

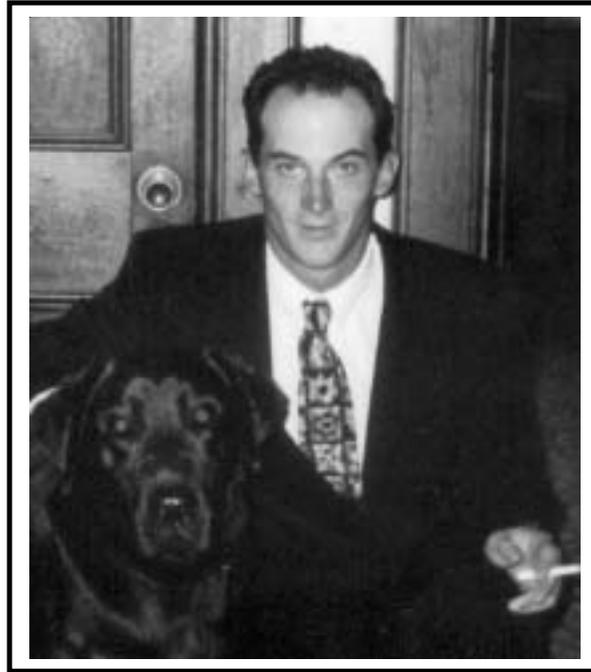
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EULOGY for REG HITCHINS

- Tracy and Heidi

Reginald was born and raised on Amherst Island - perhaps what made him a true Island boy was the fact that he was working on the family farm and driving a tractor by the age of 7. Reg was his father's "sidekick" and his mother's "baby boy" as Reg was their first-born!!

As a child Reg got into mischief and always kept his parents on their toes. Whether he was playing with his sisters, cousins or friends, Reg was always the first one to devise a plan of action - "don't tell mom or dad".

Reg was a person who could strike up a conversation with an 8 year old or an 80 year old and think nothing of it. He was the type of person who turned acquaintances into true genuine loyal friends. Reg would give you the shirt off his back. If someone were in need, Reg would be there to assist. Reg never cared if he had one dollar or a million dollars in his pockets - money never seemed to matter.

As a young teen, Reg became an avid hunter and never missed the opening day of any hunting season. Reg enjoyed hunting so much that he bought a companion - a black lab named Relic. Relic was Reg's buddy and soon found a place in everyone's heart. Relic never missed an outing to the duck blind with Reg.

Grenada was Reg's destination of choice, visiting his cousin Heather and her family was something that Reg had started to make into a yearly event. Reg's time in Grenada was always a great story when he returned.

Reg always made sure he spent time with his family whether he was visiting family in Stratford, Belleville, Kingston, Grenada or the Island, he always had a great time. Reg never missed an opportunity to have his mom's home cooking or his Granny's trifle. Reg enjoyed his nephews Cole and Trent. Whether he was buying his nephews drum sets or wagons, he always made sure to just get down on the floor and play - which to Reg was the most important part of his relationship with this nephews.

People with Reg's social skills are few and far between. To be part of Reg's social circle whether it was as family or friend left us with memories that should be treasured always.

Reg had the ability to leave a lasting impression with anyone that he met whether they had met him once or 100 times.

Reg believed in "living for today and not tomorrow".

...from EULOGY FOR CARL FREDERICK GIBSON

- Wade Gibson

Every time the sad occasion arises when I must visit the funeral home to show my respect for a deceased family member or friend, I am always in a bit of a quandary: "What do I say to a father and mother who have lost a son; young men and women whose brother has been taken away from them; young children who no longer have a father; a woman who no longer has the man she loved at her side?"

"I'm sorry" seems rather trivial. Some people just seem to know the right words of comfort and sympathy; I am not one of those people.

Yesterday, when Bob asked me to say a few words today at the funeral service on behalf of the family, I didn't want to say no but that awful feeling again of "What do I say?" came over me. Then later after visitation, Marilyn and I had dinner with our one year old grandson. The hostess at the restaurant was very pleasant and Callum had won her attention with his big smile when she spoke to him. After seating us, she came back several times and chatted with Callum. Her last remark as we prepared to leave struck me as very thoughtful and wise. She smiled at Callum and said, "Wouldn't it be a better world if adults spoke to each other the way they speak to little children?" Right then I thought, "Boy! It sure would be a better world." So with that thought in mind I realized that it isn't what words you use to express your sorrow at the passing of a young man, if those words are from the heart they are the right ones to use.

I got out the pages Bob had given me and again read the little thoughts and memories of Carl that his family must have jotted down Saturday evening as they sat around the kitchen table and reminisced; and, if I know my family, everyone was talking at once and probably, to make their point, repeated the same remarks many times.

I have taken these special memories of Carl and today, on their behalf, I will try my best to show the love and sorrow that Carl's close family must be experiencing.

They composed a short poem to honour Carl and although I was not there I am quite sure there were many tears, and some laughs as well, as they wrote it out.

"An Ode to Carl Frederick Gibson"

Carl: father, son, brother, nephew, uncle, and friend to many.

Why this happened nobody knows.

You left us with our hearts empty and minds reeling

We cannot understand the true extent of our feelings.

A man of kindness, gentleness and pleasure,

Your love for friends and family no way to measure.

Carl, we will miss you forever

And in our hearts will hold you

'Til we meet again.

When family members can write those words does it not tell us that they are speaking from the sorrow within their hearts.

The following are some little quips from that evening at the kitchen table:

- Carl loved to laugh and to make everyone else laugh with him;
- he sure liked potatoes and he enjoyed cooking for Trish's mom and her friend Lydia;
- his favourite saying was "You know what I mean";
- Carl liked to sleep on the ground, he thought it was fun;
- he loved to buy what we thought was junk then call the stuff his "prized possessions";
- Carl loved to argue;
- Uncle Carl always thought of his family members first- he would have done anything to save anyone of us;
- Carl has done nothing but good for me;
- Carl loved venison meat and sausages;
- Carl loved his mom;
- Carl fell off a horse once and right on to me, boy was he heavy. . . .

Carl liked to say "In my opinion". Well here is one of his pet opinions: "In my opinion, we could sit around with tears and sadness but I don't want that."

So, with that in mind, let us shed our tears and express our sorrow at Carl's passing then go home and think only of the good times and rejoice in the years that we had the privilege to share with Carl.

Let me end with these words from one of my favourite songs. Randy Travis sings: "It's not what you take when you leave this world behind you; it's what you leave behind you when you go."

How true.

And, Carl, I think you must have left some terrific memories for your family and friends.

God bless you!



Alec Glenn & Billy Cochrane on the deck of the 1930's wooden boat "*Tanti*", later renamed the "*Amherst Islander*"
 ...Photo from Elsie Willard

THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

The 6 Island related deaths reported in this issue is a record that I hope never to see again. Three are of former Island residents who lead long and full lives. It is a sad thing to have to write about the deaths of 2 young men who will not have the chance to grow old. Between them, they are, I believe, related to all of the old Island families; their deaths have sent a wave of sadness throughout this community.

I hope that the families of the 3 older people who have not received much attention in this issue will forward photos and information to the Beacon.

Perhaps next month there will be some room for family trees.

The Wemp women in the photo on page 5 of last month's Beacon - Issue 308 - from left to right are Catherine, Beatrice, Ella and Elizabeth.

The following items, more or less controversial, will not be mentioned further in this publication - when any one of these items is finally dealt with by Council, the decision will be reported: maintenance on

the Miller Municipal Drain; Shore Road relocation (or whatever); shore line ownership along the shore roads; and, the transportation of courier-delivered parcels on the ferry.

