

Amherst Island BEACON



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BEACON NOTES

The Beacon was late last month and it will be again this month too. I am having lots of technical difficulties trying to get this new system of printing the Beacon to work. You wouldn't think that simply saving the Beacon on a cd would be that hard but it is when you have three computer/prINTER systems to deal with. Due to severe time constraints, this issue will also be done the old-fashioned way... with originals to be photocopied.

You will certainly notice that this Beacon has more content than usual about farming. Not only is work on the farm intensifying dramatically but there is the spreading Foot-and-Mouth disease and more local political issues causing worry. All of that has seeped into this issue.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

- DON TUBB -
March 12, 2001

All members of Council were present except Deputy Reeve Carl Bresee who was on vacation. The usual staff members were also present as were 6 members of the interested public.

One of the first items of business was the renewal of the lease for the Loyalist Community Sharing Centre. Ron Burtch of same gave a brief summary of its activities last year which received complimentary remarks from Council members. Through its efforts almost \$21,000 was donated to area groups. Many schools, A. I. Public among them, received \$500

Amherst Island Public School Fundraiser

1st Prize - Book of Ferry Tickets value \$50
2nd Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate for the Amherst Island
General Store

Tickets available from any A.I.P.S. student or at the store.

Thank you for your support.
Amherst Island Public School

donations along with groups like L.&A. Library, Partner's In Mission Food Bank, etc... (the list is long).

You might remember that Loyalist applied for a grant from the Provincial Superbuild Fund. In total, Ontario municipalities have applied for almost a billion dollars worth of grants when the total available is only \$300 million. Staff will do what they can to make the proposal for the second ice sheet in Amherstview a more attractive proposal but there is no guarantee that it will be accepted.

Something that will directly affect landowners on the Island, as well as the mainland, is a new fee structure from the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority. The new fees reflect the actual costs incurred by CRCA (it has been monitoring costs over the last couple of years to come up with these new fees). The fees are too numerous to put in this report but for something like a minor variance that requires CRCA comment goes from \$75 to \$175. The same fees rise is the case for a Zoning By-law amendment. An official Plan amendment goes from \$100 to \$350. The Township collects these fees for the CRCA and therefore takes the brunt of landowner's comments. Negative comments are not expected to lessen. It should be pointed that all severance, minor variances, etc need CRCA comment.

Representatives from L&A County, Loyalist Twp, Stone Mills Twp and Napanee met with Brian Coburn, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs on February 26th. This was to talk about intensive farming. The local group made presentations plus the Minister and his executive assistant made comments in response. Reeve McEwen's (also acting as Warden) presentation made four main points:

- that the responsibility for regulating and enforcing regulations for intensive farms be done at the Provincial level;
- that the Farm Practices Protection Board be a completely independent body (particularly from OMAFRA);
- that financial assistance and incentives be made available for environmental improvements; and,
- that Environmental Protection Act be applied for 'very large livestock operations'.

In response to this and other presentations, the Minister and his assistant made a number of points. Some of these are:

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

AMHERST ISLAND

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SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2001

5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

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- that Provincial legislation should not be expected soon (there had been mention of this spring but now the fall seems more likely but even that could be pushed back);

- that no decisions have been made as to whether Provincial or municipalities will be made responsible for enforcement; and,

- that any legislation must be fair, equitable and protect the environment while not creating unnecessary red tape.

All of this leads nicely into Council passing a

one year extension of the Interim Control By-law for intensive farms (until March 13, 2002).

The Administration Meeting minutes for February 20th showed that the Groundwater Study was presented to Council. It has been also forwarded to the Ministry of the Environment for comment but they have responded saying they do not have the staff to review and comment on the report at this time. Staff will be making their own report to Council 'regarding the implementation of the Study'. The motion made at the meeting said that the final document will be circulated to public agencies for comment. The timing of all this was not expressed in the minutes. (Later in the Council meeting, approval was given to cooperate, in a limited way, with the Quinte Conservation group on its groundwater study.)

