

Newsstand  
\$1.00 / Issue

# Amherst Island BEACON



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

## ISSUE 293

SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
Canada \$19/yr  
USA \$21/yr  
Overseas \$24/yr

SUBSCRIPTIONS:  
Leslie Gavlas  
General Delivery  
Stella, Ont K0H 2S0  
(613) 384-2807

PRODUCTION:  
Headlands Co-op  
14775 Front Rd  
Stella, Ont K0H 2S0  
Voice (613) 389-3802  
fax (613) 389-3802  
e-mail:  
topsyfarms @  
on.aibn.com  
-and-  
Tom Richmond  
tanonr @kingston.net

PRINTED by:  
Lori & the crew at  
Kwik Kopy Printing  
655 Arlington Park Pl.  
Kingston, Ont.

CREDITS:  
Word Perfect Office 2000  
ArcSoft Imaging  
Adobe PageMaker 6.5  
Adobe PhotoShop 6.0  
Adobe Acrobat 5.0  
Family Tree Maker 9.0

PHOTOS by:  
DT=Don Tubb  
SM=Shirley Miller

PRODUCTION  
For July: 300 Copies

## THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray

The Beacon is a bit slow this month. Tom's computer hard drive is sick - he forgot to change the oil (or something like that).

We have tended not to publish letters from afar. Now that we are regularly running 12 pages such letters are welcome. Please send them by e-mail as our typing pool is very limited.

Kevin Kilpatrick sent us an e-mail suggesting that it would be interesting to have a section called WHERE ARE THEY NOW, which would be dedicated to ex-Islanders. This section could include information about the person since they left the Island. This is a great idea but somebody is going to have to make it happen by contacting friends and relatives who have moved across the bay. Or those of you who have moved away, could send the information directly to the Beacon - we'll arrange typing if necessary.

I did point out to Kevin that he can never be an ex-Islander. His family has too much history here, and he went to school here, and worked every summer here until he got a good paying job on the mainland.

### Amherst Islander off to Pelee Island?

A CBC Radio One report heard on the morning of July 2 indicated that the little boat might be temporarily sent to Lake Erie. This would relieve the residents of that community whose ferry, although only 10 years old, has been out of commission since about June 24 due to a major engine failure. The MV Pelee Islander has a capacity greater than the Frontenac II, and usually has operational food service and a gift shop. Pelee Island is 15 miles out into the lake.



"Stella Bay"

DT  
Photo

## NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to the following; Phyllis Henderson, Peter Wittveen, Tom Miller and Audrey Miller. Condolences to Ken Fennell and family after the recent passing of Ken's mom (at the age of 97!).

Zander and Nancy Dunn recently returned from a trip to Budapest. Doug and Helen Lamb took an Alaskan cruise. Leslie Gavlas and Jean Baker attended an Elder Hostel in Stratford.

Happy 80th Birthday to Helen Bulch.

John and Alena Schram were home from Africa and spent a weekend at their home on the Island.

Congratulations to this year's graduates. Graduating from A.I.P.S., are: David Albertan, Brendan Brady and Candace Youell. Secondary School Graduates this year are: David Barrette; Helen Bell-Smith (Sir Sanford Fleming); Mindy Fleming; Brennan Kilpatrick (on to St. Lawrence); Andrew McDonald (Queens); Kyle Murray (Guelph); Shawna Phillips (Queens). Graduating from St. Lawrence College with a diploma in Public Relations and Advertising

is Stephanie Fleming; and from Brock University, Jessica Gavlas graduated with a Bachelor in Business Administration.

Congratulations to Mark Teupah and Lorrie Barkely who were married at St. John's - Bath on the 29th of June and held their reception at the Island Community Centre. Congratulations also to Don Miller and Sherry Ward, who were also married on the 29th at the home of Don's parents on the 3rd concession. Amherst Island Men's Association held a very successful house tour on June 22nd, followed by a Strawberry Social.

The Senior Class had a fantastic time on their 2 day trip to Montreal, while the Primary and Kindergarten classes spent a day at RKY Camp in Parham. There seems to be an abundance of Orioles on the Island this year and they are everywhere. The lilacs were better than ever and lasted a few days longer with the cooler weather. Summer seems to have set in now and soon, instead of complaining of too much rain and cool weather, we will be complaining of the heat and humidity!

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT

- Freda Youell



Eleven members attended the June 19th meeting at Nancy Henshaw's home, and as Nancy Dunn was away I am doing a short report to keep the community up to date with our activities.

The meeting began with Janet Scott, assisted by Caitlin McDonald, giving a presentation of Amherst Island Owls. Not only did we have written descriptions but also a great slide show complete with sound effects. The latter caused Nancy's two dogs to casually examine the source of the sound, however, when a member later decided to demonstrate the Cuckoo bird sound they went into a bit of a frenzy. The show was just great and we were surprised to hear that this was the first demonstration Janet has given on the Island and we would highly recommend Amherst Island Owls as a great evening's entertainment for any occasion, especially during the bird watching owl season. We were served a delicious lunch and then on to our usual meeting with the main items being our participation in the Farmers' Market, a refreshment stand at Ernest Fleming's auction, and assisting A.I.M.S. with the House Tour. All events are now behind us and very successful they all were. At the auction Shirley Martin kindly gave us a box of her mom's (Genivive Fleming) W.I. books and newspaper items for our Tweedsmuir book and these go

back into the 1950's. I'm sure our curator will be delighted when she gets them. Thanks again Shirley for the great addition to our Island history record. Canada Day was next on the agenda as was the Seniors Xmas Dinner. (No! I am not kidding!!) Time flies by so fast and so much is going on that plans have to be started well in advance. July is the month we have our group outing and this year we are visiting Prince Edward County stopping at Gretony Quilts, Waupoos Winery and Boutique Shop and lunch at the Merrill House Inn. (Maybe we should have designated drivers!)

