

Amherst Island BEACON



Issue 371

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February 2009

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SNOWY DAY ON THE FERRY



PHOTO BY DAVE YUELL

Ferry crew member Dan Wolfreys guides cars onto the Frontenac II on one of our many snow days this winter. Thank you to all of our ferry workers, who get us to and from the mainland in all kinds of weather.

THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

I've enjoyed working on this Beacon more than usual. There are no eulogies or death notices of friends and/or neighbours. There is a good mixture of articles and I found them all interesting.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to Keith Miller as he recuperates from knee surgery. Also sending get well wishes to Ed Mooney

More Islanders off to escape the cold temperatures were: Tom and Rosemary Richmond and family who spent a week with Tom's sister in Barbados over the holidays.

Warren and Laurene Kilpatrick, Gary and Lesley McDonald and John and Laurie Moolenbeek joined family and friends for a cruise.

A smaller than usual crowd welcomed the New Year at the annual New Year's Dinner and Dance at the community centre.

The winter community euchres got off to a slow start late in January.

The cold weather seems to be holding on for weeks this winter - and only eases up a little for another snow storm! We enjoyed one sunny, mild day this past week. Unfortunately, the groundhog saw his shadow, so it seems our winter isn't over quite yet!

Thanks to the roads crew and Noel, none of us have been immobile for too long!!



**The Amherst
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WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Sharen English
Thirteen members of the Amherst Island Women's



Institute met to conduct a business meeting on Jan. 21 at the home of Leslie Gavlas. Our co president Kirsten Bennick presided over the meeting. After the Ode and Collect, the Roll Call was read and we each discussed the most interesting or inspiring person we have met. Joey Smallwood, Rick Hansen, our parents a classmate, and, a doctor were among people we mentioned as inspirational to us.

The minutes for the last meeting stood as presented. Kirsten asked if any member who does not receive the minutes of the last meeting a week before the coming meeting, to please contact her so she can send them the minutes.

Our Financial Report for December was presented and accepted. It was compiled by Nancy Pearson. The Correspondence Report was given by our Secretary, Mary Kay Steel.

The Board of Directors of the Neilson Museum and Cultural Centre sent us a note thanking us for our donation. Zander and Nancy Dunn, Jean Tugwell and Dale and Eloise Gowan sent cards or notes thanking the W.I. for the great job we did at the Seniors' Xmas Dinner on Dec. 7. The 4 H club of Lennox and Addington sent us a photograph and a thank you note for our support of them. Madeleine Glenn and Joseph White sent us a thank you card for the Get Well card we sent Madeleine.

Pat Beyer, Loyalist Township, approved our request to put L.E.D. lights at the parkette by the ferry, next year. The Kingston Community Foundation sent us a newsletter outlining volunteer opportunities in our area. We received a letter from Can-

ada Comforts Organization, who send blankets, scarves, dresses, teddy bears, clothing and handicraft items to needy children in Madagascar. Shipments from this organization have gone to Belize, Ghana, Honduras, Peru, Bangladesh and Moldavia. They are requesting needles, crochet hooks, crochet wool, scissors, and embroidery threads.

Pennies for Friendship and the Collection occurred.

The Good Cheer report was given by Joyce Reid.

Elsie Willard thanked our group for the Get Well card she received from us. It lifted her spirits and made her feel glad that we thought of her.

The Advocacy Report was given by Judith Harrower. Judith has offered to take used paint and the used batteries that we have collected to Home Depot for our group for recycling. It was noted that both Home Depot and Rona accept used paint for recycling purposes.

The Tweedsmuir Report was given by Leslie Gavlas. She is working on an article about the bank that was on Amherst Island.

The program directors present, Jackie Sylvester and I made plans to organize the Feb. 18 movie night meeting at Joyce Reid's home. Joyce Haines will help set up and Mary Kay Steel and Liz Harrison will help clean up.

Joyce Haines gave the District Report. Interesting things are being done by other district groups: outings, educational events and anniversary celebrations. Of particular interest to us is that we are responsible for the Educational Workshop at the upcoming annual District W.I. meeting. We need to have a seminar proposal and budget by May. Ideas were discussed for this and a decision will be made soon.

Jackie Sylvester presented the Financial Committee Report. She, Marilyn Pilon, Joyce Haines and Nancy Pearson prepared the report outlining to whom we will donate money. A lengthy discussion occurred. We will be making community donations, an international donation and we will be working with our funds and grant money to beautify the parkette near the dock, buy another bench for outside the Neilson Museum, work on the stone fences of Pentland Cemetery, and, plant a tree in memory of our W.I. member Irene Glenn. We will produce a calendar for 2010.

We decided against producing a cookbook in honour of our 110th year. Jackie Sylvester will head the nominating committee for our 2009-2010 executive positions with help from Judith Harrower.

Kirsten thanked hostesses Ida Gavlas and Diane Hieatt for the delicious snack provided by them after our meeting.

Our next meeting will take place on Wed., Feb. 18 at 4 p.m. at the home of Joyce Reid. It will be a dinner and movie night.

JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

Le Grand Duc

Around our Island on these still January nights the eerie hoots of our local species, The Great Horned Owl, can be heard. This owl is about 20 inches or 56 cm. tall with a wingspan of 55 inches. He is covered in barred brown and buff feathers and his head bears two widely spaced feathered tufts. In English he is called The Great Horned which is a misnomer as his tufts are not horns or ears but only adornments like a plumed crown thus his French name is more descriptive. He is the master of the night and the lord of his hundred acres.