In the same Administration Meeting, a motion was passed that 'staff conduct an inventory of Loyalist Township buildings and space within approximately 3 months to determine space utilization and space needs in the Township'.

A By-law to sign a lease for the Layer Cake Hall was deferred for clarification. No further explanation was made.

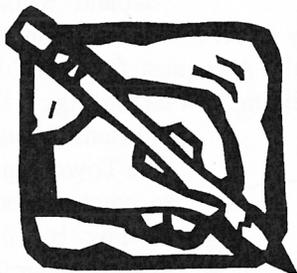
The minutes for the Loyalist Parkway Association were in the agenda package. When they came up during the Council meeting, Councillor Ibey noted that the group did not have an Island representative. One is desired 'to ensure their interests are well represented on the website' (that quote is from the minutes). Anyone interested can contact Councillor Ibey through the Township Office (386-7351). Meetings are held at the Wheelhouse Restaurant in Glenora.

Last but not least is the year end policing statistics which were included in the agenda package.

CATEGORY	AMHERST ISLAND	LOYALIST TOWNSHIP
B & E	0	81
Assault	1	82
Mischief	4	118
Theft	0	210
MVA	2	196
Impaired	0	15
MVA/Imp	0	8
Drugs	1	42
Total # of Incidents	31	3284

Because there are many more categories of incidents than listed here, the totals do not add up. So, we have three percent of the population and only one percent of the total number of incidents. Does this mean we are more law abiding or are we just caught less often? Should we be demanding our fair share of crime over here? Interpretations are left to the reader.

So ends this report...



The Neighbourhood

- Lyn Fleming -

Condolences this month go to Bill Phillips and family, following the passing of Bill's step-mother.

Get well wishes to Llew McArthur who is in hospital, Don Pepper, who is recovering from recent eye surgery, Talia Fleming, who is sporting a cast on her arm after a fall on ice: Eldon Willard is also recovering from a fall on ice. Also, get well wishes to the dozens who have suffered through a bad bout of flu this last month or two.

New grandchildren for some Islanders this month. Diane Pearce became a proud, first time grandmother on February 23, when daughter Jennifer and her husband Greg welcomed their son, Graydon into the world. Earl and Donna Willard also added a new grandchild to the family when daughter Laurie and her husband welcomed their new son.

Paul and Nancy Henshaw spent a month in Florida, escaping our long winter. Tom and Audrey Miller spent a month travelling and visiting friends in South Carolina and Florida. Unfortunately, winter was still here when they returned! Zander and Nancy Dunn returned from an extended vacation in Egypt and Ethiopia, and spent some time with John and Alana Schram while in Ethiopia. Ashley Filson and Sara Whitton are both spending their spring breaks with their families on the Island.

Welcome to downtown Stella, to Debbie Miller and Phil Silver, who bought Kendra O'Brien's house at the stop sign. Welcome to Amherst Island to Dave Brady and Deborah Kimmett and their children Brendon and Laurel. They have relocated from Toronto and bought Debbie and Phil's home on the Front Road.

The Community Euchres have been well attended this year and seem to be enjoyed by all.

4 H News

Our Achievement Night is scheduled for Thursday April 5th at the school beginning with a Pot Luck at 7 p.m. All members, parents, Women's Institute Members, neighbours, grandparents (maybe I should have just put EVERYBODY) are invited and the more the merrier. Awards and a short program will follow supper and the 4 H will supply plates, cutlery and hot and cold drinks - all we need is the food.....We will also be greeting some new members and give details of our "Clubs" which will be started in the Spring.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

SUSIE AND FREDA

EUCHRE

Join friends and neighbours at the
COMMUNITY EUCHRE NIGHTS

APRIL 6, 2001
at 7:30 pm

Amherst Island Community Centre

fun! prizes! refreshments!

