

Amherst Island Beacon



Issue 452 *BONA LIBENTER, TRISTIA MAESTITER, MALA NUMQUAM* Mar 2016



Yvonne McGinn, Photo courtesy of McGinn family

YVONNE EDNA MCGINN (1958-2016)

Nurse, long time employee of Helen Henderson Care Centre, Lodge Manager. It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a dear daughter, sister and aunt after a brief illness.

Yvonne, loving daughter, and best friend of Mom, Cora, and predeceased by her Dad, Keith. Dear sister of Terry (Susan), Larry (Trudy), Eric (Janice), Leon (Joanne) and Kelly (Maureen). Amazing aunt to Terry, Tricia (Andy), Jessica (George), Ryan (Angela), Bill (Lindsay), Kendra, Brent (Caitlin), and Ashley, and predeceased by nephew Troy. Special great aunt to Mariah, Clayton, Riley, Jayden, Charlee, Shay, Keegan, and Lincon. Yvonne dedicated her life to her work and family, always caring for others. Her greatest passion was cooking. She was always happiest in front of her BBQ. Special thank you to the staff of 2 South at St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital.

The family received friends at Wartman Funeral Home "Kingston Chapel" Thursday February 18

from 5-8 p.m. Funeral Service was in the chapel on Friday February 19. Interment was at Glenwood Cemetery, Amherst Island.

Memorial donations may be made to Gibson Family Health Care Charitable Foundation or Cancer Centre South Eastern Ontario.

THIS ISSUE

-Ian Murray

Please remember that the Archives are old. I have included a lot of ads from 20 years ago because I found them interesting and hope that you will too. These ads are another indication of how much the Island has changed in only 20 years.

Current ads can be found in the non-Archives section of this issue.

...Lynn Fleming has sent us some public school photos as a sort of warm up to the AIPS '70th anniversary next year. We hope that our older readers will help with identifications.



Professor Thomas H.B. Symons, Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust; **Andre Lemieux**, President of Dry Stone Canada; **Andrea Cross**, Organizer of Irish-Canadian Dry Stone Festival on Amherst Island and Board Member of Dry Stone Canada; **The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell**, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. Photo by Ian Crysler and courtesy of Ontario Heritage Trust

The Amherst Island BEACON Issue 452, Mar 2016

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Editorial

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YVONNE McGINN

-Maureen McGinn

Yvonne was a wonderful daughter, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, great aunt, niece, cousin and friend. She was the family confidant and problem solver. She had two great passions in life: her family and her work at Helen Henderson Care Centre as Lodge Manager.

Yvonne was always the happiest planning and cooking for our family gatherings. No holiday or long weekend was ever missed. The sisters-in-law were always asked to bring a token item; sometimes the day before. Janice's baked beans, Susan's Caesar salad, Trudy's carrot cake and my macaroni salad. The main was always planned and cooked by her and Cora. The apron would go on over the shorts and t-shirt and out she'd go with several platters to the barbeque; regardless of the weather. She loved cooking and trying new recipes. She drove Cora nuts with all the fussing - even how the vegetables were arranged. Eric and Janice were her cooking buddies.

We had one dinner of lobster tails and crab legs that Larry Gibson had given her as a gift. Jan and Eric helped Yvonne do them on the grill. After we devoured them, the pans were piled with empty shells you could hardly see over. Cora and Ashley, who aren't seafood fans, watched us pig out as they ate sausages.

Yvonne attended Amherst Island Public School and Napanee High School. She received her RNA, now an RPN, from St. Lawrence College in Kingston. Yvonne worked at Switzer's Nursing Home in Wilton and when it merged with Bunclody Nursing Home she went to work at the new Helen Henderson Care Centre in Amherstview. She devoted her whole career to helping others and truly loved her work. The residents and staff became her second family. She worked tirelessly to make the residents' experience as home-like as possible. Her and Cora's meals for Diners' Club and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheons were her way of bringing a sense of home to the people she worked with.

You can imagine growing up with five brothers – three older: Terry, Larry and Eric; and two younger: Leon and Kelly – made her tough and able to fend for herself. Yvonne was no girly girl. One Christmas she tossed a doll aside that Santa had brought her saying instead "I wanted a set of Paladin's guns!" She learned to throw a baseball against the side of the garage and played ball for years as an excellent softball pitcher.

I first met Yvonne when Helen Henderson opened. She did not like me much at first, calling me "The Queen's Student", but over a short time we became friends. I met the rest of the family when she asked me to stop by at Kendra's christening. That was the first I met Kelly. I had never met anyone ever that was that quiet, but after 27 years we think her matchmaking skills were pretty good.

All of us sisters-in-law were really sister to Yvonne. She is the only person I've ever met who could call you a bitch and you actually felt loved. With the boys she was there through every up and down in life. She knew worries and problems before us girls did. She became more than an aunt to our nieces and nephews. She was their friend. She was an excellent Christmas shopper and some of us girls owe our best Christmas gifts to her pointing the boys in the right direction. This past Christmas she was still taking Larry, 60, with shopper's block, and Kelly, 50, out to shop for Trudy and me. Trudy will be getting hunting gear and I better just get used to

farm equipment from now on.

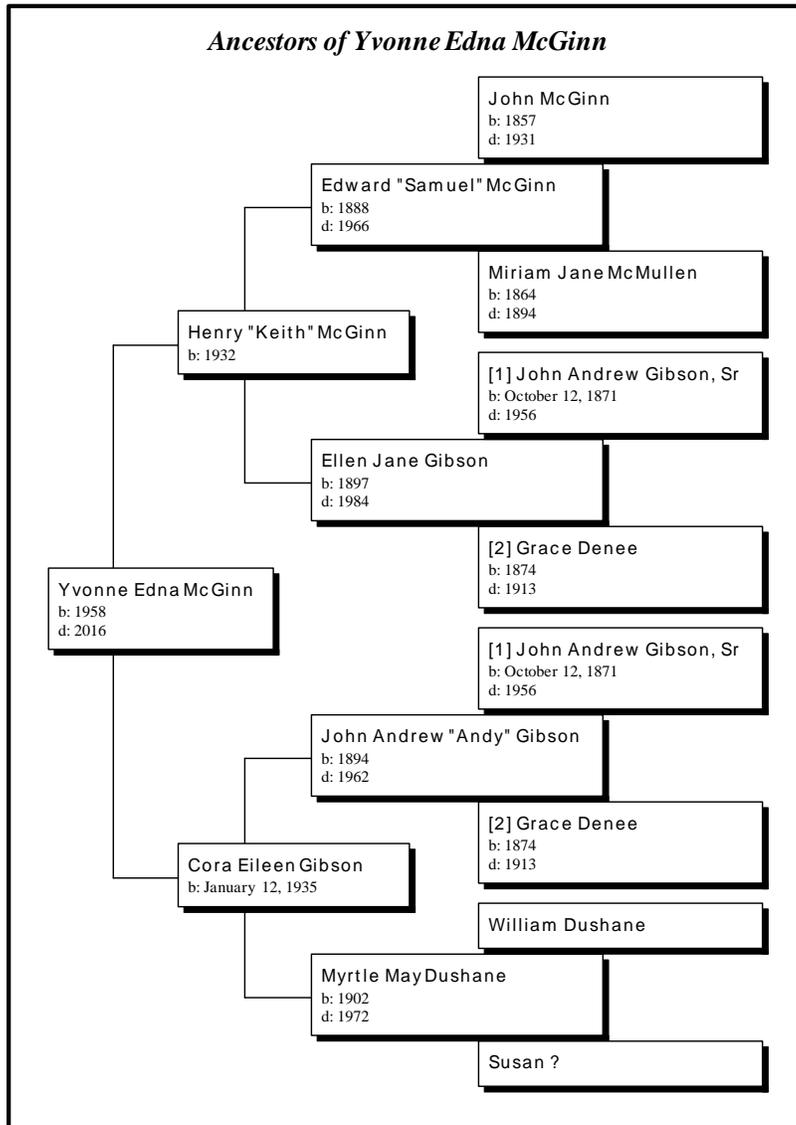
Yvonne was not just a daughter to Cora, she was her best friend; ever protective right to the end. They lived together, shopped together, cooked together, bickered with each other and supported each other.

Together they got through Keith's passing.

Unlike others when they pass, we know you knew, Yvonne, how much you were loved and how much you meant to all of us.

We love you.

YVONNE
-The Gibson Family



Yvonne and her dedication to seniors. He knew she was a perfect fit for the job.

Over the years, Larry depended on Yvonne to not only run the lodge, but also to manage the many aspects of human resources and labour relations at Helen Henderson.

