

The Amherst Island BEACON

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August 2003



This photo of Joan & Vic Ellis was taken in the days when we could swim at "The Sand Beach". You can see Nut Island in the background and these two youngsters, who were probably in their late 30's: They are now in their 80's, and their 55th Wedding Anniversary was on July 31st, 2003.
Photo & caption thanks to Mary-Liz and Jack Ellis

THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray

I have been asked a few times to send a photographer or a reporter to some event or other. Sorry, this is very much a provide-your-own photos and write-ups publication. The only exception to this is that I try to ensure that we get an article following the death of someone who spent a lifetime - or a good part of one - here on the Island.

If anyone is interested in doing reporting on events and/or photographing them, please let me know; it would be great to have a few people interested in providing this service.

The Beacon welcomes news & photos of marriages, family reunions, graduations, and so on.

All of us who work on the Beacon are pleased by the articles that we are getting each month: quan-

tity, quality, and diversity. We are also gratified that sales are increasing. We had 275 issues printed last month - figuring that we would sell fewer copies at \$2 than at \$1. These sold so quickly that we got another 75 printed and there no copies left at The General Store. Not that long ago we were printing 150 or 175 copies.

MARJORY ISOBEL BRAY

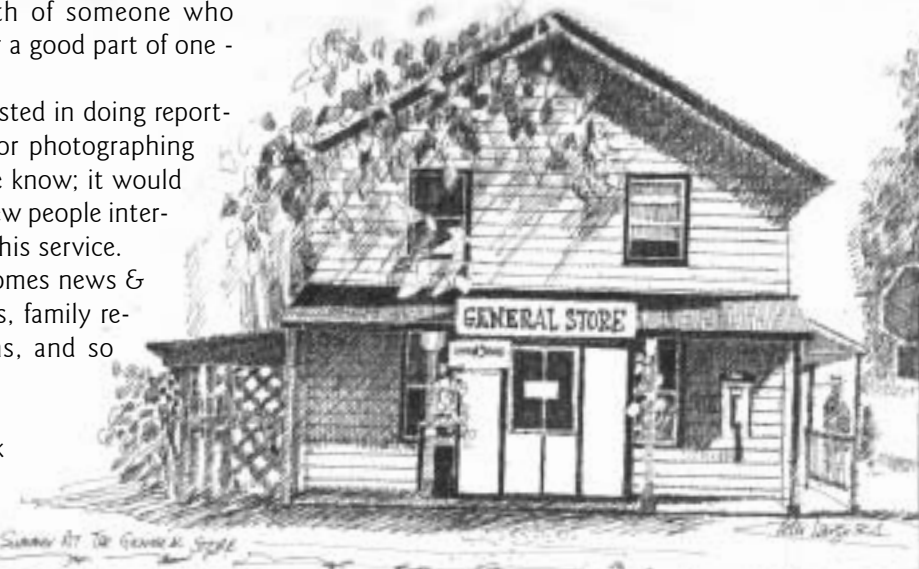
- Ian Murray

Marjory Isobel Bray died peacefully at KGH on July 10. She was in her 82nd year.

I didn't know Marj except to say hello to and the Whig notice was quite brief so I phoned Jean Tugwell to get more information. Jean and Marj both went to

School # 4 on the Emerald 40 Foot' and sometimes sat together. Marj, an only child, was raised by her father Tom Bray as her mother left quite early. They lived, Jean thinks, in the house now owned by Greg and Donald Hudson.

Marj sometimes worked for Jean's Uncle Walter Wemp on the South Shore and it was there that she met her husband Tom Brown (who may have been a Home Boy). Marj took a special interest in looking after the altar at St. Alban's. She learned how



Summer at the General Store

Peter Large, SCA



The Amherst Island Beacon

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...others as noted.

North of Normal
A Comedy from A Broad
By Deborah Kimmitt

"Funnier than stand-up,"
Gregg Burlick,
Kingston Whig Standard.

"Hilarious" new
one woman
show by
Second City Veteran.
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Special Appearances by JOHN MUNRO
and singer, CHRISTINE DONOVAN

Thursday August 21st 8pm. \$12 Advance Tickets
Selby HALL, Selby, Ontario.

Tickets: Gray's IDA, Napanee 354-3346
The Kingston Family YMCA, 100 Wright Crescent, Kingston
or the Victoria Hall on Amherst Island.

Seating is first come first serve. Recommended for age 14 and up.

**ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT JOHN MUNRO'S
Y-KNOT MARATHON**

to clean the altar linens and nobody could have done a better job.

Jean said that her friend Marj was cheerful and hardworking; a person who did the best she could in often difficult circumstances.

Marj is survived by her daughter Shirley and grandson David.

The Brays are one of the old Island families for which I don't have much information on my Family Tree program. Please contact me if you have some genealogical information on the Brays.

DUNCAN WRIGHT MARSHALL

- based on Kingston Whig Standard Write-up

Duncan Wright Marshall passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 26, at KGH. He is survived by his be-

loved wife, Coralie Mary (Richardson) Marshall, and his five children: Susan Stevenson and husband Wayne; Wendy Shelley and late husband Paul; Bob Marshall and his wife Dale; Shelley Dorman and husband Steve; and, Jim Marshall. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Duncan was predeceased by his parents Robert and Blanche (Edy) Marshall, his siblings Robert Marshall, Molly Apps, Allan Marshall, and Helen Zurrer as well as by his first wife Glenise (Quirk) Marshall and his young grand-son Robert Stevenson.

Duncan was born June 9, 1921, in Toronto. He attended UTS and later graduated from the University of Toronto with both a Bachelor and Master of Applied Science. After working as a chemical engineer for thirty-five years with CIL, Duncan retired with Coralie to the home they had lovingly built together on Amherst Island. Duncan was a member of the Rotary Club of Kingston and was actively involved in the local community and church throughout his life. A lover of nature, sailing and music, an artist, loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle and friend, Duncan will live in our hearts forever.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



- Nancy Dunn

In last month's Beacon I mistakenly reported that the WI did not have a regular meeting in July. It was June that there was no regular meeting; rather there was a special trip to Gananoque.

On Wednesday, 16 July at 7 p.m. Amanda Knapp of the Napanee branch of the Kingston/Frontenac/Lennox & Addington Health Unit Communicable Disease program spoke to just over twenty people at St. Paul's Church Hall. This open meeting of the Women's Institute was part of the organization's ROSE (Rural Ontario Sharing Education) Program, a province-wide effort supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) to expand and enhance a current focus on health to include a variety of topics in partnership with various health-social service organizations. Although the local members may have been slightly disappointed by the turn-out Amanda assured us we were way ahead of another meeting on the same topic at which there was just one other person besides herself. The numbers may have indicated that Islanders already feel well informed on the subject of the "West Nile Virus" or are not alarmed by media coverage of the problem.

With the aid of charts Amanda took us through the history of this particular virus (starting in 1937 in Uganda - hence its name) and the life cycle of the mosquito, explaining that of the 52 species of mosquitoes in the world only 12 are capable of passing on this virus and of those only 2 or 3 kinds actually have been found to do so. It is the females only who are capable of infecting us and less than 1% of them will succeed. "West Nile" is more an urban problem than a rural one but nevertheless we need to be diligent about getting rid of breeding grounds common here such as eaves troughs with

damp leaves in them, old tires and stagnant ponds and rain barrels. If tires are used for swings or dock bumpers they should have holes drilled in them to let the water escape. To kill larvae in rain barrels Amanda had two suggestions: stirring the water for at least a minute two or three times a week or adding 1 cup of bleach to 200 litres of water when there has been no significant amount of rainfall for a while. Lots of rain is good- it prevents the stagnation necessary for reproduction. Aerated pools are not a problem. As for mosquito deterrents, ultra sonics are useless - the females are stone deaf! Much work is being done to track the disease - mosquitoes are being trapped and examined. Dead birds, especially crows who are carriers are also being tested. Humans do not get the virus from birds.

Following her informative talk and a few questions Amanda joined us for refreshments provided by Mary Kay Steel, Erika Krauklis and Jocelyn Leyton and subsequently Joyce Haines presided over a meeting of the 12 Institute members and two guests who remained. Minutes were read, reports received and several events past and future were dealt with. In particular our involvement with the Heart and Stroke Jump Rope at the school, the Raymond wedding brunch and the strawberry social following the AIMS house tour as well as our tending of the flowers at the park and dock were mentioned, as was the Giant Book Sale scheduled for 2 and 3 August. Thanks were extended to the organizers of the float for the Canada Day parade, to Ross Haines for his signs and to all who participated and also to Claire Jenney who made the arrangements for the June "outing" to the Thousand Island Playhouse.

