

Amherst Island BEACON



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April 2003

WILL THE ICE EVER LEAVE???

Making up for a lack of ice last year, the Bay of Quinte continues its deep freeze. The recent record is April 18, 1944. ^(see Note 1) Will we beat this? Do we really WANT to?

THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

Shirley Miller was doing some household rearranging and decided to give us her collection of Beacons. We are delighted that she had several of the issues that we lack. I wonder if we'll ever get them all.

I note with pleasure that Judith Harrower took me up on my request for photos of those who do the work on this Island. Her initiative in interviewing and photographing the A.I.P.S. staff is greatly appreciated here at Beacon headquarters. I hope our readers find Quiz-time as interesting as we do.

As always, it's the regular contributors

who make the Beacon worth reading. We are always looking for more writers - regular or once-in-awhile. I hope someone will respond to Lyn's request for a reporter at the AIPS play - see her note on page 12.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month go out to Noreen Welbanks, who is in hospital and also to Rod Barr. Continued "Good Health" wishes to Susan Caughey, Sally Bowen and Earl Tugwell.

Condolences to Laurene Kilpatrick and family, following the death of her brother in Kingston. Also to Chris Gregg and Alan Glenn and family following the passing of their brother and uncle, Garth Orchard.

Our sympathy and condolences to Rosemary Richmond and family following the death of her father. Our sympathy also to Doug and Helen Lamb on the loss of their sister-in-law.

Audrey Miller celebrated her 70th birthday at a surprise party with family and friends, and the following week, Elaine Wolfreys celebrated her 70th birthday at a surprise party as well.

Happy 90th Birthday this month to Helen Caughey. Helen and daughter Beth Forester spent time in St. Catherines with Rod Barr while he was ill.

Wilbert and Gayle Willard have decided to make the Island their perma-



Ice on the North Shore -Bill Harris

nent home and will no longer be dividing their time between here and their home on the mainland. Welcome!

Many Islanders took off for warmer climates to escape this winter's unending cold!! Kim and Duncan Ashley and family visited family in Alabama over the Spring Break; Don and Pauline Pepper escaped on a bus tour to Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Alan Kidd, Judy Roberts and daughters visited family in Florida, Kentucky and points in between; Vicki Keith and John Munro held a week long camp for kids in Cocoa Beach and then took a week to themselves; Tom and Lynn deHaan and family visited family in Fort Lauderdale and Stephanie and I spent a week with family and friends in Orlando. Russell, Jane, Ron and Susan McGinn and Bob Gibson spent Spring Break in Daytona.

St. Alban's ACW held another very suc-



Spring Daffodils -Peter Large

Note 1: This date taken from the notebooks of Amherst Island's own Captain Eldon Willard (1930-2002). Although we all are aware that blocks of limestone were brought across the ice from the Kingston Penitentiary quarry in April to build the Presbyterian Church, that was long, long ago... Whatever happened to global warming? Even if the ground hog promised us six weeks more of winter, wouldn't that be over by now?! TR



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successful Beef Dinner in March and as usual the meal was wonderful.

The same evening, Deb Kimmett gave a preview performance of her hilarious one woman show "Geographically Bi-Polar" to a packed house at Victoria Hall. Deb will take her performance to Second City in Toronto for 2 nights in the summer, and then for 2 nights in the fall at the Grand Theatre in Kingston.

As the war in Iraq is underway, we think of the troops stationed there, the innocent people all around the world that are affected by it and hope for a quick and peaceful end to it all. We also think of the World Leaders; those who have charged full force into battle; those who oppose it; those who sit on the fence and twiddle their thumbs; and even the Tyrants who will hide behind their people. No matter what your beliefs, we will all be affected by this in some way.

Finally, it seems the bitter cold that has held on for so long this winter has broken. We have been enjoying above freezing temperatures with even a little sun thrown in this past week or two. Of course with the warmer weather comes the mud and water everywhere. Soon it will be dry and hot and we will have something new to complain about! We have had a fat robin in the yard the last week or so eating the berries off of the flowering crab tree, the redwing blackbirds are back in flocks and the kilderer are back on the side of the roads. The snow has almost melted enough to see what

damage the voles have done to gardens and lawns and I can already see the mess the rabbits have made of several shrubs. Now, we will wait for the ice to go.

MORE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Ian Murray

Congratulations to Claire Jenney who was one of the January prize winners in the Globe & Mail's "The Challenge" which "was to use the cleriheiw form to compare the gustatory idiosyncrasies of any two writers". Claire's winning entry:

Ms. Atwood

Sips cream as a cat would

While Leonard Cohen

Likes his overflowin'.

[Staff : Note 1: From Google: "The cleriheiw is a comic form of four lines of irregular length, of which the first line is the name of a famous person or historical character. The rhyme scheme is a a b b; and part of the fun is rhyming on the proper name, as well as making the rest of the poem a pointed comment on the personage. The form's inventor, Edmund Clerihew Bentley (1875-1956), used it to good purpose:

Sir Christopher Wren

Said, "I am going to dine with some men.

If anybody calls

Say I am designing St. Paul's"



' Note 2: Ms. Margaret Atwood is said to have been a guest at Poplar Dell and visited the Owl Woods several years ago.]



A shed in winter

-Judith Harrower

DOUGLAS LENNARD GLENN

- December 31, 1983 to March 8, 2003.

Died suddenly, as a result of a tragic accident in North Vancouver. He is the son of Deborah (nee Bertrim) and Kevin Glenn and the grandson of Hope (Rowe-Hunter) and the late Douglas Glenn (a brother of Anna Hitchins) and Margaret and Lennard Bertrim.

Mr. Glenn has numerous Island relatives including 2nd cousins Reg Hitchins and Steven Willard.



