

Amherst Island BEACON



Newsstand
\$1.00 / Issue

ISSUE 266

APRIL 2000

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Canada \$19/yr
USA \$21/yr
Overseas .. \$24/yr

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Leslie Gavlas
General Delivery
Stella, Ont KOH 250
(613) 384-2807

PRODUCTION

Headlands Co-op
14775 Front Rd
Stella, Ont KOH 250
Voice (613) 389-3802
fax (613) 389-3802
e-mail

topsyfarms@
on.aibn.com

and
Caroline Ackerman
General Delivery
Stella, Ont KOH 250

PRINTED AT

KR Copy
Cat Town Centre

CREDITS

Corel WordPerfect
Suite 8 &
WP6.0 for Windows

PRODUCTION

FOR April
250 Copies



BEACON NOTES

We are late... again. Work got in the way of this enterprise plus my printer, scanner and computer all got bad cases of the hiccups. I have no idea what's what with them. There isn't time to do anything about them so its coping time.

There was a notice for a Public Meeting which was not run due to our tardiness. The meeting is to be held on Tuesday, April 18th at the Community Centre. The Township wants input on the future of the former Neilson's Store.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

- DON TUBB -

MARCH 27TH AND APRIL 10TH

This will be short because there was a distinct lack of Island specific items mentioned either at the Council meetings or in the agenda packages.

The April 10th meeting started off with a difference. The OPP showed up and showed up in strength. The reason was unclear at the start... Was Bath Hydro coming up again? Was there a delegation from the Women's Institute (those rabble rousers)? Was Kingston presenting an ultimatum on their

HE IS RISEN!

DO YOU HAVE A SENSE OF ADVENTURE?

Join us for an Easter Sunrise Service

April 23, 2000,

7 a.m.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

Dress for the Temperature and weather.

Pancake breakfast to follow in the church hall.

A free will offering basket to support an Infant Outreach Project in Baffin Island (through Amy Caughey) will be available.

intention to invade? In the end, the OPP were there to support the passing of the Policing contract. I think there were 15 officers there... 11 officers, 2 replacement officers, 2 staff officers all introduced by Inspector MacPherson. This represented all of the officers assigned to Loyalist except for one who was home too sick to come. It begged the question - Who was minding the shop? The answer was that no one was on patrol but you could look at it from another direction - all officers were instantaneously available for duty. And it made the parking lot a very safe place to be.

The Intensive Farming Operations Committee is up and running. One additional member, Steve Holmes, was added to the Committee. He is considering starting up a hog operation on MacIntyre Road which would fall into the intensive farming category.

The Groundwater Steering Committee has been appointed. Amherst Island is represented by Lance Eves, Keith Miller and Ian Murray.

The Heritage Committee has become interested in Neilson's Store. At its March 21st meeting, a motion was passed to investigate designating the Store as a historical building.

Included in the agenda package was a letter from our MPP, Leona Dombrowski. She was writing to David Turnbull, Minister of Transportation, commending the decision to pull the Amherst Islander from service. She went on to express the following opinion... *'I am also writing to indicate that it would be totally inappropriate for the Ministry to consider retrofitting this vessel. The Amherst Islander serviced the island well for many years, however, island residents now require and deserve a larger and more*

FOOD SAFETY SEMINAR

SOS AND OTHER VOLUNTEER FOOD PREPARATION WORKERS

Offered by the Kingston, Frontenac & Lennox and Addington Health Unit and supported by SOS

Where? Napanee Lions Hall
When? Thursday May 11, 2000
Time? 8:30am - 4:30pm
Cost? Free or \$10.00
 \$10.00 fee covers costs of a probe thermometer and hand-out material for those who wish to do the Certificate Examination.
 (This is a regular \$35.00 course being offered at this minimal cost to volunteer workers and friends.)

The course content will include:

- Food Safety from back door to the plate
- A review of Food Poisoning... and how to prevent it
- Food service legislation and inspection
- Temperatures for safe products
- Pest Control / management
- HACCP (Hazard Analysis, Critical Control Point Food Safety System)

There will be a 50 question, multiple choice examination at the end of the day for anyone who wants to try it. Those who score at least 70% on this test will be awarded a Food Service Certificate, valid for three years, that is recognized throughout Ontario as meeting the requirements of the food service training standards of the Ministry of Health of this Province.

In the past three years, everyone of the 380 people who attended this course and wrote the test has passed with an average score of above 85%.

"Guaranteed to be interesting, informative and entertaining?"

Registration Forms At The Store

modern ferry. The Ministry must recognize that it would not be an efficient use of taxpayers money retrofit a ferry which no longer meets the needs of residents.'

