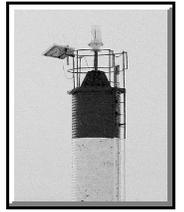


# Amherst Island

# BEACON



Newsstand  
\$2.00

Issue 396

July 2011

The Amherst Island  
BEACON  
Issue 396  
July 2011

Published monthly, the  
Beacon is wholly funded by  
paid subscriptions and by  
sales at the Amherst Island  
General Store and Stella's  
Cafe.

#### Subscription Rates

Canada. . . . . \$35/yr  
USA. . . . . \$40/yr  
Overseas: . . . . . contact us  
E-mail. . . . . \$20/yr

July Printing  
250 copies

#### Subscription & Editorial

A.I. Beacon  
14775 Front Rd  
Stella, ON  
K0H 2S0  
(613) 389-3802  
E-Mail:  
aibeacon@topsyfarms.com

#### Editor

Ian Murray c/o  
aibeacon@topsyfarms.com

#### Production

Don Tubb c/o  
aibeacon@topsyfarms.com

#### Submission Deadline

25th of each month

#### Printed By

Burke's Printing  
457 Advance Ave  
Napanee K7R 3Z5  
dburke@burkeprinting.ca

#### Credits

Corel WordPerfect X4  
Faststone 4.2  
Corel PaintShop Photo Pro X3  
Acrobat 10.0  
Family Tree Maker 9.0

## THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

The recent postal interruption may encourage some of our readers to consider an e-mail subscription to the Beacon.

Advantages:

-fast - sent out at the same time the Beacon is sent to the printer  
- no paper to store or re-cycle  
- colour photos

Disadvantage: no paper and some people just prefer the feel of paper (or hate reading on a computer screen).

Costs:

e-mail is \$20 per year  
paper subscription is \$35/year in Canada

\*\*\*

Last fall, Janet Cook paid for a Beacon subscription. I, through carelessness, lost her address information before giving it to Don. So, if anyone knows Janet Cook, please ask her to get in touch with me and things will be made right.

\*\*\*\*\*

## COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

I could see nothing in the Minutes of the June 13th Council Meeting of interest to Amherst Islanders.

\*\*\*\*\*

## SCHOOLS OUT!!

### BUT BEFORE THEY LEFT, THERE WAS THE 'JUNGLE BOOK'

(more in The NEIGHBOURHOOD)



