

Amherst Island Beacon



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participate and attend enjoyed the festive evening, finishing up with hot chocolate at the community centre. The "Village People" (residents, not performers) did get into the spirit of the season, by making sure their Christmas lights were up and on for the parade. Thanks to AIES for keeping this tradition alive.

St. Alban's Anglican Church hosted this year's Community Carol Service in mid-December.

Amherst Island Public School held their annual Christmas Celebration the last week of school before the holidays. About 125 family and friends enjoyed a traditional Turkey Dinner, followed by student entertainment in the form of a play, "A Kidnapped Santa".



Arianna and Ben photo by Brian Little

DONALD "MIKE" COLLINS

Mr. Collins died tragically on Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at the age of 82. He will be sadly missed by his family, Marion Collins, his children, Norma LaRocque (Roy), Kirk Collins and Paula Collins. He will be remembered by his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family and friends. Predeceased by his son Michael.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lynn Fleming

Happy New Year to our Island and Beacon Community. We wish you a prosperous and healthy 2014!

Condolences to the family and friends of Murray Glenn who died recently.

Get Well Lily Horner and Victoria Cuyler, both recovering over the holidays from surgery.

The Women's Institute held the annual Christmas dinner for our community's seniors. Guests enjoyed dinner and entertainment.

The Amherst Island Emergency Services hosted the annual Light Parade in early December. Both participants and viewers were in short supply this year, but those who did



Ben, Drew, Mitchell (Santa), Angus, Liam, Quinten (Elves). Photo by Brian Little

The New Year was rung in by a good crowd at the Community Centre. About 100 people attended and actually stayed until after midnight! The format was changed a little this year, with dancing (music by “South of Seven”) kicking off the evening and a lighter meal served later in the evening. A great time was had by all.

This Island is in the midst of a severe deep freeze as I write this - the kind of weather that makes you want to stay in by the fire and close the curtains. Many thanks to our ferry and road crews, who recently have dealt with all kinds of weather - including about 60 hours of non-stop freezing rain. When all was said and done, we had about an inch or more of ice on every shrub, tree, wire and every road, sidewalk and ferry deck surface. It has been followed by much colder weather, preserving the ice for sometime into the future.



Ice storm on the Second Concession. Photo taken by Brian Little

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Claire Jenney

Spirits were high on Wed., Dec. 4 as a merry group of WI members gathered at President Liz Harrison's home for a delicious pot-luck dinner and to celebrate the season. Of course the highlight of the evening was a gift exchange and as we had all been very, very good, Santa's elf, in the person of Sharen English, lavished gifts on one and all. It was a lovely evening made lovelier by the fact that no-one hit a deer on the dark ride home!

Have a happy and healthy New Year!



Deer in the Snow

Photo taken by Joan Simpson

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

The Christmas Bird Count

On Friday, December 27, some of our own Island birders joined avid birders from the Kingston area and even further afield to count birds as one small part of the annual Christmas Bird Count taking place throughout the western hemisphere. Twenty-seven avid birders took part in the 24th Amherst Island Count. The first one was held in 1990 and is now a part of this winter phenomenon that has turned out to be the world's longest continuing citizen-run scientific survey. Volunteers all over North and South America spend hours in all kinds of weather counting and documenting bird species over a three week period around Christmas and New Years. It began in 1900 when a gentleman named, Frank Chapman began the idea of "Count not Kill" over the holiday season. It had been considered a sporting tradition to have competitions among your guests to see which group could kill the most birds over a holiday. He suggested that they

count the birds instead and a tradition evolved. Five years later he was one of the founders of The National Audubon Society and the word "birding" itself was not coined until 20 years later. From a small group of bird enthusiasts it has grown to over 63,227 participants in 2248 different circles. Last years' count tallied over 2000 species and over 64,000,000 birds. The list included 175 species of Hummingbirds for example which boggles the mind of one used to seeing only the Ruby-throated in our region. There are now more counts taking place in Columbia than in any other country other than United States and Canada. The Caribbean and Latin American counts add significant numbers of species to the overall count.

Over the years a few Island residents have braved the elements to help with the Christmas count but usually it is members of the Kingston Field Naturalists and their friends or friends of friends that have come to the Island each year for the Christmas Bird Count. This year Bonnie Livingstone, Sherri and Larry Jensen and daughter Jane and son-in-law Jason Moffat, Deb and Bill Barrett, Judy Bierma and myself were the Island participants. Bonnie's brother Don (all the

way from the Yukon) joined us as the participant from the furthest away. Judy hopes to arrive in the Bahamas in time to do the count there. I'm sure she'll find a different temperature. Our temperature was balmy compared to today with -5 degrees but the soft, light snow falling made sightings difficult. In other years the sea fog made it impossible to count ducks or shorebirds and the cold made birding outdoors for any length of time impossible. Members of our Birding group nicknamed The Motley Crew put on a hot lunch for all these birders and Bonnie's chili is famous among the birding enthusiasts. Zeke Cornell from New Hampshire was kind enough to travel north and join us again. If you feed them they will come!

Our own George Gavlas got a Bald Eagle to add to the total of 6 seen on that day and the only Saw-whet was reported during count week by Martin Roncetti who was not birding with us. A total of 8 Snowy Owls were seen by different groups at various sites on the Island. Peter Good's group covering the Third Conc. and Emerald Forty-foot counted a Northern Mockingbird, Rusty Blackbird and Red-winged Blackbird which were all great birds to spot this time of year. Twelve species of ducks including all three Merganser species were spotted. One extremely exciting bird for most of us was a solitary Horned Grebe, usually gone south by now and we were so glad to at least see one Common Loon. The Counters tallied 44 Mute Swans and 24 Tundra Swans at various spots along Front Road and sheltering in Wemp's Bay.