Late January is mating time for the Great Horned Owls and their vocalizations are part of the mating ritual and the claiming of their territory. The female hoots with a rhythm of five to seven hoots which is answered by her mate with three to five hoots. The male's call is deeper, richer and more mellow like a distant foghorn and may weave in among the calls of the female as a winter duet fills the forest.

Great Horned Owls do not build nests so they need an abandoned Red-tailed Hawks nest or a broken stub in a large tree that provides a deep enough hollow to accommodate this large bird and her brood. She lines this cavity with her breast feathers. About mid- February she will lay her eggs and now most of this nightly serenade will stop so that predators are not attracted to the nest. If she feels threatened she will hoot to call her mate who is usually close by and if you approach too closely she will hiss and clack her beak at you. She lays two to three dull-white eggs which are elliptical with a rough surface and about 56 mm. in length. The female incubates the eggs for 28-35 days and there she sits, completely dependent on the male to bring her food as snow falls and the temperature plummets.

At this time in their lives the male is seen more frequently because hunting for two and later five he hunts longer hours finding him away from shelter later in the morning so you may spot him on a barn roof or telephone wire as you drive to an early boat. My son Alex has had one perch on his garage roof as it watched his yard for the nutritious voles. Great Horned Owls will take rabbits, skunks, rats, squirrels and even cats for food. The mother stores animals brought by the male around her nest edges like a larder to use later as needed. Fortunately they have no need of smell so sharing a nest with a dead skunk doesn't bother them.

After the eggs hatch they must still be protected from the cold until they feather out and then Mother too can take a turn hunting for these voracious little fledglings. Raymond Wemp had a nesting pair for several years along his lot line with Madeline Glenn and he was able to watch the young owlets emerge from the nest and cling to the home tree as they grew too big for the nest. Once they could take

short flights you were able to see them during the day on Stella Point as they waited for their parents to return with food. Now the evenings would be filled with their screeching as they demanded to be fed.

Kit Chubb a longtime bird rehabilitator from Verona told us once of an owl brought in because it had been hit by a car. After its wing was healed she took it back to the area where it had been found. When it was released she heard it hoot and then an answering hoot from the forested area so she knew that its mate was still waiting in the area. Steve Hart had an interesting encounter with a young Great Horned which spent the night in his shower stall before going for rehab. It too was returned after feeding and care to the area in which it was found.

They are magnificent masters of the night, silent winged and excellent parents. They must nest so early in order to raise young ready to face the following winter. Although the young quickly grow to be the same size as their parents they are more fluffy and are not self sufficient until fall.

Doug and Joan Martin were surprised one morning upon opening their patio drapes to find a young owl on their deck where he remained until the next night when his anxious parents probably came to collect him. Peggy Coulter got an excellent photo of this young visitor.

Great Horned Owls are our very own owls as they live here all year round

Please slow down at dusk and let them get safely across the road as our car lights blind them. They have food on their minds but not just for them, a whole family may be depending on them.

Both Jane and Gary Droppo and also Sally Bowen are reporting Great Horned Owls calling in their areas.

Good Birding.

Happy 90th Birthday

to Helen McMaster-Smith, whose birthday was January 16th.

Helen was an Amherst Islander. She had two sisters, Gene (MacDonald) and Dorothy (Kilpatrick). She went to school on Amherst Island, getting her grade twelve, and then she furthered her education at KCVI. From there she worked at Dupont, when the company was just starting out. She met Earl Smith, of Kingston, and they were married in 1954, and lived in Kingston. They had four children, Terry (Brenda) Debbie (Robert) Colleen (Ray) and Kathy (Marc). Her children, spouses and grandchildren gave her a lovely dinner to celebrate her recent birthday, at the Cataraqui United Church Hall.

Helen is an active senior, and we all wish her well!

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

Regular Council Meeting, Jan. 12

“Moved by Councillor C. Bresee and seconded by Councillor Ashley that the Director of Finance’s report, January 7, 2009 re: 2009 General Rate Budget Pressures be received for information and that a general rate tax levy increase of 4.5% over the 2008 tax levy, after taking into account the tax room provided by assessment growth in 2008, be approved as a guideline for finalizing the draft 2009 budget to be presented for Council’s consideration. Motion carried.”



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“Ms. Pearce commended the Director of Finance, Ms. Moffatt, for being the first Loyalist Township staff member to complete the Municipal Management Program through Loyalist College. She indicated it was an extensive course with ten modules that deal with every aspect of municipal administration. Ms. Pearce noted that Troy Buchanan and herself are also enrolled in the program.”

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“Moved by Councillor Ibey and seconded by Deputy Reeve Lowry that Council ratify the Memorandum of Settlement between The Corporation of Loyalist Township and the Canadian Union of Public Employees and its Local 2150 to amend the Collective Agreement for the period from January 1st, 2009 to December 31st, 2011 as negotiated and signed by both parties on December 22nd, 2008. Motion carried.”

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Included in the agenda documents are copies of two letters from Kathryn E. Moore, Director, Eastern Region of MTO, to Judith Harrower, Front Road, regarding financial information pertaining to our ferry service. The second letter contains annual costs of operating our ferry service and the Wolfe Island service.