Photo by Brian Little

Part of the Jungle Book cast:  
Rachel, Ciara, Dakota, Mitchell, Angus and Alex

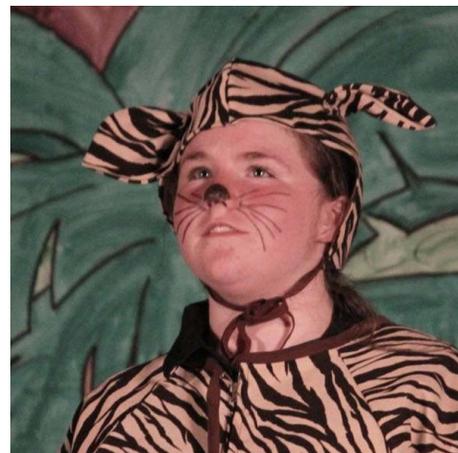


Photo by Brian Little

Shyanne in the Jungle Book

# WILLIAM ARTHUR McGINN

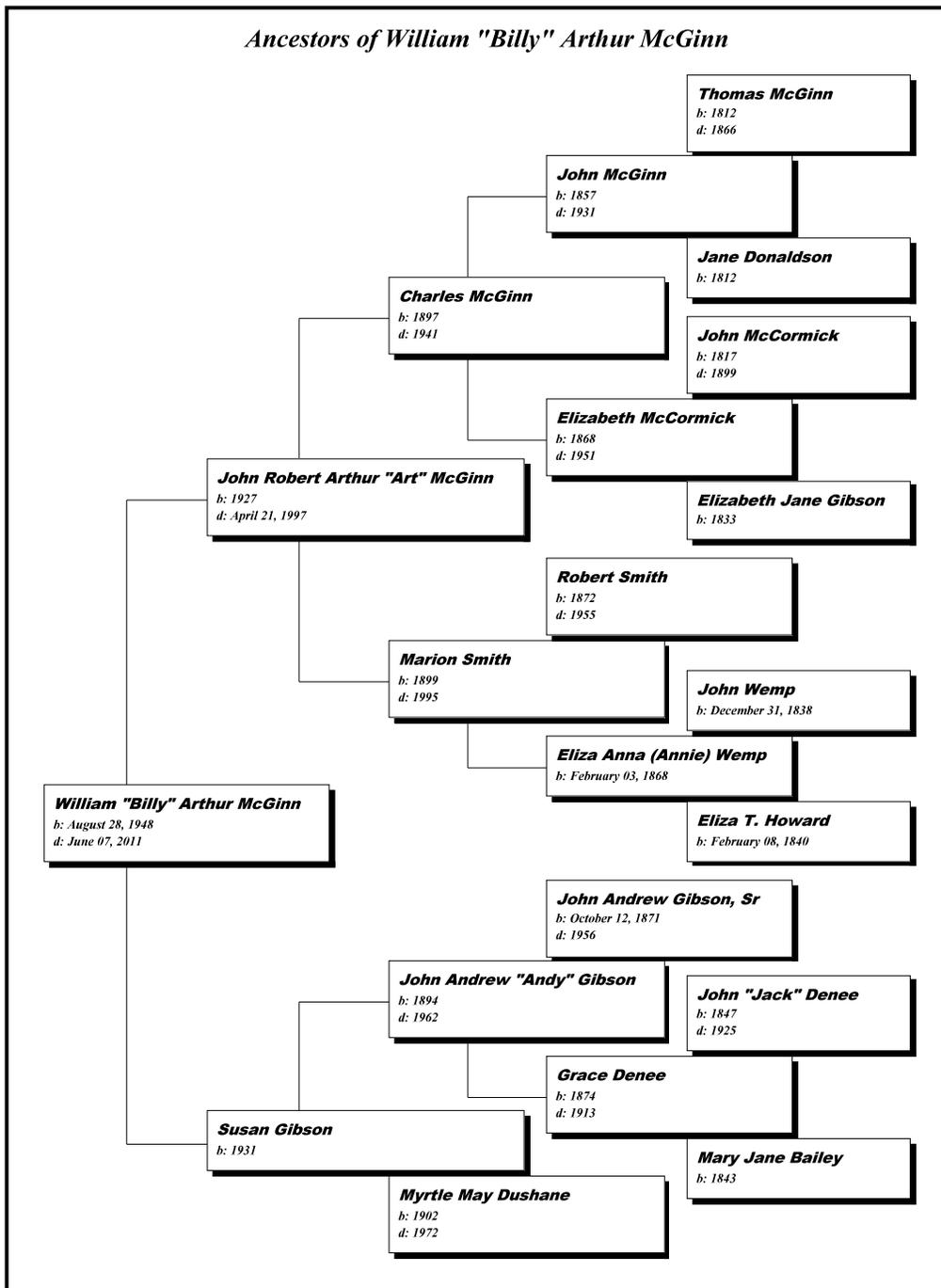
(1948–2011)

William Arthur 'Billy' McGinn was born on April 28, 1948 and died unexpectedly at the Kingston General Hospital on June 7, 2011 at the age of 63 years. He was the eldest of Art and Susan McGinn's nine children. Billy grew up on Lot A of Concession 3, Amherst Island, and attended local schools. He eventually relocated to Sydenham where he lived for many years. Billy became a roofer while still quite young and worked alongside many other members of the family. He had to quit roofing when he had some problems with his shoulders.

Billy is survived by his wife Lois and children Scott, Robert, Rebecca, Helen, Cheryl, Tammie and Jennie. He is also survived by his mother Susan and siblings Andy, Russell, Bonnie, Gail, and Dan. Billy was predeceased by his father Arthur, siblings Grace and Dale, and grandson Brandon and niece Wanda. He also leaves behind grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews and nieces, and many friends.

Interment was at the Sydenham Cemetery.

\*\*\*\*\*



## JIM WHITTON MEMORIAL GARDEN

-Terry Culbert

In memory of Jim Whitton and with donations

made in his name to the Amherst Island Public School, a memorial garden was started on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. With emails and phone calls made by Jim's widow Lynann, a team of volunteers showed up behind the school with shovels in hand. It only took a little over an hour for the shrubs and trees to go into the earth. In honour of Jim's spirit, the foliage was christened with Guinness beer and a few drams of Scottish single malt whisky. A truly appropriate act, in honour of the Man from Fife.

Jim always had a special place in his heart for the Island school, volunteering as a math teacher,

chairing the ISLE fundraising committee and the School Advisory Council. It was a common sight, driving past the school during spring and summer evenings, seeing Jim and Lynann beautifying the school grounds.

Jim moved to Amherst Island in 1987 finding his true home and raising his and Lynann's son Ben. Jim may not have had a grandfather of great-grandfather buried on the Island, but he was an Amherst Islander to the core. He is truly missed.

**JAMES LAW  
WHITTON**, born October 8, 1924 in Kircaldy,

Scotland. Died in Kingston, Ontario, at the age of 86, November 20, 2010.

\*\*\*\*\*



Jim Whitton

Photo by Terry Culbert



Photo by Terry Culbert

The first crew of volunteer gardeners are left to right: Jake Murray, Caroline Ackerman, Noa Amson, Lynann Whitton with Jim's West Highland Terrier Piper, Shirley Miller and Doug Green.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

For June

Get Well wishes to Elsie Willard, Ida Gavlas, Don Pepper, Anna Hitchins and Pam McCormick.