In total we had 26 counters, none lost or misplaced, and counted 57 species of birds. It was a great day and thank-you Islanders for your support with birding sites, for your permission to go on some land areas, Debbie Scott for the yummy muffins for our breakfast and a big thank-you to the Ferry Crew who helps birders unfamiliar with ferry travel on and off. Much appreciated!

Thank-you Amherst Island, the greatest place in the world to live.

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From the 29th SESSION OF COUNCIL, November 25

Councillor Ashley asked that a 50th Wedding Anniversary certificate be prepared for Dan and Mary Claus who celebrated their anniversary on November 23rd.

***.

LAUNCHING THE SAND (BAXTER) BEACH FUNDRAISING DRIVE

On September 23rd, 2013 Loyalist Township Council approved the purchase of the Baxter property, subject to conditions. The decision followed more than a year of negotiations and a search for funding partners that resulted in an agreement with the Ontario Heritage Trust to provide funding through their Natural Spaces Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program.

The total acquisition cost of \$334,000 (including appraisal, legal and Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)) will be funded 50% or \$167,000 by the Ontario Heritage Trust, \$25,000 by fundraising as required by agreement with the Ontario Heritage Trust and the balance of \$142,000 by Loyalist Township. Council is commended for its foresight to acquire this 55 acre parcel that is adjacent to the Township-owned 500 acre Big Marsh on Amherst Island and part of a provincially significant natural system. In addition to grassy uplands, wooded areas, low dunes and wetlands, the property includes a long sandy beach on Amherst Bay.

Many Amherst Island residents and mainland visitors fondly remember when the Sand Beach was accessible to the public as a favourite place to swim and walk.

When the purchase is finalized in the coming weeks with the completion of the ESA, that opportunity will once again be available for everyone.

Please consider being part of the Township's efforts to bring this ecologically significant property into public ownership for the use and enjoyment of all Township residents. The Stewardship Plan (to be developed by a committee consisting of Township staff, Council and residents) will set out details of the property's future use but the intent is to provide public use consistent with conservation and protection of the property's natural features.

Donations by cheque made payable to the Township are being received now. Cheques dated up to December 31, 2013 and received at the Township Office (PO Box 70, 263 Main Street, Odessa, ON K0H 2H0) before January 10, 2014, will be eligible for a 2013 charitable donation receipt. Donations by cheque dated after January 1, 2014 will receive a charitable donation receipt for 2014. Any surplus donations are proposed to be directed to a reserve account, subject to Council approval, for amenities identified in the Stewardship Plan for the (Baxter) Sand Beach Property.

We look forward to your generous support. This property acquisition will benefit all Loyalist Township residents for generations to come. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Diane Pearce, (Baxter) Sand Beach Fundraising Committee

AIMS Meeting , December 14 at 8am

- Anders Bennick

Breakfast: Thank you to Duncan Ashley and crew for an excellent hot breakfast

Attendance: 16 members.

Chair: Bill Barrett

Agenda

1. Presentation

The speaker was Harry Klassen, presently Minister at St Paul's Presbyterian Church who talked about his life prior to coming to Amherst Island.

Harry grew up in Winnipeg and lived through the dramatic Winnipeg flood in 1950 which saw the family house inundated by water and the garage floating off its foundations. During that time, he also became friends with Harold Redekopp, now resident of Amherst Island and present at the meeting.

Harry graduated as a Social Worker from University of Manitoba and went to work for Children's Aid Society, being particularly involved with family protection issues. Many of his clients were Métis or Aboriginals and this resulted in a number of dramatic situations that contributed to his decision to enter into a seminary in Pasadena, California.

This was during the free speech movement at Californian Universities in 1964-65 with its associated unrest. Anti Viet Nam war rallies were also prevalent. What complicated life for the Klassens was that they lived between Black and White neighbourhoods; that gave them insights in the racial tensions between the two groups, but also meant that they had to take additional safety precautions, unknown to them with their Canadian background.

After graduating from the seminary, Harry returned to Canada, taking up a position in Waterloo where he in particular worked with university students and the university student paper. "The Chevron" was considered by some of the citizens of Waterloo to be a "radical" paper!

Next came a ministry at a church in Scarborough. When Harry was invited to preach for the call [this gives the congregation an opportunity to hear and interview before actually voting for the candidate] the organist died at the organ while the choir was singing "Break Forth into Joy". This required some adept changes to the service, but cemented a very strong bond with the congregation.

From Scarborough, the Klassens moved to Kitchener. While in Kitchener Harry went to El Salvador during the civil war in that country and got a first hand look at the malaise of the society during that period.

Following these ministries, Harry decided to spend the rest of his career as an interim minister. In this position he provides ministerial services until a new minister can be found. The interim ministry is a minimum of two years, but the total length depends on how long it takes to find a new permanent minister.

One of the places where he served as interim minister was in Bonar-Parkdale in Toronto, a neighbourhood with many social problems.

One of the tragic events of that period was the funeral of a seven year old girl known as Angel whom a drug-addicted mother had placed with two guardians that subsequently murdered her. The Bonar-Parkdale ministry provided many social challenges. When they downsized from their home in High Park, they moved to a downtown condo. Needless

to say moving from Toronto to Amherst Island is a startling change, the view now is not of condos but of cows in the field.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Acceptance of the minutes was postponed until the January meeting because of some last minute changes.