Sunday dinners at the Gibson's always included stories from Larry surrounding work he and Yvonne had to deal with on a weekly basis

The rest of the family, including Larry's parents, Joyce and Kingsley; brother Tim, his wife Donna and their children Brett and Lisa; got to know Yvonne personally over the next 32 years.

Tim Gibson would always say she was a great lodge manager, but a scary fastball pitcher during annual baseball competitions between Helen Henderson Care Centre staff and sister home, Carveth Care Centre staff in Gananoque.

Kingsley enjoyed sitting at the BBQ during Family Day at HHCC where Chef Yvonne was at her best, all while they enjoyed an occasional visit & outdoor smoke together.

Joyce, a retired Director of Care, always said she admired Yvonne's easy fashion of treating everyone respectfully and honestly.



Yvonne in action – courtesy of McGinn family

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lynn Fleming

Our sympathy to Cora McGinn on the passing of her daughter and best friend, Yvonne McGinn, following a brief illness. Condolences to her brothers; Terry (Susan), Larry (Trudy), Eric (Janice), Leon (Joanne), and Kelly (Maureen) and their families, as well as to her many extended family and friends.

Noel McCormick and Maria Visintin spent a week in the Dominican.

Peter and Pam McCormick and Eric and Janice McGinn spent a week in Mexico.

Dan and Joan Simpson boarded a cruise ship in Florida, visiting ports in Belize, Honduras and Mexico.

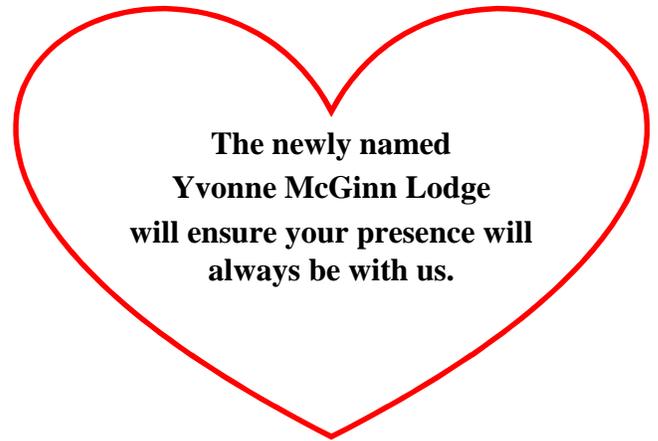
Bonnie and Allen Caughey and Warren and Laurene Kilpatrick and friends cruised the eastern Caribbean.

After Tim and Larry's death, in 2006 and 2011 respectfully, Brett became the Administrator of Carveth and Lisa became the Administrator of HHCC. Yvonne was there for both of them.

Angela Gibson, Assistant Administrator and Brett's wife, as well as Donna Gibson, knew if they needed to speak to someone at Helen Henderson for an answer they would usually call Yvonne first as they knew Yvonne was always at work.

Yvonne, you were a kind, personal manager with an attendance record unheard of in these days! You will be forever missed. You treated us like your family and you were there for us all!

You gave your best, and although too young, God will be happy to have you back on his team. So pitch some fast-balls at Larry and Tim in heaven.



**The newly named
Yvonne McGinn Lodge
will ensure your presence will
always be with us.**

Larry and Sherry Jensen spent a couple of weeks soaking up some warm weather and sunshine in Florida.

Daylight Savings time begins on March 13th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour.

March Break is coming up fast, the week of March 14th, followed quickly by the Easter weekend, on March 25th.

Safe travels to all who will be travelling this month.

After some extremely cold weather over the Family Day weekend, temperatures rose to a more comfortable setting on Family Day Monday – followed on Tuesday by “snowmageddon”!! When all was said and done, it looks like we got about 16 - 18 inches of snow in less than 12 hours.

Businesses and schools were closed early to try and get people home and off the roads and in some cases roads were closed. As always, we are so lucky here on the Island, with our road crew working round the clock to keep our roads open – even in the wildest weather, and the ferry also runs in all kinds

of weather – ensuring we all get home safely.

Forecast says another big snow storm is coming for March 1st – “in like a lion means out like a lamb” – looking forward to Spring on Amherst Island!

[Editor, March 2nd: as often happens, another storm just by-passed our Island. Good now; not so good in the summer when some rain would be very useful.]



Amherst Island in January – photo by Brian Little

WOMEN’S INSTITUTE

- Mary Kay Steel

We didn’t have a gathering in February, so not much to report.

Many of our members are basking in southern sunshine somewhere.

A reminder that you can come and walk indoors with us on Wednesday afternoons, at 4pm, at the Community Centre.

Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday March 16 at 7pm, with Judy Bierma as hostess; guests are welcome.

AIMS Minutes

- William Barrett

On Saturday the 13th of Feb, 15 men, including 3 speakers attended the monthly AIMS meeting at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church.

Presenting was Alex Scott with Capt Gary MacDonald and Chief Stevenson. They provided information on our fire department and First Response services.

The Emergency First Response (EFR) Team was formed in 1990 under a program that was supported and funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health. While the Fire Department was involved, non-fire department members were also solicited on the Island.

The program was spearheaded by Lynann Whitton and included the support of many volunteers and the Council of the day. EFR responses on the Island became possible with the implementation of the 911 system and a Fire Department paging system. The original team consisted of twelve trained members assigned to three shifts. When the team was founded they had to overcome some initial concerns of privacy and about sharing personal medical information with other Islanders and needed to educate the public to discourage people from driving directly to the ferry as had been the past practice.

In 1996 a defibrillator was put into service after a successful fundraising campaign raised over \$10,000 towards its purchase.

Today the EFR Team is fully funded by the Township and responds when requested by the Ambulance service. Residents requiring medical attention only need to request an ambulance through the 911 system and both the Fire Department and the Ferry are alerted by the Ambulance service.

Equipment on Amherst Island is exactly the same as any of the other four fire stations in the Township, though, due to the resupply delay, we tend to keep a few more supplies here.

Since 1998 the EFR members are fairly paid as volunteers but not excessively. Fire protection on Amherst Island is just as good as anywhere on the mainland. We have an 11-minute average response time on the Island from the time that we are alerted. The Department tries to keep about 16 members at all times but this can be difficult on the Island. Maureen McGinn is the only original member of the EFR Team and while not a firefighter continues to respond as medical responder to both medical and fire calls.

There are 25-30 responses per year but the record was 45. This normally means two calls a month. Training includes major and minor trauma, strokes and heart attacks. When you call 911 it is important to ask for an ambulance. All the services are queued when you call 911. Interestingly, ambulance response is usually faster than helicopter. The last helicopter call took 60 minutes to come from Toronto and an ambulance usually takes 45 minutes. The Coast Guard is contacted immediately for an island 911 call and they notify the boat; then the FD is notified. The Fire Department calls the EFR. If you make a cell call you must tell your municipality or it takes 7-8 minutes to triangulate your location from one of the three 911 centres in Ontario. Start

with Loyalist Township then your address. If you are on the 401 report your last mile number, then your last interchange and what direction you are going.

"Wake up Loyalist" is a smoke detector program sponsored by the FD (1 yr into a 5 yr program). Community day at the fire hall is coming up.

The presentation was pertinent, valuable, and very well received by the members.

Beyond that, minutes were approved, reports were given, treasury is healthy, medical runs are about 5 per month. The Volunteer Improvement Area was discussed, as was the Stella Café Cooperative.

Membership level is an ongoing concern and we are open to suggestions as to how we can attract new AIMS members.

The March speaker (Sat, 12 March) will be Reverend Jay Brennan.

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

From Budget Meeting #2, Jan28th

Moved by Councillor Porter and Seconded by Deputy Mayor Bresee that staff examine all new initiatives proposed in the Operating Budgets to arrive at a 2.5 % Loyalist Tax Rate increase.

Motion carried.

From 2015 MTO Ferry Subsidy Petition

Date: February 2, 2016

Executive Summary:

The agreement between the Ministry of Transportation and Loyalist Township for the operation of the Amherst Island Ferry Service requires that the Township prepare a statement of actual base operating costs and revenues for each calendar year.

**

Beginning in 2004, the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has requested that a Petition for Subsidy be authorized by Council resolution on an annual basis.

The accounts for 2015 have not yet been closed, as there are a number of year-end adjusting entries still to be processed. The expenditures reported for the ferry service include an estimated amount for liabilities to be set up at year-end, but not yet recorded in the accounts. Once those liability balances are determined and a final year-end entry is

prepared, any difference between the estimated amount included in this year-end statement and the actual year end liability, will be reflected as an adjustment on the 2015 subsidy petition.

