

# Amherst Island BEACON



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## THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, Editor

The earlier fall evenings seem to have encouraged people to send in more submissions than usual: over 8000 words, which is likely a record for new material. A big thank you to all who sent in articles, letters, and whatever.

Our editing policy is to limit ourselves to grammatical improvements and correcting the odd spelling error - and capitalizing "island" when Amherst Island is meant. It is certainly not my intention, or the intention of anyone else involved in the Beacon's production, to edit content without an author's approval. Please let us know if we have altered your meaning and we will print a correction.

While on the subject of policy, here is the Beacon's advertisement policies: ads are free; they must be in good taste; the advertiser must be an Island resident or have some tangible connection to the Island; exceptions to this last policy are at the editor's discretion.

I continue to have problems deciding what is a notice & what is an advertisement so I have decided to amalgamate them. (Good enough for Ernestown and Bath, its good enough for the Beacon.) The regular ads will appear at the back. Tom will continue to sprinkle ads and notices throughout an issue as he sees fit.

Tom also notes that we had a sell-out of the Beacon issues at the store for the third month in a row - a trend we hope will continue through the winter months to come!



## HANS REINDER DEHAAN

August 23, 1934 - September 8, 2002

Born in Dedgrim, Friesland, Netherlands. Parents were Lammert deHaan and Janke de Leeuw. Brothers & sisters: Zwaantje, Sepke, Fogeltje, Doede and Ytje. Married to Hazel Gibson on April 25, 1964. Children & grandchildren: Jack (Joey), twin girls, Kaitlyn and Krystal; Tom (Lynn), Thomas, Patrick, Ryan, Jennifer and Shannon; Jerry (Patsy), Nicholas, Jackie and Sean; Jane (Russell), Sarah, Keith and Ronald; Tony (Penny), Hallie, Melissa, Amanda; Neil; Kimberly (Duncan), Gavin and Megan; Jeffery (Judy), Lane and Abby. Great-grandchildren: Quentin, born to Sarah; Chase, born to Jennifer.

After growing up in war-torn Europe, Hans came to Canada in 1951. He

travelled here by steamship. He said it took nine days to get here. He came here to work, since there didn't seem to be much over there for a boy. His Uncle Piet Witteveen had already organized employment for him with a farmer in Corbyville, north of Belleville. The porter on the train knew Hans' destination by the tag he wore around his neck, as he spoke no English.

He worked there for a year, then he came to Amherst Island in 1952 to work for Francis and Nessie Welbanks on their farm on the South Shore. He credited their sons Eric and Ted for teaching him to speak English. Hans moved on from there to work for Moutrey and Elsie Wemp on their farm at the foot of the

Island (now owned by Mark and Cherry). During that time he did work for Epstein's beside where his daughter Kim lives today.

In 1955 Hans began roofing for Irving and Harding Ltd. This company would become R.E. Harding Ltd, and eventually Amherst Roofing and Sheet Metal Ltd. He worked for the Harding family for 47 years. He enjoyed his work and the people he worked with.

Hans served on the Amherst Island Fire Department as Fire Chief from 1970-1988.

Hans enjoyed his family, especially the grandchildren, fishing, hunting, community events and socializing. He still maintained a close relationship with his family in the Netherlands. He visited them and they visited the Island many times.

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Others as noted.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to Syke Fleming, Tessa Mayman, Ida Gavlas, Susie Caughey, and Anne-Marie Hitchins.

Condolences to Freda MacCrimmon and family on the recent loss of their son and brother, Mike. MacCrimmons used to live in Emerald and still own Lot 12, Concession 1, across the Emerald 40' from Garnet McDonald's farm.

Condolences to John Neilson Wemp on the passing of his wife Jean Kerr on October 2. Neilson is the brother of Ralph Wemp, Helen Miller, Marjory Tooke and Jean Tugwell.

Condolences to the family of Dick Hopkins who died suddenly at his Sydenham home on October 6. Dick and his wife Marilyn lived at the "Brick House" on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession (where Harry and Barb Filson farmed and is now the site of the east corrals of Quinte Pasture) in 1973. He and Don Tubb were room mates at Queens when they were in first year engineering. As a high school teacher, Dick taught some of the Island students at NDSS.

Happy 50th Birthday to Ida Gavlas the ferry clerk!!

Lots of long distance travelers this month. Ralph and Beula Woods were on a tour to Russia, which included a river cruise to St. Petersburg. Chris Kennedy and Dianne Marshall traveled to Kazakhstan to visit family there. Dave Brady and Deb Kimmett were on a working vacation to England and France.

Ray and Zelma Koenders recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. About 100 friends and family attended a dinner held in their honour, followed by an open dance at the Community Centre. Ray and Zelma's nine grown children and their spouses and grandchildren, hosted the party and the gym was full of people, good times and good wishes! Congratulations Ray and Zelma!

Congratulations to Jan Sneep, who recently received his Masters degree in Applied Science - Management of Technology from the University of Waterloo.

Michael Osler and Abigail Connell have moved from the former Jim Baker

property beside 'Truemans' to the former Ray Duncan property on the Front Road near Emerald.

Congratulations also to Peter Trueman, who was awarded the Order of Canada by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, in a ceremony held in Halifax on October 26, 2002. According to the Whig, Peter is hosting a half-hour documentary "Seeing Beyond" on Global October 27. The documentary deals with age-related macular degeneration which is the leading cause of blindness in people over 50.

Well, the "little" ferry has finally arrived. So far, so good! It has turned out that it holds about the same number of vehicles as the old Amherst Islander, (approx. 18) and weather has been relatively calm for this time of year. We just hope that the November gales hold off until after the Frontenac II has returned!

