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THIS ISSUE

Ian Murray

Frustrated by malfunctions, I got a new computer and a new Family Tree Maker program so as to make the genealogy information more readable. The Beacon, Topsy Farms, and myself will share the cost of the computer.

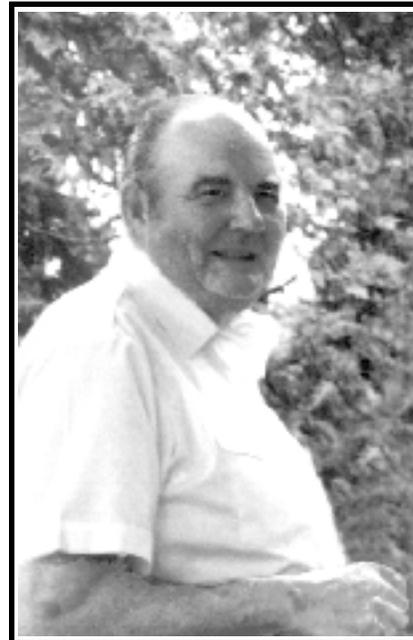
Who did what for this Beacon: Don scanned in lots of historical material that can be used whenever we have space; Kyle typed in some articles; Chris and Di proofed as well as contributing articles; Don keeps the subscription list up to date; Tom did all the heavy lifting on the production end as well as collecting photos; Leslie handled the mailing to subscribers and looked after the finances; Lori et al kept the Beacon holder filled at the store; Ian collected and arranged articles. Don, Tom and Jan also supplied practical,

as well as moral support, during the computer change over. The folks at KwikKopy will, I assume, run us off another good looking newsletter. And, of course, there are the folks who contributed articles both long and short.

Thanks to Don we should always have enough articles to fill 12 pages each issue. He sure keeps that scanner humming.

Garnet McDonald gave us a copy of a sketch of Emerald as he remembered it from his youth. We hope to have that in the next Beacon: technology and time permitting.

Captain Eldon Willard



Eldon Willard was born on Amherst Island May 5th, 1930, and he lived with his parents and sister Verna in the little house just west of Reta Brown's (featured on the cover of last month's Beacon). He attended grade school in the South Shore schoolhouse that is now the home of the Shaws. In 1946, when he was 16, his family moved to the mainland. Eldon stayed to work on the ferry, but this was no surprise, as the family had produced captains, mates and

commercial fishermen for generations. He boarded in the village home that is now owned by Helen McCormick until 1958. At that time, he married Elsie Reid, and his children Janice (McGinn) and Douglas were born in the years that followed. Eldon attended marine college when the bay froze over and the boat tied up for the winter. There were some lean times along the way: He briefly considered a career in lake transport ships, but didn't want to be away from his family for so much of the year.

Eldon worked on all three boats named Amherst Islander: The old wooden one built before the war; the "landing craft" (purchased after the war and refitted, it still had bullet holes in it); and the 1955 Amherst Islander that was just taken out of service. In addition, there was The Charlevoix (refitted as the Frontenac II), The Sorelos, The Wolfe Islander (on loan),

Continued on page 2

The Upper Canada, and other ships that came and went in a pinch. The stories of those days are legion... Captain Warren Kilpatrick was nearly born on the boat during an emergency run while Eldon was on duty (a tale that involves a new shotgun and a freshly painted engine room floor).

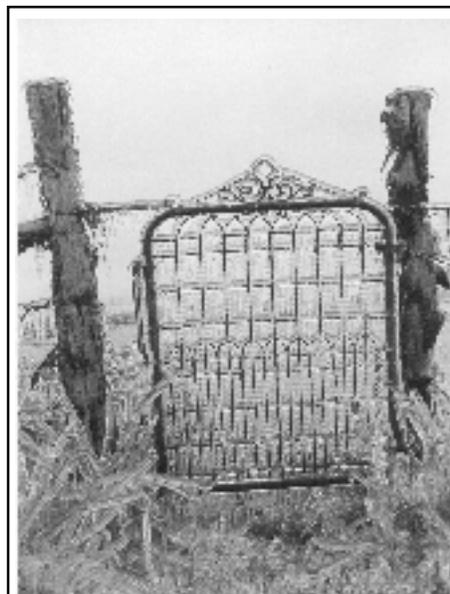
After forty-three years of service, Eldon retired in 1989, the longest service for any employee of Amherst Island Township. He had used only one sick day in all that time, and took that because of an injury sustained while fighting a fire at Elsie Densem's home at the Head of the island. During at least half of those years of service, there was only one small ferry crew, and they worked seven days a week during the season... Many of the 20 current employees in four crews worked under Eldon at one time or another. In retirement he continued to watch over aging relatives, and he joined the Board of the Amherst Island Mutual Insurance Company. As "the mayor of Stella Point," he watched cottages year-round all over the island, and his garage was always a source of anything to fix everything.

Eldon was a simple man and didn't like a fuss being made, but he enjoyed a good time. He was a regular at the New Years Eve celebrations, the community dinners and events, and anywhere an extra hand might be needed, such as the annual ACW chicken barbecue. He liked to listen,



New boat coming in- The Arrival of the last "Amherst Islander" on June 7, 1955. In the background, the MVSorelos, in the foreground, front and center is First Mate Eldon Willard

while Elsie and Janice thought he was at home in a lawn chair. Amazingly, he was back in that chair by the time they returned. He loved mowing, blowing snow, fix-it work of all types, garage sales, and by genetics, anything nautical. But he loved his family most of all - Elsie relates that "Good King Wenceslaus" was read to the grandkids thousands of times from his armchair.