3. Treasurer's Report.

The treasurer reported that there was a healthy bank balance. The total income from the 2013 Saturday market was in the order of \$500-600.

Anthony Gifford pointed out that regardless of the market income AIMS continuing support of the market was essential in order to keep it going.

4. Transportation Committee.

In the absence of David Pickering, Bill Barrett reported that there had been 3 requests for transportation to medical appointments and a 4th in the coming week.

There was some discussion of who would be entitled to this service. It was agreed that the service was for transportation to health appointments and that it would be available all Islanders as well as former Islanders now living in the Bath-Amherstview area.

5. Baxter property Update.

Bill Barrett brought to the members attention that Diane Pearce is spearheading a campaign to raise the necessary contribution from the community. A flyer has been distributed to households on the island.

6. Co-op Update.

Gardner McBride reported that the 2013 first edition of Christmas ornament is now available. Marc Raymond indicated that he may be able to arrange a downtown outlet for sale of the ornaments.

7. Update on New Year's Party.

Larry Jensen reported that the band will be the same as last year. There will be a buffet at 10:30, but no hot meal. Price of admission is \$25 per person. Cash support has been obtained from La Farge and many prizes have been donated. Tickets will go on sale December 15 and any surplus will be donated to purchase of the Baxter property.

8. Update on Grant for 2014 flower baskets.

An application has been submitted by Ross Haines

9. Other business.

A tour in May of vineyards in Prince Edward County is being organized by Marc Raymond and Anders Bennick

10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at ~9:30

TAKE NO THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR

-Zander of DUNN INN

It's true that Jesus didn't say, "Take No Thought for the New Year." But he did say, "Take no thought for the morrow." That was his way of saying, "Don't worry about the future."

But we do worry about the future. We make plans to deal with problems we fear will come at us in the future. We project ourselves into the future and try to figure out what we should do in the days to come. We worry about our health, our children, our finances in the future.

I'll be honest and admit that some of those concerns deserve our attention. But they do not deserve our ultimate concern, our anxiety, our fears. I've been often worried about exams, sickness, challenges that I know are coming. A member of our extended family is sick with cancer and his future is not promising. Of course we pray for him, are concerned for him, want the best for him. But we know none of those things is going to make things right with him - not even our prayers. That does not mean that we should not pray because prayer is one way we send love to that cancer victim. Through our prayers we connect with God and express our support for our sick relative. Prayer is being honest with God about our desire for the one who is hurting. But we don't depend upon prayer to change things. Often the people for whom we pray die, in spite of our prayers. But death cannot take them from God's loving embrace.

Jesus told us not to worry about life, not even about the cancer that is infecting the one we love. As he pointed out, worry does not make people better or bigger or more bountiful. Worry does nothing good for anybody. Worry is a negative thing (self-centred) that will never help us.

We need to be reminded that it was Jesus who told us not to worry - the same Jesus who knew he was opposed by Jewish and Roman rulers and would be crucified. Jesus was declaring that we can't live in the future; we can only live in the present. To spend our time in the future is to rob us of the gift of the present. The present is the only time we have in which to live. Jesus said, "Live to the full today. Use your gifts to help others. Be a friend to those who have no friends."

Jesus pointed to the lilies of the fields and to the birds of the air. They don't fret and sweat; they simply live in the "now." That's how they grow - by living in the present. They don't grow in the future because it's not here yet. They don't grow in the past because it is gone. The only time they have in which to grow and enjoy life is now. And look what they do with the present time - they soar through the air and sing beautiful songs. They send their roots deep into the soil and produce colourful petals and leaves.

Yes, they may get shot and they may get cut down, but for now (the only time they have) they live and grow in beauty.

I once spoke with a woman candidate in a beauty contest and asked her how she dealt with the pressures and demands of the beauty contest. She told me that she lived for today. She thought she had a good chance to win but she knew the other women were beautiful and the

judges might prefer them. She said she knew she could not be sure the judges would choose her so she refused to worry about it. She said she thanked God for making her beautiful and talented and said she had done all she could do with what she had and she could only use the present as the time in which to wait. But she also used the present in which to visit the hospitals and speak in churches.

She knew those things were outside the beauty contest so they had no bearing on whether she would win or not but she was not worried about that. She was grateful she was able to use the time she was given to share herself and her love with others.

I thought to myself, each one of us is a beautiful gift of God. We each have beauty, talents and abilities and significant personalities which we can employ today to help others. We may not win beauty contests but we can use the present to help others enjoy the beautiful things God has granted to us.

It's true, we must not worry about the future because we can't foretell it or live in it; we can only enjoy the present. Each breath is a gift of God. Each smile is a blessing God gives us through our friends. Each hug confirms that we are loved, accepted and belong to God. So, take no thought for the morrow, for the future, for the new year, but give yourself to the present so that God can live through you.

CONGRATULATIONS

-George Kapelos

Pierre-Alexandre Le Lay, son of Michèle Le Lay of Amherst Island, was the recipient of three major awards at Ryerson University's Department of Architectural Science Awards Night held on 21 November 2013 at the Department's newly-opened Paul Cocker Gallery on Church Street located in Ryerson's downtown Toronto campus. George Thomas Kapelos, Amherst Island summer resident, past Chair of Ryerson's Department of Architectural Science and one of Pierre-Alexandre's former teachers was on hand to congratulate Pierre-Alexandre and his mother Michèle, as well as other members of his family present including Diane Pearce of Amherst Island and Adryanne Quenneville of Toronto.

The first award is the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Student Medal, awarded annually to a student graduating from a professional degree program in each accredited University School of Architecture in Canada who, in the judgment of the faculty of the respective School, has achieved the highest level of academic excellence and / or has completed the outstanding final design project / thesis for that academic year.