Remember our Friday bake sales each long weekend and stop by our stand for coffee Saturday mornings at the Farmers' Market and a chat. Have a great July. [Ian: This morning, June 28, I heard Eric Ritter interview a woman whose play about the Women's Institute - For Home & Country- I think - is being performed this summer at some theatre somewhere in Ontario. The list of good works that the Institute has been seriously involved with in its 105 year history is pretty impressive. A lot of their work has been done quietly but effectively. Perhaps in a future issue, someone from the Institute could list some of the work that the Institute has been involved in.]

## JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

*"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."*  
( Matthew 11 verse 28 ).



Summer has officially come and we are at rest. Now I know you farmers are not at rest at all because the longer the daylight, the longer you work. I remember my Dad saying that while farmers used horses they had to stop and rest the horses so they at least got a necessary rest but that now that farms were so mechanized the farmer drove himself from dawn to dusk. There are crops to plant, hay to cut and bale and silage to put away but think for a moment .... Have you wrestled with frozen pipes today, does the manure have to be cleaned from the barn as much, do you have to blow snow out in order to get the milk truck in? Summer is easier on man and beast and on mechanical things .

Summer is quieter on the bird world too. It is a time of fledglings, feedings and learning to fly but it is not a time of migration or food scarcity . There is time to chatter and sing, bathe and preen and gather oneself to contemplate, your navel if you wish, but why not lift up your eyes and see the world around you . Rest a bit in your labours and watch a bird enjoy a bath in a puddle or your own birdbath. Don't tell me that you can watch that joy in such a simple thing and not smile on the outside and feel the easing of tension on the inside. Watch the young Islanders freed from school leap with abandonment into the cold waters of The Bay off the ferry dock and share their joy ! ( I didn't say you had to share the experience ) In Almonte where I grew up it was tradi-

tion to leap into the Mississippi River by May 1st. or be considered a wimp . I wonder if they were in this year with Ottawa recording minus 5 degrees in early May. I really believe that somehow water is colder now than it was fifty years ago. Do any of you seem to find that ?

Rest has come to the Canadian Geese now as well . They have moved their young down to the KFN (Kingston Field Naturalists) property and there they will take only short trips as their young learn to fly and the adults moult. I feel I've reached the moulting stage in my life

. As those feathers drop off of all the cares and worries of adulthood , and I can sit back and watch my grown children deal with the rearing of young and just laugh, and smile and say I remember you ..... We don't take life as seriously at this end of the candle . We've seen it all before and our priorities change .

The city folk have come for rest . As they leave the ferry a collective sigh goes up and we watch the trials and tribulations fly off with the dust behind their vehicles. They have come for rest but for some it will be the first time they have seen stars all the way to the horizon , or heard the Mother sheep and young sorting themselves out at bedtime (I thought it was hard keeping my five in view at Ontario Place , can you imagine if they all looked the same ? How do they know their own baby's voice ?) or just being able to have a coffee in the morning by a lake with your pyjamas still on and not seeing a car until after six am.

We sometimes resent the influx to our blessed way of life but let them come to Amherst Island and soak up Nature's rest and be restored and go back carrying with them a little more patience, a little more peace and a whole lot of God's Love and the world will be enriched by it.

## COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From the Schedule of Miscellaneous Charges: Excavation & Constuction in Twp. Roads, Highways & Easements: 1. Excavation Permit: \$25.00 plus actual inspection costs. 2. Driveway Entrance Permit: \$25.00 plus actual inspection costs. 3. Entrance Culvert: \$30./ft. Culvert (min. charge \$600.00)



Water pump on the Second

SM Photo

Regarding the Township taking Lafarge to court on illegal placement of trailers for replacement workers: 'The Planner/C.B.O., Mr. Beckel, advised Council that the Judge for the trial has scheduled a hearing to assign costs which, for Loyalist Township, were close to \$10,000.' [C.B.O. = Chief Building Official.]

AIMS

- Neil Johnston

After an excellent breakfast of scrambled eggs, home fries, bacon, sausages with toast and coffee, hosted by the students and supported by Lynn Fleming and Deborah Kimmett, Treasurer Paul Henshaw was pleased to report that \$510.00 plus revenue from this meeting will go towards the students' trip to Quebec. AIMS welcomed Kevin Archibald as a new member and guest David Russell, a university friend of Peter Trueman's from Kirkland, Washington, near Seattle. Standing committee reports were as follows. Transportation - In Ralph Woods absence, Hugh Jenney requested the Home Tour drivers wear their AIMS name tags and wear 'lime green' shirts. With seven to eight vans, the critical question to be resolved by the transportation committee will be if the drivers will shuttle between two points or convey their guests to all seven homes. All drivers will be given briefing notes to entertain their guests. Manual Labour- Alan Glenn reported one request. Caregiver/Companion- Peter Trueman reported agenda.

David Brady thanked Robert Mackenzie for helping the Society through the process of incorporating the Neilson Store project. The application is to be filed within the next two weeks. It was proposed that the officers for the Neilson project to be expanded from five to seven members. Existing officers are Hugh Jenney, Paul Henshaw, Don Pepper, David Brady and Gian Frontini. Two additional officers will come from the following slate of candidates Allen/Bruce Caughey, Alan Glenn and Keith Miller.