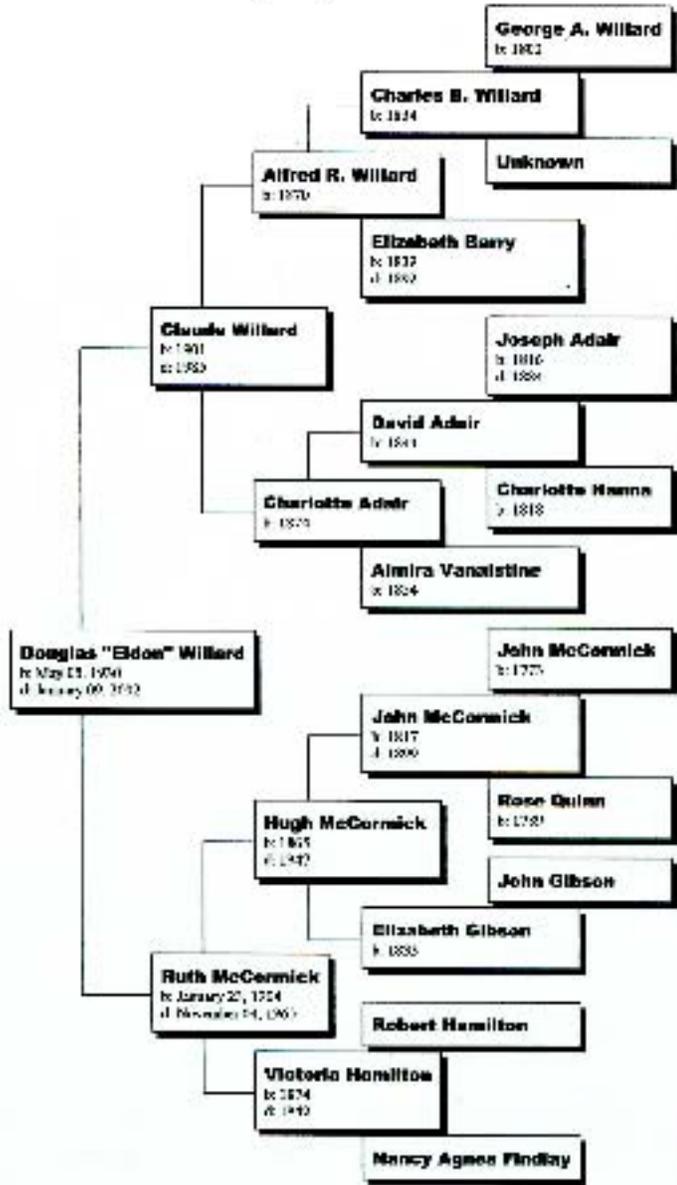


The Gate at Eldon's Garden
DT Photo

Eldon passed away on January 9, 2002 after a battle with cancer. He was interred in Glenwood cemetery at the top of the hill under a huge maple tree with a beautiful view of the lake to the south. Every islander has an Eldon story: The Beacon could be filled for years if we tried to tell them all. And then we wouldn't know half of them.

(Beacon Staff)

Ancestors of Douglas "Eldon" Willard



NEIGHBOURHOOD

-Lynn Fleming

Our sympathy this month, to Elsie Willard, Janice McGinn and Doug Willard and families, on the passing of their husband, father and grandfather, Eldon Willard. Eldon was a life long resident of Amherst Island.

Congratulations to Gary Filson and Susan Sedore, who were married on Christmas Eve in a private ceremony at home. Rev. Zander Dunn performed the ceremony.

Congratulations to Bonnie Azulay and Jan Sneep, who became 2nd time grandparents this month. Jocelyn was born in early January to daughter Jessica and Mike Irwin. A sister for Ethan. Best wishes also to "uncle" Aaron and "aunties" Chelsea and Brittany.

Congratulations to Bruce and Gloria-Jane Barrette on the birth of their daughter, Tatum Jane Barrette. Proud big brother is Cole, and a granddaughter for Gloria French.

Congratulations to Helen Bulch (and great aunt Ida) on the birth of another great grandchild. Helen's granddaughter Kim and her husband Mike Boelke became the proud parents of Brooke's little brother, Richard in December.

Over the holidays, I wasn't aware that several people had been in hospital before Christmas, so belated get well wishes and my apologies to: Helen Caughey; Bonnie Baker; Hazel deHaan; and Kirsten Bennick.

Get well wishes also to Phyllis Henderson and Brooke Reid. Also to Greg Hudson, who is currently in hospital, and may be for some time.

Get well to Stephan McGinn who recently spent a week in hospital.

Milestone birthdays celebrated recently are: Happy 40th to Brent Wolfreys; Happy 50th to Tom Sylvester and Happy 60th to Bob Horth.

The New Year's Eve dinner and dance was successful and well attended again this year.

Winter has been pretty tame this year, as I write this, the bay has not frozen nor has the ground! Bits of green grass are still "poking through". The weather channel is predicting temperatures in the mid teens by month end. Spring shouldn't be too far away now.

Many Islanders are familiar with Justin Hutchings and his pet rooster, Thunder. Whether it is from one of the articles in the Whig Standard or the Heritage, from the Canada Day Parades or just seeing the two of them riding in the Village on Justin's bike. Unfortunately, Thunder passed away on December 21, apparently from old age. It seems that 2 years is a good age for a rooster, and Thunder lived to be 3. Justin says that Thunder was always friendly to him and his mom, but not his dad, brothers and the family dogs! Justin says he's going to miss him. So will those of us who enjoyed seeing Thunder balanced on the handlebars of Justin's bike as they rode through the Village.



The second *Amherst Islander*, formerly a WWII landing craft, was retrofitted in the Kingston Shipyards



AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Freda Youell.

Our P.R.O. is away so I am writing the Beacon article this month. The January 14th meeting was held at the Ferry office at 1 p.m. with 13 members and two guests present. Our guest speaker was Yolanda Belisle, a volunteer for the Hospice Kingston and she gave a very informative presentation regarding the services available for anyone with a life threatening illness, their relatives and friends. These services are regardless of any other support groups such as Red Cross or Home Care, and Hospice Kingston works very closely with physicians, nursing agencies, hospitals, long term facilities and other community organizations forming an integrated palliative care team. For more information call 613-542-5013.

We had our lunch before our business meeting so that our guest speaker could join us, then after the Ode, Collect and O' Canada we started our roll call at which members were asked to name a Special Volunteer. There was no meeting in December as we had our Christmas Party which, as always, was very enjoyable. Before I get to the items at this meeting we wish to thank the folk that gave donations at the Seniors' dinner and for the many compliments received. It was a super meal and the "Seasoned Spirits" gave a hilarious Christmas show. This is always a very special event for our members.