This is in accordance with the Beacon's policy: bad news, no; sad news, yes; controversial news, no.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of two Island men who passed away suddenly this month in an accident. Condolences to:

- Garry and Anne-Marie Hitchins and their daughters and their families and to Anna Hitchins, on the passing of their son, brother and grandson, Reg. Reg also leaves behind his extended family and many good friends here on the Island.

- Bob Gibson and Dreta Sudds, on the loss of their son, Carl Gibson, and to his brothers and sisters and their families. Also to Carl's large extended family on the Island.

Get Well wishes this month to Ida Gavlas and John Mayman.

Advisory to travellers! Please check with Dick and Puddy Dodds before plan-



To go with the picture on page three, the "Tanti" (later the "Amherst Islander") wooden boat from the 1930's shown here again. Through the miracle of computers and the Adobe Photoshop 6 program used for *The Beacon*, we can show the spelling of "Tanti" (not Tonti) is historically accurate when applied to this particular craft. (see inset to the left).
 ... Photo from Elsie Willard



ning your future travels to be sure you aren't going the same place they are! It seems there is a little dark cloud that follows them....

When Dick worked in China, his destination was Guangzhou in Guangdong Province - the location of the first SARS outbreak. When Dick and Puddy attended the World Junior Hockey Championships in Halifax this year, they were caught in a huge blizzard that kept them in the airport for 24 hours.

When they acted as Tour Guides for 35 people to New York City with McCoy's Tours of Kingston, they arrived in that city at 3:00 p.m. and the 27 hour blackout started one hour later! Recently, they spent three weeks in Nova Scotia, only to be caught in the midst of the disasters of Hurricane Juan!

Maybe they could post their next destination ahead of time!

Jeannie and Guido Visintin had better luck when they travelled to the East Coast this fall. They had beautiful, mild weather with only one day of rain!

On October 23rd, Deb Kimmet performed her one-woman show, "North of Normal - A Comedy from A Broad" at the Grand Theatre. Probably a third of the full house were Islanders and it was touch and go whether everyone would get on the 11:30 p.m. ferry home that night! Deb kept everyone laughing for 2 hours, while she talked about growing

up in Napanee, moving to Toronto and then back to Amherst Island as well as many other subjects many of us could relate to!!

Congratulations Deb, Great Show!

The annual Masquerade was held on October 25th with another great turnout by young and old. Kids enjoyed games and costume contests, while their parents and other adults participated in the apple peeling contest and some entered the costume contest. There are always lots of laughs, fun and surprises at the Masquerade.

Well, Fall is officially here, with wind and rain and even an all night thunderstorm. Rumours have it that there have even been snow flurries! The clocks have turned back an hour and we lose a little more of our evening light. There are hundreds of geese everywhere as they gather to head south, and I'm guessing there are other seldom seen birds and fowl passing through on their way south, as there seem to be more birdwatchers on the roads recently. (There was even a rare bird, with a birdwatcher in hot pursuit, at the Masquerade!)



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Freda Youell



As our P.R.O. Nancy Dunn was "out of town" I am doing the report of the October 15th meeting held at St. Paul's Church Hall. We were pleased at the number of guests and members present as it was such a terrible evening with those high winds blowing everything around. The tossing of the Ferry was an experience for our guest speaker Dan Clost of Connon Nursery, and so was arriving at Millhaven to wave goodbye to the crew as they left the dock at 6:32 p.m.

Waiting at the hall and realizing what had happened we decided to have coffee and refreshments first, however most folk had just had supper so were not ready to eat again. Now, one would think that the guest speaker being late would have been a drawback but it turned out to be an even more informative evening than planned as Jackie Sylvester and Judith Harrower gave us a talk on bulbs, from getting them planted to putting them to bed after they finish blooming.

Dan arrived a bit flustered but made a quick recovery and gave us an insight on native underused plants and trees that will easily grow in this area. Far too many to mention here but copies are being made of a list supplied by Dan and a call to me at 384-4135 will make sure that you get one. The projector bought by the Women's Institute made it's debut at this meeting and it will be available for other groups and occasions. Details are in the following article and it is one of several items that we are purchasing, all with benefiting the community in mind.

After the talk we thanked our speaker as he rushed to make sure he didn't miss the ferry on his way home. Everyone then enjoyed great refreshments provided by Kirsten Bennick and Beth Forrester and some time was spent socializing. When guests had departed members held a short meeting with usual reports being given, correspondence dealt with and Jackie Sylvester giving an update on the 2004 calendar which will soon be available. Last year they sold so quickly a lot of people were unable to buy a copy, so it would be wise to get your order in soon to avoid being disappointed. Another item on the agenda was our yearly donation list to worthy causes and we were able to increase these considerably.

Our 2003 fundraising efforts were well supported by this community and we would like to say a big THANK YOU. Without you we would not be able to carry out our projects.

In a previous report Nancy Dunn explained our "PENNIES FOR FRIENDSHIP" program. The pennies we donate each month go to a "clean-water-for-all" fund which finances sanitation projects around the world. I can't let this report go by without a big thank you to Grace and Eric Bailey who, upon reading about the above, donated a large quantity of pennies that they had been putting aside for a long time. We really do appreciate this addition to our fund.

The next meeting will be on November 19th at 7.p.m. Hope to see you there.



" There's a Maritime Continental Climate on Amherst Island..... unfortunately it depends on what side of the Island you live on!" DAN CLOST/QUOTE.

W.I. GIVES TO A.I.

- Nancy Dunn

Thanks to the generous public support of several W.I. projects over the past year, the Amherst Island Women's Institute has more than usual cash on hand and has decided to give back to the community in a tangible way. We have purchased a SOUND SYSTEM and an OVERHEAD PROJECTOR mainly for the school's use but both will be also for the use of the community at large. The items will be owned by the W.I. but will be available for any groups or individuals on the Island. The equipment will be stored at the school for easy access for classes and assemblies but can be booked by others through Freda Youell at 384-4135. Both will need to be signed for and will require a \$50.00 deposit which is recoverable when the equipment is returned in the same condition as received.

The members of the Women's Institute hope these gifts will be well used by a wide variety of people on Amherst Island. Stay tuned; more donations are being considered.

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott



Last month I was telling you about the Northern Harriers that are patrolling the fields, flying a regular low level reconnaissance mission, looking for voles. The females are brown with buff breasts and the males are slate grey with white breasts and underwings and have black tips on their wings. Both male and female show a prominent white rump patch.

Overnight on the 24th of October all these same fields and perches were suddenly filled by the larger Rough-legged hawks. These soaring buteos demonstrate a wonderful ability to hover in mid-air, like a helicopter, staying in one spot while hunting those tasty voles. The Rough-legged hawk is about 19 inches in length with a wing-span of 52 inches. They look about the size of our local Red-tailed hawks but must not weigh as much because unlike the Red-tailed Hawks they will sit out on the tiny tips of trees that look too delicate to hold them.

The Stella Forty Foot is an excellent spot to practise your Hawk identification skills as you can compare all three in the same field if not in the same tree. When voles are abundant there seems to be little competitiveness in searching out the next meal so all three species will feed in proximity.

On Saturday, October 25th, not only did I see Rough-legged Hawks everywhere but travelling south on the Marshall Forty Foot there were also both the light and dark phases of this bird so that the two different morphs could be compared. The one phase showing a light breast with wide black belly band and dark spots called wrist patches on the underside of the wing and the other phase showing a very dark underside of the wing with lighter lower quadrants and dark tips. Both phases show a broad dark band on the tail outlined by a narrower light band. The dark phase is sometimes a chocolate brown bird sitting in a tree with only a yellow beak for contrast.

If this is a high population year for voles

on Amherst Island then you could expect to see as many as 100 of these large raptors while birding the Island. The Rough-legged Hawk breeds in the Arctic or Subarctic regions of the Northern Hemisphere and travels in winter only far enough south to escape the severe weather and also to find sufficient food. He is at home on the Tundra or comfortable on the fields of Amherst Island. Watch for our winter visitor.