Copies of the final assembly of the House Tour and Strawberry Social passport were circulated. Neil Johnston thanked Peter Large for his very creative illustrations and Tom Richmond for his professional embellishments at the assembly stage. In anticipating the Ernest Fleming Auction following the meeting, it was suggested that members look for items of interest for the Neilson Store museum project. Brian

Grace reported The Farmers'/Flea Market is heading in the right direction and is to continue on a weekly basis. Brian singled out Doug Williamson for jumping in and taking charge of signage and the AIMS table. Noel McCormick gets our thanks for allowing us to store tables etc. in his shed. Brian and Doug are going to approach Diane Pearce on the subject of signage at the public dock. They are also going to put together a roster for members to share the responsibility of managing setting up and taking down the market.

Bruce Burnett urged all members to inspect and pick up any debris on their assigned Road Clean-Up territories before our June 22nd House Tour and Strawberry Festival. It is rewarding to note that our membership now covers all the roads on the Island. Hans Krauklis tabled a new venture concept for an Amherst Island Compact Disk that can be developed over the summer and fall and marketed as a Christmas gift. Hans is looking for AIMS collaborators to develop visuals, music and words to get the program rolling. Anyone interested should contact Hans. Usually two speakers speak, but due to the audience's overwhelming urge to attend the Ernest Fleming auction, Dick Dodds kindly relinquished, or delegated, his opportunity to Doug Williamson. Both Dick and Doug had careers in education. Dick's administrative barbs countered by Doug's 25 years experience in classroom retorts made for a lively and humorous introduction.

Doug belongs here on the Island. Some 230 years ago, his ancestors left Vermont as U.E.L.s and settled in the Bay of Quinte area north of Belleville where later generations built boats. They built not just boats but rum runners! His paternal great grandfather was a dairy farmer south of Peterborough until one day while taking his milk to market, the clang of the cans on his wagon, was louder than the chug and whistle of a steam engine and the train won. When Belleville was a train hub, his grandfather worked on the railway driving passenger trains between Toronto and Montreal. His other grandfather lived on a farm outside Napanee where he kept a variety of farm stock. Doug spent summers there, and these summers are his best memories of childhood. The rural landscape of Amherst Island reminds him of that time, and he feels he has come home, in a way.

At this point in his speech, Doug jumped ahead to his second year of university where one professor left him with a quote to remember. "Wisdom is true and honest experience." This professor was tall - not as tall as Peter Trueman, but tall. He smoked a cigar as he lectured. And he wore a long black coat, topped with a Stetson. He had a deep announcer-type voice. The man's name was Albert Trueman. His son's name is Peter. Shortly after Gayla and Kirstin came into Doug's life, they discovered a property on the Island during a visit last summer. When they came across the vacant piece of land at the south end of the Stella Forty-Foot, Gayla announced in no uncertain terms that "This is our property!" When the property was sold to another buyer, Gayla still insisted that this was their property. And when the deal fell through

for the intended purchaser Doug and Gayla became proud owners of a piece of The Jewel of the Lake. Wintering Islanders appreciated Doug and Gayla's little lighted Christmas tree standing beside the road. Now that they are Islanders living in the trailer home next to the Andrea Cross and Bruce Burnett home and now that the survey stakes are in the ground for their new home, Doug let it all hang out with his reasons for coming to the Island.

The people, old and new Islanders, showed kindness and acceptance for his family as they came to the Island. In AIMS, Doug has found a diverse depth of talents both professional and hobby that everyone seems willing to share with simple honesty. Coming to the Island and recognizing it as the perfect place to live is a return to simple truths that we sometimes obscure with busy, misguided lives. One has to find one's true direction. The wind on the south shore serves as a constant reminder to stay pointed in the right direction, letting your nature point the way, like a Keith Miller weather vane.

AIMS will participate in the Canada Day Parade on Monday July 1st. The float is to consist of two elements. Half will feature the Neilson's Store and the second element will be the Farmer's Market. A committee consisting of Peter Trueman, Alan Glenn, Dick Dodds, Keith Miller, Gary McDonald and Dave Brady are to develop the project. Gian Frontini will chair the next AIMS meeting on Saturday July 13th and Gary McDonald and Dick Dodds will tell how they came to Amherst Island. David Brady to contact Lynn Fleming to see if the Recreation Committee wants to provide the breakfast. Also the senior 4H Club should be offered the opportunity. If both are unavailable, then Hugh Jenney, John Wright and Chris Laffin are to handle kitchen duties. The meeting adjourned.

## HOUSE TOUR & STRAWBERRY SOCIAL REPORT

- Hugh Jenney,  
Islanders pulled together to entertain over two hundred passport carriers to create one of the most successful fundraisers in the Island's history. The Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre is four thousand dollars closer to reality thanks to everybody who contributed to this smooth-running day. Even the rain did not dampen our spirits. The ferry folk impressed our visitors with their sardine packing expertise. Dorothy McGinn and the Women's Institute rallied to feed our overflow patrons by serving two hundred and sixty-five strawberry shortcakes. The sign of a profitable restaurant is one that runs out of food at the end of the day. We did too having thought that sixty quarts of strawberries would be more than enough. Susie Caughey working with the 4-H had to run home and return with another quart so that the late arriving homeowners could taste the savory delights. Many

thanks to the generosity of our homeowners who worked very hard to prepare for the great event. Some gave up other commitments to be with us and they all deserve our heartfelt thanks. Kudos to Ken and Ann Alberta for helping out from 8 in the morning till 6:30 at night even though they were trying to entertain guests (Ken's boss!!!) at home. The port-a-potty alone saved us well over a hundred dollars. Neil Johnston wrote our press releases, flyer and passport copy as well as keeping track of the ticket sales. He and Bernice fielded many requests for information and passports over the telephone. A great team! Special mention should be made of our transportation committee headed up by Ralph Woods. It worked like a charm. Our drivers were entertaining ambassadors spreading good will and should be remembered for donating their time and van: David Brady, Bruce Burnett, Zander Dunn, Ray Keeners, Hans Krauklas, John Kui, Paul Lauret, Gary McDonald, Peter Trueman, & Doug Williamson who really extended Island Hospitality to his people by buying them dinner - a hard act to follow! Gayla's sign really pulled people off the Bath Rd. so that we could have sold even more passports if we could accommodate them. It seemed that the cloudy, rainy day worked to our advantage.

