Amherst Island BEACON

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UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

- Mostly the same old management

Welcome to a simpler, but no less kind, Beacon. We still intend to leave the controversial issues to the Whig, the Globe, and the Post. Our humble task is to be an information sharing newsletter for those living on Amherst Island as well as for those who have some connection with this place.

Until someone takes an interest, the way Don did, in creating a more aesthetically pleasing Beacon, we'll forget about the little masthead drawings and information boxes surrounded by text.

Until someone takes on the job of attending council meetings, there will be little official municipal business included in the Beacon. Does anyone want the job - it could be shared? The Beacon might cover mileage costs. Hopefully, the municipality will to send us copies of agendas and minutes - Don got them when he attended the meetings.

Don, by the way, is still contributing to the Beacon. He is scanning photos into the other computer while this is being typed. He also loaded up the floppy disc that Caroline delivered this morning containing all the contributions that were left at the store.

Tomorrow evening Tom Richmond is coming here to show us how to use the Adobe Page Maker program which promises to ease the burden of producing a Beacon. [It's interesting to note how many useful Toms there are in this community: Tom the plumber; Tom the carpenter; Tom the roofer and grass cutter, and Tom the electrician.]

So, the Beacon will be simpler in layout and lighter in municipal content - at least initially. Are there any other changes? Yes:

1) the Beacon will come out at the end of each month. The submit-material date will the 20th.
2) there will be more emphasis on Island history.
3) all ads will have to be re-submitted for the June issue. Long running ads may be charged for but that decision hasn't been made yet. For now, all that we ask is that anyone wanting to have an ad in the Beacon should send the ad in by June 20. All ads must be Island related.
4) items without a direct link to Amherst Island are unlikely to be printed (unless they appeal to the narrow and arcane interests of some staff member).
5) typed articles or e-mails can be directly entered into the computer thereby saving typing time.
6) reasonably small ads can also be entered directly.

The Beacon gratefully accepts articles from its readers: obituaries; memories; meeting reports; doings at the school; church news; farming outlooks; nature views; and, so on. We miss Sally's willingness to encourage community members to write about specific events.

The Beacon needs people to interview older Islanders. There are, at the County Museum, quite a few audio tapes of interviews of senior Islanders that are begging to be made into articles for the Beacon. And there is a gold mine of material in the Womens Institute's Tweedsmuir History.

Neighbourhood

Lyn Fleming

Get well wishes this month to Earl Tugwell, as he recovers from eye surgery; Lillian Miller and Bill Bulch, who both made trips to the hospital; Shyanne Shurtliffe and Laurel Brady, who are both sporting cast on their arms.

Welcome to new Island residents, Vicky Keith and John Monroe, who have bought Doug Shurtliffe's house on the south shore. Also to Bob and Bernadette Filson who have moved into Madeline Kerr's house.

Happy 97th birthday to Pete Witteveen, who celebrated by going out to dinner with family. Congratulations to his daughter Swantze Kehoe and her husband Leonard, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary the same day.

The congregation of St. Paul's held a recognition evening recently to honour some of their own who had been members of the church for 50 years or more. Rev. Dunn presented each with a framed award. The evening also included a pot luck supper and slides from Zander and Nancy Dunn's trip to Ethiopia.

Congratulations to Larry Fleming, who recently placed 2nd in the Eastern Ontario Truck Driving Championships, and now qualifies to go on to the provincials.

Well, the highlight of the month for many, was A.I.P.S.'s presentation of the musical "Clowns", presented to a full house. The students have worked very hard the last couple of months, under the direction of head teacher Mrs. "D", and it paid off! From the tiniest JK clowns right up to the 8th grade "Big Wheel", there was no shortage of talent. There were acrobats, dancers, soloists, tricksters and so much more. Every student was involved on stage and the senior class took care of set and gym decorations as well. Refreshments were provided following the show by ISLE.

Spring has finally arrived this month, the tulips are up, lilacs are budding, there are lambs, calves and fawns in the fields. If, over a long winter, we ever doubt why we live here, this time of year reassures us!!

Hope to see you at the

4-H Yard Sale

Sat. June 9 10a.m. - 2p.m.

Look for us behind the "Back Kitchen"

(Have rummage to donate to the sale? Please bring on sale day. Thanks!)