The group will be providing refreshments at the intermission of the August 23rd Waterside Concert.

The next meeting will also be open to the public. The subject will be "WIND ENERGY" and everyone is invited to hear Ron Alward from the Ministry of Energy speak at St. Paul's Church hall on 20 August 2003 at 7 p.m.

Don't forget the Bake Sale at the Store on Friday afternoon, 29 August from 3:45 and we're at the Market every Saturday morning, rain or shine, with our coffee,



Construction and Launching of the MV Amherst Islander in 1955
(more on next page) *Photo by Garnet McDonald*

cold drinks and muffins.

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From Chief Calver's quarterly report: Amherst Island has 16 volunteer firefighters, 12 trained as first responders for medical emergencies; 5 emergency calls.

SINKING THE AMHERST ISLANDER AS A DIVE SITE

- Alan Kidd

Recently a Group from Kingston has contacted both the Loyalist Township Council and the Neilson Store Museum about the possibility of obtaining the old Amherst Islander and sinking it at a location near the Neilson's store to be used as a dive site.

The Kingston group is composed of divers, some of who participated in the sinking of

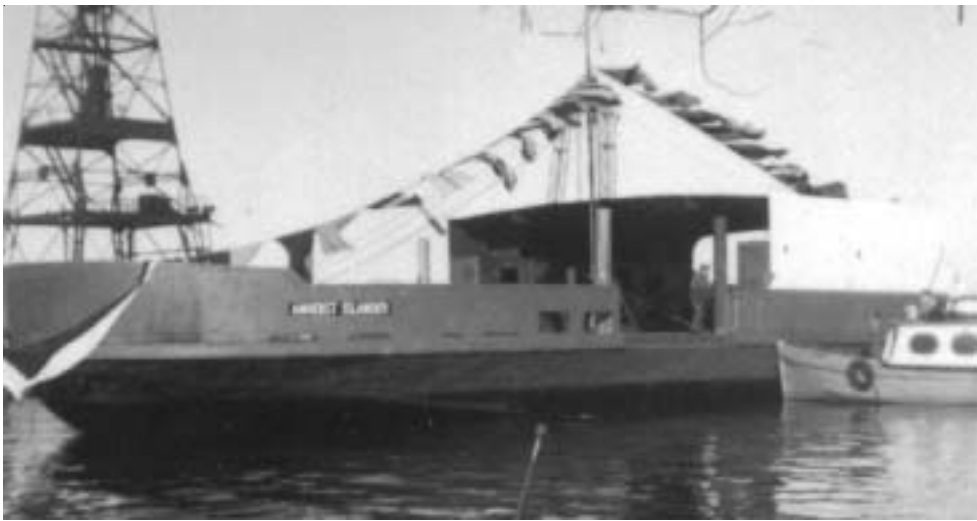
the Wolfe Islander, which is currently a popular dive site. Their plan requires obtaining the Amherst Islander from the Province, removing everything of value from the boat, performing a thorough cleaning to remove all contaminants, then sinking the Amherst Islander in a location that would be accessible to divers from both the shore and from dive boats.

The proposed location would be as close as 100 feet from the Neilson Store dock. The bottom there slopes quickly down to a depth of about 60 feet. Since the Amherst Islander is about 40 feet from top to bottom (forgive my lack of nautical terminology) there would be about 20 feet of clearance. This is less than the requirement of 10 metres (33 feet) but if the location was marked it should be acceptable.

The advantage of the close-in location is that shore access is possible. There are



The MV Amherst Islander (1955) being side-launched in Kingstons Shipyards (above), and afloat (below) (despite a few missing welds in the hull plating).
Photos by Garnet McDonald



many wrecks currently used as dive sites all around Amherst Island, but none of these is readily accessible from the Island itself. As a result, the dive boats travel all around the island but no one ever sets foot

on shore. It is thought that if divers were to use the Island as a starting point for dives, there might be an economic benefit to island businesses such as Bed & Breakfast providers, the Weasel & Easel, Victoria

Hall Crafts and Tea Room, the Back Kitchen, the General Store and even the ferry could increase its income (\$5 tickets). In addition to existing Island businesses, there would be an opportunity for other businesses to start, such as a campground for divers doing qualifying dives (a two-day process), a dive shop/school, even a boating supply shop. Furthermore, the Amherst Islander could become, in effect, a permanent exhibit at the museum. It would even be feasible to place an underwater camera at the site to allow museum goers to see the boat and divers.

The Kingston group will be performing some underwater surveys of the area and a proposed location will be identified more precisely. The main visual impact to the bay will be four floats marking the location of the Amherst Islander. An underwater rope would lead from the dock to the dive site. This path would be off limits to powerboats. The total numbers of divers that would visit the site is not known exactly, but the Kingston area is a major dive centre, and a site in a protected area like Stella Bay would attract many divers, particularly when conditions were bad out in the lake. There might be as many as several dozen divers on some weekends visiting the site. They are paying \$50 - 60/hr so they would spend very little time above water; these are dedicated good people, not rowdy partygoers.

There are obstacles to this plan. First there is the problem of obtaining the Amherst Islander. The MTO does not appear to be willing to donate the boat to any person or organization. Therefore grant money would have to be obtained from some source to purchase the boat. Then there is the difficulty of getting the boat here from Burlington. Apparently there was damage to the boat during the winter, but this has now been repaired. If the Amherst Islander is seaworthy it could make the trip back to the Island on its own (with the possibility of selling tickets for the its last voyage?). Once in dock in Kingston, the engines and all other equipment would be removed and sold or donated to the museum. The cost of the cleaning of the boat would be defrayed through the sale of this equipment (this was the case for the Wolfe Islander). A ministry permit would be required to sink the boat, but

since this has been done on other occasions, this should not pose an insurmountable problem.

The Loyalist Township Council has passed a motion supporting this project (as long as the funds come from elsewhere). The Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre Inc. Board of Directors also believes that having the Amherst Islander as a dive site accessible from the museum would be of considerable benefit. However, this is a matter that affects the Island as a community, and not just the museum. Therefore it is important to get some idea of what the community thinks of this project.

I am acting as a liaison between the museum and the Kingston group. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has an opinion on this topic. I have already heard some alternative suggestions and would like to hear more. Send a letter to the Beacon, the Museum, or e-mail me at "am.kidd@sympatico.com".

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

I read a nice article in the Whig about Les Glenn - where have I heard that name before? Young Les, son of John and Maureen Glenn, has gone to a summer camp in Finland. The article mentioned that his family own Quarry Sportsplex in Kingston - the soccer dome formerly known as Soccer Magic.

I stopped off to have a visit with Barb Reid a few days ago. She seemed happy to take a break from picking raspberries and I didn't mind not hauling hay for a bit. Her lawn and those of her neighbours were neatly trimmed so it was quite a contrast to see some garbage here and there near the road. Barb said that it was to be expected on days that the dump is open as people drive fast and they don't always secure their trash well enough.

Barb mentioned that she never eats raspberries. When she was living at home before marriage, she would sometimes have to get up around 2 in the morning to help load raspberries from her father's warehouse on to a market-bound truck. She said that the odour given off from the raspberries made her feel sick.

Janet Scott hasn't sent an article in for this issue, so here is this month's bird story.

I was going along the 2nd on an ATV to check one of our sheep flocks when I saw a young kestrel partly on the road just west of Jim and Sandra's. I thought that it had fallen out of a nest and wouldn't last long so I took off my shirt and caught it.

When I got back home I went into the barn where my son Kyle was removing manure from the barn - a somewhat fitting job for someone who is studying philosophy at university. His eyes lit up when I asked him if he could look after the bird. He tried calling Janet Scott for advice but no one answered the phone.

Kyle made a "cage" for it in the guest bedroom using a mattress to block off a corner. He got on the internet and learned that raw meat is what hawks like to eat. I thawed out some lamb but the bird wasn't interested. The bird, now called "Havoc" escaped from the cage by fluttering/leaping grabbing and made it across the hall to Kyle's bedroom where he was quite surprised to find it. He perched Havoc on his finger and after fluffing fiercely, Havoc calmed down and Kyle was able to transfer him to a shoulder where he sat quietly for quite a while.

Kyle got back on the internet and learned that some hawks spend time on the ground before taking flight and that I should have left the bird alone. So, with considerable sadness, Kyle asked me to drive him and Havoc back

to where I found him. Surprisingly, Kyle found Havoc again the next day on his way over to rake hay at Clinton's - sitting on Hitchins' stone fence.