Belated condolences to Warren Kilpatrick (Laurene) and Laurie Kilpatrick (John) and families, following the passing of their mother, Dorothy Kilpatrick.

Condolences to Deanne and Dave Meikle on the recent passing of both Deanne's mother and father within a short period of time.

Our sympathy to Steve and Tara Kennedy and family, following the passing of Steve's father.

Belated congratulations to Jack and Beth Forester on the birth of their newest grandson, born to son Jeff and his wife Susan. A new brother for Devon and a new cousin for J.P.

Congratulations to Gord and Lynn Miller on the marriage of their daughter Tracey who married her husband Dan on the lawn at Gord and Lynn's Island home. The sky was dark and grey, but the outdoor wedding went off without a hitch or a drop of rain!

Congratulations to this year's A.I.P.S graduates, Riely Lambert and Dakota Wolfreys. Dakota will go on to Ernestown Secondary and Riely to Holy Cross Secondary next fall.

Congratulations to students and staff on another excellent school play. Approximately 100 people attended as students presented "The Jungle Book". Final rehearsals were in process when the "director", Mr. Lang broke his ankle and had to be replaced last minute by Ms. Marshal, with less than a week until the show. As always, the kids pulled it together, and put on a great show.

Congratulations to Dakota Wolfreys on his solo during one of the songs.

The Amherst Island Rec. Association hosted the annual Spring Dance and Fish Fry for a sold out crowd (once again) this year on Victoria Day weekend.

It was a busy May 24th weekend with the opening of Stella's Cafe, the Weasel and Easel and the Market, as well as the new Village Gallery.

Well, after a cold, wet and generally dreary Spring, summer arrived, hot and humid the last couple of days of May. The lilacs have bloomed and there are lambs and calves in the fields, lots of little foxes and an abundance of goslings have been spotted as well! The osprey is sitting on the nest at the school, where there is also a large colony of cliff swallows nesting under the eaves. It is almost time to start complaining about the heat and dry weather!

\*\*\*\*\*

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Sharen English

Twelve members of the Amherst Island Women's Institute met at the home of Claire and Hugh Jenney on June 15 for our monthly meeting. Liz Harrison, our president, was in the chair.

Jackie Sylvester showed us photos and spoke about her recent trip to China. The pictures showed

beautiful houses and gardens, pagodas, stone carvings, a gold Buddha, temples, shrines, monasteries, cities and industrial areas. Jackie and Tom visited several UNESCO World Heritage Sites in China. It was a very lovely, enjoyable and educational presentation.

Our business meeting followed. We approved the minutes of last month's meeting, last month's financial statement and we heard from committee heads.

We addressed many issues including the July 1 parade, a bake table at the Emerald Music Festival in August and a Ladies Day to show the islanders what we do.

Jackie Sylvester and Kirsten Bennick announced that our W.I. T-shirts will be available before the July 1 parade.

Joyce Reid, in charge of Good Cheer, has sent out many get well and condolence cards this month. Liz Harrison has done some friendly visiting.



Photo by Terry Culbert  
Dorothy McGinn and Father Don Bailey carried this banner in Kingston on June 11<sup>th</sup> for the Consecration of the Reverend Canon Michael Douglas Oulton, 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Ontario.

Our spring clean up of a portion of County Road 4 was productive and successful. Joyce Haines was our organizer again this year.

The Program Committee, Claire Jenney and Mary Kay Steel, was thanked for scheduling our programs for the year and printing our schedule for us.

Of interest to all Islanders, all plastics with a recyclable triangle on them are now accepted at the dump.

Our walking club continues on Mondays at 4 p.m., meeting at the parking lot of St. Paul's Church. All islanders are welcome.

Our Tweedsmuir Books, which are our history books, are being updated by Claire Jenney and Mary Kay Steel.

We are working on the installation of a drop box at the west side of Stella's Café. Islanders can leave items there for pick up by other Islanders. A set of guidelines for usage will be distributed once the box is in place.

Flowers were planted by Joyce Reid and Joyce Haines at the ferry docks.

Claire Jenney and Kirsten Bennick were thanked for the delicious treats served.

Our next meeting will be on July 20 at 3p.m. We plan to meet outside as to take advantage of the lovely weather.

\*\*\*\*\*

## JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

One of the questions that I am frequently asked as we get into summer is, "Where have the Blue Jays gone?"

All winter long our resident Blue Jays have bossed the feeder, keeping most other birds away and generally entertaining us with their acrobatic feats. Just how many ways can I hang off this feeder that's really made for small birds like the Chickadee?