The second award is Architecture Research Centres Consortium / King Student Medal for excellence in architectural and environmental research. This award, named in honour of the late Jonathan King, co-founder and first president of the Architectural Research Centres Consortium

(ARCC), is given to one student in each of the ARCC member schools to recognize and acknowledge innovation, integrity, and scholarship in architectural and / or environmental design research.

The third award is the Ontario Association of Architects Medal awarded to a student with the highest graduating average.

In presenting the award to Mr. Le Lay, George Kapelos noted, "It is a great accomplishment for Pierre-Alexandre to receive three of the highest awards that a Ryerson Architecture Master of Architecture graduate can receive. We look forward to great things from Pierre-Alexandre as he develops his architectural career." Pierre-Alexandre's thesis, entitled 'Allotropic Fields,' explored architecture's emerging alignment to technology and nature. It conceived of an architectural installation converging interactive technologies and biomechanics, which responded to light, sound and varying user environments. An image of his design work accompanies this article and was displayed as part of the award celebration and exhibition. Pierre-Alexandre Le Lay is currently an Intern Architect at RAW Design in Toronto.



Pictured here are Michèle LeLay, Adryanne Quenneville, Pierre-Alexandre LeLay, George Kapelos, Diane Pearce.

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

Somebody sent us a useful tip: to peel fresh hard-boiled eggs steam them for about 15 minutes. Works great.

Mayor Rob Ford has certainly livened up Toronto's image with his interesting behaviour. However, after reading some of the Ontario Auditor's findings, I wish that Rob Ford had been our premier for the last decade. I cannot believe that he would have had the time or imagination to move gas plants, create neighbourly animosity throughout rural Ontario, and plan to isolate Northern Ontario.

It is astounding how much damage sober, hard-working politicians and their unelected advisors can cause.

POEMS

-Sharen English

Yoga in the school gym at 4 p.m. on Sundays

Tagget is the patient, pretty and kind teacher.

About 10 of us line up our yoga mats on the floor.

We are different ages and have different abilities.

Tagget teaches us beginner's and intermediate yoga at the same time.

The other members are all friendly and know each other.

It is a calming and challenging experience.

We stretch and mediate and work our bodies hard.

At the end we rest for 10 minutes on the floor.

Tagget shakes our arms and legs to make sure we are truly relaxed.

By the end of the hour I feel revitalized, exercised yet serene.

It is a blessed time to me.

Walking the top deck of the ferry

Anytime I get on the ferry I walk the decks for exercise

In the warmer months I walk outside on the top deck

Or on the main deck if there is room

I don my Tilley hat and sun block and off I go

I get 40 minutes of exercise if I walk coming to the mainland and going home

I enjoy the beauty of the channel and the Island as I ride
I sometimes pretend I am on a cruise ship walking the deck for exercise

The feeling is very similar, the water going by, seeing the wake, hearing the engines, enjoying the wind, the views and the weather.

Milkweeds in the Fields

The milkweeds are out now

It is Oct.

I open them up the green and brown pods and I feel the soft white fibres with brown seeds.

They are a miracle to me.

They are so pretty.

The puzzle that is our ferry at 5:30 p.m. on a Wed. evening 37 cars.

The ferry crew have stuffed 37 cars onto the Frontenac II.

It is a marvel to see them direct and fit the cars in like a jigsaw puzzle.

Wheels are turned every which way on the vehicles.

Everyone got on.

I marvel at the full ferry.

It is a sunny, warm Oct. evening.

I walk back and forth on the top deck and watch the birds.

I see herring gulls, mallards, a turkey vulture.

On the way to town I saw a loon and a great blue heron.

The waves are green/black and it is a little choppy coming home.
My footing gets knocked off a bit from the wave action.
I enjoy the view.
It is a gift.

CHEESEMAKER'S DAUGHTER (7)

-Judy Bierma

Memories of Christmas' and New Years on the Island in the 60's.

What do I remember? I remember the dances at Victoria Hall on New Years. Mom would take us kids dressed in our pajamas and would put the little ones to sleep on the coats upstairs in the women's room. The washroom in there was an indoor outhouse. The hole went down two stories. It was scary for kids to get up on the hole and look down two stories to the bottom. The washroom for the men was out the side door in the back. For years I wondered where the out-house was only to realize it was just the bushes out there.

Actually Joyce and I weren't in our pajamas, only Joanie and Robert. Joyce and I learned to dance with Mrs. Beaubien...I can't remember her first name, it'll come. She taught me to polka and waltz. We danced with Dad too. He was a great dancer, so was Mom. I was so proud to dance with my Dad. It meant I was a big girl now. Florence Beaubien? I think she lived in the house where Saskia and Geoff are now. I'll have to ask Mom if she remembers her first name.

The Glenn Band would play: Tena Filson on the organ; Les Glenn on the accordion I think, or guitar; Stirling Glenn on the guitar....was there anyone else in the band? Everybody sang and there weren't any speakers or mics that I remember. Let me know if you remember. My memory isn't the best. There was always a fight going on outside at the front of the hall so us kids weren't allowed outside on our own.

Christmas...I don't remember where we got the tree but we always had one at the Cheesemaker's House in front of the cheese factory in Stella.

One year Joyce and I each got small transistor radios from Neilson's Store. They were the neatest things ever, about 3 inches by 5 inches with a leather case on them. I carried mine everywhere. Mom did all of her Christmas shopping at the Neilson Store. We would skate on Stella Bay if we could shovel the snow off. Sometimes Raymond Wemp would shovel it for us because it was too hard for us. Thanks Ray. I loved to lie on the ice at a crack and look down through all the different cracks and leaves and twigs and whatever got flash frozen in the ice. The dark, dark blue deep down was so mesmerizing.