Approximately fifty people walked off the ferry at 12:50 which filled nine of our vans so even though Lyn Fleming was there with her bus it was not needed. She stayed for the next ferry but only six people came off and were driven by Paul Lauret. From all reports the Frontenac Community Concert Band was a delight. Thanks to Johnny McGinn for keeping them dry on the way to Farnham House. We received many favourable comments on the passport itself. Peter Large's drawings were a big hit. Neil's writing was excellent and the formatting by Tom Richmond was attractive and easy to read. The Kingston and Community Credit Union donated \$100.00 to help pay for the passports so I am hoping some Islanders will consider joining the Credit Union for at least some of their business.

If everybody had as much fun as I did in helping to organize this event, then I am sure we will all want to do it again. We have seven wonderful homes lined up for next time. Our home greeters and parkers did a great job too. Many thanks to all who helped make this such a successful and profitable fundraiser for the Neilson Store Museum & Cultural Centre.

## PAST FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS

- Ian Murray

These are the major campaigns that I remember: the Community Centre; the playground equipment; and, the defibrillator.

When we have the Beacon archives computerized, it will be possible to revisit these triumphs. Our community would certainly be different without the Community Centre. The playground has served the Island children well. The Medical First Response Team has made good use of the defibrillator.



Reeds on Stella Bay

SM Photo

## WATER LEVELS

- Don Tubb

All of my water level web sites have disappeared but I have found some new ones (not as good as the old but good enough). The deep and shallow of the information is that the lake is 0.29 m (11 1/2") above the 80 year average. And it is 0.34 m (13 1/2") above last year. While there was no information given for any of the North Channel, the

Upper Gap or the Lower Gap, we presume that they are equally higher.

The actual numbers are as follows:

Average Water Level for June/02...	75.33 m
Average Water Level for June/01...	74.99 m
Average Water Level for May/02...	75.22 m
Average Water Level 1918-1998...	75.04 m (June)
Maximum Water Level 1918-1998..	75.76 m (1952)
Minimum Water Level 1918-1998...	74.19 m (1935)

***"That'll see you out"***

## AMHERST ISLANDERS MEET The COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

- Bill Harris

On June 15th seventeen Islanders met with four visitors from the Community Foundation of Greater Kingston (CFGK) at St. Paul's. The purpose of the meeting was to learn more about the Community Foundation and how the Amherst Island community could benefit from working closer with the Foundation, which has its office at 165 Ontario Street in Kingston.

The first Community Foundation in Canada was established in Winnipeg in 1921. The movement has now grown to over 100 Community Foundations nationally, with assets reaching \$1.2 billion. These assets have come from concerned and caring citizens who have endowed their local Community Foundation in order to give something back to the community which has nurtured them.

The Community Foundation of Greater Kingston was incorporated in 1995, and has presently over \$4 million earning income for community projects. While funding has been provided for the Fairfield-Gutzheit house in Bath and the Wilton Women's Institute, up until this year there have been no grant requests from Amherst Island. The Community Foundation has been approached about providing advice on endowments which would include benefits specifically for Amherst Island. In future, therefore, we hope to see some projects on the Island that are supported by the Foundation. Two Island residents, Judith Mackenzie and Bill Harris, are presently on the Board of the CFGK.

Those interested in knowing more about how to create endowments, or how to apply for grants, should contact directly the Executive Director, Monica Stewart at 531-9238 or look up their web site at [www.cfgk.org](http://www.cfgk.org). The meeting at St. Paul's was followed by lunch at Bev and Bill Harris' Front Road home. Despite what turned out to be one of the heaviest rains of a rainy spring, everyone arrived safely and enjoyed spirited discussions about the exciting potential offered to Amherst Island by the Community Foundation movement.

## FARMING

- Ian Murray

The big news for this month, aside from the difficulties posed by an abundance of rain, is Wayne Fleming's decision to sell his milk cows and quota. Wayne says he's been milking full-time since he was 15 and it was time for a change of direction. He's raising the remainder of the dairy heifers he has, then will be switching to beef cattle next



year. He has now purchased a New Holland round baler to help out. I know from personal experience he won't miss handling thousands of square bales every summer.

The wet spring has certainly made it difficult for farmers to plant crops. There is a lot of forage over-ready to be made into hay. Those with silage making capability are doing well but so far the haying weather has been scarce. Grazing animals are doing well on the lush pastures.

With the warmer weather, there will be large farm equipment on the roads causing some disruption to traffic. Please be patient with us, we are trying to make a living, and do not mean to interfere with your travel plans.

## LET'S CLAMP DOWN ON EMISSIONS

- Keith Miller

Two summers ago my burning barrel disintegrated. Dry weather and long grass between myself and the Hendersons delayed the replacement of my incinerator. Since reading a recent article in the Napanee Beaver by Terry Sprague, I am never using a burn barrel again.

"Burn barrels ... operate at low temperatures, resulting in incomplete combustion of those wastes being burned.... burn barrels emit acrid vapours, carcinogenic tars, and heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and chromium, as well as unhealthy levels of carbon monoxide.... Disposal of the ash in some remote corner of the premises can cause problems if it happens to make its way into groundwater..." LET'S ALL give up burning barrels, it may just give us a chance to enjoy life longer.

## LETTER To The BEACON

- Alena Schram

Our four years in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, is nearly over and we will soon be moving to Harare, Zimbabwe (the former Rhodesia) -- though not before we've enjoyed a glorious month or so on the Island.

