

The Amherst Island BEACON

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The Beacon

THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

February was a more interesting month than usual with a lot of cold bright days and a week of movie production.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get well this month to Helen Caughey, who spent time in hospital, and to Zelma Koenders, who is recovering from foot surgery. Get well wishes also to Jean Tugwell.

Congratulations to Ian Murray and Sally Bowen, who became 1st time grandparents when son Jacob and Sue Frizzell welcomed their first child late in February. Nathan Arthur Murray was born in Kitchener, weighing 8lb. 3oz. and will move to Amherst Island with his mom and dad this spring. Congratulations also to Uncle Kyle and Aunt Leah.

Don and Pauline Pepper spent some time in the sunny south in Fort Meyers visiting fellow Islanders - John and Cheryl Wright.

Lynanne and Ben Whitton took their annual ski trip to B.C. this year. Ben had a ball snowboarding, tubing and skiing. Meanwhile Jim Whitton opted for warmer weather for his vacation, spending a week in Arizona visiting his daughter and getting in some golf.

Zander and Nancy Dunn took a Caribbean/Panama Canal Cruise, then drove up the U.S. west coast to B.C. to visit Zander's mom.

Senior Class students at A.I.P.S. and their Social Studies teacher Mrs. Scott held a very successful Heritage Fair on Heritage Day. About 30 community members visited while students dis-

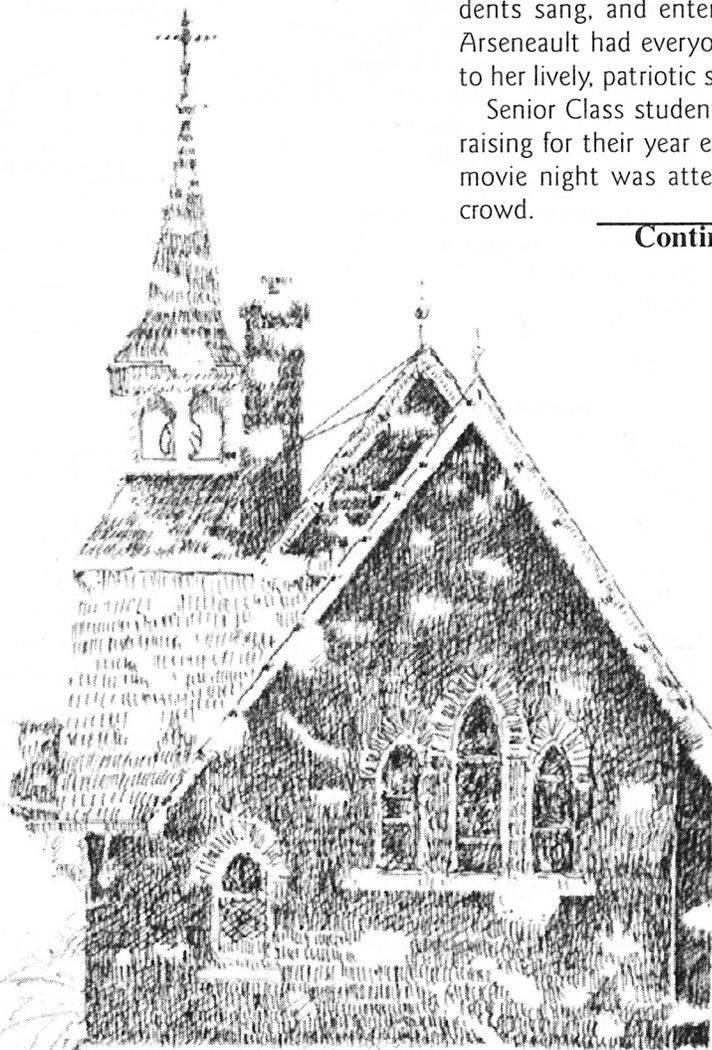
played and presented their heritage projects, then toured with students, some other displays that included, antique working tools, a quilt display, and a presentation by Helen Caughey of how school has changed over the years on Amherst

Island.

Students and guests shared a lunch of homemade biscuits and "stone soup", that the Primary class had spent the morning making. Following lunch, two of Mr. Weaver's daughters did a Ukranian dance and song, A.I.P.S. students sang, and entertainer Jeannette Arseneault had everyone singing along to her lively, patriotic songs.

Senior Class students are again fund raising for their year end trip. A recent movie night was attended by a small crowd.

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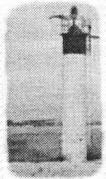


SHOWY SUNDAY

157 ALBANS AMERICAN CHURCH

This month, Peter Large has provided us with several sketches of the Island in winter.

Does a Wolfe Islander III re-fit means a 6++ month return of the MV Quinte Loyalist?? ...see page 4



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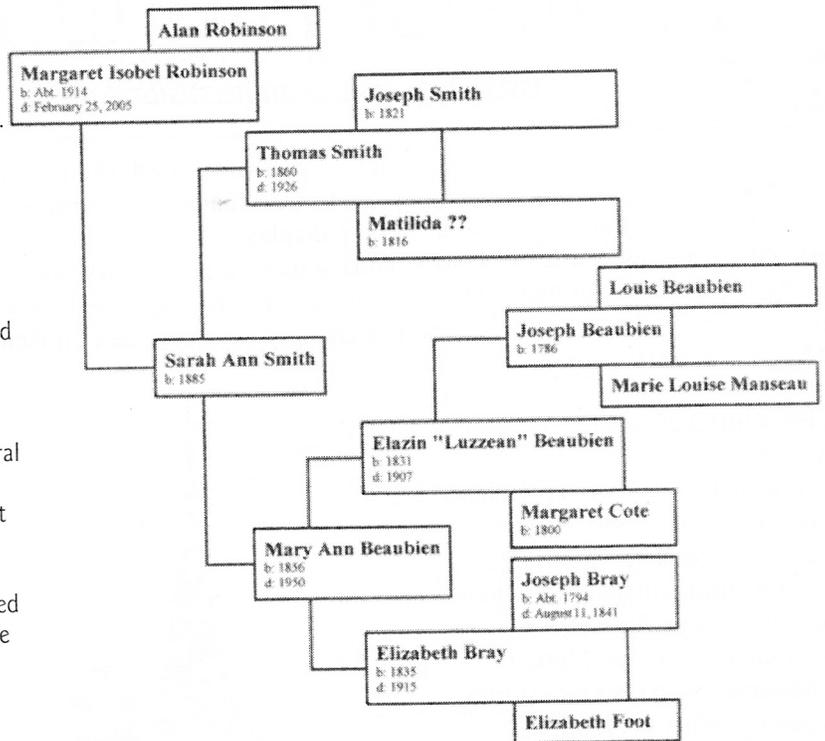
MARGARET ISOBEL ROBINSON BLENKINSOP (1914-2005)

Predeceased by her husband Gavin Blenkinsop and her brothers Bruce, Reg, Alan & Bill. Survived by her children Bill & Anne, four grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and her sisters-in-law, Mary Robinson and Hazel Horne. Margaret was born and raised on Amherst Island - her mother's people had deep Island roots.

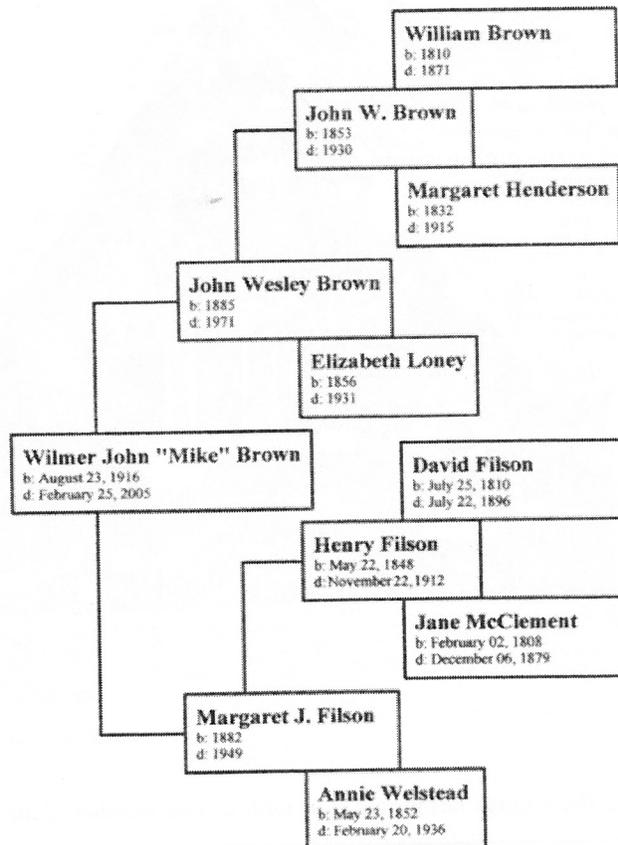
She graduated from the KGH nursing program in 1936. Margaret was president of several medically related organizations in Kingston as well as president of the Ladies Section of the Kingston Curling Club.

The Blenkinsops built and lived in the house now owned by the Shaws at 8965 South Shore Road.

Ancestors of Margaret Isobel Robinson Blenkinsop



Ancestors of Wilmer John "Mike" Brown



WILMER JOHN "MIKE" BROWN

Born on the Island on August 23, 1916, he died in Kingston on February 25. He was predeceased by wife Jean, brother Stewart and sister Ida. He is survived by sister Janie McCaugherty and sister-in-law Joan Brown. Mr. Brown was WW II veteran of the Royal Rifles of Canada.

[Editor: Is Margaret J. Filson the daughter of Henry Filson & Annie Welstead?]