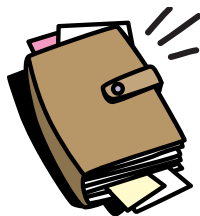


WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Nancy Dunn

St. Paul's church hall was the location for an open meeting of the A.I. Women's Institute on Wednesday, 19 March, 2003 at 7 p.m. Twenty-seven people gathered to listen to and question Dr. Lindy Kilik, a specialist in geriatric neuropsychology. She entitled her presentation "Memory and Aging: Victories, Challenges and Strategies" and used over-heads to reinforce her oral message.

The audience, whose age ranged from late 40's to mid 80's, appreciated the clear and helpful way she reached her three objectives: to help us gain an understanding of how human memory works; to differentiate between the types of memory that do and do not change with normal aging; and, to identify strategies that work to improve everyday memory. Many were heartened to hear that as we age it is normal to be



slower at processing new information or retrieving from long-term memory but slower doesn't mean that it's not still possible.

Effective strategies for helping our memory are those that are easy to learn, not too effortful to use and are used regularly. With examples to which her audience could easily relate, (there was considerable nodding of heads at times), Dr. Kilik provided a most interesting and useful program for anybody who is growing older.

After a fine selection of refreshments was enjoyed, the speaker and guests dispersed and the Institute settled down to business. After the reading of the minutes and regular standing committee reports, a final report was received on the calen-



A convoy of birdwatchers on the Stella 40 Foot... can Spring be far behind? -Terry Culbert

dar project and a committee formed for next year's issue. The BOOK SALE committee will be meeting shortly - all were reminded to sort through their book-shelves for the AUGUST event. This request goes out to all Islanders and their friends. Judy Harrower will pick up boxes of books for storage if you want to get them out of your way now.

Two fund-raisers were agreed upon: lunch at the auction of Clinton Kilpatrick's equipment on 10 May and a Sunday brunch following a wedding in mid-July.

Volunteers were secured for two committee and for a co-ordinator for the Farmers' Market table.

The group agreed to pay for the mailing of the Cancer Society's April canvas. Though many Islanders may have received other donation requests from the Cancer Society we encourage everyone to give through this Island mailing which is identifiable (probably by a red dot on the return envelope). The monies thus collected will be credited to Amherst Island and will be used by the local branch of the Cancer Society.

The next meeting will be our annual general meeting at 7 p.m. on Wed. 16 April '03 at the home of Joyce Haines on the Front Road.



Amherst Island Public School

- Lyn Fleming

Work is ongoing on this year's Spring Musical, "The Canada Goose". Please note the date change - it will be Wednesday, April 23rd. Please mark your calendar, and come out and enjoy an evening of music and acting by the A.I.P.S. students.

On April 3rd, we will hold our annual Public Speaking competition. Primary students will take part in "story telling", while the Senior students will present their speeches that have already been written and are being fine tuned! Everyone is welcome.

The Senior Class attended a School Dance at Bath PS. The B.P.S. Student Council organized the afternoon dance and invited the A.I.P.S. students in grades 4-8. A great time was held by all.

"SEEDS" is an enrichment program sponsored by Queen's University. This year, 2 Amherst Island PS. students attended the 3 day workshop. Ashley McGinn went to a Story Telling and Writ-

ing workshop, while Torri Phillips went to a Law workshop. Both girls had a great time.

Sarah Withrow, author of children's and adult books, spent an afternoon with the senior class recently. She spoke on how to be an author and did activities to show them how she develops a character.

A.I.P.S. held a Science and Technology Fair in February. Students had on display their projects on such things as pneumatics, structures, hydraulics etc. They also demonstrated and explained how they worked. Following the Science and Tech Fair, teachers held a Math information session. Parents and their children "went to class" together. Teachers explained terminology and some techniques and parents worked on problems along with their children. It was a fun and positive evening and some parents went away with a new understanding of just what their children do at school!

Artist Susan Beyette spent a day at A.I.P.S. again this year. This year she taught watercolour painting to the students. There are some beautiful paintings on display in the halls and some very talented students in our school.



AIMS

- John Kuti

Chairman was Doug Williamson.

The treasurer's report listed the recent expenses, pointing out the bank balance after recent donations, and the meeting room rental for the year left AIMS with little more than \$300. He pointed out that there were 32 paid members for the year. He raised the issue of funds as a problem.

The chairman thanked the members of ISLE who had prepared a very fine breakfast.

Peter Moes reported that the Neilson store committee had 51 paid members.

Various old and new business items were discussed.

Gary McDonald as a member of ISLE asked if that organization could do the next two breakfasts for AIMS in order to raise funds for their programs. Although the AIMS funds were low, it was agreed that the purpose of the group was to help and reach out to Island organizations and

so it was agreed that money raised from the following two months' breakfasts would go to ISLE for their taking on breakfast duty.

The meeting was adjourned.

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott



During the latter part of the week of March 10th, spring arrived. One minute we were bundled up against below zero temperatures and suddenly the week-end of the 15th was a new season.

Saturday we wakened to noisy birds and realized that the Red-winged Blackbirds were back and by evening they were in the hundreds. Friday the 14th saw Robins hanging out on the South Shore in groups in every tree. By Sunday the Grackles and Cowbirds were crowding the feeder and adding their calls to the din. Everyone was glad to be back and catching up on the family gossip while they'd been away.

The glowing white Snowy Owl was still on the fence line between the Road's Garage and St. Paul's as of March 26th. And Sneeps still report their Snowy at the foot. I did take a group of 62

Grade Threes from Henderson School to see the Snowy at the Foot but as one mother said, "Would you stay when 62 Grade Threes entered your field all at once?" They enjoyed the Island visit though, especially walking through the fields. It was the week after the Ice Storm while every blade of grass stood up in the field like a popsicle and at -26 with the sun shining the KFN property looked like a moonscape or a magical world.

