

Amherst Island BEACON



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May 2008

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES



ABOVE PHOTO BY BRIAN LITTLE, PHOTO RIGHT BY TERRY CULBERT

Terry Culbert of Second Concession Road is shown lining up to board the Frontenac II in this 2007 photo. In the second picture, the burned out shell of the same 1990 Dodge Ram pickup truck is towed onto the Quinte Loyalist a few weeks ago. It is thought that a nest constructed in the engine compartment could have ignited. The truck sat all winter and had just been brought back into service to transport roadside refuse to the landfill after Terry and his partner Barb Hogenauer completed their annual AIMS spring road cleanup. Terry praises all the folks that came to his aid including our marvelous fire department.

THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

First a big apology to Judith Harrower, for missing out the last part of her article "Dale Willard" in the April issue. The last sentence should have read:

"Sincere condolences go out to Bonnie, but also to Dale's sister, Barbara Laing and his niece, Melinda and to his brother, Garnet."

Terry Culbert is back from his tour of duty as a male escort. He is once again providing us with interesting and timely photos and captions. When Dave Youell, Brian Little and Terry are each sending us photos it is difficult to keep

the Beacon to a size that isn't going to cost more to print than we can recover in sales. It is an unfortunate fact of life that a 24 or 28 page Beacon does not sell more copies than a 20-page Beacon. I am very reluctant to raise Beacon prices so we will only go over 20 pages - which has to be done in 4-page increments - when we really have to.

The message from the above paragraph is: we may not be able to put in all the photos we get and we regret hurting anyone's feelings.

In addition, the Beacon's articles-in-waiting file is starting to build up. Everything will eventually be published so please don't be offended if something you've sent in doesn't appear right away.

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AMHERST ISLAND

ROADS

- David C. Thompson, P.Eng.,
Director of Engineering Services
Loyalist Township

I can appreciate some of the negative comments we've received regarding Amherst Island roads as the winter of 2007-2008 was a very trying one for our Roads crew and for road conditions in general. The wet weather experienced seasonally on the Island is not conducive to maintaining good driving surfaces on the gravel roads.

In order for roadways to function well, regardless of surface type, there must be adequate drainage, usually accomplished by ditching and placing suitable roadway base. Ideally, a minimum of 12" of coarse gravel is available to act as base with a suitable depth of fine gravel for the driving surface. Most of the approximately 70 kms of roads on the Island are gravel with little or no base. As such, they do resemble (as noted in one letter we received) the laneways of American Revolution vintage. For the most part, I would have to agree with the comments received.

Those roads that are hard surfaced, to my understanding, were paved when the province provided dedicated financial road subsidy. This program was stopped in the mid-1990's. Transportation budgets must now compete with all other aspects within the municipality for funding. Even when the subsidy program existed, funding for paving was granted only for roads with sufficient vehicle counts.

Over the years, various surface types have been employed within the province. The type of surface used is predominantly decided on the basis of the vol-

ume of traffic experienced by a road on an average day. The province has also developed Minimum Maintenance Standards by which low volume roads, i.e. with fewer than 100 vehicles per day, are classified as Class 6. When looking at the maintenance requirements for a Class 6 road, the province has said that there are no standards for this level of road. Some of the Island roads fit the Class 6 designation. In the days when provincial funding was available, roads with vehicle counts of fewer than 400 vehicles per day were expected to be gravel surfaced. Above 400 vehicles per day, the roadways would have a hard surface. For roadways with large per day vehicle counts, it was recommended that these surfaces be paved with asphalt. Sometimes roads were provided a hard surface to alleviate certain maintenance costs.

Based on the above, most of the roadways on the Island have the appropriate surface type for the level of traffic on that roadway. That being said, I must agree that many of the roads are in need of drainage and granular base and improvements to the structural base of the road. Until these matters are addressed, it is not practical to provide a hard surface for the road, even if traffic counts warrant the upgrade. To this end, the level of ditching occurring on an annual basis has increased dramatically over the past few years.

Paving and surface treatment of existing roads are not itemized on our Capital Budget, but are prioritized on an annual basis, through the Township's roadway maintenance budget. The hard surfaced roads on the Island have been reviewed and are itemized. We acknowledge that they are approaching the end of their useful life and will need to be resurfaced in the near future. Please note that they are not scheduled for the 2008 program.

Within the Township's 10-Year Capital Budget there are three projects on Amherst Island. South Shore Road and Front Road (west of Emerald) are currently being designed by a Consulting Engineering firm. Both of these projects have been commenced to address safety and road stability issues, due to the fact that the road lines are immediately adjacent to the lake. In addition, improvements to a section of Front Road (east of Stella) has been underway for the past two construction seasons and ditching was completed in 2007. The road is ready for grading and resurfacing in 2008. In addition to the funds provided in the current Capital Budget, the Township has previously approved approximately \$200,000 for work currently underway on the three projects.

The cost to improve a roadway in the condition of the gravel roads on Amherst Island to two-lane surface treated roads is approximately \$500,000 per kilometer. The standards may be somewhat reduced for the Island roads, due

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

to the low levels of traffic, but clearly the municipality is not in a position to upgrade the Island roads to a hard surface status in the immediate future. When comparing the level of service to a new urban community, one must remember that the cost of paved roads, curbs, water and sewer servicing, etc. are paid by the developer and included in the cost of the houses. Municipalities do not have any significant funding available to enhance rural roads to urban standards. The Township's policy is to identify the road sections with the greatest needs and to make the required improvements a priority, with no particular emphasis on urban or rural. The Township uses provincially recognized procedures for rating roads.

Road crews have additional funding available for ditching projects, culvert installations and re-grading. The use of these funds are determined by the Island Roads Supervisor based on his assessment of maintenance priorities, in conjunction with the approval of the Transportation & Solid Waste Manager.

Limited federal and provincial funding has been available for projects that meet certain criteria, as established by the upper levels of government. The current level of funding does not approach the needs of the municipality, although the level of funding has improved in recent years with programs such as the Gas Tax Transfer.

Roadway needs and priorities are reviewed every few years within the Transportation Department and the highest priorities are presented to Council for consideration within the Capital Budget document.

