

The Amherst Island BEACON

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June 2003



THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray

Tom and I have decided that we need a firm deadline for submissions to the Beacon and, after some discussion, have agreed that the 25th of each month will be the date beyond which we will not accept material for publication in the upcoming issue. Exceptions, of course, will be made but they will be rare. I, as editor, need to get the written material assembled and proofed and sent to Tom so that he can put text and photos together. Our goal is to have the Beacon in the General Store and in the mail as early in the month as possible.

It will take a few issues to settle into the new size and format before we can

decide if we need to raise prices and, if so, by how much. Our goal is to generate enough revenue over expenses to cover the costs of acquiring and maintaining the equipment and software necessary to put out a good quality publication. The Beacon is produced by unpaid volunteers.

We do not charge for ads or notices as we feel that they are an integral part of the Beacon.

This may be a good time to mention again that we do not include bad news of a personal nature. This type of news is more than adequately covered by daily newspapers and by gossip.

I am always eager to read Zander's interviews. He is able to convey each person's story in a way that makes our community more real.

I hope that people realize that each of our older neighbours has a story to tell if someone will take the time to do an interview and write it down. Anyone is welcome to try it.

The Beacon very much relies on material from our regular contributors who can be counted on to make a contribution issue after issue: THANKS!

Above: The AIMS Saturday Market, by Peter Large, SCA.



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JH:Judith Harrower
...others as noted.

Victor Garth Orchard

Passed away
Feb.15,2003, at
the age of 88.

Garth was born
in England and left
home at the age of
14 to come to
Canada as a "home
boy". At that time,
the Canadian gov-
ernment was offer-
ing free passage to
anyone willing to
come and work on
a farm for 2 years.
He came to call the
Hill farm on the sec-
ond concession his
home. He loved life
on the Island and for the rest of his
life, considered it as home. He en-
joyed playing the piano for sing-
songs, a favourite entertainment of
the time.

Eventually, his parents also
came to Canada, as did his broth-
ers Keith and Brian, and his sisters
Chris and Daphne. Keith joined him
in the Hill farm experience and the
two boys were the mainstay of its
success after Mr. Hill became ill.
Chris would eventually marry
an Island boy. Bert Glenn, and
make her life as mother and
farm hand on the family farm.
Brian was tragically killed in
action as an air force tail gun-
ner.

After their years on the
Hill farm, both Garth and
Keith joined the R.C.A.F.,
Garth for 9 years, Keith for a
full career. Garth was a tailor
by trade (as was his father)
and during his years in the
military helped to outfit the
W.W. I I troops. Upon his re-
lease, Garth made use of his
tailoring skills to first work at
Tip Top Tailors, and later to
open his own menswear



shop.

He and his first wife Jean, had
3 children - Shirley, Brian and Gary.
He lost his beloved Jean to lung can-
cer in 1966. In 1968 he found love
again in Lillian Fraser, and the two
were married to enjoy traveling the
world together until her death in the
late 80's.

Soon thereafter, Garth bought
a home in Bath so as to be near to
the Island, and his brother and sis-



Island shed out to pasture

JH

ter. He attended St. Paul's Presbyterian
Church as well as being a strong sup-
porter of the Bath Lions Club. He was
a remarkable human being - a man of
many skills- a demeanor of consistently
pleasant character- a loving patient fa-
ther - an artist -a hard worker and a
Christian. - By Allen Glenn

John Charles Luscombe

B.A. Eng., P. Eng.
Veteran WWII - RCAF

Entered into rest peacefully on Friday,
April 25, 2003, at the Helen Henderson
Care Centre, Amherstview. Beloved
husband of Margaret Ann Mayman.
Fondly remembered by his brother-in-
laws John G. Mayman & Estelle
Mayman, Cody & Dylan. Mr. Luscombe
served as a Civil Engineer in Ottawa
with the Federal Department of Trans-
port and Northern Affairs. An avid sailor
on Windward III on the Bay of Quinte
& Thousand Islands. Life member Doric
Lodge AF & AM. Interment Cataraqui
Cemetery.

John Roderick Barr

Sept 9, 1921-May 30, 2003
Judge Barr's family will be asked to
prepare an article and provide a photo
for our next issue.

AMHERST ISLAND PROPERTIES ARE SO HOT, EVEN THE BIRDHOUSES ARE SELLING!!!!



Rumour has it that this nifty little two story villa just sold for a whopping \$200,000 over the Internet!!! And what do you expect? – Conveniently located in the beautiful, quaint little village of Stella, only 15 seconds from the ferry dock (as the crow flies) with lovely pastoral views from the back deck and waterfront views from the front. It's every nesting couples dream home.

—submitted by Lynann Whitton

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to Doug Shurtliffe and Barb Reid, who both spent time in hospital, and also to Jean Tugwell. (Get well wishes also, to the A.I.P.S. students who had Chicken Pox!) Continued good health wishes to Lillian Miller, Noreen Welbanks, Joyce Morgan, Earl Tugwell and Sally Bowen.

Condolences to Karen J. Fleming and

family, following the death of her uncle. Several Islanders were away to Quebec on the long weekend to attend the wedding of Caroline Ackerman's son, Andrew. Tom and Audrey Miller's granddaughter, Stephanie was married in Napanee recently. Stephanie's aunt, Debbie Miller, made the bridesmaid dresses. Congratulations to Leslie Gavlas, who recently became a 1st time great-grandma, when grandson James Fingus and wife Debbie welcomed their new daughter.

Welcome to Craig (son of Paul and Nancy) and Dawn Henshaw and their 3 children. They will be living on the Island for a few months while their new home is being built. Son, Joshua, is attending A.I.P.S. St. Paul's PCW held their annual Mother's Day dinner. It seemed the PCW enjoyed a good crowd for dinner.

The Amherst Island Recreation Association held an extremely successful Spring Dance and Fish Fry in May. 200 dinners were served and approximately 150 people enjoyed the dance following.

Welcome back to all of our "summer people" and cottagers.