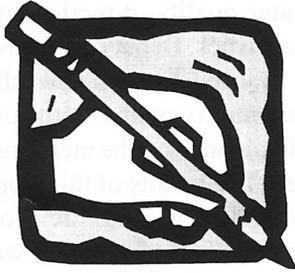
The Minister of Transportation, David Turnbull, has written to the Reeve (March 17, 2000). He apologized for the delay in responding to the Report on the Amherst Island Ferry Service (it was the one, I think, from 1972). He goes on to say... *'please be assured that we are actively reviewing this matter and will advise you as soon as we have completed our review.'*

In a letter to Reeve Gilmore (March 23, 2000), the Environment responded to Council's concerns about low water levels affecting the water treatment plant and the ferry docks. While they had no answers, MOE did write... *'According to projected impacts of climate change, water levels on Lake Ontario could be significantly lower during the next two to three decades. It is essential that past water level fluctuations and the potential for lower levels in the future be taken into consideration by those who plan, approve and build water level dependent facilities on shorelines.'*

Speaking of the Lake levels... the Department of

Fisheries and Oceans web site for Kingston shows a fairly steady rise in the Lake level since the start of March. It has gone up from about 0.3m above datum to approximately 0.6m above datum (74.5m to 74.8m above IGLD 1985 - whatever IGLD means).

Council continues to be busy with the budget. The number of meetings they have held over the past couple of months has been quite staggering.



The Neighbourhood

- Lyn Fleming -

Get well wishes this month to Billy Bulch, Dave Youell, Leslie Gavlas, Barbara Reid and Earl Tugwell.

Welcome to new permanent Island residents, Don and Pauline Pepper. Don and Pauline are in the process of moving into their newly built home next door to Stratton and Barbara Reid. We also said good-bye to Penny Baxter and kids (Matt, Ben and Katie). They left the Island and have moved to the Belleville area.

Michael and Bobbi Shaw have returned from two months in England, visiting friends and relatives and walking the coastal paths and lanes of Devon.

Condolences to Christopher Kennedy whose father passed away this month.

Congratulations to Alan and Cathy Glenn, who were doubly blessed in the "new grandchildren" department.

Daughter Shelley and her husband Frank Hawley, started things off by welcoming a son into the world on March 26/00. 8lb. 5oz. Nathan Alan joins big sister Megan in the Hawley house. On April 5, son Steven and his wife Suzanne welcomed their first child, a 7lb. 5 oz. daughter, Sara Kathleen.

Congratulations to Bob and Diane Horth, who were married on April 15, 2000 at a private family service at St. Alban's. An open reception was held at the community centre for family, friends and neighbours.

The ACW held their annual Beef dinner on April 8. The dinner was attended by a record number of people from the island and the mainland. The Amherst Island Girl Guide leaders hosted the annual Lakeside District Guiders' dinner this year. The turkey dinner was hosted by Susie Caughey and the 4-H club. The Island Sparks, Brownies, Guides

and Pathfinders entertained the leaders with a play called "Somewhere there's an Island".

MOTHER'S DAY HAM DINNER

Saturday, May 13

Amherst Island Public School

5pm - 7 pm

\$10. adults/ \$5 children 4- 12/ pre-school free

Advance tickets only, available from all PCW members

**Contact: Beth Forester 389-5582
or Carol Glenn 389-0512**



Amherst Island Women's Institute

- Leslie Gavlas -



The regular monthly meeting was held at the home of Leslie Gavlas on Wednesday, March 15. A number of items of interest were discussed. As reported in the March Beacon

we will not do a door-to-door canvass this year, but will be mailing donation envelopes to all Islanders. Although these will be mailed to our contact on the mainland a separate tally of the Island contributions will be made so that Amherst Island will receive credit.

A new pamphlet is available through the Ontario Federation of Agriculture reporting on the "Baseline Water Well Testing Program". This is designed to test ground water samples for inorganics, gasoline and solvents, pesticides, oils and

KFLA HEALTH UNIT

NOTICE

RABIES 2000

May 6 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Amherst Island Municipal Garage

This service is being offered by your Health Unit, local municipalities and the Kingston Area Veterinary Association, at a cost of \$15.00 per animal.

NOTE Since June 2nd, 1986 it is required by law that all cats and dogs in the Health Unit area be immunized against Rabies.

diesels and bacteria. The testing done through this system is not free of charge, although the bacteria analysis may be provided free of charge through the local health unit.

Should any of our readers wish water testing of this nature they should contact OFA.

We are planning an open meeting at the school to listen to the head of the local Council on Aging who will give an overview on Senior Housing in the area. More details of this will be provided by, we intend, an island wide mailing.

We have decided against planning for the Annual Clean-up Day this year. In past years arrangements were made with the school to involve the students. I guess individuals who walk our roads, might be willing to collect garbage on their regular routes.

Some of our new members were interested in the origin of W.I. and the founders of the movement. W.I. was organized on February 19, 1897 in Saltfleet Township through the combined efforts of Erland Lee and his wife, Janet, with the encouragement of Adelaide Hoodless. "The object was to promote the knowledge of household science with a view of raising the general standard of health. This organization has spread world-wide. Our branch on Amherst Island will celebrate its hundredth birthday this year.

Our next meeting is at the home of Jackie Sylvester on April 19 at 8:00 p.m. We welcome visitors and new members. This being our birthday year will be a busy and enjoyable time to join us.