In summary, we would like to be in a position to acceler-

ate road improvements on Amherst Island, but this is not possible without significant tax increases. It is my understanding that a 1% tax increase raises approximately \$70,000-\$80,000 on a Township wide basis. As you can see, there would need to be a major increase to have funding available for a notable change in the Island Roads. Currently, the taxes raised on the Island do not support the current level of road maintenance and that is why, in my opinion, the Island roads were not improved to a higher level prior to amalgamation. We are hoping that, as the level of ditching increases, we will be in a position to improve road base and ultimately be able to maintain reasonable road services on a year-round basis.

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

The only item of interest to Amherst Island residents in the April proceedings of Council was the passing of the 2008 budget. Municipal budget documents belong to the

category of things that are both extremely important and extremely boring at the same time – like insurance policies and real estate documents.

Those with an interest in the budget are hereby encouraged to use the Township's web site to fulfil their quest for knowledge.



2007 Scotiabank Giller prize winning author Elizabeth Hay: *LATE NIGHTS ON AIR*, visited *The Lodge* on Amherst Island on April 25th. Island resident Eric Friesen, host of CBC Radio Two's *Studio Sparks* and a personal friend of Ms. Hay, moderated the evening. The reading, a benefit for Amherst Island Public Radio, raised over eight hundred dollars.

PHOTO BY TERRY CULBERT

HAPPY 95TH BIRTHDAY, HELEN CAUGHEY

Born on Amherst Island, April 13, 1913 in the handsome farmhouse still standing at the corner of South Shore Road and the Marshall Forty Foot Road. On Sunday, April 13th of this year, Helen celebrated her 95th birthday at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, surrounded by family and friends.



Above: Helen, flanked by her sons Bruce on the left and Allen, greets Joan and Doug Martin.

Right: The Journeymen, a gospel quartet from Fergus, Ontario and friends of the Caughey family sing at the morning service.

Bottom Right: Helen Caughey surrounded by family and friends in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.



Friends enjoy the lavish luncheon prepared by the Caughey women.



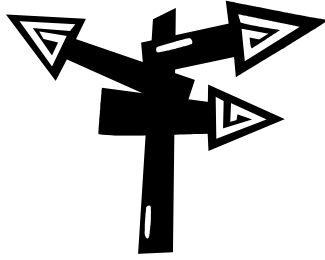
Above: This picture was taken for the Presbyterian Record. Left to right: Reverend Zander Dunn, Marian Glenn, Nancy Dunn, Helen Caughey, Allen Caughey, Beth (Caughey) Forester and Bruce Caughey.



ALL PHOTOS BY TERRY CULBERT

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray



Alan's softball article (page 11) has brought back some memories of my early days on the Island. The games were taken very seriously in both the male and female leagues. I believe Glenn Sheil was instrumental in getting the Island leagues going - just as he was involved in starting the Beacon and the Fire Department - and perhaps when his enthusiasm waned, so did the leagues. There was also a steady draining away from the Island of young people.

I remember being impressed by the natural athletic talent of some of the Island's young men: David Kerr, Clifford Sudds and Donald Miller come to mind. The older players such as Earl Tugwell, who seemed ancient in his early 50's, Denis McGinn and Wilbert Willard, were still pulling their weight and clearly enjoying the competition.

I can still see Allan Glenn spinning around after missing a ball and how far the ball went when he connected. Jack Forester hit a lot of balls into Jimmie's field. The home plate area was diagonally opposite where it is now and there was a home run fence made of borrowed snow fence.

My strongest memory is trying to avoid getting struck out (again!) by David Kerr.

I mainly remember how much fun it could be to play when both teams were playing well.

The Island slow pitch co-ed league that was active in the

late '80's was a lot of fun and the competition was pretty good natured. I quite enjoyed the skills of Chad Miller even as he hit another ball over my head. It was always interesting to see if any of the balls hit by Danny Wolfreys or Noel would actually go into orbit.

Congratulations to the Lodge - Molly and crew - for putting on another great series of folk music. Well perhaps not so much congratulations as thanks for bringing these talented people to our Island.

I try to attend each concert and am always impressed by the quality of the performances. Clearly the musicians appreciate the Lodge's cosy atmosphere and the friendly audiences.

Talking to the musicians, it is obvious that their craft is something they feel that they must do for their own well-being. They certainly cannot be motivated by money.

Congratulations also to CJAI on its second anniversary of broadcasting home-grown radio to the Island community and, since the power increase, to our mainland neighbours.

As I have said many times, CJAI is a hugely more difficult project than the Beacon: government regulations; decision making; volunteers involved; lots of complicated equipment; and, lack of audience feedback.

ART TOUR

Saturday, July 12th from 11am to 4:30pm, Amherst Island Men's Society will present an OPEN STUDIO ART TOUR as a fundraiser for the Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre. Whilst touring the Island, visiting over a dozen artists' and photographers' venues, you will discover Amherst Island as a Living Museum. All participants will be donating an 8"X 8" piece of their work to be viewed and sold in The Back Room of the Museum, with all proceeds going to the Museum fund. Information can be obtained from co-coordinators Peter Large and Terry Culbert. It has been four years since the last AIMS art tour.

Right: At a recent art tour meeting held at the Museum, co-coordinator Peter Large on the right discusses plans with volunteer Lorna Willis and museum representative Bruce Burnett.



PHOTO BY TERRY CULBERT

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Sharen English

The April 16 meeting was held at the home of Kirsten Bennick opening with The Ode, Collect, pennies for friendship and O' Canada.

There were twelve members and one guest, Judy Wamberg.

Membership dues for 2008/2009 were collected.

The statement of assets of the Women's Institute were presented and approved.

Monthly reports were heard followed by organization of the registration for the Provincial Conference in June.

A sign up volunteer sheet for bake sales for long weekend Fridays in the summer and also one for the Saturday morning market cart were passed around.

The district annual meeting on May 21 requested that our branch perform an In Memoriam for the district members who have passed during the year. This will be performed by Judy Wamberg, who joined our branch at this meeting.

The provincial meeting of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario will take place at St. Lawrence College, Kingston on June 6, 7 and 8.