Good Birding

[Jan, October 29: stopped to talk to a birder this morning. He was excited about seeing a blue bird on the hydro wire just south of the barn near Koenders': "It was a brilliant blue, much bluer than a blue jay."]



Silhouettes on the Shore JH

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

Building Permits issued for new houses on Amherst Island, Jan. through September: 2.

Building Permit fees collected in Loyalist for the same period: \$150,392.

Inspections associated with these fees: 1182.

The electrical power outage in August and its effect within Loyalist Township prompted a report to Council by Diane Pearce, CAO. The Township's response appears to have been adequate with the usual glitches to be improved upon.

[The recent challenges to our social and technical infrastructures - 2 ice storms, SARS, hydro outage - can be likened to viral attacks on our bodies: we either develop the necessary antibodies or we are in big trouble. The lessons learned will go a long way to maintaining and improving the comfortable lifestyle that the majority of Canadians enjoy.]

AIMS MEETING

October 18

- John Kuti

Chair, Zander Dunn; Acting Secretary, Neil Johnston; Treasurer, Jim Whitton; 19 members in attendance.



Zander welcomed Terry Culbert as a new member and thanked Ross Haines for re-designing the name tags in corporate Dunn orange. We were then obligated to sing 'Happy Birthday' to Ross!

Allan Glenn thanked all members who helped with the school yard cleanup.

On behalf of the executive Zander Dunn reported as follows: AIMS breakfast meetings will continue to be held on the second Saturday of each month with the two exceptions of April and October when the meetings will be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month due to conflicts with Easter and Thanksgiving.

The executive proposed that AIMS host a Tea on Sunday November 16th from 3-5PM so that members' wives can meet. John Munro and John Kuti agreed to chair the project. This was approved by the membership.

A number of Island organizations have been approached to cater AIMS breakfasts



Peter Large, SCA

so that AIMS can give back to the community. To date ISLE has offered to serve the following months: November '03, January, February and March '04. A motion was passed to guarantee a minimum of twenty (20) or \$100 less expenses for each catered breakfast.

John Kuti volunteered to develop a speaker's list on a variety of topics for future meetings. Content to be kept to one half hour. In addition, John will make recommendations on how excess AIMS revenue can best be spread among Island Community Groups and needy residents.

It was also proposed that the executive committee would serve one year terms with replacements nominated in June and elections to be held in September.

After learning that the Women's Institute was exploring providing a commercial dishwasher to the Community Centre, it was agreed that AIMS would financially support this project.

John Munro told the story about a \$30,000 single donor contribution from Walter Charman to his Y-Knot Marathon. Walter lives at Halliwell House in Picton and is involved with the Halliwell House News Hounds who have actively followed John's swims this summer. John then presented a fund raising opportunity in which AIMS would sell Andy Higgins' soon to be released book **Best Coaches- Best Practices**. The membership agreed to proceed

with this project

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 8th, with ISLE catering and cleaning up and Terry Culbert as our next speaker.

A member speaks out:

Dayle Gowan was born on a farm south of Hamilton in Hagersville. His father was in the plumbing, heating and electrical business which lead Dayle logically into electrical engineering at University of Waterloo. In '67 he graduated, married a teacher from Muskoka called Eloise and got a job with Nortel. Four years later he joined Nortel Research in Ottawa. In the '70s he transferred to Nortel's communications group where he worked in research and development and customer support. In '83 Dayle and Eloise were posted in Germany and Eloise had the opportunity to explore most European countries. In '84 it was back to Ottawa and to work away until his retirement in 2002.

The Gowans got to know Amherst Island through Dayle's sister Diane Pearce and as they visited over time ...the place just grew on them as it was a totally different world from Ottawa. Over time they bought a couple of pieces of land and finally the Bill Sipple cottage down at the Foot. For all of us who have seen it morph over the past two years...it certainly isn't a cottage any more. All that remains is for Dayle and Elly is to sell in Ottawa and become permanent Amherst Island residents.

Meeting Adjourned.

NEILSON STORE MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTRE

- Claire Jenney

Madden's Courtyard was the elegant setting on October 22nd for a gala dinner/wine tasting featuring Inniskillin Reserve wines. In addition to creating a gourmet 5-course meal, Tom Madden organized a raffle to benefit the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre on Amherst Island.



Fred Neilson in front of the store, many years ago.

Local businesses donated generously and the delighted winners were:

1st prize - Audrey Jones - gift certificates from Joy's Hair and Spa, Bath Foodtown, the Melon Patch and a gift basket from Enchanted Shores.

2nd prize – Janet Grace – gift certificates from Milestone Antiques, Loyalist Flowers and Nostalgia Station

3rd prize – Gary Nightingale – Weasel and Easel Martin birdhouse built by Allan Glenn

4th prize – Earl Markle – gift certificate from Madden's Courtyard, two dog collars from Dr. Mark Dewolde, Veterinarian

The raffle raised \$465.00 toward the renovation of the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre. Many thanks to all who made the evening such a delightful success.



HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

Looking over some bills for new and used parts for our tractors makes me wonder what it would cost to put a 20-year old tractor together with used parts (where possible) and new (where necessary). Assuming no assembly costs, would it be 5 times what the tractor cost new? Ten times? ***

There was a very interesting article in the Forum page of the October 25 Whig-Standard. Terence Cottrell writes about discovering an old book that was given to Henry Kerr Filson by his sister Minn, Christmas 1912.

Mr. Cottrell plans to give the book to Minn's granddaughter, Beth For-ester.

Reader's Digest FINANCE has just informed me that I have qualified for a \$30,000.00 cash prize if I return the enclosed coupon. I am certain that if I return the coupon I will qualify to purchase a subscription to Reader's Digest along with the opportunity to buy other products.

Helen Miller and Peter Trueman are quoted in THE ISLANDS section of The Whig-Standard's Special Edition for Thanksgiving, October 13.

From the latest "Cat Tales", published by the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, there is an interesting article entitled "The Common Crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos)".

"In the winter, crows roost together by the hundreds or even thousands. One of these large flocks is called a 'murder'. Fortunately, crows winter in Mexico and South America so we don't see these large groups up here. Unfortunately, they can become infected with West Nile virus in the south which they can bring back here in the spring.

From the August OFA newsletter: to make one pound of honey, bees must fly about 50,000 miles and visit over 2 ½ million flowers.

INTERVIEW with RALPH, BEA & NEILSON WEMP

- Zander of DUNN INN

When I entered the home of Ralph and Bea Wemp, which Fred Neilson (years ago) declared was the oldest house in Stella, I was welcomed by my hosts who introduced me to Ralph's brother, Neilson, back on the Island for a visit. I am a neighbour on McDonald's Lane so I often wave to the Wemps as I drive home.

Ralph and Bea, who live at 5580 Front Rd (although they are closer to the lane),

told me the deed for their house does not mention McDonald's Lane, but speaks of Polley's Lane. Whether they live on Front Road, McDonald's Lane or Polley's lane, they are important to Amherst Island.

John Neilson, born February 14, 1917, and Ralph Arnold, born September 24, 1920, have roots on this Island that go back to the beginning of its recorded history. The Wemps were originally Wemples of Dutch ancestry who settled in New York State. The great-great-great-grandfather of Neil and Ralph, whom they think was the first white settler on the Island, came to Canada as a United Empire Loyalist. A plaque on the Front Road memorializes the arrival and contributions of The Wemps to the Island.

Neil and Ralph's parents were Arnold Edward Wemp and Kathleen Downey Neilson. It was her father, James, who started Neilson's store. Kathleen's brothers, Rod and Fred, ran the store together until Rod lost his sight and moved to Kingston. Neil and Ralph are brothers to three sisters - Helen Frances (Miller), Marjorie Kathleen (Tooke) and Jean Muriel (Tugwell).