NEWS RELEASE - APRIL 6, 2000

THE LOYALIST TOWNSHIP GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT STUDY

Loyalist Township has retained a local consulting firm to characterize its groundwater resources. Currently, approximately 1,675 residential homes and many firms are fully dependent on groundwater. Oliver, Mangione, McCalla & Associates, a division of Trow Consulting Engineers Ltd. (Trow) will undertake a Groundwater Management Study to identify areas of concern such as low well yields and poor water quality, and areas most vulnerable to groundwater contamination. This study is funded by Loyalist Township and the Ministry of the Environment, Provincial Water Protection Fund.

The Township will receive an inventory of its groundwater resources, something it currently does not have. The inventory will provide information on groundwater sources,

water well yields, water quality, direction of groundwater flow and other characteristics. Deputy Reeve McEwen states "The inventory will be used by the Township to provide information to the community on the status of groundwater resources and general guidance on the measures necessary to protect these resources. The results of this study will also be incorporated into policies for rural development which depend on private services, including water wells and septic systems".

Deputy Reeve McEwen encourages rural residents to become involved at the on-set by filling out the Private Well Supply Questionnaire. The questionnaire will be mailed to rural property owners in the Township over the next week. If you are a rural resident and have not received the questionnaire, please contact the Township. Trow will be collecting groundwater samples from a select number of well locations across the Township, and residents may also pick up sample bottles at various locations, during April, for free bacteria testing of their well water. Open Houses are scheduled to be held in Odessa and Amherst Island in October 2000 to present the study findings to the public. A Steering Committee made up of Township residents, technical



NOTICE TO CANDIDATES

2000 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Every person who proposes to be a candidate in the 2000 Municipal Election must file a Nomination Paper with the Clerk of the Municipality for which you are proposing to be a candidate by Friday, October 13, 2000. A \$100.00 filing fee in cash, certified cheque or money order is required with the submission of your Nomination paper.

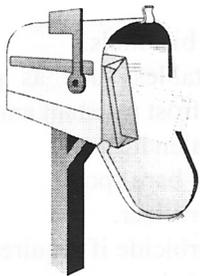
No person, who proposes to be a candidate, may solicit or accept contributions for the purpose of the election or incur campaign expenses until that person has filed a Nomination Paper with the Clerk responsible for the election.

Nomination forms and full particulars of procedures to be followed may be obtained from:

Brenda Hamilton, Clerk
Loyalist Township
613-386-7351 ext.121

advisors, and municipal representatives has been established for the study.

For further information please contact Frank Reinholz, 396-51, Ext 102 or David Thompson, Ext. 118 at Loyalist Township.



Letters To The Beacon

Dear Friends on Amherst Island,

I am writing from Baffin Island in Canada's Eastern Arctic. The Baffin Region includes 13 communities and 113,000 people in Canada's newest territory, Nunavut. All the communities in the Baffin region are fly in, including Iqaluit (pop.4,500), the largest centre and capital of Nunavut. Iqaluit houses the only hospital in the region, and in the territory - all other communities have Health Centres, which are staffed by nurses. Doctors make visits to these health centres each month.

Nunavut has a very high birth rate, which Health Canada compares to that of developing countries. There are also a large number of young mothers, (ages 13-19) giving birth. Four weeks before their due date, women leave their family and community and travel to Iqaluit, where they wait to have their baby. Babies are born in the Baffin Regional Hospital. Often women stay with friends or relatives if possible. More frequently, however, they stay at the Taamaativvik Medical Boarding Home, an accommodation for people from the communities to stay when they are in Iqaluit for medical reasons.

Often women who stay at the Boarding Home do not have many, if any, clothes for their newborn baby. The hospital is challenged to keep up with providing clothes for the high number of births, and the price of goods in the North is extremely high. Through my job with the regional health board, I have found that there is a real need for newborn clothing: hats, socks, sleepers, blankets. Knit hats for newborns would be very appreciated. New items can be distributed through the hospital and good used infant clothing

can be handled through the Boarding Home. I am working on contacting First Air to arrange transportation of goods to the north, which can be a costly endeavour.

In the Inuit Culture, babies and small children are carried in the amauti, or "hood" of their mother's parka, which keeps them warm in the bitter Arctic cold. Still, there is a need here, and the need is very real. If you have questions about what is needed or how appropriate certain items might be: please contact my mom, Susie at 389-2012. Items can be dropped off anytime on the veranda at Poplar Dell, or phone for pick-up. The first boxes will be heading north after Easter.

Many thanks to all those already busy knitting and helping out in many ways. Thank you for caring.

Amy Caughey
P.O. Box 2042
Iqaluit, Nunavut XOA OHO
acaughey@gov.nu.ca



Thank You Notes

Laura and I would like to thank all our family and friends who helped me celebrate my 60th "surprise" birthday party.

Thanks to everyone for the cards, gifts, and phone calls and food.

Also, thanks to Heather and the ladies who did a wonderful job in the kitchen and to Rick and Larry for the excellent job on the bar.

Stephen Street

THE WEASEL AND EASEL

We are happy to announce that this season we will be open for business at our new location, in the Stella Bay Park building. We will continue to showcase local art and handicrafts including watercolours, pottery, woodwork, Topsy blankets and yarn plus lots of new items. Watch for our Grand Opening in mid May!

We would like to thank our friends, relatives, and neighbours for cards, floral tributes and donations to the charities. To the A.C.W. visiting committee and the Presbyterian women for providing the lovely lunch following the service at the

time of our loss of a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Gordon Reid.

