

Amherst Island Beacon



Issue 438 *BONA LIBENTER, TRISTIA MAESTITER, MALA NUMQUAM* Jan 2015

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LETTERS

DEAR EDITOR

It was reported that a picture of Stanley Burke and I was printed in The Beacon but I was erroneously referred to as Zander Dunn in the picture. This could be classed as character assassination - my character that is! A correction and an apology would be appreciated. At the same time, it may be that Stanley Burke did not want to be seen with me!

Dick Dodds

DEAR EDITORS OF THE BEACON,

Thanks for the coverage of the Farewell party for

the Dunns.

But, I must inform you that my lawyer will be in touch with you soon because of the last picture showing Stanley Burke speaking with Dick Dodds whom you have identified as Zander Dunn. This is obviously an attempt at identity theft! I have already warned Dick Dodds of the dire consequences of all this. Obviously he has paid you handsomely to get his name into the Beacon and to have you identify him as me. My lawyer has advised me that I should be suing you and Dick for at least \$2,000,000, plus court costs, plus costs to cover my lack of sleep, plus aggravation costs, plus the costs for me to get a new passport and to get all new credit cards, of which I have almost 79.

I hope all this either puts the fear of God into you or scares the hell out of you.

Yours till I get the \$2,000,000

Zander of DUNN INN

DEAR BALD GENTLEMEN,

It would help Beacon staff if you would each tattoo your respective names on your respective heads to help with future identification.

With apologies to all concerned.

Ian Murray, Editor

DEAR READERS

We've been contacting the former paper subscription readers, hoping that they will still be able to read the Beacon. When we phoned Pat Johnson she reported that her aunt, Laura Eves, still reads the Beacon each month. A widow of Wilmer Eves, she is now 94, and still lives alone in her own apartment in North Bay. Pat printed a copy of the Beacon from the internet, www.amherstisland.on.ca and will mail it to her each month.

We hope that others will do the same for their neighbours and Islanders who do not have access to computers.

Sally Bowen



Star – Photo by Brian Little

MICHAEL SHAW (1932-2014)

Michael, a former Island resident, died in Kingston on December 21st. He is survived by his wife Bobbi and children Yasmina-Hilary, Alexa-Frances, Patrick and Ian.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lynn Fleming

Get well wishes to everyone suffering from this year’s flu and cold bug. It seems everyone has been affected in some way.

Condolences to former Islander, Bobbi Shaw and family, following the passing of her husband, Michael Shaw.

Congratulations to Chris Laffin and Lynann Whitton, who were married in November.

The Women’s Institute put on the annual Seniors Christmas Dinner in early December.

The staff and students and their families and invited guests held their annual Christmas Celebration prior to the Christmas Break. They hosted dinner for 120, followed by entertainment by the students.

Janet Scott has returned from almost 2 months of travelling in Europe and the Mediterranean, arriving in the Caribbean via a trans-Atlantic cruise. After visiting several ports, she returned to North American soil in Miami, and finished her travels with some time in the American south.

Janet returned to the Island, just in time for the annual Amherst Island Christmas bird count which was held on January 2nd.

Weather-wise, we had a grey and blah Christmas, with no snow and lots of wind. We had our first real taste of winter here on New Year’s Day, with blizzard conditions as high winds whipped the few centimeters of snow we got, creating zero visibility at times.

News of the Quinte Loyalist returning to service Amherst Islanders in early Spring, for an extended length of time – possibly until late summer, is not something we look forward to in the new year.

Happy New Year – I hope it is a prosperous and healthy one for all!

WOMEN’S INSTITUTE

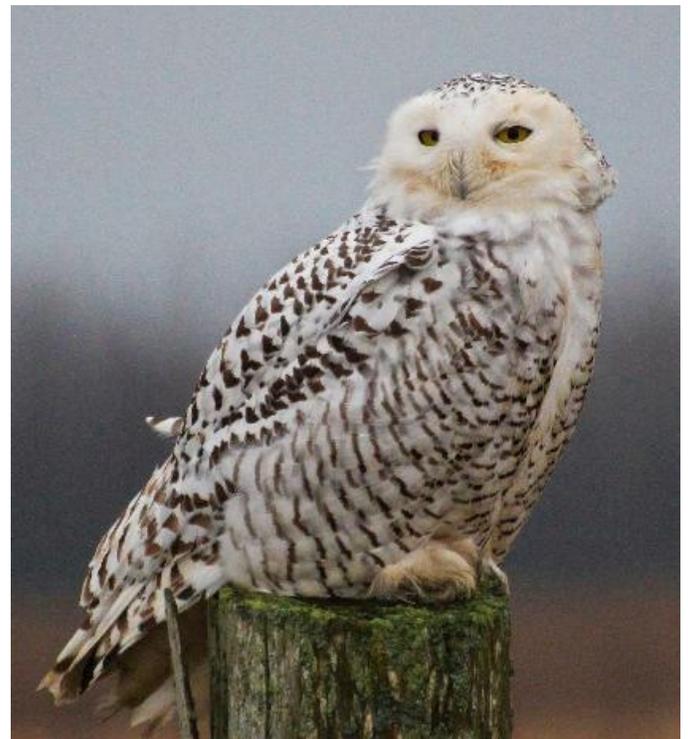
- Judy Greer

On December 10th, a dark and stormy night, 18 members of the Amherst Island Women's Institute gathered at the home of Sherri Jensen. No official meeting was held but the program was our annual Christmas Potluck Dinner.

Sherri had organized a Ham and Potato Meal and members brought along additions so it was a delicious dinner. Members brought along kids gifts to donate to the Salvation Army and a Chinese type gift game was organized by Sherri with great hilarity.

There was a review of the Seniors Turkey Dinner and the members were thanked for their contributions. The Women's Institute appreciates the donations received towards the cost of the dinner.

Sherri was thanked for being a terrific hostess and for getting us launched into the Christmas spirit. The next meeting will be January 21st at 2pm at the home of Liz Harrison.



Snowy Owl by Brian Little

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From 1st Council Session, December 1

At this inaugural meeting, the mayor, deputy mayor, and attending councillors read their Declarations of Office and Oath of Allegiance.

From 2nd Council Session, December 8

One house building permit was issued on Amherst Island for the first 11 months of the year.

(Ryan McGinn is the latest Island-raised parent to bring a young family back home.)

AIMS MEETING, December 13, at 8am

- Anders Bennick

Chair: Bill Barrett

Attendance: 17 members

Breakfast: Zander Dunn thanked the senior class and their helpers for an excellent hot breakfast.

Agenda

1. Presentation

Bill Barrett introduced the speaker Jacob Murray who talked about his experience at a stone walling festival in Ireland this past summer. Jacob's participation in this event had been sponsored in part by AIMS. This was Jacob's first visit to Ireland, so he also took some time out to tour the country.