At the moment, while Islanders are suffering from heat exhaustion, John and I are mouldering through the annual rainy season when temperatures plummet to freezing at night and days hover dark and gloomy over ones shoulder. I frequently go to bed in a tracksuit with wool socks over my little icicle feet. When I'm working -- editing and writing for UN agencies and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) I usually sit hunched in the study, wrapped in a gabi, the magnificent indigenous homespun cotton blanket that warms and cools magically depending on the season, but looks like an enormous gauze bandage--or a shroud.

Despite its five month rainy season, however, Ethiopia is a country of immense fascination and contradictions, attracting great numbers of visitors (including Zander and Nancy Dunn) with its unique, sometimes unconventional ways. It is a country that literally marches to its own drummer: Ethiopians reckon time, not from midnight like the rest of us, but from 6 a.m. when the day actually begins. Ringing a friend and being told she'll be home for lunch at 6 can be reason to pause. Their years too are different: they use the Julian calendar which is seven or eight years behind ours, the Gregorian, and begins in September instead of January. The Julian calendar furthermore has thirteen months, twelve of 30 days each, and one of five or six days, depending on whether or not it's a leap year. Go figure.

As if this weren't complicated enough, Ethiopians have their own system of naming children. Each newborn child is given a first name but takes as a "surname" his/her father's first name. So, for instance, our son would be Peter John and our daughters Elizabeth John and Katherine John (mothers don't figure here) but Peter's daughter might be Sarah Peter while Elisabeth's son might be Henry Graydon (her husband's first name). Fortunately there don't appear to be any instances of Peter Juniors which would result in the redundant Peter Peter. It's almost impossible for foreigners to work out who's married to whom and which child goes where.

Ethiopians are said to be very hard to get to know, very difficult. Contrarily, we have found them inordinately friendly and hospitable. Wherever we've travelled in this vast country, we've been received with warmth. Driving here, however, is deplorable, the worst we've ever encountered. Nevertheless I am proud to say that I have mastered the art and have found it overwhelmingly liberating. Every day I whiz here and there, narrowly missing vehicles and pedestrians alike in the manner of a seasoned Ethiopian taxi driver. Like them I am careful never to consult either of my side-view mirrors and certainly not my rearview mirror before executing some daring manoeuvre. I know, like they, that I am only responsible for what goes on IN FRONT of my car and not what chaos I've caused beside or behind me. An hour in the car is worth five at a spa and I return every afternoon refreshed and stress-free, having vented all my frustrations behind the wheel. John, on the other hand, drives in his lovably cau-

tious way, carefully giving pedestrians and other motorists the right of way. He comes home with a blazing headache each time. Two weeks ago the General Manager of the Hilton, a German, paid me the ultimate compliment when he said I drove "like a local".

During our time here, John and I have managed to travel throughout most of the country, including the northern Tigray Province, scene of the recent war with Eritrea. It features the most spectacular scenery imaginable but also the most grinding poverty: small boys, some just 6 years old, shepherd

herds of cattle -the family bank account - over great distances; oxen are tethered to poles and spend their days threshing. Young girls too thresh, jumping up and down in what looks like a frenzied dance on a straw dance floor. Everywhere in the North there are people walking miles over soil that is worthless to the nearest schools, hospitals or markets; thankfully, in the west and south of the country there still are lovely forests and green fields of the sort that Amherst Islanders would recognize as good farm land.

The Ethiopian government, to give it credit, and foreign donors such as Canada are working hard to alleviate some of these hardships, and John spends much of his time in the remote countryside opening projects which Canadians have funded: water points, latrines, clinics, classrooms. Canada has a sterling reputation in Ethiopia, its high visibility evident from the volumes of newspaper articles written about our development projects. We can be very proud.

Addis Ababa, while not particularly attractive, is surrounded by great beauty. It is said that the city looks as if it had been dropped from an aircraft at 10,000 feet. It is a very egalitarian place, however, with no "nice part of town". We, for instance, live in a wonderful house which is located partway up a rocky, unpaved, impossible road. And this is common. Just opposite there's a diabolical road that leads to the most uplifting scenery where for miles one can walk on a plateau surrounded by hills, and pass only the occasional farmer or shepherd or village.

We have a household staff of three whose job it is to keep the place in good running order and to make it welcoming at all times to guests and visitors. Let me quickly add, however that there is a down side to what may seem luxurious. For



10 Front Road, October 1999

DT Photo

months, while the nearby Ring Road was being constructed, we had no water and were dependent on an unreliable old water truck to fill our tanks every other day, usually with water so dirty that the bathwater was a milky brown and floating with flotsam, not to mention jetsam. Sometimes- and always on the very day we were having an official function - the tanker would appear, unable to deliver because the hose was too short! It made us so conscious of wastage that I became like the mother of young boys, checking to see if the toilet was flushed before visitors arrived.

And then there was the war. Ethiopia and Eritrea, her blood-sister, were for more than a year engaged in battle, with more than 70,000 reported casualties. Most of the fighting took place along their mutual border but we were prepared for the conflict to spread to Addis. Living and working just by the old airport, a strategic landing strip and probable target, was hazardous until we realized that Eritrean aircraft didn't have the fuel capacity to get here, drop a bomb and then get back home safely. Nevertheless, John had an enormous maple leaf protectively painted on the roof of the embassy and staff prepared evacuation strategies using a warden system.

It has been a fascinating and meaningful time for us both but with our departure so imminent, we are beginning to long for home. People all over Africa now know of Amherst Island (I think they sometimes wish they knew less) and can scarcely believe some of our tales of its hospitality and warmth. Young officers at the embassy know that to get on John's good side they have only to ask what the Island is like.....