About 100 people attended the annual 4-H Masquerade and the costumes keep



Samantha Pollock and Candice Youell, dressed as the "Amherst Island Fairy" and "Stella Dock" at the 4-H sponsored Halloween party in October 2002.

getting better and better. Young and old alike participated in games, costumes, pumpkin carving and apple peeling

contests. The canteen was busy all evening and the bake sale was sold out! If you haven't had a chance to attend the Masquerade in the past, please mark your calendar for next year and come out and enjoy a visit and a laugh. Congratulations to all winners!

## AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



- Freda Youell

On October 16<sup>th</sup> fifteen members and one guest met at the home of member Claire Jenney. The program was a talk on the life of Daniel Fowler by Dr. Frances K. Smith, Curator Emeritus of the Agnes Etherington Art Centre who has thoroughly researched the life of this artist and to share this meeting at the former home of Daniel Fowler made it even more interesting. At the end of the meeting our Branch received a signed copy of her book "Daniel Fowler of Amherst Island - 1810-1894" and she also graciously signed copies of the book owned by several members.

Our hostesses, Claire Jenney and Diane Hieatt, provided a delicious lunch over which we had time to chat with our guest speaker before she departed.

The business meeting started, as always, with the Ode, Collect and O Canada after which our President Joyce Haines welcomed Jocelyne Leyton and Judith Harrower, our two new members, and Marilyn Taylor, our guest, known to most of us as she is a frequent visitor to the Island.

Minutes were read, usual reports made and updates of our ongoing projects discussed. All of these events were covered by our P.R.Q. Nancy Dunn, in the October issue of the Beacon, leaving me with nothing new to report, so I shall conclude by inviting any ladies interested in crafts to join us at the home of Kirsten Bennick at 7 p.m. on November 20<sup>th</sup> when Jackie Sylvester will get us into the spirit of the season with her interesting projects. Our Roll

Call is the exchange of favourite Christmas Recipes and, as our growing number of members prove, we do have really great meetings.

Hope to see you there.

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## NEWS FROM

### Amherst Island Public School

- Lyn Fleming

The Limestone District School Board's annual Cross Country meet was held at Fort Henry Hill in September. 17 of the 19 students in grades three to eight, who trained for Cross Country took part in the meet. All those who participated in the run finished the course. It was an amazing accomplishment of endurance for many who have never taken part in Cross Country before. The following week, the students celebrated their accomplishment (and I think the end of Cross Country!) with a pot luck lunch. Vicki Keith-Monro and John Monro and Mrs. Secker provided the main course, while students brought in deserts, accompaniments and drinks. From the amount and variety of food that was in the kitchen, it seems it was a typical Island event!

October 21st was an Early Dismissal Day for students. Staff took part in a computer literacy training.

Fire Safety week was recognized by students learning about fire safety and doing fire safety posters. Loyalist Fire Safety Officer, Derrick Etheridge and a colleague visited the school and judged the posters.

Congratulations to Brooke Reid, Ben Whitton, Brittany Sneep and Melinda Laing for their winning posters. While Derrick was here, he held a surprise fire drill. Our staff and students passed with flying colours!

Remembrance Day Service will be held on November 11th, starting at 10:45 a.m. Members of the community are welcome to attend.

The Senior students are now practising volleyball over lunch hour once or twice



Carr's School, girls class picture, c. 1955 (this is the companion to the boys picture, published in the Beacon several months ago, which came from Clinton Kilpatrick, seen in miniature below).

Above, Left to right: Cora Gibson (later McGinn); Dreta Westwood (later DeHaan); Elsie Reid (later Willard); Sylena McCormick (later Evans); Nina Wemp (later Churchhill); Anna Miller (later Wlasuk).

from the collection of Elsie Willard



a week in preparation for the upcoming volleyball tournament in December.

Many thanks to Cathy and Alan Glenn for their many hours of time donated to getting our library in working order. Alan has made book shelves and is making another while Cathy is cataloguing, organizing and sorting books to make it accessible and user friendly.

ISLE will hold two fund raisers in the coming weeks to raise money for the school. We hope you will support these fund raisers, as they in turn help us!

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**"There is a distinction between a brain and a mind. A brain is an instrument, but the mind is the soul of the brain."**  
*Louis I. Kahn, Architect, 1972*

## COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

Norman W. Sterling, Minister of Transportation, has "approved the operating allocation for municipal operations for this year". The allocation for 2002-03 is \$1,400,000.

The Joint Health & Safety Committee recommended that air conditioning be installed in the wheel house of the Frontenac II when it goes for its five year inspection.

There were over 30 pages in the Council documents relating to Nutrient Management - i.e. what to do about manure from farm animals. "The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF) has released its first stage of

nutrient management regulations which is accompanied by draft implementation protocols." This subject is too complicated to cover adequately in this newsletter and it is too threatening to my own livelihood as a farmer for me to report objectively. Those who wish to know more are encouraged to do so.

# AIMS

## The Amherst Island Men's Society

- Neil Johnston

This meeting's speaker was Peter Trueman.

On Christmas Day in 1934, William Peter Main Trueman was born in Sackville N.B. Peter spoke lovingly of his parents, Albert William Trueman O.C. (an educator) and Jean Alberta (Miller) Trueman (artist). His father, a professor of English at Mount Allison University, and later a superintendent of schools in St. John performed a half hour Sunday afternoon radio show on language over CBC radio. You may recall Doug Williamson's AIMS address in which he credited Peter's father with influencing his career path. It probably was in the genes that led Peter to his coast-to-coast love for Canada and into broadcasting.

Peter started university at UNB in Fredericton where he studied English and Political Science and transferred to Carleton in Ottawa for his senior year. It was a bad move. He left before getting a degree and went in to journalism.