Women's Institute Meeting

Nancy Dunn

The regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Island Women's Institute was held at 7 p.m. on April 18, 2001 at Honeywood, the unique log home of Joyce Haines. Following the usual opening 10 members answered the roll by paying their annual dues. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

It was noted that a total of 17 people (members, spouses and friends) attended the amusing theatrical piece, "Pool's Paradise", presented by the Grandview Women's Institute in Selby on March 28th.

Pres. Nancy Henshaw, Anna Hitchins, Marian Glenn and Joyce Haines are planning on attending the District annual meeting in Odessa on May 9th. While there, they will be extending an invitation to the district to meet on Amherst Island on May 15th next year.

It was decided to send a donation to the CNIB.

BAKE SALES on Fridays of the summer's long weekends will be held again this year, namely: May 18, June 29, Aug. 3 and Aug. 31. A booth will be set up in front of the General Store for sales between 3:45 and 6 p.m. Pies, cookies, breads, rolls and who knows what other goodies will be available.

After the monthly business the annual meeting was held. Minutes of last year's A.G.M. were read and approved; the report of the nominating committee was received: and a new slate of officers was installed.

As May 16th, the regular meeting date, conflicts with a zoning by-law meeting the May gathering will be on Thurs. May 17th at 7 p.m. at Marian Glenn's in Bath.

The evening closed with a brown bag auction followed by a delicious lunch served by the hostess.

W.I. Bake Sales at the Store

Fridays
May 18
June 29
Aug. 3
Aug. 31
3:45 - 6:00 p.m.

Island History

Sally Bowen

(I'm living on the mainland for a while near medical help, but I miss the Island. I started seeking an island connection in my neighbourhood, and to my pleasure met.....

Ralph Morrow.

Ralph's grandfather's grandfather built the beautiful stone Morrow homestead and carriage house, now owned by Bryan and Carol Finlay at the Head.

Two of his father's uncles worked the farm at the turn of the century, Willy living in the stone house and Tom in a frame house next door. His grandfather Samuel worked a farm where the Truemans now live and his father John bought the Burleigh farm just west of the Truemans. His father's uncle George Wemp, farmed what is now the Hunt Club Property. Everyone did mixed farming with sheep, pigs, chickens and milk cows. They all raised their own grain for the animals and as a cash crop.

Ralph's father told him he thought the grain elevators were built when prices were good for whiskey and beer. His brother remembers the elevator at Emerald being loaded by horse power - a horse walking in circles worked a pulley to the top. Ralph remembers that other elevator east of Neilson's store (now the location of the Weasel and Easel) was easier to load because it was built into a hill. The farmers could load at the top at road level and the unloading was accomplished by two-wheeled carts below at lake level.

Willy would use a horse and wagon to draw his milk from the Morrow Homestead to the cheese factory near Emerald (now on the property which I believe is owned by Bob Horth). His father converted a car into a truck during the war and managed to get enough rationed gas to draw the milk from a couple of farms to the factories. The two Island cheese factories (the other located on the Wilson's property in Stella) had an excellent reputation. They were owned by island resident, Reg Instant. Harold White operated the one in Emerald; his father, the one in Stella. When these closed , Harold went to Wilton to make cheese and here his son Lyle learned the skill.

Ralph remembers the "Battery Pasture"(once part of the Morrow farm, and now part of Topsy Farms) at the Head and the "Battery Field" owned by Ben Wemp at the Foot. Cannons had been located there during the war of 1812. He said in later years people used to dig down into the mounds and search the water off the bluffs, but the cannons weren't to be found. He does remember his father saying that a stone stairway had been carved into the cliffs for access and that the eroded remnants could still be seen from the water.

In 1928, the year Ralph was born, Amherst Island purchased its first ferry. The reeve at the time, Sam Miller, had encouraged Council to build money in a reserve fund and when they had $20,000 (he thinks) they ordered a 5 car ferry from Collingwood, modeled after the St. Roach. It could take seven cars by blocking the passenger cabin. At first the ferry used the private dock at Neilson's Store. His father said it was very difficult to drive up that steep slope in a model T. Soon the government built a dock at the present location.

There was a log house on their farm where Ralph remembers his father stored their shorn wool for a few years during the hard times when it didn't sell for much. They had lived in it until his father was able to build in 1937. He remembers a big barn with the horse barn built at right angles and the date 1876 proudly carved nine inches high right through the board facing the road.