Gifts... all the farmers gave Dad great gifts. Stollen or Apple Streudle from George Migand and Mr. Amery or Emery. Most of the gifts were homemade foods, what a

treat. Foods we had never had before like the streudle and stollen. I think there were 38 farmers that brought milk to the factory. I didn't remember that, someone told me.

I don't think we had outdoor lights or decorations in the windows. I remember the outhouse was very, very cold to use. Email me your memories so we can share them.

judybierma@gmail.com.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

THANK YOU NOTES

Amherst Island Women's Institute would like to thank everyone who helped make the 2013 Seniors' Christmas Dinner a splendid success. Bruce (with Andrea's help and input from the performers) once again worked wonders with the sound system to overcome the difficult acoustics in the community centre and organized "stage lighting" which greatly enhanced the toe-tapping music of Mark McGreevy and Fraser Hardman. Brian Little's slide show of island scenes and residents entranced the audience and sent us all home with warm feelings about our special community and home.

Woody, Bill, Larry, Anders, Al and David earned their "spousal A.I.W.I. membership" setting up and taking down tables, moving utensils in and out of vehicles and cleaning floors, while Victoria tried out her new knee as she organized loading and unloading the dishwasher. Brooke and her crew of students are to be thanked for their efficiency in clearing tables, helping at the buffet and serving desserts and coffee in a very professional and friendly way. Thanks also to Cora McGinn who made fudge and Maureen McGinn who out of the blue offered to cook a turkey if needed.

Special appreciation to Barb Reid and Larry Fleming who helped sort out a couple of hitches, Beth and Allen who demonstrated their talents as members of the McGreevy and Hardman team and all the guests who came along once again to enjoy food, company and music.

To all, AIWI sends seasonal greetings and best wishes for a Merry Christmas.

Liz Harrison, President AIWI

Thank you from Dan & Joan Simpson to all the volunteers and the people who attended the New Years Eve Dance. Also a thank you to the A.I. Rec. Association for providing the Bar.

It was a great success and we will be able to make a nice donation to the Purchase of the Sand Beach with the extra proceeds. Thank you and have a very Happy New Year.

A big thank you to new Islander Cary Allen who was able to get Hydro to our house after the ice storm.

Betty Wemp

**The Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre
Backroom Talk**

*"A View to the Past"
"What Copernicus Saw"*

George Gavlas will speak Friday, January 17 at 7 pm
George spends many evenings gazing at the night sky
from various spots around his Amherst Island
community. Join us on January 17th to hear his
reflections on the heavens around us, the universe and a
unique way to view the sky.
Save the date!
Light refreshments following the talk.
Donations to the Museum always welcome.

The Neilson Store Internet Café

Want to solve a problem? Gain a skill? Make contacts?
Just use the internet? Then stop by the Internet Café on
Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Our knowledgeable
and friendly staff are available, frequently for one-on-one
help, to provide assistance and guidance in exactly what
you want.

Sound too good to be true? Not on Amherst Island,
where residents John and Sherrill Wright, Bill Barrett,
David Pickering and John Schutzbach are working hard
to provide these services to friends and neighbours via a
drop-in centre at the Neilson Store.

The drop-in centre is an out-growth of the Amherst Island
Seniors Computer Users Group, with expanded services
and free Internet, provided by our friends at KOS.
(Kingston On-line Services) The Neilson Store and
Cultural Centre provides the venue, so we do suggest a
looney or two in the donation box, especially if you have
found your time useful.

So, bring your questions, your devices and your company
to the Café. Give someone a hand, or get one yourself.
Watch for the big yellow and red sign, and come on in.
Learn something new and make some contacts - because
you never know when that damn thing is going to just
stop working.

(Hours: Tues 9-11, Wed 1-3, Thur 9-11)

PENGUINS ON AMHERST ISLAND

The Y Penguins will be visiting St. Paul's Presbyterian
Church on Sunday, January 12th. The service will include
3 short sermons delivered by Penguins and a short
PowerPoint presentation by Vicki Keith showing the
swimmers in action. Everyone is welcome.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

AMHERST ISLAND BEACON

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COUNCIL REPORT FOR JANUARY 1984

- Chris Kennedy

*All members of Council were present. The minutes of the
previous meeting were read.*

*Duncan Marshall who lives just beyond Vince Aitken,
presented an application to sever three lots. This was
approved in principle later in the meeting.*

*The building inspector presented his annual summary.
Permits were issued for \$155,350 worth of buildings in the
township in 1983. This is the lowest figure for some years
(1982, \$232,300; 1981, \$185,740; 1983, \$302,755).*

*The Reeve had asked if the spare ferry M.V. Charlevoix,
would be available during the summer to ease the
overcrowding, but MTC said it would be very difficult to
arrange the docking.*

*Council discussed various complaints about the new ferry
changes. People are asked to bring their constructive
suggestions to the next Council meeting. A student pass
(\$50) is an additional pass only sold when the family has
already purchased a full pass.*

*A notice will go up shortly on the Stella dock asking people
to start the ferry line up south of the turn-off to Bob
Tugwell's. This is to make room for the school bus and other
vehicles to turn on the dock.*

*The gravel crusher is now meant to come in the spring.
Council decided to spend up to \$4000 on a sander. There
will probably not be another ice storm now for several
years.*