Items discussed once the Committee reports had been made were the addition to the telephone book - these are coming to you very soon and at the rate of additional numbers will probably need to be updated again by the end of the year.

The 4-H no longer supply the plaques to display projects completed so the W.I. has obtained some for the members that have not received one. Joyce Haines spent many hours and did a terrific job on this project and the plaques will be presented at the Achievement and Sign-up lunch on January 20th.

Regarding the proposed Farmers' Market, we are not making any changes to our Bake Sale on the Fridays before each long weekend at this time but will be looking into ways to support this worthwhile project.

Want to keep (or get!) fit? Everyone (unisex) is being invited to gym classes at the Victoria Hall on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. For more information call 389-5389. Why not make a belated New Year's resolution and attend for a fun time.

The W.I. is once again funding an Island mailing for the Heart and Stroke Foundation and would ask that, even if you receive

requests from another source, you use the envelope we provide. It is coded and will let us know how much has been generously donated by Amherst Island residents.

By the end of the meeting we numbered 14 members-welcome Beth. As our Canada Day float said "WE ARE GROWING" This puts our membership at twenty-two so we must be doing something right!!

Our next meeting will be on March 20th at the Ferry office at 7 p.m. with two members, Mary Kay Steel and Kirsten Bennick, giving a presentation "Approach to Active Aging". At the risk of never being allowed to report again, I have to say that, being two very active ladies and full of surprises, this promises to be a real hoot so don't miss it! That's March 20th- Ferry office- 7 p.m. Hope to see you there.

AMHERST ISLAND DIRECTORY

- Jackie Sylvester

Directory Update! The Amherst Island Women's Institute wishes everyone a healthy and productive 2002. We have recently put together an insert for your Amherst Island Directory. We particularly want to extend a warm welcome to all the new Islanders. If you don't receive the householder mailing, or if you require more copies of the directory (and insert), please visit the Amherst Island General Store. The directory is both a handy tool and a "collectible" as it was produced for the 100th Anniversary celebrations of our Institute.

Our Women's Institute meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month. Visitors and new members are always welcome. For information please call Nancy Henshaw, 384-0799, or Joyce Haines [Beacon note: we use the Island directory to check spellings of people's names. We have made several corrections and would appreciate knowing of any errors you have noticed: e-mail, snail mail or phone.]

OWL WOODS

- Janet Scott



Snowy Owl on the Front Road
DT Photo

The owl population in the Owl Woods has been decimated by a resident Goshawk but one or two Saw-whets can still be found there as well as Long-eared Owls if you're exceptionally quiet in the bush. They usually just take off as you spot them. No Boreals or Great Grays have been reported but there are at least 8 Snowy Owls on the Island. Once

in awhile a Short-eared makes an appearance in the South Shore area and the Great Horned Owls are calling on territory

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

Committees: Jackie Sylvester has been re-appointed to the Committee of Adjustment; Lynn Fleming and Rick Bedford are once again on the Recreation & Property Committee; Doris Wemp, Dorothy McGinn and W. Bruce Caughey are still on the Cemetery Committee; Councillor Duncan Ashley was appointed as alternate to County Council (to serve when Reeve McEwen is unable to attend). Duncan is also, ex officio, a member of Council's Committee of the Whole. There is a vacancy on the Loyalist Township Museum Committee, if anyone reading this is interested, please apply.

Emergency Services Report for 2001 [for Loyalist Township]:

Type and number of calls: fire, 62; pot on stove, 3; alarm malfunction, 23; alarm malicious, 2; human accident, 1; gas leak, 2; power lines, 2; vehicle extrication, 8; medical emergencies, 96; carbon monoxide detector, 5; water rescue, 2; unauthorized control burning, 15; alarm accidental, 11; human perceived emergency, 9; gas or other fuel spill, 1; vehicle accident, 31; heart attack CPR, 19; call cancelled on route, 10, assist to other fire dept. or police, 3; and, other, 22. Calls per month varied from a low of 17 in November to a high of 33 in August.

The Amherst Island station responded to 21 call outs in 2001.

Training Officer, Fred Stephenson: "Over the last few years, Loyalist Township Emergency services has felt there was a lack of available training material directly related to Emergency First Response Teams. What was available was either basic first aid related or advanced beyond our level of training. "...With the assistance of Firefighter/Paramedic Randy Fowler and Dr. Wendy McCullough a training manual was developed, reviewed and printed in July of 2001. This project was the first of its kind in Ontario and has been received as such." Other fire departments have expressed interest in the manual and it is hoped that sales will help offset the costs of developing the manual.

Emerald Culvert: a report by Township Engineer, David Thompson:

Based on his own observations and on investigation done by a consulting firm, Mr. Thompson made the following recommendations to Council: that the abutments be monitored to see if there is any significant movement; and, that the east foundation be repaired where the flowing creek water has caused some undermining.

Occurrence-

Amherst Island Milhaven Ferry Dock: [Milhaven]

Moved by Councillor Ibey and seconded by Councillor Bresee that the C.A.O.'s report, November 28, 2001 ... be received and the following be adopted:

1. That ferry crews be instructed to look for later pedestrians arriving at the dock and only start the casting off procedure once satisfied that the dock is clear.
2. That a letter be sent to Ms. [Jill] Caughey (with a copy to J. R. Barr) explaining the ramp lowering policy.
3. That a message be placed on the message boards reminding

ferry users to arrive at the dock in advance of the departure time to ensure passage.

Motion carried.

I did not request a copy of the C.A.O.'s report. It was not included in the Council documents provided to the Beacon. This is not surprising as it could be considered a personnel matter and, understandably, would not be a public document.

**

The policy referred to is as follows:

"Name: Lowering of ramp.

Date of Adoption: Council April 10, 2000.

Council Minute No. 2000.11.18.

Purpose: Consistent policy applied by all crew.

Policy: Do not lower the ferry ramp after it has started to raise for departure."

The policy is pretty clear; it's there in black and white. No deviation is permitted: not for an ambulance; not for the OPP; nor, for a young woman standing on the dock by herself on a cold rainy night. Perhaps the captains and crews should be permitted a bit of discretion.