The Silver Fox has been very visible this spring and has taken a Red Fox "husband". There are now 5 kits - 4 red and 1 silver!

We recently watched as she went off hunting and returned shortly with a fat rodent for her kits.

The lambs are everywhere and great entertainment for the kids on the bus, as well there are geese with goslings, calves and colts in the fields and it seems Spring has finally come - we've even had some warm weather and sunshine!



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Nancy Dunn

The evening of May 21st saw about 45 folk gather at St. Paul's church hall for an open meeting of the Amherst Island Women's Institute featuring local historian Tom Sylvester on the topic "Loyal to a Degree".

Tom has researched and written several accounts of the early settlements of the area and continues to be fascinated by the varying histories of the loyalists. He shared some most interesting bits with the assembled crowd.

It seems United Empire Loyalists had different views of what should have happened and/or what did happen than "treasury loyalists" who came another route and with not the same "perks". This is where the term feud might have applied. It did not apply to the relationship between the McMullin brothers of which there were three who came to Tonti Isle (aka Amherst Island) in October 1792 from the Philadelphia area via England.

They were Scotch-Irish and Roman Catholic although most Scotch-Irish were Protestant. John and Hugh McMullin and their descendants eventually had a 500 acre life-lease on the land where the McMullen stone house (15095 Front Rd.) now is and stretching some distance west. They



A red fox caught out in the open TR



AIWI members serving up coffee, tea and goodies at Clinton Kilpatrick's farm equipment auction TR

farmed and were also in the mortgage business. The impressive house probably encouraged borrowers to trust them.

The third brother, Neal, was here only briefly, moving to Kingston and then possibly to Oswego, N.Y., where there purportedly still exists a house, part of which he brought across the lake from Kingston in 1796. His wife Mary (a York County Pennsylvania Rankin by birth and of a higher class than her husband) ended up in Sacket's Harbour N.Y. by 1808 but no mention of Neal is found after the Oswego time.

The original group of Amherst Island McMullins numbered 20; from the two brothers who stayed on the island grew the largest family settlement here. Today about 1/4 of born-and-bred Islanders are descendants of the McMullin boys.

The McMullins were "treasury loyalists", given passage from England, land, provisions, etc. through a government bounty orchestrated by Lord Dorchester, Governor of Upper Canada. "True" loyalists have never been pleased about this arrangement, which may account for Tom's title "Loyal to a Degree". Could that title also have something to do with the suspicion (never confirmed) that the McMullins were free-masons as many early Islanders were? Only the enigmatic

Tom with his quirky sense of humour could answer that.

After fine refreshments, further questioning of the speaker, and convivial conversation, the crowd dispersed to leave the 15 Women's Institute members who were present, to their usual monthly business. Reports were given from convenors of the 2004

Calendar project, the August book sale and the Raymond wedding brunch. Committees were struck to co-ordinate the Strawberry Social portion of the June 21st AIMS house tour, to provide intermission refreshments at one of the Waterside concerts and to investigate the purchase of flowers and containers to help beautify Stella.

President Joyce Haines reported on the district meeting held in Camden East on 15 May. There are 191 W.I. members in

the district.

Program/Education co-ordinator, Kirsten Bennick distributed brochures for 2003-04 with a full slate of interesting topics and speakers.

Our booth at the Farmers' Market started off well on 17 May as did our first bake sale the previous day. The next bake sale will be Friday 27 June.

The June 18th "meeting" will be in the form of an outing to the Thousand Island Playhouse in Gananoque to see "My Fair Lady". Keep your eyes open for announcements about an open meeting on the West Nile Virus on 16 July and don't forget the Giant Book Sale on August 2nd and 3rd. Books still gratefully received. Sorting and packing "parties" are already under way. Happy Summer to all! See you at the market.

JANET'S JOTTINGS



- Janet Scott

...THE MIDAS TOUCH...

The bird that has been drawing avid birders to the Island in the past month is a Snowy Egret. This bird always makes me recall the story of King Midas and his golden touch. As you watch this elegant, medium sized white wader stalk among the rushes you notice his wonderful plumage and neat black legs but it isn't until he lifts his feet that you are startled to see golden yellow or if it's breeding season orange feet. The feet are so



Birdwatching on the foot

Terry Culbert photo

out of the ordinary pattern of bird colouration that you are quite surprised by them. You may wonder if he inadvertently stepped in paint.

The Snowy Egrets were once hunted for their feathers but since that stopped and as their numbers grew they pushed north along the Atlantic coast. The first sighting in the Kingston area was in May 1964 on Galloo Island. There have been at least five sightings on Amherst Island but always single birds. If by the time this article is printed the bird is still around then look for it along the western edge of the Gravel bar in the marshy edges of the bay.

Other waders that you might spot on a trip to the bar, non-alcoholic only gravel, are the familiar Great Blue Heron, the Black-crowned Night Heron and the elusive Bittern. The Bittern is heard with his bull-frog sounds far more than he is ever seen as he looks just like reeds when he freezes with beak pointing in the air.

Sometimes the Great White Egret makes appearances in our marshes and you might spot a Cattle Egret in the fields.

The Whittons, all three of them, and my son and granddaughter have rubbed it in about the visit of Indigo Buntings at their yards. I have a history of not seeing these gorgeous little fellows and Ben tells me that Goldfinches look just like dandelions so you'll be watching for them. The Martins and other swallows are nesting again, feeding on those hoards of little flying pests that get in your mouth, eyes and ears but as Ciara says: "They are all God's creatures".

Spring brings out the interesting creatures of the lake as a Snapping Turtle visited Wolfreys grass clipping pile and then headed for the Back Kitchen and Ida had a run in with an irate Water Snake in her kitchen.

Nature is all around us. Please take time to watch and enjoy.

Good Birding!



Justin Hutchings, Lyn Fleming, Will Reid at AIPS

JH



Amherst Island Public School

- Lyn Fleming

On Tuesday, June 10th, at 7:00 p.m., Peter Moes will again do a talk as a fund raiser for the Senior Class Year End Trip. Peter's talk this year will be "Clowning Around. A Talk About Talk: Fun with Words". Admission will be a "free will" donation.