*The grant of \$2000 available from the Ministry of the
Environment for the dump improvement has now expired. No
contractor was prepared to make a bid. The money is now
available for a site development plan and the outline of a
maintenance programme.*

*The committee chairmen were asked to submit their
budgets for 1984. Marjorie Tooke is resigning as assistant to
the Township Clerk. Council expressed its thanks and
appreciation for the work she did. The advertisement for a
replacement has already been sent out. The Clerk will now
be employed for five days a week to keep up with the
continually increasing paper work.*

*The Drain appeal progresses very slowly. The lawyer is
still waiting for the transcripts.*

*Council dealt with the rest of the correspondence and then
adjourned.*

NOTICE

-Diane Pearce, Clerk- treasurer

*In response to the controversy surrounding changes in the
ferry pass policy, Council is inviting interested parties to*

present alternative proposals to Council at the next regular Council meeting, Tuesday February 7th at 8:00 p.m.

Written briefs received prior to the meeting will be circulated to the members of Council for their consideration.

We welcome your suggestions.

VALENTINE DANCE

- Chester Tugwell

President, Branch 539

Your Legion is planning a dance for Saturday, February 11th at the school. Hitherto we have sponsored the Masquerade Dance primarily for the young with little financial return to keep our general fund healthy enough to meet our community commitments.

Therefore we are asking your support for the Valentine venture and perhaps some gentle persuasion could be applied to off-Island relatives and friends.

Music for all ages will be provided by the "Ambassadors", a buffet lunch in a sort of eat-as-you-dance fashion will be served from 10 p.m.

Tickets for two will be \$15. The doors and bar will be open at 7:30 and dancing will be from 8:15 to 12:15 at least.

All Legion members will have tickets for pre-sale.

See you on the 11th.

LIBRARY NEWS

- Diane Gavlas

I have taken over as librarian at your branch library, and am looking forward to helping you with all the services provided by the County Library System.

The Lennox and Addington County Libraries are pleased to announce the upcoming programme for your branch library:

Monday, April 30, 1984 Stella Public Library (at Stella Public School), Russ Waller – "Loyalist Diary".

CARDS OF THANKS

The family of the late Charles Densem would like to thank all those who showed interest and concern with cards, letters, and telephone calls during his long illness.

Your sympathy at the time of his death was greatly appreciated.

A special thanks to Thelma Howard who was much more than a visiting homemaker to the family.

We appreciate the way in which the service was conducted by Rev. Norman Allison and Rev. Babcock.

Thanks also to the road crew for creating such a spacious parking area, and to all those who joined the family after the service.

Sincerely, Elsie Densem

Many thanks to my family and friends, the Women's Institute, the P.C.W., and the Legion for their thoughtful cards, gifts and visits during my recent stay in hospital and since returning home.

Your kindness is deeply appreciated.

Jack Kerr

BIRTHDAY

Evelyn Taylor celebrated her 75th birthday on Dec. 18 with family and friends at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Leigh and Doris Wemp in Odessa.

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Lulu Strain

The November meeting was held at the home of Lulu Strain with Brian Ward as the guest speaker.

Brian has been employed by the Empire Life Insurance Company of Kingston for the past seventeen years as an operator and supervisor in the computer department. His talk was very informative and interesting and we are sorry that more members were not able to attend.

A donation was made to the Salvation Army in memory of the late Leslie Glenn and Edward Gavlas, and also a donation to "Safe Water".

A delicious lunch was provided by Phyllis Strain and Marion Glenn

Anna Hitchins was hostess to the Christmas meeting on December 19th. A business meeting was held, with Jackie Sylvester presiding in the absence of the president. An enjoyable programme was conducted by Diane Gavlas, Marion Glenn and Phyllis Strain. Louise Seaman played the piano for the singing of Christmas carols and an exchange of gifts took place.

An interesting and tasty lunch was served by Thelma Howard, Jackie Sylvester and Georgie Allison. The meeting closed with the 'Queen'.

SENIOR CITIZENS DINNER

The annual Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner was held in the school gym on December 3rd with most of the Island seniors attending. A very delicious turkey dinner was served by the Women's Institute with generous financial aid provided by the Canadian Legion and the Orange Lodge.

Entertainment was provided by a Senior Citizens group from Newburgh and was thoroughly enjoyed by those present.

Much credit is due to the capable and hard-working W.I. Committee, other members of the W.I. and to those ladies of the community who assisted so ably.

Many of the guests have been heard to say "It was the best one yet".

PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWS

-Trudy Strain and John Eves

Classes resumed on Jan 2. after a terrific Christmas break.

Prior to Christmas the student Council held a festive party. The activities included creative writing, games and art. The lunch afterward was a great success and thanks goes out to all the mothers who sent the delicious treats.

The Island Branch of the Canadian Legion once again sponsored the Remembrance Day poem and Essay contest. The prizes were given out the night of the Christmas concert. The winners in the poem contest were Shannon Eves, Jamie Miller, Adam Miller, Trudy Strain, Steven Ward and Leah Murray. The winners in the essay contest were Sherry Ward, Jamie Thornhill, Robert Eves, Steven Ward, Julie Forester and David Brown.

Thank you 539 Legion for sponsoring these contests.

The Christmas concert was held on Dec. 14 and was once again a huge success. Four plays were performed and quite a few nice piano pieces. From what we've heard most people thought we did a fine job.

We would also like to thank the I.S.L.E. committee for donating a wonderful item to the school – a computer. Believe me it's being put to use and thoroughly enjoyed.

And from the students and staff of A.I.P.S. a wish for all the best in 1984.