The two ferry services are funded so differently that, on the surface, it’s difficult to make meaningful comparisons. Judith says that she and others are looking into the details below the surface in an effort to make our ferry service more equitable with MTO run ferries. Judith is grateful to MTO for providing the figures on Wolfe Island – and so am I. I think that this may be the first time that anyone from Amherst Island has seen these costs.

Regular Council Meeting, Jan 26

Included in the agenda is a copy of a letter that John Harrison, 2nd Concession, wrote to the MOE stating his belief that the Ministry is not adequately addressing the issue of noise from wind generators.

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Only 2 building permits for houses were issued for Amherst Island in 2008 – there were 69 in Loyalist.

INTERNET BLUES.

-Anders Bennick

Living with a computer dial-up connection to the world-wide-web is frustrating if you need quick access to large files. Downloading software or emails containing the latest family pictures you avoid like the plague not only because of the time it takes, but also because it ties up the telephone line and leaves you cut off from the world. Unfortunately in many parts of Amherst Island you have no choice because the available server KOS only covers part of the island and is unwilling to extend its coverage area. Satellite connection is an alternative, but it is more expensive and not as fast as wireless broadband.

This was until recently the unhappy situation I had to live with, but then my son suggested that wireless broadband via a portable modem as provided by Rogers might be a solution. He brought his own portable modem to the island, we plugged it in, and lo and behold we detected a signal that certainly should support the service. I subsequently went to Rogers website (www.Rogers.com) and found a map showing what parts of the island were covered by their service. In general the east end of the island, the north shore east from around the Dump Road, the south shore east of Stella 40 and a few enclaves further along the south shore towards the fishing village were covered. Luckily for us we just fitted into one of these enclaves. I called Rogers and after some arguing they agreed that our address (8875 South Shore Road) was covered and a service via the portable modem was subsequently established. The modem sits on a shelf next to the window in the room where the computer is located. No more blues!

The cost? Since I got the modem for free there was only an activation fee of \$29.95 and the monthly charge is \$44.95.

This may be a solution for other islanders or at least an alternative to KOS. Another advantage of the wireless modem is that you can bring it anywhere that is covered by Rogers, plug it into your computer and connect to the web.

AIMS, JANUARY 10 MEETING

- Dave Meikle & Dayle Gowan

Twenty six men sat down to a delicious breakfast hosted by Rosemary and Ciara Richmond and Sandra and Brandon Reid of the Amherst Island Public School senior class.



Greg Latiak called the meeting to order and asked Dayle Gowan to introduce the featured speaker. Dayle Gowan introduced Ross Haines asking Ross to tell us the story of how he and Joyce came to the island.

Ross started his story in the early 1900s. Ross’s maternal grandparents immigrated to Canada from England in 1904. They and their 7 children settled in the Dundas-College area of Toronto. Ross’s mom was born there in 1908.

(Continued from page 4)

Ross's paternal grandparents were from Croyden, a suburb of London. Ross's grandfather and his eldest son immigrated to Canada in 1908, the rest of the family in 1912. The reunited family moved to Lambton Mills on the Humber River.

WW1 brought tragedy to the family. Their oldest son, George was killed at Vimy Ridge serving with the 48th Highlanders. Ross remembers his grandmother many decades later still wearing the Silver Star in memory of her lost son.

Ross's grandfather, unable to enlist, joined the Home Guard. He was sent to Halifax with the Home Guard after the Dec. 6, 1917, munitions ship explosion devastated the city. He returned with a small piece of the ship found 1 1/2 miles from the explosion site. The experience moved him to inscribe the history of the event on the piece of metal. This piece has been handed down to Ross and now rests in a display case in their home. Ross also has a collection of arrow and spearheads found in the family garden.

Two other sons were lost to the family soon after the war. Implicated in the bootlegging trade, they fled to the U.S.A., never to return.

Ross's dad stayed closer to home though and found work at the nearby Comfort Soap Works. He met Ross's mother around this time and they were married in 1929. They built a home on the Lambton Mills property. Ross's elder brother Don was born in 1934. Ross was born on Oct. 18 1939.

Ross spent his childhood running wild with the other neighborhood urchins in the shale pit and fields around the Lambton Mills area and Bannon Ave.

Life changed for Ross in the mid 1950's. He discovered three things better than the shale pit. Girls, cars, and angling (in an attempt to keep the Beacons G rating, Ross's narrative has been edited a bit at this point.) Ross pursued angling all the way to winning the Canadian Junior Championship in 1952. He held the title for three years. They don't give trophies for young Ross's other two passions but it sounds as if he worked as hard at these as at angling.

Ross left school at 17 after grade 10. He got a job as a surveyor for Etobicoke Township. He recalls he started at \$33 a week. He paid his parents \$15 a week room and board and still had enough to buy a 1949 Meteor.

Ross's teen years were spent tomcatting around Musselman Lake and the Keswick bars. His love of big band music dates from this time.

His beloved wife Joyce came into his life through his brother's friend Allan. Allan's father had married Joyce's mother. Allan asked Ross to be Joyce's date for the Sadie Hawkins dance. That first date went well enough that Ross arranged a second date. He took her bowling not knowing she was her school's bowling champion. He ended up humbly beaten, and rather badly too, but still clearly interested.