The week of March 24th allowed us some

excellent Duck watching. When the broken ice leaves little lakes of open water on the Southshore the migrating ducks gather by the hundreds. There were lots of Goldeneye. They are a duck with a round dark head and white wing patch with light underneath and you hear a wonderful whistling sound as they all take off en masse. There is a round white patch on its cheek. With the Goldeneye were some Ring-necked Ducks. They show a prominent white shoulder marking like a vertical V on their sides and have dark backs and heads but their heads have a strange pointed shape. The smaller black and white ducks are Buffleheads with a

large white patch on their heads but only ten inches in length. There were a few beautiful American Wigeons closer to shore. With a pair of binoculars you can see the dark green on their heads in a horizontal stripe back from their eyes and they have a lovely gray on their cheeks contrasting with white on their crowns. Their breasts and sides are warm brown and



Nesting sites on the Foot -Judith Harower

show a white patch just before their dark tail coverts. The highlight of the week was a group of Hooded Mergansers in the creek by David Wemp's. This time of year they open their crests and display their wonderful black-bordered cockade to attract the females. Ducks were just ducks until I moved to Amherst Island and began with binoculars and scope to appreciate the beauty of their wide variety of plumages.

The early birds are already nesting. Our



Moving the Beacon on the Head (last year)

-Chris Kennedy

local Canada Geese while flocks are still migrating are already settling on nesting spots and we'll see goslings in early May. The Killdeer arrived noisily and are setting up housekeeping and the House Sparrows at Lyn Flemings are building a nest in a Birdhouse by her lane. Yesterday I saw a Starling carrying food. Perhaps a mating display but probably feeding young. The Horned larks along the roads are settling down on nests.

By the time my next article is due Amherst island will have made the transformation to all its many shades of GREEN! If this is your first Spring here you will be amazed at the wonderful transformation. The Island literally glows green.

We'll probably have a few last minute blasts of Old Man Winter but right now enjoy all the "twitterpating" and watch for tired returnees as they rest on your lawn or porch. They seem to need a few hours of stillness and it gives you good views that you might otherwise miss.

Good Birding!

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

"In 1998 the Federal Government entered into a 'Contribution Agreement' with Loyalist Township 'whereby Her Majesty agreed to pay . . . \$222,500 to carry out "Allowable Expenses" 'to the docks. Loyalist "has a project underway for the replacement of the timber crib portion of the Stella Wharf with a rock slope. Because of concerns expressed by Fisheries

and Oceans, with respect to potential impact on fish habitat, we are still awaiting information concerning approvals for working in the waterways."

The Township is seeking an extension of this agreement from the federal government. This seems fair given that Fisheries and Oceans, a federal body, has "been reviewing the file for about 1 year".

Township employees' group benefits amendments: maximum allowable for hearing aids, \$1000 every 5 years; orthodontics, \$450 every 2 years; and, basic and restorative dental work, \$1500 per year.

Report on Frontenac II's hull inspection: "The summary and recommendations of this report indicate that this is a localized area of failure [the leak discovered on Jan. 12 by Garry Hitchins] and that, based on

the survey conducted, the remaining plate is in sufficiently adequate condition that dry dock is not necessary at this time." There is a detailed list of action taken in a letter from MTO. Considering that the problem was discovered on a Sunday in January, it is remarkable that the ferry was out of action for only 13 hours.

AMHERST ISLAND SCHOOL TEACHERS

- Judith Harrower

In keeping with the editor's suggestion to submit names of people on the Island who work hard and deserve recognition I would like to do so for the teachers at the Amherst Island Public School. These dedicated teachers provide the Island children with a sound and varied basis for future educational pursuits as well as skills for later years.

Mrs. Cathy Secker has taught for 3 years at the school as head teacher and teaching grades 4-8. Growing up in Quebec, Mrs. Secker has been teaching for 25 years and came to the Island from the Peterborough area. She has 4 sons and 1 grandson. Martin, her husband was born on the Island to a St. Alban's minister and his wife. They reside in Kingston.

Mr. Andrew Cotton is also in his third year of teaching the primary grades. Mr. Cotton has been teaching for 4 years, earned two undergraduate degrees, B.Ed. from Queen's University at Kingston as well as his Masters of Education. Mr. Cotton is a Kingstonian and his wife, June, also teaches grades 1-2 in Kingston.



AIPS Staff, L-R: Janet Scott, Stephanie Raeburn-Gibson, Margo Virtue, Andrew Cotton, Cathy Secker, Lyn Fleming

Mrs. Janet Scott started teaching 41 years ago and has resided on the Island for 19 years on the South Shore. Mrs. Scott was trained as a Special Education teacher and is teaching Geography, Health and Physical Education to all grades. She is the school's supply teacher and is known for her involvement in Girl Guides, Sunday school and an avid bird watcher. Mrs. Scott has raised 5 children and has 6 grandchildren. Reverend Ritchie, Mrs. Scott's father was a minister at St. Paul's.



AIPS senior class Science

-Judith Harrower

Mrs. Stephanie Raeburn-Gibson is the school's half-time special assignment Science teacher, now in her second year on the Island. Ms. Raeburn-Gibson also heads the Amherst Island Science Board, which hosts students from the Limestone District School area, to explore the Island and has been teaching for 15 years. She resides in Kingston with her husband and two children.



Mrs. Margo Virtue is the school's Educational Assistant where for the last 4 years she assists Junior and Senior Kindergarten children with learning difficulties. She previously worked as a Child and Youth worker for 15 years. Mrs. Virtue lives in Amherstview with her husband, John, and daughter.

Mrs. Lyn Fleming has been the school's secretary for the last 10 years, as well as providing support to all facets of school life. Mrs. Fleming drives one of the school's buses, is an active member of both I.S.L.E. and the Amherst Island Recreation Association. Mrs. Fleming lives in Stella with her husband, Larry and two children.