He was met in Dublin by Kitsy McMullen, a sometimes resident of Amherst Island, and in a rented car they set out towards Northern Ireland crossing over to the Ards peninsula by ferry and continuing through Belfast and Carrickfergus along the northern coast of Ireland. Jacob's keen eye soon spotted the stone fences running for miles along the road where in Canada cheaper and less attractive retention walls might have been used, but also the barbed wire on top of the hydro poles, put there to discourage cutting of the electrical wires during "the troubles". They visited a number of imposing stone build castles and towers as well as dry stone wall built battlements, but also took time out to visit the Bushmills Distillery on their way to Donegal.

The participants in the festival included beginners in dry stonewall building as well as experienced stone masons and it was a great opportunity to learn from the masters. The festival centered around building a dry stone wall, and over a period of 3 days a 250 foot long wall was built. The hands-on

experience was interspersed by seminars that gave an opportunity to learn more about the intricacies of wall building.

Stones from a local quarry retrieved by tunneling into the sandstone were used. This provided a supply of fairly uniformly sized stones which made building the wall considerably easier than on Amherst Island where field stone of irregular size are used that often shatter when you try to split them. The fence was stabilized with occasional stones spanning the width of the wall and there were "step-throughs" for humans, too narrow for sheep to get through.

To make sure that future generations appreciated the Canadian contribution to the wall, Jacob placed a Canadian loonie in it. There was also ample opportunity for camaraderie and singing and socializing in the pub.

Following the festival, Jacob and Kitsy returned to Passage East in Southern Ireland where Kitsy lives.

Jacob thanked AIMS for their support. His experience will greatly benefit the reconstruction and maintenance of stone fences on Amherst Island.

Harold Redekopp thanked the speaker for an informative and lively talk.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as circulated.

3. Treasurer's report

The treasurer reported the bank balance and a donation by Don Pepper.

4. Transportation Report

There have been about 5 requests for transportation in the past month.

5. Parade of Lights

This year's parade has been cancelled.

6. Next years AIMS auction.

Brian Little reported on items available for the auction. Volunteers and also storage space for auction items are needed. The date for the auction has not been set.

7. Update about retirement suites project.

Hugh Jenney reported that a search is underway for a suitable construction site.

8. AIMS charitable donations.

David Pickering had prepared a set of guidelines on the causes that AIMS are prepared to support and

the procedure to be followed. They were presented by Anders Bennick together with his proposed modifications.

Following a discussion the members voted unanimously to accept the guidelines as amended by Anders.

9. New business

a. Brian Little reported a request from the School for the students to take over bottle collection at the township dump for a month in order to support their extracurricular activities. It was pointed out that the bottle collection is done by the museum, not AIMS. Thus the request should be directed to the museum.

10. For information.

a. Members were reminded of the carol singing on December 14.

b. Hugh Jenney presented various documents outlining the impact of private hospitals on the health care system.

11. The meeting was adjourned at ~10am.

ATTACHMENT:

Guidelines for AIMS Donations.

(Approved by AIMS at the monthly meeting, December 13, 2014.)

Preamble:

Before proposing where AIMS should spend money, it seems appropriate to remind all members of the AIMS Mission Statement, which was presented and adopted at the Oct 2002 meeting:

“The Amherst Island Men’s Society (AIMS) is a voluntary service organization providing support for the community and individuals in the community, and a forum for exchanging information and pursuing meaningful activities, while striving to preserve and promote the culture, pride and spirit of caring which have made the Island unique.”

The credo established at the first meeting on June 2nd 2001 was that, “[AIMS would be] of service to the Amherst Island community, particularly to younger and older people, and to raise funds for worthy island projects; and entertain and educate AIMS members in the process.”

The major committees established were:

Transportation (to provide transport for those unable to do so themselves), **Manual Labour** (to do odd jobs including repairs, yard work, etc), **Care and Companionship** (to relieve constant care-givers) and **Wheels to Meals** (to set up a series of

regular monthly luncheons.) In addition, available funds could be “used to set up scholarships for deserving island students” or “to engrave some school trophies [and establish] new school trophies for new categories of excellence, or offer small cash prizes to winners of existing trophies.”

Guidelines:

Areas of support

1. Direct support for our elderly or infirm people. Driving is an oft-requested service, and we will do so when asked, with members being reimbursed when necessary for out-of-pocket expenses.

2. Support to the island as a whole. We will attempt, through labour and funding, to support community projects and preserve the beauty of our island and make it a showcase to be proud of. Efforts in this category include gardening, hanging baskets, work in the museum, Centennial Park, and any shared recreational spaces.

3. Support of our young island people, encouraging them to become responsible, knowledgeable and caring individuals. To this end, we will assist in educational opportunities, with an emphasis on requests that support responsible stewardship, altruism, and charity.

Submission of requests

Requests for monetary support should be in writing to the treasurer. All requests will be evaluated by a committee who will make a recommendation to be considered at a meeting of the whole membership and in the absence of any person who has a conflict of interest.

Amounts donated must be affordable. As such, it is difficult to establish dollar figures. Every donation must be considered against the current health of the AIMS bank account, comparing forecast revenues against committed expenses.

The Topsy Farms Wool Shed now features “Amherst Island Raw Honey”. To support this, we have purchased Dave Meikle and Kyle Murray’s total crop. It is available in 375 mL jars for \$9, 750 mL jars for \$15, comb honey for \$11 and a 3 kg pail for \$25.

JANET'S JOTTINGS

Christmas Bird Count

Wow! What an exciting Bird Count on Amherst Island this year! We had a great turn out of mainland birders and help from many local birders as well. Thanks to Bonnie Livingstone, who did a superb job organizing and coordinating the Amherst Island Christmas Count and to local birders Sharen English, Sherri Jensen, Sally Bowen, Bonnie and myself who prepared a lunch for the birders as they returned from counting. Jacob Murray was there to assist with clean-up. Bird feeder lists are always helpful as well so thanks to Dayle Gowan, Carl Mc Crosky, Ida Gavlas, Susan Filson and Sally Bowen for their lists. New Island Birders, Elena Zanetti and Michael Steeves were right there on time to help with the count as well and had the privilege of training under the experienced Kingston Field Naturalist, Bud Rowe. We were saddened to hear that Bud is moving to B.C. and thinks this is his last Amherst Island count but of course we will continue to invite him and hope he returns in the future...

There were a total of 73 species seen on January 2nd between 6:00 AM and 5:00 PM. This beats our former record of 71 in the 2001 count. Now we had 30 people counting which really helps our numbers and some went out later in the day and added more species. The days on both sides of January 2nd were not good weather-wise but Friday, January 2nd was mostly sunny and only minus 3 with light winds. The most exciting sightings were a Barrow's Goldeneye at Andrea and Bruce Burnett's on the south shore, a Cackling Goose among almost 1000 Canada Geese at the east end, 4 Eastern Bluebirds on the Second, 10 Short-eared Owls on the Second and 1 Golden Eagle on Front Road as well as 9 of the more common Bald Eagles in various parts of the Island.