Status:

In 2015 as per the agreement, the fuel cost when the Quinte-Loyalist was in service is fully recoverable.

Also note that the cost of the security and all dock maintenance work is invoiced separately, and are 100% recoverable.

This year we will be sending an additional invoice to the Ministry of Transportation for the difference in passenger fares from 2014 to 2015 in the amount of \$27,800. This is due to the extended period the Quinte-Loyalist was in service during 2015.

****Attachment: MTO Subsidy Petition
Administrator's Declaration**

I solemnly declare that I have paid out of funds belonging to the municipality the sum of \$2,354,900.00 as set forth on the Form attached hereto and do hold bona fide vouchers for such payments which I am prepared to produce in verification thereof.



**Morning commute
Photo by Elena Zanetti**

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

Those reading the Letter Home in the Archives may think that Topsy Farms has lambs born in March. We finally wised up and now wait for May when the grass is growing and, hopefully, the sun is shining.

THANK YOU NOTES

The McGinn family would like to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to everyone for their kindness, sympathy, flowers, and charitable donations after the loss of Yvonne.

Thanks also to Ted Welbanks and Karen Miller, Judy Miller, and Jim and Sandra Reid for the gifts of delicious food in the days that followed.

Special thanks to Molly for the use of the Lodge and to Barb Reid and the ladies who provided the lunch on the day of the funeral.

Cora McGinn and family

ADVERTISEMENTS

**Topsy Farms invites our neighbours
to come watch shearing on:**

Mon, Mar 14th (8 am to 3 pm),

Sat, Apr 23 (8 am to 6 pm), or

Sun, Apr 24 (8 am to 3 pm).

These are free events.

Please phone us at 613-389-3444 or e-mail info@topsyfarms.com to book a time or for more information.



SPRING DANCE & FISH FRY

****Please Note ****

DATE CHANGE FOR THIS YEAR

The annual Spring Dance and Fish Fry will be held on **Saturday, May 14th** this year. Tickets are \$13.00 per person. Children under 10, \$6.00.

Please reserve your tickets from Rick Bedford, 389-8434 or Larry & Lynn Fleming, 634-2509.

I am looking for unwanted house paint. I can use any leftover 1/2 cans for painting bee boxes. Strong colours are preferred but any would be welcome.

Dave Meikle 613 328-8892

HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE FOR RENT by the week or weekend. Contact Jan Sydorko at 519-451-1197 or email michael.sydorko@sympatico.ca

COMPUTER REPAIR/UPGRADES, new installs, virus/Malware removal. Island References. Bruce MacCrimmon – 613 453-0505

bruce.maccrimmon@hotmail.com

Island Gold 100% Pure Raw Ontario Honey. Please call Perry at 613-371-8118 or email

Islandgold@rogers.com.

Amherst Island Women's Institute Medical Equipment Loan Cupboard (wheel chairs, walkers, crutches, canes, bath seats, commodes, raised toilet seats). Donations of used equipment in good condition also welcome. Call Sharen English (613)384-6535.

Topsy Farms has winter lamb frozen lamb cuts; great raw honey by bees (with help from Dave Meikle and Kyle Murray).

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.

HELP STILL NEEDED for the Lennox and Addington S.P.C.A. Used towels and linens, paper towels and cleaning supplies, pet food and toys, kitty litter, are always in demand; Canadian Tire coupons. We are glad to accept pop cans, beer and LCBO containers too. Thank you for helping to support our animal shelter. Further information needed? Call Freda Youell - 613 384-4135.

FOOTFLATS FARM ACCOMMODATION:

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

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.

RAWLEIGH PRODUCTS FOR SALE

Catalogues available. To place an order call Marie Ward at 613 389-5767 or email:

bandmward@xplornet.ca

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



Lauret's place in winter – photo by Brian Little

A BIRTHDAY BASH

Congratulations to Brian Little on his 60th birthday. Katie and the rest of the family threw a party for him at The Lodge. At least fifty people attended and great time was had by all. Of special note was Brian's request to not give gifts, but rather make a donation to the Save a Syrian Family (Kingston) charity. Well done!

But even at his own party – he couldn't stop taking pictures so:



Danielle & Steve Kennedy, Judy Bierma, Keith Miller, Anthony Gifford, Jake Murray. The extra band member on the right is Allen Caughey. Margaret Maloney is in foreground with the top of Shirley's head.



Duncan Ashley – part of the impromptu band at Brian's party.

ARCHIVES Mar 86 / Mar 96

From AMHERST ISLAND BEACON: March 15, 1986
- Volume 4 Issue 98

COUNCIL REPORT for March 6th
- Christopher Kennedy

All members of Council were present. The minutes of the regular meeting on Feb. 5th, and a Roads Committee meeting on Feb. 21st were approved. The proposed road budget for 1986 is \$158,000, including \$24,000 for the balance of the culvert on the 3rd. The Committee also recommended applying for additional subsidies from the provincial government for a new snow plow/dump truck (\$75,000) and culvert replacement in the village (\$4,000). It is also time to get gravel crushed again.

The Building Inspector and the Road Superintendent made their reports. Ed Chadband, the Building Inspector, will attend two courses. The Reeve reported on his activities for the month. The County Council is again this year giving no grants at all to county organizations. County Council is also discussing the Gypsy Moth problem and the Health Unit budget. The Reeve discussed plans with M.T.C. for repairs to the Stella dock. Steel

pilings will be inserted during the summer as reinforcement. Different arrangements must be made for docking the ferry while the work is in progress.

Council approved, in principle, plans submitted by Brian Osborne to create three lots on his north shore property.

The final meeting of the Ferry Survey Committee has been postponed until March 18th. Council will review the report, which will contain recommendations from M.T.C., at the next Council meeting in April. A public meeting to discuss it is planned for April 21st. A final decision will be left until the May council meeting. Apparently a bridge has already been written off as being vastly too expensive. Council received a petition requesting a public meeting on the ferry question before any decisions are made.

Council discussed for some time whether Township employees should be charged for ferry trips while working. The pursers will be instructed to charge all adults except the road crew when traveling on Township business. [The only other exceptions are OPP, ambulance, hearse and VON.]

The Finance Committee is to meet to finish the budget for this year. The new Recreation By-law was passed.

The By-law Enforcement Officer, Ed Chadband, had received a letter of complaint about dogs running at large in the village. Council decided to find out what other people in the Township felt about the matter before taking action. (See separate article in the Beacon.) The Local Health unit is organizing a Rabies vaccination clinic on April 19th at the Fire Hall.

Lennox and Addington County is now included in the area requiring compulsory vaccination of all dogs and cats by June 2nd of this year, so if you have an animal requiring vaccination, mark April 19th on your calendar.

Ian Murray reported on a meeting about the Amherst Island Wetland Project he attended. The Kingston Field Naturalists, with help from Habitat Wildlife Canada, have bought the south east part of the Foot of the Island. They will leave it much as it is as a wildlife reserve. It is apparently a great area for birds.

A by-law giving the final changes to the Drainage By-law was passed. The assessments will be sent out by March 14th.

After a short private meeting Council adjourned.

DOG CONTROL

- Ian Murray Chairman of the By-law Committee

The Township Council plans to make a decision at the April regular meeting on whether to pass a dog control by-law or not.

Our community presently has a 'live and let live' situation as far as dogs are concerned. This will change dramatically if a by-law is passed. A by-law would:

A) require that each dog wear a license on a collar.

B) provide for the impoundment of a dog found wandering at large (i.e. not on the owner's premises and not under the control of a person).

C) set the amount of fine (up to \$50) to be paid before a dog is released from the pound.

D) provide for the disposal of dogs whose owner has not paid the fine.

Most likely a dog control officer from the mainland would be retained. This officer would act on complaints as well as making random checks. The pound would be on the mainland.

If you have opinions on this matter, one way or the other, please let your Council know before the April 1 meeting. A written letter to the Clerk is the preferred method. However, you might prefer a note, a phone call or a face-to-face talk to one or more members of Council.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Annette

Both winter and natural causes have taken their toll on Islanders this past few weeks, leaving a trail of injury and suffering throughout the community. Bruce Caughey, thankfully, is recovering at home from his second operation in only a few months, while Jack Forrester, Genevieve Fleming, Lois Evans and Bernard Downey are all in hospital at this time recovering from an assortment of illnesses. And of course the flu bug has grounded a number of our neighbours, including Marj Brown, who was taken to hospital as a result. Best wishes to all those who have been afflicted, as well as to those who will be.