I learned from a visitor at Jim & Brenda Vanalstyne's that contact with wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) can cause nasty burns. I checked it out on the internet and its true. "Wild parsnip contains chemicals in the juices of its green leaves, stems and fruits that can cause an intense localized burn - actually a sunburn. . . . There are chemicals in wild parsnip called psoralens (precisely furocoumarins) that cause what dermatologists call 'phyto-photo-dermatitis'. That means an inflammation (itis) of the skin (derm) induced by a plant (phyto) with the help of sunlight (photo)." A bad case can feel like a scald from boiling water - there is an impressive photo accom-



The vile weed in question: Wild Parsnip.

USDA photo

panying the article. Weed whipping this plant in shorts on a sunny day can make your legs look and feel like they've been sprayed with battery acid.

It is recommended that minor burns be treated as one would treat any other burn: cover with a cool wet cloth, do not rupture the blister(s). For more serious burns, consult a physician.

We in the sheep business are sometimes prone to envying the nice monthly checks that our dairying neighbours get. I visited Adam Miller a few days ago and he told me that the dairy inspector had just left. He showed me a long list of items that had been checked. The half dozen chicory plants - about 8" tall - outside the milk house - earned a firm "x". Adam and Keith run a good operation and there were very few of these "x's". The detail covered by the inspection was mind-boggling. As near as I can tell, the dairy farmers earn those monthly cheques and are welcome to them.

I hope sometime to do an article on dairy farming - maybe it will help me to understand \$/hectolitre and other interesting concepts.

If someone else wants to do this, I'd appreciate it.

The Farmers' Market has been a good



Ian checks out the competition: a wool throw brought to the Farmers' Market from the British Isles. TR



The AIMS wagon at the farmers market on a Saturday morning TR

place for me to meet people that I've only heard about as well as a chance to say hello to old friends and neighbours. It was great to see Barb Reid there with her garden produce and the return of Godden sausages. Morgan had some early carrots that looked pretty good. This could become a good place to buy and sell surplus garden vegetables, fruit and flowers.

GOING BATTY AT SANDHILL

- Alan Kidd

I know we live in the outback of the Island, far from the bright lights of metropolitan Stella, but I didn't know that we were so far out that we were in danger of becoming a desirable bat residence. It was a quiet evening at first, the girls were away at Brownie camp and we had just finished supper. Suddenly Judy came into the kitchen saying that when she let some members of the cat herd in a bat flew into the living room. Knowing that it's the husband's responsibility to get rid of unwelcome critters in the house, I dashed in, and sure enough, saw a bat making tight circuits around the living room. I wasn't worried, though. I figured the bat's sonar should let them find an open door. I told Judy to close the other living room doors and I opened the one to the outside. Instead of the bat exiting, however, another bat flew in. Now I had two bats putting

on an aerial display in our living room, and neither showed the slightest inclination to leave. I tried every method I could think of to encourage them to exit, chasing them this way and that, but nothing worked, they just kept circling. Finally, in desperation, I grabbed my daughter's minnow net and tried to catch

them in mid air. I didn't catch the bats, but did succeed in knocking one down to the carpet, where it lay, temporarily stunned, and making a sort of whirring noise. I quickly scooped it up in the net and took it outdoors, where it flew away happily enough. I then was able to repeat this procedure on the second bat.

I thought that had taken care of the matter, but when I went into the bathroom, a third bat buzzed me, ran into the wall and dropped to the floor. I ran out to get Anna's net, but when I returned the bat had vanished. A search of the downstairs was made but no sign of the bat could be found. Apparently we had a new lodger. It was about two days later when I was working at the computer, that I saw a bat fly out of the basement door, through the office, and into the living room. Aha, the third bat I thought. I followed the bat into the living room where I saw that it had also started the tight circuit routine. However, this bat had learned a thing or two during its stay with us, and when I opened the outside door, it managed to find its own way out.

I'm not sure what's the moral of this story. Perhaps it's don't let your cats in during the evening hours. Or keep a minnow net handy if you do. Or just that bats come in threes. But I do have to say, that I did notice fewer mosquitoes in the house after our lodger's stay. So maybe, in this time of the West Nile Virus, having bats in your belfry is no bad thing.

An Interview with Garnet McDonald

- Zander of DUNN INN

Although Garnet was not born on Amherst Island he has lived here all but two months of his life. On Dec 4, 1918 Garnet came into the world in a house two miles East of Marlbank, about fifteen miles north of Napanee. Garnet thrived, in spite of the influenza epidemic which swept the country (and the world), and was brought over to the Island on an ice boat in late January 1919.

He went to live with his parents, Edwin C. and Florence L. (Detler) McDonald in their home at 11450 Front Road. Garnet never moved far from home. He now lives west of his family home on the south side of the road at 11655 Front Rd.

Garnet attended #4 School - up the Emerald Forty Foot - to which he walked, except in bad weather when he was given a ride by his father or parents or friends. Over 30 children were enrolled and Garnet remembers (although not in chronological order) his teachers: Mrs. Charlie McGinnis, Miss Shay, Edith Scott, Miss Lauder. As Garnet puts it, he went to school till he quit.

Emerald was a thriving centre when Garnet was young. There he found, with his group of pals, fun and adventure. Among those lads were the Kearney boys and Leonard and Freddie McCormick. They walked, talked, fished and swam off the Emerald ferry dock. Many boys from the Second Concession would come to Emerald to share in the activities. Sometimes fights broke out among the fellows but the next day everything was patched up.

The Emerald Hall, which had a good dance floor, was built by Dan Hagarman who used some of the lumber that came from the ice house at the Head. Not only



TR

dances and card games took place there; the Emerald Dramatic Club presented their plays also, to appreciative audiences.

In the winter the boys of the Emerald district played hockey on the ice, using frozen horse droppings as pucks and goal markers. In the summer they played baseball in the field west of the McDonald house. Often the boys from The Third Concession would challenge them to a game and sometimes the boys of Emerald would jump on a milk wagon and go to the field near Earl Tugwell's house for the contest.

Garnet was impressed by the older men nearby who weaved tales of the Island and of life. All the boys listened, enraptured for hours, to Norman Wemp, Rod Instant (whose house Garnet later purchased) and Allan Hitchins who lived where Gary McDonald lives now. Their yarns, over the years, drew Garnet and his friends even closer to Amherst Island.

When he quit school Garnet went to work on the farm with his father and lived at home. Sometimes, in the winter, he would join his uncle cutting hydro and telephone poles two miles east of Marlbank on the mainland. When the weather was bitterly

cold he was always warmer sheltered by the trees.

Garnet, as a farmer and wood-cutter, sustained many injuries over the years but he always shrugged them off as part of life.

One of the risks of living on Amherst Island was crossing the ice. Garnet remembers his dad talking about an incident in 1906. Four young men set out across the ice in a cutter to get a doctor for a

woman about to give birth. Ernest Instant and Charlie Gibson were drowned. Robert McFern made it to shore on the mainland. George Corke crawled on the ice up to the Fowler place where a party was in full swing. The people at the party heard his shouts and brought him in and thawed him out. That tragedy was the topic of conversation and stories for many years.

George Corke escaped death on another occasion. He and another man, before going into the Emerald store, had put their horses into the shed near the store when lightning struck, killing George's horse and wounding the other one.

Garnet also remembers Ver Howard taking his mother over the ice in his old car. The car went through the ice and Mrs. Howard drowned.

Garnet had great respect for the ice and knew how dangerous it could be. One time he left Millhaven in the middle of a snow storm with the reins tied behind his back. He figures he must have leaned to one side because after some time he found his rig had circled back to Millhaven. He tried again - this time holding the reins firmly - and got across, although he took an eter-

nity, going slowly and carefully through the blizzard.

Years later he and Bill Kilpatrick took youngsters to high school over the ice on snow machines. Sometimes they had to put two on behind them, although normally they pulled them in sleighs. On a trip coming back from the mainland one of the kids fell off and nobody missed him until they arrived at the mainland. They soon found him, wet but unhurt.

Ice can be an enemy in many ways. Garnet recalls when the ice forced its way up onto the shore and took a corner off the storage house at the Emerald dock.

Like most farmers on Amherst Island, Garnet, along with his father did general farming. They raised enough animals, vegetables and fruits to feed themselves. Anything extra they sold. The mainstay of their existence was milk which they took daily to the cheese factory in Emerald until it closed in 1951. Then the farmers at the west end of the Island had to take their milk to the Stella cheese factory.

Garnet laughs when he tells of how Art White's dad, the cheese maker at Emerald, had to carry water up from the Bay and put it in a barrel. He was shocked that the water disappeared quickly. One day he saw a man lead his horse to the barrel to let him drink the water. The next day Mr. White put up a sign, "Poisoned Water." The horse did not drink there again!