Ralph, Bea & Neilson Wemp

ZD

They all grew up on the farm near the Head of the Island at 550 Art McGinn Rd where David and Betty Wemp live today, although Neilson was born across the road, in a house which is no longer there.

The boys have good memories of No. 4 Public School on the Emerald Forty Foot to which they had to walk two miles through the snow in the winter. Winter must have been their favourite season because they remember best the bob sled runs they took down the roads which were always icy. Six kids would pile on one sled and zoom down the hill with no fear of traffic because only horses and sleds travelled the roads and could be seen far away.

Neilson's first teacher was Miss Lauder, "wee, but mighty." Edith Scott was Ralph's first teacher and Miss Taylor taught both boys. Ralph's last teacher was Clarence Hogeboom whom he highly respected.

The pupils feared the teachers who could discipline them with the strap. Nevertheless the students outnumbered the teachers 36 to 1 and often gave the teachers a rough time. Both boys, however, felt they had received a good education. Ralph

got to high school for only a month before his father died in 1936. He had to give up education to run the farm. The family farm was a mixed-farming business. Milk was the main product but sheep, pigs and poultry were raised for family consumption and large gardens produced vegetables for the family also.

Neil and Ralph remember how the Dramatic Club at Emerald built the Hall to present plays, encourage dances and host euchre parties. One of the highlights of the year was the

Hallowe'en Masquerade Dance which the whole Island attended. Talk about the Emerald Hall brought smiles from Neil who recalled some of the plays in which he acted and some of the fights, caused by too much alcohol, which broke out at the dances. Some Islanders made their own alcohol and various bootleggers came through to sell their wares.

The Wemps were devoted members of Christ Church Anglican in Emerald. Their mother, Mrs. Kathleen Wemp, was the organist and the family occupied the second pew from the front. Mr. Dixon and Mr. Leach were two of the church leaders both Ralph and Neil remember. Ralph recounted how special services were held every Wednesday evening during Lent. One Wednesday night Mr. Leach preached to a congregation of two - their mother and Annie McDonald. He, however, made it worth their while, for he preached for two hours! When Annie McDonald was asked what the sermon was about she replied, "I have no idea. I'm deaf, you know."

Christmas was a highlight of the year. After worshipping in Emerald the whole

family would bundle into a sleigh to drive to Stella for a wonderful meal at the Neilson residence. Two big turkeys were cooked. One graced each end of the long table which was burdened with many vegetable and fruit dishes. Over 20 hungry people sat down to eat. The family returned to the farm after 11 p.m. happy and tired. On New Year's day all the Stella relatives came to the farm to enjoy an equally wonderful meal.

Neil remembers one night ride when their mother was holding Jean, the baby, in her arms in the front seat of the two seater sleigh. There was not much snow on the road so their father had to weave to hit the white patches. In trying to avoid a black patch he guided the sleigh up onto a stone fence and everybody fell out when the rig overturned. But their mother emerged unscathed with Jean still sleeping in her arms.

Neil and Ralph both joined the armed services when The Second World War broke out. Neil became a member of the R.C.A.F. He trained as an armament tech and was sent to Sydney, Nova Scotia, to look after the guns, bombs and shells on that base. He thought the Air Force had forgotten him because he remained there for the whole war. He got fed up watching others going overseas into action. When the war in Europe ended Neil signed up to fight in the Pacific. He got as far as Moncton, New Brunswick, when the U.S. dropped the Atomic Bomb and it was all over.

Ralph signed up in November, 1941 and was sent overseas in June, 1942. He trained with his unit, the 12th Field



Ralph Wemp and Neilson Wemp, brothers in uniform

...photo from Helen Miller

Company of Engineers, in England until the fall of 1943 when he was sent to North Africa. His unit then worked their way up through Italy until March 1945 when they were sent to Holland. Their task, in Holland, was to install a Bailey bridge (a floating bridge), in one night, to replace the last bridge destroyed. The Bailey bridges were constructed in three units and then floated down river to be put into place. While they were anchoring the units one broke loose from a neighbouring group - the 14th Field Company - and had to be retrieved and brought back. The pontoons closest to land had to be deflated so the traffic could get off safely. Ralph tells how one pontoon was not cooperating so the officer in charge took a large sledge hammer and began to bang holes into it. A superior officer upbraided him, "Do you realize these pontoons cost \$1100 to \$1200 each?" The younger officer replied (using forceful language) he

didn't care how much they cost, he just wanted to get the job done and get his men out of harm's way. No Canadians were lost on that job that night.

When the war ended Neil had trouble getting free of the military because they had lost all his documents. It took three months before they were found. Neil returned to a job with an oil company in Kingston. Then he worked on the old wooden Amherst Islander as the purser for one season. From there he went to Toronto and then back to the Island to take care of the farm for the summer.

Neil had seen plenty of the East; now he wanted to see Western Canada. He wound up in Duncan, on Vancouver Island, working with the Hudson's Bay Company for a year before he transferred to the C.P.R. where he met an attractive teacher, Jean Kerr, in Chemamus. They were married in 1949 out West and Mrs. Wemp Sr. went out for the wedding.

Before long Neil and his wife moved to Kelowna where he helped his father-in-law with his irrigation business. Later Neil got into horse-breeding, raising and racing them. It was only last year that Neil's wife died. But Neil continues to live in Kelowna and hopes to get to Amherst Island once a year.

The fire of this summer was a nightmare for all the people of Kelowna. Neil's house was not threatened but his son's family had to move in with him for a week when the fire got too close to their home.

When Ralph returned home from the

war he married, in June, 1947, Beatrice (Bea) Reid, daughter of David Reid who was a brother to Gordon Reid. The Reids used to live just west of The Anniversary House. The wedding took place in Christ Church and the reception was held at the Reid home. For a year Ralph and Bea lived in the house where Caroline Yull lives now until Ralph could get things fixed up for them on the farm he had bought (which was to become Piet Witteveen's farm). There they lived and worked until 1952. He sold that farm and the family moved to where David and Betty Wemp live today.

David helped his father and became a partner. Ralph later sold his shares in the farm to David. Then Ralph and Bea moved to the house in which they reside today which had been her mother's house at one time. Ralph continued to help out at the farm for wages.

As a young man, Ralph used to move livestock for his uncle, Fred Neilson. With team and sled Ralph often crossed the ice. One winter, when the ice was thick he made 16 crossings in one week and his uncle paid him \$32 or \$2 a trip - which he considered good pay.

Ralph admits to having crossed on some thin ice. His uncle, Fred, always shipped pigs and calves on Mondays. But one Monday he had too many for Ralph so he assigned the extra animals to William McCormick who crossed the ice up at Fish Point because a long pressure crack had opened up. It was nerve-racking business and to show his appreciation Fred Neilson had ordered a bottle of liquor to be delivered on the mainland to reward the men. William McCormick refused the bottle because he wanted to be sober and careful when he tackled the perilous conditions and the widening crack in the ice on the return trip. When he got safely back to the Island, he then exclaimed, "Where's that baby now?"

Ralph recalls the winter of 1971 when the snowfall shut down the Island. Nothing could move on the roads although the snow machines drove over fences and fence posts in the fields. The milk was transported to the cheese fac-

tory by snow machines over fields and over the snow-covered ice to Stella.

Today Ralph keeps active by "getting in the way" at the farm and by driving the tractor during the haying season. Ralph and Bea's home is the centre of youth activity - especially in the Spring and the Fall. Relatives and their friends congregate to play ball games in the spacious grounds or just to sit on the porch and talk. They feel at home there and Ralph and Bea are happy to have them. The young people brighten the day for the Wemps who, when they are not entertaining young people, often go for walks through the village. They feel fortunate that both Helen Miller and Jean Tugwell are so close by and that Marjorie comes to visit so often.