We'll be back the month of August to stock up on Earl Grey tea and some of Lancome's polyfila products, maple syrup, Helen Caughey's chili sauce, toilet paper, mints and the whole range in between. We're counting the days.



Ewe and Three Lambs

DT Photo

## AMHERST ISLAND

- From the Napanee Express, April 20, 1937  
(submitted by Leslie Gavlas)

The crew of the ferry Amherst Islander are busily engaged fitting out the boat so that all will be in readiness for the first trip. A fresh coat of paint is being applied and the machinery is receiving a thorough overhauling. The crew of the ferry will consist of the following for the coming season: Captain William Cochrane; engineer, John Glenn; first mate, Arthur L Tugwell; and purser, Francis McKee.

David H. Filson and family moved recently from Stella village to the farm on the North Shore road which belonged to the late Randall Richards.

Harold Sharpe and family of Kingston have moved to Emerald where they will reside for the coming summer. Mr. Sharpe having obtained a position in the Emerald cheese factory.

The Emerald Dramatic Club held a successful euchre and dance in their hall at Emerald. The Stella Dramatic Club held a successful euchre and dance in the Victoria Gardens, Stella. Prizes were won by Mildred Glenn and Robert Lemmon. Following the euchre, dancing was enjoyed to Glenn's orchestra.

## THANK YOU NOTES

On behalf of our family, we would like to thank all of those individuals who were so kind, considerate and loving toward our son Brendan after his surgery three weeks ago. As you'll note, he is bounding around on his crutches, no worse for the wear. We will know on July 4th, how successful the operation was to repair his foot when his cast is removed. At the moment, the prognosis is good. We were particularly touched by the outpouring of prayer and support for his recovery and we believe it played a significant role in his rapid healing.

David, Deborah, Brendan & Laurel Brady

**The Amherst Island Rec Association** would like to thank everyone that attended our annual Fish Fry and Spring Dance. Many thanks to our wonderful caterers, Rodney and Diana Lloyd, who seem to out-do themselves every year and to Complete Music for the perfect music selections for the evening. We apologize to those we had to turn away and hope you make it next year! We also thank everyone for the great comments and compliments regarding the Spring Dance. We do appreciate them! We hope to see everyone out for the parade and fireworks on July 1st!!

## AMHERST ISLAND AWASH IN SUMMER MUSIC

This summer promises a rich variety of summer music for Island residents and mainland guests. The WaterSide Summer Series, now in its ninth season, is offering five concerts of quality music, two concerts at St. Alban's and three at St. Paul's. Previous to the summer of 2001 all concerts had been at St. Alban's, but the increased audiences required more accommodation, - and washroom and kitchen facilities. Tickets are \$12 each available at the door, or can be reserved by telephoning 389-7217. Details can be found on the Island website: [www.amherstisland.on.ca](http://www.amherstisland.on.ca)

The remaining St. Paul's concerts this year include:  
(all times 7:30)  
-An Evening of  
Gilbert & Sullivan  
by Ruth Parent on July 6th  
-The Swinging Sevilles  
on August 31st.

The St. Alban's concerts this year include: (all times 7:30)  
- Maxine Thevenot  
Organ Recital on July 27th  
- The Romantic Flute trio of  
Pascal Margely, Pat Hiemstra &  
Jane Perry on Aug. 17th

St. Alban's itself entered the musical business with a June 30th "Country Church" presentation of old time gospel at the church at 7.30. A free will offering was taken. Clearly St. Alban's has signalled that they believe there is enough diversity of audience on Amherst for two concerts on the same night to be feasible. Islanders can look forward to friendly competition and lots of musical choice this summer !

## BOOK SEARCH

I recently came across an article in a 1971 National Geographic about a sheep farm in Tierra del Fuego. I understand a book was written about this farm by E. Lucas Bridges called The Utter Most Part Of The Earth. I would like very much to read it and was wondering if anyone had a copy I could borrow.  
Dianne Marshall 389-0554

## ...from BORN ON THE ISLAND

- L&A County Museum and Archives Excerpts from the Napanee Beaver ...

**May 3, 1895 EMERALD** The dance mentioned in last week's correspondence came off on Wednesday evening, the 24th. It was well patronized by the young people of the Island.

The *Hero*, expected up the bay on the 20th, failed to put in an appearance until the evening of the 23rd, calling at Emerald on the way up.

The measles are slowly but steadily working their way westward from Stella. We expect them here soon. A very interesting programme was rendered for those present at Friday evening's meeting of the E.M.I.S., and that for next meeting bids fair to be of equal interest.

The football practice of Saturday evening was well attended by the young enthusiasts of Emerald. The Emerald Dairy, which has sprung up as if by magic, is already prepared for

business. The making of cheese in it commenced on Monday, 29th.

The illness of Miss Gorman, of Stella, mentioned last week, has proven fatal, her death taking place on Thursday morning. Her funeral took place on Saturday morning, the Rev. Mr. Tighe being officiating clergyman.

Visitors of the past week were: Miss Maud Hitchins, of Kingston, at her home, Mr. R. Hitchins; Mrs. Robinson, Kingston, at her father's Mr. H. Richards, and Mr. R. Instant, of Kingston, at his home, Mr. N. Instant's.

**22 May, 1895 STELLA** The measles are very prevalent on the island still, some of the schools having to be closed last week.



The laneway to Stella Point

Alex Scott Jr. Photo

Rev. C.O. Johnston, of Kingston, delivered a lecture in the Methodist church on Tuesday evening.

Mr. P. McGratten is erecting a new house in the village for Capt. Glenn.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Hinton spent Sunday with friends in Millhaven.

Messrs. W. Neilson and G. Chown, of the Collegiate Institute, and W.H. Cousins, of the Business College, Kingston, spent Sunday with their parents here.