Our furthest Birders this year were Zeke Cornell and Rebecca Suomala from New Hampshire as we can't always have Bonnie's brother from the Yukon helping us and the closest bird was probably Bonnie's Bald Eagle seen from the school flying south from the dock. Thank-you to all those Islanders who have given me permission over the years to let counters go on their property during the bird count, thank-you to the ferry crews who help these birders on and off the Island, thank-you to my friends and family who help feed the birders, thank-you to the Limestone School Board who permits us to use the school for our command centre and thanks

to CJAI and Larry Jensen for their on-going support and publicity. Next year will be twenty-five years that the count has been happening here and Bonnie and I have been at almost all of them. I don't know how we can make it better but if you have ideas, please let us know. Just can't wait to see what happens next!

With that in mind, the final count is as follows:

Amherst Island Christmas Bird Count

Jan. 2, 2015

Common Loon	1
Horned Grebe	1
Cackling Goose	1
Canada Goose	977
Mute Swan	8
Tundra Swan	95
Gadwall	1
American Black Duck	19
Mallard	253
Redhead	50
Greater Scaup	10
Long-tailed Duck	34
Bufflehead	15
Common Goldeneye	585
Barrow's Goldeneye	1
Common Merganser	24
Red-breasted Merganser	47
Unknown Duck Species	75
Bald Eagle	8
Bald Eagle immature	1
Northern Harrier	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Northern Goshawk	1
Red-tailed Hawk	13
Rough-legged Hawk	23
Golden Eagle	1
American Kestrel	8
Merlin	2
Ring-billed Gull	1
Herring Gull	20
Glaucous Gull	1
Rock Pigeon	60
Mourning Dove	119
Great Horned Owl	1
Snowy Owl	10
Barred Owl	1
Long-eared Owl	1
Short-eared Owl	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1
Downy Woodpecker	23

Hairy Woodpecker	16
Northern Flicker	1
Pileated Woodpecker	1
Northern Shrike	1
Blue Jay	117
American Crow	8
Common Raven	14
Black-capped Chickadee	201
Horned Lark	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	34
Brown Creeper	3
Marsh Wren	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
Eastern Bluebird	4
Hermit Thrush	2
American Robin	1
European Starling	272
Cedar Waxwing	10
Eastern Towhee	1
American Tree Sparrow	72
Song Sparrow	9
Swamp Sparrow	2
White-crowned Sparrow	1
Dark-eyed Junco	29
Snow Bunting	6
Northern Cardinal	15
Red-winged Blackbird	5
Common Grackle	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	24
House Finch	28
Common Redpoll	2
American Goldfinch	66
House Sparrow	96
73 species	3564

MY COLLISION WITH A VACUUM CLEANER -Zander of DUNN INN

Nance and I drove through the states of New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland to get to a week's holiday in Williamsburg Virginia. We enjoyed the beauty of autumn at the end of October and were only two hours from our destination when we were suddenly confronted by a big, grey object in the middle of the highway on which we were travelling at 55 miles per hour. We have a low-to-the-ground Mazda 5 which I figured might knock the object aside or forward. Instead, when our car hit the object, it crushed and ran over the thing which tore out the underside of the car and damaged several major parts including the radiator.

We discovered all this when we pulled over into the parking lot of Pete's Pizza Parlor. The car could run but it was leaking and hoses and wheels peeked out from under it. While I looked sadly at this mess and Nance got out of the car a small truck labelled "The King's Company Heating and Air Conditioning" drove up and parked beside us. Out of it emerged two young men who informed us they had been told their commercial vacuum cleaner had fallen out of the back doors of their truck and had returned to claim it. They jacked up our car and extricated the various parts of their demolished vacuum cleaner while I called the AAA and the police on the phone which one of them had given me to use. Both of those young men commiserated with us and asked us how they could be of help. I took their names and asked them to stay until the police arrived and they agreed to do that.

A man who had witnessed the crash asked us if we were injured and he asked if he could give us something to eat. When we assured him we were not hurt and declined his offer he then asked us if we needed something to drink. Water, a soda perhaps? As we thanked him for his thoughtfulness both Nance and I were impressed with the kindness he displayed and appreciated his concern for us.

Two police cruisers from the Sheriff's office came to investigate. One was from the K9 unit, complete with dog. That duo happened to be in the vicinity and came to help, if needed. The other police car contained two officers who carried enough equipment on their belts to put an end to crime for all time - hand guns, clubs, hand-cuffs, chains etc. Both men were polite and efficient. They interviewed us and the young men of the King's Company Heating and Air Conditioning truck. They were genuinely interested in our health and concerned that we understood our rights and received all the information we needed to make an insurance claim.

When the police interviewed the two young men who had introduced themselves to us by name, we learned that they worked for a Christian organization, The King's Company - the King being Jesus or God. They were not fanatics, in any sense, but were simply young men who revealed their Christianity through politeness, concern and willingness to help. They co-operated with the police and readily admitted their fault in not properly securing the back door of their truck, thus allowing their machine to fall out onto the highway into our

path.

The AAA truck and driver arrived in the middle of all this and waited patiently until the police had finished their work. After we had been given information papers and had been commended by the police and after Nance had been hugged by the two young men and I had shaken hands with them, the AAA driver, Scott, got to work. He put our car up on his truck, fastened it down and invited us to sit with him in his truck while he drove us the fifty miles to the nearest Mazda dealer in Fredericksburg, Virginia. As he drove he regaled us with stories. He said, "You Canadians will think we don't like you. Here you get hit by vacuum cleaner and last week I picked up an elderly Canadian couple who had hit a bear on the highway." Scott's stories made the trip seem shorter. He was pleased to know that our oldest son was named Scott also.

When we arrived the Mazda people looked at our car immediately. They showed us where we could sit down in comfortable chairs, indicated the "rest rooms" which we call "wash rooms" and invited us to help ourselves to free coffee. I walked into the show room and when one of their salesmen tried to sell me a car I told him that I had one exactly the same which had crashed into a vacuum cleaner. He said, "Oh, I just hate it when the car I'm in smacks into a vacuum cleaner. It's no fun." We both laughed.

The Mazda service department not only got us a quick estimate of the cost of the damage but they offered to call the Enterprise Car Rental agency for us because they told us the repairs would take a week to complete. In a few minutes the Enterprise driver was there to pick us up in a VW Passat. Two Mazda service agents wished us a good vacation as we waved Goodbye. We put all our belongings in the trunk and the driver took us to the Enterprise office nearby.

To do their paper work the Enterprise Agency needed an item which was in the trunk. But the trunk was locked and nobody could get it open! The driver tried; the agent tried; the manager tried; another customer tried; but nobody could get the trunk open. I, who have little knowledge of cars, opened the glove compartment and pushed an inside button and the trunk opened! Everybody was amazed and we all celebrated with high fives! Even my wife rejoiced when she realized I was not completely ignorant and wanted to know how I was able to do what nobody else could do. Within

minutes we were on the road to Williamsburg with good wishes ringing in our ears.

When we arrived at the hotel at which we stayed in Williamsburg the staff were relieved to see us and wished us well, even though we arrived very late.

I called our insurance company in Toronto and Nicole Alleyne who had been assigned to our case was sympathetic and reassuring. Everything would be taken care of. We were to relax and have a good vacation.