Neil, Ralph and Bea all agree that the Island is quieter now than it was many years ago. There are more big, modern homes, more new people, more retired folk, more seasonal residents, fewer operating farms. It used to be they knew everybody on the Island; not now. All of which makes it less likely people will get together for major social occasions. Ralph commented that people come to the Island to get away from the rush of the city. But they soon want to change the slow Island to be as frenetic as the city.

Ralph observed that with Earle Tugwell now living in Lenadco, he and Doug Wilson are the last veterans on the Island. Many Island men and women served in the wars but Ralph is our last living native link to our war history. There are, however, many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to carry on the Wemp tradition.

Ralph and Bea's only son, David, and his wife, Betty (Ward), remain on the family farm. Their children are Robbie and Laura. Laura married Rick Welbanks and they have two sons, Alex and Jacob. (Jacob was baptized by The Rev. Faun Harriman on Thanksgiving Sunday, Oct 12, 2003, at St. Alban's Anglican Church).

Their daughter, Marie, with her husband, Brian Ward, live near David and Betty, and they have two children: a son, Stephen, and a daughter, Sherry. Sherry was married last year to Donald Sean

Miller and they live at 14175 Front Rd.

Another daughter, Joyce, is married to Grant Tetley and they have son, Stephen, and a daughter, Tina.

Their third daughter, Kathy, is married to Stewart Reed. Their two sons are Chris and Will. They live at 2320 South Shore Rd.

Their fourth daughter, Maureen, lives in Prince Edward Island with her husband, Andy Tasker, and their children, Jennifer, Heather and Jeffrey.

Neil's family consists of Brenda; Derrick (who died in a hang-gliding accident); Jill (Mrs. Paul Stringer) whose children are Kirk, Clare, Nicola, and Keith, married to Margo Simpson. Their children are Derek and Casey Marie.

As the Wemps have served the Island well in the past, it appears they have sufficient off-spring to carry the Wemp heritage well into the future.



NOVEMBER SKIES

- Alan Kidd

We are now deep into autumn, and the great square is now overhead during the first part of the night. Mars continues to be one of the brightest objects in the sky, but is setting earlier now.

The Northeast star of the great square is actually borrowed from the constellation of Andromeda. The three stars that run Northeast of the square (I include the corner itself as one of the three) are the brightest stars in Andromeda. If one looks a little north of the middle of these stars, a somewhat blurry smudge of light can be seen glowing among the stars. This is the most distant object visible to the unaided eye, the great nebula in Andromeda, better known as the Andromeda galaxy. Since dark nights are essential to see the Andromeda galaxy, you'll need to wait until the latter half of November, in order to let the moon get

out of the way.

The Andromeda galaxy is at least as big as our own and contains hundreds of billions of stars. It appears dim because it is two and a half million light years away. This distance seems almost unimaginably great. Especially when you consider light takes only eight minutes to cross the 150 million kilometers that separate us from the sun. However, the Andromeda galaxy is our next door neighbour in terms of intergalactic distances. The most distant galaxies that have been observed are some eight billion light years away. As it says in the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*: "The Universe is really big".

On the night of November 13th at around 10 p.m. (the exact time is not critical) there is a nice grouping in the sky. The Moon, Saturn, and the twin stars of Castor and Pollux (in the constellation Gemini) are all close together. The moon is waning but only a few days past full, so the little grouping will rise about 9 p.m. and be visible the rest of the night. I've indicated its position on the chart.

Jupiter is now a very noticeable object in the early morning sky. Venus will start to make an appearance in the morning sky in December.

On the chart I've added Gemini, as well as the positions of the Andromeda Galaxy and Saturn.



TC

AMHERST ISLAND COWBOY

- Terrence Patrick Culbert

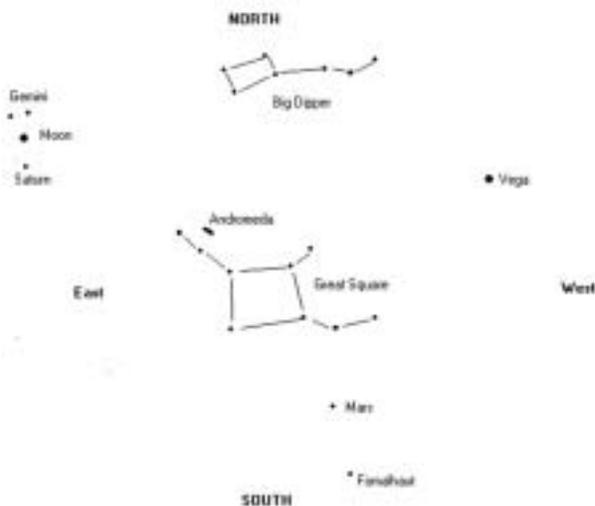
On a farm near Adolphustown, Glen Mack and his family wake to the sound of the alarm clock every morning at 6:15. Monday to Friday, Glen's sons Shawn and Kyle do the barnyard chores, enabling their father time to catch the 7:30 ferry to Amherst Island. Glen is the pasture manager of Quinte Community Pasture on Second Concession Road.

At forty-three, the third generation farmer raises beef cattle and horses. "We stand three stallions, breed mares and break horses for people," he told me. With breakfast out of the way, the shorter, stockier version of the 'Marlboro Man', puts on a baseball cap instead of a cowboy hat, then kisses his wife Debbie as he heads for the door. Before leaving the house, he reaches down and picks up his coveted prize, a silver belt buckle engraved with the words: 'Metcalf Fair 2003'.

Memories of that day fill Glen's mind as he shines it on his shirt sleeve, then sets it back on the shelf. The male members of the Mack family are honest to goodness cowboys. They all ride quarter horses and compete in barrel racing throughout Quebec and the Ottawa Valley. "In Metcalfe, my 17-year old son Kyle and I went in as a team for the 'Around the Ring' events. We both won belt buckles," he said. "That was my first!" The pride in his voice was unmistakable.

Shortly after eight, Glen pulls his Ford F350 Lariat Super Power, fifth-wheel pickup with an extended cab onto the lane of the Quinte Community Pasture. From the first of May until the end of October, he mends fences and cares for 563 head of cattle on the 1250-acre spread. "These animals are owned by twenty-five different farmers," Glen told me. "One farmer has fifty head, while another has only five. The owners are from Sterling, Tamworth, the Napanee area and only five of the cattle are from here on the Island." The young livestock are weighed when they arrive at the Pasture. For an animal 700-pounds and under, the owners are charged seventy dollars for the season. Over 700-pounds there's additional expenses, as the cattle eat more grass and gain less weight.

Glen brings a new, young horse to the Island each year in order to break it in. "Last year I was at the far end of the Pasture, when 'Miles' decided to buck me off," he said with a grin. "I snuck up and caught it, gave it a big kiss and climbed back on. There was no way I was going to walk all the way to the barn." That was not to be the only incident of finding himself unceremoniously on the



NOTE: Hold chart over head to line up North, West and East properly.



Glen Mack, the Amherst Island Cowboy, barrel racing at the Picton Fair in 2001.

ground. "Recently I was riding 'Shy', my 3-year old mare. We were walking close to an electric fence, when she stepped on an old, dry thistle. The sound of a crack made 'Shy' leap up from underneath me. You soon learn to hang onto the reins when you go down. Over the years I've learned how important it is to keep a close eye on your electric fences. I'm a believer that the cows take turns drawing straws each day to see if the fence is working. If it isn't, they're out!"

As we stood talking, Glen produced a pistol from a leather holster. "I also check the cattle for foot-rot, pink-eye and pneumonia. I can shoot this dart gun right from my horse. I treat the animals with penicillin and other medications," he said.