The hostesses for the night, Kirsten Bennick, Liz Harrison and Coralie Marshall were thanked for the lovely refreshments.

Grace was said and God Save the Queen was sung and the meeting adjourned.

The annual general meeting of the Women's Institute of Amherst Island 2007/2008 was conducted.

Next year's co presidents, Claire Jenney and Kirsten Bennick, presided with Anna Hitchins as the chair.

Election and installation of officers for 2008/2009 occurred.

The meeting was adjourned.

A brown bag auction followed.



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Women's Institute is pleased to announce that the recycling project we took on 2 years ago is now being implemented on the Island.

Two years ago one of our members mentioned the need to recycle more efficiently. The Recycling Committee was formed by members Stephanie Boissonneault, Joyce Haines, and Judith Harrower to liaise with the Township with regard to this matter.

Letters to Council were written with suggestions as to what we would like to see available here.

Manco, a company that has been servicing Wolfe Island for years, and was recommended by our committee has taken on managing our recycling.

We can now recycle all that we could before plus newsprint, flattened cardboard materials and old telephone books. Please note all paper materials must be either tied with string or contained in a cardboard box. All cardboard must be flattened. Follow the instructions for other materials.

We have worked hard to obtain this and hope that the Islanders will appreciate the new facility by placing the items in the appropriate bins.

There will also be a temporary container placed near the bins for old/used household batteries.

The W.I. also has a good supply of biodegradable recyclable bags for sale. They are just as strong as regular plastic bags but will decompose. We also encourage people to use cloth bags when shopping.

Help us by remembering to RECYCLE, RE-USE and REDUCE the amount of waste that is put in our limited landfill site.

Any recyclable item that is not taken at the Amherst Island Landfill such as hazardous waste can be taken to Kingston at 196 Lappan's Lane. Hours there are:

Regular Recyclables: 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Saturday.

Hazardous wastes: April to November, Thursdays and every second Saturday of the month from 9 am until 2 pm.



JANET'S JOTTINGS

- Janet Scott

As I write this month's column I have just had an exciting call from my next door neighbour, Judy Gould, telling me that she has a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at her feeder. I hadn't put out my feeder as I usually wait until May 1st as their average arrival date for thirty-seven years of data is May 4th. This fellow was in a hurry to return to beautiful Amherst Island and probably remembered Judy's delectable treats from last year. April 27th is an early arrival for this long distance traveler.

This three gram bird doubles its body weight as it feeds on the Yucatan Peninsula in Central America before a non-stop flight of 500 miles across the Gulf of Mexico and on to United States and up the east coast to Canada.

In the fall it takes a more leisurely trip through the United States and around the Gulf over land but in its haste to get to summer breeding grounds, this wee mite takes a hazardous over water flight.

Tubular flowers with deep wells of nectar behind their stamens have developed a symbiotic relationship with the Hummingbird so that each benefits. Our little flyer gets high energy sweetness and the plant gets pollination. The Hummingbird does not have a highly developed sense of smell so colour is more the attraction to such plants. Its tiny tongue extends well beyond the beak, twice the length of the beak, and acts like a tubular straw withdrawing the

syrup from the flower. The Hummingbird has a metabolic rate of ten times that of an athlete and digests 99 percent of the sugar in 15 minutes.

Hummingbirds also depend on insects and spiders for their food source. They catch small insects on the fly and pick spiders off shrubs, flowers and porches. The need for protein, minerals and vitamins is greatest in the nestlings, which are fed largely on invertebrates to provide the range of nutrients necessary for their growth and development. The female Hummingbird feeds on wood ash to strengthen her eggshells.

In one tiny compact energy machine there are a lot of complex things going on. Its heart is larger in proportion to its body size than other creatures. Its wings move in a figure eight motion at fifty times per second. Its body absorbs one and one half its own body weight every day. If it is cold or nectar is in short supply it goes into a torpor, a hibernation-like state, to preserve energy.

We usually see the Ruby-throated Hummingbird here in our area but sometimes the Rufous Hummingbird has been seen. It has a rufous back and belly. Stewart Reed had one at his feeder a number of years ago. If you travel to tropical countries you have probably seen a variety of these fascinating little birds but wherever they are they bring a delight to the eye with their jewel-like colours.

Good Birding everyone. Soon the Orioles will be flitting and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks will join the morning serenade. Watch out for Warblers!

PUBLIC SPEAKING AT



The Winners back row left to right: Alec Welbanks, Codey Mayman, Daniel Little, Fae MacArthur, Shyanne Shurtliffe and Rachel Scott.

Front row left to right: Barry Richmond, Jack Little and Rebecca Scott.



Amherst Island Public School's public speaking competitors are back row left to right:

Daniel Little, Alec Welbanks, Kyle Aitkenhead, Fae MacArthur, Gavin Ashley and Brandon Reid.

Middle row left to right: Muressa Fabian-Robinson, Codey Mayman, Ciara Richmond, Riley Lambert, Dakota Wolfreys and Nicholas Varga.

Front row left to right: Jack Little, Barry Richmond, Rebecca Scott, Rachel Scott and Shyanne Shurtliffe

PHOTOS BY TERRY CULBERT

THE HOME OF ANNA HITCHINS

- Zander of DUNN INN

Three generations of the same family have lived in the home of Anna Hitchins at 5950 on the Second Concession not far from the Emerald Forty Foot.

The house and barn were built by Allen McDonald in 1879, the year Willie Hitchins was married to Allen's sister, Mary McDonald. The newly marrieds moved in that year, raised their family and enjoyed their house for many years. Some while ago the Hitchins family, while cleaning out the wood shed found a statement that the house, immediately after it had been erected, had been insured for its full value of \$640!

In 1913 Willie and Mary's son, Arthur Gilbert (Bert) Hitchins married Ada Fowler, the grand-daughter of Daniel Fowler, Amherst Island's famous artist. For two or three years Bert and Ada lived in the house on the Front Road which recently belonged to the late Dennis McGinn. In 1916 Willie and Mary moved to a little house East on the Second Concession opposite the home of Rick and Carol Morgan. That allowed Bert and Ada to move into the Hitchins house on the Second Concession. The house to which Willie and Mary moved no longer exists.