Welcome home to Marjorie Tooke and Kathleen Wemp, both visiting the Island this week. Welcome also to the LaFrance, Dunn and Desrosiers families, all newcomers to the Island. The LaFrance and Dunn families have moved into the old Wilbert Willard house, while the Desrosiers are living in Rick Bedford's former place.

Rick, meanwhile, has purchased a new home, formerly owned by Bert and May Nesbitt. Bert and

May will be missed by their neighbours, but will not be forgotten. They have recently moved to a new home not far away in Adolphustown.

The infamous Max will be competing in a dog show this weekend. Doug isn't sure where the show is this time, but he is hoping Max will be spotted, recognized and taken home by some nice family. Perhaps Max jumping the fence and running in a panic around the village last week had something to do with Doug's decision. We hope Max earns his first places ribbon (last time he came second), and finds himself a first-rate family, preferably one with no furniture, carpets or small animals.

CONDOLENCES

- Staff

Condolences to Shirley Miller and her family regarding the recent death of Shirley's father, Collin Pettifer, who died recently following an operation in Florida.

REMINDER

- Reeve Norman Allison

It is illegal to dispose of animal carcasses in the dump. The Township is prepared to assist in the prosecution of anyone found violating this law.

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Diane Gavlas

Family night dinner on March 22 will be at Mrs. Caroline Yull's. Hopefully the weather will be good so more members will be able to make it this year.

April is the end of the year for W.I. so it will be election of officers at Mrs. Irene Glenn's on April 16th at 8:00 pm. Of course we will be waiting for you new members to start the year off with us.

Victoria II Women's Institute is celebrating its 50th anniversary on April 16th at 7:30 pm.

AMHERST ISLAND PURCHASE

- Kingston Field Naturalists

Another small piece of land has escaped development and joined the list of places preserved for birds and animals. The Kingston Field Naturalists (KFN) have purchased 100 hectares (about 250 acres) at the extreme southeast tip of Amherst Island, Lots 20, 21 and 22 east of the public road. The land contains both a cattail and sedge-grass marsh as well as a gravel bar stretching into Lake Ontario. The reasons for the interest in what seems like a wasteland to some people is that

this area is a traditional staging area for migrating sandpipers, other shorebirds and some waterfowl. These migrants feed and rest along the wet, muddy and rocky shoreline and in the grassy fields. There are no other known locations in Canada east of Presqu'ile Provincial Park along Lake Ontario or the St. Lawrence River where the shorebirds pause and rest in such numbers and variety.

As marshes are drained and cities grow, less and less habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl remain in Ontario. This small staging area is an important feeding site for waders on their lengthy annual migration between their breeding grounds in Canada's Arctic and their wintering coasts of eastern and western South America all the way south to Patagonia in Argentina. The rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper occurs each August on these fields and one or two Snowy Owls set up winter territory almost annually. Among the breeding birds occurring on these KFN lands are the Henslow's Sparrow, threatened in Ontario, and Wilson's Phalaropes, the 10-15 pairs of which constitute the largest known breeding colony of this prairie species east of Rainy River, Ontario.

The lands were purchased with 75% of the funds supplied by Wildlife Habitat Canada and 25% by the KFN. Wildlife Habitat Canada is a national, private and non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation, restoration and enhancement of habitat in order to retain the diversity, distribution and abundance of wildlife in Canada.

A FUN DAY AT AMHERST ISLAND SCHOOL

- Laura Wemp

On Friday, March 7, the students of our school had a jump event for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario. It was called Jump Rope for Heart. All of the students participated quite energetically. The students split up into many teams, and skipped many different ways for two hours.

Everybody started out with normal skipping ropes, then went to long ropes with the help of some mothers and teachers turning. Lots of thanks to Mrs Judy Miller, Mrs Betty Wemp, Mrs Suzie Caughey, Mrs Diane Gavlas. I definitely think the mothers enjoyed the skipping as much as the students did. Especially when the mothers turned and taught us double dutch. Wow lots of fun.

Three cheers for all the teachers who made it possible for us to do this. Thanks to Mr. Flanigan, Mrs Forester, Miss McRae, Mrs Willard and the two

student teachers who were at our school at the time.

For participating, everybody got real nice badges. After skipping for two hours everybody was well ready to sit down and watch a movie (Bed Knobs and Broom Sticks). For refreshments we got lemonade and a good variety of cookies. Lots of thanks to Mrs Phillis Strain, and Mrs Karen Fleming who were in the kitchen all day with refreshments.

The students will likely be around to collect the money through the March break. This money helps to fund the research and education programs of the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

We, the skippers and the sponsors should feel that we have made a valuable contribution to the heart health in our community.

RABIES

- Randi Kennedy

There have been two confirmed cases of rabies on the Island this week (March 10): a dog belonging to Lance Eves and a fox found dead on the 3rd Concession. The source of the disease in the dog is unknown. It had been vaccinated and was kept in confinement except when working. The fox may have been an isolated case and could have wandered here from the mainland.

Although there is no cause for panic, there are reasonable precautionary measures to take. The vet I contacted at Health of Animals says that one concern in isolated communities such as ours is the number of unvaccinated strays or homeless dogs and cats. All dogs and cats must now be vaccinated once a year. We are provided with a rabies clinic; it's little trouble, cheap and effective. Those dogs and cats not vaccinated will be destroyed if found.

Rabies is a virus that is transmitted directly by bites or scratches from an infected animal. It can also be transmitted, rarely, by infected saliva entering a cut or an eye. The incubation period ranges from about 15 days to as many as 9 months. The virus may be present in the saliva and be transmitted several days prior to the onset of clinical signs.

All warm-blooded animals are susceptible to rabies and all show roughly the same clinical signs. Wild animals lose all caution and fear of natural enemies. Any wild animal behaving in a strange manner, appearing friendly and not running away should be presumed rabid. Animals usually stop

eating and drinking and seek solitude. Some animals will attack any moving object. Sheep may stagger or appear to be blind. Cattle assume an alert expression, stop giving milk and bellow loudly. Noise and movement attract rabid animals which is why so many cases are reported in school yards. There is paralysis of the throat muscles which results in salivation and the inability to swallow, hence the "foaming at the mouth". Death from rabies is the result of progressive paralysis and usually occurs within 10 days of symptoms.

Animals that have been shot that might have rabies should not be handled. The incident must be reported to the Kingston Health of Animals Office. Compensation is provided for farm animals such as cattle and sheep.

If a pet or farm animal bites a human or another animal and there is a possibility of rabies, confine the offending animal but do not destroy it. A vaccinated pet is not necessarily destroyed after being bitten by a rabid animal. It may be

quarantined at home and if no clinical signs of rabies appear within a specified amount of time, the animal is judged to be free of the disease.

When children are taught about rabies it is important to give them the facts but it should be done in such a way that they do not become terrified of every wild animal or stray dog that they see. (Information provided by Health of Animals, Kingston.)

