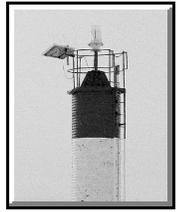


Amherst Island

BEACON



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October 2011

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Mary Kay Steel

Our regular monthly meeting was irregular in that it was held on a Thursday, instead of a Wednesday, on September 22nd, at the home of member Marilyn Pilon, commencing at 7pm. The change to Thursday was necessitated by the scheduling of the District WI Outing, an annual fund raiser, on the Wednesday. Several of Amherst Island branch members and other Islanders enjoyed this all-day outing to Upper Canada Village and other interesting stops. Overall, the bus was full, and a good time was had by all who participated.

Back to the meeting...

Thirteen members were in

attendance including President Liz Harrison, who chaired the meeting as usual. Roll call responses took the form of each person sharing an account of something fun they did this past summer. The tales were short and long, mostly interesting and many brought laughs from the group. One member well over eighty years of age spoke enthusiastically about an extended camping holiday with family; and yes, she slept in a sleeping bag on the ground! Many of us gasped at her bravery and flexibility. Another member allowed that the most fun she had was completing hospital and rehab centre stays to return to her own home. Another enjoyed a visit to Ottawa to attend the Caravaggio art exhibit at the National Gallery. We surely are a most diverse group, we decided, after listening to our colleagues' stories.

No special program was planned for the meeting; rather we had the intention of dealing with a roster of routine and ongoing business items. Minutes and the most recent Treasurer's report received approval. One business item was to make our annual donation to the Ameriks Scholarship Fund, which we did. The annual Area WI meeting will be held on October 19th,

and we will of course send representatives. We learned from a provincial WI newsletter that starting in June 2012, applications will be solicited from post-secondary students in the field of agriculture for a \$1000 scholarship. We will keep you posted on this.

Plans were firmed up for the All Candidates Meeting to take place on September 29th. More volunteers came forward to complete the season of running our market table. And we were urged to start thinking of planning for our annual Seniors' Xmas Party. Our October

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Photo by Terry Culbert

How many Amherst Island residents are aware of this new signage at the foot of the Stella 40-Foot Road?

meeting will be held on the 19th at Norma-Lynn Cole's home. As always, guests are welcome.

The meeting adjourned and was followed by an enjoyable refreshment and social hour. Marilyn Pilon and Mary Kay Steel were thanked for their fine culinary efforts.

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

Tringa melanoleuca, sounds like a bad disease doesn't it, but it means bird with a white rump. During the fall days as you wait in line for the ferry you have probably been treated to the melancholy three note call of the Greater Yellowlegs as he feeds along the shoreline searching for tasty morsels at the water's edge.

The call is a slightly descending series of three or more "tew" sounds and is quite loud. Greater

Yellowlegs like the other shorebird species feed on aquatic worms, insects and small fish.

The Yellowlegs species nest across northern Canada and southern Alaska. The pair nests in a shallow depression on the ground and raises four chicks which like the more familiar Killdeer are fending for themselves shortly after hatching. They nest in the tundra and muskeg during the breeding season and migrate shortly after as they make their way south towards the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and south to the Gulf of Mexico.

Returning migrants have been spotted here on Amherst Island as early as July 31st and as late as November 4th .

The Greater Yellowlegs is about 14 inches or 36 centimetres in size. The back is dark brown and mottled. The bird is heavily streaked on the throat and breast and its belly and sides are spotted. Both the Greater at 14 inches and its finer cousin the Lesser Yellowlegs at 10 ½ inches have bright yellow to orange legs. We get both species here but the difference in size is not always easily seen. The Lesser has a higher, shorter call and appears to have a finer and more delicate beak. On August 6th in 1983, Marnie Matthews recorded 50 Lesser Yellowlegs that had been grounded on Amherst, by rain, but by



Photo by Terry Culbert

The Loyalist Township Roads Department of Amherst Island installed new 15-inch plastic culverts along a section of the Front Road in the Village of Stella.

August the 8th they were all gone as the storm front passed and the winds changed. The Greater Yellowlegs has a very slight upturn to its beak and the beak is two-toned in the winter plumage. You might think that it had run into a wall and slightly deformed the tip.

These shorebirds return again by May but the push is on to reach their breeding grounds and they do not linger for very long but push on North by May 18th .