His communications career began in the summer of '53 as a scanagraver operator and copy boy for the Ottawa Journal and as a reporter from '54-'56

Almost 47 years ago, he met and married a lady from Perth and as Peter said: "I better latch on to this one!" Peter was so determined to marry Eleanor that he married her on crutches after 2 months in hospital with an infected blister on his heel that got into his lymph glands.

At this time he was a public relations writer for the CNR but found it unrewarding writing what he called 'Diesel Prose.'

In '57, he moved to New York as

columnist (four times a week) for the Montreal Star, where he wrote about everything from entertainment to politics. From Jackie Gleason and Jack Parr to Nelson Rockefeller. He was later moved across town to the United Nations, where he took up a column that CBC correspondent Stanley Burke had been instructed to give up. There he learned fast about international politics and marveled at the regal style of Dag Hammarskjold. Gleason and Jack Parr. In '62 it was time to move on.

The Montreal Star then moved Peter to Washington as their correspondent from '62 to '64. In '64 he became an Ottawa



AIMS member Gary McDonald and son Andrew prepared for the Festival of Lights Parade & Bonfire in November by sawing a hole in this barn in October. Why? To unearth buried treasure, of course! Come to the parade to find out what it all means. TR

correspondent for the Toronto Star. He became National Director of the United Nations Association in Canada from '66 to '67.

In the late '60s, Peter changed from print to television as a writer, where he helped put together CBC National newscasts for his old friend Stanley Burke. He quickly became Executive Producer of the National in '69 and was appointed Head of News for the CBC TV English Network from '70 to '72.

At this point in his career, Peter grew frustrated with the corporation and felt that a change was necessary. Bill Cunningham, a former CBC producer who had become

vice-president of news for the new Global TV operation, convinced Peter to move to Global Television as a foreign correspondent working out of Toronto. In his first summer at Global, Peter was off to Spain, Switzerland, Gibraltar and the United Kingdom, creating six segments for Global News Journal. Then as Global's news anchor, it became necessary, in Peter's words, 'to go where there is trouble!' From the Middle East, Bangladesh and Rhodesia... Peter was there capturing the stories. One scary encounter happened in April 1975, just two weeks before the fall of Saigon. His crew was staying in Saigon's Majestic Hotel as the North Vietnamese Army rolled quietly towards the south's presidential palace in Saigon. It wasn't until two years later, while reading CIA operative Frank Sneep's detailed book on troop movements during the last days of South Vietnam that Peter realized just how close the Global crew had come to being killed or captured..

Over his 15 years at Global, Peter also traveled to and reported from India, Pakistan and Latin America. In Rio Brazil he was greatly disturbed by the inhumanity towards the street kids as it was documented in his "Children of January" report.

In the middle of his Global career he found time to write 'Smoke and Mirrors' which was all about TV news.

Moving from Toronto to Ottawa, Peter observed a major change on how the news was being presented. The shift was from reporting to entertaining and Peter was not interested in entertaining. He also told the assembled group that the stress of 'getting to air' was outside of his comfort zone. In 1987, it was time to leave Global and Peter tendered his resignation with one year's notice.

Peter and Eleanor started looking for a new place to live. He admitted that they first looked at Wolfe Island but an aunt, Louise Seaman, was an Amherst Island resident living in the solar house just two properties west of Topsy Farms. The Trueman's bought their south shore property and Peter began his freelance career. (Thank you Aunt Louise.) His recent accomplishments are a blending of his writing and broadcast hosting experiences. Writing for The Catholic Register, Starweek Magazine, Kingston Whig Stand-

ard, Pathways Magazine and hosting "North South" for Vision TV and his 'job of jobs' hosting the Discovery Channel's "Great Canadian Parks" series from '95 to '00.

Looking back over their years on the Island, Peter told us that he and Eleanor had no regrets about getting out of television news or moving to Amherst island. Peter thanked Zander Dunn for getting him more involved in the church. One footnote that came out of Peter's Curriculum Vitae was that he and Eleanor have three children Anne, Mark and Victoria ...and eleven grandchildren.

In his closing remarks, Peter 'announced' Life is Good.-- Life on Amherst Island is pretty damn good!

The meeting adjourned with David Brady offering to chair the November meeting if he isn't in Africa and Peter Trueman would back him up if he is. Robert Mackenzie and Paul Lauret volunteered for kitchen duties.

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### JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

( to Eva who asked about Falcons and Hawks)

Watching the skies as the sun warms the Island and causes thermals to rise, you will probably be rewarded with a view of a falcon or a hawk riding effortlessly on the air. They circle in mixed groups called kettles as they soar on the thermals, rising on invisible eddies that carry them over the lake. You are probably quite familiar with the tiny falcon known as the American Kestrel which sits on our wires along the Island roads and awaits a hapless vole or grasshopper and happily bobs his tail. There are several of these visible on a day trip around the Island but one sits very consistently at the junction of the Third and the Stella Forty Foot. They have distinctive red-brown backs and tails. The males have blue gray wings and females are russet. They have black lines on the side of the head. These birds nest in holes and would benefit from nesting boxes.

The Merlin follows the migrating flocks of smaller birds and is a falcon about 12 inches in length. It too has blue-gray wings in the male but does not show the double dark lines on the face as seen in the Kestrel. The breast is streaked and it has

broad tail bands. It is slightly larger than the Kestrel and has a wingspan of 25 inches. You may also get a glimpse of the elegant Peregrine Falcon as it streaks after a Rock Dove or other bird of choice. It too shows the blue wings but the black under its eye is wedge shaped and its streaking is finer. There was one not too long ago on the Third when I was driving bus for Debbie. Their numbers are increasing and they can successfully nest now on high buildings in cities. During a snowstorm a few years ago I saw one dive past as we drove off the Don Valley Parkway at Sheppard.

Once I got to see a Gyrfalcon as it streaked through the Owl Woods but only because a more experienced Birder familiar with them in the North was able to identify the bird. They can be white, gray or dark and may show a dark facial line. Their eyes have an orange ring but who gets to see that as they zip by.