When we returned to pick up our car from the Mazda repair shop the service agent greeted us warmly and assured us all was well with our car. When I asked him what I was to do to get our rental car back to the Enterprise people he suggested I leave the car with him and he would call the Enterprise people to come to pick it up. I was pleased with that arrangement and after transferring all our baggage to our newly repaired car, we set off. A few hours later I realized I had not returned the rental car with a full tank of gas as I had promised to do. When I phoned to apologize and to ask what to do, the agent told me to forget it. Everything was OK. That was a relief and I thanked him profusely.

Our U.S. visit was a happy one. Our drive home was pleasant. Our encounter with the vacuum cleaner had evoked kind responses from everybody involved. We were pleased to be treated so courteously by so many friendly and concerned Americans.

Where was God in all this? I met God in the vacuum cleaner truck drivers, the police officers, the nameless man who offered us food and water, Scott, the AAA truck driver, the Mazda service agents, the Enterprise people, the insurance agent. After all, God works through people, good people who display God's love in practical ways.

BATH CELEBRATES THE BARD

The 218th anniversary of Robbie Burns' birth will be celebrated in fine style on Friday, January 23rd at St. John's Hall in Bath. The Fairfield-Gutzeit Society is sponsoring an evening of great food, Scottish Country Dancers and the traditional Haggis ceremony to celebrate the life of the beloved Scottish poet and raise funds for the work of the Society. Tickets are available by calling 613-352-9911.

Affectionately known as the *Ploughman's Poet*, Robert Burns was born on January 25, 1759 and died on July 21, 1796. It was a short but productive life.

His parents, Agnes and William, were poor tenant farmers who ensured that their first born received an education. The relentless poverty of Burns' early life took a heavy physical toll, made him a supporter of the French Revolution and a rebel against both Calvinism and the social order of his time. Authors Alexander Pope, Henry Mackenzie and Laurence Sterne fired Burns' poetic impulse; relationships with the opposite sex provided his inspiration. He is credited with five hundred and fifty-eight poems and songs and he had a total of twelve children by four women, including nine by his wife, Jean Armour.

By the time he was 27, Burns had already become famous across the country with poems such as *To a Louse*, *To a Mouse* and *The Cotter's Saturday Night*.

After 1787, Burns collaborated with James Johnson and George Thomson to compile, and add to, two great compilations of Scottish songs: Thomson's *Scott's Musical Museum* and Johnson's *Select Collection of Original Scottish Airs for the Voice*. *Auld Lang Syne* was written in 1788 and his last major work, *Tam o Shanter* in 1789. About this time Burns began work as an Excise Officer which allowed him to give up farming and in 1791 he moved his family to Dumfries. He died from rheumatic fever five years later. Jean gave birth to their last child, Maxwell, on the day of his funeral.



Tickets to this fun filled evening would make a great gift for someone special at Christmas, for a birthday or just because.

Your support will further the work of the Fairfield-Gutzeit Society.

ROBBIE BURNS DINNER

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 2015

6:00 PM

St. John's Memorial Hall, Bath

MENU:

PRIME RIB, TATTIES AND NEEPS

SALAD AND HAGGIS

TRIFLE AND COFFEE

WINE, BEER and SCOTCH AVAILABLE

ENTERTAINMENT: Scottish dancing

DRESS: Semi-formal

Tartan or black tie optional

TICKETS: \$ 50.00

Call Sally - 613-352 -9911



Keith Miller, smiling
Photo by Vicki Keith

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

Today, December 31, witnesses 2 disappearances on our Island. There is no New Year’s Eve Dance and the Amherst Island General Store has closed – the post office will remain open.

There were 2 Island stores operating when I moved here in 1970 – Glenn’s Store and Neilson’s Store. I remember asking Les Glenn sometime in the ‘70s where the engine oil was. He replied that his wholesale price for oil was higher than the retail price was at K-Mart.

I could probably list several reasons for the disappearance of these 2 stores but I won’t say anything but time moves on. It is a belief of mine that running a small store has to be at least as difficult as running a farm.

So far the fall and early winter have been cold and dry. Keeping the livestock watered – with frozen water-lines and dry ponds - has been an ongoing challenge. We put the rams in with the ewes last week and it has been a relief – so far – not to have the freezing rain and subsequent ice covered fields of last year.

The sale of the cottage that Sally inherited from her parents meant that some of her family treasures came here. Among the treasures is a collection of The Illustrated London News [ILN] issues from late 1914 and into 1918. This publication came out weekly; thinner than a Life magazine but longer and wider.

The photos, ads and paintings from the war years are fascinating. I have just been looking at the Jan. 9, 1915 issue which featured “The ‘Fraternising’ of Enemies”. The story is that the Germans initiated the “truce”. I suspect that this magazine which was so clearly in favour of King and Country gave the Germans credit not so much to praise their Christian virtue as to indicate a weakness.



Cathy Jane Christmas and new CJAI President Eric Tremblay (taken at CJAI by selfie)

DECEMBER 2014 ON AMHERST ISLAND

-Sharen English

It is windy at the Foot. It is every winter.

Orion is in the sky again.

Letting the dog out to pee is a more complicated affair than the summer routine.

I put my shoes or boots on and my coat, and out we go. I shiver and tell him to "hurry up".

When Maxine, our gray cat, went out one night, a raccoon stared at her as she sat on our side step.

The cats go out for 5 minutes at a time now, because of the cold. In the summer they are out for hours.

When I arrived home from my first trip in late November there was snow on the ground, which has since melted.

Now as we leave on another trip, snow is forecast for the day before we leave. "Sigh".

I have 3 Christmas parties to attend. I enjoy these.

Too much good food is always a holiday peril.

The Women's Institute Senior's Dinner was a success yet again. The room was so well decorated. We had good attendance numbers and the food was great. The entertainment and Brian's slide show of our Islanders and our Island were delightful.

We saw a Snowy Owl in Joyce Reid's backyard. We could see it from our living room window.

"Hooray!"

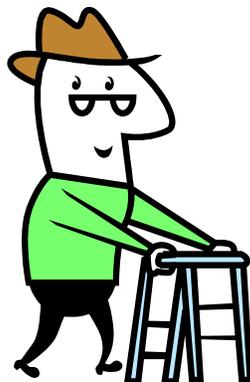
Janet has been gone for two months and I miss her.

Time flies though and soon it will be the New Year.

THANK YOU NOTES

AIWI wishes to thank Medigas Kingston for their donation of a commode and a bath chair for our Loan Cupboard.

Judy Greer



Nance and I thank all those who worked so hard to make our farewell party such a great success.

We were amazed at the turnout and overwhelmed by the food and the entertainment. We had a wonderful time. On several occasions in the entertainment we were deeply moved because of the fond memories that the words, songs and laughter evoked.

We consider ourselves very fortunate to be able to have lived for so long on Amherst Island and to have been befriended by so many of you. We will always consider Amherst Island our home and hope to return to it on many occasions.

Thank you again for your love and support,

Nancy and Zander of DUNN INN

Warm thanks to AIMS and specifically to Hugh Jenney in summer, and Larry Jensen and Don Pepper in winter, who carry cases of my liquid food home every other week from the pharmacy. I dream of the day when I am no longer so dependent, but for now, thanks for keeping me fed.