Other Shorebirds that you might also see could be: Whimbrel, Least Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Sanderling, Black-bellied Plover, Golden Plover, Semi-palmated Plover, Godwit or Turnstone. Shorebirds at first appear to be a whole bunch of mottled, speckled brown birds but as you watch and observe you will begin to learn the slight differences that make Bird watching so much fun!

Good Birding!

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

Session 18, Sept.12:

cannot see anything directly affecting our Island.

Session 19, Sept. 29:

ditto.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY RESEARCH

- Sally Bowen

For several years our yard at Topsy Farms has been certified as a Monarch Way Station by the University of Kansas. For over 20 years these folks have encouraged people to create environments with both host and nectar plants, appropriate for the Monarch Butterflies. They have an interesting site, and provide periodic updates as to the status of the Monarchs. The following are excerpts from their September report, "Monarch Watch Update". You can visit their site at www.monarchwatch.org.

"The leading edge of the (eastern Monarch)

migration has now reached northern Texas. We attempt to follow the Monarch population closely. Based on our experience, and ongoing data analysis of Monarch numbers, we offer opinions/projections on what to expect in the near future based on our understanding of how the monarch populations have been affected by patterns of temperature and rainfall in the preceding months.

“I predicted that overwintering population in Mexico would be similar in size to that of the low populations recorded in 2004 (2.19 hectares) and 2009 (1.92 hectares). It was clear that the Monarch numbers in New England and recorded at Cape May would be low this fall, and that the numbers originating in the central region would be slightly better than those of the eastern Dakotas through Wisconsin but still low relative to long term numbers. The numbers are down in New England/Cape May. Fewer monarchs appear to have been produced in Ontario, MI, OH, IN, IL area than I expected. Wisconsin numbers also appear to be down.

“The surprise is the eastern Dakotas and western MN. This area seems to be the source of a large number of the Monarchs moving through the lower mid-west at this time. Nevertheless, the overall numbers are down. But, it gets worse. The migration is just beginning to navigate 1000 miles of hell - a nearly flowerless/nectarless and waterless expanse of central KS, OK, TX, and NE MX (see Drought Monitor at <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>).

“Monarchs will make it to the overwintering sites but their numbers will be significantly reduced by these conditions.

“My expectation is that that the overwintering numbers will be the lowest ever (previous low 1.92 hectares) and that the arriving butterflies will be in relatively poor shape with low fat reserves. If the average condition (mass) of the overwintering monarchs is lower than average, mortality during the winter could also be high. Keep your fingers crossed that there are no winter storms in MX that could

make matters worse.

“Low monarch numbers in MX this winter and in the future means that the integrity of the overwintering sites is now more important than ever and that planting milkweeds in gardens and incorporating these plants in restoration projects should receive the highest priority.

“So what can you do?”

- Create a Monarch Waystation habitat:

<http://monarchwatch.org/waystations>

- Join the Bring Back the Monarchs campaign:

<http://bringbackthemonarchs.org.>”

AIMS Minutes September 10

- Hugh Jenney

Twenty men sat down to a great breakfast prepared by Brian Little and his family.

Greg Latiak introduced one of our own, Bruce Findlay, as our guest speaker.

Bruce started his talk about Climate Change by stating that weather and climate are two different animals. Weather events fluctuate daily and can be predicted for about a week.

Climate is the average of weather over a longer period of time. Climate can be predicted in a general sense over a season especially when certain large-scale events as El Nina of last winter was in effect. Bruce warned us that there is a

good chance that La Nina will reform again this winter resulting in extra lake-effect snow for Amherst Island.

Bruce received his education in physical geography at U of T. He received his master's degree from McGill where he studied the hydrological water balance at Schefferville, Quebec. Bruce discovered from snow surveys that the weather station had under-measured the snowfall by 25%. His new information helped in planning the hydro-electric plant at Churchill Falls and was recognized as a contribution to the International Hydrological Decade.



Photo by Terry Culbert

On September 29th, a 42-tonne gravel crusher made in Ireland leaves the Caughey Pit on Amherst Island after a 2-month work project.

Bruce became involved with burying nuclear waste for the Atomic Energy Agency. He produced a paper on the possible effects of climate on the buried radioactive material whose half-life lasted over a million years. Bruce issued a forecast for the next million years thus earning him the title from his colleagues of "The Million Year Man." after the TV program "The Million Dollar Man."