Staffing Changes:

Council has decided to reduce the Road Crew on Amherst Island by one position. This will be done by either retirement or promotion.

DAVE BRADY

- Bill Harris

(with David's cooperation)

On Amherst Island David is known by most people as the producer of Counter Force, a documentary that has won three awards in the US this year after being shown on TLC, The Learning Channel. David has been producing film and television series for over twenty-five years, where his acquaintance with Peter Trueman is one of the threads that



The Amherst Islander, November 1999, in the North Channel DT Photo

brought him to the Island.

During the 1990s David also taught at both York University and Ryerson Polytechnic in the fields of Screen Writing, Film Production and Business. He received the CESAR award for his teaching at Ryerson.

His father was from The Valley,- the Ottawa Valley, so coming to the Island could be coming back closer to his roots after a lifetime in business, academia and the media throughout Europe and the North American continent. David was born in Timmins, raised in Toronto and began a Masters degree in Communications at Simon Fraser and finished his Master of Fine Arts at York University many years ago. Like most of us, life lead him through a broad range of career activities that has left him with a finely tuned critical sense.

Deborah Kimmett, Dave's wife, has family in Napanee, which is another thread which David followed to our island. Just prior to moving to Amherst Island last year David and Deborah, with their two children Brendan and Laurel were living in Toronto and spending a great deal of time first on

Hay Bay, then renting two different houses on Amherst Island. Finally purchasing their own home, they now live at 10650 Front Road.

David is active in the Amherst Island community, having appeared in two presentations of the Talking Peace group. He is active in AIMS, in charge of applications for government grants.

[Staff: David is also a member of the the fire dept.]

...excepted from **SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL**

- Paul Blais of L&A County

2001 was a good year for development in Lennox and Addington. Construction values were the fourth highest since 1990. A number of significant projects were completed and more groundwork was laid for future development. Below is a sample of some of 2001's significant projects:

Strathcona Paper Company is nearing completion of a \$25 million investment that adds more state-of-the-art technology to its manufacturing, distribution and supply chain capabilities.

Canadian Playgrounds Inc., a custom designer and manufacturer of steel and recycled plastic playground equipment, expanded into larger premises at 108 Dairy Avenue, Napanee.

Bath's championship-calibre golf course, Loyalist Estates,

was purchased by a Toronto-area developer (Country Club Communities) who plans to build more than 500 homes in the next several years.

Construction has begun on the new \$790,000 Lennox & Addington County Library - Napanee Branch. Manco Recycling Centre purchased land in the Napanee Development Park and built a new 10,000 sq. ft. building to process recyclable materials.

Loyalist Township constructed a new \$1.025 million fire station in Bath.

Bombardier Transportation and Lafarge Canada both completed renovations to their corporate offices.

CAT Logistics Inc., a division of Canadian-American Transportation, established an 88,000 sq. ft. logistics centre in Napanee. The company receives automobile tires from across North America and distributes them to assembly plants in Ontario.

KoSa completed a significant investment in their on-site waste water treatment facility.

Metal Frame Cabinets in Odessa opened a second manufacturing plant (8,000 sq. ft.) and tripled its workforce to build its patented line of vanities.

Loyalist Township initiated a study to identify a preferred alternative to provide treated municipal water to the Taylor-Kidd Industrial Complex by December 2002.

More than \$350,000 in renovations were made at the Petro-Canada / McDonald's Service Centre on Highway #401 near Odessa.

Napanee Home Hardware Building Centre doubled its floor area

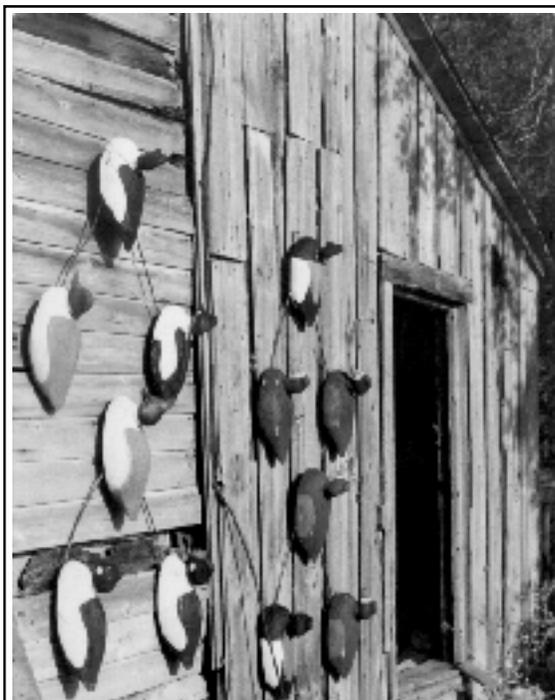
and tripled its inventory selection.

Fando Holdings purchased a 36,000 sq. ft. building to warehouse PET, polypropylene, and nylon fibre. Fando is extracting this materials from area landfills and baling it for shipment for reprocessing.

The Prince Edward / Lennox and Addington Community Futures Development Corporation (PELA CFDC) opened a local office in 2001. The organization provides business counseling services as well as repayable financing of up to \$125,000.

Many new residential developments were approved in 2001 including Parkside Subdivision (109 units), Winchester Drive Subdivision (17 lots), Nibourg Condominiums (57 units), Smith Subdivision (650 units), and Adolphustown Subdivision (75 units).

The Ontario Provincial Police has identified greenfield sites in Napanee and Odessa for construction of two new



Duck Decoys at the Hunt Club- c.1979
SM Photo

detachments.

Loyalist Plaza in Amherstview underwent renovations in 2001 including the construction of a new 8-doctor medical building and after hours clinic.

Bon Echo Provincial Park invested \$800,000 for a new water distribution system and winterized comfort station.

The Wesleyan Church of Canada started construction on their new 16,000 sq.ft. church which will include a 300 seat sanctuary, classrooms, offices and a gymnasium.

LAKE ONTARIO WATER LEVELS

- Don Tubb

From the Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada's website.

Average water height for January 2002: 74.55m.

Average water heights for January 1918-1998: 74.55m.

