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THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray

So far no one has responded regarding Grindstones: were there more than 3 Grindstones with Amherst Island Beacons included therein?

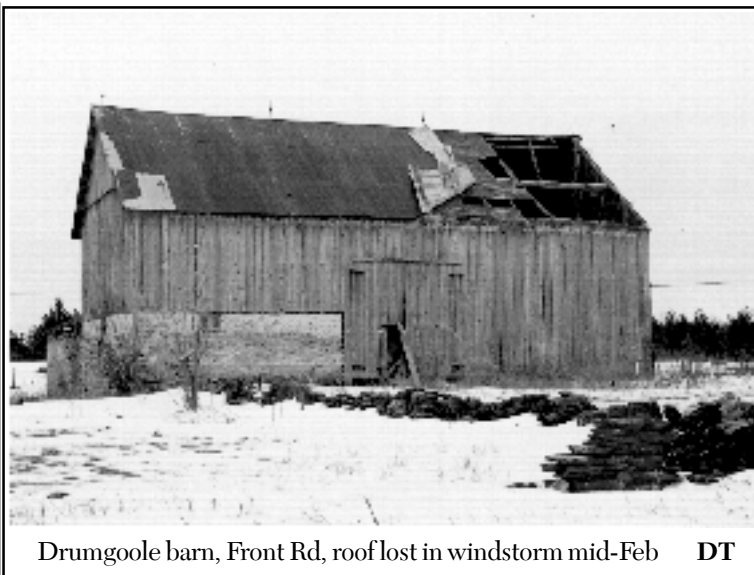
Some Willard family genealogy is included in this issue. As always, there is lots of information missing and some of the information may be wrong. I am always willing - farm work permitting - to make additions and corrections to this or any other family tree.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

-Lyn Fleming

Our sympathy this month to Earl and Jean Tugwell, following the passing of Earl's brother Chester "Tony" Tugwell. Also good health wishes for Earl. Get well wishes this month to Allen Caughey, Audrey Miller, Helen Caughey, Greg Hudson, and Phil Silver.

Congratulations to Rick and Laura Welbanks on the birth of their second son, Jacob Richard, born on January 16. A little brother for Alex. Another grandson for Dave and Betty Wemp and Ted Welbanks. Zander and Nancy Dunn recently took a Central American cruise, then went on to British Columbia to visit Zander's mom. Don and Pauline Pepper travelled to New Orleans to "experience" Mardi Gras. Apparently it was a good experience and they had a great time! Bruce and Susie Caughey spent some time in Scotland visiting their daughter Amy. Jim Whitton visited family and played a little golf on his trip to Phoenix. Women's Volleyball has been a great success on Monday evenings. The Friday night Euchres have



Drumgoole barn, Front Rd, roof lost in windstorm mid-Feb DT

begun again, and are off to a great start. The Island Pathfinders (Guides) and some fellow Pathfinders from across the Bay, held a Sunday morning Pancake Breakfast recently. The event was a wonderful break for many according to the turn-out. The Pathfinders are raising money for a planned trip to England next year with other Guiders.

Swan Count - On a recent sunny afternoon at the foot, 80 tundra swans were counted! Congratulations to the Senior Class at Amherst Island Public School for winning the first prize with their Heritage Fair project, "A History of Our Community".

OBITUARIES

SAMUEL CHESTER TUGWELL

-from Whig Feb 5/02

Veteran WWII RCAF Wing Commander Lancaster Bomber Squadron. Peacefully on Monday, February 4, 2002 at the Kingston General Hospital. Chester Tugwell in his 86th year. Dear son of the late Irvine Tugwell & Mabel McGinn. Former husband of the late Hubertina Claessen and father of the late Anthony. Dear brother of Earl Tugwell (Jean)

and the late Gladys Martin and Edna Finnegan. Fondly remembered by his nieces and nephew Norma Wing, Betty Windsor and Roy Martin and great nieces and nephews. Interment Glenwood Cemetery, Amherst Island. [Staff: There will be a eulogy for Chester in the next Beacon.]

Descendants of Charles B. Willard

[Also note below some of Eldon Willard's relatives: 1st cousin, Harvey Eves; 2nd cousins, Marshall Glenn, Earle Willard, John McGinn and Ralph Morrow; 2nd cousin once removed, Alan Glenn]

1 Charles B. Willard 1834 -
 * +Elizabeth Barry 1839 -1892
 ...2 Jane Willard 1859 -
 ...2 Eunice Willard 1861 -
A John Walmsley
 ...2 Charles Herman Willard 1863-1939
 + Elizabeth A. Bray 1864 -1932
3 Joseph O. Wilbert Willard 1901 -
 + Florcnce Gertrude Corke 1911 -
4 Wilbert George Willard 1930-
 4 Gayel Victoria Peters 1935 -
5 David Richard Willard 1955 -
5 Diane Gayel Willard 1958 -
5 Sandra Nannet Willard 1959 -
4 Elmer Garnet Willard 1934 -
 + Wilda Ellen Sayeau
5 Barbara Ellen Willard 1960 -
5 Garnet Reginald Willard 1961 -
5 Dale Lawrence Willard 1962 -
5 Margaret Anne Willard 1965 -
5 Charlene Thelma Willard 1966-
4 David Earl Willard
A Donna Ellenor Strain 1943 -
5 Christopher David Willard 1960-
5 Laurie Dawn Willard 1964 -
5 Steven Willard
4 Charles Reg. Willard 1932 -1956
4 Dorothy Anne Willard 1942 -
A Edward "Kaye" McGinn 1936 -
5 Karen Anne McGinn 1960 -
 + Robert Seeley
 *2nd ilusband of Karen Anne McGinn:
 + Darrell Royce Miller 1956 -
5 Marlene Mary McGinn 1962-1962
5 Vernon Kaye MeGion 1963-
 + Dorothy Reynolds
3 George Willard
3 Andrew Willard
3 Edith M. Willard
 + Clifford Sudds
4 Willard Arlington Sudds 1923 - 1999
 + Margaret Hogg
5 Brian Sudds