Sally



Margaret Maloney
Photo by Brian Little

Topsy Farms and I in particular are deeply grateful for the services of the Internet Café.

David Pickering has spent far too many hours patiently teaching and holding my hand in virtual space, as I struggle to master more advanced skills on the internet, to ensure Google knows of our existence.

Bill Barrett has filled in from time to time as well.

No contribution to the Museum can be sufficient to repay your kindness.

Sally

SILLY HATS

- David Pickering

Many thanks to Andrea Cross and Janet Grace who co-hosted a wonderful holiday party held at the Lodge on the 21st. The theme was ‘Lampshade Hats’ (though I have to admit, I felt more comfortable coming as a dim, bare bulb. [Second bald joke this issue.]

The party was very well attended. As per normal for an island ‘do,’ there was enough food for twice the number of people – or just the right amount if the party had gone on for two days. Good fellowship was enjoyed by all, and the headgear (or chest gear, or waist gear) was varied and delightful. Sharen and I both had a great time and extend congratulations to Michèle LeLay for taking home the top prize.



**Michèle LeLay at the Lodge Lampshade party.
Photo by Brian Little**



**Denise Wolfe
Photo by Brian Little**



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[Highly recommended for silly parties.]

Warm Winter Walking

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In 1977 the Township lawyer had recommended a survey, but the Council of that time had not felt that its cost was justified. . . .

Plans are continuing for replacing the bridge on the third concession. Plans have been sent to M.T.C. for approval. M.T.C. has not yet said they will pay for it, but Council is optimistic that they will.

The Ministry of the Environment is finally pleased with the condition of the dump. Council decided to cancel the agreement with Burton's Sanitation for rat control, because no rats have been seen since the dump was cleaned up. This will save \$60 per month.

Council discussed a much reduced plan for modifying the Township office, and approved the plans. Tender documents will be drawn up and three local bidders asked to bid for the work. Ian Murray declared conflict of interest and left the room while this subject was discussed.

Council is to try to get help to straighten up the cemeteries under a summer works project. . . .



**Dan Simpson (L) and Al Caughey
Engrossed in conversation
Photo by Brian Little**

The new building by-law was discussed briefly. An ad hoc committee (Ian Murray, chairman, Chester Tugwell, Ted Welbanks) was set up to consider the by-law. The draft by-law states that a building permit will be required for almost any work done on a building, except painting it, with numerous inspections, permits, drawings etc. being required. Anyone concerned about this should contact a committee member as soon as possible.

Additional funding is being requested for the Miller Drain, as the delays have led to an increase in cost. The Eves family had requested that the calculations for the drainage assessments be made public. Reeve Allison stated that there had been

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

From The Amherst Island Beacon: January 1985 - Issue 84

Council Report for January 7th 1985

- Christopher Kennedy

All members of Council attended. The minutes of the previous meetings were read. At a special meeting on Dec. 17th the tenders for the Miller Drain were opened. The lowest bid, by Morven Construction for \$126,962.70, was accepted subject to the approval of the drainage engineer. [This approval has now been received.]

Don Tubb addressed council on the new building bylaw. He had written a letter to Council outlining various concerns.

Geoff Mathews spoke to Council about the ownership of the Township Dump. There appears to be confusion over the various deeds and descriptions concerning it. Later in the meeting Council, decided to ask Peter Hopkins Ontario Land Surveyor, to produce a survey of the dump. A survey includes researching all the various bits of paper dealing with ownership, so that the matter will be clarified.

ample opportunity for this at the numerous court hearings, and to do this now would not be in the public interest, as it would increase the cost of the drain and would delay it further. In a recorded vote, Murray and Welbanks dissenting, Council decided not to release the assessment calculations.

Council referred the procedural by-law to the ad hoc by-law committee. This by-law, like the building bylaw, is long and involved, but is worth looking at because it will affect many of our future dealings with Council. It has been suggested that anyone who wants to address Council must tell Council before the agenda is circulated and provide Council with a written brief beforehand. . . .

Council endorsed a resolution to the Ontario Government from Adjala Township that farmers continue to have the right to kill dogs straying on property where livestock is kept. This came into question in a recent court case where a dog was shot as it left a field after attacking a sheep flock.

Council then, adjourned.

Social Notes

- Annette Phillips

With the Christmas Season now past and a measure of normalcy returned to most households, there seems to be little to look forward to besides cold, snow and the eventual freezing of the lake.

But take heart! For something warm to do next month, try the I.S.L.E. Committee's Annual Ham Dinner. It will be held Wednesday, February 6 at the school. Neither rain nor sleet nor snow will stop the committee from cooking up their yearly feast, and they are expecting a good turnout again this year.

Perhaps the biggest news for January is the 25th wedding anniversary of Vaughn and Margaret McMullen. Sponsored by their children an open house will be held at the school Saturday, January 12 at 8 p.m. Actually it will be over by the time this is read, so, many congratulations and very best wishes to Vaughan and Margaret.

On the darker side, many of us have mourned the passing of Louise, infamous canine on the corner and longtime pet of Doug Wilson. Louise was unfortunately put to sleep a few weeks before Christmas, having suffered from an illness her vet said may have been cancer. In her place we welcome

Cara, Doug's two-year-old Doberman. Fully registered,

Cara is an excellent watchdog when she moves from her side of the bed.

The New Year's party was apparently a big success again, this year with some unexpected entertainment supplied. After-hours activities were either very limited or those taking part were reluctant to give details.

There are 301 shopping days until Christmas.

VALENTINE DANCE

Country and Western, music by Houston, will be featured at this years Valentine Dance, sponsored by A.I. Legion Branch 539.

The Dance will be held at the school, Saturday Feb 9. Doors open at 7:15 with dancing from 8:15 to 12:15.

Tickets are \$15 a couple. Buffet lunch will be served from 9 pm on.

Tickets are on sale from the following Legion members - Chester Tugwell, Tom Miller and John Glenn.

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On January 19th, the Women's Institute is having its Family Night Dinner at the home of Caroline Yull.

The winners of the essay contest were Trudy Strain, "Water for a Thirsty World", and Penny Thornhill, "My Dream of Peace".

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Diane Gavlas

[Apologies: the Beacon computer swallowed last month's W.I. submission. We are reprinting it here, in full (a month late).]

The November meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Anna Hitchins.

Role call was the most interesting book read in the last year.

Senior Citizen's dinner was held on December 8th with a good turnout, not only of guests but, thankfully, a good number of volunteers to help out. Thank you all for pitching in to help with the kitchen and serving.

The Women's Institute works for the community but it is so greatly appreciated when you from the community come out and pitch in to help the Amherst Island Women's Institute. It makes it all worthwhile. Thank you to those who helped financially too. Without your help the dinner would not be possible. Thank you to the Legion Branch 539, the Burleigh L.O.L. and various guests at the Senior Citizen's Day. If we can't get you to join and be a member yet, we thank you for supporting our projects. {The information announcing the December meeting is omitted in this reprint.}

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us.