Average water height for January 2001: 74.49m.

Average water height for December 2001: 74.52m.

Max. average water height (Jan. 1946): 75.16m.

Min. average water height (Jan. 1935): 73.81m.

Lake Ontario is obviously not experiencing the low water levels found in the other Great Lakes.

4-H NEWS

- Susie Caughey

On January 20, the 4-H awards program for 2001 and registration for 2002 was held at the community centre. Peter Trueman was on hand to congratulate all photography club members for their efforts and to make a presentation to Talia Fleming for her first place photograph. We thank Peter for judging the entries.

Joyce Haines spoke to the group and gave the newer members wooden plaques provided by the W.I. of Amherst Island. Both Alison McDonald and Sam Pollock expressed appreciation on behalf of all 4-H members present. The W.I. support is continual and generous. We're pretty excited that the Island 4-Hers were featured in the winter issue of "4-H Ontario", a provincial magazine. (On newsstands now!)

The Jr. club will start in late Feb. "Healthy eating around the clock" led by Freda Youell.

MORE 4-H NEWS

- Sam Pollock

The high school 4-H club on the Island will be doing two projects this winter & spring- "Soups-On" and "Event Planning". First meeting is at Caugheys' on Sunday, Feb, 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Members enrolled so far are:

Helen Bell-Smith, Shawna Phillips, Alison McDonald, Andrew McDonald, Brennan Kilpatrick, Sam Pollock, Jamie Black, Shannon Youell, Geoffrey McDonald and Mindy Fleming. Anyone else are to join the fun? Phone Susie (389-9977) immediately.

OLD BEACONS & The MISSING YEARS

- Ian Murray

This is what we at World Beacon Headquarters have:

Island Beacon: First Edition, April 16, 1970 through 39th Edition, November 18, 1971.

The Grindstone: Vol. 18, No. 22, November 18th, 1971; Vol.18, No. 23, December 9th, 1971; and, Vol.19, No.1, January, 6th, 1972.

Are there more Grindstone issues?

From the last Grindstone to the start up of the Beacon again on December 1, 1978, there is a lot of Island history missing: births, deaths, and all the other changes that this community underwent during when we lacked a newsletter.

I have kept a journal continually since Jan. 1, 1972, but until I re-started the Beacon, I paid little attention to the Amherst Island community. I hope that those who have been saving clippings from the Whig-Standard and the Napanee Beaver will allow the Beacon to make copies. Perhaps there are others who keep journals or diaries who could share the events that happened during the non-Beacon years.

REMEMBERING WINTERS PAST..

- Nancy Dunn

Though some may be glad to have an exceptionally mild winter, the snows of Christmas week were my idea of what winter should be. They reminded me to a small extent of January 1964 when, during our first stint on Amherst Island, Zander and I were living in St. Paul's manse with our 18-month-old son Scott and expecting our second child at the end of the month.

I don't recall when the snow started to accumulate but by mid-Jan. the Stella 40-foot was almost a narrow tunnel between two mountains of



Talia Fleming's Prize-winning photograph of Canadice and the Horse

snow. Since those were the days before the bubble system we were all expecting the lake to freeze at any time, putting a halt to ferry traffic and many families kept an old car on the island leaving the "good" car on the mainland. Our old vehicle was a '52 Ford which we got for \$50. Thanks to Clinton's care it ran well but one of the reasons for the cheap price was the driver's door handle was broken so the door was wired closed requiring the driver to enter across the bench seat from the passenger side.

It must have been quite close to my due date (and I don't recollect where Zander was) but one blustery afternoon his aunt, who had come to help during my forthcoming hospital stay, and I took the Ford to the village on an errand with Scott standing in the back. No car seats or seat belts back then. As we returned home, somewhere between the 2nd concession and the manse, we hit a slippery spot and skidded at a good(?) speed into the snow bank on the west side of the road. We were well stuck. The left front door is wired shut on the outside, the right front door is deep in snow...Now Aunt Jean is from B.C.; she does not see snow often; she does not like snow; she does not drive; she has never had a baby. As I prepared to heave my extra-heavy self over the front seat in order to get out of the car and get help she let me know in no uncertain terms that she would not be happy if I gave birth there in that old green jalopy. Nevertheless over I went, got out the left rear door without difficulty and shortly flagged down the passing school bus with Bill Kilpatrick (Capt. Warren's father) at the wheel. He and some of the older school boys soon dug and pushed us back onto the straight and narrow. I was grateful, Jean was relieved (an understatement) and Scott thought it was a great adventure.

Ah those were the winters! Oh yes, #2 son, Kirk, arrived safely at KGH. on Feb. 4th, the day the ferry got stuck in the ice - but that's another story.

DOG? FOX? Or?

- Ian Murray

A few weeks ago I was returning on the tractor to the home farm after feeding the sheep when I saw a small black animal on the road ahead of me by the pond that Harvey Eves dug on Lot 2, Con. 1. I thought as first that it was a large tom cat but as I got closer it looked more like a dog - a very black dog with a white tip on its tail. As I got closer it moved over onto the rocks by the lake and sat down. I stopped the tractor and got down to look closer at this strange dog. From about 40 or 50 feet, I could see that it had a black wavy coat, a fairly blocky body about the size and shape of a spaniel. The nose was sharp like a fox and it had an intelligent aspect. It was unwilling to let me get closer and I got back on the tractor assuming it gone for a walk and was now heading back towards Stella and its doting owner - the animal looked very well fed.

I asked Chris and Don if either of them had seen it. They hadn't. Nor had they ever heard of a dog (or fox or whatever)

that looked like that: black with a white-tipped tail.

Last Sunday when Jim Reid took my ticket on the ferry, he asked me if I'd seen the black fox up our way. He said that he'd seen it by Street's -Lot 10, Con. 1 - while delivering the Whig one morning.

Has anyone else seen this dog or fox or whatever?