4-H News

We will be starting a new club soon and are needing an assistant leader. The project is Fitness Fare about taking care of our bodies and eating properly. Anyone interested in helping six girls to learn some simple recipes and exercise please contact Phyllis Strain 389-1135.

RECENT DEATHS

Iva Eves - November 17, 1983

George Willard - December 3, 1983

Eva Glenn - December 22, 1983

Charles Densem - December 27, 1983

Helen Farrington - January 5, 1984

RECENT BIRTHS

Shannon Maureen Baker, Nov. 23 to James and Marjorie

Joseph Christopher Nourry, Nov. 28 to Ray and Colleen

Kyle Leith Murray, Nov 29 to Ian & Sally

Marie Londry, Dec 16 to Arsene & Nancy

SEVEN MORE WEEKS OF WINTER

- Sandra Haggett

Here it is 1984 and I am (still) here, experiencing my second winter on the island.

About a week ago I said to my husband, "Well only seven or eight weeks left of winter!" I always was an optimist about short winters, no matter whether the groundhog saw his shadow or not on February the second.

"How the heck do you come up with only seven or eight more weeks?" came his disgusted reply. "It is January

the tenth now. That leaves approximately three weeks left in January and the four weeks in February.

"Three and four make seven," was my reply. Really it was very simple. How obtuse could he be. I never was a math wizard, but I certainly could add three plus four.

"You are forgetting conveniently one important thing."

"What?"

"March!"

"I haven't forgotten March at all. March is when it usually rains a lot and the temperatures rise a little. Occasional freak snowstorms occur during March, but I don't really consider it winter still.

"I think you've got your months all mixed up. April is relegated to the month of showers."

"So," I began, "what is wrong with wishing the winter away. Anyway, it's not that I really want winter to end so badly. It's just that I'm dreading the ice freezing over."

"Don't worry about it. You always worry about nothing," he said as he turned to walk away.

Huh! Nothing!

Meanwhile there are large barriers of frigid steam stretching across the lake marking the ferry's encumbered path, where great chunks of ravaged ice dare the ferry's slow approach. In the ferry's wake scurry mocking fragments of frozen water. The sun shines down upon the immense stretches of surface ice dusted with a snowy blanket. The world is cold and frozen.

Winter, the incubus of my dreams.

Oh but such beauty as I gaze out upon the frozen water to be mesmerized by a million sparkling glints of silver.

Beautiful or not beautiful, I am certainly glad there are only five or six weeks of winter left.

HOLIDAY VISITORS

- Lyn Fleming

Amherst Island was a busy place over the holidays.

A few visitors to the area were:

Reeve of Wood River #74, Saskatchewan, Maurice Filson and wife Shirley visited with Harry and Barb Filson and family and friends. Mr. Filson also took a tour of the Island dump, he has read so much about, to see how things were progressing. He was happy to report that things seemed to be shaping up quite nicely.

Art and Kay Wolfreys and daughter Gail and grandsons Scott and Todd of Orlando, Florida spent Christmas on Amherst Island with Mabel Wolfreys, Lloyd and Elaine Wolfreys, Larry and Lynn Fleming, Ellis and Marylou Wolfreys and families.

Howard Wolfreys of Winnipeg, Man. spent 10 days in the area with Mabel Wolfreys and family and friends.

Diane and John Pollock and daughter Sara of Calgary, Alta. were home for Christmas at Albert and Phyllis Henderson's.

Paul and Carol Glenn headed south from Sudbury to spend the holidays with Irene Glenn, Bill, Annette and

Shawna Phillips, John Glenn, Bob and Ann Cox and families and friends.

Rosie Chambers and children Gary, Diane and Jason were home to Keith and Shirley Miller's from Lindsay Ont. They spent time catching up with many family and friends.

Tom and Elaine Tooke and daughter Janet of Hamilton spent Christmas with Marjorie Tooke.

There were many more families and friends together on Amherst Island that helped make a festive happy holiday for everyone.

Happy New Year!

Welcome to a late holiday visitor, Melinda "Mindy" Deborah Fleming, born to David and Karen Fleming on January 12, 1984. Happy sisters are Angela and Wendy Fleming.

I.S.L.E.

Are you tired of picking your good coat up off the floor after dances and other social functions at the school?

I.S.L.E. is looking for volunteers to:

- donate materials

- donate their skills

- make suggestions

and otherwise make a decent coat rack for the school. If you're interested in helping, contact any I.S.L.E. member. All ideas and help will be appreciated.

Members are: Dale Filson, Lynn Fleming, Ann Hitchins, Bob Horth, Debbie Bedford, Barb McDonald, Mike Flanigan, Gertrude Maud, Ed Chadband, and Doug Shurtliffe.

I.S.L.E. will hold their annual Ham Dinner on Wed. Feb. 8, 1984 from 11:45 a.m. - 2 p.m. Advance tickets are available from any I.S.L.E. member.

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE Wooded, hilly, 4-acre-plus, waterfront lot next to the Fowler House. Ask for details. Call Hugh & Claire Jenney 613-384-7830 for an appointment to see the property.