Ross and Joyce were married in 1960.... and soon after started a family. They moved to King Township north of Toronto. They rented a farm and set out to raise kids in the country. Ross went to work with his father-in-law in the golf club management business. They worked together at the Kleinberg Golf Club and at the Shelborne Golf club.

In 1971 the family moved back to Lambton Mills and built a house on the family's old garden lot. Joyce got work at CIBC. Ross got a job as a Golf Course Superintendent at the Humber Valley Golf Club. Later Ross was Course Superintendent of Brampton Golf Club. Working in this business gave Ross the opportunity to play the premier golf courses through the winters. In the summers Joyce and Ross took extensive cycling tours.

One of their cycling trips led them to Amherst Island. With the help of the Hieatts they began looking at Island properties. During this time they stayed at Diane Pearce's bed and breakfast and later at Bruce and Suzie Caughey's. They were very taken by the welcome they received on their visits. It reminded them of their Lambton Mills neighborhood. They were able to fulfill Joyce's dream of living on the water when they purchased a Front Rd. property in 1996. They finished building their log home in 1999.

Ross and Joyce have become wonderful additions to the Island community. Joyce is a past president of the A.I. Women's Institute and is currently the President of the Lennox and Addington Women's Institute. Ross is an active member of AIMS and an AIR radio host.

Greg Latiak thanked Ross for his talk and called the business meeting to order.

- Minutes of the Dec 13 meeting were adopted.

- Treasurer's Report: Paul Lauret gave the Treasurer's report. The New Years Dance essentially broke even. Bank balance is in good shape.

- Committee Reports: Allan Glenn responded to one home support request to make repairs to a microwave oven.

- Correspondence: Greg Latiak presented a letter of thanks sent to AIMS from the International Scout and Guide Fellowship for AIMS donation to help support the 'Children of Haiti' school supply project.

- New Year's Eve Dance Review and Discussion: Allen Caughey reported on the New Year's Eve Dance. He began by commenting on the long history of the New Year's Eve Dance on the Island. Over the years it has been hosted in private homes and in public halls. Regardless of the venue it has always been one of the key events of the Island community. Allen used the tradition of honoring the senior Island ladies in attendance with a corsage to illustrate the event's powerful community role. This year Jean Tugwell, Madeleine Kerr, and Marion Glenn were honored. Allen received a letter of thanks from Madeleine Kerr. Allen feels the New Year's Eve Dance is no longer being supported by portions of the Island community.

(Continued on page 6)

WITH GOD IN EL SALVADOR

- Zander of DUNN INN

One of the old catechism questions was, "Where is God?" The answer was, "God is everywhere." I know that's true because I encountered God in El Salvador.

I can't claim to have seen or heard God directly but I met God in the people of El Salvador. Nance and I joined a group of 18 others who went to El Salvador to build concrete houses for the victims of earthquakes and hurricanes. We were able to complete one house and almost finish the second. The house construction we did was important only insofar as it introduced us to the people.

First, we were impressed by the ministers of the Baptist community. They were not concerned about church attendance, proper liturgy or theological debates; they were concerned to enable and encourage the poor among whom they worked. Two of the church buildings were open on two sides and were built to accommodate basketball games, suppers, dances, meetings, as well as worship. One of the ministers has no church at all. He goes daily among the people and listens to their problems, counsels them in their needs, represents them to the authorities. Sometimes groups will meet in his house/office for study, prayer, discussion, planning. He is especially concerned to be of help to school kids who need scribblers, pens, pencils and rulers. Sometimes he simply takes his guitar with him to the River community where the poorest of the poor live beside a river that is really an open sewer. Singing together can bring solace to those folk.

Second, we were impressed by the people - especially the poorest people. They were grateful to us for coming to visit with them. We gave them nothing and promised them nothing. But they saw in us the friendship of Canada or Christians or something. They welcomed us into their homes and shops. They told us their stories. One of them declared that we had done more for them than the mayor of their city who had never come to visit their community. What amazed us most was that they never asked us for anything. Usually when rich, white Canadians go to poor countries they are inundated with requests for gifts of money, sponsorships into Canada or help to pay for educational expenses. In some countries beggars are prominent and persistent. But the people we met seemed genuinely glad to have us with them and to know that we cared enough about them to spend ourselves and our time with them. They asked for nothing more.

Third, we were impressed with the children. Many of the children were very poorly dressed, simply because they had no clothes. They were dirty because water was not easily accessible. They were sick because they lived in cardboard shacks and were not fed well. But they were cheerful and lively. They smiled on every occasion and they wanted to work with us. They carried buckets of sand and water. They tried to push the wheelbarrow. They pounded down the dirt before the floor tiles were laid

down. They were not mere spectators; they got involved in helping us help them. They were thrilled when we presented each of them with small Canada flag pins and they wore those pins proudly. They gladly joined us for refreshments when we stopped to enjoy watermelon during our morning and afternoon breaks. We all fell in love with the kids.

In the ministers, the people and the kids of El Salvador we met God because we experienced with them the love of God. The ministers loved their people enough to sacrifice many things for them. The people loved us enough to welcome us and expect nothing of us. They simply loved being with us. The kids loved the chances we gave them to work and to contribute to their own welfare.

We went to do good in El Salvador - to build two houses for two needy families. We got so much more than we gave. We saw something of the love of God in the ministers, the people and the children. We won't forget how God confronted us in El Salvador.