"We are all wind. And even the wind, more wisely than we, loves to make a noise and move about, and is content with its own functions, without wishing for stability and solidity, qualities that do not belong to it."
Montaigne

RELATIONSHIPS

- Ian Murray



I promised last month to try to explain what the concept of 'second cousin 3-times removed' means. I will use my own (simplified) family tree rather than having to create a fictitious one. Wendell and I are 1st cousins, our sons Jacob and Vince are 2nd cousins. A child of Jacob's will be a 3rd cousin of Vince's son, Alexander. First cousins are one generation away from siblings (brothers and sisters), 2nd cousins are 2 generations away and so on. To explain how I am related to Vince, the word "removed" is used: he is my first cousin once-removed, that is, he is one generation away from my first cousin Wendell. Vince's son Alexander is my first cousin twice-removed. Jacob and Alexander are 2nd cousins once-removed. Alexander's grand-children will be Jacob's 2nd cousins 3-times removed.

I hope I explained that well enough.

The west end of Prince Edward Island, where all my grand-parents were born, was fairly isolated a century ago, as was Amherst Island. This has led to some interesting kinships. My grand-mother Nellie Sweet's father Sam, was widowed in middle age. His second wife was Belle Murray and they had children. Her youngest brother Thomas, my grand-father, married Nellie. Nellie's sister Sadie married Thomas's older brother John. The descendants of Belle, Thomas and John are related in interesting ways, just as many of the older families of Amherst Island are entwined in interesting ways.

Descendants of
Thomas Murray

- 1 Thomas Murray
- +Nellie Sweet
- 2 John Murray
- +Ruth Coughlin
- 3 Ian Murray
- +Randi Hill
- 4 Leah Murray
- *2nd Wife of Ian Murray:
- +Sally Bowen
- 4 Jacob Murray
- 4 Kyle Murray
- 3 Leith Murray
- +Lynn Racher
- 4 Jon Murray
- 4 Shane Murray
- 3 Janet Murray

- +Clay Reynolds
- 4 Lori Reynolds
- +Justin Wirth
- 5 Eliza Reynolds
- 4 Juanita Reynolds
- 4 Sonya Reynolds
- 2 George Murray
- +Marjory Rix
- 3 Wendell Murray
- +Maralyn Miller
- 4 Paul Murray
- 4 Vince Murray
- +Shelley McLaughlin
- 5 Alexander Murray
- 4 Gina Murray

NEW REPRINT AVAILABLE

Amherst Island: A Detailed Survey

by Thomas Sylvester

Available for the first time since 1994.

Research into land and property lines as laid out for Sir. John Johnson (c. 1790).

You may find this book particularly interesting if you own waterfront

property. 112 pages of text and maps, spiral bound, fully annotated. Copies \$25 each at the AI General Store or call 389-1320





AN INTERVIEW WITH HELEN FRANCES MILLER



- Zander of DUNN INN

Helen Frances (Wemp) Miller was born on September 21, 1918 in the family homestead (550 Art McGinn Rd.) where David and Betty Wemp live today. Her father was Arnold Edward Wemp and her mother was Kathleen Downey Neilson whose father owned Neilson's Store in Stella. Helen was the second oldest of five children. Before Helen, came John Neilson, the first born, who now lives in Kelowna. After Helen came Ralph Arnold, now in Stella, Marjorie Kathleen (Tooke) now living in Hamilton, and Jean Muriel (Tugwell) of Stella.

Helen's earliest memories are of attending Public School Number 4 on the Emerald Forty Foot. In spring and autumn she joined dozens of other children who walked to school. There was no water at the school so each child carried a bottle of water in his or her lunch box. Of course, the children consumed all the water before school was dismissed. But on the way home Mrs. Percy Howard gave the kids a drink of water (which they gladly accepted) and offered them cookies too - which they were told by their parents not to accept so they wouldn't be seen to be taking advantage of Mrs. Howard's generosity. In the spring the ditches were crawling with snakes which the boys delighted to catch so they could chase the girls who ran screaming ahead of them.

The children had none of the toys we enjoy today. They played ball games in good weather and clamoured over two long sleighs in the winter. Edith Scott was one of Helen's favourite teachers because she helped Helen during the year she missed months of school because of illness. Another kind teacher was Lorraine McGinnis. Many McGinn and Gibson children as well as Stratton and Marian Reid (Glenn), Henry Hitchins, Noreen Richards (Welbanks), Garnet McDonald and the McGinnises were among Helen's classmates. Their fathers took turns driving the kids to school with a team of horses and a sleigh in winter.

Helen liked school, especially Math. Because she was a tomboy she played, and excelled, in all manner of games.

High school for Helen was the brick building which stood where the Back Kitchen is today. Her brother, Neilson, had to feed and hitch up the horse which pulled the buggy in which he, Hilda McGinn (Keith McGinn's sister) and Helen rode to school. When they got to school he put the horse and buggy in the barn or drive shed near where Caroline Yull now lives.



Donald & Helen Miller after the cows had been milked (by hand!)

It was a long day for them all. They had to be up at 6 a.m. and away at 7 a.m. After a full day at school it would often be 6 p.m. before they got home. After that came supper, chores and homework. They fell into bed about 9 p.m. Helen remembers one incident when the top of the buggy collapsed on them all in such a way that the horse got away. While they were under the hood, they were sure the buggy had been ruined and the horse had escaped. Fortunately, the buggy was easily repaired and the horse had simply moved forward a few feet to eat grass. A disaster averted!

After Helen graduated from High School

she returned home to help her brothers because her father had died, in 1936, of stomach cancer. She also wanted to support her mother. Helen had always wanted to be a nurse but her father, having endured treatments in the hospital and at home for his illness, declared he didn't want any of his daughters to be nurses.