Bert and Ada's son, Henry, married Anna Glenn who grew up in the house last occupied by Syke Fleming, at 350 on the Third Concession. Henry and Anna moved in with Bert and Ada Hitchins shortly after their wedding in 1945. In 1946 Bert and Ada moved to a small house next door where Jim and Sandra Reid live today. It was built for them by Irv Tugwell. Since that time the Reid house has been expanded, added to and improved many times so that the house to which Bert and Ada Hitchins moved is unrecognizable today.

The Hitchins residence, in which Anna and her son, Arthur, reside today, (Henry died in 2000) is a beautiful, well-kept and comfortable home. It has, of course, been improved over the years. For example, although it has never been insulated, the outside and inside walls have been rebuilt. The aluminum siding and the new inner wallboard have helped keep the house warm. An oil furnace has been added along with a wood-burning stove in the expanded parlour. All new windows have been installed and many of the rooms have been repainted and wall-papered. New wooden floors have been laid down in the parlour and the dining room. A new roof has been recently added.

Originally Anna Hitchins' house had five bedrooms. Some years ago the bedroom downstairs off the parlour was remodelled. An open arch replaced the door and the room was enlarged to hold a desk, some easy chairs and a piano. One of the unusual features of the house is that it did not have a back kitchen, which pleases Anna who has never liked back kitchens. The Hitchins house does, however, have a large woodshed appended. An indoor bathroom was installed in 1968 on the second floor at the top

of the stairs. Insofar as this is the only bathroom in the house, a mechanical chair lift up the side of the stairs allows Anna, who recently suffered a stroke, to get upstairs easily.

One of the unique features of this house is the series of blue and red windows surrounding the front door. They are brightly coloured and attractively patterned. While Anna contends such windows were common in houses 130 years ago I have not seen these coloured entrance windows in any other house on the island.

The most interesting room is the dining room. In the centre of the ceiling is a moulded circle. Within it hangs the central light. Before 1948, when electricity came to the Hitchins house, the hanging oil or gas lamp was located there. It was normally fairly high but could be lowered down over the dining room table for better illumination for card games or checkers and crokinole. The table itself is an antique. It is round but can be extended into an oval shape, by inserting leaves, to accommodate 14 to 16 people. The recently re-upholstered matching chairs are over 100 years old.

A very impressive buffet holds many dishes, all of which were hand-painted by Daniel Fowler. On each piece is the same crest on which are printed the words, "Media Tutissimus Ibis" which means Middle Road. A display case of rounded glass - not made anymore - is full of the unique chinaware. Another display case, which beautifies the dining room, was purchased by Henry Hitchins using money he and Anna had been given on their 50th Anniversary. It also contains attractive and valuable dishware and figurines.

On the walls of the dining room and the parlour are Daniel Fowler original paintings. Anna figures she had twenty-five of Fowler's pictures before she gave away to relatives and friends about ten of them. The fifteen she retains are all beautiful. Many are Amherst Island scenes and others are of Fowler's travels in Europe. Some of these pictures Anna has graciously allowed to be displayed on various occasions, most recently at the Agnes Etherington Art Gallery which exhibited many of Daniel Fowler's works.

The kitchen has been modernized, of course, but it has seen only three stoves. The first stove was a huge wood-burner which heated the house. Later Henry Hitchins replaced it with a soft coal burning stove which proved too dangerous to keep. Now Anna does her cooking on a modern electric stove.

There are many things to like about the Hitchins house. For one thing, you can see the entire 100 acres farm from the house. The location is quiet, although Anna contends it is much noisier now than it was when she first moved to the Second Concession. In this sturdy and comfortable historic house Anna continues to feel right at home!



Original small cottage which has turned into Jimmy & Sandra Reid's House.



Garry Hitchins in front of the barn.



Original small cottage which has become Jimmy & Sandra Reid's House.



Henry and Anna's first car in front of the house.



Hitchin's House

See back page for current photo of Hitchin's House.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ZANDER DUNN

LATEST FERADAY GRANDCHILD FETED

- Jill Schatz

On Friday, April 11 Rosina Betty Maureen Feraday entered the world early at a petite but healthy 4 lbs 6 1/2 oz. Rosina is the daughter of Lisa and John Feraday who are also the parents of 2 year old Michael. John is the seventh of Ray and Betty Feraday's eight progeny. As the 18th grandchild for Betty and Ray (now 11 boys and 7 girls), Rosina captured the hearts of her many aunts and girl cousins at a shower hosted by Rosie's Aunt Marie on April 26. Over 30 female family and friends shared a wonderfully happy afternoon of food, warmth and celebration along with a dash of friendly rivalry while enjoying the entertaining party games.

PHOTOS BY JILL SCHATZ



Aunt Charlene Feraday (formerly Eves) with the new baby surrounded by 4 cousins, from left to right: Robyn, Melanie, Rebecca & Danielle.



New cousins Robyn & Rosie share a tender moment.



Lisa Aunt Cathy, visiting from Vancouver to help the new mom (upper right) with, clockwise, proud dad, John holding Rosie, mom Lisa, and happy big brother, Mikey.

THE ISLAND SOFTBALL LEAGUES

- Alan Kidd

These stories on island history I am writing represent a personal view, as opposed to scholarly research. Therefore I would not be surprised to hear that others have a different view of what went on at the time. In fact, I would encourage those interested to write down their own recollections and send them to the Beacon. The more points of view we have the better, as far as I'm concerned.

When I first came to the Island in 1970 the softball season was in full swing. There was an island league with four men's teams (Galaxies, Monarchs, Cast-Offs and Beau-Diddies) and three women's teams (Nightingales, Merry Mates, and Suzie's Cuties). I really didn't have anything to do with the league that year, since when I arrived the season was almost over and I was busy settling in, trying to burn my house down and otherwise occupied. However,

the next year I did join a team. Once again the league had four men's teams. I was on the Reds, along with Ian Murray, Earl Tugwell, David Kerr and several other Island luminaries. The other teams that year were the Triumphs, Recalls and Canditas. The Reds got off to a slow start, and even forfeited the odd game, however they soon got some reinforcements.