AMHERST ISLAND CHIROPRACTIC 10650 Front Rd. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. For appointments call 613 328-8892

AMHERST ISLAND STORE Monday - Friday: 9am - 11:30am; 2:30pm - 5pm Saturday: 9am - 1pm (Post Office closes at noon) Sunday: closed

HARTIN'S PUMPING SERVICE: Septic Pumping & Inspection 613-379-5672

BETTY'S HOME COOKING My Market Goodies are available! Plus if you want a full meal to go... a few days notice and your cooking for company is over. Call Betty 389-7907

FOOTFLATS FARM ACCOMMODATION:

www.footflats.com (613 634-1212) Goodman House (waterfront) - 4 bedrooms, 3 bath - available year round

I AM NOW SELLING WATKINS PRODUCTS AS WELL AS RAWLEIGH PRODUCTS. Catalogues available. To place an order call Marie Ward at 613-389-5767 or via email: bandmward@xplornet.ca

CHILDCARE Looking for a local reliable childcare professional? Recent Early Childhood Education graduate, Brooke Reid is available to look after your children whenever needed. Registered with the College of Early Childhood Education

First Aid/ CPR certified. Contact Info: Home: 613-389-4484, Cell: 613-484-9046

GODDEN'S WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE We would like to thank our faithful sausage customers on Amherst Island for their continued support of our product. Flavours now include: Salt & Pepper; Honey & Garlic; Sundried Tomato & Oregano; Hot Italian; Sweet Chili & Lime; Maple Breakfast; and Salt & Pepper Breakfast. Now selling packages of 4 sausages!! See more at thewholehogblog@blogspot.com; Facebook, "Godden's Whole Hog Sausage"; or, follow us on "Twitter @Godden Farms". Please call ahead for large orders, 705-653-5984. With Sincere Thanks, Lori Caughey & Family.

LOCAL ELECTRICIAN 30yrs exp, \$25 an hour. Also Home Renovations, Tree Removal, Pressure Wash. Call Cary 389-8327.

HELP STILL NEEDED We need the following items for the Lennox and Addington S.P.C.A. Used towels and linens, paper towels and cleaning supplies, pet food, kitty litter, dog and cat toys are always in demand, Canadian Tire coupons and pop cans. There is a large container in my porch for the pop cans and any other items can be left in my porch as well. Thank you for helping to support our animal shelter. Further information needed? Call Freda Youell - 613 384-4135.

ISLAND YOGA *Call Taggett for more information at 613 888-5156

POPLAR DELL FARM BED & BREAKFAST 3190 FRONT ROAD, AMHERST ISLAND Welcoming guests for over 30 years. Also, Cottage Rentals and Godden Sausage sales. Call Susie @ 613-389-2012

TOPSY FARMS WOOL SHED 613 389-3444 Wool and sheepskin products including yarn, blankets, crafts, and individual photos, books and booklets by Don Tubb. Open weekends and most weekday mornings. We also have fresh frozen lamb cuts.



Rebecca, Megan, Lucy and Lynn preparing for the play.



Jack as Demon photo by Brian Little



This is an interior rendering of the thesis project, which depicts in detail from an installation of his proposed design.
Photo by Diane Pearce



Ice storm

Photo by Brian Little



Ferry in Mist

Photo by Brian Little



Steve in Concert

Photo by Brian Little

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION TRANSPORTATION ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REPORT Amherst Island Ferry Terminals Study

THE PROJECT

URS Canada Inc. (URS) was retained by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to undertake a Preliminary Design Study for operational improvements at the Amherst Island Ferry Terminals under G.W.P. 4067-09-00. The Recommended Plan consists of the following improvements:

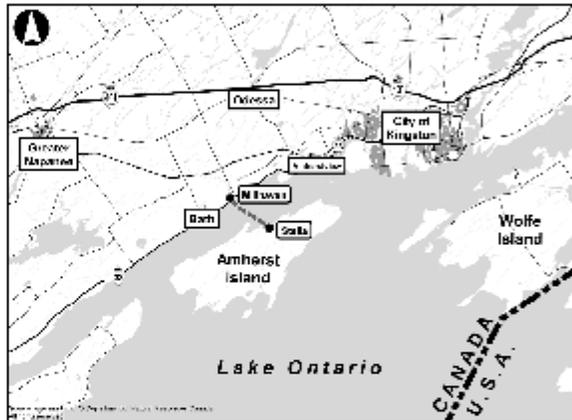
Millhaven Terminal	Stella Terminal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstruction to permit end-loading of vehicles • 75 m lakeward extension of the ferry berthing pier • Construction of new primary and secondary ramps • Dredging and rock removal from the lake bed • Increase marshalling area capacity to 42 vehicles • Increase parking for 26 vehicles • New terminal buildings with public washrooms and for ferry operations/storage • New winter bubbler system at the ferry berth • Improved lighting and passenger messaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstruction to permit end-loading of vehicles • 70 m lakeward extension of the ferry berthing pier • Construction of new primary and secondary ramps • Dredging and rock removal from the lake bed • Increase marshalling area capacity to 36 vehicles • Increase parking for 35 vehicles • New terminal buildings with public washrooms, staff office space and for ferry operations/storage • New winter bubbler system at the ferry berth • Improved lighting and passenger messaging • Provisions for a future automated fare system

THE PROCESS

This study has followed the planning process for a Group 'B' project under the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000). A Public Information Centre was held in August 2012.

The Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) that documents the planning process and the identified effects and proposed mitigation measures is available for a 30-day public review period (ending on **February 4, 2014**). Interested persons are encouraged to review this document. If you have concerns with this project or recognize factors that have not been resolved, you are encouraged to contact either MTO or URS staff listed below. Should your concerns remain unresolved, you may request of the Minister of the Environment a Part II Order ("bump-up"). The decision on your request rests with the Minister.

The TESR is available for review during normal business hours at:



Amherst Island Public School 5955 Front Road Stella, Ontario	Amherstview Public Library 322 Amherst Drive Amherstview, Ontario
Loyalist Township Clerk's Office 263 Main Street Odessa, Ontario	Ministry of Transportation 1355 John Counter Boulevard Kingston, Ontario

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