A-Jennifer Wittke
5 Heather Sudds
A-Gil McElroy
4 Lawrence A. Sudds 1926- 1975
 + Mary (Theresa) McMullen 1930 -
 Clifford Sudds
A-Jennifer Leah (Lee) Filson 1949-
5 Laurie Sudds
A-Perry Bienias
 * 4 Dorlarid Sudds
 * 4 Doreen Sudds
 * "Ron lialal
3 Herman Willard 1894-
 + Viola Eliza Wemp 1899 -
3 Margaret Ellen Willard 1898-
3 Robert J. Willard 1905 -
3 David A. Willard 1908 -
 ...2 Mary S. Willard 1865-
 + 111 Henry Eves 1867-
 ...2 Ellen Willard 1866 -
 + John Eves 1865-
 ...2 Elicia Willard 1868 -
 ...2 Alfred R. Willard 1870-
 + Charlotte Adair 1874 -
3 Charles Willard 1895 -1965
3 John Willard 1896-1977
3 Fred Willard 1898-1916
3 Marion Willard 1898 -1995
 "James (Jimmie) Eves
4 Norman Eves
4 Harvey Eves
4 Wilmer Eves
4 Isabel Eves
3 Hiram Willard 1899 -1922
3 Claude Willard 1901- 1985
 + Ruth McCormick 1904 -1965
4 Douglas Eldon Willard 1930-2002
 + Elsie Kathleen Reid 1937 -
5 Janice Marie Willard 1959-
 + Eric Robert McGinn 1957 -
5 Douglas Brian Willard 1963 -
 + Gail
3 Jessie Willard 1902 -
3 Dave Willard 1904-1988
3 Annie Willard 1906 -1990
 + Joe Clyde
3 Dorothy Willard 1908-1987
3 Jenny Willard 1910-
3 Murno Willard 1913-1929
 ...2 Victoria Willard 1874 -
 + 11 Henry Eves 1867-
 ...2 John Murray Willard 1877 -
 + Nellie Harrison 1880 -
 ...2 Jane Willard 1879-

ROBERT EDWARD HARDING

-from Whig Feb 9/02

Peacefully at the Kingston General Hospital, surrounded by his family, on Friday, February 8, 2002, in his 79th year. Bob Harding, beloved husband of Danny of 55 years. Dad of Peter and his wife Kathy, Marion Abbott and her husband Doug, Mark and Nan Brock and her husband Duncan. Proud and cherished granddad of Emily, Amy, Luke, Kyle, Kate, Alex, Colin, Jonathan, Brandon, Amanda, Leah and Austin and great granddad of Kamryn. Bob will be sadly missed by his sister Marty Sedgwick and her husband Art.

** Mr. Harding owned R. E. Harding Roofing which employed many Islanders. His sons Peter & Mark own Amherst Roofing which continues to employ many Islanders. Keith McGinn, who worked with Mr. Harding and his family for 48 years, says that they are "the finest people in the world. I never had a cross word with any of them. Bob was a very good man. He was at work every day at 7AM and he was an excellent estimator." Mr. Harding worked until 4PM on the day he suffered a stroke. He left work early for a doctor's appointment. The doctor told him that he should take it easy as he was a prime candidate for a stroke. He had a stroke that night and never recovered. Keith went on to say that: "Bob is greatly missed by his family and all who worked with him."

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



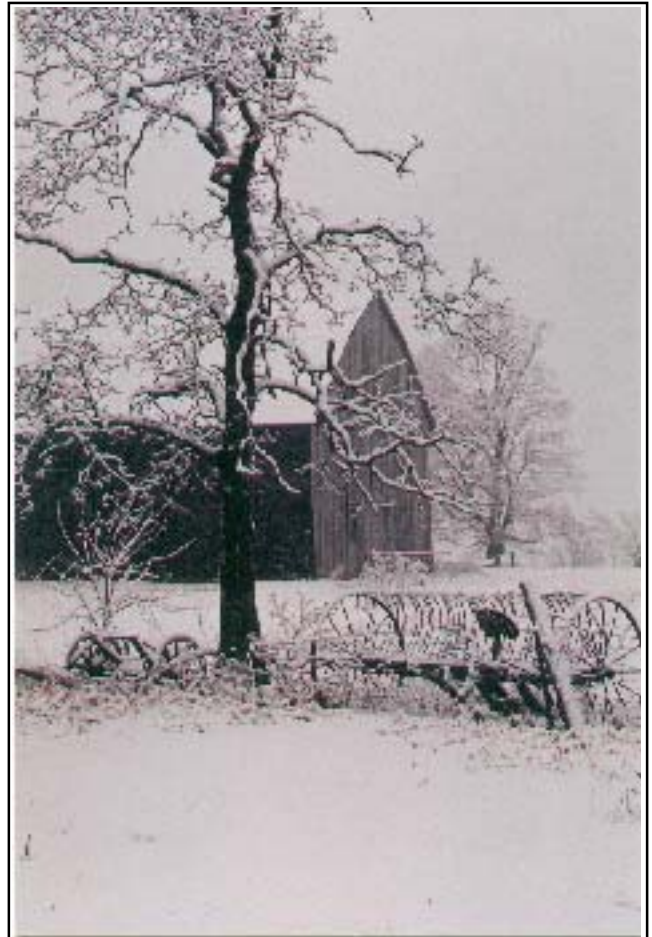
-Nancy Dunn

The Women's Institute did not meet in February but we would heartily welcome guests to our March meeting on the 20th of the month at 7 p.m. in the back room at the ferry office. In January we welcomed a new member and if there are any other prospective members lurking out there this session on "Active Aging" sounds like a good time to start....

NEWS From A.I.P.S.