Many thanks to the Limestone School Board for the recent upgrade of our school's computer lab.

Amherst Island Public School students - from JK to Grade 8 - spent the afternoon of May 26th participating in the Heart and Stroke Foundation's "Jump Rope for Heart". Many thanks to everyone who supported our students with pledges. We are proud to announce that our 33 students raised more than \$1200 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation!! We would also like to thank the ladies of the A.I. Women's Institute for providing refreshments following and for counting the money and writing receipts.

Congratulations to Laurel Brady, who went on to the Regional Speaker's Festival and placed 2nd in her level.

AIPS Staff and Students extended their

thanks to our many in-school volunteers at a luncheon held at the school. Volunteers were served lunch and entertained by Staff and Students.

Senior Class students participated in Track and Field Day at Bath P.S. Congratulations to the following students who will go on to compete at the regional Track and Field at Richardson Stadium in their respective levels.

Long Jump - Will Reed (2nd); Ben Whitton (6th)

Shot Put - Will Reed (3rd); Justin Hutchings (5th)

800 metre - Chelsea Sneep (2nd)

400 metre - Will Reed (4th)

200 metre - Chelsea Sneep (2nd), Brittany Sneep (4th), Laurel Brady (2nd), Will Reed (2nd)

100 metre - Chelsea Sneep (2nd), Brittany Sneep (2nd), Laurel Brady (2nd), Will Reed (2nd).

And finally thank you to the Amherst Island Recreation Association for replacing the 3 tether balls that were vandalized last fall.

"Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former."

Albert Einstein

An Interview with Chris Gregg

- Zander of DUNN INN

Although she was not born on Amherst Island and no longer lives here Christine Gregg claims the Island as her home. Perhaps because she came to the Island in her teens and was converted by its charms she feels a stronger tie to the Island than many others - even those who live here now.

Chris was born on January 16, 1919 in Shrewsbury, England to Victor Orchard and his wife Mary Ellen Hattatt. Victor was a tailor with a wanderlust. His wife, of high caste, enjoyed the role of the chatelaine. Chris had two older brothers - Garth and Keith - and a younger brother, Brian. Her younger sister, Daphne, died at an early age.

When Chris was seven or eight the Orchards moved to Wales where they presided over two large guest houses on the ocean which catered to upper class visitors. On holidays the cooks, maids and nurse maids were especially busy with the demands of the tourists. Victor also set up a tailor shop. Chris loved to swim in the ocean and to see the shipwrecks nearby.

The Orchards lived there until Chris was eleven years old. Her brother, Garth had gone to Canada and came to Amherst Island on a scheme like the Bernardo's Boys program which placed English lads on Canadian farms to help with the chores. Garth worked and lived with The Hills - an old man and his sister. When the old man died, the job of laying him out for visitation and burial fell to Garth - a challenge for one so young. When the sister died the farm was left to him but because of the opposition of the family he was never able to claim his inheritance. Within a year



his younger brother, Keith, joined him and went to work on the farm next to Garth - the Percy Tugwell farm.

In the depression years Victor Orchard moved his wife and Chris to Toronto where he worked as a tailor for two years. Before they came to Canada her teachers told her Canada was full of cowboys and Indians and she would be dropped off at a small wooden platform to start her trek across the country. Chris was overwhelmed to find Halifax a modern port, the trains commodious and the Union Station in Toronto a most impressive sight. She was amazed at how modern Toronto was.

Then it was on to Winnipeg where Victor Orchard plied his trade for about three years. Finally, the family moved to Amherst Island where the two oldest boys had established themselves.

Victor acquired a cottage on the north shore of the Island but found there was

no demand for his expertise from the farmers. Victor and Mary Ellen moved to Trenton where he set up shop as a tailor. But this time, Chris refused to follow her father's ramblings and remained on the Island.

Chris remembers how she felt when she first came to the Island. She said to her father: "You've done it this time. You've brought me to the end of the world."

Her first impression of her future husband, Bert Glenn, was not much better. When she saw him in overalls and dirty boots she did not find him attractive. Her second impression of him - when he came to call, dressed in clean shoes, pressed pants, white shirt, tie and sports jacket - was much better. He was dashing and handsome; definitely worthy of

her consideration.

The end of the world became a place of beauty for Chris. And she gained many young friends who have stayed with her all her life. Neilson Wemp, Helen Wemp (Miller), Irene Welbanks (Glenn), Mary Glenn (Hall), Nessie Glenn (Welbanks) were only a few of her "gang" of friends.

When Chris came to the Island at 16 she stayed with Garth in a small apartment in the brick building owned by Ross and Tina Filson (where the Back Kitchen now stands). While she was waiting for the apartment to be readied for her, she lived for a short time at Bert Glenn's parents' farm - where Allan and Cathy Glenn now reside - and, of course, she got to know Bert better. Later, Chris lived with Maggie Hill in the house on MacDonald Lane that is now Schrams' Grey Wood. Chris enjoyed the friendship of the older woman and helped her manage her home

until Maggie died.

Chris worked for Minnie Gibson in Stella and one of her responsibilities was

to care for Joe Beaubien at the rate of \$8 per month. Mr. Beaubien, suffering from senile dementia, would often hitch up his horse to a wagon and set off up the Stella Forty Foot to go home. Then

Chris would get Mike Brown to go with her to go after him. When they caught up to him they would ask, "Where are you going?" Joe would always reply, "I'm going home" (to where Harris Beaubien lived on the Third Concession). Mike would say to him, "You're going the wrong way. Follow us." He would turn around his rig and follow them back to town where he would unhitch the horse and put everything away again.

By then Chris had reached the advanced age of 18 and was ready to marry her beau, Bert Glenn. They were married at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on November 6, 1937 by The Rev. R.K. Earls, a good friend of Chris' family and a personal support to her. Chris remembers that the day was beautiful, that Garth gave her away (her parents were back in Winnipeg and unable to attend) and that her friend, Evelyn Gamble, sang two solos.