Snowing in Stella

Peter Large, SCA

I recently celebrated my 50th birthday (had to put that in to keep everyone whose birthdays I mention - happy!) at a surprise party at the Lodge. Many thanks to Larry, Stephanie, Jason & Ange and everyone else who helped or came out to help me celebrate.

Well the last couple of weeks of February were beautiful, sunny & calm winter days, with lots of sightings of coyotes and foxes and swans on the South Shore. The "Owling" must be good, as the birders have arrived in droves. However, as I write, March appears to be coming in like a lion!

Thanks to the Road Crew for keeping the roads passable for the school buses as we try to get the kids to school and back! It's not easy, I'm sure, to be plowing one day, grading the next and then plowing or sanding again. Our weather at times has been back and forth.

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

March 2005:

You can feel it in the air and hear it at the corner store. Spring is coming! As I write this there is snow on the ground and below zero temperatures but the sun is warmer now



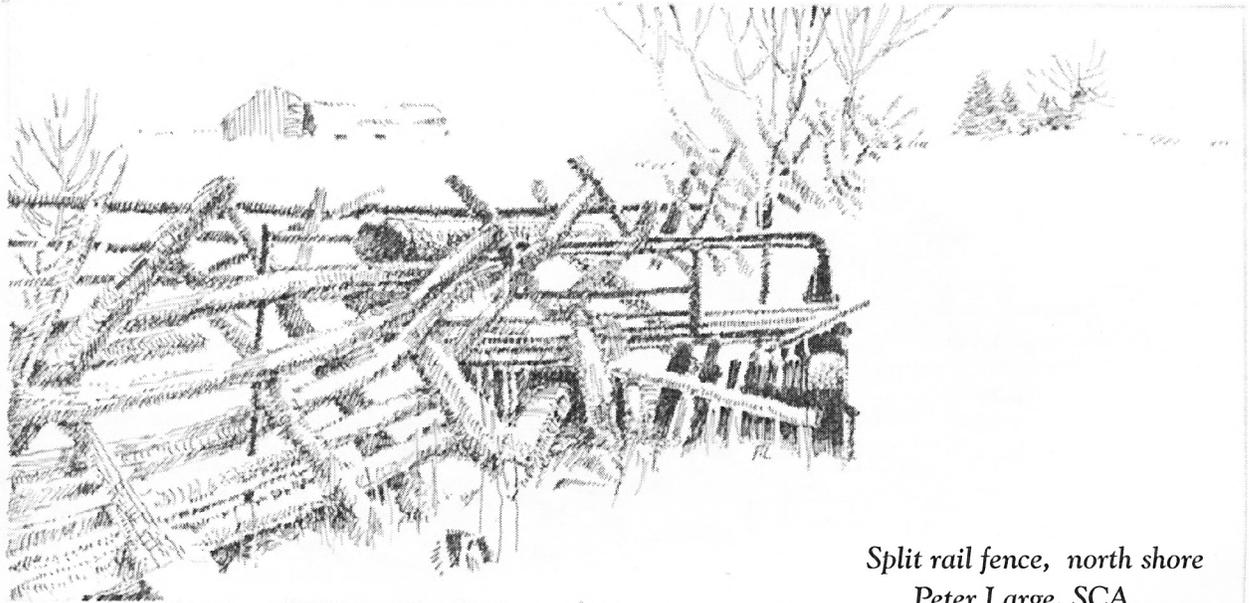
when you lift your face to it, the days are noticeably longer now and all the sparrows at the corner store are telling you with their chitter and chatter that Spring is on the way.

Throughout these last few days of February and into March the Birders will continue to come hoping to see that elusive Boreal Owl or to perhaps watch the antics of Short-eared Owls at dusk. Their numbers will taper off as Spring approaches. By March 21st our Tree Swallows will be back and banging against birdhouses thinking about establishing nesting sites. The Horned Larks are already getting set and you can see returning flocks along roadsides on the Island. They're the birds that suddenly set off from the edge of the road as you pass. If we're lucky enough to get to see a Bluebird, remember that they too return around March 24th. I know that you just can't wait for that noisy Killdeer to return so that it can call out a warning on every step you take on quiet walks along the shore. It's arrival date is sometimes as early as the first week of March.

In order to have their young ready for the rigours of the following winter the Great-Horned Owls cannot wait for balmy temperatures. In this climate they'll be nesting now. Hopefully Raymond's Owls

will once again nest at Madeleine Glenn's as they have been a successful brooding pair for the last few years. Father will hunt longer and longer hours making him more visible to people and thus more vulnerable as he feeds Mother who must remain on that nest to protect the eggs in this frigid weather. Owls do not have the physical capabilities to build a nest so they must use a cavity or use an abandoned Hawk's nest.

Friday as I passed Stan and Peggy's house there were three beautiful Mute Swans sailing serenely in a pond created by open water surrounded by ice just in front of their house. It looked like a toilet paper ad, perhaps that's not poetic enough but it was a serene and beautiful sight. The Mute Swans were originally a European bird but kept in captivity here to grace parks and ponds etc. Well birds being birds some have escaped and now there's a breeding flock near Perch River N.Y. These birds are not migratory so they need the open waters of Lake Ontario to survive the winter. As early as 1976, January 2 to 21st, a Mute Swan was reported at Amherst Island. Now we see them more frequently with our growing flock of Tundra Swans or as this past week on their own. Swans dip their heads in water to feed on bottom vegetation. The



*Split rail fence, north shore
Peter Large, SCA.*

immature mute swan shows a duskiness or almost sooty look in its feathers. They are such a beautiful bird because of that graceful S-curve in their necks and this diagnostic clue will help you separate the other swans with their straight necks and bills carried forward.

When the wind changed and blew our ice back in Chris Kennedy spotted and reported two swans on their side of the Island.

I've had a Red-breasted Nuthatch joining my birds at the feeder the last while and he is a joy to watch. With quick happy movements he jams sunflower seeds in the bark and pounds them open. It doesn't matter to him whether he's right side up or upside down. That up-turned tilt to his beak gives him a jaunty air and he's much smaller than the more common White-breasted Nuthatch.

As Spring approaches birding will get busier and busier so keep your eyes open and enjoy the antics of our feathered friends.

Good Birding
P.S. I wish those wonderful photos in the last Beacon were mine but the thanks needs to go to Wendy Partridge, a fellow teacher at Enterprise.



COUNCIL GLEANINGS
- Ian Murray

"Councillor Ashley noted that he read in the Heritage newspaper last week that Frontenac Islands' Council is discussing ferry issues with MTO. He noted that the article mentioned the proposed retrofitting of the Wolfe Islander III. He advised that this could mean that Amherst Island would be left with the Quinte-Loyalist for a long period of time.

"The CAO advised that a meeting with MTO is being arranged and the matter can be discussed at that time.

"Moved by Councillor Ashley and seconded by Councillor Hudacin that a letter be sent to MTO indicating that any transportation alternatives reviewed by MTO that may impact Loyalist Township ferry service should involve the participation of Loyalist Township Council.

"Reeve McEwen requested a Recorded Vote."

All members of Council voted in favour.

Fire Chief Wayne Calver: "This year has marked a milestone for Loyalist Township Emergency Services Training Division, and the Ontario Fire College. Our department has been chosen to host Ontario Fire College sanctioned courses at our facility. This

is the first time that courses have been offered outside of the Ontario Fire College. . . . This is a great boost to our department and the surrounding area."

Chief Calver requested Council to invest the profits from the Training Facility back into expansion of the facility.

Calls by Fire Station: Amherst Island, 21; Amherstview, 110; Bath, 51; and Odessa, 116.

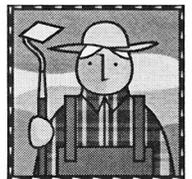
Medical calls were 30% of total, up from 28% in 2003.

Loyalist Township and the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre Inc. entered into a new legal agreement on February 1. The agreement, to this layperson, appears thorough, fair and reasonable. It is agreed to share equally \$22 thousand renovation costs.

AIMS, FEBRUARY MEETING

- Terrence Culbert,
Recording Secretary

25 AIMS members and five guests were in attendance at St. Paul's Church Hall on Saturday, February 12th. The guests included: guest speaker, Jim Gould, a South





These deer are but eight of 23 grazing on the Second Concession Road property of Culbert-Hoegenauer in mid-February. It was just before seven in the morning. (Culbert photo).

Shore resident; Wayne Gulden of Ohio who owns a home on Front Road East; Chairman Kidd's friend, retired professor Carl McCrosky of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Mark Larabie; and Frank Robidoux. Mark and Frank were representatives of the Penn City Civitan Club and guests of Ken Albertan.

Chairman Kidd brought the meeting to order at 8:30am. He thanked Sandra Reid and her great team from ISLE for a terrific breakfast. The Senior Class of Amherst Island Public School will prepare March, April, May and June's breakfasts.

Island Liaison Group:

The first meeting of the group was held. Chris Kennedy, Mary Kay Steel, Allen Caughey and Alan Kidd attended. Warren Kilpatrick was the only member unable to attend. They would like to expand the group to include at least one businessperson. The next meeting will be with Loyalist Township councillor Duncan Ashley.

2005 New Year's Dinner-dance:

Social Convenor Brian Little is the man in charge. With a request for assistance, John Munro, Ross Haines, Bruce Burnett and Allen Caughey all volunteered.