They cavort and call with loud "Jay Jay" and stand out, like sore thumbs, against the white snow or green cedar boughs. At our feeder, one rather clever Jay has learned the call of the Red-tailed Hawk. He screams out the call when approaching the feeder and the rather dim Mourning Doves all take off in a panic leaving the feed for the Blue Jay.

In the Owl Woods they follow the birders as they feed the Chickadees and then slyly steal the

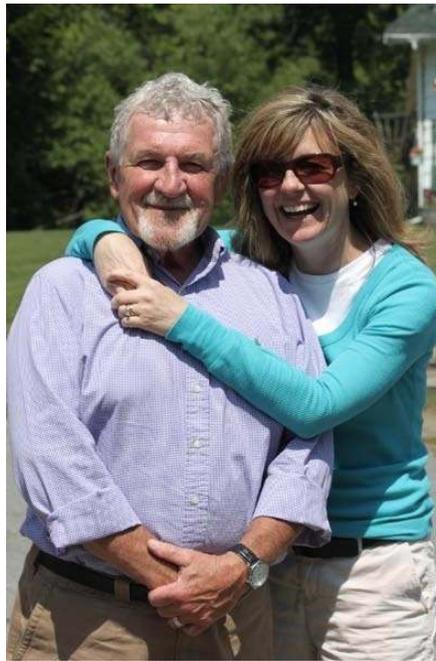


Photo by Brian Little

Terry Culbert with his daughter, Dana

sunflower seeds that have been so carefully cached by the Chickadees. Every established feeder area usually has about a dozen resident Blue Jays. So, where did they go?

After noisily guarding the feeder in winter and chasing the female conspicuously around the yard in a flurry of blue and white, suddenly summer is here and not a Blue Jay in sight. Mated Blue Jays become very, very quiet. They stay near their nesting spot and sneak around through the underbrush and tree canopies like silent ghosts. Mate feeding begins now and continues all nesting season with the female on the eggs incubating and only leaving the nest a few minutes every two hours. Once the eggs are hatched they may become more vocal,

screaming if the cat is spotted out in the yard and chasing potential predators such as Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds for coming too close. They are not visually as conspicuous also as they are gradually moulting. The black barring has been worn off and the blue feathers are faded. Their new feathers by September are brilliant blue and have distinct black barring. They will continue to feed the young Jays even though they look like adults right into September. As fall approaches the birds gather in flocks feasting on acorns and then divide back into smaller family groups to spend the winter at a feeding station or a natural feeding area.

Like Crows, the Jays mob Owls or Hawks and come in from all directions to scream at the birds. They will loudly call Jay, Jay and birds from all around join in. In winter a Long-eared Owl gets very little peace if a flock of Crows locates his roosting place. The noise is terrific and drives him away.

While living in Henderson Place before moving to the Island, Alex had the Blue Jays trained to sit on the telephone wire and catch peanuts in the shell as he tossed them into the air. They came to a whistle. At our feeder here they will choose carefully which peanut to take from the feeder. Sometimes they appear to weigh the peanut and put it back if it's not the heaviest. At other times they will put one back in order to fit another couple in their beak.

Blue Jays are a common permanent resident in our area but some do migrate. Blue Jays banded at Prince Edward Point have been found along Lake Erie in Detroit, Kentucky and Louisiana which make us think that they travel the Mississippi Flyway. Our local blue Jays will already be incubating when the returning migrants fly northward again.

The Blue Jay is the same family as Crows and Ravens and is very smart, entertaining and bold. Lots of Fun!

A big thank-you to Bonnie Livingstone for lending me the "Stokes Nature Guides to Bird Behaviour". They are fascinating reading.

\*\*\*\*\*

## HONORARY DOCTORATE

- Mayo Underwood

Vicki Keith was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) from Queens University at the spring convocation ceremony on Friday, June 9.

Her husband, John Munro, and her brother, Don Keith, were there to watch the award ceremony, as were Bonnie and Al Caughey, Mayo Underwood and Doug Green. The four parents of two of her swimmers were also there.

David Dodge, the Chancellor of Queen's University at Kingston gave a report of Vicki's accomplishments:

**"Vicki Keith** is the most successful marathon swimmer in the history of the sport, holding an unprecedented sixteen world records. Constantly surpassing the records of other swimmers as well as previous records of her own, Vicki has become, to many, the face of marathon swimming in both Canada and around the world. Her most recognized accomplishments include becoming the first person to swim across all five Great Lakes in 1988 and being the only person to complete the 104 kilometre double crossing of Lake Ontario.

After her marathon swimming career, Ms Keith took on a new challenge - coaching competitive swimming to a team of athletes with physical disabilities. In 2001, she founded the Y Knot Abilities

Programs for young people with physical disabilities and their able-bodied siblings. She has been appointed as a member of the Order of Canada, in recognition of her outstanding achievements and service. In 1996 she was inducted into the Terry Fox Hall of Fame, and in 1998 she had her most famous arrival and departure point renamed after her. The headlands of the Leslie Street Spit in Toronto are now called Vicki Keith Point.