Several of my friends from Tallahassee came to the Island and spent a good part of that summer staying with me. I soon recruited some of the bigger lads for the Reds. One in particular, Dave McGee proved to be a big help. Dave was a big

guy and had played football in high school, so he was a definite asset. He even wrote back home and had his little league glove sent up to the island. The rest of us tried to make up in enthusiasm what we lacked in ability. With the extra players the Reds at least stopped forfeiting games, but we remained at the bottom of the standings. However, the league championship was decided by play-offs in which all teams participated. Once the playoffs started, the Reds seem to catch fire and we ended up winning the championship. It was a great day.

After 1971, league play on the Island kind of fizzled out. However, there still was an Island team that played in a

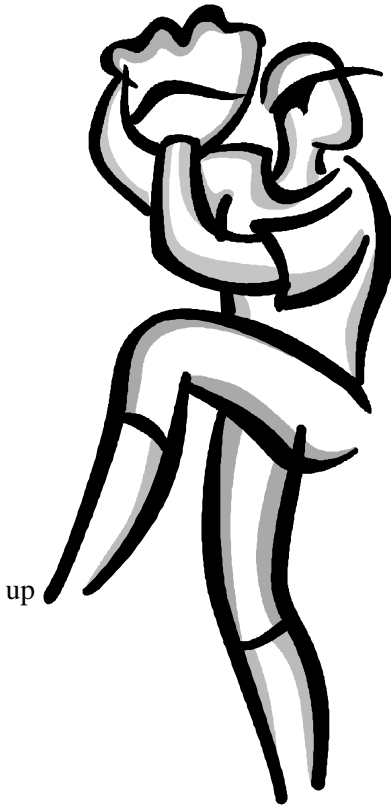
league on the mainland, with the occasional home game on the Island. Jack Forester was the coach of the Amherst Island team and they played in a fastball league which included Bath, Westbrook, Odessa, Sandhurst, Amherstview and the Millhaven Penn. Jack said that the guys on the Millhaven team didn't really get to play away games. The Island team was a strong competitor and managed to win the championship one year.

In the 1980's there were two Island teams that played in the South Fredricksburg league which included such towns as Napanee and Deseronto. The teams were coached by Brian Ward, and his wife Marie kept score. Unlike the earlier league these teams were for young people and were slow pitch softball. These teams lasted through most of the 80's but folded in the end due to a lack of participants.

The history of Island baseball and softball teams goes back a long way before the 1970s. Earl Tugwell, who played on the Reds with me, was an active participant on Island teams as far back as the 1930's. Earl and his brother Chester played on Island teams right up to the outbreak of the Second World War. After Earl got back from Europe, he resumed playing on Island teams. There was a group, which included Earl and Chester and Les Glenn that played ball on the mainland. Jean Tugwell, Earl's widow told me Max Beaubien would take them across the bay on his boat.

Now it seems there is more interest among the young in soccer than softball. The old diamond is still there, though the lights now serve to support Osprey's nests. Perhaps some Sunday afternoon we could get together for a game of pickup softball, just for old times sake. In the meanwhile, I'd appreciate hearing more stories about Island softball. Perhaps we could put together an exhibit at the Neilson Store Museum.

[Editor: does anyone have photos that would go with Alan's article?]



up

AIMS – APRIL 12TH MEETING

- Hugh Jenney

Nineteen men sat down to a delicious breakfast prepared by the Janet Aikenhead AIPS team.

Paul Lauret was pleased to report that Diane Pollock did not need the seed money we sent her to help with the 4H Hallowe'en party. She said it was self-sustaining and thanked us for our good intentions.

The Transportation Committee was quite active. Paul Lauret and Marc Raymond picked up orders for Islanders.

Marc Raymond reported on the tree planting service that he and Doug Martin are providing for AI. Marc has purchased one hundred small trees. He and Doug will plant two per household (for a \$10 donation for each tree to AIMS) which includes the stake and the protective plastic sleeve. The \$10 donation makes this project self-sustaining.

Peter Large updated us on the Saturday, July 12 Studio Tour. The idea is to show off Amherst Island as a living museum. A map will be provided to guide people to about twenty artists' studios. Money is being raised for the AI Museum in three ways. Each artist is donating a piece of work which will be for sale in the back room of the A. I. Museum. This location has the added benefit of enticing people in to see all the great exhibits in the museum itself. These 8" X 8" pictures will be matted and ready for framing. The cost will be from \$50 to \$100. The Island artist will receive a tax receipt for his/her donation. A. I. Museum \$10 memberships will be sold at the same time. Our new commercial BBQ will be put to good use at the AI Museum to feed the hungry patrons.

Terry Culbert will arrange advertising for the Studio Tour.

Alan Kidd thanked these two men for all their hard work on behalf of the A. I. Museum. It is important that the AI Museum be seen as doing fundraising for itself.

The AI Market will open on May 17.

Michael & Linda Joll have donated their refurbished BBQ for our use.

Dayle has researched the purchase of a new commercial BBQ for AIMS (and for other not-for-profit Island groups use).

Dayle reported that the wheel chair ramp for the school will be installed this spring by the Loyalist School Board. (Thanks to Lynn Fleming for passing on the AIMS' request)

Dayle informed us that we will maintain the same number of hanging baskets as last year.

Jim Gould has agreed to teach a 6 lesson course in beginning computers for a \$5/lesson donation to the AI Museum in the back room of the AI Museum. These introductory lessons are open to all Islanders on a first come first placed basis. The classes will have 6-8 people. More classes will be scheduled as per demand.



Because the AIMS transportation committee took Denis McGinn to Kingston for his treatments so often, his sister has made a donation to AIMS. She also put in the obituary that donations could be made to AIMS as well

as many other worthy charities. Her donation, plus the additional money AIMS received will be donated to the Neilson's Store Museum in memory of Denis McGinn.

Brian Grace suggested that we put up Christmas lights and Dayle agreed to enquire about this possibility with the Township.

Bruce Burnett passed around his roadside clean-up program sheets and encouraged all to help keep our Island clean. This necessary project should be completed before May 17. This is a good time to do it as the grass has not grown and all the winter detritus is easily seen.