The Emerald Cheese Factory was the centre of many activities. The men who had delivered milk or were herding their cattle often stopped for a game of horseshoes nearby. Garnet remembers an upsetting experience when a horse, who was pulling a wagon with two milk cans, ran off and crashed into the nearby out-

house. The milk was spilled and the out-house was upended.

The story of the Emerald cheese factory is interesting in itself and too long to recount here but the following facts are worth noting. The Emerald Cheese factory was built in 1895 by the Phippen Brothers of Conway. After three years of making cheese at one and a quarter cents per pound Mr. Phippen was able to reduce that to one and an eighth cents per pound. When the factory was sold to R.A. Fowler in 1899 his son, Charles, was able to make cheese at 1 cent per pound. In 1907 Fowler sold the business to Reginald Instant who operated it until his death in 1937. His daughter, Estella (Instant) Sharpe, carried on until 1946 when she sold the factory to Gordon Tugwell. After all those years the cost of cheese-making had only risen to three and one-fifth cents per pound. Gordon Tugwell had to close the factory when he was unable to hire a cheese-maker.

Here is a footnote to the cheese factory history: in 1935 the Emerald factory started making cheese on Sunday. There was so much milk that Sunday could not be observed as a day of rest - if the milk was not to be spoiled.

Talking of Gordon Tugwell reminded Garnet that back in the late 1920's the drover, John Tugwell, used to buy cattle along the roads of the Island. He drove around in a small buggy drawn by a pony named Jim. He would recruit some of the farmers to help him drive the cattle to the ferry at Stella, load them (about 25 or 30) on the deck and put them into a pen in Millhaven. When he had gathered about 50 cattle he would herd them, on foot, out to the Ernestown Railway Station and put them into cattle cars - about 25 to a railcar. Before that time, a scow, full of cattle or pigs, was towed by a motor boat to the mainland.

The first cars on the Island came over on the scow, one car at a time, when the wind wasn't blowing too strongly. In the winter, of course, the cattle and pigs crossed over the ice in a horse-drawn sleigh when it was safe to do so. The farmers returned with western grain - oats and wheat - from Ernestown Station.

Farmers got together and called themselves The Farmers' Club and ordered carloads of hard Chesnut coal and also soft Anthracite which came in big chunks. The soft coal was used to power up the steam engines which threshed the grain on the Island fields.

On October 10, 1941 Garnet married Gene McMaster who, with her sisters, Dorothy Kilpatrick and Helen Smith, (now both of Kingston) resided with their parents in the house in which George and Ida Gavlas live today. The United Church minister officiated at the service which was held in the McMaster house. Garnet's brother, Roger, was his best



Dianne Marshall, Eleanor Trueman & Caroline Ackerman at the Canada Day Parade
TR

man, and Gene's sister, Helen, was her maid of honour. About 30 people attended the reception. Garnet and Gene honeymooned in Niagara Falls and then visited his aunt, Mrs. Mabel Tait, in Stayner.

Garnet and Gene lived with his parents for a year while they fixed up the house in which he now lives at 11655 Front Road (Rod Instant's old house). The first thing Garnet did was to put a new roof on the house which was in a sad state of disrepair. But Garnet did not have enough time to do much more because he was so busy with the haying. They later had to rip out much of what was there, damaged by water, and rebuild from the bottom up.

Over the years he and his wife made many improvements to their dwelling. Carman McKee spent hours working on the living room in 1977. The whole ceiling had to be levelled. Rick Bedford helped Garnet put up the wall board in 1978. Today the house is a cozy, pleasant home.

The house was transformed from a house into a home by Gene's ingenuity and hard work. Gene was an active woman, involved in the Women's Institute and the Anglican Church Women's Auxiliary. She gave Garnet a daughter, Carol, now Carol Langwald (wife of Herman) living in Bayridge. Carol, who went to Napanee High School and taught school for awhile, had two children: Joey, who is teaching English in China; and Tammie (Mrs. Wallace Stanton) who, in spite of being the mother of two-year-old twins, Damien and Emma, works at Odyssey Travel in Kingston.

Garnet's beloved wife, Gene died in June 1986. She had suffered a brain tumour and a partial stroke during the operation she underwent. She returned home; was attended by home care; persevered to the point where she undertook almost all her former chores and even drove the car. Her fighting spirit, however, succumbed to her physical afflictions and Garnet has lived alone since then.

Garnet himself, although not doing general farming, continues to farm in many ways. He raises beef cattle and so considers fencing his biggest problem. His cows winter in the bush although last winter Garry Hitchens fed and cared for them. Garnet, like every cattle farmer, says if the U.S. ban on Canadian beef continues he will go broke. He figures he is alright until

autumn but if the beef issue is not solved by then he will be hurting.

After two eye operations to remove cataracts, Garnet is taking drops in his eyes twice a day to combat glaucoma. Those things have not slowed him down. He enjoys puttering around and he has amassed a large number of historical documents and does some writing about what he remembers of days long gone.

One of his favourite memories is of the family gathering which occurred in July of 1991 when people from all over the continent who were related to him came to his farm for a reunion. Relatives compiled a list. He wrote to all on the list and was pleased when over 60 people accepted his invitation to his Island home. Everybody enjoyed the good food, conversation, jokes, fun and memories.

There is no end to the memories Garnet has. He harks back to the meals which attracted big crowds to Victoria Hall. Each Church on the Island had its specialty. Every year The Presbyterians presented an Oyster Supper. The United Church offered a Chicken Supper and the Anglicans always had a Turkey supper.

All the suppers were great social times and were well supported.

When Garnet saw the T.V. that Stirling Glenn had in his shop (which was mainly fuzzy and snowy) he decided to go into the business of selling T.V.'s himself. The kind he dealt with were called C.B.'s and one had to fiddle with rabbit ears to get good reception.

For 10 years Garnet served on the school board and remembers the great contribution Bruce Caughey made to that organization as secretary over the years.

The Holstein Club for the County engaged Garnet's energies for years. He became president and presided on the occasion when over 500 people attended a supper for the National Director, Harold McCall. With the help of other imaginative farmers, a version of "This is Your Life, Harold McCall" was presented.

Some farmers wanted to weigh their own milk. Under the Dairy Herd Improvement system only those who were registered Holstein owners were given a Record of Performance partly based on milk weight. Those who did not belong to the Holstein association were not able to weigh and evaluate their own milk. They had requested

permission to do this individually but had received no response from the government. Garnet procured a form for them to sign and they quickly gained their goal.

When he was asked why he went to the Holstein Club meetings he pointed to an older farmer who had told him, "I pick up something every time I come to the meetings." Garnet found this to be true for himself also. He figured he learned more about farming by talking with experienced farmers than he ever learned at school, or even at home. Garnet has willingly passed on to others what he has found to be true and helpful - for which he is respected and appreciated.

Today Garnet, although he cannot take the summer heat as he used to, rides his tractor, cuts the grass and is as busy as any farmer must be. He continues to play Euchre once a month with a group that includes Ray and Zelma Koenders, Anna Hitchins, Barbara Reid, Leslie Gavlas, Dorothy McGinn, Gayle and Wilbert Willard, Emily Tugwell and others.

Among his written treasures Garnet discovered these to share with you: to heal a bee sting, rub it with aspirin; if you have an asthma attack drink a cup of coffee; to remove a toothache rub ice on the back of your hand; insert a table knife or drinking straw down the neck of a Ketchup bottle to let in air, release the vacuum, and help the contents flow; crack an egg on an angle and the yolk will not break; cut a cake in half, cut the centre piece out of the cake, then press the halves together and the cake will stay moist; a damp tea bag applied to a cut or infection will pull the poison out and will also help stop the swelling in a black eye. And did you know the first census on Amherst Island was carried out in 1851?

Garnet McDonald is, like many of our farmers, a walking encyclopedia, a philosopher, a community worker, a history buff, a collector, a wise man. We are grateful for his contributions to the Island.



July 2003- the month that was.



Peter Wemp and Suzanne (Kerr) celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary at their Island home on July 9.
Kevin Kilpatrick Photo



Farm equipment at the head end of the Second Concession JH



AIMS members helping with dock park cleanup.
L-R: Doug Martin, Alan Glenn, Brian Grace. JH



Men and their Machines: Kaye McGinn and Ian Murray on their 4-wheelers
Terry Culbert Photo



New Islanders on-the-tour. L-R: Stella O'Byrne, Judi Gould, guide Dianne Hiatt, and Barbara Hoegenauer. TC photo





*St Paul's Garden
Party 2003*
Photos by Judith Harrower.