MORE ON RABIES

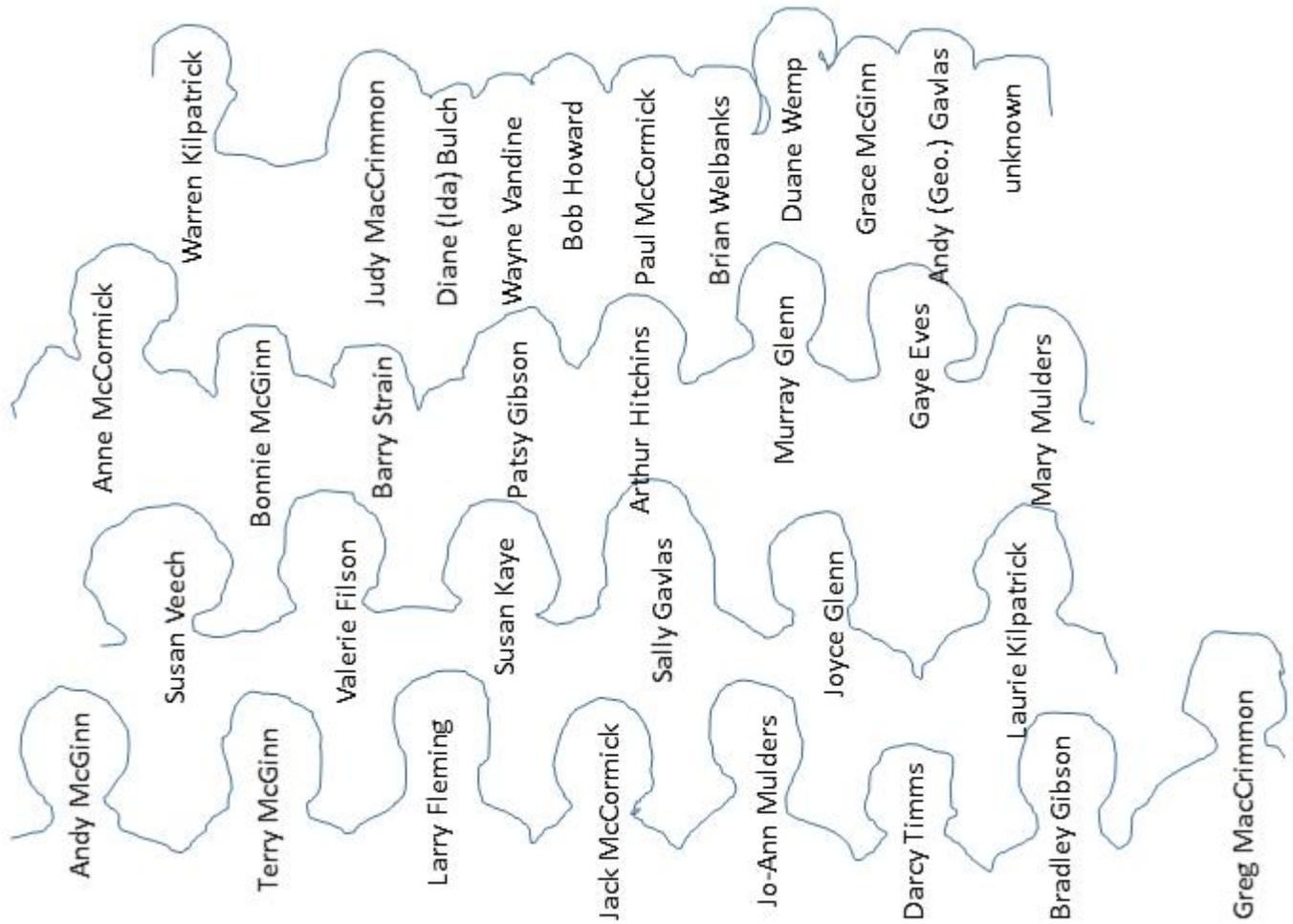
- Ian Murray

On Monday, March 10, Lance Eves and Russell McGinn were bitten by a dog that turned out to be rabid. They are both presently taking anti-rabies shots. Lance says that the shots are now given in the arm on the first, third, seventh, fourteenth and twenty-eighth days from the time of the contact.



The Mystery Student

The photo above was from the island school, circa 1960 (provided by Lynn Fleming). She gave us a list of names, with Miss Rutherford (the teacher) on top. The puzzle is, there is one more student than there are names. We're not SURE, but we think we have it resolved that the unnamed one is the last student on the right, in the back row. Can anyone help us with this? Check the key on the next page for OUR best guess.



From AMHERST ISLAND BEACON: March 15, 1996
 - Volume 4 Issue 218

AMALGAMATION MEETING February 20, 1996
 - Ian Murray

This public meeting was chaired by Acting Reeve Woods for the purpose of hearing from Kelly Heineman, Reeve of Bath and Warden of Lennox & Addington County. There were about 32 concerned citizens, Council members and our Clerk/Treasurer. Mr. Heineman spoke with pride of the actions taken by the municipalities of Bath and South Fredericksburg towards the creation of "Loyalist Township". He spoke of the well attended public meetings of the 2 councils and the support that they are receiving from their rate payers. He referred many times to the thickness of the binder that contained about 3 inches of papers generated by the 2 councils, their respective staffs, and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs studying the possible amalgamation of the 2 municipalities. It is clearly Mr. Heineman's belief that it is far better to proceed in this active manner than with the bickering of the Kingston neighbourhood or the passivity of our own county. It will be interesting to

see if Loyalist Township will be able to scoop the cement plant from Ernestown. Mr. Heineman stated that Bath and South Fred. are interested in discussing amalgamation with Amherst Island. This would be of some interest if, in the process of acquiring a mutual boundary, it led to absorbing Millhaven Prison into Loyalist Township. Concerns were raised about the scope of the ferry operation and the ownership of the docks. It was an interesting and entertaining meeting. Many of us are wondering what the next moves will be in the amalgamation sweepstakes.

SIDEBAR:

The answer to the question: Why all this fuss about amalgamation? Municipalities are, without exception, much better off fiscally than the province. The most plausible reply to that question, that I've heard so far, is as follows: The provincial government needs to simplify the Ministry of Municipal Affairs but can only go so far as long as there are over 600 separate municipalities, each of which demands attention on an ongoing basis. It's the desire for a smaller number of municipalities

that is driving this amalgamation business; not any savings to the municipal ratepayers.

I welcome any other theories on this question.

TOWNSHIP OF AMHERST ISLAND PUBLIC NOTICE

FERRY RATES AND SCHEDULE

- Duncan Ashley, Reeve and Ferry Manager

As you may have heard, the subsidy received from the province for the ferry operation has been reduced by 15% effective January 1, 1996. The Ministry of Transportation advises that further reductions may take place when the provincial budget is finalized in late April or early May. Because of the ferry subsidy reduction, the Township's share of the ferry operation for 1996 is estimated to be \$298,684; an increase of \$171,582 over last year's requirement. As a temporary measure until a revised ferry subsidy agreement is reached with the Ministry of Transportation, Council has taken the following steps to cope with the reduced funding.

1. Effective March 18, 1996, the following ferry rates will be charged:

Individual rates:

Car & Driver... \$5.00

Passenger (riding or walking)... \$1.00

Bicycle (with rider)... \$1.50

Bulk Tickets:

28 Tickets... \$60.00

There will be no charge for pre-schoolers, elementary students and secondary students unless they are operating a vehicle.

2. Ferry schedule - Effective March 18th, 1996, the ferry will operate as follows:

Monday to Sunday - from 6:00 a.m. until 1:00 a.m.

(Last trip will leave Stella at 12:00 midnight and Millhaven at 12:30 a.m.)

3. The Frontenac II will be in service from Victoria Day weekend until the day after Labour Day (approximately).

Council recognizes that these changes will not be popular and, in some cases, may represent inconveniences and hardship. Unfortunately, the subsidy reduction has left Council with few alternatives. Council will continue discussions with the province to find solutions to the funding problem.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING. March 5th

- Chris Kennedy

All members of Council were present, and there were about fifteen people in the audience. The minutes of the previous month's meetings were corrected and approved. There was a special meeting on February 15th to consider the budget and the landfill expansion, and a meeting with Kelly Hineman, Reeve of Bath and Warden of the County, to discuss amalgamation. Then Peter Morgan read a statement to Council about budget cuts to the ferry and the possibility that the Township should take over the docks. He proposed that the Township refuse to take over the docks and that it refuse to operate the ferry if there are any more cuts to the subsidy. Council is due to meet with the local politicians and MTO bigwigs to talk about the matter on March 8th.

Stuart Miller reported that there have been no major problems with the roads. He hopes that the crusher will be here later this month.

Alex Scott put forward a resolution requesting that the Provincial Government not decrease the ferry subsidy until a new agreement is negotiated, as the Progressive Conservative government is believed to have promised. This was passed, to be forwarded to the appropriate authorities.

Council then discussed the cuts to the ferry subsidy. The ferry is very rapidly heading into a severe financial hole. The Reeve declared conflict of interest for much of the rest of the discussion, as his wife works on the ferry. The union has stated that they will not reopen the Collective agreement, but that expires at the end of this month, when it can be renegotiated. As an interim measure Council decided to cut out the last round trip on the ferry every night, and the first round trip each Saturday and Sunday morning.

Then Council decided to raise the fares. An individual vehicle ticket will be \$5. Bulk tickets will be \$60 for 28., bicycles \$1.50, and foot passengers and passengers in vehicles \$1, other than elementary or high school students, who are free. All these changes will be introduced March 18th. This will give time for the tickets to be printed. Councillors voted to request that the Coast Guard give Council permission to run the Amherst Islander with a four person crew. Ted Wemp and Garry Hitchins are to take the Engineer's course in Owen Sound at the end of the month.

So far the news on the land-fill site is good. Against great odds the required work was done and the documents processed by February 29th, the deadline being March 1st. Apart from the problems caused by the public service strike, one of

the lawyers involved had their office broken into and all the computers with the information stored in them stolen about three days before the deadline. All the required surveying was done on time as well. The rush is now off, and some of the hydrogeological work needs finishing, and then it looks as though we will have a new, enlarged landfill site to see the Township through for many years to come. Alex Scott Jr. then read a statement about the proposed bylaw and the relationship between the Fire Department and the Emergency First Response Team. David Fleming had also sent a letter to Council about it. After some discussion it was the new by-law until more information was available.