Kate Beaubien - Keith worked for her and her husband, Harris - offered her place for the reception. Kate and Bert's mother, Lillian, provided a marvellous party for the family, wedding attendants and close friends. At night there was a "do" at Victoria Hall where Tina (Glenn) Filson on piano, Les Glenn on accordion, Alex Glenn on violin and Stirling Glenn on banjo - The Glenn Orchestra - provided music for the dance which attracted most of the Islanders.

Bert and Chris went to Montreal on their honeymoon. Garth and Keith drove them there and deposited them with some of

were relieved when they arrived at their farm. They had feared for their lives.

Chris went into her marriage not knowing anything about farming. During her marriage she learned everything about the farm and could deal with every aspect of the work. She and Bert worked the long, hard hours all farmers had to put in until Bert's heart could take no more. They left the farm when Bert got a job working on the ferry. One of the councillors said they should not hire a man with a disability but was quickly put in his place by James Eves who had lost both his legs in the World War II and had much sympathy for Bert's situation.

Allan built the restaurant, bed and breakfast and gas station for them by the ferry dock (where Dan and Val Wolfreys now live). While Bert worked on the ferry from 1967 to 1976 Chris sold snacks, coffee, meals, dispensed gasoline and provided bedrooms for overnight workers and visitors from the mainland. Although both she and Bert were busy they were successful and happy. They enjoyed the work until it got to be too much for them and they closed up shop in 1974.

Once again Allan built for his mother, Chris, a dream home on the very property she had always loved and where she had gone swimming when she had lived in Stella. Unfortunately Bert was never able to enjoy that house because he died in 1988. He and Chris had shared 50 years in a happy marriage.

For three years Chris lived in that house alone. Her daughter, Jill, invited her mother down to her home in St. Catharines to introduce her to a widower of Chris' age. After meeting her, Buford (Don) Gregg invited her to his house for one of his home-cooked meals. This ap-



View along the South Shore

Terry Culbert photo

Bert's relatives who provided free room and board for about a week until Garth and Keith drove them home.

For thirty years Chris and Bert shared the Glenn homestead with Bert's parents, Tom and Lillian Glenn. After thirty years Grampa Glenn added another private section to the house for Bert, Chris and their family. Chris jokes that both she and her mother-in-law must have been saints to have put up with each other for so long.

Allan was born eleven months after the wedding. They had to wait for seven years before Jill was born and then Joyce arrived seven years after that. They were a hard-working family full of fun and music.

The family especially enjoyed the suppers up and down the Third Concession and the card parties in homes and also in Victoria Hall. When T.V. came to the Island, one of the first to purchase a set was Irwin Henderson. On Sunday nights the whole road would go up to sit in chairs set up in rows so everybody could enjoy The Ed Sullivan Show.

Not all the social outings were completely enjoyable. Once Bert and Chris took Allan, when he was a baby, in their horse and cutter to the home of Doug and Reta Miller for an evening of entertainment. When they set out for home it was so cold they almost perished and Chris kept Allan close to her heart to keep him warm. The snow was so dense they were unable to see the road. Both Bert and Chris

proach was novel enough to arouse her interest and that supper led to many other suppers and dates together. Don moved to Kingston so he could be near Chris, knowing she would never leave her beloved Amherst Island. They were married on May 15, 1991. Don came to share her house on the Island.

But they were not always in the house. They were often travelling. Don, an American from Louisiana who had served in the R.C.A.F. as a bomber pilot in World War II, introduced her to all his 50 relatives in the Southern States and then led her across Canada and showed her the world, including a trip back to Wales.

Chris still had time to knit - both by hand and on a machine - and keep up an active social life which involved visiting her friends, playing cards, and working and worshipping in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

St. Paul's is very important for Chris who continues to regularly attend even though she lives on the mainland. The Youth Group was important for her as she grew up. There she made friends and had fun with parties and plays which the group presented to small churches in Bath, Odessa and Adolphustown.

For years Chris has been active in the Ladies Aid and the Women's Missionary Society, now together in the Presbyterian Church Women. She remembers with pride the money raised for overseas missions, the clothing packed in bales for the Indian Residential Schools, the laughter at the meetings.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, the sturdy stone structure nestled among the trees, flooded with colour when the sun beats through the large stained glass window at the back, beautiful in shape, size and situation, has provided for Chris a refuge and strength when life was difficult. For Chris there is no more peaceful place in the world. Her life has revolved around St. Paul's. Its ministers have been friends and guides. She has so many good memories of the congregation. She laughs when she recalls how Bert, always direct and honest, once told a student minister that his sermon was good but he needed a new spark plug.



Motorship in Stella Bay before 1948

Photographer unknown

And for Chris, Amherst Island is her life; it's the place that has meant the most to her; it's her home; it's her family. But she and Don felt they had to move to the mainland when Don's health began to fail. When Zander and Nancy Dunn returned to the Island on the 50th Anniversary of The St. Paul's Garden Party, (at the urging of Amy Caughy, a student at The University of Guelph and a member of the youth group at Knox Church where Zander was the minister), Chris said to Zander, "You're an Island boy. You're close to retirement. You should buy my house. Go look at it." The Dunns felt the house was right for them and that precipitated Zander's early retirement and their move to the Island. The house, at 245 Macdonald Lane, is now named DUNN INN.

Today Chris gets back to the Island to visit Allan and Cathy and their families, to play cards and to attend worship at St. Paul's. She lives at 760 Front St. in Kingston and volunteers with the Seniors Association.

Chris feels blessed by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Allan and Cathy have three children: Steven and his wife, Suzanne, who have two girls, Sarah and Emma; Tim and his wife, Maria, and their two children, Alex and Tanya; Shelley and her husband, Frank

Hawley, with two children, Megan and Nathan. Chris' older daughter, Jill, is married to Wayne Watson (a former teacher on the Island) whose children are Debbie and Tracy. Debbie, married to Jim Hunter, has two children - Alisha and Jacob. Joyce Burgess, Chris' youngest child, has two children, Terri and Peter. Thus Chris is the proud grandmother of seven children and the great-grandmother of six. God, through Chris, has greatly blessed Amherst Island.