The Amherst Island Women's Institute Book Sale took place on the August Holiday Weekend - above some of the happy crowd on Saturday of the two-day-sale. TR

REPORT ON HOUSE TOUR & STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

- Hugh Jenney

Many people contributed expertise, time and expense to make this summer solstice the success that we all agree it was. The ticket sales were good 218 = \$5,450 vs 181 = \$4,525 last year. Our expenses were only \$100 more this year because of the extra advertising and last year's expenses included the strawberry social.

The Women's Institute did a wonderful job buying the strawberries and organizing all the tables which decorated the Lodge's green lawns with their red tablecloths. They will be receiving a cheque from AIMS for \$1798.00 which is one third of our sales as agreed to when I made the House Tour report during our May AIMS

meeting.

The three classical musicians rounded out the afternoon with their beautiful sounds. Even the sun came out at last to finish off the day brightly. They have agreed to donate their \$115 each to the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre Inc. for a tax receipt. Thanks goes to Paul Lauret for making the receipts and sending them with stamped self-addressed envelopes.

AIMS will always be indebted to the people who made this whole day possible—our Amherst Island homeowners who so graciously opened their homes to over two hundred guests from away. Our guests were delighted and I am glad to say so were the homeowners. Everybody had a wonderful time and AIMS netted \$2,262.59.

Thanks to Dick Dodds and his right hand man, Doug Williamson, (and Gayla for her

signage and Ross Haines for his beautiful numbers) for running such a smooth tour guide business. Dick has thanked Lyn Fleming for driving the bus. He has thanked his drivers. I presented Doug (Dick was not present) with a thank you gift (a copy of the old writing slates for the old school section of the museum) for Dick. We owe them all for their extra efforts. Congratulations to Bruce Burnett for having so much fun with his five female customers that they gave him a \$15 tip.

I want to thank Neil and Bernice for improving the poster and selling so many passports. Our top four ticket sellers were all Island related. Marc Raymond Optician (34), Laurie's General Store (28), Victoria Hall Crafts and Tea Room (22), and Doug Martin's Stradwick Carpet One (19). Congratulations on a job well done.

Judith Harrower did the writing and Tom Richmond did the computing for our flyer. Peter Large did the pen drawings of the seven houses. A most informative and artistic flyer.

Jim Whitton is the AIMS treasurer so the weight of \$5,500.00 fell on his able shoulders.

Pat Frontini, Sherrill and John Wright and I brought in over \$1,000 selling passports on the big day. Ross Haines checked tickets on the ferry and sold one. Thanks gang.

Kudos to Ken Albertan for saving us over \$300 by supplying The Lodge and The Back Kitchen with a port-a-potty each.

The AIMS letterhead for the many thank you letters was created and supplied by Sherrill and John Wright.

Many thanks to the many greeters and parkers who kept the traffic flowing. Many Islanders joined in to help even though they were not members of AIMS.

The 10:30 Ferry Folk were tested as never before and came through with the packed sardine award of excellence. Not one of our customers was left on the dock.

Claire and I had a good time working with you all on this year's House Tour & Strawberry Social. When we get another seven homeowners to open their homes to another two hundred guests, we would love to do it all again.



AUGUST SKIES

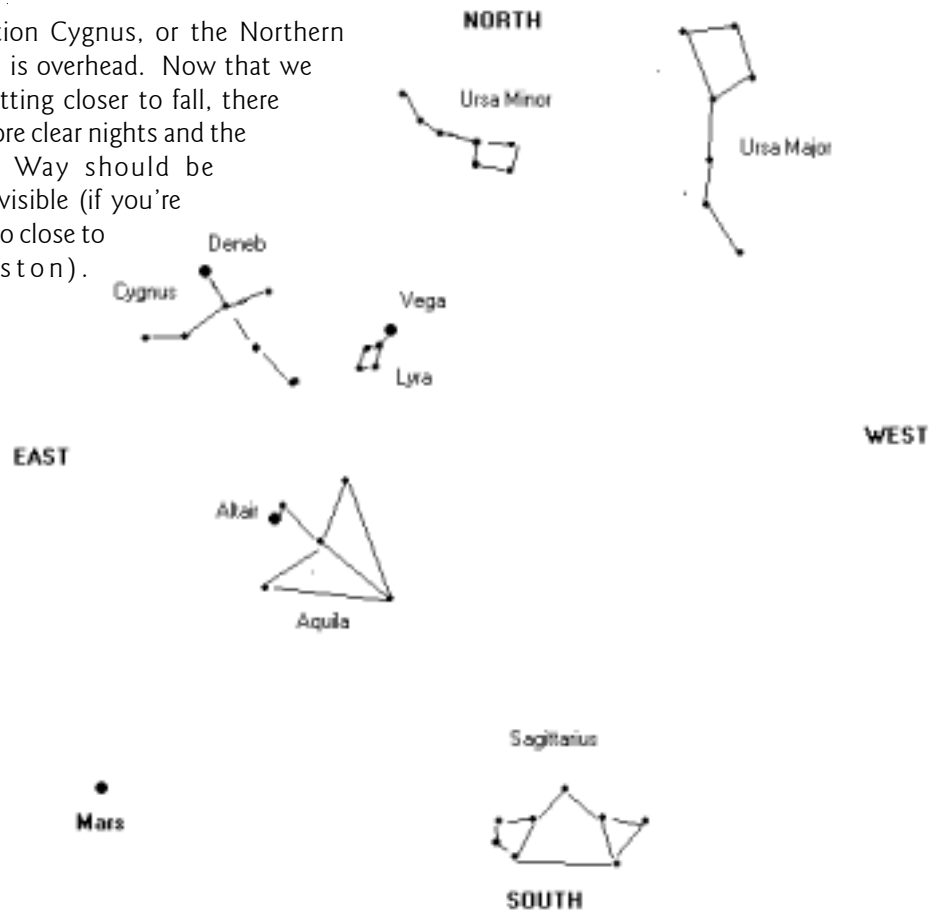
- Alan Kidd

In August Mars finally makes it appearance as an evening object, rising about 10 PM early in the month, and at sunset by the end of August. Mars gets quite close to Earth this month, only 55 million kilometres away.

Before we talk about Mars, however, we'll take a trip down the Milky Way to visit another couple of constellations

At midnight, on August 15th, the con-

stellation Cygnus, or the Northern Cross, is overhead. Now that we are getting closer to fall, there are more clear nights and the Milky Way should be more visible (if you're not too close to Kingston).



When we look at the Milky Way, we are looking along the thickest part of the galactic disc and what we are seeing are literally clouds of stars. Following this cloud south from Cygnus, we come to the constellation Aquila, or the Eagle. The brightest star in Aquila, which is the head of the eagle, is Altair.

Altair is fairly close to us, only 17 light years distant, a bit closer than Vega, which we mentioned last month. Altair, like Vega, is bigger and more luminous than our sun.

Vega and Deneb (discussed last month) together with Altair form the summer triangle. These three stars are overhead throughout the summer and are among the first stars to appear after sunset (when we are waiting for the fireworks to start).

If we continue to follow the Milky Way south, we come to the constellation of Sagittarius, sometimes called the teapot. Sagittarius is always near the southern horizon and the Milky Way appears to be the steam coming from the spout of the teapot. When we look at Sagittarius we are looking in the direction of the centre of our galaxy, 26,000 light-years away. That's a long way, to be sure, but since the centre of our galaxy is thought to consist of an immense black hole, which is continually con-

suming the stars in the galactic core and thereby growing ever larger, I would rather, if anything, be a bit further away. There are definitely some scary places out there and we're fortunate to live in a fairly quiet neighbourhood. (A stellar Amherst Island?)

It's easy to list the planets we can see in August, since there is only one - Mars. However, Mars is spectacular this month. It reaches opposition to Earth on August 28. This means that Mars is directly opposite the sun and at its closest point to Earth. Mars takes two years to orbit the Sun, so oppositions occur roughly every two years. Since Mars is closest in opposition, this is the best time to launch spacecraft towards Mars, which explains why three Martian probes have been launched in the past couple of months. Since Mars is directly opposite the Sun, on August 28 Mars rises at sunset and sets at dawn. Due to a number of factors that I don't have space to get into here, Mars comes closer on some oppositions than on others. This particular opposition is the best in some 40,000 years. So go out and look at Mars this month. You can't miss it. It's bright red and fairly



Ross Haines is painting on the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre Inc.'s Save our Amherst Island Heritage thermometer the \$1,200 donation just received from AIMS. Several members are here cheering him on. That's Sherrill Wright standing in front of Don Pepper. To Ross's right are Hugh Jenney, Eleanor Trueman, Allan Glenn, Bruce Burnett and Paul Laurent.

low in the southeast. On these nights it's easy to see why Mars is the god of war. I just hope it's not an omen.