New Business:

Allen Caughey talked of a very important event taking place this summer. He told the membership of Vicki Keith's planned 80km fundraising swim from Oswego, New York to Kingston. Allan encourages all Amherst Islanders to support this event. The Stella Bella group hope to organize a benefit musical concert headlining the Abrams Family. It will be an outdoor summer event including a food and beer tent. Dale Gowan offered his farm property near the ferry dock as the concert site. It would mean that visitors could leave their cars on the mainland and walk from the ferry to the concert. AIMS agree to give this project full support.

Brian Grace suggested another small fund-raiser - collecting empty beer bottles. Empties could be deposited in Brian's pickup truck at each AIMS breakfast meeting.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer Jim Whitton reported the bank account is in good standing. AIMS contributed \$240.00 to help the Karate Club get off the ground. AIMS agreed to raise the amount paid to the breakfast organizers from \$100.00 to \$150.00.

Neilson Store Committee was pleased to announce that heat from a new furnace would be up and running the week

of February 14th.

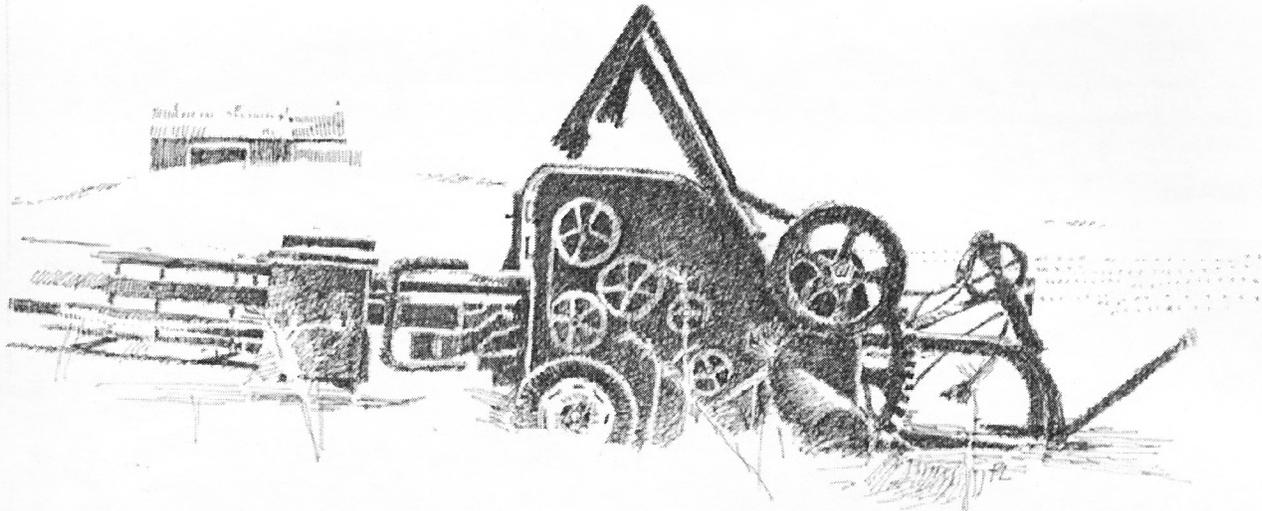
Penn City Civitan Club:

Mark Larabie of Yarker spoke to AIMS about their newly formed Penn City Civitan Club in Kingston. Their Club meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7pm at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall located across from Tim Horton's at the corner of Bath and Collins Bay Roads. Mark invited AIMS members and interested Amherst Islanders to come and visit anytime. New members, both male and female, are always welcome. The Civitan Club is a worldwide organization and was founded in 1917. Their basic concept is people helping people. They also help people with disabilities. Last year, the Penn City Civitan Club worked with Vicki and John on the Wheels in Motion Campaign.

Ken Albertan invited Mark to speak to the AIMS meeting. Ken told AIMS how Mark and Frank insulated the Neilson Store at less than cost. Ken suggested AIMS and the Civitan Club could both help raise funds for Vicki's 80km marathon swim.

Guest Speaker:

Jim Gould has been coming to Amherst Island for almost two decades. Jim is a first cousin to Bernice Gould of the Vic-



New Holland bailer, north shore

Peter Large, SCA

toria Hall Tea Room. Jim and his wife Judi moved to the Island permanently in April of 2004. "For those who don't know me," Jim said, "I live on South Shore Road in the pink house! Officially guys, the colour is called clay. Regardless of the colour of our house, we love the Island and couldn't be happier. Judy and I both love being by the water and after spending twenty years in the Royal Canadian Navy, water seems to be part a big part of my life.

"I was a rather rambunctious teenager," said Jim. "At seventeen, I didn't know what to do with my life, so I decided to join the navy. I spent the first four years bobbing about the Atlantic as a seaman. In 1962, I saw great changes in the military. This was at the time the Canadian Government decided to bring our Armed Forces up to a respectable world-class level. When the Sea King helicopters were purchased, I had the opportunity to transfer into Naval Air. I specialized in avionics, computers and radar. By 1965, Canada probably had the best anti-submarine navy in the world. In 1969, another great opportunity came my way. I was trained to become an instructor, which meant I did not have to go out to sea anymore. By that time I had a family who naturally wanted me home.

In 1977, I left the Navy for a job with private industry. Canadair had just received a contract with Loughheed in

Burbank, California to build the Aurora aircraft. The Aurora became Canada's long-range aircraft for anti-submarine duties. Judi and I moved to Glendale, not far from the Loughheed plant in Burbank. That move was a large adjustment for our family. It was Judi's first move outside her home province of Nova Scotia. Needless to say, my 14-year old daughter and 12-year old son weren't too pleased to be uprooted, leaving all of their friends behind. Our 5-year old son took the move in stride with promises of Disney World and Universal City on their doorstep. It didn't take us long to set up home in California and of course we loved the climate, at least at first. Then we all started to miss the change of seasons. After two and a half years in sunny California, we moved back to Canada. I was then posted to two separate military bases, training personnel about the Aurora aircraft."

Jim eventually left Canadair, taking a job with Honeywell. He left teaching to become their software distribution manager. Four years later Honeywell needed an instructor for their programmers and Jim took the position. In 1990, he joined Sun Micro Systems. During the fall of 2004, Jim took semi-retirement. "I still teach on a consultant basis and love it" said Jim. "Within the next two weeks I will be travelling to Columbus, Ohio on another assignment."

The next AIMS Breakfast Meeting is slated for Saturday, March 12th 2005.

CANCELLED: 2005 ART & ARTISANS TOUR

- Peter Large

After considerable thought, Terry Culbert and I, co-ordinators of the Art & Artisans Tour, have recommended to our sponsor AIMS (Amherst Island Men's Society), that the 2005 Tour be cancelled. Our reasons for withdrawing are as follows:

EXHIBITION LOCATIONS:

Last year we had exhibition space at eight locations including The Lodge, Neilson Store Museum, Victoria Hall Tea Room, St. Paul's Church Hall and grounds, Topsy Farms Woolshed and three private studios. Of these, the two largest are unavailable this year. The Lodge has booked its own series of exhibitions, which will run throughout the summer from June to September. St. Paul's is booked for weddings almost every Saturday this summer.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS AVAILABILITY:

At least four of last year's participating artists cannot exhibit this summer.

NEW WORK AVAILABILITY:

As most of the artists and artisans on Amherst Island have other careers and/or regular jobs, new work can only be done when time permits. Our greatest concern is that there may not be enough new work to make the art tour the success it was

last year.

It is for these reasons we have cancelled the 2005 Art & Artisans Tour. The Amherst Island Men's Society feel an art tour, alternating yearly with the house tour may be the way to go in the future, hopefully beginning during the summer of 2006.

THE AMHERST ISLAND MOSAIC

- Zander of DUNN INN

On Monday, February 21, I had the privilege of celebrating Heritage Day with the teachers and children of the Amherst Island Public School.

Nance and I got to the school about 11 a.m. and spent over an hour in the gymnasium reading the genealogies of the children in the senior class. They were not only interesting in themselves but the presentations were impressive.

Some of the young people spoke to the pictures, stories and family heirlooms they displayed. Others used slides, computers, tapes and recordings to highlight and emphasize their projects. I was pleasantly surprised that all the exhibitors offered family or ethnic foods they had cooked or baked themselves. I feasted on strips of meat, Hungarian cookies, chocolate chip cookies, oat cakes, short bread, raisin cookies. There were enough goodies to feed the whole school!

Those powerful presentations shamed me for two reasons. First, I don't think I could have done as good a job; and second, I have not gathered together, as they did, the materials I need to trace my own roots and show off my own family history. The teachers, especially Janet Scott who was in charge of the day, did a splendid job in encouraging and helping their charges to share their families' stories.

Meanwhile in the classrooms Susie Caughey had set up a display, entitled, Gramma's Attic, of implements that were used on Amherst Island in the good old days before electricity; Marian Glenn demonstrated quilting, an ancient art form; Helen Caughey told everybody

about the time when there were five public schools on the Island and shared stories about each one. It was truly "a learning experience."

We then partook, with the children, of a good lunch of a stone soup, biscuits and cookies. Delicious.

After lunch, when more Islanders arrived to show their support, came songs by the student choir (everybody was involved), Ukranian dances by Mr. Scott Weaver's two daughters and a rousing sing-along, led by a lively Canada-booster, Jeanette Arsenaault, and her daughter which got us all involved singing Canada's praises.

I marvelled at how so many of us had come to live on Amherst Island from places far and near. The children revealed that their parents and grandparents came from The United States, Ireland, Scotland, England, The Czech Republic, Hungary, as well as other parts of Canada and, of course, Amherst Island. The stories of how their ancestors came to be here were thrilling, surprising, adventurous, heroic.