(Continued from page 5)

There was considerable discussion regarding how AIMS might improve attendance at future New Years Eve dinner/dances. It was agreed to form a committee to look into the matter and report back at a future meeting.

AIMS would like to thank Allen Caughey, Bonnie Caughey, Bruce Burnett, Andrea Cross, Ross Haines and Vicky Keith for their contribution to the organization of the New Year's Dinner Dance.

For their donation of door prizes AIMS would like to thank Dorothy McGinn, Betty Wemp, Classic Video, The Amherst Island Women's Institute, Noel McCormick, and Tom Sylvester.

For their donation of raffle items AIMS would like to thank Topsy Farms, Poplar Dell B&B, Loyalist Township, Janet Scott, Classic Video, Waterside Summer Series, Lyn Fleming, Ken Albertan and the Kaitlan Group, Bonnie Caughey, Saskia Wagmans, Paul Cuyler and Deborah Kimmitt. For his donation to the silent auction AIMS would like to thank Keith Miller. - Community Service Award: Greg Latiak and Ross Haines attended a meeting trying to kickoff the idea of creating a local Community Service Award. This subject will be pursued further.

- Other Business: Ken Albertan inquired if any plans had been made by the Neilson Museum board to honor Allan Kidd. Dayle Gowan responded that the issue was on the agenda of their next board meeting.

ISLAND HORSE MEMORIES

-Al Caughey

Growing up, I used to marvel at all the modernization that occurred in my parents' lifetime. They were around to see cars, electricity, refrigeration, televisions, computers – in all, every tool that we think of as commonplace is something that arrived in their lifetime. News came in a 2-day old paper and correspondence by Canada Post. Travel to the mainland went from 2 stops a week by the steamboat Brockville at Stella and Emerald, to 20 trips per day on the Amherst Islander. Two cheese factories processed the milk from numerous (my father sat at the kitchen table one morning and named 110 families with one or several milk cows) farms. Every farm had several horses to do the farm work – they have been replaced by mammoth tractors of over 100 horsepower.

I was one of the Island youth that grew up with a strong attachment to those horses. Duke, Dick, Vic and King supplied the horsepower on Dad's farm when I was a toddler. I was topped with a bright red hat because sometimes I would disappear from playing in the back yard, and this way they could spot me bobbing back to the field where Dad would be plowing or planting depending on the season. The use of horses continued through the '40's and well into the '50's. You got to know all the horses in the neighbourhood by name. Every year at threshing time they were at your place drawing sheaves or wagons from the field to the threshing mill which was blowing the straw into a huge stack in the barnyard as it separated the grain.

When the new school opened in 1947 our family moved to the house on the hill in Stella because Dad divided his school route into 2 sleigh loads – the 3rd concession drawn by Wilfred Miller; around the South Shore through the fields and up to the village by Dad. The roads in those years were impassable with vehicles in the snowy months.

Every Saturday in Stella was a horse lovers' delight. There was constant traffic up and down street and we would jump on the back of sleighs going both ways. Neilson's and Glenn's stores were both busy with customers and the grist mill at Neilson's was grinding grain. The sheds at St. Albans, the grist mill and the former roads garage (open to the west) were filled with blanketed teams, with the overflow in the fairground horse stalls. Pool was played upstairs in the garage (Whitton's), cards in the Doghouse at Wes Brown's, friendly banter over peanuts and candy bars at Max's (Caroline Ackerman's), and very often Women's Institute at the Town Hall (the old Fire Hall.) The current summer market at the park certainly had its predecessor when it came to Islanders gathering to visit.

Back when horses were the main form of transportation most families took pride in their "road" horse or team. These were the horses used on buggies or spring wagons to take the family to the village or to church. As you can well imagine it didn't take much coaxing for the occasional horse race to break out. Hence horse racing became

the feature attraction at most fall fairs – mainly because most people of the era had experienced it first hand. The Island was no different. Farmers prepped their horses to compete at Stella Agricultural Society fall fair in September, then continued competition racing on the ice in the winter. Harness racing was just blooming into a competitive sport when I was a youngster. Many Islanders took it up as a full time job or part time hobby. Six different training tracks existed at one time, indicating the enthusiasm amongst Islanders.

I won't let my memory wander further into that subject and all the people and horses that many of us recall. Growing up on the Island with all of its characters both 2 legged and 4 legged is something I cherish, and I'm happy to have been part of it.

THE WELBANKS FARMHOUSE

- Ted Welbanks

The Welbanks Farmhouse at 3500 South Shore Road is the home of Rick, Laura, Alec and Jacob, the third Welbanks generation to live in the home.

It was constructed for the family of Edward Fleming in 1878 and the Fleming family owned the property for many generations. Some older Islanders will remember Eddy and Etta Fleming living out their retirement years at 140 McDonald's Lane where John and Alena Schram live today.

Francis and Nessie Welbanks purchased the property from the Flemings in 1949. They added electrical wiring when hydro became available in 1951. The house was wired by Grant Huff, who came from the Brockville area. Two or three years later, indoor plumbing was installed.

I am not aware of the contractor that originally built the house, but it is of very similar construction to others on the Island such as the homes of Janet Scott and Anna Hitchins.