Terry Culbert reported that he had seen the most magnificent bird feeder ever built by Dayle for the AIMS table. Gord Miller is working on bird houses for the AIMS table too. A martin house is in the works. The martin house will be raffled when it is finished.

Brian Grace agreed to allow AIMS to attach two tables to his storage building. Ken Albertan and Bruce Burnett will look into this possibility.

Our scheduled speaker was not available. Fortunately Marc Raymond had brought his good friend, Ian Watson along to the meeting. Ian, as a young student, spent a summer up in Whitehorse as an air traffic controller. Ian had plenty of time between shifts so he took innumerable pictures with his new Ziess-Ikon Contina 11, 35 mm and shot Kodak Kodachrome exclusively. Their quality and historical value are so good that his entire collection may end up in the Yukon Archives. Ian passed around these ancient pictures plus a series of six greeting cards, mostly of the S.S. Klondike on its last voyages in 1954.

After Ian donned his CBC Yukon cap he told us all about his half hour radio disc jockey show. His station was smaller than CJAI. It was the precursor to the CBC. So when he went back to Whitehorse in 2001 he was interviewed by Dave Segluns at the Whitehorse CBC. Ian played that interview for us and it was a delight.

Dayle thanked Ian for a most interesting talk and we adjourned. Many members stayed to talk with Ian afterward.

GARDENING NOTES

- Doug Green (www.douggreengarden.com)

A few years ago now, researchers pointed out that urban and suburban gardeners used approximately 4 times the amounts of active chemicals per acre of ground than our farmers did. So a little bit extra here and a little bit extra there and pretty soon you have a polluted landscape. Nobody really "did it" but it's there nevertheless. This figure may have altered somewhat but from the stacks of weed and feed at local garden centers this past weekend, I suspect not a lot.

[Sally: Doug Green's newsletter has many fascinating sections. He gave the Beacon permission to reprint this question and answer exchange:]

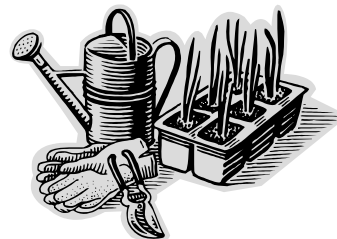


Question:

Enjoy your newsletters in which you emphasize the use of compost, and advise against the use of a chemical fertilizer. However, one must have a source of compost. There is no true compost available for purchase here, and I do not have the energy (it is a labor intensive process) nor necessary materials to make compost. Tried many times when younger, had lots of green in the summer and brown in the fall, and even though I tried to mix correctly, never did get the mix to heat. Wasn't too bad after two or three years, but then I had to have two or three piles sitting around. Take pity on us old folks (suspect many of your readers are seniors) and suggest the second best. I have been using (brand name removed) organic fertilizer as an alternative to compost, but will appreciate your advice on any other readily available products.

Bob

**



Doug's reply:

1) The way I make compost isn't labor intensive. Can't be, because I'm a lazy gardener.

2) If you really don't want to work - start worm farms. These little critters create marvelous compost out of kitchen scraps and you can use this as the basis for compost tea. Get your organic matter from peat moss or other organic sources and add the microorganisms using compost tea. Again easy to do if you can handle a watering can.

3) Have pity on seniors. Nope. Am working on becoming one in age and never in spirit? There are no old gardeners - there are only gardeners who have been gardening for some time. The minute you use age as an excuse for not doing something (other than running faster than your kids) is the minute you start being old. If you can garden, you can make compost or compost tea. My mother had a poster on the fridge saying, "Old age is not for sissies". She still tells me she can do anything I can do.

4) Organic sources of nitrogen are simply another source of nitrogen. They're one step better than using chemical fertilizers but making a plant dependent on organic sugar is not much better than making it dependent on chemical sugar. That sounds a bit rabid - a bit too committed? The deal is simple. You can use organic fertilizers as the intermediary step between chemical gardening and organic gardening. But it is only an intermediate step. Composts and compost teas provide the necessary nutrition.

**

Let me make it clear to new readers- organic gardening is extremely simple gardening. It is - at its basics - about getting organic matter to plants and the right balance of microorganisms in the soil to allow the plants to have optimum health. If you get a good soil and give the plant the right growing conditions, the plant will take care of itself, fighting off most diseases, insects and will grow in ways that will simply astound you.

The essence of gardening is giving your plants what they want. The first thing to understand is that they want to grow. Just give 'em the tools they need.





MAY SKIES

- Alan Kidd

May is the month when the Big Dipper is overhead in the evening skies. That is about 11 PM at the beginning of May and just as the sky gets dark by month's end. The highlight for this month is the appearance of Mercury in the evening sky.

Technically the Big Dipper is only a part of a much larger constellation called Ursa Major, or the Great Bear. As most people know, once the Big Dipper has been located, the North Star (also called Polaris) can be easily found using the pointer stars in the bowl of the Big Dipper (the side of the bowl opposite the dipper's handle). Follow a line from the pointer star for about five times the distance between the two stars, and you will come to Polaris, which is always due north, and at the same elevation as your latitude. This makes it about halfway between the horizon and the zenith, for an observer on Amherst Island. Less well known is a method for locating Acturus by using the stars in the handle of the Big Dipper. If you continue the curve formed by the arc of the dipper's handle for a bit more than another handle's length, you come to Acturus (the guard of the Bear) which is the brightest star in the sky now that Sirius is no longer visible. Acturus is the primary star in the constellation Bootes, the herdsman, which constantly follows the Great Bear (Ursa Major) around the pole.

Another feature of the Big Dipper is the double star located at the bend of the handle. The brighter star is Mizar, and its dim companion is called Alcor. Although this pair is visually a double star, Mizar and Alcor are not a true binary system, that is to say they do not orbit one another. However, with a small telescope one can see that Mizar

itself is a double star (called simply Mizar A and Mizar B) and those two stars are a true binary system, orbiting about each other every few thousand years. Just in case you are interested, the names of all the stars in the Big Dipper are (starting from the tip of the handle): Alkaid, Mizar and Alcor, Alioth, and Mergrez (at the base of the handle) Then going around the bowl we have Phecda, Merak and Dubhe. Merak and Dubhe are the "pointer stars". All of these stars except for the two at either end of the Dipper (that is Alkaid and Dubhe) belong to the same stellar group about 80 light years from Earth.