ELDON WILLARD REMEMBERED

- Rosemary Richmond

When Tom and I purchased Marshall and Marion Glenn's farm on the Third Concession in July of 1997, we just thought we were buying a place to live. We had no idea that we were about to be adopted into the extended family of Eldon and Elsie Willard. Eldon just seemed to come with the farm - he kept his tractor in the equipment shed at our place, and he and Elsie gardened up at the top of the hill. He was a wealth of information about the property: he knew where in the barnyard the water lines were buried, how deep the dug well was, etc. In addition, if you ever needed an odd sized screw or an obscure part for a pump, Eldon was sure to have at least one of each in his seemingly bottomless garage!

Eldon and Elsie invited us along to every Island dinner and event, introducing us to our new neighbours and generally making us feel right at home. We spent many happy hours in their kitchen and ours, listening to Eldon tell stories of his youth on the Island and his years on the boat. Eldon and Elsie quickly became dear friends, and within a year and a half of our arrival, they also became Grandpa Eldon and Grandma Elsie to Ciara (and more recently, to Barry as well). While many people on the Island have known Eldon much longer and better than we did, I feel privileged to have known him and called him my friend.

CANADIAN PLANES PROVING THEIR WORTH

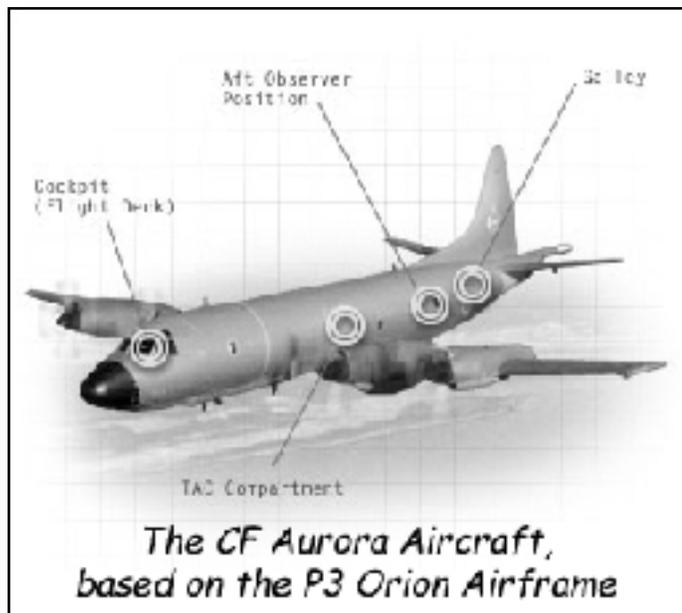
- from The Canadian Press

[submitted by Leslie Gavlas who mentions that her son John is air crew and Don Laidlaw, related to the Wayne Bailey family of Bath, is on maintenance.] Canadian maritime patrol planes are flying missions of eight to ten hours over the Persian Gulf and the Arabian sea in support of the war on terrorism.

So far, the operations have gone without a hitch, Lt.-Col. John Mitchell said yesterday in a telephone interview from the region. "We've had a 100-per-cent success rate so far," he said.

Two Aurora aircraft from Greenwood, N.S., began their daily long range patrols last week. The four-engine Auroras can fly up to 9,000 kilometres without refuelling, scanning vast areas on their missions. For security reasons, Mitchell won't say where his planes and their 200 member support team are based. "We have an area of responsibility that includes both the Arabian sea and the Persian Gulf and depending on the needs of the coalition then we go and fly in the areas that they

ask us to, said Mitchell, commander of 405 Maritime patrol squadron.



SENSORS

The Auroras are equipped with an array of sensors for scanning the ocean surface and underwater. They can operate day or night, using radar and infra-red scanning.

Their missions include watching for vessels that might be carrying contraband or escaping Taliban or al Qaida fighters. They can also be asked to bolster security for coalition fleets in the region. Mitchell's group is basically self supporting with air crews as well as mechanics, technicians and a logistics group of communicators, drivers, medics and firefighters.

Although the Auroras are equipped to carry a variety of weapons, including anti-submarine torpedoes and air-to-surface missiles, they aren't armed for these missions.

"We're doing unarmed patrols and as matter of fact, for a secondary mission we're carrying search-and-rescue gear in our bomb bay in case of any sort of requirements for rescue at sea".

AIMS

January 12 meeting

- Peter Trueman

The Amherst Island Men's Society plans for setting up the old Neilson Store building as a combination museum and gallery are proceeding on schedule and AIMS has procured the services of a highly-regarded Kingston historical consultant, Andre Scheinman, to help in the securing of a federal grant. Mr. Scheinman is enthusiastic about the project and believes that the building itself is valuable historically and is well worth preserving. He believes that the flashing on the roof should be redone immediately, and also recommends that the foundation should be repointed as soon as possible to prevent rapid

deterioration. David Brady and Don Pepper, who reported to the AIMS membership at the last meeting on Saturday, January 12, also noted that during a preliminary examination, Mr. Scheinman discovered the old store had been erected on the foundation of some previous structure.

Dave Hieatt offered to do a title search of the Neilson Store site to try to determine the ownership, age and purpose of the structure that preceded the store. Any Beacon readers who might have information on the site are asked to contact Dave at 389-9294. John Kuti, who has experience in this field, offered to do some historical drawings of the Neilson building as it must have looked originally. It is anticipated that a feasibility study for the museum/gallery project and the application for a grant from the federal Heritage Ministry's "Cultural Spaces" program will be completed by May.

The committee which staged the New Year's Eve dance reported that more than \$2,000 had been raised for the restoration project, and that this had been added to some \$3,000 already held in trust by the township, the building's owner. The AIMS membership itself undertook to organize and stage the 2003 New Year's Dance as a fund-raising event.

The Treasurer, Paul Henshaw, reported a total of \$795.60 in AIMS's coffers, and began collecting the new annual membership fee of \$20. The charge for breakfast at the monthly meetings remains at \$5, and all male Islanders are welcome to join. Meetings are held the second Saturday of the month at 8 a.m. in St. Paul's Church Hall.

Gian Frontini reported that the township was reluctant to support a roadside tree-planting program like the one AIMS had proposed on the grounds that it could interfere with road maintenance. It was agreed that the idea needed further exploration.

Ross Haines announced that the owner of Victoria Hall, Bernice Gould, seemed amenable to the idea of setting up a fitness class in the hall. Several members offered exercise equipment, including a rowing machine and stationary bikes. Anyone interested could call Ross for further information.