\$2.00 per person



ISLAND HISTORY

[Staff: Last month we printed an e-mail from Don Murray looking for information on R. Patterson and the local militia company. The following was received and will be forwarded to him.]

Militia Act of 1793 required each male inhabitant, aged 16-50, to enroll his name as a militiaman and attend an annual muster on the King's birthday, 4th June. In 1808, the age was raised to 60, but no one over the age of 50 was to be called except in case of war or national emergency.

The group to be ready for first call were those between the ages of 19 and 39.

Amherst Islanders were part of the 1st Addington Militia.

The records (muster rolls) of the militia are at the National Archives of Canada in Ottawa and must be consulted there.

[This material came from the Lennox and Addington County Museum. Further material is available. If you are interested contact:

Jennifer Bunting e-mail
Museum@fox.nstn.ca ??????]

[from the Napanee Express,
January 11, 1895]

News From The County
Stella

The funeral of the late Warden, R. Patterson, took place from his residence on the south shore of the island, on Thursday, 3rd inst. It was very largely attended, there being seventy four vehicles in line. The body was taken into the Presbyterian church, where the Rev. Mr. Cumberland delivered a very touching and fitting address.

The remains were laid in the vault.

Intensive Farming Committee

- Chris Kennedy -

The Loyalist Township Intensive farming Committee has been meeting for nearly a year now. Its purpose is to come up with an Intensive farming/Nutrient Management By-law for the Township. On the Committee are Cathy Storms, who is the Chair, Murray Beckel, the Township Chief Building Official, Hank Blok, from the Health Unit, and representatives from other interested organizations, farmers and both rural and urban citizens. We have been meeting

monthly, with sub-committee meetings in between the regular gatherings.

There are differing views on the committee, but there is general agreement that we need to ensure that as far as possible there is no contamination of surface or ground water from agricultural operations and that offensive odours are kept to the absolute minimum, while livestock farming is able to continue and expand within the township.

There are a variety of views on the committee as to the best way to achieve this. A request for a building permit for a large livestock building will be the trigger that will require a

Nutrient Management Plan . The Township is constrained as to what can be included in the By-law by the limits to its powers under the Municipal Act and also by the Provincial Right to Farm legislation (a.k.a the Farm and Food Practices Protection Act).

The Committee has nearly finished the By-law, which has to be reviewed by Council, the Township lawyer and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and probably several other people, as well as being presented at least one Public Meeting.

The Province is also drawing up much more extensive legislation on farming practices, but it most uncertain when this is published.

LOYALIST PARKWAY



ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Bath Town Hall April 18, 1:00 pm.

The public are invited to attend, share their concerns, offer suggestions, and have questions answered.

Information: 613 393 3752

- FOOT CARE-

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K7L 1N7

Sue will be taking care of clients at the Foresters by appointment on

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

**Call Beth for an appointment time
389-5582**

Meanwhile the province has said it may produce a White Paper, which sets out the way it is thinking, possibly this spring. Some provisions of the Provincial legislation are likely to supersede the Municipal By-law.



COOK'S CORNER

- Dianne Marshall -

Swiss Turkey and Ham Bake

This is a good casserole for using up leftover ham and turkey or chicken. The water chestnuts add a crunchy texture.

In a frying pan cook $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped onion in 2 tablespoons butter or margarine till onion is tender but not brown. Blend in 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons salt, and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper. Add one 3 oz. can sliced mushrooms, undrained ($\frac{2}{3}$ cup), 1 cup light cream, 2 tablespoons dry sherry; cook and stir mixture until thick and bubbly.

Add 2 cups cubed cooked turkey (or chicken), 1 cup cubed cooked ham, and one 5 oz. can water chestnuts, drained and sliced ($\frac{2}{3}$ cup).

Pour onto $1\frac{1}{2}$ quart casserole; top with 2 ounces process Swiss cheese, shredded ($\frac{1}{2}$ cup). Mix $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups soft bread crumbs and 3 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted; sprinkle around the edge of casserole.