After much study, Bruce has concluded that temperature rises in the lower atmosphere may have serious implications for the economy, society and the environment. There are a number of climate-sensitive chemicals in the atmosphere that are produced from industrial processes. A number of greenhouse gases will have a long residence in the atmosphere. Because science cannot be 100% conclusive is no reason to ignore or be complacent about what is happening. The proxy record at the end of the last ice age testifies that serious changes can be rapid—within decades. There are a number of industrial actions that can slow emissions without killing the industry. Bruce recommended that we read further and keep an eye on "www.meteorologicaloffice.gc.ca" for more climate research and "www.noaa.gov" for browsing. The Canadian detractors' site, www.friendsofscience.org, will give us all a lot to chew on.

Greg Latiak thanked Bruce for all this very valuable information.

Bruce Caughey will be our auctioneer again this year. It will be advertised on our radio station.

New Year's Dinner & Dance coordinator is Neil Johnston. Please call Neil if you can help. Neil is encouraging all members to support this grand Island event. The food will be great and the music will be provided by "The Runnin Kind" with Mickie Code. Tickets are available from Neil, and Laurie at the store. They sold out last year so get yours early.

Our new executive for the coming two years is as follows: President, Brian Little; Past President, Greg Latiak; Vice-President, we need a volunteer but Greg

will step in as needed; Secretary, Anders Bennick; Treasurer, Kevin Archibald; Members at Large, Don Pepper, John Schutzbach, and Woody

Thanks to these volunteers who are working to make our community better.

ISLAND RADIO NEW SHOW HOST

-Terrence Culbert

Eric Tremblay has taken over the Friday evening 7 to 9pm time slot, which was held by Cathy Christmas (The Cat Show) and Cheryl Saunders (The Beaver's Bark). Calling his show: "Eric's Friday Night Radio Show". Eric will take requests and play popular rock & roll tunes to start your weekend off right.



Photo provided by Eric Tremblay
Eric Tremblay, host of 'Eric's Friday Night Radio Show' with his wife Erin Merry and son Maxime.

"I was born in Ottawa, but lived my young life in a suburb of Detroit, Michigan ... called Windsor, Ontario," Eric said. With Motown in the background, this is where he learned to love music. Eric first came to Kingston in 1988, enrolling as a student at Queen's University and never left. After graduation, he worked for ten years in a breast cancer research lab at Queen's. Then he joined the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) as an instructional designer. For the past 11-years, Eric has

taught many college and university level courses at both RMC and St. Lawrence College. Today Eric is the Manager of Course Design & Development for RMC and is well known for his expertise in distance education. He also writes a blog on educational technology: "http://erictremblay.blogspot.com".

Eric is married to Wolfe Islander Erin Merry. They, along with their son Maxime, live across the North Channel on Nicholson's Point. A big welcome to Eric Tremblay and "Eric's Friday Night Radio Show". A huge thank you to Cathy Christmas and Cheryl Saunders for their contributions to Island Radio, CJA1 92.1 FM.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

{October 15, 1980 - Issue 33}

AMHERST ISLAND W.I. 80TH ANNIVERSARY TEA

-Thelma Howard

On Wed. Sept. 17, 1980 the Amherst Island Women's Institute celebrated their 80th anniversary by an afternoon tea with many of the other branches from the mainland joining us as well as a number of Islanders with an attendance about one hundred and twenty.

The President Mrs. Irene Glenn opened the afternoon tea and welcomed the guests.

Mrs. Phyllis Strain read the minutes of the first Institute meeting of 1900. After the Ode and Mary Stewart Collect a singsong followed with Mrs. Louise Seaman at the piano. Some songs were *The More We Get Together*, *This Land Is Your Land*, *Memories*, *He's Got the Whole World In His Hand*, and *Hymn Of All Nations*. Mr. James Neilson, the Island reeve brought greetings from the community.

The Board Director, Mrs. Vera Collings, brought greetings from the District. She spoke about Adelaide Hoodless and said that if she were to look down on that afternoon, she would say "A job well done!" She told all members to look to the future and be ready to meet the needs.

The District President, Mrs. Clarke and the area President, Mrs. Hallet also brought greetings. The Home Economist, Miss Susan Leuty, brought greetings from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Two of our longest standing members Mrs. Genevieve Fleming and Mrs. Nellie Neilson were presented with corsages and an Institute Spoon by the president Mrs. Irene Glenn and Mrs. Phyllis Strain. Mrs. Georgie Allison read an interesting poem "Pass It On".

Letters of greeting and regrets on being unable to attend the tea from Miss Flora MacDonald, who is in China, and Mr. Keith Norton, were read by Mrs. Anna Hitchins. A card from Mrs. Penney was read by Mrs. Irene Glenn. Mrs. Ellerbeck spoke a few words as she was once a Provincial Board member.