As Vicki's accomplishments were being read, there was some applause, and when the Chancellor finished there was a several minute standing ovation that just didn't want to stop. Vicki was visibly moved, and took a moment or two to regain her composure before addressing the audience. At the end of her speech there was another long and heartfelt round of applause.

After the ceremony, Vicki and the friends and family who were at the ceremony were invited to a Spring Convocation Luncheon to "celebrate the conferring of an

honorary degree upon Vicki Keith". We had our own special table, shared by the 4 Amherst Islanders and the 4 swimmers' parents. There were dignitaries from Queens and Kingston scattered through the room at various tables.

The food at the luncheon was 99% gluten-free in light of Vicki's dietary choices - and absolutely delicious. All the luncheon attendees ate extra healthy that day!

[Our July issue will have Dr. Vicky's account of the recent "Tri Till You Cry" event in Kingston.]

\*\*\*\*\*

## AIMS MEETING OF JUNE 11TH

- Hugh Jenney

Twenty men sat down to another delicious, full breakfast produced by the Little Family.

Dr. Inka Brockhausen was introduced by Dr. John Schutzbach. They bought their Island home in 1991 and were married in 1997. Inka received her doctorate in biochemistry from the U of T. She is doing research at Queen's essentially for no pay lo



Photo by Roxanne Guttin-Wronski  
Barb is out planting some of the 100 tomato plants now. Just grabbed this photo of her and Mindy the cat catching a ride.

these many years.

Inka has always felt that men have more freedom and privileges than women. Considering the fact that men and women have 45 identical chromosomes (two different are men's) she would like to have been a man. Good joke, but now down to business...

Ticks are older than man. They have been around for more than 350 million years. And there are lots of different kinds. They can survive for a year without food, but they do not survive dry and hot

weather. Soap and water do not bother them. The dryer does. They have eight legs just like spiders.

Deer ticks carry Lyme Disease. They are small and lazy. They do not run or fall off trees. They do climb grass and wait for lunch. They have a two year cycle. They suck for 2-7 days gorging 200 times their body weight. It takes them 24 hours to tunnel into your skin. You feel nothing because of their anti-coagulant spit. Then they fall on the ground and produce 2,000 eggs. Both male and female die. After producing 2,000 eggs, who wouldn't?

Removing ticks is tricky. Do NOT squeeze the big blood-filled body or use alcohol. This causes them to be sick into your bite. Use tweezers to pull the head straight out. Vets have curved plastic two pronged forks to do the job too. They recommend twisting the head out, but Inka says no. Just pull it straight out. This worked on Felicia.

The bite has a black spot in its middle sometimes. Ticks are only second to mosquitoes for spreading diseases.

Inka then passed out little plastic tubes with the recommendation that you put your catch in and go to her house to use her microscope to see exactly what type of tick it is.

Only 80% of Lyme Disease bites have a rash. My dog has a vaccine for Lyme Disease, but there is none for humans. Blood and spinal fluid can be tested for Lyme Disease. You must get treatment within 4-6 weeks. Save the tick because it has DNA. Lymerix is effective with 76% of adults and 100% for children.

The disease was first discovered in Lyme, Connecticut where there is a nearby bio warfare



Photo by Terry Culbert  
Island landfill operator Keith Miller (Doctor Love) receives a show of affection from Women's Institute coffee wagon hostess Norma-Lynn Cole.

research lab on Plum Island.

Prevent ticks by mowing your lawn. Ants eat ticks so protect them too. Pheromone traps are good too. Wear long white (easy to spot) pants and use DEET repellents. Leave your outside clothes outside the main house. There is only a 10% chance of getting Lyme Disease from ticks. Guinea Fowl love to eat ticks and their eggs. Wasps lay their eggs on ticks so protect wasps too. And finally try to educate your doctor about

ticks and Lyme Disease.

Dr. John Harrison thanked Inka for her fascinating expose of ticks on Amherst Island and quipped, "Now I know why I am a physicist."

Greg Latiak suggested that if you know Charles Plank Jr., please consider visiting him at KGH. Charles is a bit lonesome but is recovering well. He can talk quite easily and likes visitors.

Bruce Burnett reported that Andrea is coordinating Charles Plank Senior's meals so please call Andrea if you can provide a meal for Charles Senior. (634-9734 for Andrea). Charles Sr. needs transportation help too as he cannot drive at the moment. Cherry Allen (613-634-1212) has been coordinating drives and needs volunteers or call Charles directly at 389-0403 to help. The Plank mower has been serviced by an AIMS member and can be used to mow the lawn again. Tom deHaan has been mowing the lawn in the meantime.

Good News! Neil Johnston has agreed to head up the New Year's Dinner & Dance Committee. We are thinking about doing the dinner ourselves as in the olden days if we cannot obtain the services of the Madden brothers. Please give Neil a call to volunteer your services—613-389-5389. Working together for a better community is a lot of fun.