Ralph, his brother Carleton and sisters Glenna and Wilma used to walk the three miles from their farm to SS #5 (which is now the location of Paul and Carol Glenn's new house on the 3rd Concession) . In winter sometimes his mother would drive them in a horse and cutter. To attend the continuation school they biked seven miles to the village. The High school just east of the blacksmith's shop was in a building owned by the Glenns. A Miss Glenn lived in one end of the building and two rooms, one up and one down were used for the school.

Willy Morrow married Elizabeth, an Irish immigrant late in life and they had no children. The Morrow homestead was sold to Arthur Timbrell. One of Arthur's brothers, Walter, is the father of our local politician, Dennis Timbrell. The house was vacant and abandoned for some time when purchased by Charles and Elsie Densem in the 50's.

It is beautiful now.

Ralph is not sure whether he still has kin on the island. Any response? Any comment on the above?

~~DUMP~~
~~LANDFILL SITE~~
TRANSFER SITE

[Staff: The following was received from David Thompson, Township Engineer. It is in reply to a letter sent to him about changing the dump to a transfer site.]

Dear Chris & Dianne:

Thank you for your correspondence dated April 8, 2001. I am taking this opportunity to respond to your concerns and attempt to explain the direction proposed by staff regarding the Amherst Island landfill site.

The Township is required, by the Ministry of the Environment, to conduct groundwater monitoring and complete an annual report for the Amherst Island landfill site. This task costs approximately $11,400, which represents about 1/3 of the total waste management costs for Amherst Island.

Staff feel that there may be a potential of operating the Amherst Island landfill site as a waste transfer site. Under this scenario, it may be possible to reduce the monitoring and reporting costs.

The presentation was made to Council that this alternative method of service delivery would be something that staff would evaluate as a project for the medium to long term, with the initial step being to evaluate whether there was the financial incentives to move in this direction.

As a waste transfer site, residents would still bring their garbage to the site, as they always have done. The exception would be instead of depositing the waste on the ground, it would be put into bins which would be removed on a regular basis and taken to an alternate site. It is hoped that in time, the monitoring and reporting costs could be reduced. Staff will be reviewing this issue as time permits, albeit this item is relatively low on the priority list with a very lengthy list of issues ahead of it.

We appreciated your comments in your letter regarding recycling. During the past couple of years, specifically in 2000, we have continued to expand the recycling program on the Island in such a fashion as to match the products processed by our contractor, Kingston Area Recycling Centre (KARC). If you have any questions regarding recycling issues, please contact Jim Guest at our office at *386-7351,* ext. 117.

In your letter you also mentioned you would like a location for depositing used engine oil. The collection of waste oil is an activity controlled by the Ministry of the Environment, which requires various levels of approval and related monitoring. Currently, the Township, through its contract with KARC, will receive waste oil at the recycling depot on Lappan* s Lane in the City of Kingston on Thursdays during the months of April through November and the second Saturday of each month over the same period. As a resident of Loyalist Township, you are entitled to drop off residential volumes of waste at this facility at no cost.

Should there be enough interest in a Township-owned waste oil depot, this matter could be reviewed at a later date. I would be hesitant in recommending this proposal as the costs and risks associated with contamination would be great.

Should you have any additional questions, please call.

Gardening Calendar

Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.

May

Find out your average frost date and allow at least 2 weeks later for tender transplants and warm weather plantings, e.g. beans and corn.

Harden off seedlings before transplanting.

Consider protective measures against slugs, cutworms, earwigs, and tent caterpillars.

Treat roses against black spot and aphids as required.

Take notes and photos of bulb planting for later changes and additions.

Dead-head faded tulips and daffodils.

Treat lawns against weeds and grubs as required.

Start regular hoeing and hand-weeding of garden beds.

Mulch newly planted seedlings and shrubs.

Stake and tie trees, shrubs and vines as required.

Plant tender summer bulbs, e.g. dahlias and glads.

Janet's Jottings

May

As every month rolls around I wonder what do I write this month? You are very patient readers and comment on what I've said or listed and I really appreciate that.

Usually I try to answer a question I've had lately or note a sighting that an Islander has made but today I walked to the road to get the paper and what could I do but come in and share this beautiful May morning with you.