Greetings were then given from each branch present. The Grace was then sung, after which a delicious lunch was served to everyone. The tea table was decorated with an anniversary cake. Those pouring tea were the president of the A.C.W. Mrs. Betty Wemp, two oldest members Mrs. Nellie Neilson

and Mrs. Genevieve Fleming, the District Director Mrs. Collings, District President Mrs. Clarke, and President of the P.C.W. Mrs. Chris Glenn.

After the lunch the ladies enjoyed viewing the quilt which was made as a project for the afternoon, and also enjoyed seeing a display of antiques, crewel work, needlepoint, paper mache, etc.

This all brought an enjoyable afternoon to a close with the Queen, and one to be remembered for a long time.

OCTOBER MEETING

The Amherst Island Women's Institute met Oct. 1 at 8 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Genevieve Fleming. Besides the members, two visitors were present, one from British Columbia and the other from Saskatchewan. Both are daughters of Mr. Harvey Filson, an Island resident of many years ago who moved to the west. They are cousins of Mrs. Fleming.

The meeting opened in the usual manor with the President Mrs. Irene Glenn in the chair and repeated the Ode and Mary Stewart Collect, followed by *O Canada*. The secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Diane Gavlas read the minutes and gave the financial statement. The roll call was to name a new big word and give its meaning which proved quite interesting.

The president thanked the members for helping make the 80th anniversary tea such a success and also thanked the people who helped with the quilt. Plans were made for the serving of the C.N.I.B. dinner on Oct. 15th. A benefit euchre was also planned in aid of C.N.I.B. to be held on Nov. 8 at 8 p.m. in Amherst Island School Hall.

A committee was appointed to make plans for the senior citizens dinner, the date of which has yet to be set. They are Mrs. Marian Glenn, Mrs. Jackie Sylvester, Mrs. Phyllis Strain and Mrs. Irene Glenn. Decision as to what is to be done with the quilt is to be made at the next meeting. A collection was taken causing much laughter, which was to pay seven cents for every clock in your house and two cents for every pair of shoes each one owned. (cont'd next page)

An invitation to attend the Centennial Institute meeting was read for Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. in North Fredericksburg Hall. At the next meeting each member is to pay five cents for each inch of their waistline. The convenor of education for the evening was Mrs. Marian Glenn. As part of the programme Mr. Allan Glenn, school principal in Frontenac

County gave a wonderful talk on education. One of the things he mentioned was that some people call the schools a baby-sitting service, but quoted to us that it costs fortythree million dollars for education in Frontenac County. He told us a bit about his own education life and how it started out at the rural school on the third concession of the Island, S.S. No. 5 and thought they were the good old days. He also spoke about the old school curriculum as compared with to-day. He also conducted an interesting contest on the three "R's". Mrs. Glenn thanked him on behalf of the Institute and presented him with a gift as well as a personal gift. She then conducted a contest on education which was won by Mrs. Jackie Sylvester.

An enjoyable lunch brought the evening to a close with the Grace and the Queen.

The November meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Lulu Strain on Wed. Nov. 19 at 8 p.m.

PRIMARY STUDENTS GO FISHING

- Mrs. Yvonne Lavigne

Oct. 1st, that's the day that the Primary students went to talk with Mr. and Mrs. Howard Welbanks to find out more about fishing. As part of our Water Theme, we learned about the different kinds of fish in Lake Ontario. Mr. and Mrs. Welbanks showed us their catch of fish which included the white perch, yellow pickerel, rock bass and a lake trout which was caught in their nets. (Mr. Welbanks is allowed only three trout in his possession). There was also a long nosed ger pike and a sucker. Some others caught are the yellow perch, white fish, and the herring. Eels are caught for the European market by baited hooks and hoop nets. The children had many questions including one to find out why Mr. and Mrs. Welbanks liked to fish. Mrs. Phyllis Strain helped the children and recorded the information given to them.

At the docks, when we arrived, there were two biologists from the Ministry of Natural Resources who were checking the fish for their size and number. Mr. Welbanks explained that fishing has become easier with his aluminum boat, powerful motor, depth sounder, and net puller. A little later Dave Harrison arrived at the dock to pick up and buy Mr. Welbanks* catch.