4-H NEWS

- Phyllis Strain

Join 4-H in February to learn to "bake from scratch" - a skill that still everyone should learn.

4-H Basic Baking is the next club. You get first hand experience in making pies, cakes and tea biscuits. You must be 12 to 21 years by January 1, 1985 to join.

Please contact Mrs. Phyllis Strain (389-1736) if interested.

Help! I need someone to help lead. Please contact me if interested. Mrs. Phyllis Strain (389-1736).

CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR)

- Rick Tait

There will be a CPR course held on Amherst Island in February. Dates have yet to be set, but will be posted at the store as soon as possible.

Everyone who took the CPR course at the school last year must re-certify to keep their certificate current.

For more information please contact Rick Tait at 389-3444 or 389-3802.

CARDS OF THANKS

I'm taking this opportunity to thank my family, friends, relatives and neighbours for cards, phone calls, gifts and visits I received while in hospital and since returning home. A special thanks to the visiting committees of the A.C.W. and the P.C.W. for their "goodies", also my fellow ferry crew workers for the lovely picture they gave me. It was nice to be remembered by so many nice people.

Thanks again.

Eldon Willard



Peggie Coulter-Burke

Photo by one of her daughters

We wish to thank our friends, neighbours and relatives for the lovely cards and gifts given to us on the occasion of our 40th wedding anniversary. Also a special thanks to Bobby and Valerie for the nice dinner they put on for us.

Thanks to each and everyone.

Thelma and Charlie Howard

**

We would like to take this opportunity to say Thank you to everyone who stopped in to see Tommy and to those who sent Get Well cards, flowers, gifts and Christmas cards. We appreciate your thoughts and concerns. We would also like to thank the boat crew who waited for the Ambulance.

Tommy is coming along fairly well and should be home before too long.

David, Marj and Shirley Brown

P. S. Thank you Santa Claus for the envelope.

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to our friends, relatives and neighbours for visits to the funeral home, sympathy cards and expressions of sympathy at the time of our loss of a devoted loving mother and Grandmother.

A special thank you to the boat crews for the floral tribute.

Thank you to those who brought gifts of food to our home.

Your thoughtfulness has been comforting and is greatly appreciated.

Wm and Helen Bulch and family

We wish to express our sincere thanks to friends and relatives for their kindness and concern during the loss of a dear father and grandfather, Walter Wilson.

Your thoughtfulness and the comfort you've given will always be remembered.

Don and Judy Miller and family

Janet and Alex Scott and their family would like to thank the residents of Amherst Island for making them welcome on the Island.

We were shocked by the serious car accident that happened after midnight Friday. We offer our concern and support to Kirk Collins, Susan McGinn, Marion Collins, Jimmy Reid and their families.

Marion, is at KGH and the others are at The Hotel Dieu.

FERRY TICKETS

- Ian Murray

The statement on the ferry tickets to the effect that neither the Township nor MTC is responsible "for Damage, Injury and/or expenses to vehicles and/or passengers and/or cargo" is there at the insistence of Bickerton Brokers Ltd, the Township's insurance agent. This statement is intended to discourage people from making claims, just or unjust. I believe it has no real validity - legal or moral.

If you, your car, or your goods have been damaged on the ferry and you believe that some liability should be assumed by the Township, as operators of the ferry, I think that you would be wise to bring the matter to Council's attention, regardless of words on the ticket.

For example, if you are backing your car under the direction of a crew member and your car is scratched by a projecting truck mirror, I think you would have a good claim. However, if you disregarded the crew member's directions then, I doubt very much that you would have a valid claim.

EDITOR:

- "Anonymous" {name withheld at request}

During the past summer, I was completely "disgusted" to witness the "rash" of vandalism of our village of Stella, ranging from the throwing of bicycles over the dock, to the flattening of tires on our ferry crew's vehicles, the breaking of windows in nearby barns and dock buildings, stealing of gasoline and groceries from parked vehicles and possibly other instances of which I am not aware.

There seemed to have been a lull in such activities until last evening (Saturday, January 12th) when, as a great majority of our Island residents, joined with Margaret and Vaughn McMullen, in their celebration of their 25th wedding Anniversary at the Amherst Island Community Centre, a systematic vandalism of mail boxes was carried out on the Third Concession. Such senseless and unnecessary deeds of vandalism lead one to a revolting anger and a determination to adequately punish those responsible. One such mail box installation, which was of unique design was not only vandalized but a portion of it was removed and presumably stolen.

Investigation by police officers are an exercise in futility unless there is assistance provided by local residents and we must all become "watchdogs" of strange vehicles and strange actions by their drivers. When such actions are observed, it is usually comparatively easy to jot down the licence number, which usually is a good lead to be used by police officers.

Members of our ferry crews are also in an excellent position to observe "vehicles and their passengers" in transit on the Amherst Islander and to observe untoward behaviour which leads to suspicion. Many times, in the past, crew members have been accessory to the apprehension of thieves, who unfortunately have indulged in a "no good reason" for visiting Amherst Island.

Recently I heard of a crewman's clever carrying out of some "watchdog" activity.

As the Amherst Islander lay at the Stella dock, after having discharged the load of cars, a new line of cars was forming, the first car in the line up drove down on, to the dock and a lady stepped out with a large bag of garbage, which she deposited at the dockside and got back in the car, whereupon, the crewman, taking a note pad, stepped out on the dock and standing in front of the car recorded the license number, no sooner had he returned to the boat when,

the same lady hastily climbed out of the car, grabbed her bag of garbage and replaced it in the car - I suppose to try the same method of disposal somewhere else, to litter the countryside.

Let us all resolve to be alert and observant it is the only way to eliminate such undesirable activities in our community.

EDITOR, "ISLAND BEACON"

- A. Bruce Caughey.

The columns of our "Island Beacon" seem to offer a means of communication with our community and I am going to use these channels to express my opinion concerning a matter that I feel should have consideration by our Municipal Council.

Each time that I attend an event at our Amherst Island Community Centre I become increasingly aware of the congestion that exists in the parking area in connection therewith, not only congestion., but also the hazards of damages to vehicles in getting in and out of the parking area.

I feel very strongly that consideration should be given to an enlargement of the parking area, which would eliminate the necessity of vehicles being parked on the roadside, particularly in winter time when icy conditions prevail and older people find difficulty in making the long trek from their cars to the hall and return.

When purchase of this approximately five acre area was made in 1946, by the Board of Trustees of the Township School Area of Amherst Island from Clarence R. Hogeboom, it seemed to us that we had provided very adequately, not only for our immediate needs, but for future projections of use. We have, in the intervening 38 years, seen unanticipated development of use of this area until it has now become a much used centre of our Community Life - I doubt if any similar public facility, within the bounds of our County, is more widely used, and certainly exemplifies the wise expenditure of public moneys as well as generous contributions by private groups and individuals. Getting back to my proposal of extending the parking area, I am not sure how this should be undertaken but cannot help but feel that the initiatory steps should be taken by Municipal Council. Since the inception of County Boards of Education, we have to a considerable degree lost our local autonomy and an approach would have to be made to representatives of the L.&A. County

Board of Education, (since we have no longer a local representative on the Board) to work out a mutual agreement regarding such area being attached to the present school grounds. I would strongly suggest that the purchase of the required area should be made by Council rather than negotiating the same through Board channels. I am sure that the owner of the adjacent farm, James Neilson, would be very cooperative in the purchase and I, for one, would be only too pleased, to contribute my recently received and uncashed cheque, covering refund of previously paid for building permits, to this project.