During the last week of October, trucks arrived on Amherst Island to transport the cattle back to the mainland. Shawn and Kyle took turns helping their dad with the roundup. Shawn took a week off from his busy career as a farrier. At twenty, he has already built up an incredible reputation as great blacksmith. He graduated from the Oklahoma State Horse Shoeing School in Ardmore, Oklahoma, at the age of seventeen. Today he's one of the youngest farriers in North America.

The position of pasture manager is renewed annually and Glen hopes the Quinte Community Pasture's Board of

Directors will renew his contract at their November meeting. I asked Glen if there were days when he didn't feel like taking the ferry ride? He looked at me with a grin on his face and said: "I enjoy it! It doesn't bother me a bit. I can even take a snooze. Where else do you get paid to ride a horse six hours a day, three days a week? I really enjoy it over here." I asked him if it got lonely working the Pasture on his own? "My horse understands a lot of English, but it won't talk much," he said with a chuckle.

LETTER HOME

- Christopher Kennedy

There is no doubt that fall has arrived. We are finally getting a lot of wet and windy days. The trees are almost bare, and there is standing water in the low spots in the pastures. The sheep have good fleeces, and the wet doesn't seem to bother them at all. We had the shearer in last week, and he sheared about 400 lambs, and they are tucked away in the big barn. When they are shorn they grow better, and the buyers at the Stockyards in Cookstown can better see what they are buying. Unfortunately the wool is worth very little, despite the price of a wool sweater in the stores. Most of the cost of woolen garments is in the washing and spinning and manufacturing and the retail store.

We still have two very healthy looking foxes in the pastures out towards the light-house. The Border Collies love to chase them, though they must know they do not have a hope of catching them. There are also coyotes around, as they cleared up a road-killed deer completely in about two weeks last month. All I could find left were the antlers and the spine. Usually foxes and coyotes do not share territories very well, as they compete for food, but perhaps there are enough voles around to keep them all fed.

Despite reports in the papers and on the radio the BSE crisis is far from over. Some boneless beef under thirty months of age is moving south. There is still no export of live cattle or any meat from over thirty month animals, and no lamb going south at all. Prices are still a disaster, with more animals coming ready all the time. Most beef and sheep farmers are looking at losing money after working all year. The only way out of this wreck is for the border to open. Several representatives from the Canadian Sheep Federation and the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency went down to Washington earlier this month to lobby the United States Department of Agriculture. They managed to meet with an Assistant Deputy to the Secretary of Agriculture, which I gather is quite high up, and then to meet with him afterwards at a barbeque, which is probably where most of the business is done. They said the Canadian Embassy was very helpful and worked very hard in arranging meetings and contacts.

It will be a long, slow process getting the border further opened. The USDA has to publish the proposed regulations, and then there is usually a 60 day period for comments. Then the comments have to be considered, the regulations rewritten and published, and only then might live animals start to cross the border. If we are very lucky this might be in January, but March is a much more likely date.

In the meantime we will send the best looking lambs that we can to the market, and hope that four tractor-trailer loads from out west do not arrive at the same time. *****



FALL PLANTING

Peter Large, SCA

REMEMBERING

- Ida Gavlas

Lest we forget our fathers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers and those away here and now.

lets remember the past and hope for the future.

Lets remember that we have a safe place to live.

Lets remember we owe it to those past and present who serve their country.

Lets remember we can speak out. We have democracy.

Lets remember who gave so much for us to have our freedom, wealth, health, happiness.

Lets remember those who did not come home and those who will not come home this time.

Lest we forget, take the time to stop, remember and hope for the safe return of those overseas now.

Take the time to stop what you are doing and have that minute silence at the eleventh hour of the eleventh month of the eleventh day.

In remembrance of those we knew I am truly thankful.

Does anyone have a picture of the remembrance day parade our Legion branch use to have?

Do you remember all our own veterans marching through Stella to the cairn at the school? Do you remember them marching so smartly with their flags, sad memories I am sure they carried with them? Do you remember Mrs. Kearney laying the wreaths? Do you remember the last post? Do you remember the reading of the roll call? Do you know we have a roll of honour for those who served and died in the municipal building in Stella?

Do you think you can take the time to collectively think PEACE when you have your minute of silence on Remembrance Day?

WATERSIDE SUMMER SERIES 2004

- Bill Harris

Plans for the 2004 Waterside Summer Series were discussed by the organizing committee at their October 8th meeting.

Based on the artistic and financial achievements of the 2003 season, the committee confirmed its intent to build on this success.

Artistic Director, Inka Brockhausen, recommended that one major improvement for next season will be a better quality of piano. While the Anton Kuerti concert was able to obtain the loan of a grand piano, other concerts requiring a piano - the Gloria Saarinen and Bruce Kelly concerts - had to make do with Inka's small piano which she had loaned to St. Paul's. Not having a full-sized piano restricts the choice of programming and therefore the availability of performers.

The committee agreed that the five concert format will be maintained for next year. Based on this year's experience, it was recommended that the first concert not be before the July 1 holiday, and the last concert not after Labour Day. There was general agreement

that St. Alban's should continue to be used because of its founding role in the Series and because of its excellent organ.

Record attendance in 2003, up over a third from the previous year, resulted in two sold out concerts - the Anton Kuerti- Kristine Bogyo concert in July and the Nightsun concert in August. With such a high demand for tickets, the ticket policy of requiring pre-payment for tickets will be extended to all concerts next year.

The committee recognized the important role of Sponsors in support of achieving the quality of music that our audience evidently appreciates. The doubling of 2003 sponsor support compared to the previous year was a major factor in permitting the committee to bring Anton Kuerti to Amherst Island. Another important factor was the role of Eric Friesen who brought the Waterside Summer Series to Anton Kuerti's attention. The committee thanks Eric for agreeing to collaborate again in the search for a celebrity performer for 2004.

The committee also expressed its



The folding dock in Emerald

thanks to all those volunteers who assisted throughout the season; to the five different caterers who supplied refreshments; to St Alban's and St. Paul's for the use of their facilities; and to our audience, - over half of whom were from the Island or guests of Islanders.

Anyone interested in volunteering or with suggestions for future concerts please call Inka Brockhausen at 389-3525.

DAYDREAMING WHILE WALKING MY DOGS

- Terrence Patrick Culbert

Without a fenced yard, the need to walk Merlot and Justin, my two Bouviers at least twice a day seemed daunting at first. I quickly learned that those extended walks are not only beneficial to the dogs, but also to their owner. It's during these walks that my 61-year old mind goes into overdrive. On a recent outing, my head filled with images from my many trips overseas to the UK and Ireland as I headed west with my four-legged friends on Front Road past St. Alban's Anglican Church.

I was transported back to England on a chilly, overcast autumn afternoon as

we approached the top of the grade, where the road slopes gently around the curve. Well-maintained gardens and homes stood beside us, and in the distance, a cluster of old barns, with a healthy herd of Limosine-Charolais-cross cattle grazed in the pasture. Merlot and Justin watched in silence as they passed the inquisitive beasts. This scene brought back memories of my visits to Hawes, Askrigg, Skipton, Thirsk and Masham in North Yorkshire. I have always felt a special kinship to these places because of my love for the late James Herriot's series: *All Creatures Great and Small*, the wonderful stories and films of veterinary life in rural England before World War II.

As we walked, the street was void of cars and people, probably because of

the impending rainstorm. I remember a similar day in Yorkshire where I ducked into a village pub to sit out the rain, warm myself by the roaring fire and sip a pint of dark ale. As is the custom, canines are allowed to accompany their owners and can be found in many of the British pubs.