Saturday was a heavy workday because all the laundry for six or seven was done in manual washers, on scrub boards and through hand wringers. Helen would rather have milked the cows but the washing was her job. Although the family kept some milk for themselves and some cream to make butter, most of the dairy products were sent to the cheese factory in Emerald.

In 1940 Helen married Donald Miller, a young farmer, whom she had met and come to know in high school. Donald, who drew the mail before and after his marriage, never enjoyed robust health. Before he was eight years old he had suffered a ruptured appendix at school and had walked home. Helen believes that trauma affected his whole life.

Helen was afflicted with a series of disasters beginning in 1958. Her husband, Donald, after being in hospital for a month and then confined to bed at home for a year, died of cancer. Three months later Donald's mother, who had lived for years with Donald and Helen, suddenly passed away. Before that, Keith Miller, Wilfred's son and Donald's nephew, suffered a badly broken leg when a tree fell on him. In 1959 Wilfred Miller's wife died. Helen got through those days with the support of her family and friends.

Helen remained on the farm and succeeded with the help of her neighbours and her three children, Carol (Paul Glenn), Sandra (Glenn Filson) and Donald (Judy). Carol and Donald worked in the barn and on the fields and Sandra worked in the kitchen.

In 1961 Helen married Wilfred Miller, Donald's older brother. Wilfred and his son, Keith, came to live at Helen's home, Mapledene, on the Third Concession. Keith stayed there until he married Shirley

and they moved to what had been Wilfred's house next door. Wilfred and Helen enjoyed a good relationship until Wilfred's death in 1970. Helen's mother died at the age of 103 in 1996.

When she was in her 50's, Helen, in 1971, turned over the farm to her son, Donald, while she went to St. Lawrence College for a short course to become a clerk-typist. She was quickly employed by Empire Life in Kingston where she worked for 10 years before retiring in 1983.

After living a year with Donald and Judy in Mapledene Helen moved to the tiny house at 145 Macdonald Lane. It had been built at Long Point for Earle Willard to live in. Later it was moved into the village for Marian Richards, Noreen Welbank's mother. Helen rented there from 1984 to 1994. She moved into the house where she is now, 5605 Front Road, after it became available for rent when the previous occupant, Ruth Glenn, died.

Helen grew up within Christ Church, Anglican, (now St. Bartholemew's Roman Catholic Church in Emerald). It was The Rev. Secker who officiated at her marriage to Donald in Christ Church. The most memorable feature of the service was The Rev. Secker's inability to remember their names. Helen was married in a white gown made from her mother's wedding dress. The reception was held at her home.

In those years the two Anglican churches on the Island shared a minister. Helen remembers well a Mr. Leach, elderly, kind and faithful but not inspiring as a speaker. Another older minister who rendered yeoman service to the Anglican community was The Rev. Mr. Dixon. Sunday School was held just prior to worship. The catechism was taught, by rote, to all the children who gathered in the church - a process young Helen found tiring. The Anglicans always had turkey suppers in the fall which usually were presented at Victoria Hall, until a hall was built for suppers and dances in Emerald.

The war years were difficult for everybody on the island. Both Neilson and Ralph entered the army. Ralph went overseas where he saw action in Italy. It was difficult for the family to think of the boys so far away and in possible danger.

After Helen got married she joined St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Donald's church. Helen felt warmly welcomed by

all the members and The Rev. R.K. Earls. Helen became active in the women's groups and worked diligently in all aspects of church life. She is now one of five elders whose purpose is to assist the minister to encourage and lead the congregation.

Helen remembers with a smile the winter neighbourhood card parties and supper parties she enjoyed as well as the dances and dinners at the Victoria Hall. The neighbours were a great source of support and comfort. Neighbours worked together - especially at threshing time when the teams of farmers went down the concessions. Oh, the good food the women provided at lunch and supper for the teams of up to 15 men!



Five generations: (L-R) Kathleen Wemp; Shawna Phillips; Helen Miller; Annette Phillips; Carol Glenn.

Helen remembers how grateful she was to Art Drumgoole who led others to help her spread the manure on her farmland after Donald had died. People cared for and helped one another.

In the summer there were fairs at the fairgrounds in Stella next to where Beth and Jack Forester now live. And there were dangerous adventures too. On one occasion Helen was up a tree picking apples when the branch on which she was standing broke and she tumbled down with a completely ripped dress. Her friends have never let her forget that! On another occasion Neilson had led the horse, with Helen in the buggy, to the lake for a drink of water. He had removed the bridle and reins but the horse, having never been watered in the lake before, bolted when it was scared by a wave. He ran off, pulling Helen in the buggy, up toward Maurice Smith's house (not far from where Kay and Dorothy McGinn live) and

almost hit a big tree. Helen was sure she would have been killed if Maurice had not grabbed the horse before it turned to go down to the water again.

Maurice Smith did much good work with the Anglican youths who took their plays around the island and over to Bath, who enjoyed dances in the halls, and who helped with the church suppers.

Helen, who has trouble with her eyesight, lives in Stella and enjoys participating in family fun, St. Paul's Church, The Women's Institute and The Eastern Star. As she looks back over the years she rejoices that nobody has to work as hard on the farm as she and others did before telephones, electricity and milking machines came to the Island. She laments the lack of farmers, their families and children, but feels there are many signs of new life on the Island. She sees more activities in the churches and is grateful so many of her family live nearby so that she can enjoy their company and love.

Helen's family, which is such a source of joy for her, is well-known on Amherst Island. Carol (Miller) and her husband, Paul Glenn, have moved back to the Island after years in Sudbury. They live on the Third Concession, close to their daughter, Annette, (who works at the Kingston Whig Standard), and her husband, Bill Phillips, who delight in their two girls, Shawna and Torri. Paul and Carol's son, John, and his wife, Maureen, have three children - Leslie, Mitchell and Mallory.