The rain has brought the greens that I promised you in last month's Beacon. It was a gentle rain and the Island is humming with new growth and life. The roadsides are alive and the fields are planted. The new lambs are arriving and soon we'll see them leaping and springing. How one such small beastie can leap straight up with all four legs as if on springs is a wonderment to me. Is that why they're called "Spring" lambs, Chris?

This morning is what my Scottish Grannie called a soft morning. There is no wind to speak of although the lake is ruffled. The temperature is moderate and the grass and trees are still wet from last night's rain. It's not the warm sunny day that you might like best but it's perfect for the birds. The Oriole is singing his heart out in the willow north of the house. His mate will be weaving her intricate nest of grasses that will hang from a cluster of fronds and when the leaves are out will be nearly impossible to spot. She weaves from the inside of the sack and her eggs and later the young are rocked safely and securely high above the predators.

In the maple at the east side a Red-eyed Vireo is working around the unfolding leaves looking for insects and breakfast. You'll know him by his blue-grey head and visible eyebrow. The Phoebe is a friendly flycatcher that pumps his tail up and down when he sits and gives his scratchy call- feebee. He likes to use the feeder as a perch although he's not looking for seeds. East of the house the male Pheasant crows loudly. I've not seen the hens lately. Possibly they're established on nesting sites. The Wood Thrush is calling from the other side of the Marshall 40ft. and two Kingfishers have just rattled their way over the house. They are such beautiful birds but their call is very noisy. The White-crowned Sparrows have been visiting the feeder. They have black and white stripes on their heads, no yellow spots on their faces like the White-throated Sparrows and sing O Canada buzz buzz as if they've forgotten the song whereas the White-throated clearly sings O Canada, Canada.

In the lake to the south are two smooth sailing Red-breasted Mergansers. The Common Merganser has a smooth green head while you may note this one has a feathered green head. There are three green-headed mallards in front of the house so the females are now on nests. In the pond by the Stella 40ft. some of you have noted the pair of Northern Pintail. I consider this the winner of "Most Elegant" duck. His white neck stripe makes him appear to carry his head primly erect and the dapper grey and black morning suit worn with the addition of long tail feathers is an eye-pleaser. In contrast for the "dumpy" award is the Northern Shoveller that you can see near Langevins on the South Shore. He comes with a green head like a Mallard but is squatty with red-brown sides and a splayed bill. The quiet Gadwall swims away from the shore with a whispered "Quack" similar to the familiar Mallard's but much softer.

Returning from the lake I watched the Ruby-throated Hummingbird at the feeder and the American Goldfinches at the Niger Seed feeder. They have been cleaning it out almost daily. The wonderful Uplands Sandpiper is calling to the west and the House Finches are making their friendly noises around the eaves.

Yes! All is right with the world and a new season has come to our fair Island. Watch for the Warblers. May 21st. should be the best Warbler watching time and our old apple trees and Hawthorns are an excellent place to check.

Good Birding!

Winners of the Amherst Island Public School Raffle

1st Tessa Mayman
Book of Ferry Tickets

2nd Tom DeHann
$25 gift certificate to
General Store

Thank You for Your Support
I.S.L.E.

Letter Home

May can really be a wonderful month on the Island. We can finally discard the long-johns, and even the occasional pair of shorts have been spotted. And this May is such a contrast to last year, when there was rain and mud and cold winds all through lambing. This year the bright sun and blue skies have made the job so much easier. We have the same lambing crew as last year, Dianne, Caroline, Beth and Leah, with Don helping with the feeding, and their experience makes lambing 800 ewes through the barn in three weeks a pleasure. Now the fields all round the barn are dotted with young lambs. There are also 400 ewes lambing out on pasture at this end of the island: Ian's responsibility. I am sure that Mark and Cherry and Dave have the fields down at the Foot full of lambs as well.

Soon the lilacs will be out on the Front Road, with the ones on the windswept South Shore following about ten days later. The summer birds are back, according to Janet, and many of our summer residents as well. Now with some rain for the hay crop, and not too much attention from the coyotes it could be a great summer. We have another guard dog pup, a three quarter Great Pyreneees, one quarter Maremma, but at four months old she will need the summer to grow before tackling any serious work.