I was quickly brought back to reality as the rain started to fall. We moved quickly past the Harbourview Bed and Breakfast and the Victoria Hall Tea Room. In the windows of two neighbouring homes, lace curtains were pulled aside, their owners peering out to check the inclement weather. Walking by, I received a friendly wave from both residents. To my right, the lights shone from the interior of The Back Kitchen. I could al-

JH

most smell the aroma of fish and chips wafting through the air. Just then the rain began to pelt down. Pulling on Merlot and Justin's leads, we picked up the pace and began to jog. From the doorway of the Amherst Island General Store, the distinctive and unmistakable voice of Freda Youell called out: "Better hurry Terry, before you get drenched!"



TC

TOWN TIRE

- Kathy Filson

We have just opened Town Tire at 1381 Midland in Kingston, just south of the Kingston Town Office. We have tires for passenger cars, light trucks, ATVs, golf carts, go-karts, lawn & garden and trailers. We are the exclusive distributor for Aurora tires in Kingston. Our tires are competitively priced and our service can't be beat!

My father is Grant Filson who grew up on the Island in the house next to the General Store (now Bob Horth's house). My grandfather was Dave Filson who was the Island vet; the front half of the kitchen was his surgery. My grandmother was Mary Fleming who taught school on the South Shore. She was "Aunt Mary" to most of the Island. I think she was related to practically everyone on Island in one way or another.

We still have many relatives still living on the Island like Anna Hitchins, Elsie Willard, Harry & Garry Filson, plus many, many more people. My sister, Jan Sydorko, purchased Helen Bulch's house in the Village earlier this year which has allowed us to visit much more often than before.

Friends and family on and off the Island and readers of the Beacon will receive an extra discount. Town Tire is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 to 7:00, and Saturdays from 8:00 to 3:00. We can be reached at 613-384-9004 or 1-800-205-7963.

Come in for a cup of coffee and lets figure out our Island connection!



Fall on the North Shore - Whiting's house on the Front Road

DT



Wayne Fleming's old barn on the Third.

JH

THANK YOU NOTES

I would like to thank the First Response for coming so quickly after my fall. It is certainly wonderful that we have these trained people to help us in an emergency.

Thank you also to my family for helping me then and still are! Thanks to all my friends for the phone calls, flowers and goodies.

Ann-Marie Hitchins

We, the family of Carl, would like to thank everyone for the caring, food, cards, visits, and, most of all, the heartfelt gestures in our time of need.

Thank you all very much.

Thank you to the Islanders who supported me by attending and promoting this show to your friends. It was just a great gift to me to have you all there. Your support and laughter gave me courage to tell my story.

Deborah Kimmett



It's that time of year again...

DT

I would like to thank my family, friends, and neighbours, for the love and support shown to me, and for the many cards, visits, and goodies sent to my home. But most of all I thank you for your prayers offered on my behalf, for which I am very grateful. I feel truly blessed.

Sincerely, Syke Fleming.

AUTOMATED VOTE COUNTING SYSTEM

The new automated vote counting system, for the 2003 Election will make voting easy and results will arrive quickly after the end of voting. This is how it works: the Vote Tabulator uses paper ballots and the system collects permanent, physical records of voter choices. It provides an audit trail to confirm election results and accommodates traditional recounting procedures. Once a voter has obtained his or her ballot from the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) at the polling station, the voter will proceed

into the voting booth and fill in the ovals beside the name of the candidate of choice. The ballot will be placed in a secrecy folder and given to another DRO who will put the ballot in the machine in the presence of the voter. The ballot is scanned and the information is stored on a memory card. The ballot immediately drops into a sealed box. Once polls close, the tabulator counts and tabulates the ballots at the polling stations. Results will be transmitted to the Election Office immediately. Votes cast on Election Day will be combined with Advance Poll results and will be displayed on a screen at the municipal office in Odessa. The use of vote tabulators has enabled the Clerk/Returning Officer to reduce the number of Voting Locations and also the number of election workers. Election Day is Monday, November 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Amherst Island residents (Ward 1) will vote at the Stella Ferry Office.

Electors who have not received a voting card should contact the Election Office – 386-7351, ext. 122 to ensure they are on the Voters' List.

KIRK DUNN at the GRAND

Zander and Nancy still have tickets at group rate of \$14. for "Billy Bishop Goes to War" - two hours of humour, song and storytelling about World War I, starring their son Kirk and a pianist. A few seats on the bus leaving at 5 p.m. and stopping for supper at the Chinese Palace on Bath Road are still available.

Call the Dunns at 634-0465. The performance is Fri. November 21 at 7:30 p.m.

CALENDARS

Order your copy of the WI Island Sights 2004 Calendar today! Calendar are \$10.00 each. Cheques payable to Amherst Island Women's Institute. Call or drop off order with Freda Youell 384-4135 (345 Stella Forty-Foot in the village).

CHRISTMAS TEA & SALE

The PCW will hold their annual Christmas Tea & Sale on Saturday, November 22, from 12 noon to 3 p.m., at the Community Centre.

Admission is \$3.00.

Come and enjoy lunch, crafts, baking, books, and many other treasures.

RAWLEIGH PRODUCTS

As of December 31, 2003, I will no longer be selling Rawleigh Products.

I would like to thank all my customers over the past 26 years.

Barb Reid





Auld Lang Syne Dance & Dine

Doors open at 6:30 pm
Traditional Hip of Beef Dinner at 7:30 pm

Featuring music by Gary and Mickie Code
And the Running Kind Band

Advance Tickets Only
Limited Seating
No Jeans

New Years Eve
At the
Community Centre

\$50.00 / couple \$25.00 / single

Tickets Now Available from:

Bonnie & Allen Caughey 389-5729
Andrea Cross & Bruce Burnett 634-9734
Susan & Garry Filson 384-7866

The Women's Institute invites Islanders to experience our **2004 Calendar unveiling** at The Lodge, 320 McDonald's Lane, **Saturday November 8th 4-7 pm.**

Collect your copy of the Calendar (and don't forget extras for gifts) while still available.

Come and view all of the art submissions for the Calendar. Select your favourite (format restraints means there are wonderful submissions we couldn't include in the Calendar). Some of these works will be for sale by the artists.

Light refreshments provided

BONFIRE & FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS PARADE!

Again this year, the Amherst Island Rec Assoc. will join forces with the Amherst Island Emergency Services to hold the Annual Bonfire and Festival of Lights Parade on **November 15th.**

Parade begins at **7:00 p.m.** at St. Alban's Church (participants should be there by **6:30 p.m.**) and the parade goes through the Village to the School.

The Bonfire will follow, at the Fire Hall.

So light up your float, your vehicle, your farm machinery, maybe even your horse, and join the parade! (for safety reasons, we ask that there be no children walking or riding bikes in the parade).

If you live along the parade route, we are hoping you will have your Christmas lights on to add to the festivities.



Snow clouds on the horizon

DT

Is Truth Stranger than Fiction? You decide!

...submitted by TR

The U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides) as a combat vessel carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (i.e. fresh water distillers!). However, let it be noted that according to her log, "On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum." Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping."

--Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine.

--On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchantmen, salvaging only the rum aboard each.

--By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmed, she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whisky distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.

--The U.S.S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February, 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whisky and 38,600 gallons of stagnant water.

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL STORE

New movies for rent:
 2 Fast 2 Furious - Paul Walker
 Matrix Reloaded - Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishberne
 The In-Laws - Michael Douglas, Albert Brooks
 Daddy Day Care - Eddie Murphy
 Anger Management - Adam Sandler, Jack Nicholson
 Bend It Like Beckham
 Identity - John Cusack, Ray Liotta
 Holes - Walt Disney
 The Core - Aaron Eckhart, Hillary Swank
 Lord of the Rings: The 2 Towers plus many more to choose from
 New Releases: Now \$3.75
 Older Titles: \$1.49
 Store Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**VICTORIA HALL
 CRAFTS & TEA ROOM**

-New winter hours for lunch afternoon teas and early dinners Noon to Six Wednesdays to Sunday,
 -New and improved menu includes Godden Pork and Willard Lamb Sausages on homemade garlic and Parmesan cheese buns with Napa salad.
 -Hot specials include homemade soups, lasagna, and smoked ham & cheesy macaroni.
 -Hall available for private functions.
 -Wednesdays are card days from 1:30-4:00 ...Call 389-5389 if you plan to attend.