Council then passed the new Dog Control Bylaw. This makes the purchase of dog licences voluntary, as it appeared that it cost more to collect the licences than the licences were worth. However, the Dog Catcher will still answer complaints about straying dogs, and impound them. This is not a licence to let your dog run free.

The police have been over giving warnings about the Stop sign in the village. The next time they are over they will have their ticket book out, so you have been warned.

Council then went into closed session to consider some personnel matters.

AMHERST ISLAND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION,
March 14

THE FERRY

- Don Tubb

About 200 people turned out to attend this meeting sponsored and run by the A.I. Ratepayers Association. They had invited all members of Council to attend which they did (Reeve Ashley, Councillors Fleming, Scott, Whitton and Woods). Bruce Caughey acted as the Chair and Allan Glenn as the recording secretary. The meeting was called in response to Council's actions dealing with the reduction in ferry funding. They have reduced service and increased fares which will have come into effect by the time you read this. And, they would soon be starting to negotiate a new contract with the union.

The meeting was opened with a brief summary of what has been happening with the ferry and Council's reaction to that - fare increases and service cuts. The only new item was that at a recent meeting of Council (March 13), the first trip was re-instated.

Members of Council then made brief comments.

Reeve Ashley began by apologizing for not having called a public meeting to discuss what was happening. He and the others had no new information but did mention various approaches that Council was considering. None expressed any real hope that the funding would be restored to previous levels and some expected it to be further reduced when the Province sets its budget.

Mr Caughey then asked those who wished to submit written questions for Council to answer and to make suggestions for Council to consider. This allowed Mr Caughey to group similar questions but still there were dozens of questions and suggestions made. The questions ranged from: 'When can we expect a free ferry?' (Answered by the Reeve and Councillor Whitton who said that Ferry Agreement negotiations will be taking place next month and that the Province wants to deal with Wolfe Island and Glennora first.), to 'Why isn't someone pounding desks in Toronto?' (Answered by Reeve Ashley and Councillor Scott who said that Council wished to be on a good footing with those we will be negotiating with soon.), to 'What happens if we run out of subsidy before the end of the year?' (Answer was that we tie it up.).

There were suggestions too, such as:

- to reduce crew size to 4 on the Amherst Islander,
- to reduce administration costs or to privatize administration,
- to eliminate the 11 a.m and noon boats giving the crew an unpaid lunch,
- reduce the number of crews to 3 and reduce size to 4 crew members.

Council would not answer questions about crew size, benefits and wages as negotiations with the union will be starting soon which limited the answers somewhat.

After about an hour of questions and taking input, Mr Caughey broke those gathered into 9 groups who were to make suggestions and give direction to Council. These groups formed and about 15 minutes later the meeting was called to order again. Each group leader gave a summary of what was recommended (as you might expect some recommendations were contradictory).

Allan Glenn, recording secretary, has given us a copy (over the phone) of the recommendations that will be sent to Council which are:

1. Lobby the provincial government.
2. Make stronger efforts to maintain the 90% subsidy.

3. Use the media more extensively to air our concerns.
4. Effect a reduction in salaries, benefits, personnel and possibly service.
5. Look to reducing non-ferry costs – administration costs, salaries, benefits and personnel.
6. Continue attempts to reach parity with Wolfe Island: service, free-trips and management.
7. Make key politicians names and addresses available to residents for individual lobbying.
8. Don't use the Frontenac II at all - we can't afford the extra cost which is incurred mainly because of the influx of summer visitors.
9. Use a punch card system on ferry in lieu of books of tickets.
10. Eliminate ferry manager position and/or hire a neutral party to manage.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

-Annette

Annette and her girls have gone north for March break so there is little neighbourhood news.

Our sympathies to Bob and Corrine Thompson on the death of her brother.

Welcome back to snowbirds Bea and Ralph Wemp who are home from Florida and Joe and Anna Vlasik who travelled to the Cayman Islands and then on to Florida. Donna and Earle Willard are also back from a shortened holiday to South Carolina... it was, apparently, not as warm as they hoped.

Nessie Welbanks has returned to the Island after spending the winter months on the mainland with Eric. Howard Welbanks had a short stay in hospital after a snowmobile accident on March 8th and is now home and recovering slowly.

Mrs. Helen Bach, former owner and long time summer resident at "The Cedars" will be celebrating her 100th birthday on March 21. She is a resident at Trillium Ridge Lodge in Kingston. Perhaps you could send a card or drop in for a quiet cup of tea at 2:00, Thursday, March 21. Her daughter Jeanne Johnstone will be there with her.

Maureen and John Glenn are visiting the Island from Sudbury with their family during the March break.

Also, our sympathy to Gloria French and family, on the sudden passing of Tom French.

AMHERST ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Freda Youell

The February 21st meeting was held at the home of Helen Miller and after the Ode, Collect and National Anthem, we delayed the rest of the business items to enable our guest speaker Glenda Hudgins, the Dairy Educator, to leave for home at a reasonable hour. After telling us about the many duties involved with being the Dairy Educator and the many schools and functions that had to be visited, we heard about the processes used to produce the different milks and milk products, the contents of each and the benefits gained by consuming the daily recommended amounts.

Glenda and her husband have a farm and recently changed from raising beef cattle to dairy farming so she had a wealth of firsthand knowledge to share with us.

After our hostess had served us lunch and our guest departed, the meeting took on a more serious subject - Fund Raising. Several interesting events are being planned so you will find that the W.I. will be more visible this coming year. Irene Glenn donated a beautiful handmade Afghan to be raffled and get our fund raising off to a good start. It is on display at Glenn's Store and the Draw will be made at the Mother's Day Ham Dinner on May 11th. Tickets, a bargain at 3 for \$1.00, can be purchased from any W.I. member.

New members and guests are invited to join us at our March 20th meeting. This will be held at the home of Helen Miller at 1:30 p.m.

AMHERST ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

- Ian Murray

In response to several queries, here is a list of the active fire fighters, those who I expect to see at our regular meetings: Chief Alex "Sandy" Scott, Deputy Chief David Fleming, Larry Fleming, Wayne Fleming, Paul Henshaw (bought Phyllis Strain's house), Christopher Kennedy, Ian Murray, Mark Ritchie, Alex Scott, Dick Shurtleff, and Fred Werthman.

A real problem for this department is that 4 of us wear beards and are therefore not permitted to use breathing apparatus. This means that 4 out of 11 fire fighters are unable to do rescue work in a fire situation or to get very close to a fire for any reason: insurance and liability restrictions. The bearded ones refuse to shave but are useful for truck driving and so on. The department needs more beardless members. The training is interesting and we are very welcoming. This is a great way for

a newcomer to be useful to the community.

If you are interested in joining the department, or just want more information, phone Chief Scott, Deputy Chief Fleming, or any of the above noted fire fighters.

TO THE BEACON

- A. Bruce Caughey...

I have just finished reading the current issue of the Beacon and always appreciate your wide coverage of Council Meetings and the decisions that are made. I was rather disturbed to note that the budget for the operation of the Island Cemeteries was not in hand for consideration by Council. As I indicated in my remarks at the Public Meeting this request for a reduction of 20% had been met, a record of which was made by Ms Pearce, Clerk-Treasurer. I further posed the question as to whether this 20% reduction would apply 'across the board', e.g. Roads Dept., Fire Dept., Administration and Ferry operation.

Now I would like to refer to the question of amalgamation. I have had much concern about this for the past several years. Apparently this matter has been before County Council for some time, with the elimination of Deputy Reeves being considered. When the Township of Adolphustown, North & South Fredricksburg and Bath were holding meetings, I could not help but wonder where Amherst Island would stand and my thoughts were that 'no one would want us'. When asked why, I replied 'because we have a ferry to operate'. I was therefore surprised when officials of the Township of Ernestown indicated that they would be glad to incorporate Amherst Island into a proposed amalgamation. There are so many details to be worked out before such amalgamation could become a reality! The Provincial government has not as yet drawn any guidelines? At least not to my knowledge.

I was in the company of William Vankoughnett M.L.A. at a social event recently and he was anxious to hear my opinions about possible amalgamation. I was shocked to hear his opinion wherein he suggested an area extending from the Town of Trenton to Gananoque. My mind and memories flashed back to the introduction of County Boards of Education in 1969. The elected personnel on this Board were all experienced people in school administration and the budget was some \$25 million. Today the budget for operation of the L and A school system is \$47 million, due to greed and overpayment!