Jeff and Marni Matthews identified one in December 1987 in their farmyard. They are the largest falcon at 20-25 inches in length with a wingspan of 36-44 inches. The next three hawks are called Accipiters. The smallest Hawk called a Sharp-shinned Hawk measures only 10 inches long, the same as the Kestrel but its wings are broader. Recently one chased Starlings around our yard. It has a narrow white tip on its notched tail which is barred. The male is slate blue and the female brown. They were migrating through Long Point in Prince Edward County last week-end and I got to see several as well as their larger cousin the Cooper's Hawk which is very similar but has a rounded tail and appears to have a cap due to the contrast in its gray colour on the back and head. The Cooper's is 14-20 inches long and has a wingspan of 29-37 inches. These hawks were circling in a kettle at Point Traverse and over the fields near the lighthouse. Their larger cousin is called the Northern Goshawk. You can identify it by its prominent eyebrow. We had one land on our porch railing as it chased the birds at the feeder. I've seen it dive into a thick Spruce and the movement out of other birds shows you its path through the tree hunting Mourning Doves. I think it must hop from branch to branch inside the conifer. It winters here when food is scarce on its territory. They are 21-26 inches in length and have a wingspan

of 40-46 inches. The Buteos are hawks like the familiar Red-tailed Hawk with solid rust or brown tail and light belly with a belly band and the Rough-legged we should be seeing soon as it comes to winter here with its lighter head, lower dark belly and wrist spots on the under side of its wings. These hawks are 22 inches in length with wingspans of 50-56 inches. That raptor cruising low across the fields of Amherst Island and displaying a white patch on its rump is a Northern Harrier and is 17-23 inches long with a wingspan of 38-48 inches. The male is pale gray and the female reddish brown. Perhaps not your favourite bird but also a beautiful soaring rider of the thermals will be the elegant Turkey Vulture as he rides that wingspan of 69 inches showing a two-toned distinctive underwing and a V-shaped position of its wings. Their numbers have increased with the increase of White-tailed Deer. Watch those skies and see the magnificent fliers. Good Birding!

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### A LETTER HOME

- Chris Kennedy

Dianne and I spent three weeks away last month, visiting my brother James in Kazakhstan, so I do not have much news from the farm. Kazakhstan though was fascinating. Just eleven years ago it was part of the Soviet Union, and since then has been going through some wrenching changes. With the break-up of the USSR it was not so much the political structure that collapsed but the economy. The Communist leadership just kept on running the country, they were just in an even better position to feather their own



nests. They have apparently done this with great success.

Meanwhile, without State control and finance half the factories were closed. The Soviets seem to have built everything out of concrete, so everywhere there are huge, decaying and broken buildings, with trees starting to grow up through the holes. Many of the buildings seem to have never been finished, but the workers just walked away. The first few years after 1991 were very grim apparently. Pensions were not paid, neither were many wages to doctors and teachers, and half the factory workers were out of work. My brother's gardener is an engineer who used to manage a factory, but now spends much of his time raking leaves or sitting reading Pushkin.

Slowly it seems that independent businesses are starting up. There is money in Kazakhstan, as it has oil and minerals and western countries, including Canada, are interested in investing. However, the corruption stretches from the President right down to the policemen on the street. The successful all seem to travel with a driver and body-guard, and James said that who you know is the first ingredient for a business.

It must be very difficult to build up a civil society from almost nothing. So many of the norms we have here in Canada do not exist. There is no freedom of the press, and it is apparently quite dangerous to criticize the wrong people. Your legal rights depend on who you are and how much muscle you have. We were very fortunate that James is the Cultural Attache at the British Embassy, which gave us a lot of protection.

Perhaps I have painted too dark a picture of the country. The scenery is beautiful, going from the Tien Shan mountains to the steppe, where I half expected to see Ghengis Khan and the Mongols come sweeping over the horizon. Stalin used Kazakhstan as a dump for the people he did not want to send to Siberia, so about half the people are native Kazakhs, the rest from every corner of the Soviet Union. Seventy years of Soviet rule seems to have made many of the people very cautious around strangers, but friendly when they knew you were "safe" to talk to.

We are so lucky to live in Canada.

## BEACON NOTES

- Ian Murray

The founder and first Beacon editor was Glen Sheil. He was followed, after a hiatus, by Ian Murray, Don Tubb, and Ian Murray.

The Beacon finances are handled separately from the production end.. Leslie Gavlas receives the money from Beacon sales and writes cheques to cover costs. Several charitable donations have been made, but most of the revenue goes to cover operating costs including computer-related updates and repairs. The cost of a new computer, printer or soft-ware, as well as repairs to them, is divided up among the users. If I need a new printer, for example, the farm will likely pay 40%, the Beacon 40%, and I'll pay the remaining 20%.

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## THE MOURNER'S DANCE

- Claire Jenney

Victoria Hall was the charming setting on Saturday evening, October 19th, for an author's talk and slide presentation organized by Kirsten Bennick and the Island Reading Group as a fund-raiser for the Neilson General Store project. Before an audience of 40 attentive people from the Mainland as well as Islanders, Katherine Ashenburg, a Toronto-based writer, spoke about her highly praised book, *The Mourner's Dance: What We Do When People Die*, and accompanied her talk with slides appropriate to her chapter on keepsakes.

Her research and insights into the culture of mourning fascinated her audience and prompted many questions and comments at the close of her formal presentation. After a lively exchange of ideas and a book sale and signing, a wine and cheese reception rounded out a delightful evening.

Donations to the Neilson Store project of nearly \$200.00 were gratefully accepted at the door.