Insofar as God works through people, God has fashioned a cast of varied and talented folk to populate our Island. How good it is to see those nationalities, personalities and abilities sharing in the challenges and opportunities to grow this great good land together.

I thank God for our young people who, by tracing their family trees for us, have

reminded us that the greatest treasure on Amherst Island is our people.

EVEN THE SEASONS SPEAK OF GOD

- Zander of DUNN INN

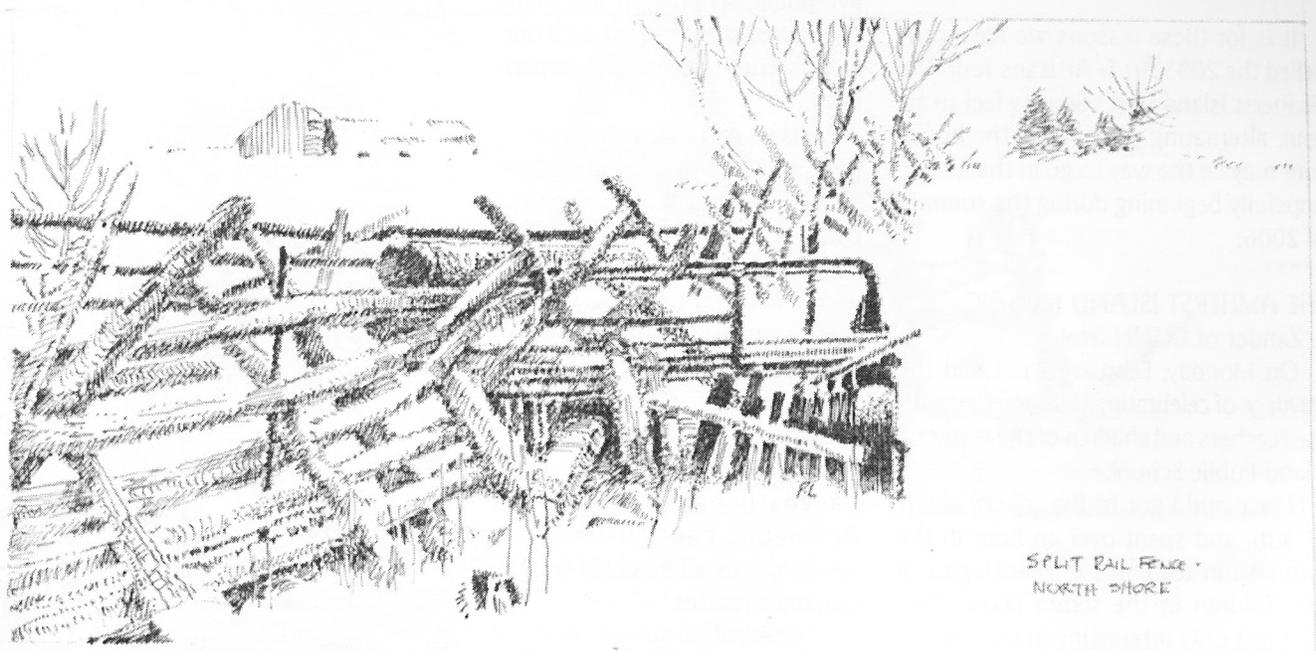
There lies on our computer desk a weathered piece of cardboard on which is written, by hand, a short poem by Robert Louis Stevenson. My wife, Nancy, found it in an old book, serving as a bookmark, took it out and left it on the desk where I read it every time I sit down to



Taken on Sunday, Feb. 13. My friends Maralyn and Fouad from Pickering enjoyed skating and waltzing on Sand Bay that Valentine's weekend
Joyce Reid



Judi Gould shot this picture of her husband Jim standing approximately a quarter of a mile out from the shoreline.



SPLIT RAIL FENCE -
NORTH SHORE

Peter Large, SCA

type.

"To make this earth our hermitage,
A cheerful and a changeful place,
God's great and intricate device
Of days and seasons doth suffice."

After reading that poem and pondering it for many days I've come to the conclusion God is speaking to me through it. I say that because I often get annoyed by the seasons in this part of Canada. I much prefer the weather of Guyana, in South America where there are virtually no seasons - unless you count the Dry Season and the Rainy Season as seasons of the year. When we were in Guyana Nance missed the four Seasons of Canada. She enjoyed the changes the seasons of Canada bring.

I would remind her we didn't have to heat our house. We managed with one set of clothes - we didn't need to buy light and heavy garments to meet the seasons. We were able to avoid boots, coats, hats and gloves when we went outside. Long underwear was never required.

But Nance was adamant that each season brought its blessings. She reminded me of the winter snow which blanketed the land making everything

pure and white. And when the sun shone on the snow it sparkled like diamonds. The cold of winter was bracing for those who went outside to ski, skate and slide. The warmth inside the houses welcomed all who returned for the night.

The season of Spring spoke to Nancy of new life. Flowers emerged, the grass turned green, lambs were born. The trees sported new buds which became leaves and fruit. People came out of their houses to greet one another over fences and around gardens and to enjoy the birds.

Summer was the warm time of the year - vacation time, swimming time, relaxing time, sunbathing time. Summer meant family reunions, car trips, boat rides, visits to the farm. Summer was fun time!

Autumn, although too short, was harvest season when fresh vegetables and fruits were enjoyed. And nothing, Nance declared, is more beautiful than the brilliant colours of the autumn leaves.

It was enough to make me homesick for Canada.

I know the Guyanese love their land and their changeless weather. We Canadians have every reason to rejoice in the wonders each season in our land brings to us.

March 21 officially begins the season of

Spring. Even if it doesn't feel like Spring we will be reminded God's at work using his "great and intricate device of days and seasons" to bless us all. Enjoy the new season.

A CARROT, AN EGG AND A COFFEE BEAN

- submitted by (but not authored by) Andrea Cross of the South Shore

A young woman told her mother about her difficult life, about how she was worn down by struggling with her many problems, about how she wanted to give up and quit.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to a boil. In the first she placed a carrot; in the second she placed an egg, in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil, without saying a word. In twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrot out and placed it in a bowl. She pulled the egg out and placed it in a bowl. She ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

She asked her daughter, "What do you

Continued on page 13

'I HATE MOOSICALS'

Photographs and text by Terry Culbert

Amherst Island native Bonnie Marshall brought her film crew home to the Island. Between February 15th and 19th, the 22-year old York University film major transformed Stella into the make believe village of Cuddsville. Bonnie and her co-director Tamar Ditzian were producing their university project, 'I HATE MOOSICALS. With dozens of technicians and actors, Amherst Island became the setting for a twenty-two minute fictional cow lovers and cow haters story set to music. A few Island residents made their screen debut in the role of extras.



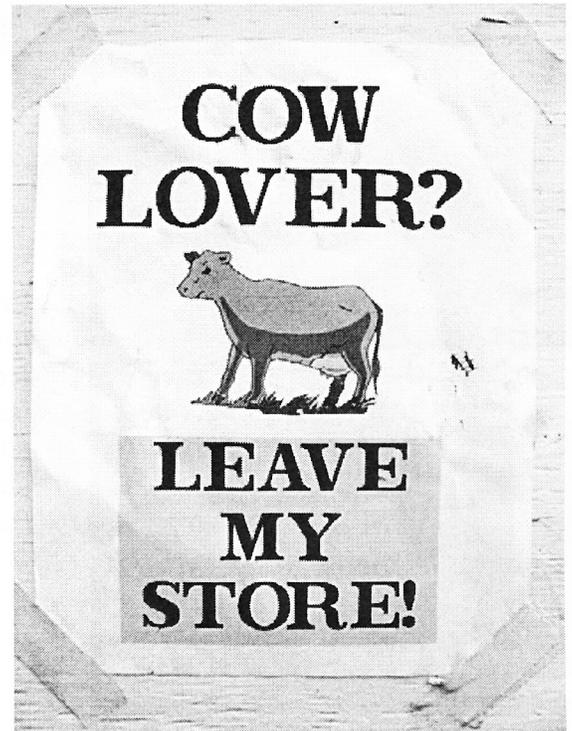
As actors and technicians frantically buzzed around his home, Chris Kennedy seems to be smiling as he sits in the midst



Dairy farmer Bruce Caughey gives a few agricultural tips to actress Kathy Quayle.

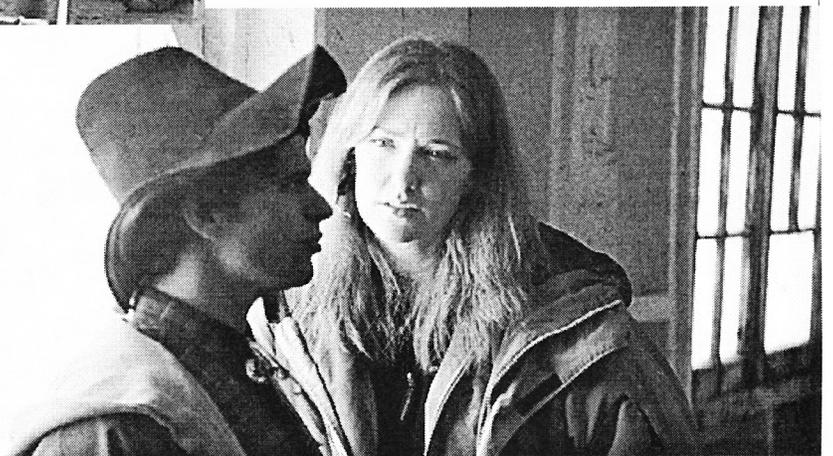


The camera crew sets up for a scene in Bruce Caughey's dairy barn on the Third Concession.