As I understand, the present proposal for amalgamation is an effort to reduce costs and therefore tax burdens. I admire the proposal coming from Kingston Township, from Deputy Reeve Foster and Councillor Jim Bennett wherein they state that the only way savings can be effected is to wipe the slate clean and start over again. The first Council in our Island Municipality was in 1832, when a Reeve was chosen as well as a Clerk and Treasurer, (who chose to use some of the Township tax money for his personal use). After him having been given opportunity to replace these funds and being unable to do so, two brethren of his in Burleigh Lodge backed his note for repayment (my great-great grandfather and W.H. Morrow.) I agreed that the only way a decrease of expenditures can be achieved is to start over again, discard recognitions of any form of unions. If it is necessary for engineers to take a course in order to qualify for their job, let them pay for it themselves. In my sailing days, if you did not have the necessary qualifications you never gained any promotion! Plus the fact, that you bought your own clothing, for foul weather or fair. We have got into this mess through unnecessary generosity on the part of succeeding Councils.

My father went to an early grave in his 68th year, because of his determination to control the level of ferry operation, when a 'family compact' was attempting to have a family member replace a moderate cost Captain. He was rebuked, sworn at and told that his abilities ended with the operation of his farm. I was not aware of this having happened, until sometime after his death when one of his fellow Councillors told me the story of what had happened.

My fear with amalgamation being initiated is that a period of some 10 - 20 years might go by with some benefit being felt, then would come another period when we would find ourselves in the same situation as today, over-governed and highly overpaid with no recognizable benefits. Let's look at this whole matter very carefully! Let's keep an eye on what our fellow Islanders on Wolfe Island are doing! They are not going to accept what appears to be in the future for them! What we need is a "Statesman" with the intestinal fortitude to put our "house" in order!

See - The Whig-Standard of February 22, reports that Kingston Township Council "Seeks Union Rollbacks".

The Back Kitchen Restaurant
Dinners, Burgers, Fries, and Homemade Pies
Hours of Operation:
April 12 - May 12
Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
May 17 - Sept 02
Daily incl. Holidays (except Tues) 11 a.m. - 7:00p.m.

Some grocery items including milk, eggs, butter and bread available as of May 17.

FURTHER TO BRUCE'S LETTER

- Ian Murray

In 1968, I started work with the Department of Highways of Ontario as a civil engineer. It wasn't my first choice as an employer, but DHO was one of the few employers hiring that year and it had a good reputation as an employer. There was a good training program for young engineers and I was confident that there would be more opportunities in a few years. It was a truism at that time that a civil servant could expect lower pay than in the private sector but this was balanced by much greater job security.

My starting wage was \$6800 which was certainly less than I'd hoped for. However, the government of Ontario had just permitted the civil servants to form an organization called the CSAO (Civil Servants Association of Ontario). My belief is that this was done deliberately by senior bureaucrats and their political masters. Every time the CSAO got more money and benefits for its members, management and politicians got at least as much. A 10% raise on \$6000 is one thing; a 10% raise on \$20,000 is an even better thing - particularly when the tax payer continues to think that it's business as usual.

In my case, by the summer of 1972 when I quit my job, I was earning over \$13,000 and had turned down a promotion. This increase in wages was, in part, due to my climbing the management ladder, but most of it was due to the whole civil service receiving raise after generous raise.

When I left the civil service, civil servants were earning significantly more than their counterparts in the private sector. And there was still the much greater job security.

It is now 1996 and things are changing: Ontario civil servants are on strike; the province of Ontario is deeply in debt; the federal government of Canada is deeply in debt. Some municipalities are deeply in debt (not Amherst Island). A lot of citizens are deeply in debt. Like Bruce, I wish that

we could start with a clean slate. However, there is a lot of debt to clean up. There are special interests everywhere - often with federal and provincial legislation protecting them. Does anyone think that it is a simple matter to remove the union from the ferry without the active cooperation of the membership?

The fundamental problem, as I see it, is that we the electorate have continually elected to office people who have provided us with services that we are not prepared to pay taxes for. We cannot continue to expect Swedish social programs at American tax rates. Until we, as a society, are prepared to pay for what we consume, we will continue to slide towards third world status. Finally, I want to say how few of us are innocent in what our economy has become. When I look around this community, I see union workers who earn far more than non-unionized workers doing the same work. I see retired people living on pensions resulting directly or indirectly from union activities. I see sheep and beef farmers who did very well on government incentive programs. I see dairy farmers who have thrived in a protected market. I see people who've drawn welfare and UIC while working for cash. And so on and on. Very few of us have not taken advantage of soft headed government decisions.

I do think that some of the present provincial government actions are really indefensible. To cut promised grants after the money has been spent is just not right. To unilaterally and with no explanation, cut our ferry subsidy is just not right. To promise tax cuts to well-off people is stupid. And so on.

But! the Harris government is on the right track and it is trying to correct, in the short time available, more than 20 years of over-spending and over-governing. I continue to support them and I hope that I am not alone in this.

[Staff: We would like to point out that when an article like the above is signed by a member of Headlands, it does not necessarily represent the views of the other members.]

ISLAND HISTORY

Re: Letter in the February issue from Ellie Cochrane Moore.

- Irene Glenn

The house Ellie mentions belonging to Aunt Mary and Uncle Dave Filson is the house now owned by M. Pearson and her husband. This house is between

Vince Aitken's and Ernest Apps'. The Filsons lived there with their family and Mr. Filson drew mail around the foot of the Island, up to Long Point and back to the village.

They sold this place to Rev. Wm. and Daisy Houslander - the original house was small and I believe Rev. Houslander built around it for his summer home on the Island.

As for the house not to have hydro, that was not unusual in the forties and early fifties. The first hydro came to the Island in 1937 - the line came from just above Emerald, down the Front Road and serviced the village of Stella. Most of the Island did not have hydro until well after W.W. II.

[Staff: We do have another 'Tid-bit 'from the Tweedsmuir Book' but it is fairly long and needs some work on our part to get it ready so with lambing going on, it will have to wait for another month. We haven't forgotten it!]

AMHERST ISLAND RECREATION COMMITTEE

- Lyn Fleming

After a somewhat hectic year last year (for all Island groups, it seems), the Rec Committee is off to a busy start in '96.

Last year we had several shifts in membership, with some long-term, hard working members leaving, and some new faces appearing. We welcome those who have joined us, and give many thanks to those who donated so much time and energy before moving on.

Our "Community Euchres" have got off to a great start, we've had two so far, with three more to come.

Winners were as follows:

February 23, 1996

Men 1st Prize - \$10.00 - Ray Koenders

Men 2nd Prize - \$ 5.00 - Earl Tugwell

Ladies 1st Prize - \$10.00 - Susan McGinn (Mrs Art McGinn)

Ladies 2nd Prize - \$ 5.00 - Cora McGinn

Door Prize - Douglas Gavlas

March 15, 1996

Men 1st Prize - \$10.00 - Jason Hutchings

Men 2nd Prize - \$ 5.00 - Wayne Fleming

Ladies 1st Prize - \$10.00 - Susan McGinn (Mrs Art McGinn)

Ladies 2nd Prize - \$ 5.00 - Cheryl Hutchings

Door Prize - Earl Tugwell

Final preparations for our 1st Rec Committee Bingo are under way.

Years ago when we were raising money for a community centre, 1 - 2 Bingos were held in Victoria Hall. So we've dusted off the equipment to give it another try.

Melissa Irwin (niece of Mrs Peattie, the JK/SK teacher at A.I.P.S.) is doing a great job of teaching the children's dance classes and from what I've heard, has the adult 'Jazzer-cise' class off to a good start too.

On the schedule for this year so far, are the following events:

Community Euchres March 29, April 12 & 26th (7:30 p.m.)

Bingo - April 13

Kids Dance Classes - Monday evenings

Adult Jazzer-cise - Monday evenings

Spring Dance & Fish Fry - Saturday, May 18

Canada Day Parade & Festivities - July 1

Swimming Classes - date to be set

Oktoberfest - date to be set

We are looking for anyone - groups or individuals interested in putting a float in this Canada Day Parade. Also anyone interested in becoming a Rec. Committee member. Please contact, Chairman Adam Miller - 389- 2588, Lyn Fleming Sec/Treas. 634-2509 or any Rec Committee member.