Bake in hot oven (400°) for 25 minutes, till lightly browned. Makes 6 servings.

AMHERST ISLAND PHONE DIRECTORIES

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A.I.W.I.



Thank You Notes

Thank you to all the First Responders who came out of their warm beds in the wee smalls of March 5 to help us. Gary, Tom, Bill, Diane, Chris and Alex - you were a great comfort and help at a very scary moment, and we are very thankful. No less thanks to the night ferry crew for its quick response to the callout. It's great to know the system works. If I've left out any names, that's because I'm tired now and my brain doesn't work!

Caroline/Llew

Engagement

Laurie McEwen and Dave Willard were engaged on February 17th at the Wharhingouse Inn near Picton. A wedding will follow shortly and then Dave and Laurie will be making their home on the enchanting south shore. Laurie is a high school teacher and will be working at Frontenac Secondary and Dave will continue to operate his fitness centre in downtown Kingston.

Janet's Jottings

*"The ousel-cock so black of hue,
With orange - tawny bill,
The throstle, with his not so true,
The wren with little quill."*

(1564-1616) William Shakespeare

Little did the great bard know how he would effect the birds of the new world. When Europeans arrived on the eastern shores of North America, they found one of the richest habitats in the Northern Hemisphere. They found forests of more species than in all of Europe. There were creatures of the woods and waters strange to their eye and adapted to life in the deciduous forest. They must have marvelled and wondered as we do on a trip to the zoo or those fortunate enough to visit exotic places.

Was man happy with the way things were? Of course not! Man the hopeless romantic that he is wanted to bring some small bit of home with him. In 1880 a small group of Shakespeare lovers tried to introduce all the birds mentioned in Shakespeare to Central Park, New York. They released 60

European Starlings. In 1875 attempts in Quebec were made and again tried in 1889 and 1892 but all tries failed. The first Starling recorded in Canada was in 1914 at Niagara Falls. The first Kingston area Starling was taken in 1921 on Wolfe Island and is now in the National Museum. You can imagine the thrill early Birdwatchers would have when they could list their first Starling. The largest flock ever recorded in Kingston records was seen on Amherst Island in 1979 as 10,000 birds. Their numbers of recent counts are on the decline.

“Garbage Birds”

I heard this term used among Birders as referring to birds such as Starlings. **THERE ARE NO GARBAGE BIRDS!** Every bird has worth as a creation of God just as each child has value and every weed and flowering plant. We cannot decide what is garbage. We make it that way when we carelessly throw it away but as North America has discovered - Our garbage is killing us.

I defend the Starling because he never chose to invade us. Each fall as they circle in huge aimless flocks, I feel for them as their genetic memory says migrate, migrate and their imprint of stars and their maps match European patterns not ours. Where is Africa where I’m supposed to go? There are about 100 species of Starlings. We would love a Rosy Pastor from Eurasia or an Oxpecker from Africa or a Myna bird from Asia but we cannot abide a noisy dirty immigrant for Europe who is competing for homes and food in the New World. Think about it ...weren’t we all the same when we arrived and shoved our First Nations brothers over?

Their mimic ability is phenomenal. Today as the sleet fell and rain followed I heard the haunting sounds of an Upland Plover. Was it one? Of course not, just a Starling singing its variety of calls. We have one who woos his lady-love with the far-off call of a loon whistled down our chimney to get an echo effect. The Starlings are early signs of Spring as their dark beaks turn bright yellow and their dull coats take on an iridescent sheen of purple and green. As they cover your lawn working a pattern that reminds me of a search and rescue pattern we used to learn as we trained as waterfront personnel in those long gone days. Duck-diving to cover the dark waters of a swimming area. They seem to organize themselves in lines and work your whole area

**Need a caretaker
while you are away?
Call Betty at 389-7907**

finding cut worms and clinch bugs and other harmful pests. Yes, they compete with Bluebirds, Flickers, Tree Swallows and Woodpeckers but they earn their keep. Can’t we just build more Birdhouses?