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## MY FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF AMHERST ISLAND

- Zander of DUNN INN

When I was in my first year at Queens in 1955, The Rev. Mac Young, of The Presbyterian Church in Gananoque, asked me if I would be willing to lead worship at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Amherst

Island. They were without a minister. The Rev. R.K. Earls had moved to Cobden.

I'd never been to Amherst Island but was willing to try anything. I went to the Island with him one Sunday afternoon to see the church and the congregation and to find out what he expected of me. The people were kind and welcoming and gathered gladly for a service about 3 p.m.

The Rev. Young made it clear to me, however, that they would prefer to worship at 11 a.m. - the sacred hour of worship for Presbyterians - especially of Presbyterians in rural areas. He suggested I should go to the Island on a regular basis to conduct worship because no ministers were available.

I agreed to do so, knowing that I had two allies who would help me. The first was my friend, Wilf Moncrieff, a student in his last year at Queen's who planned to study theology at Knox College in Toronto. The second was my father, Command Chaplain of Training Command in Trenton.

I can vividly remember the first Sunday Wilf and I went to Amherst Island to conduct worship at St. Paul's. We got to the Island early and decided to look around. We came upon a herd of cattle up to their udders in the lake on the South Shore, drinking their fill. We marvelled at the beauty of the land and the rugged shoreline and were impressed with the peacefulness of Glenwood Cemetery. We were, of course, inspired by the St. Paul's edifice - a stone building made to last.

When we went inside we were struck by the wood-work, the stained glass windows, the comfortable pews. Wilf, a good musician, sat down at the organ and hit a chord. A mouse ran out from under the organ and disappeared into the shadows. We wondered if that would happen when the service began.

We stood outside while the people arrived for the service. I'll never forget Les Glenn who introduced himself to us and told us the most interesting feature of St. Paul's was the huge round grate in the middle of the centre aisle. He said he liked to watch the women walk over it and see their skirts and dresses blow up over their knees. He also warned us that farmers who'd worked all morning and sat near the grate would fall asleep in middle of the sermon - thanks to the warm air. He was right. It was fun to watch the women walk

over the grate and sad to see so many farmers who sat near the grate fall asleep in the middle of the sermon.

Those farmers fell asleep because I wasn't preaching. I led the service; Wilf preached. I vowed that when my turn came to preach I'd make the sermon so exciting, so relevant, so uplifting nobody would fall asleep. Next Sunday, when my turn came to preach, even my wonderful sermon couldn't keep those farmers awake. Later, I tried shouting, whispering, pounding on the pulpit, but nothing would keep those farmers from dozing off.

I used to think it was the fault of the farmers that they fell asleep. They had worked hard in the cold air and were surrounded by warm air - so, of course, they fell asleep.

Now the grate is gone, as are most of the farmers, but the people - young and old - who worship today continue to fall asleep when I preach.

Two things impressed me immediately during the service. First, Bruce Caughey Sr., sat up near the front and sang the hymns with gusto and read the responses to the Responsive Psalm in a loud voice. Second, I was given the announcements to read in which appeared the Caughey name several times. I read the name without giving it much thought but was pleasantly surprised when both Bruce and Helen thanked me, after the service, for pronouncing their name properly.

The Caughey family filled a whole pew on the South side of the Church. The children - Allen, Beth and Brucie - were young then, but well-behaved. They were much more active at home where Bruce and Helen invited Wilf and me for lunch after the service. Beth helped in the kitchen and Allen and Bruce showed us the cows in the barn. The meal we sat down to - at an extended table - was a feast the like of which I had never seen before. Platters of beef and chicken and bowls and plates of potatoes, cucumbers, tomatoes, beans, peas, broccoli, corn, salads and gravy were passed around the table. There were so many items I thought I would never get to eat all the things which landed on my plate. Best of all was a bowl of fruit jello. I had only ever had jello for dessert so I was impressed that it was served as part of the main course. Dessert was pie - Nessie Drumgoole's apple pie with cheese (Island

cheese from the cheese factory, of course) or ice cream. I ate so much I could not eat any more that day and swore I wouldn't need to eat for a week.

Around that table sat the Caughey family and the families of two of Helen Caughey's sisters - the Marshall girls: Nessie and Art Drumgoole and their daughter, Ruth Artwina (a teacher on the mainland), and Ruth and Clifford Glenn. The conversation was laced with stories, filled with laughter and lasted for hours. Ruth, the unofficial nurse of the island, told about attending the birth of a child the night before where no preparation had been made for its arrival. She'd had to wrap the infant in newspapers and place it in a box until she went home for sheets and blankets.

My impression of Amherst Island was of a Island beautiful for situation; delightful in its trees and fields; hospitable in its people; and bountiful - generous and open - thanks to the farmers who loved to share and give. Many things have changed since I first came to Amherst Island but the beauty of the land and the warmth of the people have not. That's partly why we're back.

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## LETTER TO THE BEACON

- Bill Harris

The Beacon is notable for its lack of contemporary people pictures!

No doubt you are challenged with an inundation of baby pictures, or pictures that you just think are too personal - like cat pictures.

How about a series of pictures of people who make Amherst work? Pictures of roads people and mail people and ferry people, - after a year I still can name only half the ferry staff that greets you with a friendly "hello" whenever you hand over your pass!

If that is a good idea, why not start with this great photo of Noel? Almost everyone on the Island has had to use Noel at one time or another for jobs like excavating basements and wells, like leveling property and lifting heavy boats and culverts. He is an artist with his backhoe, digging, scrapping, lifting, leveling and patting down the whole mess so it can grow grass or support cars and trucks.

Without him there are times the ferry could not have been loaded, or a funeral held at the grave side.

Is all that not worth a picture?

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**Editor:** The Beacon is not inundated with photos at all. Usually we have to ask for them.

Your idea of photos of "people who make Amherst Island work" is a good one. However, like a lot of good ideas, it takes someone to make it happen. If you, or someone else, wish to undertake this, I will be glad to include the results in upcoming Beacons.