Mrs. Welbanks provided us all a pleasant treat of cookies and chocolate milk. Then we set out for a walk along the shore line to find rocks and shells for making crafts at school later. Mrs. Miller pointed out

to the children interesting facts about rock formation on the Island. The weather was so calm and pleasant in the cove near Mr. and Mrs. Welbanks' home. When we stopped to find different rocks along the south shore, we felt the winds and listened to the roaring of the waves of the lake.

Quickly we boarded the bus because it was just about noon. What a beautiful morning we had! We all learned! At school we became very busy writing thankyou letters and making a booklet in the shape of a fish and recording the information that we had gathered.

TONTI'S RECREATION CLUB

- Chris Bustard

Tonti's Recreation Club would like to thank the following people for their kind donation for our club: Dr. Blenkinsop, Gertrude Maude, Helen Bulch, Helen McCormick, Bill Churchill, Dorothy McGinn, Hans deHaan, Jim Neilson, Grace Eves, Bill Sippel, Lloyd Strain, Ed Gavlas, Lulu Strain, Bert Glenn, Chester Tugwell, Garry Hitchins, Ben Wemp, Henry Hitchins, Earl Willard, Jack Kerr, Lloyd Wolfreys.

These supportive people have donated almost \$400 to date. 50% or these donations have been for \$20 or more. Again our thanks to these people.

We have been able to purchase a shuffleboard, ping pong table, air hockey, canteen supplies, rent, etc. Our club would also like to invite all parents and their children to come and see our recreation centre on October 18th, from 2:00 p.m. till 4:00 p.m. We would also like to have a Hallowe'en party for the younger children on October 30th from 6:00 p.m. till 7:30 p.m. There will be games and prizes. Prizes will also be given for the most original costume, the funniest, and the most related to the occasion. Parents are also welcome to come out.

Thank you all for your support, and also for the support with our successful bake sale.

HELP TONTI INTO HIGH GEAR!

- Art Ackerman

We still need more \$ as we hope to be able to buy a pool table and other equipment. No contribution is too small. Cheques payable to Tonti's Recreation Club may be left at Glenn's Store, Township Office or Royal Bank (Stella only). Should you have any questions or would like me to pick up donations, please call 389-6425.

Many thanks for your support!

PROPERTIES FOR SALE ON AMHERST ISLAND

- 1. Furnished 2 bedroom cottage, insulated and having electric heat. Well maintained, tile flooring, paneled walls and bath. Enjoy the view from a screened porch. Asking \$24,500*
- 2. This is your chance to purchase a 1/4 acre building lot with view of lake. Reduced to \$3900*
- 3. 2.85 acres surround this well-built three bedroom bungalow with many unique features, electric heat, quiet location, terrific view of open lake, only 4 miles from ferry.*
- 4. 1-2-3 up to 100 acres could be bought with this home on the south shore. Vendor will look at any reasonable offer.*
- 5. 75 acres or more could be yours with older large and roomy 7 room home in need of updating and repair. Ideal for a handy person.*

On all of the above properties, please call Marlene Frohlick agent for Raycraft Real Estate Ltd.

CARD OF THANKS

I wish to thank all my relatives, neighbours and friends, especially all my fellow NDSS students who sponsored me on my run for "Marathon of Hope" in support of Terry Fox.

Through your generosity I was able to run 40 kilometres and donate \$89 to the Cancer Society for their very worthwhile cause. Thank you everyone!

Doug Willard

AMHERST ISLAND FILM

- Beth Forester

Many thanks to all those people who came, in some cases to both showings, of the film "Amherst Island". The film was run twice during the summer, once in July and once in August. The enthusiasm and generosity of so many was heartily appreciated. However the actual obtaining of the same film is momentarily at a standstill.

We are approximately \$65 short of our intended goal of \$450. The proposed plan, once the film is obtained, is to store it in the film library at the Main Branch of the County Library. The possibility of having a video-tape made of the film will be discussed with the producer, Gil Taylor. The Island

School has access to a videotape machine which is shared by several schools.

Thanks once again to those unfailing supporters!

A.I.P.S. News

- Mark Wemp, Head Boy and Chairman of October Meeting.

Amherst Island Public School, as usual, held Student's Council elections in the second week of September. Marlene Eves was elected as Head Girl and Mark Wemp as Head Boy. John Welbanks and Jennifer Pearce were voted in as Senior Room representatives. Steven Viau and Julie Forester are representatives for the Junior Room, and Hugh Filson was voted by his class as the representative for the Primary Room.