Jan Sneep suggested another AIMS project, sponsorship of a regular lecture and audio-visual series like the two Talking Peace evenings which arose from the terrorist attacks on New York on September 11. The first was held at St. Alban's Church, and featured a wide-ranging discussion about terrorism and the need to understand Islam, hosted by Stanley Burke, Dave Brady and others. The second evening featured one of David's films on terrorism, and a wide-ranging discussion afterwards with the audience.

Bill Harris, who was involved in the Talking Peace initiative, and several others, are interested in establishing a series of similar evenings, on other current affairs and general interest subjects, perhaps four or five times during the late fall, winter and early spring. There would be a modest charge per lecture to help defray the cost of the audio-visual equipment.

Once again, two AIMS members shared stories of their lives and how they came to be on Amherst Island. Peter Moes (he says Moes rhymes with the “oose” in caboose) was born in Holland in 1928. He attended secondary school there during the German occupation, and came to Canada on a student visa in 1947. He took a degree in Honours French and German, then an MA in French, and finally a bachelor’s degree in Library Science. He got his doctorate in French in 1963, and spent most of his life teaching in Canadian universities. He married Joan Densem, the daughter of the late Charles Densem, and his wife Elsie.

Peter’s dry wit kept AIMS members chuckling and guffawing through much of his presentation. In 1957, the Densens bought the old Murrow property (the fine stone house now owned by the Finlays) at the head of the island.

Peter visited the island once or twice a year until he moved here full time to keep an eye on his mother-in-law after his retirement about eight years ago. His wife Joan, an ardent student of film, lives at Bay & Bloor in Toronto, “her idea of heaven”. “I am a country boy”, he says, “that you can take out of the country, but you can’t take the country out of him.” He says his wife believes that he and Elsie deserve each other, and that makes him “the surrogate daughter”. Peter lives in a cottage near Elsie’s house east of Topsy Farms on the Front Road.

Doug Lamb, the second speaker, was born in Toronto in 1929, one of a pair of twins. He passed around an old photograph of himself and his brother and challenged the members to say which one was him. No one got it right, and he says we would still assume it was Doug if we met his brother on the street. He met his wife Helen in a church youth group in Toronto and they will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year. They have two sons and five grandchildren. Doug took two years of honour chemistry on scholarships at the University of Toronto, and when he ran out of money, went to work in a British pharmaceutical company. He worked for various other drug firms, writing procedures for quality control. For many years, with Helen, they sang in the church choir. They still do.

When they were getting ready to retire, Helen saw an article about Amherst Island in the Toronto Star. They paid the island a visit, fell in love with it immediately, and decided to retire here, to that neatly painted Victorian house on the east side

of the Stella 40 Foot, just south of the store. “If Helen hadn’t been reading that particular paper, on that particular page, on that particular night”, Doug said, “we wouldn’t be here.”

Allen Caughey and Brian Grace will tell their stories at the next breakfast meeting, Saturday, Feb. 9 at 8 a.m. in the St. Paul’s Church Hall. Again, all island men are welcome.

A LETTER HOME

- Christopher Kennedy

This really is a strange winter. Late starting, then a dump of snow to give us a white Christmas, and now weather like late March. The temperature is forecast to reach 8C in the next few days. There is a little bit of frost in the ground, but that won’t last long at this rate. It can’t make an easy job for the road crew with the squishy gravel roads going to potholes every time they thaw. It should help with the Township snow ploughing budget and our home heating bills.

There is no build-up of ice along the shore, and only on a couple of mornings have I seen the lake steaming. Perhaps we should not get too complacent though, there is still the whole of February to go. So far it has been an easy winter for the sheep, with no bad storms or cold temperatures to contend with. With the dry weather last summer the hay came off early and in good condition, so the ewes are looking well on the good quality groceries. We hope they are all safely bred, so they have a couple of quiet months until shearing at the end of March. This should leave us time to cut some wood for next winter. Ian reckoned we may have two thousand dead elms to cut on the farm, and most of them are just waiting to fall on our fences. When the weather is bad it is time to retreat to the workshop and get some maintenance done on the machinery.

The winter is also the time for farm meetings. The government seems to be very busy with new regulations on Food Safety, Manure Management, Endangered Species, and so on, all of

which can affect the farming community. I am sure that these are all well-meaning ideas but nobody, and least of all farmers, like to be told by bureaucrats what they can or cannot do. So some of us go off to meetings to try to ensure that the new regulations make at least some sense to the farmers who have to work with them.

Perhaps by next month the winter will have arrived. I must confess I haven’t missed it too much so far. [As vice-chair of the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency, Christopher has been



The Anglican Church in Winter
DT Photo

representing the sheep farmers of Ontario at various meetings with other commodity groups, provincial bureaucrats and their political masters. He has also been on the municipal committee concerned with farm pollution. It is suspected that he misses the quiet of the farm work shop.]

THANK YOU NOTES

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge "Thank You" to all those in our community who supported the 2001 New Year's Eve Gala. The committee would also like to thank the following volunteers for their efforts: Rick Bedford, Barb Bowman, Reta Brown, Bruce Burnett, Bonnie Caughey, Andrew Chisolm, Andrea Cross, Allan Glenn, Bernice Gould, Brian Grace, Carmen Hewitt, Hugh Jenney, Neil Johnston, Paul Lauret, Karen Miller, Keith Miller, Barb Roberts, John Schutzbach, Ardis Shurtcliffe, Wilbert Willard, Pam Willoughby, Ralph Woods, and Tagget and Kevin. A profit of \$2374.01 was realised this past year and has been deposited with the Township to be used towards the restoration of the Neilson store. The 2001 New Year's Eve Gala committee: Bruce and Susie Caughey, Janet Grace, Joyce and Ross Haines, Dorothy McGinn, Dick Shurtcliffe.

The family of Llew MacArthur would like to thank everyone who brought goodies, visited, phoned, and sent cards, flowers and memorial donations when Llew died. It really does help to feel that we are not alone. And especially, we want to thank Andy Chisholm, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 623, piper Ian Leslie, and all who attended from far and near, for making

Llew's memorial service so wonderful, and a truly fitting Llew send-off.