I had better get back to the barn. With fifty ewes lambing a day there is always some action.

The Back Kitchen

Burgers, fries & Homemade Pies

Phone 389-7200

Hours of Operation

June 1 - Sept. 9, 2001
Weekends
Friday - Saturday - Sunday

Plus Holidays - Aug. 6 and Sept 3
11 am - 8 p.m.

Full Menu as per the Island Flyer
Plus Evening Specials from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Forgive Me Lord

Submitted by Syke Fleming

Today upon a bus, I saw a lovely maid with golden hair. I envied her - she seemed so gay - and wished I were as fair. When suddenly she arose to leave, I saw the cruel braces as she hobbled down the aisle; a victim of polio was she. But as she passed - a smile! Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I have two straight feet. The world is mine!

And then I stopped to buy some sweets. The lad who sold them had such charm. I talked with him. He said to me: 'It's nice to talk with folks like you. You see,' he said, 'I'm blind.' Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I have two eyes the world is mine!

Then walking down the street, I saw a child with eyes of blue. He stood and watched the others play. It seemed he knew not what to do. I stopped a moment, Then I said:"' Why don't you join the others, dear?' He looked ahead without a word, and then I knew he could not hear. Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I have two ears. The world is mine!

With feet to take me where I'd go, with eyes to see the sunset's glow, with ears to hear what I would know - Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I'm blessed indeed . The world is mine.

Author Unknown

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH ORGAN FUND

Sunday June 3, 4:00 p.m., St. Albans Church The MacMillan Singers Summer Choir . Lake Ontario Tour. Under the direction of conductor Doreen Rao, the Chamber Choir will perform a cross-cultural program of traditional and contempary choral music ranging from Handel to celebrated new works by Canadian, American, and Australian composers. Tickets at $ 12.00 can be ordered by calling Karen Miller: (613) 389-1080
Or contact: Kirsten Bennick (613) 389-0636
e-mail bennick@kos.net

THE WEASEL AND EASEL

is opening May 19th for its 6th Season.
Come in and have coffee and cakes with us,
and see what's new.
Hours 11 - 5
Open weekends until the end of June and daily during July and August

WATERSIDE SUMMER SERIES 2001

Eighth Year on Amherst Island

Concert Schedule:
Bach and Beyond
Saturday, June 23, 7.30 p.m., St. Albans Church
Rich sound of the organ and soaring voices: Bach to the year 2000 and beyond. With David Cameron, organist, Mark Schaub, tenor, Gilda DiCola Mills, soprano.

Swing Jazz
Saturday, July 14, 7:30 p.m., St. Paul's Church
The Ron Gilbertson Swing Quartet is featuring Swing Jazz, re-creating the music of the big band era, and the songs of Frank Sinatra, in a laid back, easy listening fashion. This Concert is guaranteed to have your toes tapping!

Wassermusik
Saturday, July 28, 7.30 p.m., St. Albans Church
Romantic and baroque chamber music by the Wassermusik group led by Amherst Island pianist Inka Brockhausen.

Night Sun
Saturday, August 11, 7.30 p.m., St. Paul*s Church
An evening of Ceili, blues and folk - music with heart, Imagination and rhythm performed by the award-winning recording group Night Sun.

Comedy and music
Saturday, August 25, 7.30 p.m., St. Alban*s Church
Roger James delivers music and fun - an inter-active performance combining bluegrass and comedy.

Tickets at $12 per performance can be ordered by calling Jan Sneep at ~613) 634-1255

Every month the Beacon arrives and brings us up to date on all the news. Its seems so easy that too often we just take it for granted and don't appreciate all the effort and dedication that goes into making our community paper happen.

Don Tubb has worked long and hard on our behalf for no pay and little thanks. I know I speak for all of us when I say "Thank you Don." Your photos and articles are an important part of the recording of every day life on Amherst Island.

Thanks again.

Shirley Miller

Breast Cancer Action

Kingston's 8th Annual Walk took place in Kingston on Saturday, May 12th. Spring is a time to celebrate life by walking together to raise funds in support of Brest cancer awareness.

We are pleased to report that more than $68,000 was raised on Saturday. Walkers raised $43,500 and 48 people had their heads shaved for the remainder. In the first year of the walk, $3,000 was raised compared to the $68,000 this year.