It would be great to have a photo of the Public Works Crew and also one of each of the Ferry Crews (along with a brief note about each person).



Noel McCormick: The Man, The Myth, The Machine.

Bill Harris Photo

## Lighting your float for the Festival of Lights parade

T. Richmond

In preparation for the parade, I have investigated a few methods of using lighting on floats. Here are a few ideas you can use.

1) Power inverters: these are available at Canadian Tire and other outlets in Kingston: they take 12 volts from your car battery and turn it into 120 volts. This can be used to power regular Christmas light strings. Be aware that these solid-state (transistorized) units have limits, and they are specified in WATTS. A 200 watt unit

selling for \$29.95 will readily power a set of old style outdoor lights 25 feet long with 25 bulbs, if each bulb is 7 watts (this is spelled out on the package) draws a total of 175 watts OR Fifteen strings of miniature bulbs, each



with 50 bulbs on it, with each string drawing a total of 12 watts (12w x 15 sets = 180 watts). A common type here is the "icicle" sets that became popular recently.

You can see that using the smaller bulbs is the better bet when using an inverter. The inverters are on sale at Canadian tire up to 900 watts for \$99.00. At that rate you could run 60 sets. Your car battery will last about an hour, unless you've got it hooked up and running during the parade.

2) Straight DC- you can set up a 12 volt system, and you probably don't need a primer on that. However, you can also do something a little different if you have a few well charged batteries around: string four 12 volt batteries together (like this: + - + - + - + -) and create a 48 volt DC system. There is a lot of potential in this- it's the one used by solar and wind powered houses. This system will easily light that same set of 7 watt old fashioned Christmas tree lights mentioned above using DC instead of AC, and you'll be able to run more of them with no solid-state components to burn out. The limitation? How long will the batteries last?

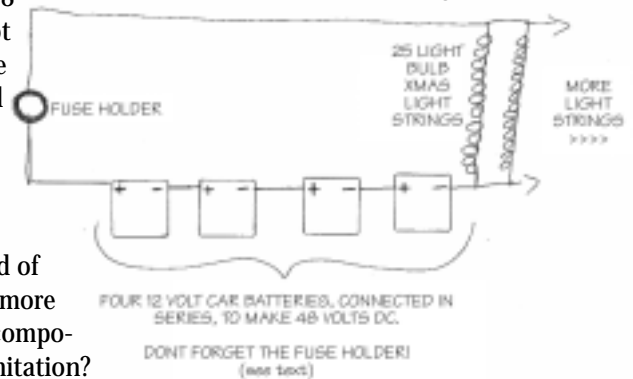
Standard automotive batteries should give you about an hour and a half- easily long enough for this parade- when the batteries get low they'll just fade away.

A little protection for your lighting system can be made using a flexible lamp holder (below) and a 15 amp screw-in type



fuse. Just wire one lead to the battery +, and the other to the first light in the string.

Best wishes and good luck- call me if you have any questions of need your system checked out prior to the parade!  
(613) 634-1855 evenings.



## REDUCTION OF GREEN HOUSE GASES BY ISLANDERS

- Judith Harrower

This summer, with the exceptional heat waves and dryness, a number of people waiting for the ferries kept their car engines running and this has affected the quality of our air. As smog alerts were issued more this summer many people ignored the fact that they were contributing to the poor air quality by having their cars running to keep their air conditioners on. Reasons for having the cars running were: "I have a sleeping baby"; "I have ice cream in the car"; "I've been shopping all day"; "I can't stand the heat"; "I am too damn hot"; "I have asthma"; "I don't usually"; and "look across the Bay and there is the real pollution".

This last comment is very true, industry and the provincially run sites contribute greatly to the poor air quality, and while they will be forced eventually to clean up their sites, we can start now by turning off our cars while in line and on trips to and

from the Island.

We all expect to be on the ferry when we're in line, and the crew in order to comply with getting the most number of cars on each trip, park cars bumper to bumper. However, if the car in front of yours has its engine running, their exhaust is sucked into your car via the front-end air intake. Therefore, many people who turn their engines off get a continuous blast of car exhaust the whole trip.

With the smaller ferry, space was reduced for cars to provide passengers with a warm area to pass the short trips, but instead it appears many people would rather stay in their warm running cars than utilize the provided waiting room. So if no one uses the waiting area why have it? Sure it is for the students but it is also there for everyone and why not make use of it and save money on gas by not running your vehicle? Many commercial vehicles as well are culprits, such as the Loyalist Township trucks, Bell Canada, and Hydro One vehicles, either not aware of their diesel exhaust smelly output or are too indifferent to turn off their heavy vehicles.

There is a three minute waiting time for idling in many urban areas, and why not for us?

Yes, I smoke, but never in front of people, and while waiting for the ferry I walk away from the line, or if on the ferry then away from others, as do the majority of smokers on the ferry. Cigarette smoke does not match the heavy metal impact from car exhausts.

Don't take for granted our air quality as it is today, for tomorrow it will get worse and if people do not take responsibility even now in these small ways, our children will reap the consequences.

Turn your cars off in line and on the ferry. Cold or heat may be inconvenient for a short period of time, but will not give you long term physical afflictions, such as asthma and respiratory problems. New Islanders moved to the Island to reap the benefits of the clean air, do help keep it that way. Become hardy tough Islanders able to take less than a half-hour of inconvenience and help the overall quality of our environment.

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## From a LETTER

To Stanley Burke from D. Grant Filson

"Your home was occupied by Alva and Eldred Cochrane and their two sons, John and Howard. Alva's father, Robert and his wife, I believe, occupied the house that Eddie and Lois Bongard lived in. Members of that family, including the two sons, are now deceased. As a teenager, John Cochrane knew the license plate numbers of every car owner on Amherst Island."