Caroline, John, Jesse, Helen, Fae and Jake, far away in Vancouver

from BORN ON THE ISLAND

-L&A County Museum and Archives

(Excerpts From Napanee Beaver, April 1895-April 1897)

February 21, 1896 STELLA

Another of our young ladies, Miss Sarah McCormick, was married on Wednesday 12th inst., by the Rev. James Cumberland, to James McKee, a very fine young man, both belonging to this place. The happy couple have many friends and well-wishers.

D.H. Preston and wife are both on the sick list.

Mr. Neilson is quite poorly.

The infant daughter of Tom and Nellie McCormick died quite suddenly last week.

Mr. Pringle is attending the grand lodge, A.O.U.W., this week, in Toronto. Mr. Pringle's horse ran away last week, dumping Miss Scott and Miss Fleming into a snow bank. The only thing injured was the cutter.

Mr. Cousins paid a visit here last week.

The people were unable to attend the Presbyterian church last Sunday, owing to so much snow, so they attended the Methodist church.

February 28, 1896

THE LATE ROBERT FILSON

Mrs. Robert Filson of Amherst Island has received the following:

To Mrs. Robert Filson, Amherst Island: We the officers of the 47th Frontenac Battalion of Infantry, at our annual meeting desire to express our sincere sympathy and condolence with you for the bereavement you have sustained in the loss of your late husband - our comrade, Quartermaster Robert Filson. Our long acquaintance with him in the different positions he so worthily filled, enabled us to estimate his true worth. We always found in him every good quality that makes a man worthy of esteem and regard. And while, dear madam, we recognize your greater loss, we can assure you of the grief we feel, and that every man in the Battalion feels at the removal by death of our late Quartermaster.

(Signed), Geo. Hunter, Lieut-Col., and officers of the Battalion

STELLA CHEESE FACTORY (Milk Producers Troubled)

from the Beacon Archives

The last weeks of March held a dim prospect for milk



Fall at
the
Cheese
Factory,
Stella
Bay

DT
Photo

producers on Amherst Island. With the ferry service not operating, and winter transportation so questionable for next winter it appeared that the Stella Cheese Factory would cease to operate, leaving the producers without a market for their milk.

Since that time, the situation has been alleviated temporarily and a decision on the problems should be arrived at soon. At this writing a meeting is in session in an attempt to resolve a solution.

"Newsflash": A sigh of relief swept over many milk producers this evening when it was learned that Mr. Tugwell would continue operations at the cheese factory. He plans to purchase the milk from the Milk Marketing Board.

NOTES FROM THE GENERAL STORE

Just a reminder to everyone that **postal rates have increased** effective Jan. 14

Within Canada _____ \$0.48

U.S.A. _____ \$0.65

International _____ \$1.25.

Pay As You Toss (PAYT) tags for the AI Landfill are now available at the store. You can purchase them in denominations of 5 for \$7.50 or 10 for \$15.00.

Here is a list of the most recent new releases we have in at the store now.

Scary Movie 2

Bamboozled

American Outlaws

Jeepers Creepers

Moulin Rouge- Nicole Kidman

What's the Worst that could happen - Danny Devito and Martin Lawrence.

For those of you that enjoy **British humor**, we have some old videos of the BBC sitcom that use to air in the '70*s and '80*s "**Some Mothers do 'ave 'em**". If you haven't seen them before they really are worth checking out.

That's all for this month, so until next month,

Happy Valentines Day everyone!

DUMBBELLS Would anyone on the island have any dumbbells that they wouldn't mind loaning to our Amherst Island Exercise Club? Preferably from 2lbs.on up to about 15 or 20 lbs. If you do, please call Ross Haines at 634-7894.

WOMEN'S RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL

Monday Nights, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Community Centre, starting Monday, January 28, 2002. Come out and join the for fun and fitness. Encourage a friend to come along. Teams change each week, so you are not obligated to attend every week. For more information, call Susie @ 389-2012

Sponsored by Amherst Island Recreation Association (AIRA).

PAINTING LESSONS

Pay as you paint lessons.

Phone Shirley Miller at 389-2588.

EUCHRE

Friday night Euchres will be starting soon. Watch for the household mailer announcing the dates and times. A.I.R.A.

EMERALD SOCIAL & ATHLETIC CLUB Info wanted

I'm interested in learning about this club for a future Beacon article. Sally Bowen at 634-3841.

AI, AI, O!

FOR SALE: HYDROPOOL SPA

with seating for five people, 'tealmarble*' colour. This unit is in excellent condition and comes with:

- Underwater light
- Ozonator
- Floating and hard cover plus many other extras.

The spa is currently installed and comes complete with cedar side panels and steps for easy entry into the pool.

Asking \$2,500.00 To arrange a viewing, please call:

Peter Large or Margaret Maloney, Amherst Island
613-384-7925

Pathfinder Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, February 17th., 2002

9:00 am to 12:00 noon

At the Community Centre

Please plan to attend and help our ongoing fund raising campaign.

BABY SITTER AVAILABLE

-After school and weekends

- Responsible

- Red Cross Babysitting Certificate

Call Whitney Fleming at 389-9869



I am collecting used stamps - any kind for the guide dogs, clean used clothing and books for the "Cats Meow". Used towels - cleaning products - A&P tapes and 12"x 12" knitted squares for the Napanee Animal shelter. Donations may be left in my front porch or call for a pick-up. Freda Youell - 384-4135 The animals really need our help.

SHEEP PRODUCTS

From TOPSY FARMS

Blankets, Wraps, Yarn,

Sheepskins, Hats & Insoles

389-3444 phone (call for an appointment)

www.topsyfarms.com is our web page

SUMMIT INTERNATIONAL CANADA

Carpet Manufacturer and Distributor

Gord Forbes, Sales Agent 389-8516

Thomas A. Richmond, *Certified Electrician*

Home, Farm, Commercial, right here on the island.

634-1855

PHONE BOOK UPDATE

Please contact Jackie Sylvester at 389-1320 to add new names & / or numbers to the AI Phone Book