NEW REPRINT AVAILABLE
Amherst Island: A Detailed Survey
by Thomas Sylvester
Available for the first time since 1994.
Research into land and property lines as laid out for Sir. John Johnson (c. 1790).
You may find this book particularly interesting if you own waterfront property. 112 pages of text and maps, spiral bound, fully annotated. Copies \$25 each at the AI General Store or call 389-1320

AMHERST ISLANDER WITNESSED THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY

- Jennifer Bunting, Archivist,

Lennox and Addington County Museum
(Special for the Beacon)

In September, 1901, young William Strain of Amherst Island decided to take a well-earned break from farm chores to take in the "Fair", and in so doing, crossed paths with history.

William Forsyth Strain was born on the Island in October, 1881, the son of David Strain and his wife, Sarah Jane Cooper. The clerk's scrawled return for the birth registration says October 13th, but in 1901, William told the census-taker that he was born October 19th. William's father gave his occupation variously as "labourer" or "hewer" but he must have turned his hand to more as when he died in 1893, he left his widow a farm by which to support the family. William's older brother, "J.C.", took up most of the farm responsibilities but all four broth-



Pres. William McKinley

ers and the two sisters also shared the work.

William was particularly close to his sister, Lucy, who was a year older. In early September William

and Lucy decided to take the steamer up the Lake to visit the exciting Pan-American Exhibition in Buffalo, New York. A friend from Kingston, Bert Revelle, went with them. William was just 19.

At almost the same time, the President of the United States, William McKinley, was packing for his trip to the Pan-American Exhibition where he was to give an address. The first lady, Ida (Saxton) McKinley accompanied him. McKinley, then 58 years old, had been elected to the

Presidency in 1896 after a legendary campaign battle against William Jennings Bryant. The President came from Ohio, from comparatively humble origins. His father was an iron foundryman of modest means. William McKinley fought in the Civil War (he was at the Battle of Antietam) and was later raised to the rank of major for his gallantry by President Lincoln. He studied law, and through hard work eventually became Governor of Ohio. He was one of America's most popular presidents due to his common touch and honesty. The Napanee Express commented: "he had a knowledge of the suffering of humanity and left a clean record behind him".

The Presidential party, and the Amherst Islanders must have arrived at the Pan-American Exhibition at about the same time. Following his speech, President McKinley had agreed to greet the crowds outside of the Temple of Music. Hearing this, William Strain and Bert Revelle made their way to the spot, and there learned that some people would actually be permitted to shake the President's hand. Seizing the opportunity Revelle and Strain joined the line. Three people ahead of them was a man with a white bandage on his right hand. They had almost reached the President and were just three feet from him when it was the turn of the man with the bandage. He extended his left hand as if his right hand were injured, but in reality the right hand held a gun, concealed under a white handkerchief. The assassin shot the President twice, as the horrified Canadians looked on.

Then chaos broke out. As the President fell back, a waiter from the nearby restaurant did a flying tackle and brought the assassin down just as he

Continued on page 12



One of the people that makes Amherst Island work: Helen McCormick delivering the mail, as she does every weekday, without fail. Between her and her late husband Edward, they have been delivering the AI post since 1960.

Photo by Garnet McDonald

*Clinton Kilpatrick's farm
equipment sale on the Third,
May 10, 2003*



Clinton & Laurie Kilpatrick at the sale





Photos for the Beacon by TR



An old van slowly sinking into the loam on the south shore

JH

was about to fire again. The Presidential body guards then grabbed the assailant and began to beat him savagely, until the President's voice was heard crying, "Go easy on him, boys!" The guards then began to push back the crowds, and the Canadians were forced away from the crime scene.

President McKinley was not mortally wounded, but later died of the surgery performed to remove one of the bullets. The assassin, whose name was Leon Czolgosz (pronounced Choll-gosh) was a follower of Emma Goldman, a well-known anarchist. Anarchists believed that any and all governments prevented complete personal liberty. Czolgosz freely admitted planning the assassination, saying that he did it for the good, working people and was not sorry. Although his lawyers plead insanity, he was found guilty and executed by means of the electric chair on October 29, 1901.

By that time, the Canadians were home. William Strain later left the Island, and worked at various occupations. He retired to Napanee, and was living there when John F. Kennedy was shot in November, 1963. The Kennedy assassi-

nation brought back the troubled memories of this eventful visit to the Pan-American Exhibition, as if it were only yesterday, he told a reporter. William Forsyth Strain died in Napanee shortly after and is buried on the Island, in Glenwood Cemetery.

CATCH THE WAVE

- Neil Johnston

At 2:30 PM on Canada Day, July 1st, John Munro will enter the water in Bath to swim across the North Channel and land on Amherst Island's North Shore. This is a qualifying swim to meet the requirements for the Lake Erie and Ontario swims this summer. John will be in view at about 3:30 PM and arrive on the shore of Dayle Gowan's property just west of the ferry dock at about 4:30 PM. All Islanders are encouraged to greet John and his wife Vicki Keith as they arrive. This approximately two hour swim follows a busy morning where John and Vicki will be honoured as parade marshals in the famous Bath



Canada Day Parade. After John's swim across the channel, he and Vicki will also put in an appearance at the Amherst Island Canada Day Parade

The Amherst Island Fire and Emergency Response Crew is organizing this worthwhile event to help promote John's summer swims across Lake Erie in early July and Lake Ontario in August and to raise funds for children with special needs.

The Fire and Rescue Crew is also entering a float in the Bath parade to make the estimated 5000 attendees very aware of John's reasons for taking on these Herculean swim challenges. Many of the twenty kids with disabilities that Vicki works with at the

Kingston Family YMCA will ride on a float behind John and Vicki.