We as a municipality, have at our disposal, the equipment, the availability of the necessary fill, crushed stone etc. which would make it possible to adequately drain, fill and suitably surface an increased area of sufficient size in order to provide for a substantial number of parking spaces.

May I hear further expressions on this proposal from interested residents.

From The Amherst Island Beacon: January 15, 1995, Issue 204}

Published Monthly By

Headlands Co-op RR#1 Stella, Ont K0H 2S0 and Caroline Ackerman

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BEACON NOTES

-Don Tubb

Caroline Ackerman is not here to type in the copy so I am left to struggle with it. We do have a new aide in the form of a bigger, faster, Stronger computer - yes!!! For those who are interested, it is a 486DX-66MH with a 406MB hard drive and 8MB of ram. By my standards that's fast, fast, fast with unlimited space to store programs but we'll see in a year or so if there is any space left. The most amazing thing about it is that it cost less than half that of our first computer of 11 years ago which was a 64K machine with two floppy drives. I don't know

what the difference is in capacity or speed but would guess we're looking at thousands of times faster.

Well, so much for me... How have all you folks been over the holiday season? We hope you had a fine Xmas and New Year. As you can see by the masthead, we managed to start the year on the right foot by getting 1995 up there which was a major effort.

Reporting back, now... After getting the copy into the template and basically working it into columns, I am happy to announce that the computer has worked well - no freezing of the program and no thinking for 2 minutes before printing a page. So, on with the show...

COUNCIL REPORT January 3, 1994

- Chris Kennedy

Jim Whitton is away in Australia, using some big machine for his research in Physics.

Ken Albertan asked Council about the details of how the 5% lot levy is determined. He also asked Council about the status of the old section of the Front Road south of his house. This has never been surveyed or transferred, so Council will find out what is needed to straighten out the matter.

The Road Crew has been busy cleaning out and repairing culverts. They have also cleaned up the dump for the winter, worked on the docks and have stockpiled some gravel at the new Roads Shed. They plan to cut some trees and brush in January, weather permitting. Plans are going ahead for the passenger shelter on the Millhaven dock.

There were two accident reports from the ferry in December. The present policy for accidents is that the damage should be reported by the owner of the vehicle to their insurance company, and it is up to the insurance company to approach the Township if they consider the damage to be the Township's responsibility. The new Council decided to continue with this policy.

Council has received no applications for the Ship-keeping jobs.

There was a discussion about a new Fire Hall. The present buildings are slowly sinking into the ground because they lack proper foundations, and Council has applied to the Federal / Provincial Infrastructure programme for funding. This would cover 2/3 of the cost, Council decided to have a Fire Committee meeting on Jan. 6th to discuss the whole

fire budget. Chris Kennedy is the new Deputy Fire Chief.

Council then discussed several items in the Procedural By-law. A second member of Council, Ralph Woods, has been added to the Ferry Committee. Various small alterations were made to the Municipal Control Group, and a few other minor items were changed.

Two building permits were issued in December, to Jack Forester for a porch, and to Brian Reil for a house, which is going up in a field just to the east of Garnet McDonald's.

Council then went into closed session to discuss some personnel items.

VALENTINE DANCE

Put On By: The Royal Canadian Legion

Music by: Rock'n Roll Cowboys (Tim & Bev Hallman)

Tickets: \$20 from any Legion member or at the door.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

Our sincerest condolences to Sally Bowen and family on the death of her father, Lloyd, in Toronto this past week.

Elaine Tooke recently died. We offer our condolences to her husband Tom. She was a niece to Helen Miller, Jean Tugwell and Ralph Wemp.

Howard Welbanks is back from hospital recovering from minor surgery. We wish him a speedy one.

Bonnie Baker is also recovering from a minor injury.

GOOD NEWS

- Caroline Ackerman

When she hung up the phone in mid November, Lynann realized that because of the news she received, her whole life had changed yet outwardly nothing was different.

She had been adopted as a baby, but it was only after the birth of Ben she began to realize how difficult it must be to give up a child for adoption. During a conversation with others who had been involved with a search for their birth mothers, she decided she should try to find her own.

In the spring of last year she signed up with an agency which matches registered birth parents and their children. Time went on and, hearing nothing the thought perhaps her mother hadn't wanted to find her, she shifted it to the back of her mind and went on with her life. Then came the phone call.

Sandra, her birth mother, had registered shortly before Lynann but had put down the wrong birth date - no match. She then figured out the correct date after talking the hospital into reluctantly dusting off their files. With the correct date the match was immediate. Lynann was working for a week at Chalk River on some experiments when the call came. She couldn't believe the news, was unable to share it with anyone, and, because of her work, had to return the agency's call later in the day to find out the details. They told her what they could and said that Sandra was expecting her to phone about seven that evening!

As she later said, she probably would have mulled the news over in her mind for a couple of days before phoning but, with the commitment made for her what would she say?

At the appointed hour she dialed Sandra's Montana home. "I guess you know who this is?" was her opening sentence. They talked for an hour.

"Where is Stella, we can't find it in the atlas?" was one of Sandy's opening questions. She relayed the answer to her husband standing at the ready with the open atlas, also the news that she had a grandson, her first.

The contact brought Lynann a whole family, a grandmother, aunt, three uncles and two brothers who were quite astonished to learn of their sister's existence.

There followed frequent phone calls, "I always know when it's Sandy calling, I can just tell". Unknown to each other they had each tried to find a way to meet before Jim, Lynann and Ben were due to leave for Australia just after Christmas.

Lynann had no luck trying to find a flight and phoned to tell Sandy. She had been more fortunate and, encouraged by an understanding husband, her travel plans were made. She would arrive in Syracuse on Christmas night and could make the 9:30 p.m. ferry from Millhaven.

Luckily Dianne Marshall was working that evening and had her camera handy to photograph the historic moment as mother and daughter met.

The two day visit rushed by and, all too soon, Sandy had to return to her home. The bonds have been forged and a new dimension has been added to both their lives.

ISLAND HISTORY

WEMP FAMILY GENEALOGY FOUNDATION

July 29, 1995 on Amherst Island

The Wemp family reunion will be held at the family farm on Amherst Island, Ontario. Plan to attend the memorial and plaque dedication service 1:00 p.m. as well as the getting acquainted/re-acquainted activities. Please spread the word so we can make this a reunion to remember.

Those concerned in documenting our family history: it would be helpful to have this information as soon as possible to give us time to organize it into a cohesive package. We have record sheets to assist you. Further information or to volunteer your time please call:

Leigh Wemp... (613) 386-3501,

Herb Wemp... (613) 386-1140, or

Sharon Sands... (613) 353-2358.

All donations are gratefully accepted.