On the chart I've added the position of Mars, together with the constellations of Aquila and Sagittarius.

NEILSON STORE MUSEUM

- Hugh Jenney

We have collected \$77,000 so far. The sad news is that Heritage Canada has written to tell us that our project is "...not to be a sufficiently high priority to receive a contribution. We hope that you will be able to find other sources of financing for your project...".

The NSMCC directors met today and have decided that the Island needs a museum to safeguard the Old Islanders' heritage. Their children deserve to have a

place where they can go to appreciate all who came before them to make this Island the sanctuary it has become for all who love it.

With any luck the new steel roof will be on in September/October. The siding should be repaired by that time too with new paint approximating what the colour was before the green vinyl siding went on. The interior will be worked on over the winter. Our grand opening is planned for April. Anybody wishing to help out can call Hugh Jenney 384-7830.

25 CU FT. FREEZER for FREE.

works great! It is now cold, running & empty and ready for immediate pickup on the Island. 634-1855

HOUSE TOUR 2003:

A View from the Home Front.

- Bryan Finlay



We were asked to put our home on this year's House Tour. Carol accepted and then told me that she was unexpectedly required in England and I would be in charge. I protested. It was futile. We were committed, as Carol stated, and my responsibilities were clear. Carol then prepared 'The List'. It was daunting. In point form it covered both sides of a sheet of paper. The detail has not been seen since the plans for the invasion of Normandy, I am sure. From the tension in the sheets on the beds ("a quarter should bounce") to the angle of the toilet seats. I paled and then started to prepare. On the Wednesday preceding I stopped taking alcoholic drink and ensured 8 hours sleep each night. On Friday I left work early, drove to the Island, arriving for the 5:30p.m. ferry, and on reaching #5 (for that was the sign that greeted me when I turned into our driveway), phoned Hugh Jenney. I understood he was in charge and I wanted him to know that I was on the Island and in position. I reported to Claire, Hugh's aide-de-camp, Brigadier Jenney being far too busy with the overall strategy to speak.

I then phoned David Hieatt whom I understood was going to help out at #5. I confirmed that he would arrive at 10:45am, the attack being expected to commence at 11:00hrs. He assured me he would arrive in good time. I then turned to 'The List'. I missed supper working straight through. At 9:00pm all was done to the best of my ability. I was satisfied that if Field Marshall Montgomery had conducted an inspection I would have passed with flying colours. The only thing remaining was the thought that perhaps to get the grass to the required length between the flagstones I should, following the application of the gas engined trimmer, get down on my hands & knees with a pair of scissors. The thought passed. But was followed by a more pressing concern: where to sleep. The house was inviolate. Not to be Disturbed! I chose the carriage house, propped myself up to a timber roof support and waited for the dawn.

Russ Perry arrived in good time, he being the 3rd member of the #5 team. We agreed that he would be in charge of the inside of the house, while David & I 'greeted'. . . .

10:45am arrived but no David. 11:00hrs came and with it the first of the visitors. The very first were a couple of very distinguished ladies driving the latest model Jaguar who alighted saying that they did house tours all the time and they always started towards the end and worked forward. For me, this was my first house tour. I realized that I was way in over my head. David arrived at about 12 noon. Diane drove up and out came David. He opened the trunk, produced two garden chairs, snapped them open, positioned them in the shade of a tree by the driveway, and said "Bryan, I am an expert in this, come & sit down. This is going to be a long day".

The attack followed the process I am told of most military engagements. It started off with a limited number of reconnaissance efforts by twos and threes, then a slowing, then the full blooded attack. Russ 'in the house' Perry performed trojan service, while David & I 'greeted'. 'The List' required that I insist everybody take off their shoes before going through the house. This became part of my patter: 'Welcome to #5, I am #5, you can rifle the family silver, but you must take off your shoes'. They looked at me as if I was slightly mentally unbalanced. David was steady under fire, rarely moving from his garden chair, doing most of his work through arm movements. At 2:00pm David announced that the Battle had really not even begun. I felt downhearted. I had now been at this since Wednesday. The school bus arrived with faces pressed up against the windows like children on an excursion. They exploded into the driveway. . . .

The attack then seemed to peter out. At 3:45pm David said "Bryan, that's it - take that number off and let's have a drink on your terrace". I said that was a great idea but we must wait until 4:00pm, the official closing time. David looked at me as while I might attend the Anglican church, there must be some hidden Presbyterian blood down deep. 3:55pm came. David now levered himself out of his chair, adopting the principle of self-help, tore the #5 off the side of the boathouse and

marched off to the terrace.

Russ emerged from the house a bit like Alec Guinness from the hot box in the movie "Bridge on the River Kwai", was greeted by his lovely wife who had arrived to pick him up, declined the drink and left having done an excellent job.

Silence fell over #5, save for the chink of ice in a tall glass from the terrace.

CONCERT ATTRACTS MANY ISLANDERS

- Bill Harris

Anton Kuerti and his wife Kristine Bogyo attracted a record number of Islanders for



Anton Kuerti & Kristine Bogyo

their sold out performance at St. Paul's on July 17th. Bev Harris, who looks after ticket sales for the Waterside Summer Series, reported that 60 of the 140 tickets were sold to people on Amherst Island. This was due in part to the early purchase opportunity for Islanders in May.

St. Paul's had been transformed for this concert. The grand piano, on loan from Jim and Beverley Coles of Kingston, replaced the pulpit. For the cello a smaller platform at the lower level was borrowed from the Kingston Symphony and adapted to last minute needs by John Schutzbach. Alan Glenn had for this season also provided some steps and other carpentry necessary for adapting the church for the musician that the Whig Standard referred to as "perhaps Canada's best known classical pianist".

The performers were staying on Amherst

Island as guests of Eric and Susan Friesen. In his introduction of Anton Kuerti Mr Friesen praised the dedication of this world famous musician to performing in all parts of Canada, - though none previously as small as Amherst Island. Artistic Director Inka Brockhausen doubled as page turner for this concert. (To turn pages for Mr. Kuerti you have to be very good at reading music!) Inka found the task very interesting and once or twice even amusing - as when Mr. Kuerti had to slap a couple of mosquitoes on his arm while continuing to play - without missing a beat!.

The highlight of the evening for many was during Mr. Kuerti's playing of the Beethoven's Sonata # 31. Midway through the sonata during an exciting moment, the piano sound was reinforced by the roaring sound of a summer shower on the church's tin roof!

Mr. Kuerti expressed later his pleasure with the quality of the sound in St. Paul's and his interest in performing again should an opportunity present itself.

The Waterside SummerSeries has a few tickets still available for the August 2 organ concert at St. Alban's with Deirdre Piper and for the Celtic Folk concert at St. Paul's with Night Sun. For tickets call 384-2153.



This was submitted to the Beacon with the caption: "Guess Who!"

*Wolfeys in the 1970's
Debbie Miller, Lynn Fleming & Brent*

LETTERS

from Micheline Sylvester Burnham [a former Island resident]

Re your mention of foot-and-mouth, I was in England, in Cornwall actually, when the first carcasses were burned, a farm involved in the original outbreak was very close to my parents' home. We just returned this past year in May and many fields are still empty . . . the countryside is so incredibly quiet. The foot-and-mouth cull had happened, of course, just after a recovery from the BSE cull had begun, and the fields had just started to repopulate to some degree of normalcy.

**NOTICES & ADVERTISEMENTS
CONGRATULATIONS**

The family of Sherry Miller is pleased to announce that Sherry has successfully completed the requirements to achieve her Certified Financial Planner designation. Sherry is employed at Empire Financial Group in Kingston. You have worked so hard Sherry. We are all so proud of you.

W.I. BAKE SALE

Friday 29 August from 3:45 outside the General Store.

**WHAT DOES
AMHERST ISLAND HAVE
MORE OF THAN VOLES?
WIND ENERGY!**

The Women's Institute is offering an informative talk and discussion on August 20th, 7:00 PM at St. Paul's Church on WIND POWER

Presented by MR. RON ALWARD, MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Reasons to learn and be a knowledgeable consumer: Why are we paying for monthly deficit reductions due to mismanagement?

Will Hydro One remain under the Ontario government or will it be sold to a private company? How much will electricity cost escalate after 2004? Can a homeowner use both wind power and Hydro One? What size of windmill does one need for their own home, two homes or several? Who services windmills and what is the future maintenance? What is the initial cost?



Splitting wood on a hot summer's day... for the exercise, of course! **TR**

Monthly costs? Are there any financial assistance programs and who qualifies?