Finally, many thanks to all who support our events and functions.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 539

Easter Seals Sunday, 4 March 1996

- Comrade Tena Tugwell

For the past four consecutive years I have represented your 539 Legion on the C.K.W.S. Easter telethon drive, to help disabled children. I am proud to say that little Amherst Island promised donations that equaled or bettered much larger municipalities. For this the children and I thank you very much.

The Easter Seals financial help goes towards the purchase of many auxiliary aids to make life more liveable. Helping finance summer camps is one of the most memorable for the child. It is heart-warming to hear of the good times and the many friends made at camp. It is however a little sad to know that the most disliked word of the campers is "Goodbye".

THANK YOU NOTES

I recently had a hip replacement and the operation went extremely well. The care received in the hospital after the operation and the VON and physio-therapy afterward at home was first class. I am now mobile without any assistance.

Just as important, if not more so, was the good wishes, the visits and the get well cards from so many Amherst Islanders! You make me feel even more at home than I did before.

Sincerely
Don Gregg

A big thanks to Chief Scott and my fellow fire fighters for responding to our chimney fire last week. Fortunately, the only damage was to my pride. I knew the chimney needed cleaning but I just kept putting it off.

I promise: a clean chimney every 3 weeks during the wood-burning season.
Ian Murray

P.S. It's an interesting feeling listening to a fire call at your own home while sitting in the ferry line up at Millhaven.

P.P.S. It is even more interesting discovering the fire and dealing with it.

Don

Marketing Award to local real estate agent Dave Hieatt for his well-packaged information on the Island properties that he has listed for sale. The 2 Island maps are a great help to anyone wishing to look at the properties - or for any other reason. The inclusion of several Island based businesses is a great idea - and, I expect, a cost reducer.

On the other hand, it's always discouraging to see how many of our neighbours are wanting or having to leave.

Policy: The Beacon publishes, without charge, advertisements from fellow residents. On a case by case basis, we accept ads from off-Islanders if we think that the good or service offered is of particular benefit to our community. We have, for example, decided to include an ad from Bill Halferty because we understand that he has served Island customers well. If a competitor based on the Island starts up, we might consider pulling Bill's ad.

A LETTER HOME

The March lambs started arriving around the 5th. Of course, the winds, snow and freezing temperatures returned. Every year, we move lambing further into what we hope will be spring-like weather. Ha! Mother Nature does enjoy keeping us on the run. By this time of the year we are all tired of braving the elements and look eagerly for some hint of spring. Here, at the end of the Island, one of the first signs of spring is the arrival of the Coast Guard helicopter. They quietly slip in and out leaving a blinking red light on the lighthouse. This is always a cheerful reminder that there will soon be ships using the Upper Gap and that can only mean Spring is on the way.

We are now into the middle of lambing. The days are getting longer and milder. The shepherd is usually out the door by 5 a.m. checking on the lambing ewes. Seeing as the sheep are shut in a nice warm barn at night, they often decide to lamb at the same time in close proximity. This leaves the shepherd puzzling over which lambs belong to which ewes. I think they do it on purpose just to keep him on his toes!

Our Island Community has been all abuzz about the new Ferry rates and cuts in service. The Amherst Islander is our life line to the mainland. We're all concerned as to how 400 people can continue to pay for the rising portion that the government no longer subsidizes. Where will it all end? However, we've survived until now and somehow will continue to do so. It may mean changes in life style. Time will tell.

Do you remember the last time you were here and nearly drove into a birder parked in the middle of the road? Well, they're back. Carloads have arrived from New York State, New Jersey and Massachusetts as well as other places. I'm always amazed at the distances people will drive to see the owls. However, their enthusiasm is contagious and I may even make the six-mile trek down the road to say I've seen the Owls. The dogs are now insisting that it is 'walk time'. A special time for them when I can enjoy watching the sun go down, breath clean fresh air and count my blessings.

Our best to you all.

HOUSE FOR SALE "Cozy Living"

Cozy Living was built for two or a small family. It is close so room to room talk is unnecessary. An exception perhaps, is the nicely appointed area set

aside for ablutions and comfort breaks.

Pop in anytime by calling 389-5569.

Location, location and location is one of the basic value slogans for Real Property. Proximity to Concession 1 may detract a little but closeness to the dock and the wide view of the waterway leading to the mainland gateway is a big plus. Often Cozy Living is asked by country dwelling Islanders to report on the exact location of our older not-big-enough bubble ride.

Cozy Living would like \$75,000 but your monetary opinions are welcome and might be persuasive.

Tena and Chester Tugwell 389-5569

P.S. No prudent vendor would ever place such a lengthy little detailed ad in the Whig or the Beaver but the Beacon has always tried hard to please even our wildest requests.

Free Bed - (no breakfast)

An older body shaped mattress capable of sleeping two compatibles.

Good night.

Chester Tugwell 389-5569

Spring Is In The Air

If you have any problems with your lawn and garden equipment, call Bill Halferty at 384-2544.

Anyone interested in buying Amway products, or viewing Amway catalogues please call and I will be glad to talk to you. Darrell 389-7742

Albertan Homes

Homes built or renovated.

Ken Albertan at 389-2662

Baby-sitter & Mother's Helper

Light yard work & housework.

Call Stephanie at 634-2509

Babysitter

Certified by the Red Cross Babysitting Course

Call Jessica Gavlas at 389-3199 evenings and weekends

Babysitting

Certified by the Red Cross Babysitting Course

Call Bonnie Marshall at 389-0554 or 389-4070.

Bulldozing Done

\$30/ hour plus fuel

Call Llew at 384-4071.

Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning

Reasonable Rates and Carpet Cleaner for rent \$ 10/day.

Annette 389-0471 or 389-0512

Carpet Cleaning

Carpet & Upholstery cleaning.

Contact Scott at 389-4872.

Cisterns Filled

Call Llew MacArthur at 384-4071

Clothing - repairs & alternations

Drapes - made & altered

Contact Tena Tugwell at 389-5569

Computer Assistance

Can help to build computer skills on many programs.

Call Jan at 634-1995.

For Rent

St Alban's candelabra

Contact: Caroline Yull at 389-4071. {384-4071}

General Contracting

New construction & renovations

Contact Rick Bedford at 389-8434.

GLM Construction

General Contracting, Renovations & Design

Contact Gary McDonald at 384-1456.

Glenn's Store 389-0417

Movies / Pop / Candy / Crafts

Post Office Hours

Mon - Fri 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Mon - Fri 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

House Cleaning

Call Liz Hogeboom at 389-8511

House for Sale - south shore road, east of Stella 40 ft..

300 ft waterfront; fireplace; jacuzzi; shed.

Contact Elizabeth Jud - 386-5322.

Island Financial Planner
Metropolitan Life Representative
Sherry Ward at 389-6918 or 544-7200 (office).

LIN-SAR

Mechanical - Peter Wemp
Heating & Cooling
Sheet Metal Fabrication & Installation.
Office: 475-5467 Home: 478-5417

Painting Classes

Call Shirley Miller at 389-2588.

Picnic Tables & Weather Vanes On Sale

Call Keith Miller at 389-2588.

Portable Welding

Call Noel McCormick at 384-5172.

Printing

A complete printing and design service.

Contact Peter Morgan at 384-4102.

Propane For Sale

Co-op Propane available at John McGinn's.
Barbecue tanks 20 lbs, also 100 lbs and larger
quantities can be arranged.

Call 384-3047.

Property Maintenance

Yards cleaned, grass cutting, basements cleaned.

Call Mike Horth at 389-2916.

Pumps Of All Kinds

Rural water system maintenance.

Call Tom Miller at 389-0105.

Shorewell Maintenance

Call Warren Kilpatrick at 389-4076.

Storage Space for Rent

Available from December 8th in old firehall.

Heated or Unheated.

\$50 for three months until April.

Phone 389-6425

Visitors Welcome At Watercolours Et Cetera

3rd Concession (389-2588).

If we are home, we are open.

Voice Lessons - Bel Canto style

For serious students 15 years & up.

Call 384-8599.

Whig Home Delivery

If you would like the Whig Standard delivered to
your home, please phone Jim or Sandra Reid at
389-5546.

Winter Storage For Boats, RV's, etc

Call Vince Aitken at 389-5546.

Yard Work

Samantha & Sara Pollock will do yard work.

Phone 389-9977.

In these uncertain times, we must take pleasure
where it can be found... so we report that Fred
Mahood has sighted the first Robin of the season
(March 18th). Can spring with its glorious mud be
far behind? And, we have just seen the ice breaker
go by. And, and (of course) we have our own
calender... lambs filling the barnyard, lambs filling
the barn and lambs filling the house.