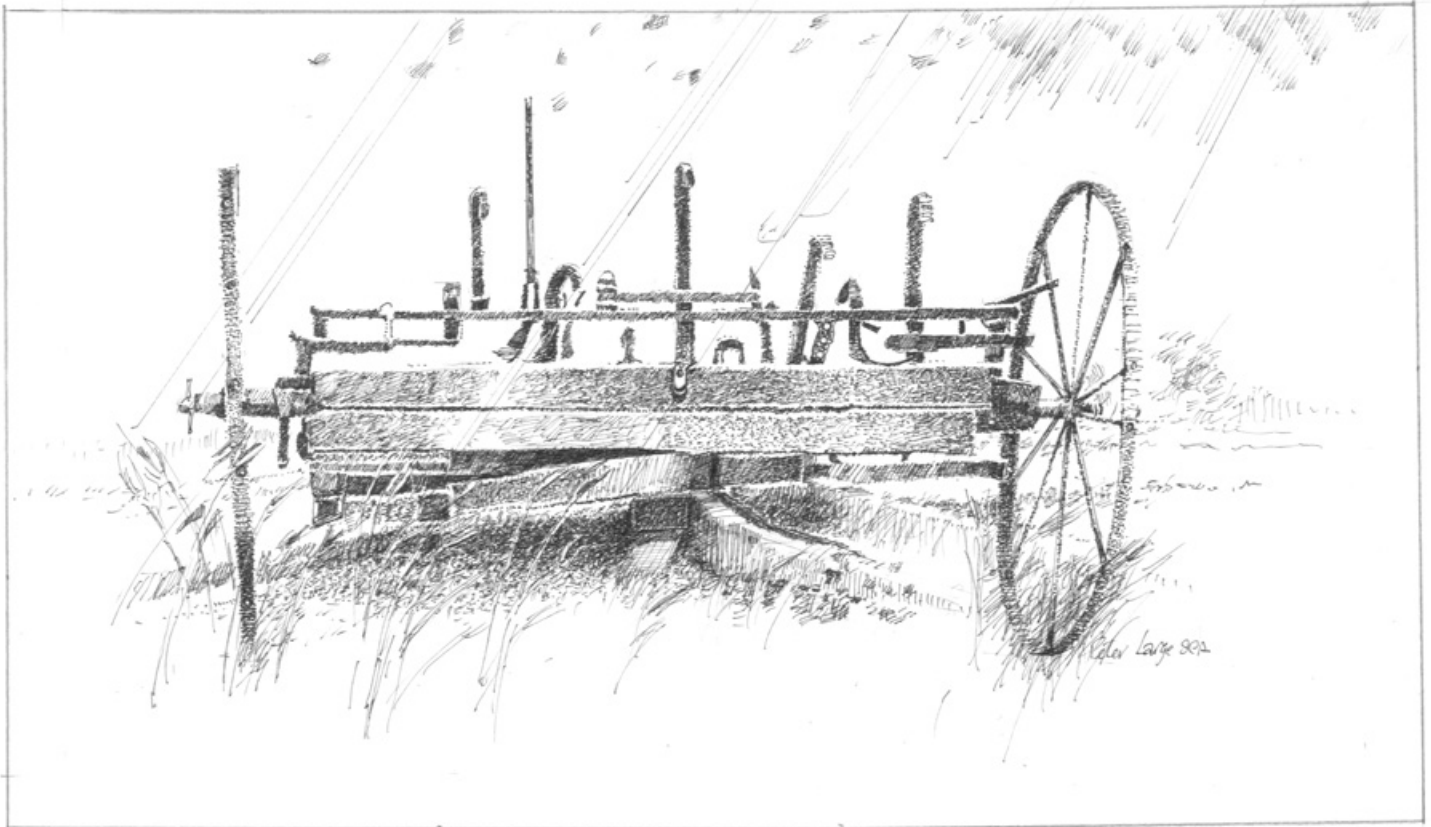
TOPSY WOOL SHED

Our retail farm outlet will be open every weekend from now until New Year's Day. The exceptions are: Farmers' Market each Saturday morning until Thanksgiving; and, the 4-H Harvest Festival on September 18.

We will open other times by appointment.

US CITIZENSHIP by birth or because of your parents birth? You have the **right** and a **civic responsibility** to vote this November (no matter how long you've been away, or even if you're a dual-citizen that has never lived there). to find out how, visit:

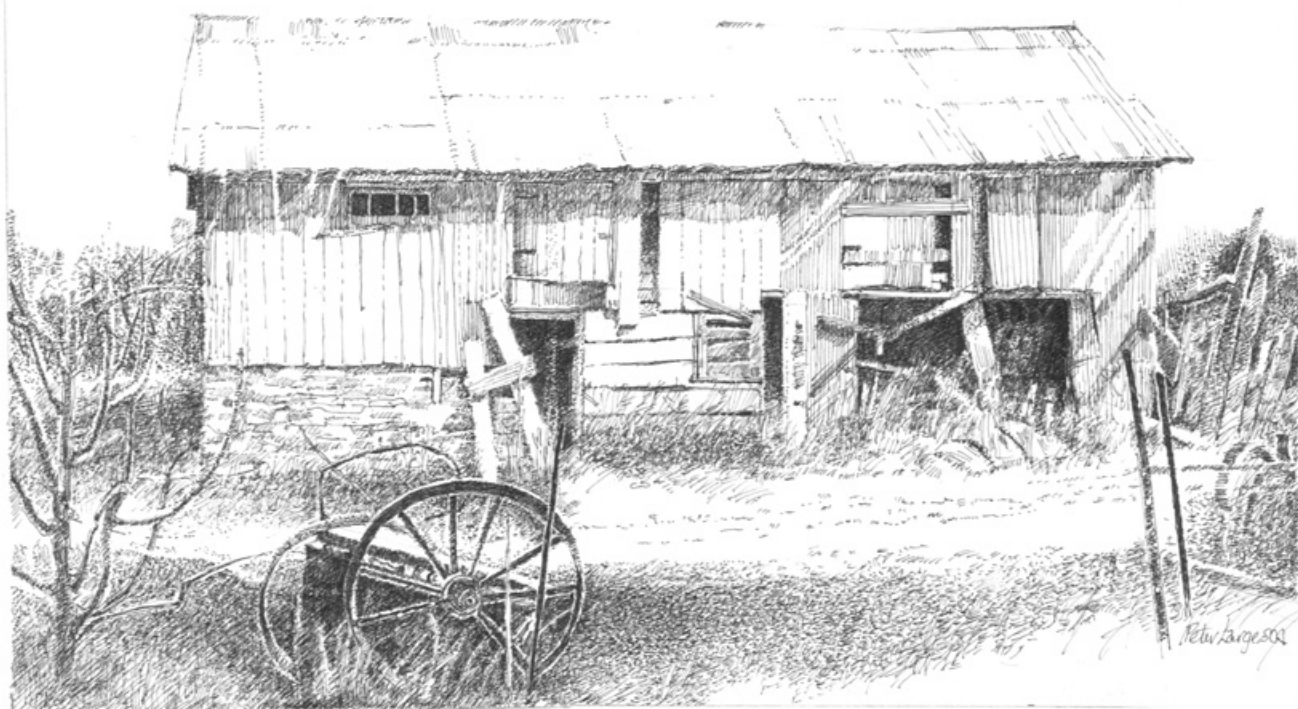
<http://www.OverseasVote2004.com>



Wind and The Rain

The Wind and the Rain

Peter Large, S.C.A.



Patchwork Barn
Second Concession

Patchwork Barn, Second Concession

Peter Large, S.C.A.

NEWS From the GENERAL STORE

We are now open 9am-8pm, Fri. and Sat.

The lazy hazy days of summer have finally arrived so why not kick back and enjoy one of these great New Releases:

50 First Dates - Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore

Something's Gotta Give - Jack Nicholson, Diane Keaton

Along Came Polly - Ben Stiller, Jennifer Aniston

Love Actually - Hugh Grant

Cold Mountain - Nicole Kidman, Jude Law

Calendar Girls - Helen Mirren

The Butterfly Effect - Ashton Kutcher

Secret Window - Johnny Depp

Mystic River - Sean Penn, Kevin Bacon

The Cooler - Alec Baldwin

21 Grams - Sean Penn

Matrix Revolutions - Keanu Reeves

Miracle - Kurt Russell

Scary Movie 3 - Leslie Nielsen

Bad Santa - Billy Bob Thornton

Paycheck - Ben Affleck

The Silver Stallion - Russell Crowe

Big Fish - Albert Finney, Ewan McGregor

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.

NEED GARDENING HELP?

Hoping to work in more Island gardens. Island references available.

Call Leslie at 388-2552.

**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's 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.

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. in beautiful Downtown Stella! Indoor, reasonable rates. Dayle Gowan, 634-3815

The Lodge on Amherst Island

Lodging rooms and Rental available for special occasions.

Call: (866) 552-3535

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

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

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

SOUTH SHORE COTTAGE

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

LAKESHORE RUBBER STAMP

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

Email: selc.welbanks@sympatico.ca

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

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

Archangelo Construction

Certified tradesmen in all construction disciplines: Carpentry, masonry, drywall, finishing. Complete services & ISLAND REFERENCES. Walter Saccon 561-5922

GODDEN'S WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE

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

To place your order call Marie Ward at 389-5767 or E-Mail: bmward@ihorizons.net

Picnic Tables & Weather Vanes For Sale

Keith Miller 389-2588

LANDFILL SITE HOURS

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

FERRY OFFICE HOURS

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

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

LIBRARY HOURS

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

Tel # 389-9371

Topsy Farms:

Looking for a wedding present? Want an interesting outing for visitors?

Come visit our Wool Shed at 14775 Front Road. We offer lambskins and sheepskins; yarn and hats; slippers; mitts; blankets; lap robes and wraps. Prices from \$3.25 to \$105. We'll mail orders anywhere. CALL TO MAKE SURE WE ARE HOME: (613) 389-3802

www.topsyfarms.com

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

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.

2004: A summer with one cutting of hay... five months long.



Bales on the Third Concession

JH