At the first Student's Council meeting a newspaper drive was started. We would appreciate if anyone having newspapers would bring them to the school. The school students are also going to finish the Island cleanup program that was started earlier in the year to help raise money for school projects. This will be held on the 15th of October.

On Friday, October 10th, the Student's Council held a pumpkin tart sale. We sold 5 dozen tarts and made about ten dollars.

The Student's Council will hold a Hallowe'en Party on Friday, October 31st. We will be having a costume parade, some games, and we might be selling some things! Plans for this party are not quite complete at this time. However, it will begin at 2:30 and end at 3:15.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Jackie Sylvester

Special Session Sept. 8

The proposed new ferry agreement was discussed. Regular Session Oct.. 7

*A delegation from Tonti*s Recreation Club reported on their progress. The Orangemen have agreed that the club may use Victoria Hall if the costs are met.*

The Building Inspector reported on new permits issued. The development road profile was discussed and M.T.C. is to meet with the engineers and council. Approval was received from O.M.B. for the municipality to exceed their borrowing limit. Council resolved that a letter be sent to O.M.B. asking they proceed with all possible despatch on the new by-

law.

The resignation of our Fire Chief, Tom Miller, was accepted with appreciation expressed for past services and the hope that he will remain on the force to give the benefit of his past experience.

Appreciation was also expressed to the volunteers on the force for their efforts on the addition to the firehall.

Council, as a landowner, passed approval for the upgrading of Matthew's dam. Letters were received re line fences and on the hazard to motorists of livestock loose on public roads at night. Rental was accepted from the Amherst Island Conservation Club for the big marsh.

{End of "FROM THE ARCHIVES"}

WHAT I DID LAST SUMMER

-Zander of DUNN INN

One of the best books I've ever read was by W.O. Mitchell entitled, "How I Spent my Summer Holidays". It reminded me that in almost every grade, at the beginning of the year, we students were assigned an essay entitled, "How I Spent My Summer Holidays" or "What I Did This Summer." It was a quick and easy assignment both for the students and for the teachers. It got the students writing and it allowed the teachers to check their writing skills, their spelling, their use of grammar.

Now that the kids are back in school, I'm sure many essays by those titles will be written by the students in English classes. I've written many of those essays but I've never written about the best/worst summer I ever enjoyed. I refer to the summer of 1960, after my first year of theology at Knox College when I worked for four months on a railway extra-gang in Saskatchewan under the auspices of Frontier College.

Frontier College recruited idealistic male students by challenging them to sign up for tough, menial jobs that paid poorly, where the working conditions were deplorable, where the mosquitoes were as big as birds and where the food was not good, to say the least.

Anybody who accepted those conditions was expected to work a full day on the line and then, after work at night, teach English, math, and anything else to the men on railroad gangs or in lumber camps.

I went to work as a Frontier College Labourer-Teacher for the C.P.R. in various parts of Saskatchewan (near Wilkie where Robert Latimer lives and near Weyburn where Tommy Douglas was once minister in the Baptist Church). The recruiting posters were right: the pay was low (85 cents an hour at a time when the minimum wage in Canada was \$1). The job was backbreaking. We were up at 5 a.m. for breakfast at 5:30 to start work at 6 a.m. We quit usually between 5 and 6 p.m. but sometimes we worked 18 hours (in the dark by the light of the train engine). The mosquitoes ruled with a vengeance. The food (none of which was fresh) cost 75 cents a meal. I learned, by God, how working men lived!

I also learned how God worked through people - even through me. Jose Peres, flew from Portugal to Regina. His brother brought him to the railroad gang to work the day before I arrived. He knew no English at all. He was quiet, shy, withdrawn. He came to my English classes and began to learn the language. At the end of the summer he was fluent in English, a real joker, the life of the party. Not that we had many parties. We worked too hard for that.

But one Sunday, after my church service for the gang, (no hymns because nobody knew any) we went to a swim and a cookout at a lake in Saskatchewan. That was the church service at which I read from John 3 about Jesus telling Nicodemus he had to be born again and Nicodemus took Jesus literally and asked how he could go back into his mother's womb and be born. A young worker must have heard that passage for the first time because he burst out laughing, something I'd never heard Christians do in any church service. For the first time in my life I was talking to men who had never read or heard the Bible before (but who laughed at the right places).