Thank you again.
Stratton, Barbara Reid and family

Don and I would like to thank once more the many Islanders and church organizations for the concern, cards and lovely plants sent to us.

It makes us feel still very much a part of the community, even though we are not on the island now.

After spending most of my life, there, it will always be home to me!

Also, thanks to Rev. Zander Dunne for his calls. They were both enjoyable and inspirational.

Thank you friends for caring!

Don and Chris Gregg

P.S. Also a thank you and a pat on the back for the editorial staff of a great little paper "The Beacon".

The family of the late Gordon Reid extend their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to relatives, friends and neighbours for visits, cards, phone calls, donations of food, floral tributes and charitable donations made at the time of his death.

Our deep appreciation to Rev. Zander Dunn for his visits and comforting words at the funeral and to Beth Forester for playing the organ.

A special thanks to the P.C.W. for the delicious lunch served after the funeral. Thank you to the R.J. Reid Funeral Home for the guidance and compassion shown to our family during this difficult time.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Management and Staff of Helen Henderson Care Centre, especially Yvonne McGinn, for their care and consideration over the past 7 years.

Stratton, Marion, Elsie and Families
(Reid) (Glenn) (Willard)

I would like to thank my family and friends, for the cards, gifts and visits after my operation.

Stephanie Fleming

NEW FOR SPRING

Sweatshirts and Jackets

Hooded full-zipper front, pockets with Amherst Island crests.

Available at the General Store along with a variety of crew neck sweatshirts for children and adults. They make great gifts. Surprise someone you care about!

St. Paul's P.C.W. thank all who so loyally support the shirt and cap sales.

GARDEN CALENDAR

APRIL

- Prepare garden beds for planting. Dig in compost and other organic material.
- Remove rose protection; prune and apply dormant oil spray before buds break.
- Treat birches against leaf miner.
- Plant trees, shrubs, perennials and biennials.
- Seed outside cool-weather vegetables such as peas, spinach, lettuce, onions, beets and frost resistant annuals such as larkspur, sweet peas and calendulas.
- Rake lawn, repair damage and seed bare spots.
- Fertilize lawn with slow-release fertilizer.
- Apply crabgrass pre-emergence herbicide if required.
- Start lawn mowing only when needed.
- Organize a compost pile.
- Check out the garden shows.

A FEW GOOD QUESTIONS...

- FROM HELEN LAMB -

- If there is no God, who pops up the next Kleenex in the box?
When a cow laughs, does milk come out its nose?
Why do they put Braille on the number pads of drive-through bank teller machines?
How did a fool and his money GET together?
If nothing sticks to Teflon, how do they stick Teflon on the pan?
What's another word for thesaurus?
What do they use to ship Styrofoam?
Why is abbreviation such a long word?
Why is there an expiration date on my sour cream container?
How do you know when it is time to tune your bagpipes?
Does fuzzy logic tickle?
Why do they call it a TV set when you only get one?
Do radioactive cats have 18 half-lives?
What was the BEST thing before sliced bread?

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL STORE

Congratulations to our cookie winners for the month of March. Destiny Freeman won the March 17 draw for a giant cookie and congratulations to Amanda deHaan. Amanda won the March 31 draw for a basket of goodies.

Draws for April will be held on Apr.14 for an Easter basket of goodies, and on April 28 for a giant cookie.

GOT YOUR NAME IN YET?

The summer season is almost upon us once again. Summer hours at the store will start May 5 and will be as follows:

Mon - Thurs 9 am - 6 pm
Friday and Saturday 9 am - 9 pm
Sunday 10 am - 6 pm

Hours for EASTER WEEKEND:

Good Friday April 21 10 am - 5 pm
Saturday April 22 9 am - 6 pm
Easter Sunday April 23 10 am - 5 pm
Easter Monday April 24 9 am - 6 pm

Renovations are under way once again and we do apologize for any inconvenience. Watch the May Beacon for more details.

Nestle ice cream bars are now available and we have a good variety to choose from.



The Garth Orchard Series

[Issue 56 September 15, 1982]

After learning most of the basic operations of farming during my two years as farm hand, I was determined to further that knowledge by studying the modern methods. To this end, I sent away for all the government pamphlets available through our local Agricultural Rep. in Napanee, on crop care, animal husbandry, weeds, garden and orchard care, then spent the winter evenings studying them. Mr. Buchanan, the Ag. Rep. at that time proved a good friend and a valuable source of information. He took me to some Junior Farmer judging competitions on animals, grains and vegetables. Knowing what the judges would be looking for, and careful selection of samples, enabled me later to win several prizes at the Fall Fair

for some of our stock, grain and vegetables. It was quite obvious who the best farmers were, and I tried to emulate

their methods of thorough cultivation and clean seed. For a conscientious farmer there is surely nothing to compare with the satisfaction of producing a bumper crop of hay, grain and root crops, in spite of rock bottom prices. At that time oats and barley were sold for 25¢ a bushel, pork at 3½¢ a pound on the hoof, and eggs were sold at the store for 11¢ a dozen. We handled very little cash in those days, but every farmer had a barn full of feed, a cellar full of vegetables and fruit, and home-killed pork and beef stored. The women always had a basket of eggs to trade at the store for the staples she needed, and any balance went 'on the bill' to be paid out of the next milk cheque. To pay the taxes we sold a cow, and a couple of hogs covered the cost of new roofing for the shed. Our black mare, Birdy, produced a sturdy colt, which assured our horsepower needs for years to come. Such was life on the farm during Depression days.