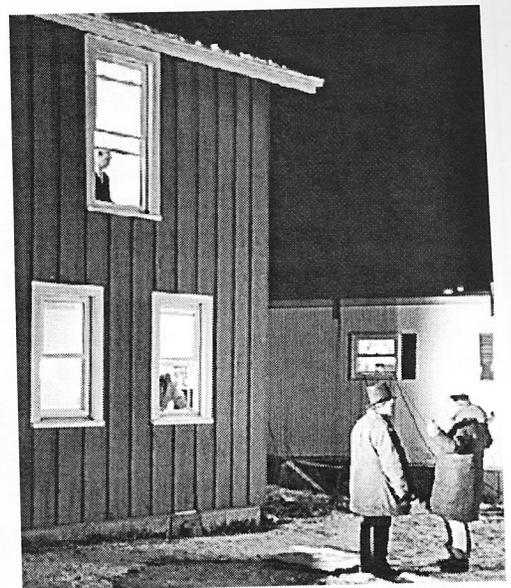
Cow lover? Leave my store! Sign on entrance to Cuddsville General Store.

Co-director Bonnie Marshall having a serious conversation with actor Tim Doiron at the dairy barn.

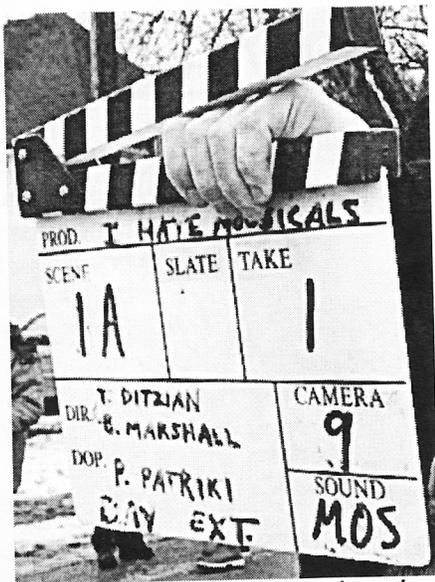




Makeup artist applies her trade to the face of actress Kathy Quayle for a night shoot at the home of Diane Marshall and Chris Kennedy

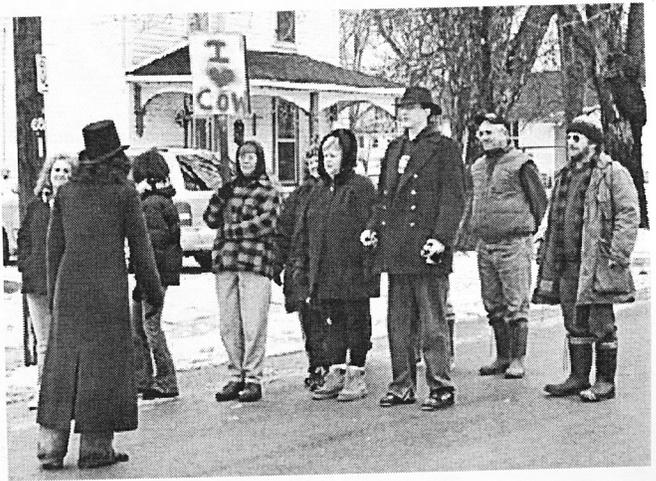


Night scene at the rear of the Kennedy-Marshall home on Front Road



Film clapper board marks what scene is being shot.

Choreographer Jackie English teaches Island residents a few dance moves for the Cow Lovers Parade



Co-directors Bonnie Marshall and Tamar Ditzian concentrate on a scene in downtown Cuddsville.





Amherst Island General Store was renamed Cudsville General Store for the movie.



Co-director Bonnie Marshall was constantly on her cell phone keeping in touch with her troops



Actress Kathy Quayle and actor Peter Mathieson take a break during the shooting of 'I HATE MOOSICALS' at Bruce Caughey's dairy farm.

A camera mounted on a dolly track follows the Amherst Island extras during the Cow Lovers Parade on Main Street Cudsville.

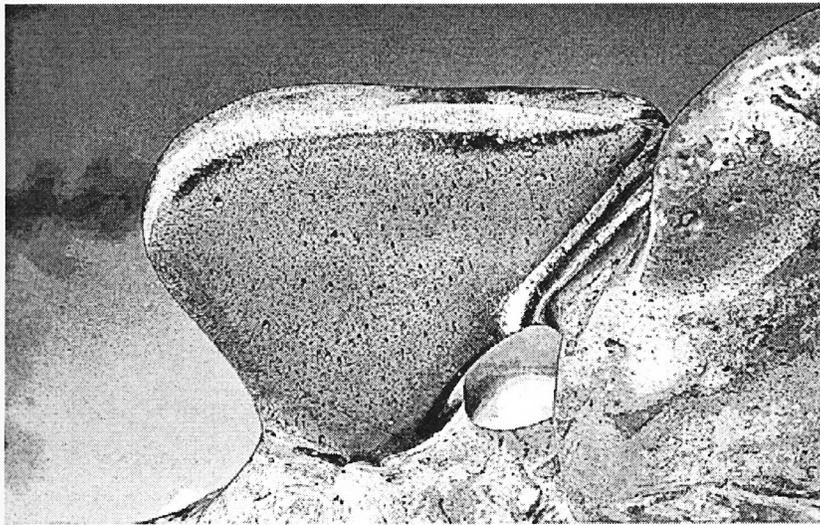
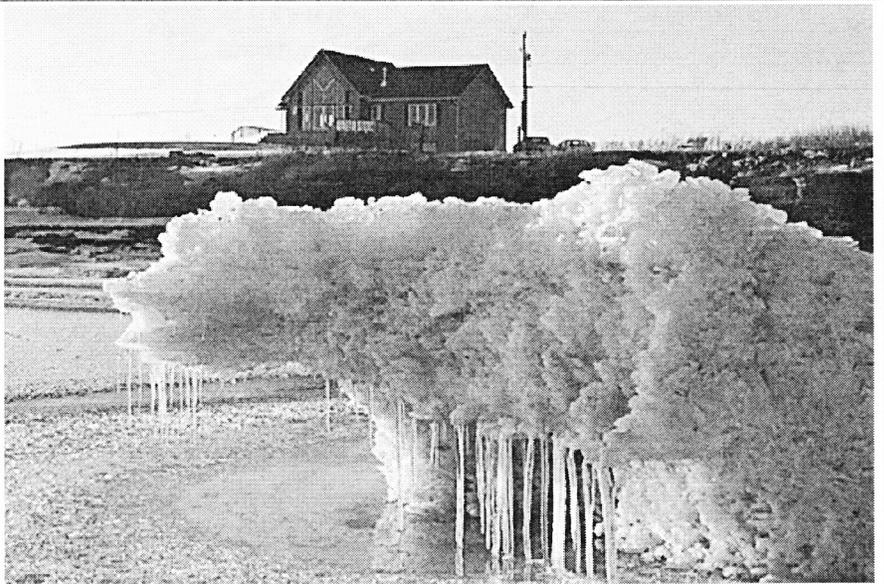


Actor Tim Doiron chats with a make believe talking bovine through the fence.



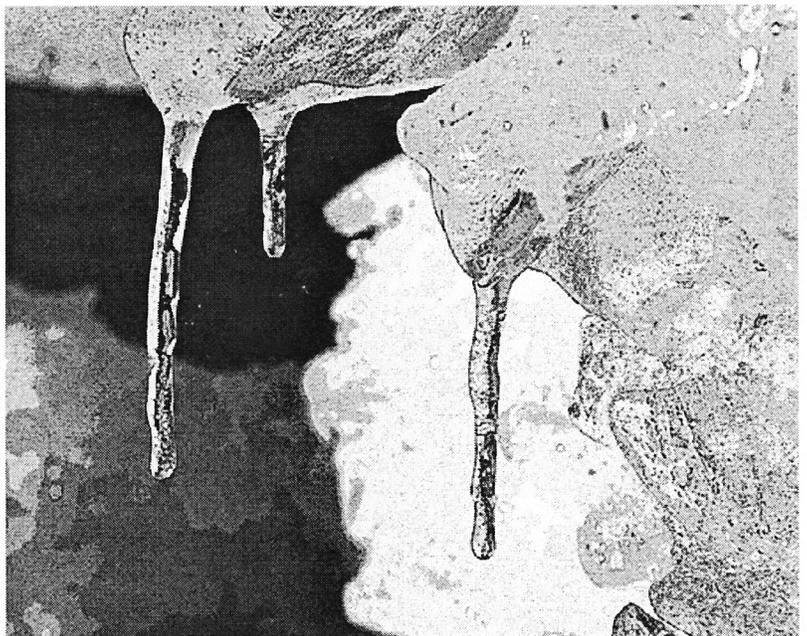
Photos by Jim Gould, South Shore.

A large ice burg sits just off the South Shore Road in front of our home.



Portrait of an ice cube

Portrait of icicles.



Continued from page 8

see?"

"A carrot, an egg and coffee," she replied.

Her mother told her to feel the carrot. She did, and reported it was soft and limp. Her mother told her to break the egg. After pulling off the shell the daughter observed the egg was hard boiled. The mother told the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma.

The daughter asked, "What does all this mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that each object had faced the same adversity - boiling water. Each had reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. After being subjected to the boiling water it became flaccid and weak. The egg had been fragile, but the boiling water had made it hard. As for the coffee beans, after they had been in the boiling water, they changed the water.

"Which are you?" the mother asked her daughter. "When adversity hits you how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?"

What about you and me? Am I the carrot, hard and strong, but in adversity do I wilt and become limp?