- Lyn Fleming

The Senior class recently completed their Heritage project and entered it in the South Fredricksburgh Heritage Fair. The project, called "A History of Our Community", won first prize. Students attended the awards presentation and received a \$50.00 cheque towards books for the school library from the S. Fredricksburgh Heritage Committee. The Senior class is busy fund raising for their planned "end



A late winter storm DT Photo

of the year" school trip to Montreal. The 2 day trip will include visits to historical sites in Old Montreal, the Olympic Stadium, the Bio Dome and Mount Royal. They will have a traditional French Canadian meal and entertainment at the "Sucrerie". One of the upcoming fund raising events is the sale of Easter Chocolates, made locally. Please watch for the donation can at the General Store. David Albertan recently attended a 3 day Robotics program at Queens. The "Seeds" program is open to selected students at Limestone Schools. The Primary Class recently visited the Lennox and Addington County Museum to participate in two workshops on Pioneer activities. The annual Polar Bear Olympics took place on February 27th.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

- Janet Scott

On January 5th. the annual Christmas Bird Count was held on Amherst Island. For over a 100 years birds have been counted in North America over the two week Christmas period in order to establish approximate resident species and numbers. The Amherst Island Count has only been included over the last ten years but it is well attended and usually comes up with one or two specialities. This year the weather was kinder than last and our volunteer counters arrived on the 6:30 and 7:30 am ferries to begin the count. Twenty people

covered the Island on assigned routes or watched their feeders and reported the variety of species (71) and approximate numbers of each. We met back at my place for lunch and compared notes. Thank-you to our Amherst Island folk who helped them on the ferry, patiently avoided them on the roads, and phoned in local sightings to help with the count. Following is a list of species and numbers. I think you'll be amazed at the variety that even a winter day will produce on Amherst Island. Common Loon, 1; Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Canada Goose, 886; Snow Goose, 1; Tundra Swan, 7; Gadwall, 206; American Black Duck, 267; Mallard Duck, 688; Northern Pintail, 3; Common Merganser, 45; Red-breasted Merganser, 32; Hooded Merganser, 4; Barrow's Goldeneye, 1; Common Goldeneye, 522; Bufflehead, 147; Long-tailed Duck, 39; Golden Eagle, 1; Northern Harrier, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 67; Rough-legged Hawk, 31; Cooper's Hawk, 1; American Kestrel, 14; Northern Goshawk, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Herring Gull, 61; Greater Black-backed Gull, 23; Ring-billed Gull, 19; Glaucous Gull, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 8; Mourning Dove, 121; Rock Dove, 48; Snowy Owl, 11; Great Horned Owl, 4; Long-eared Owl, 3; Short-eared Owl, 1; Saw-whet Owl, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 14; Hairy Woodpecker, 11; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Blue Jay, 73; American Crow, 45; Horned Lark, 3; Snow Bunting, 115; Black-capped Chickadees, 178; White Breasted Nuthatch, 15; Northern Shrike, 3; Red-winged Blackbird, 2; European Starling, 391; Hermit Thrush, 1; American Tree Sparrow, 125; Fox Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 3; House Finch, 45; House Sparrow, 206; Redpoll, 76; Hoary Redpoll, 1; Purple Finch, 1; Cardinal, 13; Dark-eyed Junco, 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Goldfinch, 4; Eastern Meadowlark, 2; Lapland Longspur, 4; Cedar Waxwings, 6; American Wigeon, 2; Redhead, 3; Greater Scaup, 6; Black Scoter, 2; American Coot, 1; Bonapartes Gull, 1. It was a varied and mixed group of birds this year, probably due to our unsettled weather. Good Birding!!



Frontenac II and The Amherst Islander passing at Stella dock DT Photo

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

-Ian Murray

“The Transportation & Solid Waste Manager, Mr. Guest, requested that letters be sent to Messrs. C. Wemp (Sr. Ferry Engineer) and Ralph Turcott (Roads Dept.) on their recent

retirements.” Garry Hitchins has been appointed senior ferry engineer.

Patrick Beyer, Recreation Director, reported that the profit of \$2374.01 from the New Year's Eve Dance has increased the Neilson Store fund to \$6035.09.

Report from Murray Beckel, Township Planner, to Diane Pearce, CAO, and David Thompson, Township Engineer: “To ensure that new lot creation does not outstrip ferry capacity, it is the writer's opinion that a ferry assessment be considered in the near future (within one year). The Engineering Department could assess current capacity conditions. Based on a vacant lot inventory and potential lot creation, the Planning Department could then predict growth over a 10-year and 20-year scenario, utilizing low, medium and high growth projections taking into account different demographic profiles. Your department could then use these figures to ascertain future capacity.

“Depending on the results of such a capacity study, recommendations could then be drawn ranging from taking no action, i.e. continue to allow lot creation, to placing a full moratorium on new lot creation. “While it is understood this exercise is controversial, the writer believes it is necessary to protect the future prosperity of the Island.” Comments from David Thompson:

“Observations made during the last years of operation of the M.V. Amherst Islander indicate that ferry traffic has the ability to adapt somewhat to capacity constraints. By completing a ferry assessment as outlined above by the Township Planner, Council will be in a better position to 1) impose planning guidelines for development on Amherst Island, and 2) have the information available to support the need for end loading docks.” This recommendation was approved by Council.

***David Thompson recommends that design work be completed on ferry dock maintenance requirements. The design work will cost about \$6000 and, at present, the construction costs are estimated to be \$60,000. The money would come out of the \$225,000 fund that was set up when Loyalist took over the docks from the federal government. Council approved this recommendation.

*** Council remuneration for 2001: reeve, \$22,200; deputy

reeve, \$13,700; councillors, \$12,000 each. Committee of Adjustment remuneration, \$2520. There is no remuneration for the Recreation, Heritage, or Cemeteries Committees. There is no remuneration for the Conservation Authority.