It was agreed to meet at Stella's Cafe for the months of July, August and September.

Future Power outages: Greg offered to supply people with water as he has a generator. Ken Albertan has two generators that he will lend out. If you do not open your freezers they should last for 36 hours. Hydro One had my power back on the next day so congratulations to them once again. Stop your

toilet from freezing by adding ethyl glycol.

We are all doing a good job keeping the roads clean.

Anthony told us that Jim Gould is retiring from the radio management so the board has divided up his job into about five different responsibilities. We need volunteers for those jobs which should not take up more than 2-4 hours a week. Be part of our Island Radio Station by calling Dayle Gowan 634-3815 or Jim Gould 384-1357.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **KILLING WEEDS WITHOUT NOXIOUS CHEMICALS**

- Mayo Underwood

Doug's working on a weed killer and his latest formulation (this is a rough recipe) is:

1. 1 gal 5% or stronger vinegar (pickling vinegar is stronger but not often available at this time of the year. (Or if you happen to have acetic acid handy - ha - you can dilute it and use it. We used to have barrel of acetic acid when I owned Underwood Gardens. It's a 'hazardous material')
2. 1.5 - 2 cups salt (salt kills whatever it touches and it prevents germination for a year or two in any soil it soaks)
3. 2 squirts of dish soap
4. 1/2 cup oil.

Mix all and spray. The soap helps keep the oil in suspension. Without it the oil and vinegar separate and some plants just get oil, some vinegar.

Sally uses pickling salt (cheaper and no iodine) and warms the mixture a bit to help the salt dissolve. She says she finds the mixture even more effective on the really tough weeds if you cut the weed near the soil, and spray the above mixture directly on the cut stem.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FEMALES**

- Zander of DUNN INN

The MacLean's Magazine issue of June 20, 2011, headlines, on its cover, "The Women Shortage." The feature article is an interview with Mara Hvistendahl, the author of the book, "Unnatural Selection," which is about how sex-selection is upsetting the world's gender balance.

The article is shocking in many ways. Over 163 million women are missing from Asia's population in China, India, South Korea, Taiwan and northern

Vietnam. The fact is that parents are choosing to have boys and not girls. We are also seeing sex selection in Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia.

There are four causes of this situation. First, rapid modernization, second, access to ultra-sound machines to determine fetal gender, third, legalized and easily accessible abortion and fourth, an overall drop in fertility.

With modernization people often choose to have fewer children so they can afford televisions, computers and kitchen appliances. In some countries, like China, parents are limited to one child. Using ultra-sound and abortion, parents can ensure that that one child is male. In many parts of the world fertility rates are down except for Africa.

I don't want to get into the issue of abortion because the situation is different in Asia than it is in Europe and the Americas. In the West women often have to brave picket lines and religious damnation when they seek abortions, whereas in China abortion clinics advertise on prime-time T.V. Let us simply note that many more female fetuses are aborted than male fetuses.

The results are catastrophic. Millions of men, mostly at the bottom of society, cannot find wives. Men without wives, unable to raise families, are dehumanized in many ways. They turn to violence among themselves in competition for women or to violence against women in terms of rape.

I fear the governments of those countries where there are too many men will try to control those excess men by enrolling them in the armed forces (and by providing them with prostitutes). The trouble with a big military is that those who own it want to try it out, use it, employ it, in many different ways.

China, which is becoming the largest industrial nation on the earth, and which is exerting its power in various parts of the world, may come to see the 20 million men they have without women as good recruits for the army which they can use to enforce their foreign policies.

In the MacLean's article Mara Hvistendahl said the U.S. military leadership "is keeping a close watch on China's surplus men." She understated the case because she did not want us to become alarmed about "the supposed threat of China or India attacking us, or people overwhelming our shores." She concluded by saying, "We should really care about the gender imbalance because it's a huge human rights issue."

It certainly is that. But the problem goes deeper.

Why do we favour males over females? I know we have a long history of patriarchy in our society. It's right there in the Bible. I know "it's a man's world" as they say. I know we, in Canada, do not consider women equal to men. In many ways men are better treated and better paid than women. That's true even in the church. Some churches refuse to ordain women to the priesthood or ministry. In churches that do ordain women, they are often treated as second-rate.

And yet, as I read the stories of Jesus, he tried to treat men and women as equals. He certainly valued women and praised many of them. He relied upon women to support his cause. In the early church women were highly regarded and were often considered prophets and leaders. It is significant that the first one to see the risen Christ, according to the Gospel accounts, was a woman, Mary Magdalene. And she was the first missionary - she was the first to tell what she knew of the resurrected Jesus to his disciples and to others.