Sandra (Miller) and her husband, Glenn Filson, have two children - Todd, married to Andrea, whose children are Cameron, Tyler and Matthew; and Kim, married to David Redden, who have two children, Alexandra and Ben.

Donald Miller is married to Judy and they live in the family homestead at Mapledene. Their two children are Donald Sean (on the ferry crew), married to Sherry (Ward) and Chad who teaches school in Napanee.

Helen Miller has six grand-children and ten great grandchildren, all of whom hold her in high esteem.



QUIZ-TIME

- Judith Harrower

Once again thanks to those Islanders who provided information and who also provided reference material or pointed me in the right direction.

The following is information provided by several long-time residents who actually attended these schools and have either written the information or verbally told me what school they attended.

All one-room schoolhouses were first built of logs, and replaced with more substantial structures. School #4 was a log building located on the Second Concession West Of Emerald Forty-Foot. The next log school was located on the east side of Garry Hitchin's property, 6345 Second Concession. Local tale relates that there was a cellar under the school and that the boys often shut the girls in this. Later a frame building was built on this site.

The first building 'designated' as a school was built of stone and again situated on the Hitchin's farm, at the north east corner. It was destroyed in 1873 by fire. The last version of this school still stands on the Emerald Forty-Foot, between Emerald and the Second Concession, and was built in 1940. Now it is a storage shed owned by Steve Hart.

School #1 was originally a "cottage-roofed" building with wooden walls, and as it fell into a decrepit state, a new school was built in 1871 of brick and is currently owned by Gertrude Maude at 3580 Front Road. There were many debates on the new school's location, as many had great concerns that the present site was too dangerous for the children, but as far as one was able to say, they never heard of anyone falling into Preston's Bay.

School #2 was on the South Shore made of hand hewn timbers and had a chimney built by a Picton mason in 1872. This school replaced a log school, which boasted a large playground, and had a teacher's platform running the length of the south end. The chimney divided this south wall, and the walls were painted black serving as the blackboards until early in 1900's. The school is located at 4125 South Shore Road and until recently was owned by Michael and Bobbi Shaw.

School #3 was housed in a log build-



SS#3, Kerr's School, Front Road, Amherst Island, 1908 (picture from Ralph Morrow)

Back Row (L-R): Teacher E. Burleigh; Arthur Scott; Willie McCormick; Marion Willard; May Tugwell; Eva Glenn; Myrtle Brown; Rose Glenn. Front Row (L-R): Max Beaubien; Claude Willard; Morrison Scott; Edna Glenn; Arthur Glenn; Robbie McCormick.

There has been some confusion over the name of this school: Kerr's or Carr's: we've heard both. The answer that seems to make the most sense is that the proper spelling of the school name is K-e-r-r, but the pronunciation from the original Irish settlers could have rhymed with the words jar or bar. In later years, the school superintendent was Jack Kerr (rhymes with burr or stirr), and he moved to a house just North of the school. This might have contributed to the conflicting pronunciations and spellings of this location.

TR

ing, which had been built by the Empire Loyalists, square in shape with a "cottage roof". Another school was erected on this site in 1871 and known as the Kerr School as the Kerr family was the next-door neighbour. The site is now the home of Johnny McGinn, 7720 Front Road, across from the Dump Road.

School #5 was built in 1862, for children living on the Third Concession, from timber gleaned from neighbouring farms. Heated by a \$12.00 stove, pupils sat at hand-made wooden desks and benches. The school was sold when the present day school opened, and was used as a machine shed, which was eventually torn down. Today Paul and Carol Glenn have built a new home at 3475 Third Concession.

Continuing Education (high school) for Island teenagers meant that they had to travel to the mainland and many had to board with mainland families especially in inclement weather. In early 1900's a by-law was passed to provide continuing education on a fee-paying basis to Island teenagers.

There have been several locations where the high school was located, the first being 5675 Front Road, then the Filson home in Stella in 1908. However, the students created too much noise and the number of students increased to where larger accommodations were required. The next location was in the old summer hotel located on Stella Point, using one room in the eastern wing. In 1921 Samuel Sutherland, wealthy shoe manufacturer from Missouri purchased the buildings and land. He turned the old hotel into the Sutherland Golf Club, and allowed the students to remain. But as numbers of students increased, an addition was added to the one east room, plus a second floor room. At this time two teachers were employed and as the point had ample grounds, students played basketball, football and baseball. In 1929 Mr. Sutherland had new designs for the building and the school had to be moved. This building on the Point is now "The Lodge" owned by Molly Stroyman.

The Continuing School was next housed

back in the Village in a two story red brick building on Front Road, where the Back Kitchen building is located. This building was the home of the school from 1929 until 1948. Originally known as the "Markman's Hotel", the building had also been used as a machinery dealership, insurance agency, telephone system central office, and in 1955 a coffee shop and gas station. Fire destroyed it in 1967.

When the present day school opened in 1948, the Continuing School moved into the two west rooms and finally in mid-1960's Island high school students were bused to various high schools on the mainland.

Stone walls on the Island were built by an Irishman, John Crowe, who was able to build a 'rod a day', receiving a dollar per rod. He also was provided room and board by the various landowners. These stone walls are unique in all of North America and have only been found in specific locations in Ireland. Let's respect them, and would it not be worth our while to restore them?

I was given an old edition of the Beacon, containing an article written by A. Bruce Caughey in which he reminisces about the Island getting electricity. In 1937, a Liberal Premier, M.L. Hepburn, seeking re-election, promised rural areas of the province would be provided with electricity. He came to the Island, spoke at Victoria Hall to an overflowing crowd, won re-election and the Island was provided with electricity. Mr. Caughey became the Island meter reader, and dealt with all electricity problems.