OBITUARY

JOHN (JACK) KERR

Family and friends are mourning the loss of a respected and loved member of it's community. John Sheard Kerr died peacefully at the Kingston General Hospital, December 24th, following complications from a stroke suffered three weeks earlier. He was 72 years of age.

Jack was the husband of Madlyn (nee Kilpatrick) of Amherst Island, dear father of David and his wife Brenda of Camden East; and Suzanne and her husband Peter Wemp of Tweed. Loving 'Papa' of Lindsay and Sarah Wemp and David and Tracey Phin. Survived by brother Bob and his wife Fern of Powassan, and sister Verne Coutts of Stouffville.

Jack lived his life to the fullest, inspiring many people through his 35 year teaching career at Amherst Island, Catarauqui, Amherstview, Portsmouth and Ridean Public Schools.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Allan Glenn summed it up well by saying that Jack had a one way ticket to heaven.

THANK YOU NOTES

The family of the late John S. Kerr would like to express their sincere "Thank You" to relatives and friends for their many acts of kindness, cards, phone calls, flowers, visits, and for the donations of food during the time of his illness and death.

A special "Thank You" to the Amherst Island First Response team for their assistance and support and Rev. Lindsay McIntyre for his many visits and prayers. A grateful Thanks to the P.C.W. Ladies for the excellent luncheon served following the service. Special thanks to the Community Carol Choir for their dedication service and card, and to the students of A.I. Public School for their many delightful cards and wishes. And to all those who donated to the Heart & Stroke Foundation and the Memorial Fund of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Amherst Island, again, a sincere thank you.

Madlyn, David, Suzanne and Families

Thanks for your comfort, my friends. I wish my wonderful Dad could have had even more than his 91 years.

Sally Bowen

To the Amherst Island Women's Institute
Thank you for your kind words and thoughts of Marg. She often spoke of the Institute.

Thank you.

Vince Aitken and Family

Thanks to all who called, visited, offered help and (my personal favourite) brought food during my recovery from my accident. I'm also extremely grateful for the excellent help and support received from the V.O.N.

We're fortunate that we have access to such a great service.

Llew MacArthur

We would like to thank everyone who came to help celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary. Also thanks for the gifts, cards, phone calls, and to everyone who helped with the lunch.

Thanks to everyone.

Mel & Chris Filson

Many many thanks for all the goodies, greetings and good wishes during the Christmas Season. All were appreciated.

All the crews of the M.S. Amherst Islander

The Amherst Island Driving Club would like to thank those that supported and helped with this year's

New Year's Eve Dance.

We have on hand in the lost and found, 5 fake acrylic finger nails found under a table on the south wall. Owner may contact any of the horse men if wanting them returned.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION REMBRANCE DAY COMPETITION

Branch 539 of the Royal Canadian Legion is proud to announce that the following people won prizes at the Zone Level of competition:

Mindy Fleming- 1st- B&W Poster, Grades 4, 5, 6
Shawna Phillips- 2nd- Colour Poster, Grades 4, 5, 6
Jessica McGinn- 3rd- B&W Poster, Grades 7, 8
Sara Pollock- 1st- Colour Poster, Grades 7, 8
Ryan McGinn- 1st- Essay, Grades 4, 5, 6
Mindy's, Sara's and Ryan's entries will go to the District Level to compete.

ATTENTION

WHIG STANDARD CUSTOMERS

We will continue to do our best to deliver your newspaper on time.. However, when the weather slows us down a little, we thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sandra & Jim Reid

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

We received the following note from Leslie so instead of paraphrasing it, we will reprint it (hopefully without error).

p.2 Please note the following errors in the Dec. Beacon. I stated that Susie Caughey organized students to set up the tables and Lyn Fleming organized the girls who served and cleaned the tables.

P.4 Thank you from Marg Blenkinsop The Thank you from the ACW for the lunch should have been

included in the Friends of St. Alban's following the note on the St. George's Choirs.

We will try to do better in the future... this new computer should help as it seems more than capable of handling the Beacon's size and complexity which was not the case with the previous computer.

A LETTER HOME

-Don Tubb

Well, this is more like the weather I like.... some cold and some snow but some warm too so I can thaw out occasionally. I vividly remember the persistent deep cold of last winter so you won't hear any complaints this year.

This is pretty much a quiet time on the farm apart from the daily chores. All the lambs have been shipped so we await our next lambing. Our new shop is now heated which puts us into the lap of luxury compared to any time in the past. All in all, it's been a pretty good year on the farm and we hope for that trend to continue.

At this moment, I cannot think of another thing to say.... which is rare considering everything that happens on this Island.

Perhaps this is the time for our yearly apology to everyone for mistakes that occur from time to time. We are not professionals and we make mistakes reading the notes we get, typo's that get by the proofers, etc. So, we offer this blanket apology for past and future errors.

A.I.P.S. REPORTERS

ISLAND IS BETTER

- Samantha Pollock

Grade 4

Samantha Pollock thinks that the island is much better than the city. Samantha thinks that the island is better than the city because the air is much cleaner than the city. Samantha has been on the island for four months. She says that the island is much safer than the city. Samantha says that the city gets two thumbs down and the island gets two thumbs up.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Celebrate the bard's birthday and support the work of the Fairfield-Gutzeit Society. Tickets are now available for the Robbie Burns Dinner, Friday,

January 23, 2015 at St. John's Hall in Bath, ON. The evening features a 3 course Prime Rib dinner, the traditional Haggis ceremony, and entertainment by Royal Scottish Country Dancers of Kingston. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 613-352-9911.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME! An almost new queen-size box spring, and tired but comfortable wing chair. Call Mary Kay at 613 634-9772.

Amherst Island Women's Institute Medical Equipment Loan Cupboard (walkers, canes, bathseats, commodes, raised toilet seats).

Donations of used equipment in good condition also welcome. Call Sharen English (613)384-6535.

The Amherst Island Store is now closed. The Post office is open the following hours:

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri:

9 am - 11:30 am; 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Thurs:

9:00 am - 11:30 am; 3:30 pm - 6 pm

Sat / Sun: closed

For Sale

Large capacity dryer Inglis made by Whirlpool, works great. \$100 obo. If not satisfied I'll return your money. Bob Filson 613 389-9222

Topsy Farms has a new shipment of fresh frozen lamb cuts, just arrived in December.

ISLAND BOOKKEEPING

For simple bookkeeping, payroll, and tax preparation needs at very competitive prices. Call Renée for more information and free quotes at 613 389-0652

SHIRLEY MILLER

Paintings, Prints & Art Classes

613-389-2588

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

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

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.

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

HELP STILL NEEDED 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. Leave items on my porch: put pop cans in large container and other items nearby. 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 calendars, individual photos, books and booklets by Don Tubb. Open weekends and most weekday mornings.

RAWLEIGH PRODUCTS FOR SALE
Catalogues available. To place an order call Marie Ward at 613 389-5767 or email: bandmward@xplornet.ca



Feb 1973
Horse Racing on
the ice at
Amherst Island
Photo courtesy of
Lynn Fleming