Materials banned from disposal at the Amherst Island Landfill Site:

1) "New and used construction materials". [The rate for clean dimensional lumber is \$35 per pick-up load. Or you can bring it to Topsy Farms for free.] 2) "Drywall and other gypsum products". 3) "Vinyl siding and vinyl products". 4) "Asphalt and asphalt type products". 5) "Bricks, concrete blocks" and so on. 6) "Manufactured wood products (chipboard, etc.)". 7) "Logs & stumps". 8) "Hazardous waste as defined by the Township's Household Hazardous Waste service provider and to include:" virtually every manufactured product one can think of that isn't covered in the other 13 categories. 9) "Medical and dental clinic waste". 10) "Lawn and garden waste". [The rate for yard waste is \$5 per half ton or trailer.] 11) "Dead animals". 12) "Septic tank wastes". 13) "Earth and/or rock fill, except when authorized by the Director of Engineering Services". The township's current recycling service provider is the City of Kingston Recycling Centre.

*** "Councillor Ashley requested that Reeve McEwen, the CAO and the Director of Engineering Services attempt to rescue some artifacts from the M. V. Amherst Islander as it is up for sale. He suggested specific items (the ship's wheel and the brass speaking tube) might be historical items for placement in a museum.



- Peter Trueman

The Amherst Island Men's Society broadened the scope of its Farmer's Market proposal at the AIMS monthly meeting on February 9 by agreeing that a flea market would be included. Brian Grace's original proposal was for Island vendors to sell plants of all kinds including small bushes and trees, vegetables, fruit, baked goods, jams, jellies and pickles etc, honey, and maple syrup. Orders could also be taken for chicken, lamb, and beef. At the February meeting, Brian reported supportive feedback, but very little communication from people who actually want to grow and sell produce. He reported that a great deal of interest had been expressed, however, in having a flea market. Some members were afraid that a flea market would cut into the Weasel and Easel's business, but when it was suggested that there would be no direct competition and that a thriving

flea market in the area might actually increase W& E sales, a consensus was reached. It was agreed that AIMS' Farmer's Market/ Flea Market should be opened on the May 24 weekend, that is Saturday, May 25.

There was little to report on the Roadside Tree-Planting proposal beyond a decision to approach councillors directly; and the Neilson Store project is awaiting the consultant's recovery from a bout of pneumonia. It was decided, however, for purposes of incorporation, that its official name would be the "Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre".

Bill Harris reported on the two "Talking Peace" sessions which followed the tragedy of Sept. 11. He outlined the steps to be considered if similar lecture/video presentations on a broader range of subjects were to be set up as a regular Island series under the AIMS umbrella. Bill suggested we could join existing organizations, such as the Canadian Club, or Probus, or go it alone. It was generally agreed that the success of an independent island series would to some degree be dependent on having an appropriate video element. The purchase of video projection equipment could be expensive, and a Lecture Committee was struck to come up with specific suggestions.

The Fitness Class is now up and running at Victoria Hall (one door east of the ferry office and the library) Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9 a.m. Class members contribute \$1 each towards the cost of heating and participate at their own risk and their own pace. A cross country ski machine, treadmill and three stationary bikes are available. The class would be interested in borrowing small dumb bells, from 2 to 15 lbs.

An organizing committee was set up for the New Year's Dance, 2003, to be a regular AIMS fund-raising event. Neil Johnston, Hugh Jenney, Bruce Burnett, Allan Glenn, Bruce Caughey and Ralph Woods agreed to serve and to recruit women members.

Since the Senior Class at the school needs money for a trip to Montreal and the Girl Guides are raising funds for a trip to England it was decided that the two groups would be invited to cook breakfast for two AIMS meetings in the spring. AIMS members would turn the usual \$5 fee over to the two groups and would be invited to contribute whatever additional funds they could spare for these worthy causes.

Jim Whitton reported that there is no prize for academic excellence at the Amherst Island Public School, and recommended that AIMS fill the void. It was agreed that AIMS would purchase a plaque for the senior class, to be inscribed annually with the winner's name. The plaque, to be accompanied by a \$50 cash award, is to be awarded for "notable academic achievements", at the discretion of the teachers, and not necessarily for the highest marks. Keith Miller suggested that the members take up a collection for John Munro's recent Walk for Kids visitor and \$78 was raised.

Ralph Woods reported that the Transportation Committee, whose function is to drive those without cars, particularly the

elderly, to medical appointments etc, had no request to report this month. Allan Glenn, who heads the Manual Labour Committee, reported two requests for tree trimming and other house and yard improvements. Peter Trueman reported that the Care/Company committee, which relieves caregivers and visits the housebound, had had one request. There is no charge for any of these community services.

The highlight of the monthly meeting is when two AIMS members tell those assembled something of their lives and what brought them to, or kept them on, Amherst Island.

The first speaker on February 9 was Allen Caughey who lives in the village with his wife Bonnie across the road from the ferry office. Allen borrowed a retort from an Island character named Eric Morris, who when asked by some city visitor whether he'd lived all his life on the island replied: "Nope, not yet". He told the group something of the Island history of the Caughey family and what it was like to grow up here. Allen started out in School # 5, on the 3rd concession where Paul Glenn's house is now. His seat-mate was the late Lloyd Strain, who became a captain of the Amherst Islander, and they moved to the new consolidated school in the village when it opened just after World War II. Allen had always been interested in cattle and horses, and he got a license to drive race horses in 1965. He must have known his business because the Ontario Racing Commission eventually hired him as a judge and he held the job for 20 years. Today he raises Limousin cattle here on the Island. He recalled what the seasons meant to an Islander when he was growing up. In the spring, the Caugheys moved back from their village home to the home farm on the 3rd concession. Horse-racing and cheese-making began on the 24th of May, and when it was time for haying, Allen ran a dump rake, making windrows across the field. He remembers the monstrous meals the men were served at thrashing time, and the parties the young people had on the then public beach on Amherst Bay. The last fall Fair took place in 1944, he recalled, and the annual Christmas concert by the school children was a major event. They played hockey all day long on the harbour ice behind the cheese factory, and the farmers came into town in horse-

drawn sleds, so there was no shortage of "pucks" for road hockey. Life on the Island sounded pretty good.