Am I the fragile egg, but in adversity do I become hardened and stiff? Do I develop a hardened heart?

Am I the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very thing that brings pain. When the water gets hot, it releases its fragrance and flavor.

If we are like the bean, when things are at their worst we get better and change the situation around us.

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human and enough hope to make you happy.

The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.

Remember this: when you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling.



MARCH SKIES

- Alan Kidd

Lets hope that March will bring some mild weather and that one can enjoy being out in the evening. This month Mercury reappears and can be seen just after sunset. Jupiter will dominate the early evening sky by month's end.

This month the constellation of Gemini is overhead around 8 PM, although the twins have to share the limelight with an interloper, since the brighter Saturn has moved into their space for the next little while.

However, even Castor and Pollux, the twin bright stars of Gemini are not exactly alike. Pollux is slightly brighter than Castor, and by observing the two stars with a pair of binoculars one would notice that Pollux is a bit orange in colour while Castor is pure white. Actually the greatest difference between the two can only be seen with a medium sized telescope which reveals that Castor is a double star while Pollux is a single.

According to the Greek myths, Castor

and Pollux were the brothers of Helen of Troy, and sailed with Jason and the other Argonauts. The Romans considered them to be the protectors of sailors, who swore "by Gemini", a phrase that has been handed down to us (or at least our parents) as "by jimminy".

Mercury will put in an appearance slightly above the western horizon at twilight between March 5th and March 15th. On March 11th, the crescent of the new moon is very close to Mercury.

Venus is now behind the sun's glow and will not reappear until May.

Mars rises a little before dawn and is gradually brightening. By the end of the month it can be seen low in the south-east at dawn.

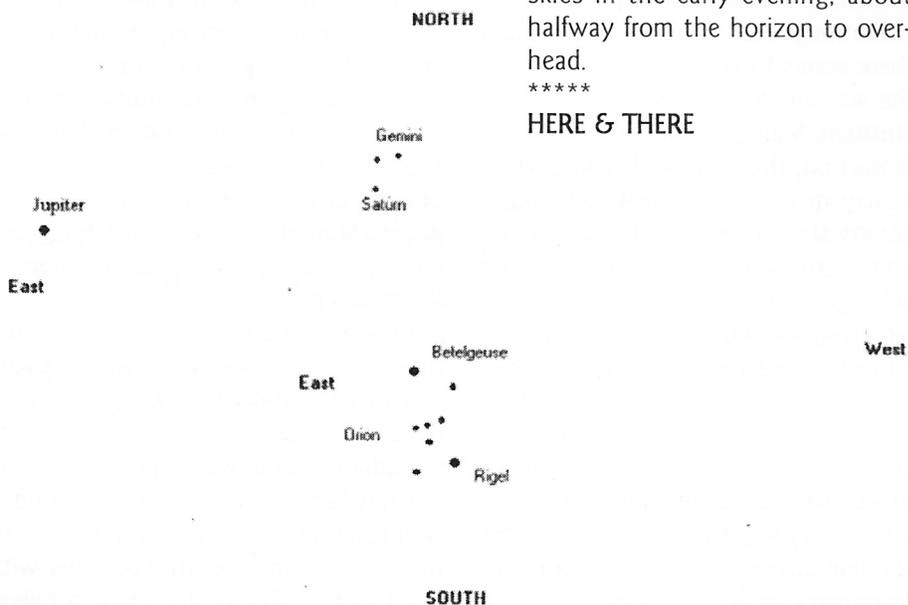
Jupiter rises earlier each evening and by the end of the month is already in the sky as twilight ends. It will be the brightest object in the night sky by then (except for the Moon, of course)

As we mention above, Saturn is in Gemini and therefore high in the evening sky. On March 19th the Moon joins Saturn in Gemini, shining close to Pollux and Saturn.

On the chart I've added Leo and Gemini, as well as the positions of the planets.

A note for our readers in Southern Africa; the chart can still be used, but Gemini will be found in your northern skies in the early evening, about halfway from the horizon to overhead.

HERE & THERE



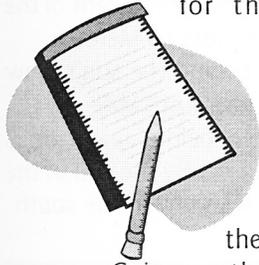
- Ian Murray

A popular first and last name with various spellings: Allen Caughey, Alan Glenn, Allan Kidd, Allan Miller, Cherry Allen, and Jennifer Allen.

LETTER HOME

- Christopher Kennedy

So far, this has been an easy winter for the sheep. The weather has been cold and bright, without too much snow, ideal for feeding the sheep outside.



Going up through the bush each morning I can see all the deer tracks, and it looks like the 401 in places. I usually see at least half a dozen, often just lying under the trees. However, there is a storm promised for later in the week, so perhaps I will regret what I have just written.

Recently I have had several requests to join farm protests, on the 401 or at Queen's Park. These protests come from a deep feeling of frustration with all levels of government, which seem to be out of touch with much of the rural and agricultural community. The number of different regulations that are coming down on farmers makes it very difficult to carry on farming. Every time we turn around there seems to be a new restriction on the way we do business, whether it is Nutrient Management, Source Water Protection, the new Wolf (and coyote) Management strategy, new meat regulations stemming from the Haines Report, restrictions on trapping, the green belt legislation, new regulations on water testing for Church Halls, environmental regulations for small saw-mills, the list just goes on and on. Most of them seem to be a huge over reaction to a minor problem, with government regulators taking a sledge-hammer to crack a nut. Every regulation adds to the cost of doing business, or restricts our ability to carry on our business.



L to R Ann Neilson, Rosemary VanLuven, Mary Neilson, Patti-Jo Neilson, Kaye (Neilson) Moeller, Fred Moeller, Lee Hundley, Jeff Duck, Jim Neilson. Photo: Maurice Hogeboom, July 8, 1961

When this is combined with the wreck in the farm economy caused by Mad Cow Disease and terrible crop prices, farmers begin to feel desperate.

The tactics of farm protests may not be ideal, but it may be the only way to bring home to the Government just how frustrated and desperate many farmers are. Few farmers want to spend their time standing around in the cold waving placards, there is too much work to do at home, but they see their livelihoods and way of life disappearing. Sometimes it seems that the government wants the countryside to be a dormitory and playground for the city folk, rather than a vital part of the Ontario economy. Saddest of all is how few young people want to go into farming, and how few farmers encourage their children to follow them in the business.

I was disappointed, but not surprised that the border did not open to live cattle and other ruminants. Many cattlemen have given up on any change, and the Canadian market will adjust over time. BSE has been a classic example of a huge over reaction to a very, very minor risk to human or animal health. Each cow with BSE has probably cost Canada a billion

dollars. Perhaps the only more expensive cow in history is the one that kicked over the lamp in 1871 and started the Great Chicago Fire.

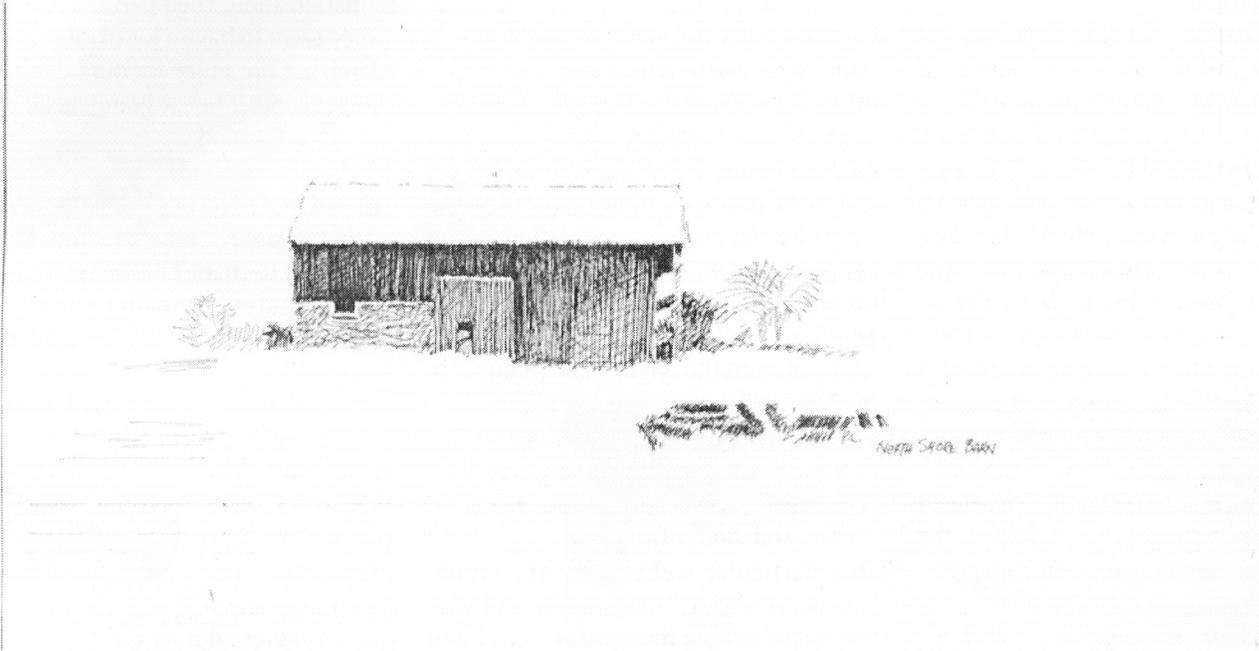
From a LETTER

- Frederick Moeller, Jr.