A new Rugby football has been purchased here and, in all probability, a good team will shortly be organized. Mrs. John Allen, of Belleville, spent a few days here last week visiting friends.

Mrs. W. McKenzie, of North Bay, is visiting her sister and mother here.

Miss M. Brown is home from Kingston, on the sick list. The cheese factory is turning out about eight cheese daily. Mr. D. Hinton has purchased a handsome new boat from Mr. Rickey, of Barriefield.

**31 May, 1895 EMERALD** The rain for which so many farmers have been looking and longing has at last arrived. Mrs. Bryant, Rednerville is at present visiting her uncle, Howard Richards.

Stern Tighe is visiting his father, Rev. S. Tighe.

The picnic mentioned in the correspondence of last week, to be held on May 24th, was a great success, many persons from outside leaving the boat when she called at Emerald. The most interesting feature of the day to many of the Islanders was the football match between the Shamrocks, of Emerald, and Glenora football team, which commenced at 2:30 p.m., and finished at 5p.m. After the match tea was served, and the good things contributed by the ladies suffered terribly at the hands of the picnic-ers, especially the footballers. After the tea dancing was engaged in until about 9:30, when we dispersed, each going to his perspective

home and feeling that he had spent an enjoyable day with his friends.

**May 31, 1895 STELLA** Our lively little town was quite quiet on the 24th of May. The attraction of the day was at the head where Glenora football team contested the field against the home team on McGuinnesses' ridge. It was a close game, Glenora winning by one goal over nothing.

There is some talk of a baseball team being organized at Stella. There is no doubt good material for a strong club.

Mrs. Robt. Cousins has been very ill for sometime past and under the doctor's care.

Mr. Robert Filson is making slow progress if any toward recovering. He has the entire sympathy of the community in his protracted illness.

Mrs. D.H. Preston returned from Detroit last week where she attended the funeral of her late brother, W.J. Howard, Esq.

**June 14, 1895 STELLA** Notwithstanding the recent frost did considerable harm, crops are looking well at present; the fine rain seems to have improved everything.

Mrs. R. Cousins, very poorly lately, is much better.

Mr. Gervin, Kingston, is visiting friends at present.

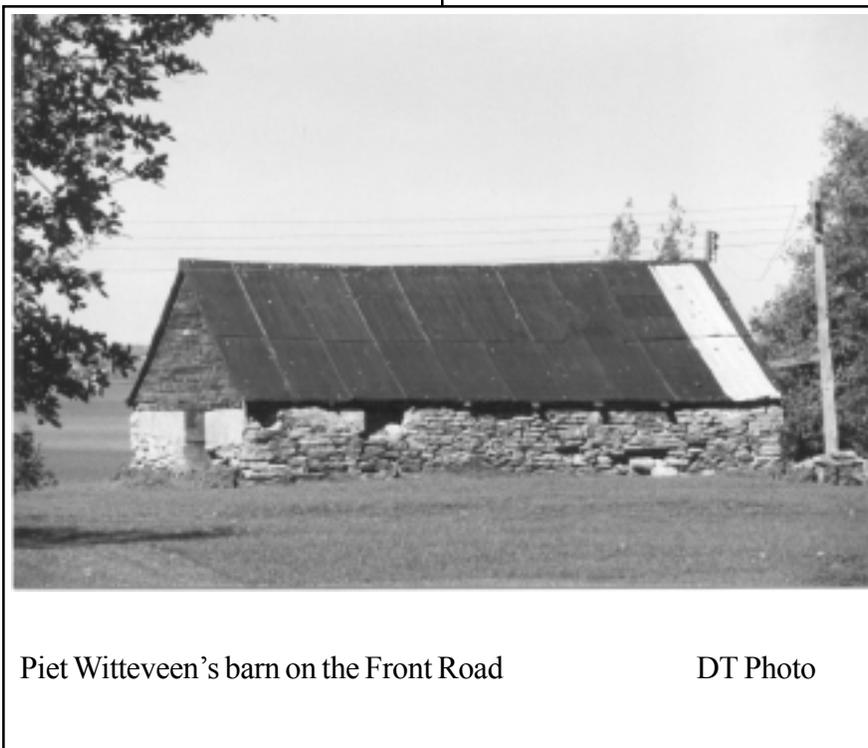
Harold Gervin Spent a few days here last week.

Rev. Mr. Cumberland occupied the Methodist church pulpit, Sunday evening, in absence of Rev. Mr. O'Hara attending conference. Rev. Mr. Cumberland was much annoyed with the noise and driving which took place during service. Rev. Mr. Tighe had the same experience in his pulpit.

Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie, North Bay, paid a visit to Mr. and Mrs W. Allen last week.

Mrs. A. Field is at present visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Poley.

Mr. Kirk and son have removed to Millhaven, much



Piet Witteveen's barn on the Front Road

DT Photo

regretted by their neighbours.

Baseball and football are the topics of conversation by the young people. Several games have been played lately.

**June 21, 1895 EMERALD**

G. Richards is absent from home, visiting her sister, Mrs.

Robinson, Kingston. Mr. Robert Filson, who has been ill for some time past, is slowly recovering. He was visited last week by the county councillors.

Our football team ran an excursion to Glenora and Picton on Saturday last. During the day a match was played between Glenora and Emerald, resulting in a victory for the former.

The weekly meeting of the E.M.I.S., dispensed with for the busy season, will be recommenced upon the first Friday evening in July.

**June 21, 1895 STELLA** The annual strawberry festival in connection with the Presbyterian church will be held at Stella Point on the 29th inst. A number from here went to Glenora on Saturday last to see the football match between the Shamrocks of Emerald and the Glenora team.