[Editor: Mr. Filson also sent a poem which will appear in the Beacon at a more appropriate time.]

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## LETTER TO THE BEACON

- Ann L. Lavery

I've only written one other fan letter in my life and that was to Jack Webb in 1955. Then, I was an impressionable teenager. I am reasonably older now but feel equally as enthralled with a new discovery - Amherst Island.

My first encounter was in the autumn of 1989 when my husband and I visited this idyll for Thanksgiving week-end. I was particularly interested in seeing the home of Daniel Fowler, the artist and also Doug's great, great grandfather. Shortly after arrival, I was completely smitten.

With one thing and another, it was twelve years before we could make a return trip. September, 2002. This time we managed a bit longer stay. All was perfection. It could have been the contrast to heat, smog, noise, violence, blaring horns, sirens, and pushy irritated crowds, but...I don't really thing so.

There is an ambience that is unique to Amherst Island. You feel it when you walk down a country road and a stranger smiles and waves and asks "How are you doing?" It is in the quiet musical sounds of rustling leaves and buzzing insects. There is a calmness and serenity that surrounds the Island people. It is the friendliness that once existed in small towns all over southern Ontario and has been slowly beaten out of them by so-called modern attitudes. No time for community anymore.

The open space, the fresh air, the night sky full of stars, the tranquil quiet. These are rare and priceless intangibles. The world needs them desperately.

Change is inevitable. Please don't move too quickly. You are a gift that many may never know but we who have been fortunate enough to have experienced Amherst Island, even fleetingly, are very grateful.

## SONG

- Marilee Jones

This month of October is special to the members and friends of the Jones family of Long Point. We lost our mother, wife and friend when Helen Jones passed away last October 21, 2001. What a wonder she was. And lucky for us to spend so much time in the place of her childhood. We were allowed such freedom on the Point that none of us looked forward to the end of summer and the closing of the cottage. Now it's her grandchildren who await the May 24th weekend when everyone under the age of 20 takes a plunge into the bay.

I wrote this song a year before my mother died, and was able to play it for her in the summer of '01. Here is my salute to my mom and all she taught me to love. . .

*The ferry's loaded, we made the eight-o'clock  
Soon we'll see the distant shore  
There's colour in your cheeks, love,  
Come wish upon a star we've reached our  
Amherst Island home.  
My Grandad Bilkie was a fine fisherman,  
Fished the great Ontario  
And even when the winds did chase him  
He sailed above the waves to reach this  
Amherst Island home.  
Wide open waters....driftwood in the bay  
Foghorn on a sunless day,  
Stars to take your breath away  
I love this Island home.  
The West has held me in her Rocky Mountain  
arms  
The ocean's sung a salty song  
But the years have made no difference  
For nightly in my dreams I'm in my  
Amherst Island home  
Wide open waters.....driftwood in the bay  
Foghorn on a sunless day  
Stars to take your breath away  
I love this Island home,  
I love this Island home.*

\*\*\*\*\*



David Reid Family, c. 1890, on the Second Concession, at home now owned by Laura Gartner. Top L-R: Jessie, Annie, John, Robert, Elizabeth, David James, Frances. Bottom, L-R: Father David Reid, Samuel, Mother Mary (nee Finnegan) Reid, with Edward on her knee.  
(from the collection of Elsie Willard)

## THANK YOU NOTES

The family of Hans deHaan would like to express our sincere thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours, A.C.W., P.C.W., and Women's Institute for the sympathy shown to us during the loss of a dear husband, father, and grandfather. For the many acts of kindness, phone calls, visits, food, floral arrangements, cards, thoughts and prayers and donations. Special thanks to Rev. Andrew Chisolm for the beautiful funeral service, Elsie Willard for a reading from Ecclesiastes, Beth Forester for playing the organ, the Ladies of St. Alban's A.C.W. for the delicious lunch served after the funeral service and to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church for the use of their facilities.

Thank you all so much.

Hazel and family

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## THANK-YOU TO THE COMMUNITY

You buy our cookies and support our sales  
You come to breakfasts  
And all that entails  
So's here's a big THANK-YOU  
From the Pathfinders to YOU:  
We'll come wrap your Christmas gifts  
And it's entirely FREE too!

(Please provide paper etc... we provide hands and thumbs.) Call Janet Scott 389-4608 or Val Wolfreys 389-8513 to book.

\*\*\*

## THANK YOU

As a new resident to Amherst Island, I must acknowledge that there have been so many wonderful experiences and wonderful people that have touched my heart.

I wish to express my gratitude to all the dedicated crew of our ferry service who by their gracious mannerisms add joy to my day and I am sure many others as they tap our cars getting off the ferry, their special smiles and the wave of the hand that sends us off on our journey and the wave of their hand that welcomes us aboard.

Your have made a real difference in my life. Thank you. Jocelyne Leyton

## 3rd ANNUAL COMMUNITY BONFIRE and First Annual Festival of Lights Parade!

November 16, 2002.

This year the Amherst Island Recreation Association will join forces with the Amherst Island Emergency Services Association to expand the festivities.

The evening will start with the 1st Annual Festival of Lights parade, followed by the Bonfire.

The Parade will start at 7:00 p.m. and travel through the Village from St. Alban's Church to the school. Participants in the parade are asked to be at the start by 6:30 p.m. We also hope that as many homeowners as possible along the route will have their holiday lights up as well. The Bonfire will follow the parade at approximately 7:45 p.m. behind the Fire Hall. For safety reasons, we ask that no children are walking or riding bikes in the parade. They may, however, ride on a float with others.