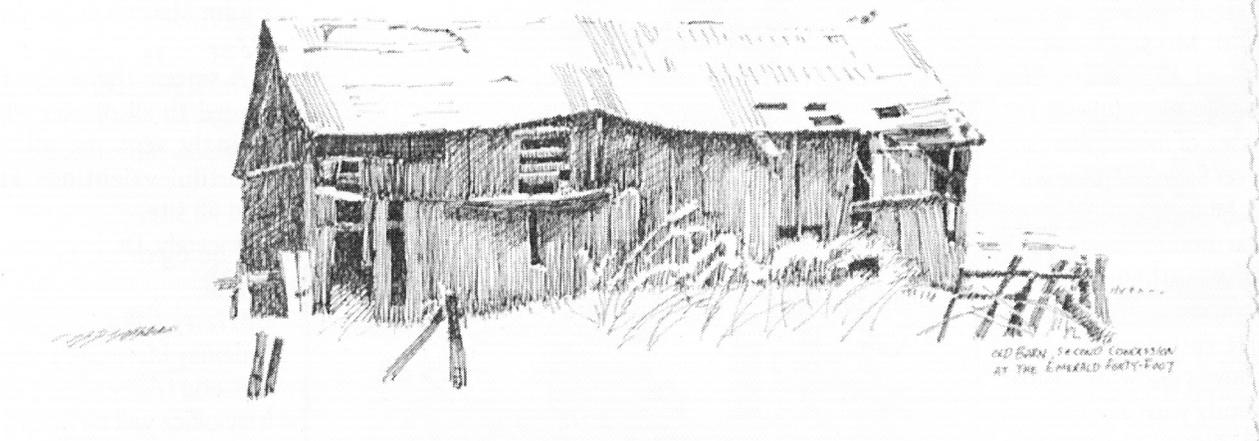
My wife Kaye and I look forward to each issue of the Beacon. She is the daughter of Fred and Nellie Neilson. It's nice to see that the old Neilsons store is getting a "face-lift". I spent many hours there with my father-in-law solving the problems of the world.

We enjoyed seeing the photo of Eldon Willard who skippered us back and forth many times. He and I went fishing now and then but never caught anything. Good conversation was better than baiting hooks.

I guess we are just newly weds when reading the wedding dates on January's MORE WEDDINGS page: 1939, 1940, 1941. July 8, 1961 was our date and we have enclosed the newspaper announcement which was carried in the Kingston Whig Standard and the Napanee Beaver. A picture of our wedding party is also enclosed. We look just the same now, of course! Just a bit more gray.



NORTH SIDE BARN



OLD BARN, SECOND CONCRESSION AT THE EMERALD FORTY-FOOT



THE PENLAND CEMETERY

Peter Large, SCA

Moeller-Neilson

Miss Kathleen Isobel Neilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Neilson of Stella and Mr. Frederick Moeller of Evanston, Ill., son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Moeller of Brooklyn, N.Y., were married in a garden flower setting in St. Alban's Anglican Church, Stella. Rev. Wood B. Williston officiated and the bride was given in marriage by her father.

She chose white taffeta accented with Alencon lace for her hoop-skirted dress fashioned with long, pointed sleeves, scooped neckline and a chapel train. A tiara of pearls and crystal held her tiered illusion veil in finger tip length and she carried a crescent of green orchards with stephanotis and ivy.

Miss Mary Neilson of Niagara Falls, maid of honour for her sister, and bridesmaid Miss Rosemary VanLuven of Kingston, the bride's cousin, wore full-skirted short dresses of moss green silk organza over flowered print with matching halo headdress, and carried star bouquets of single yellow chrysanthemums and white pompons. The bride's niece, Miss Patti-Jo Neilson of Stella, as flower girl wore sashed white organdy with a headdress of white pompons and carried a basket of yellow and white chrysanthemums.

Mr. Lee Hundley from Texas was groomsman and ushers were Mr. Jeffrey Duck of Toronto and Mr James Neilson of Stella, brother of the bride.

The reception was held at The Point, Stella. Mr. and Mrs. Moeller left for a Saguenay cruise. They will live in Evanston.

From a LETTER

- Juanita K. Glenn

In the summer a couple came to where I work, and were very excited because they had just been to the Island for a visit and had stayed with Bruce and Susan

Caughey and they gave them our names to contact us when they came home. It turns out that the gentleman's Mother's name was Strain, which is our Mother's maiden name as well. To make a very long story short, we talked for a long while that day, and many more since, and she has given me pages of information that she has collected on her own, and now I am supplying her with more up to date information which she puts in her computer and then sends me copies back, all past relatives, with the original family surname of "STRAIN". . . .

Now, you probably know about this site, but I will give it to you anyway. It is: "freepagesgenealogy.rootsweb.com/~theislands/index.html"

This particular website covers Wolfe, Simcoe, Amherst, Howe, Snake and Garden Islands. They have a newsletter and

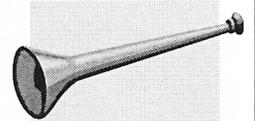
have many people contributing lots of information about their particular island....

They seem to have a lot of info on Wolfe Island, but not much for ours. I hope you can get some interest going as far as our info for our Island.

THANK YOU NOTES

We the family of the late June McGinn would like to thank family and friends for flower tributes, sympathy cards, charity donations and the food brought to the house.

Special thanks to the First Response team, the ferry crew and the McGinn family, the ladies who prepared the lunch and everyone's kindness during our time of loss.



John McGinn & family

A sincere thank you is extended to all of you who so lovingly sent me all those beautiful valentines at the land fill site.

Sincerely, Dr. Love

The Ferry Office will be open Thursday March 24 and closed on Good Friday March 25. The ferry office will be open Easter Monday March 28

ACW BEEF DINNER Saturday March 19

At Community Centre
5 P.M. - 7 P.M.

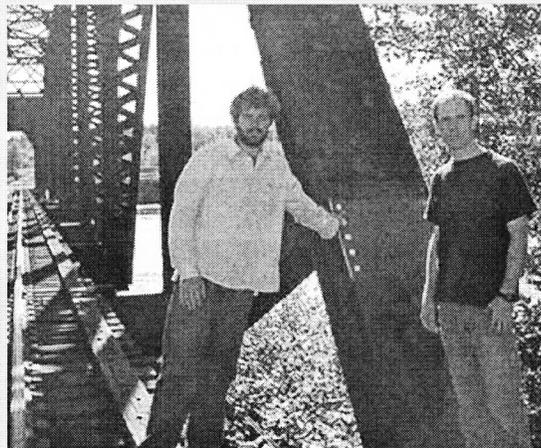
Advance tickets only

For tickets call: 389-4874 or 389-4327

AMHERST ISLAND ANGELS FOR AIDS

We raised over \$3000 this Christmas that was sent to Malawi to help children and all victims of AIDS there. Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way. We will be con-

*At The Lodge,
Saturday April 2:
folk singer/songwriters
The Royal Brothers*



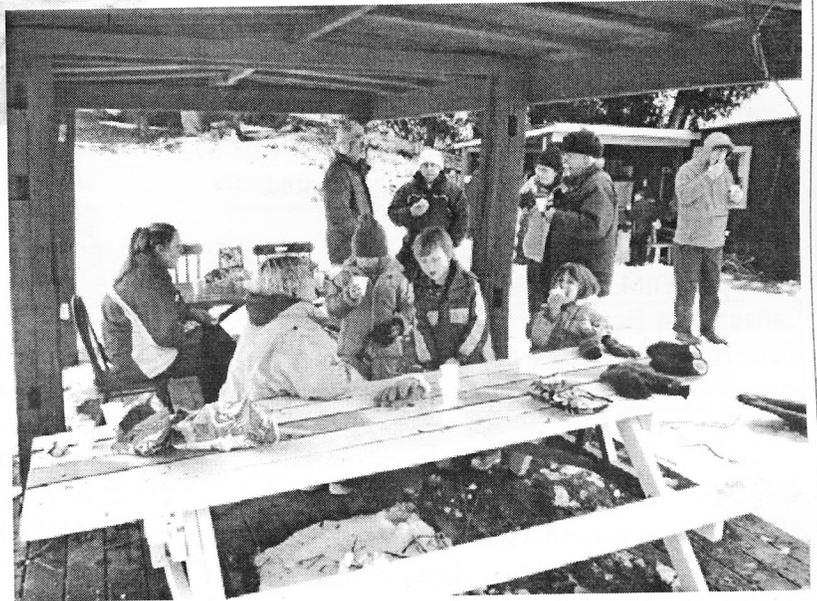
*As heard live on CFRC FM 101.9 in January '05, these artists have quite a following & a new CD. Titled "A Cold Wind Blowin," it will be available at the show. If you like James Taylor, Bruce Cockburn, or Aengus Finnan, you need to come to this show!
Doors Open 6:30pm, Show starts 7:30pm*

*Tickets in advance: \$15, call 634-1855
www.amherstisland.on.ca/thelodge*

AIMS CHILDRENS SLEDDING PARTY A GREAT SUCCESS!!

Lynann Whitton

The snow was great, and the sleds came out! On March 6th AIMS held a sledding party for the Island children at Gwen and Paul Lauret's property on the north shore. 22 kids and a number of their 'children at heart' parents enjoyed an afternoon of great sledding, complete with a warming stove, hot chocolate and one of Lyn Fleming's great cakes. Everyone had a wonderful time and Ciara Richmond was so impressed that she was heard to say "this was the best day of my whole life!" Hearty thanks to Ben and Jim Whitton for the organizing, and Gwen and Paul Lauret for hosting the party.



tinuing this effort this year – anyone is welcome to join our group to help make angels (it's fun and easy!) – also needed are donations of scrap fabrics and ribbons (money is OK too!). Please contact Judy at 389-4334 or "kidd.roberts@sympatico.ca" to arrange pick-ups of donations or for more info. We CAN make the world a better place.