I didn't know there were any lakes in Saskatchewan. We had a great time eating steaks and drinking beer, laughing, swimming, playing, telling



Photo by Terry Culbert

VOCAL POINT: Conversations in Art has just completed a very successful month at The Lodge on Amherst Island. Billed as a two-person exhibition, it was the acrylic works of Barb Hogenauer and Hennie Marsh. Pictured left to right is Barb Hogenauer, Amherst Island artist, Molly Stroyman, owner of The Lodge, Victoria Cuyler, The Lodge Manager and Kingston artist Hennie Marsh.

stories. (Our strong man, Tito, showed how he could open beer bottles with his teeth and lift up any man by his belt buckle using his teeth only). We, who had no time to talk to one another during work, returned to our sleeping cars having made new friends. I discovered these men were just like me. They worked hard, played hard, needed friends. These men became my good friends. At the end of the summer they presented me with a wallet in which to keep my big money and a silver spike so that I wouldn't forget the railroad or the thousands of spikes I'd tapped that summer. Those men were the salt of the earth.

I learned the value of money too. I considered replacing the Big Ben Pocket Watch that Nance had given me before I left for the summer because it had been flooded to a stop in my pocket by the torrential rain storm through which we worked (what else was there to do in the middle of the prairie? - might as well work as simply stand there). When I found out the price was \$3.50 I decided against buying it because that represented four hours of work and that watch wasn't worth four hours of my work.

I learned to eat fast on the Railroad Gang. On my first day I went to the dining car and introduced myself to the men and told them that I'd be running English classes. I was taken aback when the foreman shouted, "Shut Up. We're here to eat, not to talk." We had about half an hour to eat so that the cookees could clean up and start working on the next meal. I certainly missed good conversation over good food. I've been learning ever since to talk and slow down when I eat.

Through my fellow workers, through bad weather, through low pay, through poor food, through hard work (I haven't even begun to describe that work which made it the worst summer of my life) I learned to discern God all around me, challenging me to deal with life. It was my best summer ever.

THANK YOU NOTES

A very special 'thank you' to first and foremost my family for their love and support while I was a patient in K.G.H and while I recuperated at Helen Henderson Care Centre after my knee surgery.

Thank you also for the many cards, phone calls, flowers, visits, 'goodies', (I won't mention names in case I forget someone) you know who you are...

I extend a deep debt of gratitude and thanks to Yvonne McGinn and her staff at Helen Henderson Care Centre for the wonderful care, kindness and compassion while I recovered.

Thank you to my wonderful neighbours at home, who took care of my grass-cutting and yard-work and to Janice for looking after my flowers and 'Meg'.

The 'Welcome Home' I received was also pretty special. Thank you Noa, Lucie, Finn and Ben!

I have now returned home, and I am doing quite well.

Truly there is no place like 'home'!!

Elsie Willard

[Editor: Elsie's thank you note was sent to us in July but somehow never made into the Beacon file. I assume it was my mistake and I hereby apologize to Elsie and Tagget. It is Beacon policy to respond to all our e-mails, so if you don't get a response, send it again and phone if you need to.]

I would like to thank all for the condolences in the recent passing of my father. The gifts of food and shared memories were comforting.

Dad had a great fondness for the island that began when he was a young boy travelling with his uncle, a drover to deliver cattle. That fondness continued over the years.

Many friendships were formed during his business years selling cars to many Islanders.

Susan and Terry McGinn

We would like to thank all of our friends for their help, support and kindness while Dan is recovering. What a wonderful place to live.

Joan & Dan Simpson

We close at the end of Thanksgiving Weekend, Monday, October 10th, and would like to give everyone that supported the Café a HUGE THANK YOU and see you next May long weekend when we open up for the third season. Judy and Anthony

Capt'n/Cook Jude Bierma

Ocean Sailor and Café Owner/Cook

[Editor: and a big thank you to the Bierma sisters – and their men - for adding a lot to Amherst Island culture.]

NOTICES

AMERIKS SCHOLARSHIP FUND - 2011

Applications for the Ameriks Scholarship Fund in memory of Reeve Frank Fleming, will be received by the Township until October 31, 2011.

Amherst Island residents who currently attend post-secondary institutions on a full time basis are eligible to apply. Application forms are available at the Ferry Office in Stella during office hours, Monday, Wednesday and Friday or on the Loyalist Township website at:

www.loyalist.ca. (under permits/applications at the side of the page)

Please forward completed applications to the attention of Pamela Barnard at:

The Corporation of Loyalist Township
263 Main Street, Odessa, K0H 2H0
or leave at the Ferry Office for delivery

Anyone interested in contributing to the Ameriks Scholarship Fund please contact Pamela Barnard at 613-386-7351, ext. 120. Loyalist Township accepts donations to the capital or yearly disbursement portion of the Ameriks Scholarship Fund. Income tax receipts are provided.