Janet Grace was very brave and had her head shaved and then walked along with Cherry Allen, Bonnie Caughey, Gwenn Lauret, Elka Herrington and Susan Sedore. A great representation from Amherst Island and thank you to all that made pledges.

Garage Sale

Weekend of May 19 & 20
Come join us, set up your own sales table here, if you wish.
Wm and Helen Bulch
5755 Front Road
Telephone: 389-3411

For Sale -

TWO 40 gallon electric hot water heaters

$50.00 each Call 634-1212

Cottage for Rent.

North Shore, good swimming, very private.

Call Cherry @ 634-1212

Thank you

My deepest thanks to all the many friends, relatives and neighbours who remembered me with cards, flowers and visits following my recent surgery. Your best wishes did so much to brighten the days. Many thanks to all of you.

Sincerely , Helen Miller

Summer at last! The days are longer and soon school will be out. Children are staying outside longer to play. Please leave plenty of time to drive to the ferry and be watchful around the village and island roads. It would be a tragedy to have the summer marred by an preventable accident. *Beacon Staff*

From the ARCHIVES
Beacon Issue #36
September 2, 1971
Down The Lane
"M.V. Amherst Islander"
Toronto, July 14, 1955

A new automobile and passenger ferry has been put into service for the convenience of motorists and residents of Amherst Island. The "M.V. Amherst Islander", built for Amherst Island Township Council, with substantial financial assistance from the Ontario Department of Highways was commissioned June 7. Reeve J.F. Fleming of Amherst Island Township was chairman for the ceremonies, held at Stella. He noted that the Department of Highways had, in addition taken over payment of $1,800 to the Federal Department of Public Works for use of wharves at Millhaven and Stella, terminal points for the new ferry. The new ferry service will provide a two-mile link with Highway No. 33, in the vicinity of Picton, Bath and Kingston for Amherst Islanders and motorists.

Mrs. David Kearney, descendant of one of the first families to settle on Amherst Island, was given the honor of cutting the while ribbon, symbolizing the opening of service for the new ferry.

The new ferry is capable of carrying 19 motor vehicles and 12 passengers in addition to its crew. Its superstructure is of metal and it is powered by Diesel engine.

Its specially constructed prow will enable it to climb upon and break through ice. Previously, for a short period each spring when the ice was too thin to support a person's weight, yet to thick for the average boat to break through, th the residents had been cut off from service with the mainland.

In officiating at the ceremonies, Mrs. Kearney recalled with a smile the worry for the plight of the islanders by newspapers on the mainland, two years ago, at a time of th year when service could not be maintained because of ice conditions, added to the fact that the telephone system had also broken down. Then a airplane was flown to the island with mail and cargo of bread for the allegedly "starving" people.

"And all the time we had a barn full of beef cattle, and most of us bake our own bread anyway," said Mrs. Kearney.

The first ferry to be put into service through co-operation of the Department of Highways was the Amherst Islander commissioned in 1928. She plied between Millhaven and Stella until almost the end of World War II. The islanders spent two years without ferry service, then a tank landing craft was commissioned and operated as a car ferry until last year.

Mrs. Kearney remembers when there was no official ferry to Amherst Island, but in those days, steamship lines plied the Bay of Quinte from Belleville and Picton to Kingston. The steamer "Brockville" docked at Stella each day and at Emerald, a village on the wester tip of the island, three times a week. Another steamer, owned by the Rathburn Lumber Company of Deseronto, named the "Leitha" also made Amherst Island a regular port of call.

Mrs. Kearney was the former Marion McGinn, whose father came to Canada from Ireland. On her mother's side, she is a descendant of John Wemple, now abbreviated to "Wemp" who was the fist white child born in Kingston. She has resided on the island for all of her 62 years.

Mrs. Kearney and her husband live with a son, Gerald, on their 260-acre farm. Their home was built well over one hundred years ago, and in it Mr. And Mrs. Kearney have raised their family of 12 children.

At one time, more than 1,000 people resided on the island, but today most of the young people have gone to the mainland to make their livelihood. There are some 73 active farmers on Amherst Island today, and the population has dropped to less than 500.