Internet tower to go up at AIPS?

-Tom Richmond

The Limestone District School Board has contracted with Utilities Kingston to provide high-speed internet access to the majority of the schools in the district. This will be done by a combination of fiber optic upgrades and microwave radio links. Ted Holden, Manager of Information Technology Services for the school board, attended the Amherst Island School Advisory Council meeting in February

to inform the local school of the Board's decision to install a tower at AIPS for this project. The tower could be between 70 and 160 feet in height and be in operation by April 30th according to the hand-out given at the SAC meeting. The plan is to increase the speed of internet access at the school by 78 times over the current 128kbs (Bath public school will be going from 512kbs to 10mbs, or 195 times faster)

When questioned about other uses for this tower, Mr Holden said that at least three internet service providers were also in discussion with Utilities Kingston about installation of their equipment on the proposed tower at this time. He offered contact information for the person at Utilities Kingston that was coordinating that portion of the operation.

A building permit would be needed from Loyalist Township for the tower.

According to the official Township plan, a \$1500 Site Plan Approval process (which allows all interested parties to comment on the proposal) could also be required for this tower installation.

If you have more information on any of the older photographs appearing in this or any other issue of the Beacon, please write or phone us at our Global Headquarters.

Ian's number is (613) 389-3802

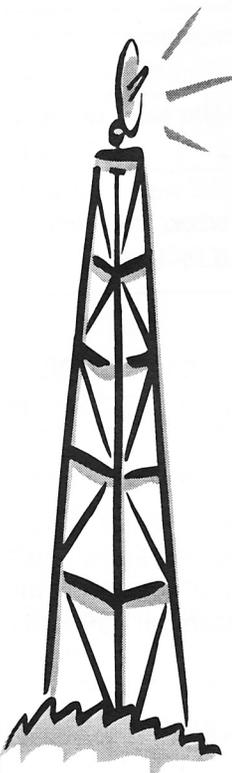
Tom is at (613) 634-1855

-Who is in the photo?

-Where was it taken & by whom?

-What was the occasion?

Thank you! Your assistance is greatly appreciated!



NEWS From the GENERAL STORE

Just a reminder to everyone that postage rates have increased: Canada - \$0.50 USA - \$0.85 International - \$1.45.

We've got some great new releases in right now:

- Collateral - Tom Cruise, Jamie Foxx
- Anchorman - Will Farrell
- King Arthur
- The Terminal - Tom Hanks, Catherine Zeta-Jones
- Troy - Brad Pitt, Orlando Bloom
- Wicker Park - Josh Hartnett
- The Village
- Dodge Ball - Ben Stiller

- The Manchurian Candidate - Denzel Washington
- Spiderman 2 - Toby Maguire

Many more to choose from.

Thank you to everyone for your cards and gifts over the holidays. It was all very much appreciated.

Store hours:

- Mon - Sat. 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.
- Sunday 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Canada Post Hours:

- Mon.-Fri. - 9 to 11:00 a.m., 2:30 to 5 p.m.
- Sat. - 9 a.m. to noon. Sun. - closed.

**VICTORIA HALL
CRAFTS & TEA ROOM**

- Hours for lunch, afternoon teas and early dinners: Noon to Six, Wednesdays to Sunday,
- New and improved menu includes Godden Pork and Willard Lamb Sausages on homemade garlic and Parmesan cheese buns.
- Hot specials include homemade soups, lasagna, and smoked ham & cheesy macaroni.
- Hall available for private functions.

Gift Suggestions:

- Tea Room Gift Certificates
 - John Munro Y-Knot T-Shirts @\$5.00 each& Commemorative Swim buttons @ \$2.00 each
 - Shirley Miller cards and paintings
 - Tole painted Island sap buckets
 - Topsy Farms wool products
 - Quilts and throws by local quilters
 - Locally Authored Books
 - Tom Sylvester's Loyalist Roots Cycling Tours @ \$8.00
 - John Kuti's Archtypes of Self Esteem @ \$25.00
 - Nicole Florent's Walk, Hike or Jog Kingston @ \$20.00
 - Hans Krauklis' Amherst Island Video @ \$16.95
- For reservations call Bernice or Neil @ 389-5389

AMHERST ISLAND T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS are available for sale from Beth Forester 389-5582 or Nancy Henshaw 384-0799.

Babysitter available



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

Babysitting

Red Cross Certified Babysitter. Available early evenings & weekends.



Torri Phillips: 389-0512

Babysitter



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



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

THE LODGE ON AMHERST ISLAND

Lodging rooms and Rental available for special occasions. Call: (866) 552-3535 www.amherstisland.on.ca/thelodge
2 & 1 BEDROOM COTTAGES
on Stella Point: By the week or weekend, April-October. (Phone numbers above.)



NORTH SHORE COTTAGE

for rent. Private with good swimming. By the week or weekend, May-October. Call Cherry 634-1212

HOUSE FOR RENT: year-round, by the week, weekend or month...on the North Shore. Call Cherry 634-1212

SOUTH SHORE COTTAGE

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

LAKESHORE RUBBER STAMP

I can provide business and art stamps, daters, signature and similar products. All stamps are custom made on the premises and can be ready in 24 hours. Please call 389-8441 or fax 389-9770.

Email: selc.welbanks@sympatico.ca

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

WATER WELLS & WATER TREATMENT

John Jeffery- Phone 561-7867.

BURNETT'S PLUMBING of Napanee

Renovations & New, Submersible & Jet pumps, Water Softeners & Purification, Sales, Service & Rentals. Fully Licensed & Insured. Many satisfied Island customers. (613) 354-9223.

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Island owned and operated. Complete services, all trades, any size job from design to construction to finishing. We have the connections to get your job done. References.

Gary McDonald:384-1456.

GODDEN'S WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE

Godden's Whole Hog Sausage is available in four distinct flavours - Salt & Pepper; Honey Garlic; Tomato Oregano; Hot Italian - using ALL natural ingredients (no MSG, preservatives, colouring).

New! Breakfast Sausages - Salt & Pepper or Maple Flavour! Our frozen sausages are available in 5 and 10 lb. boxes at Poplar Dell B&B, 389-2012.

RAWLEIGH PRODUCTS

To place your order call Marie Ward at 389-5767 or send E-Mail to: bmward@ihorizons.net

PICNIC TABLES & WEATHER VANES FOR SALE

Keith Miller 389-2588

FOR SALE: Futon frame and mattress, \$150 or best offer. Call Hugh or Claire Jenney 384-7830 to view

FOR SALE: Vilas maple cupboard and hutch, \$250.00. Claire Jenney, 384-7830

FOR SALE New "elite" window 6'x4' triple gang unit - fixed 2' centre with operators on both sides. Interior clear pine, exterior aluminum. Low E Argon. Call Sally at 634-3841.

LANDFILL SITE HOURS

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

FERRY OFFICE HOURS

Mon, Wed, Fri: 9-noon & 1-4

Ferry fuel-up days are Tuesday and Friday (be prepared for a delay).

LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday 7-9pm, Wed 10-Noon, Friday 1-3pm.

TOPSY FARMS:



Looking for a Wedding or Shower Gift? Want an interesting outing for visitors? Come visit our Wool Shed at 14775 Front Road. We offer lambskins & sheepskins; yarn & hats; slippers; mitts; blankets; lap robes; and wraps. GIFT IDEAS: we have several new products available, including: muffs (warmth for winter ferry crossings), felted purses & other items, & chibis (3 darning needles in a plastic container - for pocket or purse). Prices \$2 to \$105. We'll mail orders anywhere. CALL TO MAKE SURE WE ARE HOME:(613)389-3444.

Ted Gow Painting, wallpapering, tiling, home maintenance and repairs. Free estimates. Island references. 634-5404.

Thomas A. Richmond, Certified Electrician. Home, Farm & Commercial wiring & repairs, right here on the Island. Electrical Safety Authority Authorized Contractor Program.634-1855.

Bookkeeping, Property Oversight & Management Services

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



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

Mindfulness Meditation Workshop

This practice deepens our connection to the richness of the present moment and develops concentration, insight and compassion.

Complementary Health- Jocelyne Leyton, RPP, offers treatments in Cranial Osteopathy. This is a very subtle and gentle approach recognizing the subtle mechanics at work within the head, spinal column, viscera and pelvis. The understanding of the cerebrospinal fluid has a profound influence on the health of the whole body. For an appointment telephone 384-6488, 9060C Front Road.

For Sale... again!



100' x 38' x 7' Steel Car/Passenger Ferry

* Year: 1955

* Current Price: Can \$299,000 (marked down from \$365,000)
(US\$ 242,997)

* Located in ON, Canada

* Hull Material: Steel

* Engine/Fuel Type: Single Diesel

* YW# 26664-1340479

Galley for crew members

Capacity: 19 cars, 100 passengers plus 5 crew members

Loading Ramp width: 12'3"

Built in Canada in 1955

Registry - Canada - Canada Inland Waters Class II

Transport Canada Certified in July, 2002 (Not currently certified)

Gross tonnage: 183

Net tonnage: 114

Powered by Cummins VTA-28M (900 to 1100hp)

C/W Twin Disc MG521 transmission

(2) 35kw Cummins Generators

Located in Port Hope, Southern Ontario, Canada

This ad found on YACHTWORLD.COM by an avid Beacon reader... do you recognize this little boat?
...The saga of the old MV Amherst Islander continues! :^)