Sammy measuring the  
apple peels - Oct 2002

## COMMUNITY BRUNCH

Sunday November 3rd  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
at the Community Centre  
\$7 for adults - children 12 and under -  
\$4

Sponsored by ISLE

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## FAMILY PORTRAITS



A professional photographer will be on hand on Saturday, November 16 to do family portraits. The cost is \$10 and includes sitting fee and one 8"x10" portrait. Every \$10 paid will go to ISLE. To make an appointment or for more information, call Debbie at 384-3188.

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## A DAY OF CHILDCARE!

Attention Islanders ! Would you like a day of experienced care for your children while you finish the last minute Christmas rush? The Amherst Island Pathfinders will be running their annual Babysitting Day at the Amherst Island Community Centre on December 7th from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. \$25.00 a day or \$5.00 an hour. Family rates are available. Pathfinders are First Aid trained or hold Red Cross Babysitting qualifications. For information call Janet Scott 389-4608 or Val Wolfreys 389-8513

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## REMEMBRANCE DAY

November 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:45 a.m. The children of Amherst Island Public School invite you to attend a Remembrance Day Service to be held in the school with wreath laying at the cenotaph following. If you have any special requests please contact Janet Scott at the school 389-4582 or at home 389-4608.

## CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

Please join the Amherst Island Community Sunday School in their drive to fill shoe boxes with Christmas gifts for needy children around the world. Last year our boxes travelled to Afghanistan and the year before that to Central America.

Through Samaritan's Purse millions of children receive these gifts. Once again Karen Fleming has agreed to gather and deliver these boxes. Amherst Island sent over sixty in 2001 so let's top that!

Information available from:  
Janet Scott 389-4608 or  
Karen J. Fleming 389-9869

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## BABY ITEMS FOR SALE

Graco swing \$40.00  
Jolly jumper with large tray \$30.00  
Fisher Price Infant Carrier/Snuggly \$20.00  
Musical Bear Crib Mobile \$20.00  
All in excellent condition.  
Call Debbie at 389-2379

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## SENIORS' CHRISTMAS DINNER

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002

The A.I. Women's Institute is busy with plans for their Seniors' Christmas Dinner. We try to keep our records up to date, however, if you are eligible and do not receive your invitation we ask that you contact Kirsten Bennick at 389-0636. It's the time of year when we wish all our friends and neighbours best wishes for the holidays and thank you all for the support you extend to us all year.

~



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## Ray and Zelma Koenders

appreciated and thank everyone that participated in any way in making our 50th anniversary celebration a great success.

We had a wonderful time and hope everyone else did too.

Thank you for all the cards and gifts that you were not supposed to bring. There was a large bottle of Andres Champagne that the card had fallen from so we don't know who to respond to.

Our large family had arranged and paid for the party and we thank them.

## ST. PAUL'S Christmas Tea & Sale

Saturday, November 13.

12 to 3 p.m.

Home baking, crafts,  
gifts, country treasures &  
more.

## LATE ARRIVING NOTICE Jean (Kerr) Wemp

Wife of Neilson Wemp (formerly of Amherst Island) passed away October 2nd, 2002 following a long illness.

A Memorial Service was held October 7th at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Kelowna, BC.

Jean is pre-deceased by son Derrick and is survived by Brenda, Jill (Wemp), Stringer (Paul), and Keith (Margo); 5 grandchildren and a brother John.

Neilson's sisters, brothers, & families will always remember Jean for her kindness, sense of humour, cheerfulness, and her loyalty.

Jean Tugwell



Along the lower forty foot

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**NEWS FROM THE GENERAL STORE:**

Once again we have bird seed in stock: 18 kg., \$13.99; 9 kg., \$7.99.

Check out some of these movie rentals that we have in now:

- 40 Days and 40 Nights** - Josh Hartnett
  - Shipping News** - Kevin Spacey
  - The Sweetest Thing** - Cameron Diaz
  - Insomnia** - Al Pacino, Robin Williams
  - Big Trouble** - Tim Allen
  - Murder by Numbers** - Sandra Bullock
  - The Scorpion King** - The Rock
  - Scooby Doo** - Freddie Prinze Jr, Matthew Lillard
  - Big Fat Liar** - Frankie Muniz
  - Rolie Polie Olie** - The Great Defender of Fun,
- as well as many other great choices.

**Visit Watercolours Etc.**

The studio gallery of Shirley Miller **We are exhibiting the works of several local artists.**

Paintings, prints & lessons available. **2545 Third Concession**

**If we are home, we are open!**  
Tel. 389-2588

**Frozen Meals Designed for Seniors:**

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, & 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.

**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

**Country Seats**

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

**Summit International Canada**

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

**AMHERST ISLAND VIDEO**

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

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

**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



**Babysitter**

- Red Cross Babysitting & CPR certified - available after school, early evenings & weekends. Call Beth Albertan: 389-2662



**NORTH SHORE COTTAGE**

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



**Warm Wool for Cool Weather, from Topsy Farms**



Blankets, Wraps, Yarn. Phone 389-3444 for an appointment or visit the Enchanted Shores on Bath Road [www.topsyfarms.com](http://www.topsyfarms.com)

**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



**Seasonal Winter**

**Storage for Boats, etc,**

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

**What's New at the Victoria Hall?**

Add Crafts to our name. In compliance with Tea Room legislation, Bernice is setting up an art and craft area. All Island artists and craft persons are invited to show their creativity. Currently on display are work by Erika K and Sherril W. Call Neil at 389-5389 for info.

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, John S and Hans K hosted an Oktoberfest Dinner, Dance and Fundraiser for a worthy Island cause. Five German potato salads all 'schmect!'

Antiques Road Show tickets @ \$5.00 and Island videos @ \$16.95 available here also.

Give some thought to working out to videos or on the exercise equipment, Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 9-10AM or maybe cards on the same days from 1:30 to 4 is more to your liking.

Drop by and check us out. Tues-Sun 12 Noon to 6PM