We have gotten ourselves into a mess. The mess can only be cleared up when we learn to value women highly - as highly as we value men - and when we give women the same rights, privileges and powers that men have today. Until we do that we will be guilty of discrimination against females of whatever age, race or class.

I know we are slowly recognizing that women are equal to men. We have women doctors, professors, politicians ... but not enough. We have a long way to go. Let us start by allowing natural selection to proceed and let us never favour males over females.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

George, our favourite barefoot mechanic, had a



Photo courtesy of Allen Caughey  
Amherst Island harness racing on the ice - Feb 14, 1981  
l/r Ben Wemp with Allie Scott, Steve Skeme with Medic, and Ross Hitchins with Presto Bye-Bye

letter in the Whig recently pointing out that the relocation of the raccoon shown on the front page of the Whig a few days before was foolish. The raccoon would either return to its home grounds or be killed in the wild. Most of us trying to make a living in rural Canada will kill every raccoon that we can as they are a major nuisance.  
\*\*\*

I have always been impressed by the quality of the men - so far they've all been men - that Ontario Hydro sends out to do

the physical work involved in maintaining our electrical service. The big wind earlier this month blew down several trees on Island power lines. The trees were removed the next day and hydro restored.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## HARNESS RACING

-Robert Smith

[The following is taken from Mr. Smith's "Rewind" internet article of May 28th. He ends the article with the following; "My thanks to Al Caughey, a long time ORC Official and lifetime horseman from Amherst Island, Ont., for his encouragement, interest and input."]

Years ago when the sport moved from town to town to put on its show, it often did so within sort of undefined Geographical zones. Some called them "circuits". Horsemen travelled in a fairly small circle, quite often not too far from home where they usually returned at day's end. Many had just a one horse trailer, a home packed lunch and an optimistic outlook for the day ahead. Their reward was not just monetary; it was the thrill of competition and also the camaraderie that was a part of the times. People made friends, reminisced about old times and most often couldn't wait until the next stop along the way. While some may remember it as the "Golden Age"



Photo courtesy of Allen Caughey  
More harness racing on the ice - Feb 14, 1981  
l/r Gary Filson with Devil Bee Good, Noel Hogan with Bonnies Steady Boy, and Leigh Wemp with Queenie Ore.

of harness racing, there was never the need for a Brinks Truck that anyone can recall.

This was an era of many one horse stables and part-time horsemen. Most learned the trade from a parent or a neighbour and their apprenticeship was most often without pay. The sport had not yet evolved to the point of being able to provide a living but it was certainly a great pastime. A number of the people listed below worked at some of the large industrial concerns that were located in this part of the country. I am sure they arranged their vacations and other days off to coincide with a day of racing or traded shifts with a non-horseman. Unlike today, not too many people were in a hurry or it seemed like that anyway.

\*\*\*

Here is a list of Islanders who were involved in harness racing – names provided by Al Caughey and they are in no particular order: Stuart Miller, Bob & Gordon Tugwell, Harry & Garry Filson, Ross Hitchins, Charlie Howard, Earl & Wilbert Willard, Bruce & Al Caughey, Art Drumgoole, Charlie & Eddy McMullen, Ben & Hugh Wemp. [Here are more names provided by Al Caughey: Moutray & Leigh Wemp; Jack Forester; Harris, Melville, and Hughie Filson.]

\*\*\*

## MORE

-Al Caughey

The Stella Driving Club was established in the '30s, reformed in September of 1968 with 25 members, all fans of harness racing. It dwindled to 6 members who annually formed the New Year's Dance Committee until June of 1998. With the ferry on a regular winter schedule, ice conditions were not favourable for horse racing on Kerr Bay.

\*\*\*\*\*

## THANK YOU NOTES

I would like to thank the First Response Team for coming to Kassy's "time of need".

We are very lucky to have a group of people that are trained to handle any situation.

I would also like to thank everyone for the cards,

good wishes and the treats.

Also Thanks to Jane for the van for the couple days.

Thank You

Tessa Mayman

\*\*\*

## CLASS TRIP

The Senior Class would like to thank everyone in the community for supporting their year-end trip fund raising efforts over the past year! We had an amazing trip to Niagara Falls.

We had 2 1/2 jammed packed days, which included a trip on the "Maid of the Mist", a "Journey behind the Falls" and a bird's eye view of the falls from the skywheel.

Of course no trip to Niagara Falls is complete without a visit to Clifton Hill. The water park attached to our hotel was also a hit! We travelled in style in a highway coach!

Many thanks, from the

A.I.P.S. Senior Class

\*\*\*\*\*

## BEACON ADS

### ST. PAUL'S 63RD ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY

Saturday, July 23,

11 a. m. to 3 p.m.

Silent Auction, Books, Plants, Baked Goods

Tea Room, BBQ Food, Pie and Ice Cream

Clothing, Treasures, White Elephant

Live Auction starts at 1 p.m.

Free Admission, Everyone welcome!