May is the month for seeing Mercury this year. Since Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun it is usually hard to spot because it sets (or rises) at nearly the same time as the Sun. However, this month Mercury reaches greatest elongation (that is the furthest apparent distance) on May 14th. It will then be 22 degrees away from the sun and will set more than an hour after the Sun. On May 6th Mercury will be very close to the new crescent moon and should be visible at dusk, about 45 minutes after sunset. If you have a telescope you might try watching the changing appearance of Mercury. At the beginning of May it will appear as an almost full moon, but very tiny. By the 8th of the month its appearance will have changed to resemble a half moon, and by the 14th when at its greatest elongation the planet will resemble a crescent moon. The reason for these changes is that as Mercury goes around the Sun, we see different illumination patterns, just as we do with the moon. Mercury is a real speed demon, taking only 88 days

(Continued on page 15)

MOTHER'S DAY

- Zander of DUNN INN

On the second Sunday in May (this year, May 11) we, in Canada, will honour our mothers. Almost every country in the world has a Mother's Day although many do not celebrate it on the same day that we do.

Friends of mine were disappointed when they attended church in England on Mothering Sunday and found it quite different than our Mother's Day. In England, Mothering Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent, is the day for people to visit their home church - something like a homecoming. On that day most children would be reunited with their mothers. It became the tradition for all servants to be freed from work on that Sunday by their masters so they could go home to visit with their families.

In Canada, we are more influenced by the U.S. Their Mother's Day grew out of the horror of the Civil War. Julia Ward Howe proposed a Mother's Day Proclamation, in 1870, as a call for peace and disarmament. She also built upon the work of Ann Jarvis who had tried to improve sanitation through what she called Mothers' Work Days. She pushed both sides in the Civil War to use better sanitary practices and when the Civil War was over she worked to reconcile Union and Confederate neighbours.

When Ann Jarvis died in 1907, her daughter, Anna Jarvis, campaigned for a memorial day for women. She organized the first Mother's Day on May 10, 1908 in a church in Grafton, West Virginia. Most other states picked up the idea and in 1914 President Woodrow Wilson declared the first national Mother's Day. He

said it was the time to fly the flag in honour of all mothers whose sons had died in war.

Nine years after the first official Mother's Day, Anna Jarvis was devastated that the holiday had become a commercial extravaganza. Instead of being a religious celebration of women who had worked toward peace, it had become a bonanza for travel agents, card companies and gift stores. Mother's Day continues to be a commercial success. It is the most popular festival after Christmas and Valentine's Day. The sales of cards are highest for Mother's Day. Restaurants are busiest on Mother's Day as families honour their mothers by getting them out of the kitchen. More phone calls are made on Mother's Day than on any other day of the year. Carnations, the favourite flower of Ann Jarvis, are popular on Mother's Day - red for living mothers and white for dead mothers.

What would it be like if we went back to the roots of Mother's Day and made it a day to celebrate and work for peace? It is good to honour our mothers, dead or alive, but it would be even better if we worked for the peace for which they continue to long. No mother wants to see her children killed in battle or succumb to diseases caused by poor sanitary conditions. Imagine if all our mothers voted against war, refused to accept the conditions in which our Aboriginal people live, campaigned for peaceful change, demanded justice for all Canadians. Imagine what might happen if all their children followed their example. Maybe the vision of Julia Ward Howe and Ann Jarvis would become a reality. Mother's Day would be more than a commercial event or a sentimental occasion; it would become a powerful movement for peace and justice.

(Continued from page 14)

to complete its year.

Mars continues to move away from the earth and its disk now appears even smaller than that of Mercury. As a result Mars continues to become fainter in the evening skies. On May 9th the crescent Moon is close to Mars.

Saturn remains the best of the planets during May. It remains close to Regulus in Leo. On the evening of May 8th, Regulus, Saturn and the crescent Moon are all arranged in a neat triangle, and all three will fit into a binocular field of view.

Finally Jupiter will rise before midnight at the end of May. Jupiter watching season can begin next month.

May's meteor shower is called the Eta Aquarid. It reached maximum strength during the early morning of May 5th. The best time to watch is about an hour before dawn. The moon is new and won't get in the way so if the weather is favourable you might be able to see two or three dozen meteors per hour.



FIRST LODGE ART SHOW OF 2008.

April brought us the first of the month-long art shows at The Lodge. It was a celebration of Amherst Island Public School and the Continuation School that had been housed in The Lodge at the turn of the 20th Century.



Shyanne Shurtliffe, Elsie Willard and Ciarra Richmond take a look at “Cody the Crocodile”. Cody was a group project in which the students used different beverages to colour in Cody.



Angus Little with “The sunset of the century”.



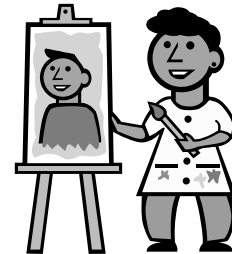
Enjoying the show are left to right: Chris Dekking, teacher Shawn Broome, Jen Jackson and Shawn’s mother Cindy Dekking.



"The rainy day" by Barry Richmond



The Lodge owner and founder of The Lodge Art Series, Molly Stroyman, chats to three former students of the Continuation School. Left to right: Vera Hogeboom, Jennie (Willard) Kerr and Helen (Marshall) Caughey.



OUR FERRY CREW AT WORK



Jane McGinn prepares to throw the rope as the Quinte Loyalist approaches the dock.