GARDEN CALENDAR
Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc

March

- ❖ Start tuberous begonias and caladiums in pots.
- ❖ Plant brassicas (cabbage family) and hardy annuals for April-May plantings.
- ❖ Start tomatoes, lettuce and other fast growers late March to early April.
- ❖ Order summer flowering bulbs.
- ❖ Check and repair gardening tools.
- ❖ Apply combination dormant spray to fruit trees and pest-prone shrubs when non-freezing weather permits.
- ❖ Start forcing branches of spring-flowering shrubs and lily of the valley root pips after buds start to swell.
- ❖ Prune summer-flowering shrubs and vines.
- ❖ Loosen up packed winter mulch and press back heaved perennials.
- ❖ Plan to add a few native bird-attracting berry plants.

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**YESTERDAY,
TODAY
AND
TOMORROW**

- Submitted by Syke Fleming -

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry - two days which should be kept from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is Yesterday with its mistakes and cares, its aches and pains, its faults and blunders. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control.

All the money in the world cannot bring back yesterday. We

cannot undo a single act we performed; we cannot erase a single word we said. Yesterday is gone.

The other day we should not worry about is Tomorrow with its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and poor performance. Tomorrow is beyond our immediate control.

Tomorrow's sun will rise either in splendour or behind a mask of clouds - but it will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in Tomorrow, for it is as yet unborn.

That leaves only one day - Today. Any man, by the grace of God, can fight the battles of just one day. It is only when you and I add the burdens of those two awful eternities - Yesterday and Tomorrow - that we break down.

It is not the experience of Today that drives men mad - it is remorse or bitterness for something which happened Yesterday and the dread of what Tomorrow may bring. Let us, therefore, journey, but one day at a time.

- Illinois Medical Journal.

Water Levels

Lake levels are just about exactly on the 82 year average, 1918 - 2000, at 72.6m for the middle of March. And, the Lake is slowly rising as it should for this time of year.

What kind of growing season will it be? It doesn't seem we repeat weather so perhaps it will be hot and dry or hot and wet. We would like mainly summery but with some significant rains to keep the pastures and hay growing... not, however, like last year when everything grew like bamboo all spring, summer and fall.



A Letter Home

Shearing is the first major non-regular chore of the year. It is three days of intense worry and work. The sheep have to be kept dry which, for this time of year, generally means under cover... we don't have enough cover to put all the sheep under at one time. And, it means bringing the sheep back to the old grey barn between rain or snow storms. This coupled with making sure that the shearers have a steady supply of sheep is very stressful. On the plus side, we've lots of help hired with virtually all being experienced at shearing. So, wish for warm, dry weather this coming week because we could use some.

And, once shearing is out of the way, the ewes start their conditioning run up to lambing. This should get them in the best possible shape so they have few lambing problems and can produce lots of milk. Of course, not getting the ewes fat has to be guarded against. Chores build up as we approach lambing because there are barns to get ready, feeders to fix, fences to get running again, etc. Lambing runs directly into haying so come the middle of this month, we can start to long for the lazy days of winter... you know - going out for a few hours on the ATV in -1000 degree weather with a wicked wind out of the NW... getting stuck and having to walk home beating off roving herds of deer.

There was supposed to be a picture here but my printer wouldn't print it. Don't ask me why 'cause I don't know... I even installed the printer again with the same poor results.

The picture showed 11 deer grazing in a field only a couple hundred feet from our new barn.

Has anyone noticed that there are immense numbers of deer roaming over the Island? One day, I counted twelve in one field (there easily could have been a few more); and, just through the woods, there were 7 more. Plus, there are almost always 2 to 4 hanging around with another flock... the dogs put these guys out of the field when we show up at feeding time, we think they're letting us see them do something besides consume buckets of dog food. Its got to the point where you don't say you saw a deer or two but rather you say how many herds did you saw. You virtually have to bump them out of the way with the ATV to get where you are going.