In 2008 the house underwent a total renovation with the interior walls stripped out to the framework. New windows, doors, wiring, plumbing, foam insulation, drywall, flooring, light fixtures, and kitchen were installed. The structure was in very good condition even after 130 years. The house is still pretty much the original design but has been converted from four to three bedrooms. The house remains a good place to live and to raise a family.

I remember Eddy Fleming telling me that he recalled his father planting the trees that are along the roadside in front of the house.

See following page for Picture of the Welbanks House

THE WELBANKS HOUSE



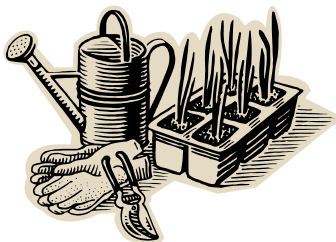
PHOTO COURTESY TED WELBANKS

FROM MY GARDEN

- Doug Green (www.douggreengarden.com)

Five Most Important Tips:

There are several key components to the no-work garden that we should focus on. These are key to both reduced work in the garden as well as increased health of the plants. And while they're both going to cost you a bit of money upfront, they'll pay off in the long run.



Mulch:

The first is mulch. I don't care what kind of garden it is, my belief is that it should be mulched with the appropriate material. I don't care what organic mulch you use on your garden. You want something that degrades naturally, something that will sit and rot to feed the soil microorganisms that are going to make your plants healthy. It really doesn't matter; pick what your wallet and tastes dictate. I used to use straw on the vegetable gardens and bigger perennial borders and bark chips on the front gardens. Plastic mulch belongs in plastic gardens and stone mulch belongs in rock gardens and walkways. Neither of the latter belong in a real garden because they do nothing for the soil. Did I mention that three-inches of mulch will reduce your weeding by over 80%?

Healthy Plants:

Now having healthy plants is particularly important in the coming years as the availability of garden chemicals is reduced. A healthy plant is one that can fight off bugs and

problems; indeed, a healthy plant isn't attractive to pests. Your job as a gardener is to create a healthy soil ecosystem so your plants are healthy. Mulch is the first step to do that. You really do want to mimic nature in this to create a healthy soil and healthy plants.

Rethink the Use of Compost:

Let me suggest that you rethink your use of compost. Here's the bottom line with this material. It's not the actual compost itself that's what we want in our gardens. It's the microorganisms that live in the compost that we want. We want all those beneficial bacteria and fungi that actually feed our plants and make them healthy. You can do this by applying lots of compost or you can learn how to make compost tea. Compost tea takes a handful of good compost and turns it into enough microorganisms to do 5 acres of ground.

Organic Matter:

The organic matter component for your garden soil health can be added by using mulch, by purchasing peat moss or by using all the leaves you can find and tossing them onto your gardens. Digging them in will shorten the time it takes to make them available to plants, leaving them on the surface is slower but a heck of a lot easier (and just as effective in the long run).

E-Coli Bacteria and Compost:

If you're worried about the recent scares about e-coli bacteria, then let me assure you that there is no e-coli in properly made compost. A hot compost destroys all e-coli bacteria.

To head off the question about purchasing manure to be used in compost tea - the answer is that manure isn't some-

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

thing modern science recommends you use in compost tea.

To continue the series on easy plants to grow in the garden, let me suggest you consider the five vegetables you like to eat. Or will eat may be more to the point. I say this because many folks decide they're going to grow some of everything; by August, they're staggered by the amount of work it takes to actually grow food. Frankly, it's no darn wonder that we have farms and we no longer do all this work ourselves. It can be hard. Without further ado, I give you five easy veggies.

The most popular plant in the vegetable garden is the tomato. Man, we grow a lot of these; largely because they're easy to grow and so useful in the kitchen. This plant loves warm soil so the first week of May, you're going to lay some clear plastic on the garden, weight down the edges and walk away. You're going to turn this area into a mini-greenhouse to warm up the soil. You're going to plant tomatoes the third or fourth week of May; but remove the plastic just before you do. If you don't remove the plastic, the soil will get too hot and kill off the plants. Plant your transplants so that only the top 12-15 cm (6-inches) is showing, the rest can be buried and will form roots along the buried stem. Two points: if you have a mulched garden, pull the mulch back to lay down the plastic and then return the mulch after planting and plastic-removal and yes, can lay down compost without digging it in, simply toss it around the base of the plant. The rest of the summer is about making sure the plants have adequate water. I've written entire books about growing tomatoes but getting them started properly is the single most important thing you can do in our region to ensure a good yield.

Peas are one of the easiest vegetables to grow if you follow a few really simple rules. The first is to plant them in mid-April. This is perhaps the earliest seed to go into the ground and if you do this, you'll get great crops. If you wait until the soil warms up and plant them along with the rest of your garden, you're going to be very disappointed in the harvest. Do try some of the wonderful sugar snap style peas; being an edible podded pea, I dare you to not eat any as you harvest or walk to the kitchen. Plant them about 1 cm deep and keep damp until the new shoots start poking through the ground. We grow ours up a trellis to save garden space and make them easier to find. Do make the supports quite sturdy because this plant will develop quite a weight and will knock down a flimsy support. The advantage of growing peas is that while they're giving you a crop to eat, they're also producing nitrogen in the soil for the following crop. After the peas are finished, pull them out and plant some seeds in there for fall harvests.