The second speaker was Brian Grace, who grew up in wartime

Scotland where he had one egg every six weeks. He wasn't introduced to bananas until the war was over. After six years of medical school in the U.K., he interned at Glasgow Infirmary. The only alternative to two years of national service in the British Army, was a three-year short service commission in one of the commonwealth countries, so Brian joined the RCAF. When his three year term was up, they offered him a promotion and a pay increase to stay in. Brian was posted to France, where he bought a Jaguar and developed a taste for French red wine. The next time he decided to leave the service, he was offered a 4 or 5 year surgery course at McGill. Posted to Germany after graduating, he found life "a little thin on girls". There had been no winners in a local beauty contest for five years running, he claimed, so when Janet Apps, a sometime Amherst Island, showed up, touring Europe, Brian fell hard. They had their first son in Germany. Brian was posted back to Canada, and after a stint in Kingston, was made chief of surgery at the military hospital in Ottawa, where he had a variety of prominent patients. Once he operated on Aline Chretien, the current prime minister's wife, and on another occasion had to operate on the then Governor-General for an unspecified malady which required the removal of various "bits and pieces" to relieve a pain in His Excellency's belly. After he left the air force, he spent six years as a chief surgeon in Saudi Arabia, and another four years in a similar post across the world in Saipan. How did he come to be at Farnham? His late father-in-law, Syl Apps, bought Farnham as a birthday surprise for his wife Molly, and when she died, Brian's wife Janet inherited the place. "They say that a boat is a hole in the water into which you pour money", Brian concluded, "and an old house is just the same."

Both speakers left lasting impressions. The next meeting will be held in St Paul's Church Hall at 8 a.m., March 9. All Island men are welcome. Breakfast is \$5.00. The annual membership fee is \$20.00.

... from FARMERS LEAVING THE FIELD

-Geoff Bowlby of Statistics Canada

Farm employment as a main job declined to 313,000 in 2001. [This is a decline of 26% from the 1998 figure of 425,000.] While farm employment has fallen, output has not. In fact, the number of hectares planted with major crops has never been higher. Poultry, beef and milk production has increased in recent years. Only cattle and pig inventories have decreased since 1998. Farmers, in general, have not seen an increase in profits since 1996. Operating expenses have risen to all-time highs, offsetting the modest gains in cash receipts. As a result, net farm income was \$2.6 billion in 2000 ... only a fraction of the \$11.1 billion high set in 1975 (factored for inflation). As a group, farmers are relatively old, with a large proportion approaching retirement.

50 YEAR AWARDS

-Ian Murray

Grace Eves and Keith Miller have been registered milk producers for 50 years. They recently received congratulatory plaques from MP Larry McCormick, MPP Leona Dombrosky, and the Dairy Farmers of Ontario. Grace and her husband James milked by hand until moving near Stella in 1956. Until 1950, when they bought a milking machine, the Millers also milked their 12 cows by hand. They shipped to the Stella cheese factory when it was open: April 1 to the start of deer hunting. Milk produced when the cheese factory was closed was shipped to the Kingston Creamery. Edgar McCaugherty, who was born where Carmen Hewitt now lives, drove around the Island once a week picking up cans of cream. Keith remembers that they sent their cream in orange cans and the payment came in little brown envelopes - \$3 or \$3.50 for a can. In the 1960s the cheese factory stayed open longer and after 1967 or '68, it was open all winter. It was in the early 1970s that farmers had to decide whether to upgrade their dairy operations to meet increased standards - bulk tanks, silos, manure handling systems, and so on - or stop milking. Eves and Millers and a few other farmers decided to make the investment and keep milking; many of their neighbours either got into beef cattle or quit farming. There were, Keith says, 96 milk producers on Amherst Island in 1948. Today there are 4. Keith said, with some pride, that Ontario has the highest milk quality standards in the world.

A PHONE CALL, A FERRY TRIP, A CAR RIDE

-Zander of DUNN INN

In last month's issue of The Beacon, Nance referred to Feb 4, 1964, the day our second son, Kirk was born. Let me share with you that story - an important part of our family history. During the last two weeks of her pregnancy Nance used to stay overnight in Kingston at the home of our friends, the Rev. Garry and Anne Morton, because the ferry stopped running at 6 p.m. in those days. Every morning about 8:30 a.m. she returned to the island to look after us.

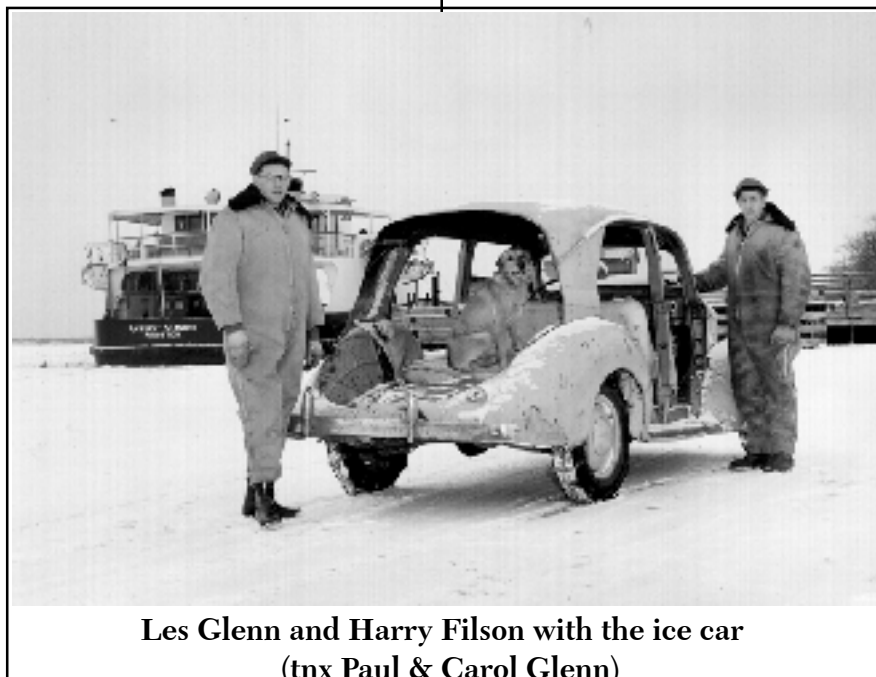
On the morning of February 4, about 6:30 a.m., my aunt, Jean Robinson, (there to look