We are thousands of miles from the UK and its continuing crisis with hoof and mouth disease - yet we feel a tinge of fear. There is no way for us to comprehend the terror that must griping the UK's farming community. As of March 11th, the BBC was reporting 164 cases which is double the number it was reporting a few days earlier. Despite the government's efforts, it continues to spread. There is now talk of calling out the Army to deal with the hundreds of thousands of sheep, cattle, pigs and goats that have to be slaughtered. It only takes one animal with a confirmed case of the disease to cause the whole herd or flock to be destroyed. Plus a 6 mile exclusion zone is set up around the farm. Inside this area no animals can be moved off the farm and there are extreme restrictions on how deliveries are made to the farm... even groceries have to be passed from road to farm over a disinfected coated layer of straw. Reports from Europe now say the disease has broken out in France, Argentina, Saudi Arabia and someplace else in the middle east. It must be horrible to see your life's work destroyed... breeding programs that have been on-going for years and years. literally, stopped dead in the tracks.

For us, the threat is small but not imperceptibly so... the disease can be carried by people and things coming from the Europe. Hoof and mouth disease can last, according to the OMAFRA web site, up to 14 days on clothing and up to 20 weeks in things like hay. It is destroyed by sunlight and high temperatures. Apparently, the last outbreak in Canada, 1952, was brought here from Europe on a raw sausage.

So, if your sheep-farming cousin just over from England wants to visit a Canadian sheep operation, ours is closed to visitors. In fact, the shearing crew will all be completely emersed in disinfectant before being given the 5th degree as to their recent whereabouts.

ONTARIO SHEEP MARKETING AGENCY

News Release

March 15, 2001

Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency Urges Wider Precautions as Foot-and-Mouth Disease is confirmed in France, reported in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emerates and Argentina

While Britain has confirmed 3 more outbreaks of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), raising the total to 234 cases, FMD is now confirmed in France, and reported in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Argentina, the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency is urging wider precautions for travelers and producers to prevent the disease from spreading to Canada.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease can be spread by humans, via contained clothes or footwear, and by infected meat products. Farmers are requested to prevent farm visits by anyone who has been in a country with FMD within the past 30 days. FMD is endemic in parts of Asia, Africa, the Middle East and South America with sproadic outbreaks in areas previously free of the disease, including France and the United Kingdom. If visitors must come to the farm or ranch they should wash and disinfect all personal effects and equipment that have accompanied them, especially footwear.

Travelers are reminded to declare all meat, dairy or other animal products that they bring back to Canada. If travelers visited a farm while abroad they should clean and disinfect footwear and clothing. Those who have traveled in a country where FMD is present should stay away from Canadian farms for 30 days after entering Canada.

Foot-and-Mouth disease does not cause illness in humans. It is an extremely serious and highly contagious livestock illness that affects cloven-hoofed animals (cattle, hogs, bison, sheep etc.) The disease causes severe production losses in domestic livestock. Because of its highly contagious nature any country with an outbreak is not permitted to export livestock or meat.

The Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency is fully supportive of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's swift response in banning imports of animal products from the European Union (EU). Canada has remained free of FMD since 1952 due to the diligent efforts of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Agriculture Canada, the agencies responsible for keeping foreign animal diseases out of Canada.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH

Monday, March 26th, 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
Saturday, March 31, 5-7 p.m. Anglican Beef Dinner

APRIL

Friday, April 6th, 7:30 p.m. Euchre
Monday, April 9th, 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 18th, 1 p.m. Loyalist Parkway Annual Meeting
Monday, April 23, 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

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

ISLE

Cheese Dates

ORDER IN BY: PICKUP & PAYMENT

6-7pm at the school

Mar 9	Mar 21
Apr 20	Apr 25
May 18	May 23
June 15	June 20

Amherst Island GENERAL STORE

389-0417

STORE HOURS

Monday - Saturday 9 am - 6 pm
Sunday 10 am - 6 pm

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