Most folks like a good salad and growing several of the main ingredients will make your taste buds jump. Lettuce and spinach form the basis for many a salad and (mostly)

take the same growing conditions. Plant these early if you want to eat them. I'm talking getting both of these plants into the garden about the same time as peas. Now, you can start them a few weeks beforehand in the house and transplant or simply plant the seeds. I prefer seeding because you get good germination, can eat the thinnings and it's less work. You want to plant them early because a late planting will turn lettuce very bitter and spinach will grow and produce seeds in the heat. Try planting every week so you'll have multiple crops coming along. Harvest the outer leaves and when the temperatures start to rise, and the lettuce get bitter, switch to spinach salads. Stop planting through the heat of the summer but start again in mid to late-August when the nights start to cool again. You'll have great fall crops of both of these easily grown plants.

The most easily grown squash is zucchini. Let me suggest however that you only grow one or maybe two plants. Anything more is overkill and you won't be able to eat them. The best two tips I can give you with this plant are to sow seeds (the seeds can be easily saved for several years) when the ground warms up (about the last week of May) and to harvest the squash when they are about 20-25 cm (8-inches or so) long. After the fruit reaches 30 cm or so, it starts to become woody and not good eating.

Those are the five easiest growing vegetables I can think of and those with the most use in the kitchen. Having said that, grow what you'll eat and enjoy - that's the most important gardening decision.

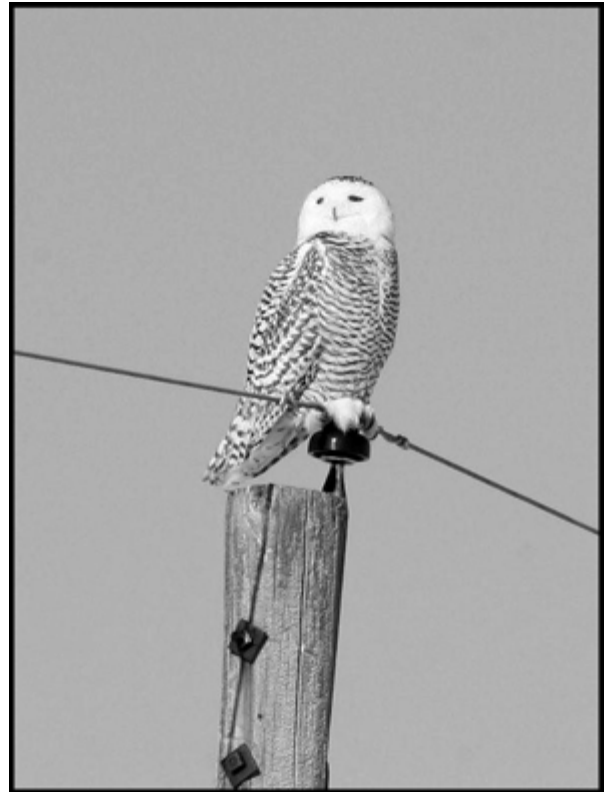






































PHOTO BY DAVE YUELL

Snowy Owl

CJAI 92.1 FM AMHERST ISLAND PUBLIC RADIO PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2009

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6PM	Canadian Classical 	The Udder Morning Show 	Tuesday Tracks 	Wednesday Morning Fuel Run 	Thursday Morning Show 	Friday Morning Show 	Canadian Folk 
7	Program Exchange	Island Folk CDN 	Whole Canadian Folk/Roots Album 	Island Folk CDN 	Island Folk CDN 	Live from the Wolf's Den (Replay) 	The Hank Snow Discography Show
8							Sally's Books
9	Cheryl's Canadian Spotlight	Down Memory Lane 	Whole Jazz Album 	Jazz from Jim's Vault 	Jazz from Jim's Vault LIVE! 	Jazz from Jim's Vault 	Sally's Books
10	Sally's Book		OTR: Bing Crosby	OTR: Let George Do It	OTR: Space Patrol		OTR: Lone Ranger!
11	Canadian Jazz 	OTR: Let George Do It	Jazz from Jim's Vault 	The Green Majority	Jazz from Jim's Vault LIVE! 	Jazz from Jim's Vault 	The Green Majority
12 Noon	Uncle Barry's Canadian Blues 	GI Jive	Vintage AI Beacon	Whitehall 1212	Uncle Don	Sally's Books	"For the Birds"
1PM	Canadian Voices	Program Exchange	Celtic Tuesdays 	Live from the Wolf's Den 	Two Loons on a Thursday Afternoon 	Friday Morning Show (Replay) 	Tea & Serendipity
2	Live from the Wolf's Den (Replay) 	Udder Morning Show (Replay) 	Music From Away 	Tea & Serendipity Hank Snow Discography Show	Canadian Spotlight Vintage AI Beacon	LIVE ISLAND CONCERT SHOW	Community Programming
3	Music from Away	Book Reading	Book Reading	Tea & Serendipity Hank Snow Discography Show	Canadian Spotlight Vintage AI Beacon	Book Reading	Jazz From Jim's Vault 
4	Celtic Hour 	Sally's Books Uncle Don	Music From Away	Hank Snow Discography Show	Vintage AI Beacon	Cheryl's Fried Fridays 	Canadian Mellow
5	Bound for Glory	Jazz from Jim's Vault LIVE! (Replay) 	Uncle Barry's Blues 	Uncle Barry's Blues 	Uncle Barry's Blues 	Down the Rabbit Hole 	Deconstructing Dinner
6		Radio Moo - CDN 	Radio Moo - CDN 	Radio Moo - CDN 	Radio Moo - CDN 	Radio Moo - CDN 	LIVE ISLAND CONCERT SHOW
7	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	LIVE ISLAND CONCERT SHOW
8							Down the Rabbit Hole 
9	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Down the Rabbit Hole 
10							Down the Rabbit Hole 
11	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Down the Rabbit Hole 
Midnight	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.	Radio Moo - Intl.