Amherst Island is steeped in early history of the opening up of Upper Canada. United Empire Loyalists settled there following the American Revolution, and the first transfer of title to a settler is recorded in 1803. Around 1670, Sieur de la Salle, with his French companions and Indian guides, explored the island and claimed it for his own. He gave it the name "Isle Tonti", in honor of one of his officers. Previously, it had been called "Kaounesgo" by the Indians, its first inhabitants, which meant "the drowned island", for a large swamp and lake are on the island.

Governor John Graves Simcoe, during his term in office, changed the name to Amherst Island, in honor of Lord Amherst who led British troops against the French fortress of Louisbourg, on Cape Breton.

Amherst Island was the home of the renowned Canadian artist, Daniel Fowler, R.C.A., who died in 1894. His beautiful home, "The Cedars" which he built, overlooking the entrance to the Bay of Quinte has been visited by hundreds of people. Amherst Island also boasts of another residence, said to be unique in Canada. It is "Scott's Mud-House", built over a hundred years ago, with earthen walls three feet thick, which still stands

today, although one part has fallen into disrepair.

Others who took part in the recent commissioning ceremonies were Hon. W.M. Nickle, Q.C., Provincial Secretary for the Province of Ontario, representing the Hon. James N. Allan, Ontario Minister of Highways, and Canon W. Williston, of St. Alban's Church, Stella.

Following the commissioning, a banquet was served at Victoria Hall, put on by the ladies of the community.

Among those present were Francis T. Welbanks, Clerk, Amherst Township; L.R. Neilson, Treasurer; H. Filson, Road Superintendent; Councillors Max Beaubien, James Eves, Ross McKee and Ernest Fleming.

Women's Institute members present some attired in costumes of the "gay nineties" period, were Mrs. W.A. Smith, Odessa; Mrs. Marshall Glenn, President, Amherst Island Women's Institute; Mrs. Fred Perry, Napanee, President of Lennox County District Women's Institute; Mrs. D.A. Miller, Stella; Mrs. William Coulson, Mrs Garnet MacDonald.

R.W. Sutton, manager of Kingston Shipyards, where the ferry was built, and Mrs. Sutton, Mrs. Nickle, and J. Gilmore, Montreal, architect, also attended.

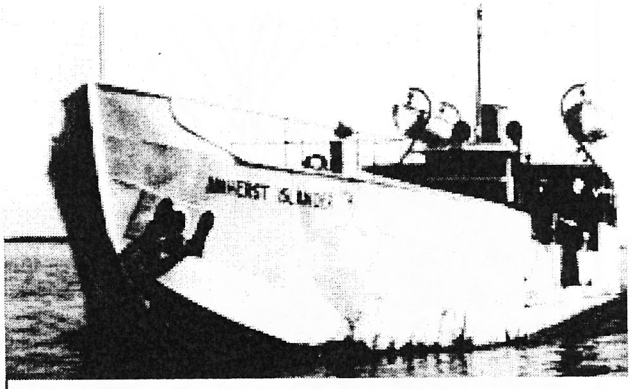
EFR TEAM Members and Firefighters wanted for Amherst Island

Loyalist Township Emergency Services, Amherst Island Station, is in need of interested people to serve their community in time of need. For more information, just show up at one of the meetings:

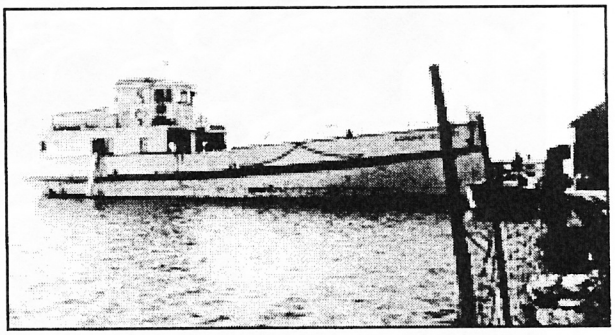
EFR: Thursdays, JUNE 21 OR JULY 19, 7:30PM
FIRE: Mondays, MAY 28 , JUNE 11 & 25, JULY 9 & 23, 7PM

Interested parties should be year-round island residents who can attend training sessions. The Township pays each member **a generous hourly rate of $17.06,** an amount that could easily reach over one thousand dollars per year just for attending training sessions. We have recently experienced shortages in the daytime, and could **especially** use members who are around during that time. Your neighbours are depending on you.