after one and a half year old Scott), and I were awakened by a loud knocking. I like to say, when I tell this story, that I used to be like Marilyn Monroe - the only thing I had on when I went to bed was the radio. I couldn't find my housecoat so I wrapped a blanket around myself and ran to throw open the door. There stood Gen Fleming. She had heard our ring on the old party line. When nobody had answered she had picked up the phone, figuring it was probably Nance trying to reach me. Nance told her she could not awaken me to tell me her labour had begun. Garry Morton was about to drive her to the hospital. (Poor Garry was invited to accompany Nance into the labour room and shocked the nurses when he declined, protesting he was neither her husband nor the father of the expected baby.) Nance feared she would give birth to the baby without me. Gen urged me to hurry to the ferry. I quickly dressed and caught the 8 a.m. ferry. That was the last crossing the ferry made that season. It got stuck in the ice on the return trip.

I got to the hospital in time for Kirk's birth and then announced the blessed event at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Kingston where the Presbytery of Kingston was meeting that day. A generous lady from Gananoque was there and left the meeting to purchase a gift for the baby for me to present to Nance. Nance was thrilled and we always remember that kindness as worthy of an Islander. Four days later Nance and the baby were ready to come home to the St. Paul's Presbyterian Church manse.

Especially for us Les Glenn got his ice car all rigged up and made the first crossing of 1964 to the mainland. When we got to the ferry dock, there was Les and his topless, doorless car waiting for us. Nance got into the front seat with the baby on her lap and I sat beside her. I calmed Nance by telling her we had nothing to fear because if the car went

through the ice we could simply jump out the door. Les drove fast to beat any cracks in the ice and carefully followed the fresh Christmas tree road. We arrived home in record time. That's how Kirk became the youngest person ever to make a crossing by car on the first trip of the first day of the ice driving season. He says he doesn't remember any of that excitement. His mother and I will never forget it.



Les Glenn and Harry Filson with the ice car
(tnx Paul & Carol Glenn)

DOG? FOX? - YES IT'S A SILVER FOX! -

Bonnie Livingstone It was with great interest that I read Ian Murray's story in the February edition of the Amherst Island Beacon about his encounter with - a dog or a fox or whatever? I, too, had seen this animal on the south shore early one morning in mid-January. It was about 7:30 am, on a bright sunny day and, as I was waiting for the coffee to finish brewing, I looked out the window to see something special. I wondered (as Ian did) was it a dog? But I, too, hesitated and was led to the conclusion that it was something quite different. It had the look of a fox, especially with the black bushy tail with the white tip and the sharp, triangular ears. It also had the gait of a fox as I watched it trot across the field towards Mrs. Blenkinsop's place. After climbing up the stairs to the loft to watch it trot away (why did I not think of getting my camera out for a photo?), I went to our shelf of reference books about nature.

The following information comes from Mammals of the Canadian Wild, a book researched and written by Adrian Forsyth, who lives in the Rideau Lakes District (published by Camden House Publishing Ltd., 1985). Here's what I found out: "Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) Description: long silky fur; 3 distinct colour phases - red fox: face, top of head and nape are yellow to rusty red; back is yellowish red or fulvous; lips, chest, abdomen, inside of ears and top of tail are creamy white; back of ears and anterior portions of legs are black; - cross fox: grayish brown, long black guard hairs form a cross from shoulder to shoulder; - SILVER FOX: totally black except for white tip on tail and a variable amount of frosting; also a black phase, which is black all over."

The fox's habitat ranges from tundra and boreal forest all the way to prairie. However, they are rarely found deep in mature forests, preferring to roam the open country and to live at the edge of forests. Except during the reproductive season, foxes are solitary and hunt alone. They stay very definitely in one home range, marking the boundaries with scent and urine. The diet of the fox is limited only by what it can find or catch. Scientists, prodded by hunters' suspicions of fox depredations on game birds and small animals, have learned a great deal about the fox's diet. They have discovered, for instance, that most foxes are omnivorous: when wild grapes, blueberries, cherries and other small fruits are in season, they may eat nothing but fruit; at other times, they feed primarily on small mammals up to the size of cottontails and groundhogs. At all times, the diet is supplemented with insects, frogs, snakes, birds and bird eggs. They also scavenge the carcasses of large animals that they would be unable to kill themselves. I have not been able to discover how often the silver fox colour phase can be found in nature, in comparison to the well-known red fox colour phase. But for me, it was an exciting discovery and I hope that fellow Islanders get the opportunity to

see this interesting animal.