Doug Green's Garden 8am, Noon, 5pm. Engines of our Ingenuity 9am, 5pm. WEATHER with Audrey 15 after the hour.

To listen online live go to www.cjai.ca/playing.html and click on Listen Online.

To become a member visit our website www.cjai.ca/?page_id=6, write to us: Amherst Island Public Radio, 5830 Front Road, Stella, ON K0H 2S0 or telephone: 613-384-8282.

Note: Some changes to the programming schedule may occur after time of printing. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, and encourage you to either visit our website, or call the station for updates and programming changes.

BATH MUSICAL AWARENESS CONCERT SERIES

February 28: Tweed Twangers, Poly Ethnic Cajun Funtry Slam Grass Music played with Traditional yet Unusual Instruments.

March 28: Terry Tufts, One of the Best Guitarists, Vocalists & Songwriters of Our Generation

All Concerts 7:45 pm to 11:00 pm Saint John's Memorial Hall 215 Church Street, Bath.

Tickets for each performance: \$8 Advance; \$10 Week of Show; \$12 at the door.

Ticket info: Loyalist Music, 366 Main Street Bath, 613 352 3414, loyalistmusic@kos.net

THANK YOU



I wish to thank everyone who sent cards, gifts, visits and kind wishes following my recent surgery.

Keith Miller

My 90th Birthday was celebrated on Jan. 18th at St. Paul's. I loved every minute of it, thanks to my family, my church family and my friends. I was shown so much love and respect.

Thank you for all of the cards, good wishes and gifts. It is a day I will always cherish and remember. See you all again on my 100th!!

Christine Gregg (Glenn).

The Women's Institute of Amherst Island wants to thank Islanders very much for their enthusiastic recycling efforts (specifically hazardous waste, paint and batteries). We have collected 55 pounds of used batteries which you have dropped off at the General Store. Judith Harrower took the batteries to Rona. Both Rona and Home Depot accept used batteries, (except rechargeable and car), and paint, free of charge. It is a very easy process at the two stores.

If you take used paint bought from Rona to them they will give you a five dollar credit to their store.

The W.I. will continue to take in used batteries. The drop off box is a blue box in the foyer of the General Store.

We encourage Islanders to recycle more and more. The W.I. is working with Loyalist Township to start to recycle styrofoam, from the small containers to the large pieces.

Thank you very much again Amherst Islanders.

Judith Harrower and Liz Harrison.

~ CLASSIFIEDS ~ ~ CLASSIFIEDS ~

Please note the ferry office will be closed Monday February 16th for Family Day and open Tuesday February 17th.

WANTED: Filing cabinet – vertical, with four drawers.

Doesn't have to be pretty, just has to be functional!

Please call Rosemary at The Lodge 613-561-0613

A note from Loyalist Engineer, David Thompson: The **Frontenac II** will be employed at Wolfe Island when the Wolfe Islander goes in for dry dock inspection. MTO has not provided a schedule yet but it is expected to happen this spring.



COOL MEADOWS GALLERY & BAKERY

30 Front Road
613-634-8716
Tue – Sat.
10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Peter Bigras

CHIROPRACTOR

Amherst Island Chiropractic,
Dave Meikle D.C.,
11450 Front Rd., Appointments Tuesday and Thursday 8-10 am. 4-6 pm.
For appointments or any questions call Dave at 613-384-5363 or 613-328-8892.

FOR SALE

Refrigerator, 21 cu.ft., \$75.
Antique dresser complete with mirror, \$175.
Water pump, 10 US gpm, \$125.
Contact Lance Pope at 905-569-2023

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CALENDARS

Featuring Brian Little's photographs, are still available. The cost is \$10.00. They are available from Liz Harrison (613-389-5176), Joyce Reid (613-634-8716) and the General Store.

WELL & SEPTIC WORKSHOP

How to take care of your well and septic system; How to test your water and protect your water resources.

Speakers include a well technician, a public health inspector, a hydrogeologist, staff from the Conservation Authority, and a specialist from Well Aware. Saturday, February 28 – 9 a.m. to noon – South Fredricksburg Hall, Napanee. Saturday, March 7, 9 a.m. to noon, Municipal Offices, Odessa. To reserve a seat, please call: Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (613)546-4228 Ext. 221

FOOT CARE ON AMHERST ISLAND

Some of you may not be aware that this health service is available on the Island. \$25/half hour and includes nail trimming, paring down of corns, calluses, and sanding of dry skin.

If you are interested please phone Judith Harrower at 613-384-0435.

Christmas at AIPS



PHOTO BY BRIAN LITTLE

*The junior class of AIPS, perform their holiday celebration for family and friends at AIPS.
(Sorry that we didn't get this photo in sooner!)*

The Foot