CONDITIONS RE USE OF THE BACK BEACH

Loyalist Township advises that effective September 6th to December 31st Back Beach is prohibited for public use. Violators will be prosecuted by Nut Island Farms Limited and/or Loyalist Township.

For information concerning this notice, please contact Cindy Lawson, Recreation Director, Loyalist Township. (613) 386-7351, ext. 131 or, clawson@loyalist.ca.

NOTICE

Windlectric Inc. is proposing to develop, construct, and operate the 56 - 75 megawatt (MW) Amherst Island Wind Energy Project within Loyalist Township, in response to the Government of Ontario's initiative to promote the development of renewable electricity in the province. Windlectric is initiating the environmental approvals for the proposed Project. Presently, this includes a Renewable Energy Approval as required under Ontario Regulation 359/09 of the Environmental Protection Act. Windlectric has retained Stantec

Consulting Ltd. to assist in the preparation of the REA application for the Project.

BEACON ADS

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

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 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 the following items for the Lennox and Addington S.P.C.A.. Used towels and linens, paper towels and cleaning supplies, pet food, kitty litter, dog and cat toys are always in demand 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: 9am - 11:30pm; 2:30pm - 5pm
Saturday: 9am - 1pm (Post Office closes at noon)
Sunday: closed
Thanksgiving Weekend:
Saturday Oct 8: 9am - 1pm
Sunday Oct 9: closed
Monday Oct 10: closed

THE WEASEL AND EASEL

All stock reduced 10% Thanksgiving Weekend
Hours:
October 8 10am - 4pm
October 9 Noon - 4pm
October 10 10am - 2pm

FOOTFLATS FARM ACCOMMODATION:

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:
Thursday: 8:30 to 6:30
Friday, Saturday and Sunday: 8:30 to 7:30
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday: closed
Monday October 10th: open and LAST DAY
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 and Topsy's frozen lamb cuts.
Open weekends and most weekday mornings.
613 389-3444

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

TOPSY FARMS

Free-range chickens for sale
Brown farm eggs
Lamb cuts



Photo by Brian Little

Judy Bierma along with many others at the Cafe's Music Night (Aug 26).



Photo by Brian Little

Dorothy McGinn and Keith Miller at the Cafe's Music Night.

ALL-CANDIDATES MEETING: Sept. 29

-Ian Murray

The Women's Institute, assisted by AIMS, hosted another well-attended all-candidates meeting. The candidates - Randy Hillier, PC, Bill MacDonald, Liberal, and Dave Parkhill, NDP - all conducted themselves with dignity and reasonable good humour. Bruce Caughey chaired the meeting with his usual skill. Bruce Burnett took care of the audio system with his usual competence. The WI provided refreshments that were much appreciated.

I doubt if anyone was surprised that windmills and the ferry were discussed. Questions were asked and promises were made and there were no surprises. It is good to live in a country where starvation and violence are not issues.



Photo by Brian Little

Randy Hillier (PC)



Photo by Brian Little

Bill MacDonald (Liberal)



Photo by Brian Little

Dave Parkhill (NDP)



Photo by Brian Little

The head table with the candidates and Bruce Caughey chairing the meeting.

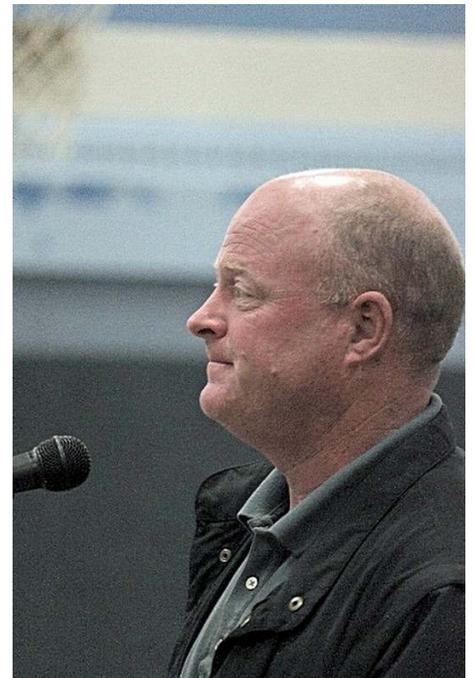


Photo by Brian Little

Duncan Ashley asking a question.