It soon became apparent that I needed help to properly farm 150 acres, and I persuaded Keith to join me that summer, and we worked well together. That Fall we plowed ninety acres with a walking plow and a three horse disc plow, which enabled us, the next season, to thresh the largest crop ever taken off that farm.

Meanwhile, Winter was our social season. Without radio or shows to go to, young people made their own entertainment. Dances were held in the Orange Hall, with our ever reliable orchestra of Tina Filson on piano, Alec Glenn on fiddle and Stirling Glenn on banjo. These dances were well attended by both young and old. In fact we young people learned all the intricate steps of the traditional square dances from the mature couples who 'promenaded' gaily in every dance. Lunch was served around 11 p.m. with

sandwiches, cake and cookies brought in by all the married ladies (who also deposited their bundled up babies in a row on the back kitchen table). If feeding time came during that evening, there would be a short respite from the dance to

pacify the hungry infant. Apart from the odd couple 'going steady' there would be a stag line of shy boys on one side of the hall and a row of hopeful girls on the other side. You

shyly asked the girl of your choice for a dance, hoping you would not lose her if it turned out to be a 'tag dance'.

Keith and I pooled our resources and bought a Model T Ford coupe for \$15.

The rumble seat had long since been removed and replaced with a wooden box to carry grist to the mill, and half the inside floor boards were

FOR RENT

**Cottage for rent. North Shore.
Phone Cherry at 634-1212**

COTTAGES FOR RENT BY THE WEEK.

NORTH SHORE AMHERST ISLAND.

Starting May 1st.

Call Susie at 389-2012 for full details.

missing. This feature proved to be quite useful when we took our girl friends out riding in the evening. We somehow managed to find a puddle in the road, and there would be shrieks as the girls hoisted their legs high to avoid the incoming splash! Our tool kit consisted of a spare magneto and a length of baling wire, which proved equal to all emergencies even when a rival swiped two of our spark plugs during a swimming date at the beach.

In the early Fall, the Young Couples Club of the church formed a drama group, and we began practising for a play to be presented during the Winter. These practice sessions were delightful gatherings, held at various members' homes, always ending with a tasty lunch and a brisk ride home, bundled together in a wagon or sleigh. Scenery was painted, and the play was presented to an appreciative audience in Stella Orange Hall. In following weeks we would load up the scenery and players in a big bobsleigh, and journey to various mainland village halls to repeat the performance. The Amherst Island players attained a fair reputation for we were usually invited back. All this is fairly typical of social life in those days, and we certainly never felt deprived or at a loss for something to do!

Threshing time in the Fall was a period of hard work, hearty eating, and great neighbourly comradeship. Since it took from fifteen to twenty men to keep the threshing machine going, a group of neighbouring farmers would work together, going to each of their farms in turn till all the grain was safely threshed and stored. Young men vied with each other to see who could build the highest load of sheaves, or carry the heaviest bag of wheat to the granary. 'One arm' Willie Glenn with a wooden sling replacing the arm torn off by a machine belt, was an undoubted champion at building a wagon load of sheaves, and the man who pitched to him needed the longest pitchfork made! Equally valiant feats of prowess were evident at the lunch and supper tables, where huge roasts, bushels of vegetables, and pies by the dozen disappeared as fast as the neighbouring farm wives could produce them. The heavy work made for prodigious appetites, and it was not uncommon to see a hungry man eat a whole pie after his main course, cheered on by his fellow workers.

The threshing session I remember best was the last of the steam engine outfits, still run on a road by Rob McFern, though he was then well over 80. He would fire up the boiler around 5:30 a.m. and by six o'clock you could hear him

WANTED

I am still collecting the following: - A&P Tapes - used stamps - any country including Canada - for guide dogs for the blind. Good clean clothing for the animal shelter thrift shop and knitted squares, blankets, pet food, paper towels, etc., for the Napanee Animal Shelter. Please call me if you have anything to donate or leave in my front porch. The animals really need our help.

Freda Youell 384-4135

tooting for the team assigned to draw water from the bay for the engine which required a tank full every hour. The old threshing machine was the largest on the Island. It was hand fed by a man who cut the sheaf twine and pushed the loose bundles into the screaming cylinder at a rate that kept seven wagons hustling to keep up to it. Grain poured out at such a rate that I have seen men running with bags full to the granary. This delighted old Rob, who loved to see his machine test the speed of the best crew. That was one time that we had little chance to linger over the meal. Mr. McFern ate faster than anyone, and was soon out tooting for the machine to start again! Comparing these nostalgic memories of the old ways with the highly mechanized harvesting methods of today, makes me wonder if we may be missing some of the fun and neighbourliness of those times.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE MOUTRAY ESTATE

**- Contributed by Bruce Caughey -
The Beacon, Issues 9, 10, 11,12 1970)**

[Requested by a reader who met Margaret Wilkinson at her Nursing Home.]