Christmas Crafts Gift Suggestions:

- Tea Room Gift Certificates
- John Munro Y-Knot T-Shirts @ \$10.00 each
- Commemorative Swim buttons @ \$3.00 each
- Shirley Miller cards and painting
- Tole painted Island sap buckets & milk cans
- Topsy Farm wool products
- Quilts and throws by local quilters
- Local Authored Books
- Tom Sylvester's Loyalist Roots
- Cycling Tours @ \$8.00
- John Kuti's Archtypes of Self

Esteem @ \$25.00
 Nicole Florent's Walk, Hike or Jog Kingston @ \$20.00
 Hans Krauklis Amherst Island Video @ \$16.95

For reservations call Bernice or Neil @ 389-5389

Babysitter available

-After school and weekends.
 -Responsible.
 -Red Cross Certified
 -Cahll Whitney Fleming 389-9869



Babysitting

Red Cross Certified Babysitter. Available early evenings & weekends. Torri Phillips: 389-0512

Babysitter

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



Seasonal Winter Storage for Boats, etc., right in beautiful Downtown Stella! Indoor, reasonable rates. Dayle Gowan, 634-3815

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

The Lodge on Amherst Island

Rental available for special occasions. Call Molly at: (613) 634-1388 or (416) 533-5997 www.amherstisland.on.ca/thelodge



2 BEDROOM COTTAGE

on Stella Point: By the week or week-end, April-October. Call Molly (416) 533-5997

NORTH SHORE COTTAGE

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

SOUTH SHORE COTTAGE

for rent on private, secluded peninsula. Over 2000ft of limestone shoreline. \$650 weekly. Call (613)389-5536 for further information.

LAKESHORE RUBBER STAMP

I can provide business and art stamps, daters, signature and similar products. All stamps are custom made on the premises and can be ready in 24 hours.

Please call 389-8441 or fax 389-9770. Email: selc.welbanks@sympatico.ca

This is a home-based business and available most days. Linda Welbanks

Tim Hicks Plumbing and Heating

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

Frozen Meals Designed for Seniors

offered by Lennox and Addington Senior Outreach Services. Restricted and special diets can also be accommodated. Contact: Freda Youell at 384-4135 for menus, meal descriptions and prices.

FOR SALE:

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

Mindfulness Meditation Workshop

Developing calmness, understanding, and richness of the present moment. Saturday November 22, 2003. Jocelyne Leyton, 384-6488, 9060C Front Road.

Complementary Health

Jocelyne Leyton, RPP, has a Cranial Osteopathic practice, a manual therapy to restore health and balance to improve the overall structure of the body. For information/appointment 384-6488



LANDFILL SITE HOURS

Wed 11-2; Sat 10-noon; Sun 2-4.

FERRY OFFICE HOURS

Mon, Wed, Fri: 9-noon & 1-4
 Ferry fuel-up days are Tuesday and Friday (be prepared for a delay).

Topsy Farms:

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



Phone 389-3444 to arrange a visit to our Wool Shed or see us at www.topsyfarms.com

Ted Gow Painting, wallpapering, tiling, home maintenance and repairs.

Free estimates. Island references. 634-5404

Thomas A. Richmond, Certified Electrician.

Home, Farm & Commercial wiring and repairs, right here on the island. Ontario Electrical Safety Authority Authorized Contractor Program. 634-1855

HAY BALES FOR SALE on the Island: 40-45lb bales.

Wayne Fleming 389-9869



Bookkeeping & Property Management Services

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

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

The annual Remembrance Day Service will be held at the school on November 11th beginning at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome.

CHRISTIANITY

During the month of November, Rev. Faun Harriman will be offering an exciting new program called "Christianity 101". It is a four week Advent video/discussion series designed to ground people in the basics of the Christian faith in an inviting way. The course will inspire us about the possibilities of becoming a follower of Jesus. The program is suitable for newcomers to the faith or for long-time Church attendees who want to refresh their understanding. The course will be offered on Thursday evenings, November 6, 13, 20, 27th, from 7 p.m. to 8:45p.m. at Wilbert and Gayel Willards' home, 4895 South Shore Road. Please join us for a time of fellowship and spiritual growth.

DEATH NOTICES**WILMER CLAUDE EVES**

Died September 12, 2003, at KGH. He was the son of the late James Eves and Marion Willard. He is survived by his brother Harvey of Kingston.

CARL FREDERICK GIBSON

Died October 15, 2003, in a tragic accident. Carl was in his 36th year. He leaves behind: his parents, Bob Gibson and Dreta Sudds; his partner, Trish Abrams; his children, Traci and Stacy; his stepchildren, Courtney and Josh; his brothers, Jack, Tom, Jerry, Jim and Hugh; his sisters, Jane and Mai; and, many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

REGINALD STEPHEN HITCHINS

Died October 15, 2003, in a tragic accident. Reg was in his 30th year. He leaves behind: his parents, Garry and Anne-Marie; his grandmother, Anna; his sisters, Tracy and Heidi; his girlfriend, Pam Perry; and, his aunts, uncles, cousins, and many friends.

LEONARD KEITH ORCHARD

Died October 26, 2003, at KGH. He is survived by: his sister, Chris Gregg; his two daughters, Brenda Potter and Linda Boast; his son, Barry; his grandchildren; and, his nephew, Allan Glenn.

LOUISE VAN DUYN SEAMAN

Died October 13, 2003, in Cloyne. Louise was in her one hundredth year. She was a former Island resident. She is survived by her daughter Lorna Seaman, granddaughter Debbie Blenkhorn, and, nephew Peter Trueman.

JAMES DOUGLAS SCOTT

Died peacefully at home in his 82nd year. Jim was a long-time summer resident of Amherst Island. He leaves behind: his wife, Flora; his children, Sylvia, Paul; Carolyn, and Jill; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jim was a forester, a WW2 veteran, and an original member of the Fort Henry Guard.

**MY PRECIOUS CHILD**

- Dreta Sudds
He was a bit of rascal
With patches on his jeans
Freckles on his nose
And a pocket full of beans
He collected precious gems
Some would call rocks
Kept luck pennies
And strings in his socks
He loved to jump in puddles
And climb apple trees
Chased butterflies that
Darted on the breeze
He gazed at the stars
With joy and with wonder
He believed in magic
And voices in thunder

I saw in his eyes
The twinkle of mischief and fun
A sprite and an angel
All wrapped up in one
And now that he's gone
Though he may travel far
He'll still be my precious little boy
I'll always think of him
Running free and wild
Sharing his smile and love
With family and friends.

MY BROTHER CARL

- Jane McGinn

As a little boy Carl loved the outdoors even in the winter. I remember once our youngest brother skated all the way across to Bath. Carl walked with him. On the way back home Hugh's ankles were hurting, so Carl gave Hugh his boots and walked back home in his bare feet - he never liked socks. I guess that you could say that Carl would give you the shirt off his back, or the boots off his feet.

Carl enjoyed many different things but I think his favourite was camping with his two little girls and the rest of his family and friends.

If any one of us had any kind of a car problem Carl would be the first to offer to help fix it. He liked to be Mr. Fix-It. In his spare time Carl would become a painter, a carpenter, a farmer. He enjoyed haying season, hunting and he even enjoyed cooking and baking.

He was a wonderful Dad, husband, son, brother, uncle, and even a great-uncle.