W.H. Bell, GC, and Rev. H. Allen, G.V.C., of the Canadian Order of Chosen Friends, paid a visit here on Thursday last, and delivered a lecture in the S.K. hall in the interest of Stella Council, 162.

Miss M. Lawson, Portsmouth, is visiting friends here. Mr. and Mrs. J. Wright, of Kingston, spent Sunday with friends here.

Rev. J. O'Hara, who has been stationed here for the past two years, leaves on Wednesday for Edinburgh, his new mission field.

Mrs. N. Allen, Kingston, is spending a few days with her parents here.

Miss Annie Madre spent last week visiting in Kingston.

Miss Scott, of Napanee, is the guest of her cousin, Miss E. Scott.

Miss McCann, of Kingston, spent last week here,



Sillouhette of Canadian Coast Guard Ship, December 1999

DT Photo

the guest of Miss A. Madre.

Rev. J. O'Hara preached in the Presbyterian church on Sunday morning, in the late absence of Rev. J. Cumberland.

The Emerald football boys go to Bath on Saturday to play the Bath team.

Jas. Fleming

spent a few days in Napanee last week.

The members of the County Council of Lennox and Addington paid a visit on Friday last to Reeve Filson, who has been ill for some months.

### **June 21, 1895 STELLA CHEESE FACTORY**

Whilst on Amherst Island last Friday, through the courtesy of W.H. Madre, Esq., we had the pleasure of a visit to the cheese factory.

Since its inception the factory has been a success, but during the past few years, under the control of Mr. Thos. Spowart, cheese maker, it has obtained an enviable reputation, and the product of his experienced handiwork ranks with that of the best cheese makers in the district. The factory is situated on the shore of Stella Bay, and a better site could not have been chosen. It is kept scrupulously clean, and the islanders are justly proud of their factory and its product.

Nine or ten 100 lbs. cheeses are made daily.

Many years ago, a new resident of the Island brought a cake to a community dinner, thinking that people might like something different for dessert. It was later noted that, at the end of the meal, only the cake remained. An elder of the community, when queried on the remaining cake, replied with these three words -  
**"Men Prefer Pies"**

## Amherst Island General Store

Finally the nice summer weather has arrived and the lilacs are in bloom. Summer hours have started once again and they are:

Mon-Thurs 9am - 6pm,

Friday & Saturday- 9am-9pm Sunday- 10am-6pm

New movies are in right now in VHS and DVD!

New releases \$3.50 +tax, Older movies \$1.49 +tax.

We will be open throughout the Canada Day Weekend: Fri 28th & Sat 29th 9am-9pm; Sun 30th 10am-6pm; Mon 1 July 10AM-5pm.

Have a safe and happy holiday weekend!

### Painting lessons: Pay as you paint lessons.

Phone Shirley Miller at 389-2588.

### Cottage for Rent: 3 bedrooms on North Shore.

Good swimming, very private. Call 634-1212.

### Two Cottages for Rent

North Shore July & August by the week Off season rentals can be by the week-end or short stay. Phone Susie, 389-2012

### 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 Phone Susie at 389-2012 or Lori at 705-653-5984.

## SIGNS

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

### Picnic Tables & Weather Vanes for Sale

Keith Miller 389-2588

### Babysitter available!

- After school and weekends
  - Responsible
  - Red Cross Babysitting Certificate
- Call Whitney Fleming at 389-9869



### Babysitting

Torri Phillips  
Red Cross Certified Babysitter  
Available early evenings and weekends  
389-0512

### Summit International Canada

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

### Frozen Meals Designed for Seniors:

The frozen meals offered by Lennox and Addington Senior outreach Services are nutritionally balanced and specifically developed for seniors. There are more than 25 entrees, 13 varieties of soup, and 18 different desserts. Restricted and special diets can be accommodated. For more information, please contact: Freda Youell at 384-4135 for menus, meal descriptions and prices.

## Great Summer Wedding gifts

### from Topsy Farms

Blankets, Wraps, Yarn.

Phone 389-3444 for an appointment

or visit the Weasel & Easel or the Bath Village Gallery

[www.topsyfarms.com](http://www.topsyfarms.com)

## The Back Kitchen Restaurant

389-7200 ... *Burgers & Fries & Homemade Pies*

Full menu all day and evening. Specials: 5 - 8 PM

Hours of Operation:

May 31 - September 08 Weekends: Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Plus Holiday Mondays: July 1, Aug 5 & Sept 2. 11 AM - 8 PM

Your Hosts: Garry & Susan Filson

### Painting, wallpapering, tiling by Ted Gow

(retired teacher & full-time resident of Amherst Island)

### 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

### Country Seats

Repairs to woven chair seating Reed & Ash Splint Cane & Fibre  
Rush Call Johanna MacKinnon at 352-7453

### Mr. Fix-It

Anything you need done, I will do it. Fix anything -  
Automobiles, Minor plumbing and electrical, Landscaping, Painting,  
Carpentry. Reasonable rates Call Rich at 389-6022

### Holiday weekends bake sales

Fridays Aug. 2 and Aug. 30 at 3:45 p.m. until sold out the Women's  
Institute will hold bake sales at the store. We have two new members  
who are great cooks so come and buy!

### The online Amherst Island Beacon

can be found at: [www.amherstisland.on.ca](http://www.amherstisland.on.ca)

It is readable with Adobe Acrobat 5.0 Reader, which is available FREE  
OF CHARGE at the website: <http://www.adobe.com> So join the twenty-  
first century and get your free 5.0 reader now!

## A I Tourism Brochure- THIRD PRINTING ... 2002!

*Over 2400 in circulation to date.*

Those interested in helping cover the expenses associated with  
printing a new batch of this free brochure should contact  
Tom Richmond (634-1855) by July 12th.

**DONOTDELAY!**