Your reference in a recent issue of "The Beacon" to the Moutray Estate being on the auction block, stirs within many of those of my own "vintage" memories of the past, intimately connected with this old landmark.

Ever since, through necessity the last of the Moutray family have had to seek care in a rest home, due to the infirmities of their age, we have had to accept the fact this beautiful old home must eventually pass to the ownership of someone else.

In these days of ever-diminishing shore lines and ever increasing interest in parks and park facilities, it has been in my thoughts that perhaps sufficient interest could be developed to enable this property to be acquired by the Township and Province and to be transformed into a most desirable park-site and a museum combined.

This old estate has very close connections with the oldest history of our Island Township and innumerable connections with our development and progress. Named "Farnham" (a nobility title in the Maxwell family) I would guess that it

might have been built somewhere around 1850 and 1860. I would also expect that it was built for the use of William Perceival Maxwell who ved as "agent" for the owners of the Island and who was later succeeded by his nephew William Henry Moutray. It is with the latter's occupancy that I am most familiar but I have often heard my Aunt, Mrs. Henry Sanders (Sarah P. Allen) tell of the activities there during Wm.

Perceival's occupancy, for instance the first Sunday School classes were held in the "Drawing Room" that section to the west of the house and this large room was the centre of many social activities of that era.

The building now located on Art Drumgoole's farm, known as his granary, was originally a part of "Farnham" and was the servant's quarters, situated at the North end of the East wing - a painting, by the late Daniel Fowler R.C.A., was made when this original building stood there. When it was later replaced with the frame section presently there, the building, referred to above was used by the "Militia", for storage for their rifles and equipment (Miss Neta Moutray gave me this information many years ago).

PART II

William Henry Moutray was the son of Rev. John Corry Moutray, Rector of Erigleviough County, Tyrone, Ireland. His older brothers were John Maxwell (Rev.) and Robert Percival (Capt. Royal Navy) ("Burke's Landed Gentry," Courtesy of Dr. H.C. Burleigh, Bath). In 1871 William Henry married Margaret Wilson and soon thereafter came to Canada and took up his duties as "Agent" on Amherst Island, residing in "Farnham".

Therefore the Moutray occupancy of this grand old estate has extended over almost 100 years. In addition to carrying out his duties of leasing of farms etc., the kindly and generous Irish gentleman always found time to involve himself in the many spheres of activity within the growing and developing Island community. The late Mr. Moutray served for many years as the Township Clerk, his foresight made him instrumental in the building of the first Stella Cheese factory, of which he served as Secretary Treasurer, the establishment of the first grist mill on the Island, in the organization of the Amherst Island Agricultural Society and the holding of the Annual Agricultural Fairs, which were held on his farm across the street from Farnham for many years. When the need for a new township cemetery was recognized, about 1883 he granted the purchase of the present site from the Maxwell property for the sum of one dollar and he acted as Secretary-Treasurer of the cemetery board for many years.

**BLANKETS
YARN
SHEEPSKINS**

TOPSY FARMS

389-3444

topsyfarms@on.aibn.com

Another project was symbolic of his foresight, the construction of the cottages on Stella Point. "The Point" had long been a community picnic ground, as well as the site of one of our local ship yards and the erection of the cottages along with a "summer hotel" on the peninsula enclosing Stella Harbour was the first contact that Island people had with "tourists". Prominent Kingston business men with their families

spent their summers here and many of the descendants of these families still have ties with the Island as well as lifelong friendships.

The operation of the "summer hotel", presently owned by Mrs. Stein, was at one time a very profitable venture. The use of the building as accommodations for our Continuation School was brought to a close with the sale of "The Point" to Samuel Sutherland, a shoe manufacturer from St. Louis, Mo. in 1928.

PART III

During his service as Township Clerk, the Annual "Revision Court" day was a very auspicious event, as the Reeve and Councillors were entertained at dinner at Farnham by the Moutray family. On many occasions his kind generosity was taken advantage of but he has left a heritage long remembered by Amherst Island residents.

Mr. Moutray was a great lover of horses and in his more active years was a familiar sight "on horseback", even after the advent of the automobile, his "carriage", with the old gentleman at the reins was a familiar sight on the Island roads.

In religious persuasion the Moutray family were devote Church of England people, while I am not qualified to comment extensively on this phase of their activities, I do know that they were always devoted attendants and ardent supporters of the church of their choice. Two of the Moutray daughters married Church of England clergymen. Rev. and Mrs. R.S. Wilkinson (Annie) were the first to occupy the new "Rectory" after it's construction and Rev. and Mrs J.E. Lindsay (Emily) also served the Amherst Island parish for three years, (it is their daughters, Mrs Mervyn Murphy (Dorothy) and Miss Betty Lindsay of Ottawa who are undertaking the disposition of the property).