Telephone service to the Island was implemented in 1889, when a cable was laid between Barry's Point & Bath. There were about five telephones on the Island at this time and in 1926 telephones were made available to all Islanders when Fred Perry Telephone System built lines and installed a switchboard. By March of 1952 the Island Telephone System gained control and remained the supplier until they sold to Bell Canada in 1964. A newer cable was



The old gate and fence (at 15095 Front Road)

laid between the east end of the Island and the mainland. Noteworthy is that 'private lines' were made available to Islanders in 1991. The telephone systems were housed in Helen and Doug Lamb's home at 305 Stella Forty Foot, little blue/gray house beside Victoria Hall on Front Road and the "Old Brick", where the Back Kitchen is located. There were other locations but people could not remember exactly.

First Road paved was Front Road "below the Village" in the 1960's.

First Islander to own a television set was Sterling Glenn. Two Islanders were named as owning the first car, Arthur Kilpatrick and Reginald Instant.

Questions for next month:
Locate Upper and Lower Gaps, the Battery and what historical event is supposed to have happened there?
What is the land size of the Island, how long and how wide?

Name types of trees found on the Island originally and what were they used for.

Name Islanders who served in the Boer War, World Wars I and II and the Korean War.

Name the commercial businesses that were once in Stella and Emerald, such as hotels, saloons, ice cream parlours, restaurants, gas stations, general stores - giving the fire numbers and if the buildings still exist.

DT

THANK YOU NOTES

I can't stop reading your online editions of the Beacon. The articles are terrific!

My mother, Edna Kearney, was born and educated on the Island and I plan on giving her a subscription. I plan on getting one for myself also. My uncle's names (Wallace & John) are on the memorial in front of the school. Thanks again.
Debra

Farewell to the Island. I've been house-sitting longer than planned - but have really enjoyed my time here. Your concerns and kindnesses have been very much appreciated. I was delighted to have been included in so many of your activities - especially around Christmas time. I've gotten to know more cats while here than I have in my whole life! Coming home with me will be some Amherst Island mud and lots of pleasant memories. THANK YOU for your warm welcome and kind caring. Hope I'll see you again. Fondly, Joyce Reid

Socrates asked Meno what virtue was. "There is," said Meno, "the virtue of a man and of a woman, of a magistrate and of a private individual, of a child and of an old man." "That's fine," exclaimed Socrates; "we were in search of one virtue, and here's a whole swarm of them!" **Montaigne**

Many thanks to friends and family whose thoughts and prayers were with me during my recent illness. I've been very touched by the many people who have asked about my health since I've been home. Special thanks to Ida for fielding the many phone calls. I'm now feeling glad to be back home enjoying the spring weather.

Leslie Gavlas

THE SWEATER

- Dianne Marshall

The sweater is finally finished! I wish to thank all those whose help and encouragement enabled me to keep knitting on. To - Lynann whose finely knit sweaters stirred me to move on from hats.

- Caroline taught me to knit the cuffs with four needles.

- Sheila, on several occasions, deciphered the pattern and gave me rubber thingees for the ends of my needles.

- Jane showed me how to unknit, thereby saving me from ripping all the stitches off the needles.

- Mrs. Turner was often quizzed about pattern instructions while being held captive in the passenger lounge.

- Pat for her generous offers of help.

- Darrell for his quick ability to sort out a pattern instruction which had me puzzled.

I hope my sister appreciates the fact that THE SWEATER was a collective Island endeavour which makes it even more special. Many Thanks !



Diannes' sister Jackie in the sweater -CK

NOTICES & ADS

FREE

Free light-green vinyl siding is available for anyone wishing to remove it carefully from the Neilson Store. For further information please contact Hugh Jenney 384-7830

AWARENESS WORKSHOP

Saturday April 12, 2003

This workshop develops and awakens the value of 'mindful attention' and its positive application to dealing with our everyday stress and tension. "Mindfulness" allows us to see clearly and cultivate the ability to stay present to life as it arises moment to moment. Jocelyne Leyton 384-6488

COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH

Cranial Osteopathy helps restore normal function impaired by trauma, chronic illness and acute health problems. Underlying causes of pain are treated & areas of structural stress are relieved. This gentle, non-invasive treatment restores balance and harmony. For information/appointment: Jocelyne Leyton, R.P.P. 384-6488

THE BACK KITCHEN

The Back Kitchen will be taking applications on May 3 from 1 pm until 4 pm at The Back Kitchen. We are looking for: waitresses, kitchen help, & clean-up crew.
**



The Back Kitchen will open on May 16th for its 10th season, however there will be some changes this year. In September of 2002 the restaurant was sold to Susan Toumey, a long-time visitor of Amherst Island. Susan's first trip to the Island was in August 1975 after receiving an invitation from Susie Caughey to visit. Loving the Island and the people came easy, but moving here has taken almost 28 years.

Purchasing Lilly Cottage was the first step in relocating, seeing my youngest son through high school was the next step, and buying the restaurant as a means to support myself was the final step. Immigration has been an interesting experience, nevertheless it is all working out okay.

The Back Kitchen will continue to offer the same friendly service with many of the same employees. The menu will be similar to past years' with the addition of a stromboli sandwich, pulled-pork sandwich,

along with fresh salads, and subs made while you wait. Plans are to be open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, May 16th through October 19th, with the addition of Thursdays during July and August. We will also be open on holiday Mondays throughout our season.

The Back Kitchen is looking forward to serving you. Sue Toumey

Arts at the Lodge on Amherst Island - Botanical Watercolour Workshop with Pamela Stagg

An introduction to botanical painting with one day of demonstrations and exercises and an opportunity to complete one or more botanical paintings. During the first morning students will complete exercises in drawing, painting technique and colour matching. In the afternoon there will be demonstrations and opportunities for students to paint a practice stem, leaf and petal. During the remaining two days, students will work on botanical subjects of their choice with individual feedback and additional demonstrations.