This discussion is not intended to look into wind power for the entire Island, but could be, but rather giving consumers information to decide on an alternative source of energy rather than being harnessed to Hydro One. The looming uncertainties concerning Hydro One continue and escalating costs are inevitable. This could be the time to learn/know what alternatives there are and how you can control your expenses as a homeowner.

Don't miss out on an opportunity to learn about this renewable energy source which is more abundant than voles! Or we could harness all the voles on a treadmill and have an even cheaper source of energy.

The Women's Institute will provide refreshments after the discussion.

CALLING ISLAND ARTISTS!



The fantastic success with the Women's Institute calendar last Christmas has seduced the W.I. into another collectable Island Calendar-2004. The W.I.

is calling for your visions of our special island. Our calendar celebrates the artists in our midst.

This year's Calendar grows in size to an 11" x 17" format featuring a black and white image of Amherst Island scenes across the top half of the page with a large monthly date box below. Entry guidelines can be obtained at the W.I. Farmer's Market stall or by calling 389-1320. Submissions must be capable of being scanned and printed on a paper format. Works may be submitted

in black and white, or colour. The originals entered remain the artist's property.

Deadline for entries is October 7th.

There will be an exhibition of the original art entries and the calendar unveiling in November.

HELP WANTED

The Wardens of St. Alban's Anglican Church are looking for someone who will clean the church on a regular basis. Mostly light cleaning, dust sweep, vacuum, cob-web patrol, etc. Please contact either Wilbert Willard, 389-5328 or Caroline Yull, 384-4071.

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION WORKSHOP

-Learning to live in the present moment.

When our attention is in the present moment we observe things as they actually are, leading to freedom from suffering, clarity, and peacefulness.

Saturday, August 23. Telephone Jocelyne Leyton 384-6488.

**AMHERST ISLAND
WEBSITE NEWS**

www.amherstisland.on.ca

We are PLEASED to report that we now have TWELVE sponsors, and our target has been met for funding! Any additional amount will be used for website improvements and for defraying any increase in our hosting costs from Internet Kingston next year. Thank you for your contributions.

Alex Scott & Tom Richmond

VINTAGE BEACON: JULY 22, 1971

FARM FILE

- Ernest Fleming

July 20th, and the greater part of the hay is in the barns, a crop that for the most part is well-cured and of good quality. Sometimes we wonder how the crop will ever be harvested, but with the help of a few good strong lads and modern machinery, the job seems to get done.

At this time, the crops on the Island look good; the rain has come when it was most needed, even if it did hold haying up somewhat. A number of farmers have had machinery troubles; break-downs are expensive these days.

I know that baler needles are at least \$34.50 a pair.

News cannot always be bad, however. We hear that milk is expected to go up another 50¢ a cwt. and that is always a help.

DRIVING CLUB

- Staff

In the past two weeks the Island has seen many new horses arrive. Al Caughey made a trip to Vernon last Tuesday and came back with three: Jay Diamond with a mark of 2:05 and \$30,000 lifetime, Gem's Billy with a mark of 2:08 and Gorgeous Dianne who went in 2:06. All of these horses are pacers. He also has Eternal Pick which he is using as a stallion.

Jack Forester also made a new purchase in Gaiety Guy which has been racing locally for Olan Corr of Brockville.

Local horses have been racing well of late with Prima Blossom showing

marked improvement with two seconds. Preston Star has been second and third; Willow Brook Smokey - second and fourth; Nancy's Rum - third and second.

Melody Tripp has been given ten days off on the veterinarian's advice.

Mac Smith was over on Monday and took blood samples for the swamp fever test. We hope that all tests are negative.

Former Islander, Hugh Wernp lost Brenda B. Hoover and Misty Way; Ben Wernp lost Jan's Magic to the disease.

Tonight Gary Filson makes his first qualifying drive for his licence.

midnight. An excellent program of music was supplied by Everett Stevens and his Blue Jacket Orchestra. The event was well attended and was a decided success, despite the wet evening.

The ice cream social held under the auspices of Quinte Lodge L.O.B.A. on the Victoria lawn on Sat. evening was well patronized and everything was disposed of. C.A. Wiseman Chevrolet dealer of Napanee was on the Island last week assisting the local representative K-S. Miller.

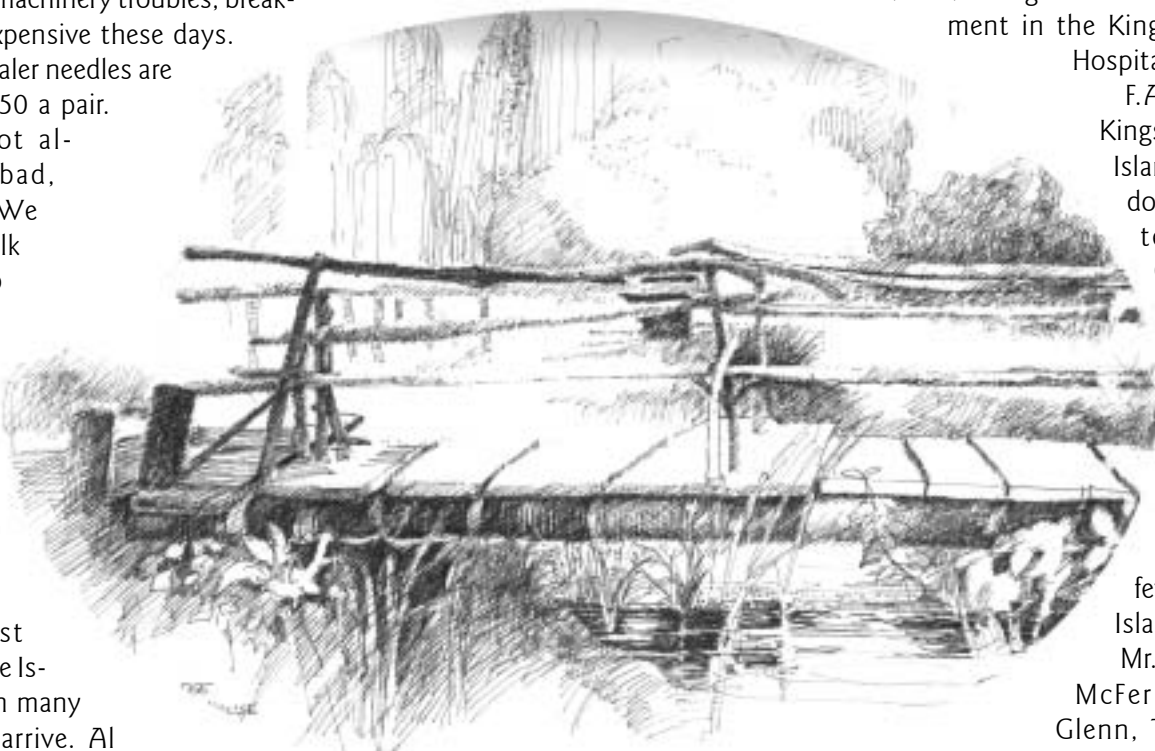
Neilson Bros. have installed a new gasoline pump at their service station.

Miss Mae Tugwell is undergoing treatment in the Kingston General Hospital.

F.A. Kilpatrick, Kingston is on the Island at present, doing some lettering in Glenwood and Pentland Cemeteries.

The Rev. W. T. McCree, former pastor of St. Paul's, spent a few days on the Island.

Mr. & Mrs. Hugh McFern and Harry Glenn, Three Rivers, Que., are spending a short vacation with friends here.



Footbridge at Windchime House

Peter Large, SCA

DOWN THE LANE

- Marj. Aitken

From an old newspaper clipping of undetermined age (probably the 1930's) Stella - Aug 15

Farmers are this week in the midst of their grain cutting and they report a good crop. The burn of threshers will soon be heard once more.