Two recollections of Mr. Moutray are most vivid in my mind, the first when as a boy, I might happen to visit his office in company with my Father, in business and the old gentleman would be at work at his desk, where he always wore a little round cap, known as a "skull cracker". No such thing as a typewriter was then known so that all documents, in connection with his business, was done in long hand. Nor

were such conveniences as filing cabinets in use and duplicate documents were stored in folios or books. In one corner of the office stood a huge "safe", on the front of which was W.H. MOUTRAY. The other recollection which I have, concerned the transportation to and from the Island in that age. The so-called "Bay Boats", passenger steamers which plied the Bay of Quinte and the North Channel, to and from Kingston, Picton, Belleville, Deseronto and Napanee made scheduled calls at the Neilson wharf at Stella, adjacent to the Moutray property - this was the Commercial life-line of the Island and passengers and in-coming and out-going freight moved to and fro. It was a common sight to see Mr. Moutray, satchel in hand, making a last minute dash across his own property to board the steamer, usually at the same time as the "cast off" whistle was sounded and as the "gang plank" was being drawn in, he was off to Kingston on business.

PART IV

In those days the yard surrounding Farnham, was immaculately kept, not overgrown with lilacs and shrubbery as it now is, lovely flowers and well kept gravel walkways made it a most beautiful and desirable estate. Of an enterprising nature, the late Mr Moutray undertook many "firsts", to mention a few of these, the installation of a windmill to provide a water system to pump water from the harbour to a storage tank for use in the home and to provide a water supply on his farm, which was adjacent. This system was eventually abandoned in favour of a gasoline engine operated pump and jack, which performed the same service. This engine was a single cylinder water-cooled "Olds" and no doubt was one of first gas engines made use of for this purpose on the Island.

Another first was undertaken when he attempted, not too successfully, to light the home with "gas", remnants of this equipment, which made use of Carbide and water as used in the original bicycle lights still remain in the "front" cellar of Farnham. Indoor plumbing was another first in the Moutray home, many years before it came into general use in Island homes.

Is it any wonder then that I suggest this historic old site as an ideal location for a park and museum, steeped as it is in the history of this Island it is indeed regrettable if it passes on to some commercial minded person to forever be lost as an historic shrine, dedicated to the genteel, honest, generous, God fearing gentleman from Northern Ireland whose contributions to our Island community are inestimable. It was always a puzzle to me that the late Mr. Moutray should have arranged purchase of a family plot in Cataraqui Cemetery, Kingston, rather than to have his remains interred on the Island which certainly must have been so much a part of his life.



A Letter Home

Spring is definitely here... signs from the Head:

- the ice is gone;
- the flowers are blooming;
- For Sale signs are blooming too;
- the snakes are coming out to sun themselves; and
- shearing has been completed - partly.

Shearing is a trial every year even under ideal circumstances. Trying to organize 3 shearers, 4 hired helpers, 5 people here, and 1000+ ewes adds up to stress particularly with it virtually guaranteed we will have rain just before or during shearing. I think we could end a 7 year drought on the Sahara. Shearers will not shear damp sheep.

The forecasted scattered showers turned into virtually all day rains both before and during. There wasn't any volume to mention - just periods of drizzle followed by periods of drizzle with short stretches of light rain. We don't have enough room under shelter for all the sheep so some had to stay out. The others were huddled in the barns. It got real old in a hurry running each ewe out under an umbrella to get their grain... no... they were run out and fed their grain which allowed us to roll out some hay in the barns.

The various flocks were brought back to the barn during the brief respites between the 'drizzles'. Once there, shearing proceeded normally. Its quite a job keeping the shearers supplied with sheep and getting the fleeces packed away. It does take the effort of 8 people with most working full time to do this... there is:

- a packer (putting the fleeces into bags, sewing the bags shut and storing them away);
- two people rolling fleeces (picking off the bad parts, plus sorting the fleeces into the good, the bad and the ugly);
- three working on the shearing floor itself (picking up the fleeces, keeping the area clean and bringing more sheep into the holding pens);
- one person floating;
- and a cook.

In the end, we got 80% of the flock sheared in a day and a half with one shearer scheduled to come back later this month to finish off the job. The shearers work hard, hard, hard... 25-30 sheep per hour bent over at the waist most of the time working on a 130lb sheep who doesn't want to have anything to do this operation.



TO GIVE AWAY

Double Cement laundry tubs to give away.
Helen Bulch - **389-3411**

FOR SALE Wall Cabinet

5 1/2 ft. long 2 ft wide glass door, one drawer.
Could be used in various ways, to hold ornaments, to store small items in a garage or shop etc.
\$50.00 phone **389-1540**

WANTED

I am still collecting the following: - used stamps - any country including Canada - for guide dogs for the blind. Good clean clothing for the animal shelter thrift shop and knitted squares, blankets, pet food, paper towels, A& P tapes, etc, for the Napanee Animal Shelter. Please call me if you have anything to donate or leave in my front porch. The animals really need our help.
Freda Youell **384-4135**

WANTED

"Utility Trailer" good shape or not.
Call - Amherst Island General Store
389-0417

WANTED

Rent or Buy
50-100 acres with water on property without waterfront
Call **386-5197**

ALBERTAN HOMES

Homes built or renovated
Ken Albertan at **389-2662**

BABY-SITTER & MOTHER'S HELPER

Light yard work & homework
Call Stephanie at **634-2509**

BAYRIDGE TRAVEL & CRUISE CENTRE

Leslie McDonald - Travel Counselor
For all your travel arrangements...
Call **384-8065**

BABY SITTING!