Why is John swimming the Y Knot Marathon? In John's own words "I am doing this to change lives. To open up a whole new world of opportunities for young people with physical disabilities. Many of the young people we are working with have life altering or life threatening conditions. Up to this point there have been very few opportunities for these young people to participate in sport and recreational activities. They are often forgotten. The programs that we are developing with the Kingston Family YMCA give these children the chance not only to participate but more importantly to belong. It is an awesome feeling when you can touch a child's life in such a powerful way." This summer, John will swim 38.8 knots across Lakes Erie and Ontario. At \$2,000 per knot (a knot, or nautical mile, is equal to 1.15 statute miles or 1.852 km), John can raise \$77,600.00 with your support. It is very important to realize that all of the money raised for John's very, very worthwhile cause goes towards equipment and programs for kids with special needs.

Here's how you can pitch in and help John's Y Knot Marathon: cheques can be made payable to Kingston Family YMCA and mailed to Kingston Family YMCA, attention Heather McDonald, 100 Wright Cr., Kingston, Ontario, K7L 4T9. In the memo area of your cheque please write Y Knot Marathon.

If you need more information, please call Neil Johnston at 389-5389 or go to the Island web site at: www.amherstisland.on.ca/yknot

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

Every spring we are visited by vast numbers of mosquito-looking insects which, according to a fact sheet on the internet, are called non-biting midges - chironomus plumosus. They are annoying - sometimes very much so - but are otherwise harmless to humans and probably provide a lot of feed for birds and fish.

The hum from a huge swarm is as much a sound of spring as birds or frogs although I doubt if anyone has included this sound in any poems praising spring.

A biologist once told me that he had read that a female midge hums when she is ready for male companionship. He was collecting specimens in a marsh one evening when he decided to try to imitate a female midge. He said that he knew when he'd got the frequency right as he was immediately covered by about an inch of ardent midges.

There have been several articles recently about garlic mustard, a plant that is rapidly taking over woodlands and fence rows in this part of the world. It has also become a real pest in our gardens. The sheep keep it out of the pastures but it seems to be just about everywhere else around here.

I use garlic mustard regularly in salads - it's full of vitamins and minerals and is tasty - and the hens will eat quite a bit if I throw it into their pen, but I don't think we are keeping up very well with this crop.



Garnet McDonald and four horses on the Island, in the 30's

I haven't seen any field mushrooms yet but the oyster mushrooms on dead elms and other trees are having a very good season. Several people have told me that this mushroom is quite tasty but I only got around to trying it recently and it is very tasty fried in butter or olive oil. An article on the internet said not to bother with it if a sharp knife won't cut it easily. I also learned that this is an excellent mushroom to freeze or dry. Another good thing is that this mushroom cannot be mistaken for any poisonous mushrooms.

I bought a few things for the farm at Clinton's auction and bid on a few items that got away. Clinton says that he is fairly pleased with how things went but several of us thought that prices were low for some very well-maintained equipment.



AIMS REPORT

- John Kuti

Chairman: Dick Dodds.
Secretary John Kuti.

The minutes were accepted with two changes. The spelling of Tom Ivison's name was corrected, and John Kuti and Lynn A'Court were added to the New Year's dance committee as responsible for deserts.

The chairman for June was chosen and

is Michael Shaw.

The treasurer's report was given by Jim Whitton.

There was a short report by Hugh Jenney on the Nielsen Store committee and funding progress.

The report on the farmers market stated it would begin May 17th. The AIMS table would be the new wagon donated by Brian Grace and completely renovated by Bruce Burnett. Both were offered sincere thanks by AIMS members.

Hugh Jenney gave a report on the coming Island House Tour with a list of all the houses. Dick Dodds asked for volunteers for the transportation committee for that day.

There was discussion of Amherst Island Day and the various ideas and events involved, and it was agreed that it would be August 30th, 10 to 4.

Dick Dodds offered to investigate renting barbecues for the great hamburger contest. Doug Williamson, as one of the chief organizers, asked for permission to spend money for preparations and for certain prizes. Permission was granted.

Allen Caughey pointed out that Amherst Island once had a fall fair, the last one in 1944, and there was a place behind Heritage Park still designated as the fair grounds which he rented. He generously offered the site as well as the building he rents beside the Park to use for the event. It was suggested that the

name Amherst Island Day be changed to the Amherst Island Fair. This idea was accepted.

The speaker for next month was chosen. It is Allan Kidd.

The meeting was then adjourned.

LETTERS

From Tom Rutledge:

Presently there are a couple of known shipwrecks in the channel.

The Amherst Tug - This possibly is from the Collins Bay Rafting Co.:

<http://www.northerntechdiver.com/wrecks/terry/terry.php>.

The William Jamieson - Schooner:

<http://www.northerntechdiver.com/wrecks/jamieson/jamieson.php>.

The Hilda, Londonderry and Couborg. Pike Salvage barges scuttled in the late 1960s:

<http://www.northerntechdiver.com/wrecks/londonderry/londonderry.php>

<http://www.northerntechdiver.com/wrecks/hilda/hilda.php>

We're about to start a more aggressive look in the area for more interesting sites, as there are some rumours. If you have any stories or know of some could you please share them with me if possible?

[Phone Tom at 634-8467.]

From Martha Parker:

I have read most of the issues of the Amherst Island Beacon that are located on the website and I was intrigued by the genealogies of the local people. Since my family once lived on Amherst I decided to send you some information about them and hopefully some of your readers will be interested.

The first Curran I found who left the Ards Peninsula to go to Amherst Island was Robert Curran (1814-1897). He married

Jane Reid in 1835 in Ballyhalbert, Co Down, Ireland. He was on Amherst in 1827 and 1861. It appears that he traveled back and forth to Canada as witnessed by the births of his children.

Their children were:

1. David Curran (1836-1872) m. Elizabeth

Robinson (1834-1914). (He drowned. She remarried John McKee in 1875.)