Questions?
Wayne Calver or Fred Stephenson at 384-3762



Landing craft + weld = ferry.
Photo from Ralph Morrow.



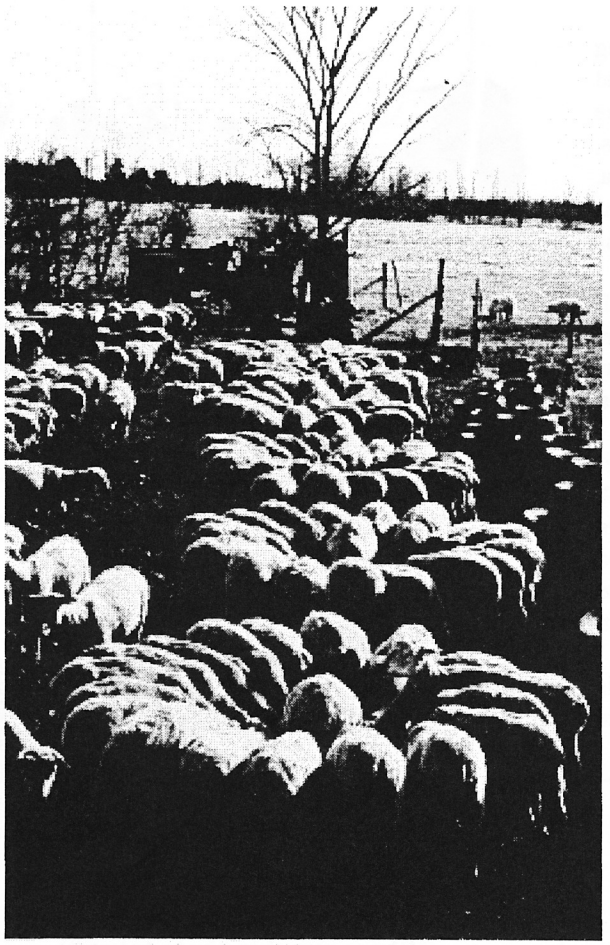
Amherst Islander of Collingwood
Photo from Ralph Morrow
(Where was this photo taken?)

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the **First Response Team and Fire Fighters** for their efforts on Bill's behalf when he fell Friday May 4th. A very special Thank You to Danny Wolfreys who stopped in when he saw Bill on the ground injured, and got him into our wheelchair.

A special thank you to our daughter Diane and our son Dave who helped us in many ways. Diane at the house and Dave at the hospital and they transported us home again.

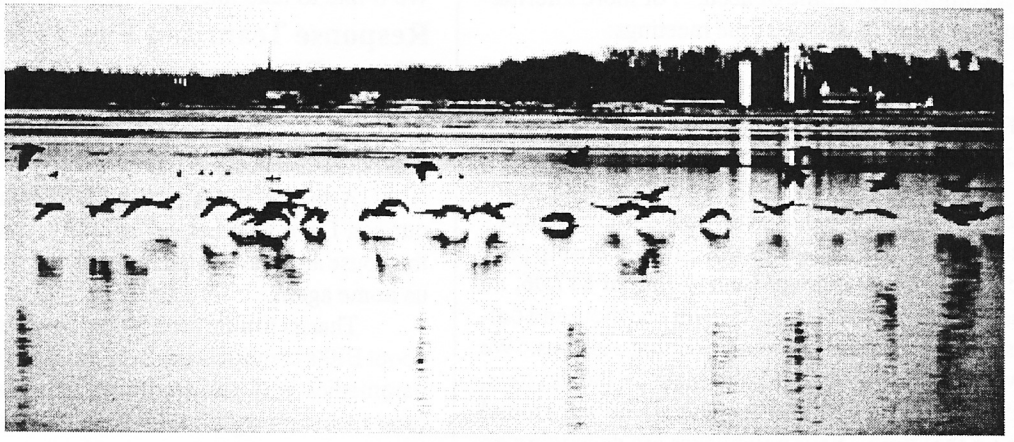
Thanks to all who enquired in person or by phone about Bill's condition and expressed their concern. The paramedics who came with the ambulance, the boat crews, the emergency doctors, nurses and staff all deserve credit and thanks too. They were efficient and caring.

Bill & Helen Bulch & family



Feeding time.

Your article or picture could have been here!



Nasty ferry disturbs indigenous lifeforms