Shannon Youell
389-5596 Reference available.

CISTERNS FILLED

Call Llew MacArthur at **384-4071**

BULLDOZING DONE

\$40/hour flat rate
Call Llew at **384-4071**.

CERTIFIED ELECTRICIAN

Home, farm and commercial work
Building maintenance and repair on the Island
Call Tom Richmond at **634-1855**

COMPUTER ASSISTANCE

Can help to build computer skills on many programs. Call Jan at **634-1995**.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE

Call: **389-4484**.

GLM CONSTRUCTION

General Contracting, Renovations & Design
Contact Gary McDonald at **384-1456**.

LAKESHORE RUBBER STAMP

Quick service for all kinds stamps (self-inkers, daters, signature, logos, business & personal)
Call Linda Welbanks at **389-8441**
Fax **389-9770**

LAWN CUTTING

Call Tom DeHaan: **389-6647**

LIN - SAR

Mechanical - Peter Wemp
Heating & Cooling
Sheet Metal Fabrication & Installation
Phone: **478-5417**

NUTRITION AND WELLNESS PRODUCTS:

Nutrition Foundations, Weight Management, Cardiovascular Health, Children's Nutrition, 40+ Health Issues, and more... For information, call Diane Hieatt, Body Wise Consultant, at **389-7074**.

FOR SALE

100% Virgin Wool Blankets and Yarn from Topsy Farms
Call Sally or Ian at **389-3802** or **389-3444**.

PAINTING CLASSES

Call Shirley Miller at **389-2588**.

FOR SALE

PICNIC TABLES
WEATHER VANES
ADIRONDACK CHAIRS
Call Keith Miller at **389-2588**.

PORTABLE WELDING

Call Noel McCormick at **389-5172**.

PRINTING

A complete printing and design service.
Contact Peter Morgan at **384-4102**.

PUMPS OF ALL KINDS

Rural water system maintenance.
Call Tom Miller at **389-0105**.

SEAMSTRESS

Alterations, mending, custom clothing, home deco, gift items.
Call Debbie - **384-3188**

SHORE WELL MAINTENANCE

Call Warren Kilpatrick at **634-7869**.

WHIG HOME DELIVERY

If you would like to Whig Standard delivered to your home, please phone Jim or Sandra at **389-4484**.

A.I.P.S. Club Z
account number is
9 4 3 1 9 9 9 2 2

SENIOR OUTREACH SERVICES
Frozen Dinners

For orders, menus & information
Call Freda Youell at **384-4135**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL

Tuesday, April 18th 7:00pm Community Hall - Neilson Store Public Meeting
 Sunday, April 23rd 7:00am St Paul's Easter Sunrise Service
 Tuesday, April 25th 7:00pm Council Meeting

MAY

Saturday, May 6th 5-6:30pm Rabies Clinic at the Municipal Garage
 Thursday, May 11th 8:30am - 4:30pm Food Safety Seminar
 Saturday, May 13th Mother's Day Ham Dinner AIPS

JUNE

Monday, June 12th 7:00pm Council Meeting
 Monday, June 26th 7:00pm Council Meeting

JULY

Monday, July 3rd Canada Day (Mun Offices closed)
 Monday, July 10th 7:00pm Council Meeting

AUGUST

Monday, August 7th Civic Holiday (Mun. Offices closed)
 Monday, August 21st 7:00pm Council Meeting

SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 4th Labour Day (Mun. Offices closed)

ISLE

DATES TO NOTE FOR ISLE CHEESE ORDERING:

Order In By	Pickup Date
Fri. Apr. 14	Wed. Apr. 19
Fri. May 19	Wed. May 24
Fri. June 16	Wed. May 21

AMHERST ISLAND COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

meets Thursday a.m. - 0945 - 12 noon

May	Ann Albertan
June	Helen Lamb
July	Janet Scott
August	Janet Scott

Join in a time of prayer and studying God's word. All welcome.

Amherst Island GENERAL STORE

389-0417

WINTER HOURS

JANUARY 21ST - MAY 5TH

Monday - Thursday - 9am - 6 pm
 Friday and Saturday - 9 am to 7 pm
 Sunday - 10am to 5pm

CANADA POST

Monday - Friday 9 am - 11:30 am
 2:30 pm - 5 pm
 Saturday 9 am - 12 noon

The Saturday Beaver will now be available at the Amherst Island General Store.

We have a wide variety of products available. If we don't have what you need, it can be ordered with deliveries.

Delivery days are Wednesdays and Saturdays. Just call a day ahead to place your order.

Our deliveries arrive at 10:50 a.m. and we ask that you pick up orders around 11a.m. as we have no room for storage in coolers at this time.

FAX SERVICE

FAX service is now available at Amherst Island General Store
 Mon - Fri only

To send - Local - \$1 for first page
 .50¢ for each additional page
 Long Distance \$5.00

Receive - .50¢ per page - Local and Long Distance
 FAX# - 613-389-0417