2. Margaret Curran (1838-) m. Robert Veach.

3. Robert Curran (18 Oct 1839-) m. 1865 Sarah Jane Dempster of Amherst Island. He was born in Ballyhalbert. (Her brother Hugh married Elizabeth Reid and lived in Douglas, MI. When Hugh died she married Archibald Curran.)

4. Ellen Curran (25 Dec 1841-1901+).

5. Samuel Curran (25 Apr 1845-).

6. Thomas Curran (1846-).

7. Mary Jane Curran (1847-) m. 1864 William Sanderson (1840-).



You might suspect from the shape of these bottles that the contents include all natural ingredients. They do. They're for feeding lambs.
TR

8. Ann Curran (1851-1928) m. 1867 Richard Thompson (1844-1925). She is buried in Dungannon Cemetery.

9. John Curran (1858-1897) Ballyesboro (his father listed as laborer) m. Sarah Ryan. They are buried in Dungannon Cemetery in Ashfield Twsp, Huron Co.

I don't know how my great grandfather, James Curran (1828-1910), was related to Robert Curran (1814-1897) but I have no doubt that they were. James Curran and his sons, James, Robert, John and Thomas were fisherman in Ballyhalbert, Co Down, Ireland.

In 1872 the family immigrated to Chicago, IL and the men worked on the Great Lakes in the summer and had other jobs in the winter. Three of my great grandparent's sons married girls from Amherst Island.

The oldest son James Curran (1850-1928) married Sarah Reid in 1874 in Chicago and moved to Michigan and bought a farm. Sarah was the daughter of John Reid and Sarah McKee of Amherst Island. James Curran and Sarah Reid had a daughter Sarah who married John Reid of Amherst Island.



Eliza Cochrane & Robert Curran

They lived in Michigan. Sarah Reid Curran's sister, Jane Reid married Archibald Curran (1838-1906) who had lived on Amherst Island and later moved to Moosejaw, Saskatchewan and Douglas, Michigan. When Jane died Archibald married her sister Elizabeth. Archibald had a sister Selina who married John Cochrane. Archibald's parents were James Curran and Jane Kirkpatrick of Ballyhalbert, Co. Down and he may have been a brother to my great grandfather, James Curran. It does get somewhat confusing!

The next son of James Curran (1828-1910) was Robert Curran (1852-1934) who married Elizabeth Cochrane the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Cochrane of Amherst Island. Thomas was the son of Thomas Cochrane and Mary Dundas.

Robert and his family moved from Chicago to Kansas where he had a dairy farm. Another son, John Curran (1854-1887) married Grace Ann Cochrane who was another daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Cochrane. John was the Captain of the schooner Havana that capsized in Lake Michigan near St. Joseph and after he drowned Ann married James Shaw. I have no further information on this family.

The youngest son, Thomas Curran (1861-) was alive in 1910 but disappeared and nothing further is known of him. He was in Chicago in 1881.

As for the daughters who were living in Chicago: Jane Curran (1857-ca 1910) married John McGowan and when he died she moved to the Ards Peninsula and married David J. Adair.

Mary Curran (1863-1929) married William Clint who was from Portavogie, Co Down. They lived in Chicago and the family later moved to California.

Agnes Curran, my grandmother, married Arthur Parker and lived in Chicago. There was a branch of Currans who had arrived in Chicago ca 1863 prior to when my great grandparents had arrived.

David Curran worked on the Great Lakes and also spent some time in On-

tario but finally settled in Oswego, NY. He was from Co Down.

The Currans in Kingston and Storrington might also be related. I have more information on these families if someone is interested. And if anyone sees a mistake or has anything to offer I would be most pleased to correspond with them.

My address is: Martha Parker 7036 Prestwick Lane SW Port Orchard, WA 98367 USA My email is: parker2005@charter.net. Are you planning to update the Amherst Island site? I do enjoy reading the newspaper and would like to read some recent issues. As you can see many of the names are quite famil-

iar to me. A cousin sent me a picture and thinks that it is a picture of a Curran. I will also send a copy of this via an attachment in case the format has to be altered. Thank you. I hope that you find some of this interesting to you.

LETTER HOME

- Christopher Kennedy

A tourist up from New York stopped at our end of the road last Sunday and asked "What's up with this Island? I've never seen so many sheep in my life" Then she



Parrot Tulips Peter Large, SCA

got out a camera with about two feet of lens on the end and started photographing lambs.

The lambs arrived this month in a flood. We started slowly the first week, but after about three weeks we only had about twenty stragglers left in the barn to put out to lamb on pasture. We have another 450 ewes who lamb on pasture from the start. Some of these are right beside the road, and Sheila and Eleanor keep a close watch on these for us when they are on their morning walk.



Jacob on the North Shore

TR

This is a wonderful time of year on the Island, with the fresh grass and the lilacs just starting on the North Shore. The Baltimore Orioles are back, and we have a fine lot of Goldfinches at the feeder. There has been a fair amount of rain this spring, so we should have a hay crop when the weather warms up. It hasn't made life easy for the farmers trying to plant grain, though.

What has shaken the agricultural world, though is the case of BSE, or Mad Cow Disease, in Alberta. The U.S. has banned the import of all ruminant meat from Canada, and this includes sheep and goat meat as well as beef. The U.S. meat industry has been looking for an excuse to restrict imports of Canadian meat for some time, and this one case has given them a perfect justification. Combined with a certain amount of media hysteria the short term future for beef in Canada does not look promising. Over the last three years the Canadian sheep industry has built up a profitable export of lamb to the U.S. and this has been closed off as a sort of collateral damage, though there is absolutely no scientific reason for the ban on sheep. Fortunately for sheep farmers, the U.S. market takes less than 10% of Canadian lamb, as opposed to about 60 % of Canadian beef, so the effects on our market should be less. We just have to hope that no more cases of BSE surface. To put the risk from BSE into perspective it is worth remembering that in Britain, the country worst hit by BSE there have only been a total of just over 100 deaths from Variant Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease since the start of the outbreak. The Flu is far more dangerous.

It seems a shame to dwell on business when the Island is so beautiful, but farmers have to make a living and buy the groceries, the same as everyone else.