*** I saw the black fox last winter at the corner of the 2nd concession and the Stella 40 foot. It was "eating breakfast" along the fence line and we stopped (in the bus) to look at him. He barely gave us a glance and kept on eating, then trotted off across the helipad. I believe it was also seen along the shore by the ferry dock about the same time. Would love to see him/her again! -Lyn

*** Eleanor mentioned that you were asking about sightings of a dark animal with white-tipped tail. I had two such sightings about a month and a half ago, of an animal which was definitely a fox, a very healthy fox at that. After the first sighting, I assumed that what I had seen was one of the strain of escaped (or turned loose) silver foxes which have been in the wilds since the bottom fell out of the market for pelts. But I checked a wild life book and discovered that it must have been a red fox. No other fox in North America has a white-tipped tail. What I had seen, the book indicated, was a black phase red fox. I say it was healthy because its pelt practically glowed. It was all black except for some frosting or grizzling along its flanks, and it was very close to our house (between the house and the lake) apparently hunting for rabbits which have been plentiful here post ice storm. I found signs of recent kills not far from the house, and the rabbit population appears to have nose-dived. So I imagine this creature is hunting somewhere else. Peter

WALK OF HOPE

- John Munro

On January 12th, 59 year old Canadian grandfather Norman Ball brought his Walk of Hope to the Amherst Island Community Centre. Mr. Ball is walking 14,000 kilometres around North America to raise awareness and funds for children at extreme risk in Canada, the United States and around the world. Ball who had walked 8,125 km when he arrived on the Island, addressed a small group of Islanders and shared with them the reason he has undertaken this



Norman Ball on left, Jim Snee Walk-of-Hope support team member, John Munro on right.

epic journey. Through the Walk of Hope he is fighting for the lives of children who are living and dying on the streets, in the sewers and in garbage dumps in many cities around the globe. Mr. Ball is confident that he can rescue 10-15,000 children through his efforts. It is the goal of the Walk of Hope Canada Foundation to raise 15 million dollars for the world's most desperate children. For more information please refer to the Walk of Hope Web Site at www.walkofhope.org. Donations can be made payable to Walk of Hope Canada Foundation and mailed care of John Munro RR #1 Stella K0H 2S0

WHY ENGLISH IS SUCH A JOY TO LEARN

- from Ontario Farmer, January 29, 2002

1) The bandage was wound around the wound. 2) The farm was used to produce produce. 3) The dump was so full that it had refuse more refuse. 4) We must polish the Polish furniture. 5) He could lead if he could get the lead out. 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert. 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present. 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum. 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes. 10) I did not object to the object. 11) They were too close to the door to close it. 12) The buck does funny things when the does are present. 13) To help with the planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.

OLYMPIC NOTE

-Ian Murray & Tom Richmond

Jayna Hefford who scored the winning goal for the Canadian Women's Hockey team has an Amherst Island connection. Her father Larry is a nephew of Emily Corke Wemp Tugwell. He grew up on the former Vince Aitken farm and went to school on the Island. Jayna is a great niece of Emily's, a first cousin once removed of Ted and Ray Wemp, and a 2nd cousin of Dave Willard. Emily said that as the final period of the gold medal game progressed she rocked faster and faster.

A Kingston niece of Janet (nee Apps) Grace was also on the Canadian Women's Hockey Team this year, but unfortunately was the last one cut before they went to Salt Lake. Fortunately she is only 19, so she will have a long career in Hockey ahead of her- maybe we'll see an Apps in the next Olympics!

PET PEEVE #6

-Ian Murray

The first office boss I had pointed out that writing dates, 11/12/68, is ambiguous. He said that the Americans tend to put the month first and then the day and the English do it the other way -or perhaps it was the other way around -and

Canadians do it both ways. It is frustrating when one is trying to sort out VISA bills and there are 11/12/99 and 12/11/99 from 2 different Kingston gas stations. Its not a big annoyance but its at least a peeve. From an invoice that just came in: invoice date, 03/02/02; payment due 02/03/09. I'm pretty sure that the payment is due March 9, 2002, but I had to think about it a bit. It is now possible, thanks to the new century, to write the dates in 3 different ways. My boss advised/ordered that dates should not be ambiguous. Writing Mr9/02 is quickly done and not ambiguous. (The layout guy advises that the military method of writing it as 09MAR02 is also good, as the year is always last anyway... unless you are filling out forms from the Ministry of Health, that is!)

LETTER HOME

-Christopher Kennedy

Here we are at the end of February and the lake is still open. A couple of weeks ago it did skim over on a cold night, but warmer weather and a wind the next day took out the ice. I was starting to relax, until an old timer told me he could remember one year when it didn't freeze until March 4th, and still made a lot of ice. I was hoping that our local



DT Photo

coyote population might not get rejuvenated this winter. The weather has made for an easy winter for the sheep, with mud being more of a problem than cold and snow. Although sheep can withstand bitter cold I'm sure they appreciate milder weather. Some of these mornings have been so mild I have been expecting to see the Kildeer arrive soon. Yesterday morning we did see Redwinged Blackbirds at the feeder, along with the usual Blue Jays and the two Cardinals that have been around all winter. The deer must have had an easy time of it this winter as well. There seem to be no shortage out in the fields grazing. I haven't seen too many voles around recently. With any luck the winter will have cut them back a bit, after the swarms we had last summer. There is no shortage of geese around, and they are back in the pasture in front of the house, keeping it mowed to about one millimetre. At the end of March we start to get ready for the busy season. The shearers are due here, to clip the mature ewes, so that will be two busy days. The ewes will be back in the barnyard by then, and the barns empty of hay, so if we get a spell of bad weather they have plenty of

shelter. The yearlings don't get done until the end of April, when the weather should be warmer. Meanwhile it has decided to snow today, just to remind us winter isn't over yet.

THANK YOU NOTES

The family of Eldon Willard wishes to express out heartfelt thanks to relatives, neighbours and friends for the many expressions of sympathy shown to us during the loss of a dear husband, father, and grandfather. For the many acts of kindness, phone calls, visits, messages of sympathy, food, floral arrangements, cards and donations. Special thanks to Rev. Andrew Chisholm for his many visits both at home and in hospital, and for the beautiful funeral service conducted by Andrew and Dr. Harley Smythe with so much thought and dignity; to Harold Redekopp for his reading from 2nd Corinthians, and to Beth Forester and Choir for the beautiful music and anthem. To the ladies of St. Alban's A.C.W. for the wonderful lunch served after the funeral and to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church for the use of their facilities, our deepest appreciation. Our sincere thanks to Paul Payne Funeral Home for the warmth and professional care; also to the pallbearers, Everette Kerr, Michael Reid, Jim Reid, Garry Hitchins and grandsons Ryan and Brent McGinn. The overwhelming love and kindness shown to us by such a caring community we sincerely appreciated.