Saskia Wagemans prepares to throw the rope, as Donnie Miller looks on.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN LITTLE

Descendants of Alfred William Hitchins

1 Alfred William Hitchins 1851 - 1931
 .. +Mary Elizabeth McDonald 1853 - 1939
 2 Ethel A. Hitchins 1882 -
 +John S. Roddick 1876 -
 2 Gilbert A. Hitchins 1884 - 1973
 +Ada G. Fowler 1874 - 1973
 3 William F. Hitchins 1918 -
 3 Henry Reginald Hitchins 1919 -
 2000
 +Anna Madeliene Glenn 1926 -
 4 Gilbert Ross Hitchins 1946 -
 4 Garry Reginald Hitchins
 1948 -
 +Anne-Marie Rickarby
 4 Roberta Mary Hitchins 1949 -
 +Brian Ruell
 4 Arthur Ellis Hitchins 1951 -

Descendants of Daniel Fowler

1 Daniel Fowler 1810 - 1894
 .. +Elizabeth ?? 1813 - 1903
 2 Mary Ann Fowler 1838 -
 +Richard Rothwell 1806 -
 *2nd Husband of Mary Ann Fowler:
 +I. J. Christie
 2 Caroline Fowler 1841 - 1866
 2 William Fowler 1842 -
 +Clara E. Thomson 1842 -
 2 Frances Fowler 1844 -
 +Henry A. Reesor
 2 Reginald A. Fowler 1846 -
 +Ella Mary Gale 1848 - 1875
 3 Charles R. Fowler 1865 -
 +Frances C. Christie
 3 Florence A. Fowler 1873 -
 +Harold H. Howard 1875 -
 3 Ada G. Fowler 1874 - 1973
 +Gilbert A. Hitchins 1884 - 1973
 4 William F. Hitchins 1918 -
 4 Henry Reginald Hitchins
 1919 - 2000
 +Anna Madeliene Glenn
 1926 -
 3 Edna Fowler 1875 - 1967
 *2nd Wife of Reginald A. Fowler:
 +Rachel A. Howard 1842 - 1941

Descendants of John McDonald

1 John McDonald 1815 -
 .. +Elizabeth ?? 1828 -
 2 Mary Elizabeth McDonald 1853 - 1939
 +Alfred William "Willy" Hitchins 1851 -
 1931
 3 Ethel A. Hitchins 1882 -
 +John S. Roddick 1876 -
 3 Gilbert A. Hitchins 1884 - 1973
 +Ada G. Fowler 1874 - 1973
 4 William F. Hitchins 1918 -
 4 Henry Reginald Hitchins
 1919 - 2000
 +Anna Madeliene Glenn
 1926 -
 2 John Allen McDonald 1850 - 1928
 2 Duncan McDonald 1855 - 1927
 +Elizabeth A. Christie 1860 - 1931
 3 Edwin McDonald 1891 -
 +Florence L. Detlor 1896 -
 4 Garnet Edwin McDonald
 1918 - 2007
 +Beatrice Gene McMaster
 1920 -
 4 Roger D. McDonald
 +??
 4 Doris McDonald
 +William D. Henderson
 2 Henry McDonald 1857 -
 +Margaret Montgomery 1869 -
 3 William H. McDonald 1889 -
 2 Annie McDonald 1860 - 1953
 2 Charles McDonald 1866 -

THANK YOU



THANKS FOR THE GOOD YEAR!

- Caroline Yull

I'm writing on April 8, 2008. Last year this date, I had a heart attack. Within about 4 1/2 minutes of my call to 911, the first of what seemed like twenty First Responders were in my house, beginning the process of helping me to deal with a scary situation. As it turned out, it was a minor attack, and I am doing very well since, but at the time, none of us knew that. All the people who came to my house, some of them fresh from their Easter dinners, some who were narrowly avoiding having to help with the dishes after said Easter dinner, treated me with the utmost professionalism, compassion, and respect. Not only did I get the help I needed, but so did Fae, and even the dogs were kept where they needed to be to be safe.

I cannot say adequately what it meant to have the troops arrive and take everything out of my (rather shaky) hands, and take excellent care of me. Suffice it to say, I think about you guys (inclusive term here, meaning guys of both the male and the female persuasions) every day, and give thanks for you and your dedication and hard work, and willingness to sacrifice family time to do this job. We are very lucky to have you here, and very grateful.

This has been a year of self-improvement for me, and I am probably healthier than I've been in quite a while, and I feel I owe a great deal of that to you who helped me through the first few hours of it.

Thank you from the bottom of my (healthier) heart.

Along with my son and daughter, I would like to thank everyone who supported us during Bob's illness. The meals, phone calls and cards were all appreciated. Many, many thanks to Joyce and Peter Morgan who supported me and who continued to be there for me all the time.

A special thanks to Lesley, Gary, Andrew, Alison, Geoffrey and Caitlin for their support; in particular looking after Sammy and Toby while I was at the hospital.

Thanks to Joyce and Lesley for organising and preparing all the food for the luncheon following the service. Also, we must thank Freda for taking care of Sammy at such short notice.

A special thanks to Rev. Margaret Johnston Jones for a lovely service and for allowing Sammy to attend.

Thank you all so much, you would have all made Bob very proud.

Ann



~ CLASSIFIEDS ~

NOTICES

REMINDER: AIMS Meeting re-scheduled to June 7th (not June 14th).

ISLAND MARKET

On Saturday, May 17th, the Island Market opens for the 2008 season.

Amherst Island Men's Society will be there as usual with their Market Wagon.

If you have any items that you would be willing to donate, we would much appreciate it.

We are always looking for good items.

Please contact any AIMS member to arrange pickup, or call 634-3815.

TREES

Are you interested in the Trees Ontario Foundation's offer to plant a minimum of 10 acres of trees on your property or perhaps in conjunction with an adjoining property?

A foundation representative is coming to the Island in June.

Each approved planting site will have trees planted, tended to during the first year, and a follow-up next year replacing any dead ones. Cost to the landowners is \$0.15 per tree with 6000 trees per acre.

The types of trees to be planted are: white cedar, white pine, Norway Spruce, red oak, white oak, bur(r) oak, larch, poplar, sugar maple, red maple, black walnut. Call Judith 613-384-0435

FOR SALE

ELECTRIC GUITAR.

Comes with a hard case. Yamaha Pacifica, \$120. Call Tammy Fleming at 352-1075

SET OF 4 MICHELIN HARMONY ALL SEASON RADIALS

size P215/70 R 15. Driven approx. 8,000 km. Cost over \$700 new. Offered at \$200 the set. Call Linda or Michael at 613 634 8213

5 "I" BEAMS 6'X6'X33'

Eric Welbanks 613-389-4143



PHOTO BY ZANDER DUNN

Garry and Anna Hitchin's House on the 2nd Concession Road..