Date: June 14th-16th, 2003 Saturday through Monday, 9:30 – 4:30 Daily

Class limit: 15 students **Prerequisite:** Proficiency in watercolour technique. Previous experience in botanical painting, while welcome, is not required. **Materials:**

A materials list is available. For those buying everything on the list as new, this may be over \$100. (further information after registration) **Accommodation:** The Lodge facilities offer bright, generous rooms on a double occupancy basis. There are no private rooms or ensuite baths. (see next page for details) **Fee:** \$470.00 per person. **Includes instruction, three nights accommodation, all meals and snacks from Friday night supper to tea on Monday afternoon, plus your Ferry ticket.**

Registration for the course and the accommodation is confirmed upon the receipt of a 50% deposit. The balance of the fee is due May 31st, 2003.

Contact: Molly Stroyman 416-533-5997
123 Albany Avenue, Toronto M5R 3C5
mollystroyman.com

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL STORE

HOURS: M-F 9-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 10-4. These are the newest videos we have available to rent on VHS or DVD right now:

- ***My Big Fat Greek Wedding**- John Corbett, Nia Vardalos
- ***The Banger Sisters**- Goldie Hawn, Susan Sarandon
- ***About a Boy** - Hugh Grant
- ***Sweet Home Alabama**- Reese Witherspoon
- ***The Good Girl**- Jennifer Aniston
- ***Simone**- Al Pacino
- ***Spy Kids 2**- Antoniaio Banderas
- ***Life or Somehting Like it**- Angelina Jolie, Ed Burns
- ***Blue Crush**- Kate Bosworth

Victoria Hall Tea Room

Crafts are selling well, come in and browse. By popular demand, Tea Room **Gift Certificates** are available for 'anyone who has everything else!' Drop by for Island Videos @ \$16.95 ...or just to say 'Hello'. REMINDER: Afternoon card games please call 389-5389. Open Tuesday through Sunday noon to 6pm.

Visit Watercolours, Etc.

The studio gallery of Shirley Miller. We are exhibiting the works of several local artists. Paintings, prints & lessons available. 2545 Third Concession... If we are home, we are open! Tel. 389-2588

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.

Godden's whole-hog sausage

Made using the finest cuts of pork including hams, chops, loin, etc. Choose from regular, honey garlic, tomato oregano. \$40.00 for 10lb. box. Available at Poplar Dell B&B: Call Susie at 389-2012 or Lori at 705-653-5984.

Picnic Tables & Weather Vanes For Sale

Keith Miller 389-2588

Country Seats Repairs to woven chair seating: Reed & Ash, Splint Cane & Fibre Rush. Call Johanna MacKinnon at 352-7453

Summit International Canada

Carpet Manufacturer and Distributor Gord Forbes, Sales Agent ...389-8516


Amherst Island Video

sponsored by AIMS. Available in VHS and CD format. You can purchase copies at the Amherst Island General Store, or through Neil Johnston at 389-5389

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 & 12" knitted squares. Freda Youell 384-4135


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. Call Beth Albertan: 389-2662

Seasonal Winter Storage for Boats, etc,

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

Tim Hicks Plumbing and Heating

Water treatment, pumps, heating: in floor; radiant; forced air; solar. Certified Master Plumber. Phone 545-3541


Awareness Workshop

Developing skills in concentration, heightening awareness and mental and physical calmness.
Telephone Jocelyne Leyton 384-6488

SIGNS

Computer generated, vinyl lettering for mailboxes, vehicles or small signs. Different styles of fonts and colour choices. Lyn - 634-2509

The Lodge on Amherst Island

Rental available for special occasions. Call Molly at: (613) 634-1388 or (416) 533-5997 

2 BEDROOM COTTAGE

on Stella Point: By the week or week-end, May-September. Call Molly (416) 533-5997

NORTH SHORE COTTAGE

for rent year around. By the week or week-end. Please phone 389-2012.

LAKESHORE RUBBER STAMP

Lakeshore Rubber Stamp has recently moved to Amherst Island and would like to inform old and new customers of this new location.

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 *****

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY KITTEN!

MANY MORE TO COME!

Love, Bob

EUCHRE

The Amherst Island Rec Association has decided to extend our Friday night Euchre's until the end of April. Start time is 7:00 pm. Admission is \$2 and all are welcome. Weekly prizes and light refreshments. ***

We are wondering if the Beacon would send someone, with no connections to the school, to the play on April 23rd, to do a review. We thought it would be fun for the kids to read and have a write-up following all of their work. I would do it, but I am working on it with them, so


.....
Thanks, Lyn

WINE TASTING

To inquire about the next Wine Tasting at Madden's Courtyard in Bath, please call 352-3600. This event is in support of the Fairfield-Gutzzeit Foundation.

Warm Wool for Cool Wedding gifts,

from Topsy Farms

 Blankets, Wraps, Yarn. Phone 389-3444 for an appointment or visit the Enchanted Shores on Bath Road 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

HAY BALES FOR SALE on the Island:

40-45lb bales. Wayne Fleming 389-9869 

THE RECREATION ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL Spring Dance and Fish Fry Saturday, May 17, 2003

\$25.00 per couple - Dinner/Dance \$10.00 per person - meal only Last year, tickets were sold out and people were turned away, so reserve yours early from any Rec. Association member: Rick Bedford; 389-8434; Bonnie Baker, 389-1579; Tessa Mayman, 384-1783; Jane McGinn, 389-3155; Carol Morgan, 384-0847; Larry or Lyn Fleming, 634-2509.

ISLE SPRING FUNDRAISING

Coming in the Spring, students will be selling bedding plants. Please watch your mail for the household mailer with more details and order forms. We would also like to thank the community groups and individuals who have helped out and/or made donations this year. ***

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). The office will be open Thursday April 17, 2003 and closed Good Friday April 18, 2003 and open Easter Monday April 21, 2003.