\*\*\*

### CJAI ANNUAL USED BOOK SALE

Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>

10am - 2pm

Contributions gladly accepted until the end of July.

Call the station at 613 384-8282 or drop off in the drive shed.

\*\*\*



Photo courtesy of Allen Caughey  
Art Drumgoole with a very young Allen Caughey with Stella

## **HULA HOOPING**

Workshops: Tues, July 5 and Tues, July 12 – 6:30 pm.

Enjoy the summer with a blast from the past. Yes, the hula hoop is back!

Join Karen Walhout under the shady trees of 3775 Third Concession to learn the pleasures of hula hooping.

It's a low impact exercise that is fun, has many health benefits and helps maintain a youthful glow.

All are welcome free of charge. Bring the kids.

Hula hoops provided, or bring your own or buy one from Karen for 20 dollars at the Amherst Island Market.

\*\*\*

## **STUDIO ON THE BAY**

8750 Second Concession Road

Acrylic works of Barb Hogenauer & Terry Culbert

Open by chance or appointment 613-634-8217

[www.studioonthebay.ca](http://www.studioonthebay.ca)

\*\*\*

## **VILLAGE GALLERY**

Located next door to Stella's Cafe

Islanders' paintings & photography

Open summer weekends only or by appointment:

Saturday 10am – 4pm / Sunday noon – 4pm

613-384-5606

\*\*\*

## **2000 SPRINGDALE KEYSTONE RV**

at 9850 Front Road - \$13,500.

38 feet-sleeps 9 in beds,

Separate Private Master Bedroom with Queen Bed plus,

Separate 2nd Bedroom- Great for Children with Bunk Beds and Table that converts to Single Bed,

Center room Pop Out with Couch for 4, Rocking Chair,

Double Patio Doors,

Kitchen Table and Bench Seating plus Eating Counter beside Patio Doors.

Call Gayla 613-243-3812.

\*\*\*

## **AMHERST ISLAND CHIROPRACTIC - 11450**

Front Rd.

Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

For appointments call 613 328-8892

\*\*\*

## **Dave Meikle's**

### **AMHERST ISLAND RAW WILDFLOWER HONEY**

Raw honey is honey the way the bees made it with all of its flavour, nutrients and bioactive substances. Bees pack honey with anti-bacterial, anti-viral and anti-fungal agents. Raw honey is a pro-biotic, enhancing digestive function. The pollen in raw honey tunes your immune system to the local environment.

Our honey is extracted in small batches to retain the unique flavour and aroma each bee colony produces.

Available at Topsy Farms, 613 389-3444 and The Museum shop at the former Neilson Store, or call direct, at 613 384 5363.

\*\*\*

### **SAND BAY FARM BED & BREAKFAST AND PERCHERON HORSE DRAWN WAGON AND SLEIGH RIDES**

by your hosts Garry and Susan Filson @ 2 Front Rd., here on beautiful Amherst Island. Call 613/384-7866 or email [redandgarry@aol.com](mailto:redandgarry@aol.com) for bookings or more information. Located on the very northeast end of the island with waterfront views from every window, very private and backs onto the Kingston Field Naturalists bird sanctuary. Open year round.

\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*

### **AMHERST ISLAND STORE**

Monday - Friday: noon - 4pm.

Saturday: 10am - 4pm.

Sunday: noon - 4pm.

Holiday Mondays: 10am - 2pm.

\*\*\*

### **THE WEASEL AND EASEL**

Hours: Sat. 10 - 4; Sun. noon - 4; Monday check the sign. Weekends only until July.

\*\*\*

### **FOOTFLATS FARM ACCOMMODATION:**

[www.footflats.com](http://www.footflats.com) (613-634-1212)

Goodman House (waterfront)

- 4 bedrooms, 3 baths
- available year round

Waterfront Cabin

- 3 bedrooms, 1 bath
- May to October

\*\*\*

### **STELLA'S CAFÉ**

Hours: 8:30 to 6:30 Thursday;

8:30 to 7:30 Friday, Saturday and Sunday;

closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Your Island dining and place to gather. Join us there.

\*\*\*

### **TOPSY FARMS WOOL SHED**

Wool and sheepskin products including yarn, blankets, and crafts.

Also Island honey, wild caught BC salmon, and Topsy's frozen lamb cuts.

\*\*\*

### **EMERALD MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Friday 6:30 p.m. to Sunday 4 p.m., August 5-7

Local Entertainment

Weekend pass: \$20/person

Children under 12 free

Rough Camping Available

Contact Dan & Joan Simpson 613-389-8297.

\*\*\*

### **BETTY'S HOME COOKING**

Due to family commitments on weekends, I will not be doing the Market this summer; however, my Market Goodies are still 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

\*\*\*\*\*



Photo by Don Tubb

Sometimes near sunset, the lambs get together and charge around the field.