The Stella Driving Club held a dance in Victoria Gardens on Sat. evening from 8-





Y-Knot
Marathon
Update:

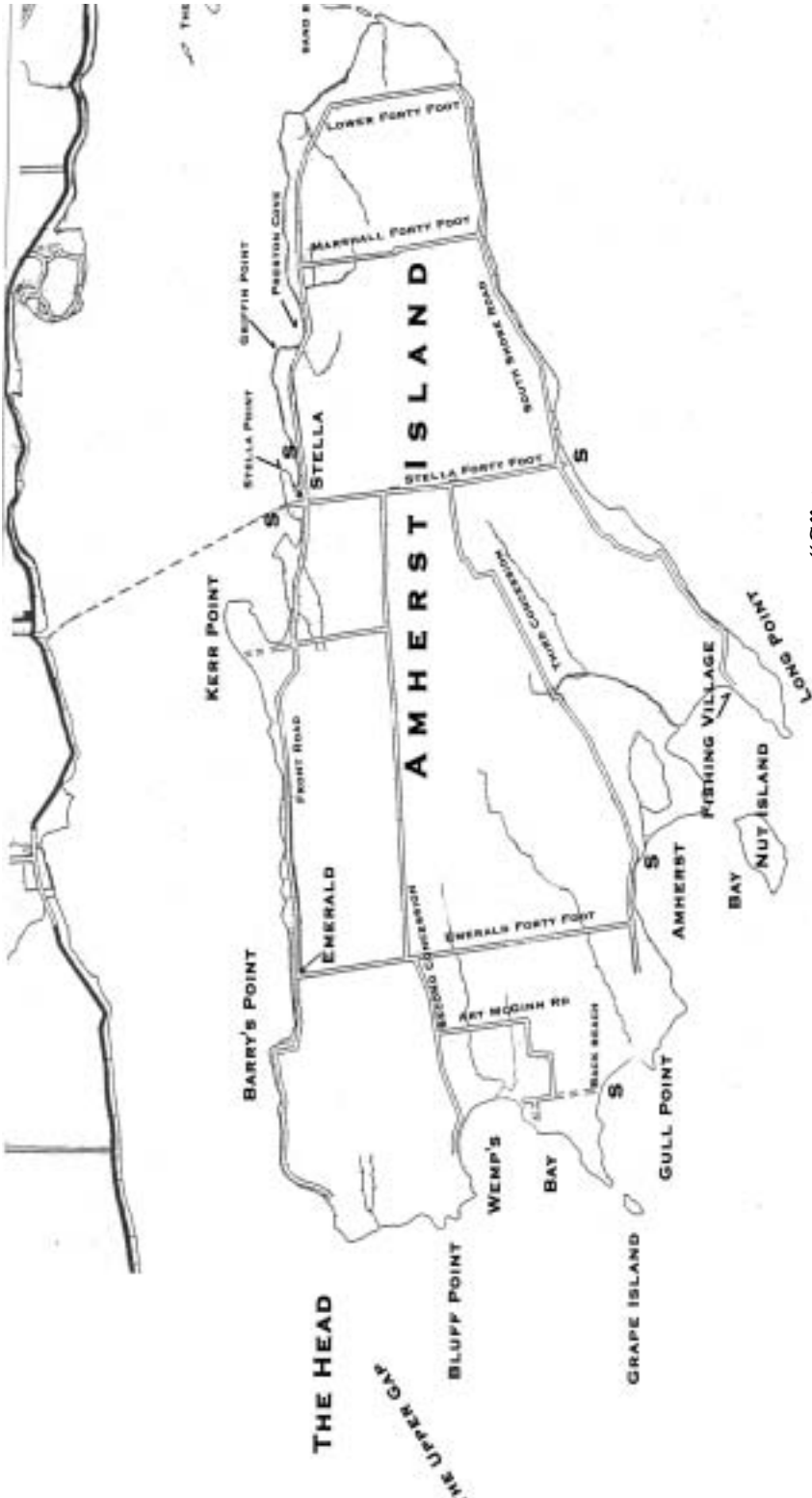
Hi everyone:

It looks like Tuesday (August 12, 2003) is a go for my Lake Ontario swim. I will start at 7:00 AM at Sackets Harbor, New York and finish between 10:00 AM and 12:00 Noon on Wednesday at Confederation Basin in downtown Kingston.

For those of you in the Kingston area, you can listen to K Rock at 105.7 for updates throughout the swim. One of the morning DJs, Taz, is going to be on the entire swim with us. The station is really going to promote donations and promote people coming down for the end of the swim.

You can also get updates on my progress from our web site at www.amherstisland.on.ca/yknot Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the finish.
Cheers! John Munro

"S" indicates public swimming area



John Munro and other firefighters tearing into an old car for training purposes at the firehall, July 2003.

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL STORE

SUMMER HOURS: M-Th 9-6, Fri-Sat 9-9, Sun 10-6.

Hours for Labour Day Weekend are: Fri & Sat - 9 am to 9 pm; Sun - 10 am to 6 pm; Mon - 10 am to 5 pm. New releases available to rent:

Shanghai Knights - Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson

007 Die Another Day - Pierce Brosnan, Halle Berry

Catch Me if You Can - Tom Hanks, Leonardo DiCaprio

Dark Blue - Kurt Russell

Just Married - Brittany Murphy, Ashton Kuchter

Antwone Fisher - Denzel Washington

Blue Collar Comedy Tour - Jeff Foxworthy, Ron White

Tears of the Sun - Bruce Willis

NARC - Ray Lister, Jason Patric

* Have a great weekend everyone*

THE BACK KITCHEN:

Notes & News

The Back Kitchen is now open Thursday through Sunday each week in August from 11 am until 8 pm. We are also open on Labour Day. We have homemade pies, delicious burgers and fries, and salads and subs for your eating pleasure. Our waitresses are waiting to serve you, so stop in for great food and friendly conversation. Our specials for the next few weeks are as follows.

Aug 14 & 15 - Godden Sausage Dinner / Aug 16 & 17 - Grilled Chicken Dinner

Aug 21 & 22 - Chicken Casserole, Salad & Vegetable / Aug 23 & 24 - Meat Loaf & Fried Potatoes

August 28 & 29 - Curry Chicken with Rice / August 30, 31 & Sept 1 - Stuffed Chicken Breast.

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

SIGNS

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

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

The Lodge on Amherst Island

Rental available for special occasions. Call Molly at:

(613) 634-1388

or (416) 533-5997

www.amherstisland.on.ca/thelodge



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.

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

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

Tim Hicks Plumbing and Heating

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

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.

FOR SALE:

Tales of Amherst Island by Dr. H. C. Burleigh call 389-3943

Amherst Island Sweatshirts, Golf Shirts & T-shirts. Embroidered Logo. Wide Selection of colours & sizes. Now available at Victoria Hall tea room

WEASEL & EASEL

The W&E will be open every day until Labour Day.

88.7 - What is it?

Topsy Farms:

sheepskins, wool blankets, yarn, socks etc. Queen size blankets, \$99.95



Phone 389-3444 for an appointment, and also visit us at 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



Bookkeeping & Property Management Services

Rosemary Richmond Home, Farm, Cottage, Small Business. Island references. 634-1855

CONGRATULATIONS ADAM & BARB MILLER on their wedding August 9, 2003. The newlyweds will be taking up residence on the Third Concession.

Congratulations to Guido Visintin on his retirement from Capri Pizza. He was honoured in an article in the August 9th Kingston Whig- Standard. The Beacon staff wish him well whatever he does - or does not do - next.

The Beacon understands that the Amherst Island Fall Fair has been cancelled due to liability considerations and some logistical problems.

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).

Amherst Island Beacon- becomes an Internationally Acclaimed Source of News for the Twenty-First Century!



DEAR ISLAND BEACON,

My name is Jane Turner and I live in London, England. We are having a family gathering at The Lodge on Tuesday 29th July for a week. In interest, of wanting to know more about Amherst Island, a good friend at work suggested to me about a month ago that I should look to see if there was an Amherst Island website. It was fantastic that there was. Then we started to read the Amherst Island Beacon, more out of curiosity than anything else to see where I was going for rest and relaxation at my family get together.

Before you knew it, word spread and our entire department was reading all the back issues of the Beacon. It's become a cult hit for us here in London. In fact, you have such a following here, that we took a photo this morning of the gang outside a souvenir kiosk on Oxford Street, all holding up copies of the Amherst Island Beacon. (attached). We know from past issues you had a plea for more photographs...so we thought we'd send you one!

My friend at work, Steve (second from left) is actually from Brisbane, Australia. He wants to come to Amherst Island so badly. He has made me promise that I take lots of photographs and try and meet some of the Islanders that have been mentioned, especially, and if possible, 'Ida'. He would also like to say that, although he's never been to Canada before, Amherst Island would be his ideal place he'd like to visit. . . .

I do hope you have 'I love Amherst Island' t-shirts...because the gang back in London will be unhappy if I don't return with something! . . .
(STAFF: They came, they saw, they were amazed!)

WOOL SHED

Topsy Farms now has an outlet for its sheep products at 14775 Front Road.

The former milk&ice house/farm shop/storage shed/music room has been renovated - inside only, so far - to house our pure wool blankets, wraps, lap robes, yarn, hats, slippers, socks, scarves, washed & carded wool, as well as sheep and lamb skins. Copies of Don's farm photos may also be ordered. Information about ordering freezer lamb is also available for delivery in the fall.

Because we are an operating farm, we can not keep the Wool Shed open on a regular basis. Please phone 389-3444 for an appointment. Or, if the OPEN sign is out, ring the bell for some attention.