Elsie; Janice & Eric, Ryan, Brent and Ashley; Doug and Gail.

Thank you to everybody who supplied meals, other food, spring flowers, shared experiences, support and prayers after my operation. What a wonderful community.

Thanks. Joyce Haines

NOTICE

I write this notice with a heavy heart, since it arises out of a number of thefts from Llew's property on the South Shore and from my barn here on the Front Road. I have been forced to inform the police of these thefts, and to install a video monitoring system to deter thefts. These thefts are serious in nature, and represent a depletion of the value of Llew's estate. This is a direct offence against me, John and Fae. Please be on notice that that property is private property,

and that is not to be trespassed upon by anyone unaccompanied by either me or John. Anyone found on the property without permission, or taking or in possession of stolen goods will be charged. Caroline Yull

Jan 02 Beacon First Edition

Thursday, April 16, 1970

Sports: Amherst Island Athletic Club: Well, it's that time again! Time when the "sports" turn to ball -whether it's baseball, fastball, or just good old-fashioned softball. A general meeting was held on April 5, 1970 at the school and a new slate of officers was elected by the attending group. The

new executive is as follows; Pres. Bruce Robinson; Sec.-Treas. Allan Glenn; members at large; Earle Tugwell, Dave Kerr, and Paul McCormick. It is expected, and the group at the meeting agreed, that we should invite two members from the ladies' softball teams to become part of the club's executive. This will give us a total of seven members on the executive. On Sunday, May 11 the girls held a short meeting with Valerie Filson and Anne McCormick being designated as representatives. By the way, it was a little disappointing to have a small representation such as we had at the meeting -so come on gang! At the next meeting let's see a real good turn-out. You will be notified of the date of the meeting in good time. Some of the main

topics of discussion at the annual meeting were I. that steps should be taken to improve the infield of the diamond. Your executive should have the answer to this at their next meeting. II. also the question of the back-stop was brought to light. Glenn Sheil will have the answer to this one very shortly. III. The subject of a home-run fence was discussed and developments are promising. IV. A uniform sized ball will be used this year.

The executive will meet at the school at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday April 19. At this meeting they will make arrangements to call all the players of last season to determine if they are going to play this season again. The executive will set a date for an open meeting of all members, to be held as soon as convenient after April 19. It seems that a meeting would be in order sometime after the schedule has begun. This would give the players an opportunity to air any problems or difficulties. When problems are brought out and a solution arrived at, it makes for good relations all around and better game results.

It appears that we are off to a good season. We had a lot of

...from BORN ON THE ISLAND

-L&A County Museum and Archives (Excerpts from the Napanee Beaver, April 1895-April 1897) March 20, 1896

The ice and roads are in the best condition they have been this winter and farmers are taking advantage of it in doing their milking and marketing. John Taylor has given up farming. His sale will be held on the 19th inst. Horse races passed off successfully. A large crowd attended them. S. Strawbridge, of Cressy, is visiting friends here. Mrs. Robt. Patterson and family are moving into our village. We are pleased to have them as neighbours. Mrs. Preston and Mrs. Patterson are improving. Win. McDonald got a bad fall on the ice at the races. He is still confined to the house. Mrs. Reid had a large party last week. A wedding in Stella next month.



fun last season and this speaks well for last year's committee. If everyone gets out and does their share, we feel sure that we will have another good season. So come on out, all you ball fans. Pick your favourite teams and support them. It all helps to give the teams the "lift" to make good competition and we know you will enjoy the games! ...Bruce Robinson.

Stella Hockey Team: The Island hockey team started off the season on October 31. (with a loss) The team progressed through the season, gaining confidence and ability, and towards the end of the season they were strong contenders, even though they only won three games. The rewarding part about the whole season for me, in my position as a coach, was the whole-hearted co-operation from the boys, their willingness to learn and try and their dauntless effort. It was gratifying to have so many of our local people turn out to support the games against the following teams: Holly, Jackson's Plumbing, Selby, Reserve and Pringle's. ...James Neilson. Many acquaintances of Syl Apps Jr. were pleased to hear Emile Francis, coach of the New York Rangers speak well of him in a television interview. Syl has acquitted himself well as a centre for Omaha of the CHL and many hope to see him find a berth on an NHL club soon. Good luck, Syl!

DT Photo



Out Our Way: Our sympathy and good wishes go out to Mrs. A. Gibson Jr. who is very ill in K.G.H. in Kingston. The welcome mat is out to Mr. & Mrs. Ian Murray. They recently moved into the Presbyterian manse, and I am sure Randi will find it more enjoyable teaching with less commuting time involved. [Ian: The first time I met Keith Miller was when he came over to make sure the furnace was working in the manse. He said that he too had worked in Toronto for a while. He said the most amazing thing: "There's nothing to do in Toronto." And I, a farm boy unhappy in the city, knew just what he meant. On a farm there is always lots of meaningful things to do; in the city what there is to do is costly and/or not worth doing.]

-

Someone recently asked New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani whether the events of September 11th meant that we are living in a changed world. He answered, "We're not in a different world. It's the same world as before, except now we understand it better."

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.

FOR SALE: HYDROPOOL SPA

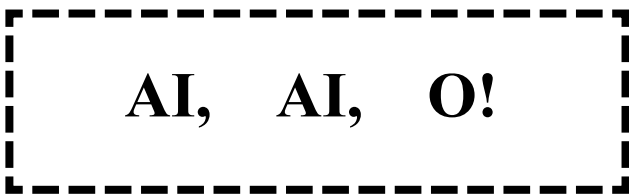
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I am collecting used stamps - any kind for the guide dogs, clean used clothing and books for the "Cats Meow". Used towels - cleaning products - A&P tapes and 12"x 12" knitted squares for the Napanee Animal shelter. Donations may be left in my front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

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