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray
Cemeteries Committee: Bruce Caughey accepted the post of Chair.
County Taxes:
Revenue sources: county levy, \$12.2 mil-

lion; Ontario, \$18.8 million; provincial offences, \$1.5 million; Lenadco resident payments, \$2.3 million; various, \$7.8 million.

Expenditures: Lenadco, \$8.3 million; social assistance, \$17.4 million; social housing, \$3.9 million; child care, \$1.7 million; roads & bridges, \$6.0 million; ambulance services, \$2.4 million; health unit, \$0.9 million; other, \$1.7 million.

Landfill Site: "The annual quantity of waste disposal at the Amherst Island Landfill Site is significantly less than the amount estimated in the Development Operations Plan prepared in 1996.

Stella 40': It is recommended that the 300m section of roadway south of the bridge be improved by removing the asphalt and replacing it with gravel after re-establishing a ditch.

Thank You Notes

My mother Helen Bulch sold her house in the village and moved to Amherstview in mid April. Although I moved away from the island in 1967 as a restless teenager, I

have always returned to visit my family. Amherst Island has always been a unique little community and my roots. After my father passed away in late September 2001, many kind, thoughtful residents continued to be very friendly, caring and supportive to my mother. Often, while visiting, I would hear about another kind act someone had just recently performed for her. She has mentioned the kindness of the Men's Society many times. Therefore, I just wanted to convey my heartfelt thanks to everyone on Amherst Island for being so caring and special as only "island people" can be! This thank-you is also directed to my sister Diane (Ida) Gavlas and hubby George, who fortunately for my mother, lived close by and has always been there for her. My mother and "Sparky" seem to be settling in nicely in Amherstview and they still have a great view of the island from the street where they live now.

Once again thank-you !

Dorothy Broeders-Morin

We wish to thank Dave and Rosemary Vrooman, the fire department, the first response team, the ferry crew and anyone else that helped our family the night of the fire in our garage. We also wish to apologise to the people who were inconvenienced by the ferry taking the ambulance and making them late.

It is great to have good neighbours and dedicated Islanders who are willing to put themselves out to help others.

Thank you, sincerely,

Ray & Zelma Koenders and family.

My many thanks to all who called, sent cards and especially your prayers during my recent bereavement.

Your participation was greatly appreciated.

Margaret Anne Luscombe.

The Amherst Island Rec Association would like to thank everyone who came out and supported our (sold out!) Spring

GIANT BOOK SALE!

August Civic Holiday

Books Wanted!!

The AI Women's Institute is collecting books for our Sale. Sort your books and gain shelf space!

We will pick up donations - call Jackie Sylvester, 389-1320 or Judi Harrower, 384-0435. Books can also be dropped off in the front porch at Freda Youell's 345 Stella Forty-Foot in the village.

Help make our sale a success.

Dance and Fish Fry. This is our one big fund raiser for the year and raises the money needed for the fireworks on Canada Day. Our grant was cut in budget cuts this year, so a successful Fish Fry was greatly appreciated!

We hope to see everyone out on Canada Day.

Many thanks from the members of the A.I.R.A.

from BORN ON THE ISLAND

- L&A County Museum and Archives

(Excerpts from the Napanee Beaver, April 1895-April 1897)

May 7, 1896

STELLA

Cheesemaking commenced in Stella factory this week under the able management of T. Emery, with Mr. Hamilton as assistant. Mr. Emery is known to be a good cheesemaker.

A good many farmers are through sowing.

The new house that is being built on the point is ready for plastering. Clark Wright, Kingston, is expected to occupy it.

A good many took trips to Kingston on the Hero last week.

Mrs. Wm. McDonald and A. Stevenson attended the funeral of their father, who died on Wolfe Island last week. Mr. Stevenson was a former resident of this place and was highly respected.

Miss Roberts, teacher of No. 1 school, has resigned on account of delicate health. Many of the children were grieved at the thought of losing Miss Roberts. They are pleased with the new teacher, Miss Scammell. She took charge of the school last week. The school, at present, is the largest on the island.

Mr. Machar, of Kingston, paid a visit to Mr. Moutray last week.

Rev. Mr. Tighe has started a Sabbath school.

Mrs. J. Allen, Belleville, is visiting here

at present.

Miss Roberts went to Merrickville Monday.

G.A. Chown returned to Kingston Monday.

WATERSIDE SUMMER SERIES

Music on Amherst Island

The first two concerts:

June 21

The Romantic Piano
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
Saturday Night 7.30 pm
Gloria Saarinen, piano

New Zealand born Gloria Saarinen lived for many years in Calgary while gaining international recognition for her "warm, lyrical and imaginative playing" (London Times). She presently lives in Burlington.

**

July 5

Romance Italian Style
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
Saturday Night 7:30 pm
Bruce Kelly, baritone
Dina Namer, piano

Baritone Bruce Kelly returns this summer by popular demand. He has performed with orchestras and opera companies in Europe and throughout Canada. He is a member of the Queen's University School of Music.

Dina Namer teaches piano at Carleton University and frequently performs with the National Arts Centre Orchestra.

Tickets for these two concerts are still available by calling 384-2153

Other concerts during the summer sea-



The Stella Bella's celebrating mad-hatter day, caught by chance in the village.. L-R: Elke Herrington, Susan Filson, Eloise Gowan, Gwen Lauret, Bonnie Caughey.

son include: July 17, Anton Kuerti piano & Kristine Bogyo cello, at St. Paul's; August 2 Deirdre Piper organist, at St. Alban's

From the KINGSTON CREDIT UNION NEWSLETTER

If your cottage system needs upgrading, tap into this little known government program - it pays for about 2/3 of the fix. It's a program to clean up Ontario's rural wells administered by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture for the Rural Well Upgrading and Decommissioning Project. It applies to private rural wells, including cottages. It does not pay for new wells, pump or water treatment systems. It pays about 2/3 of the cost to fix structural problems on existing wells, including capping unused wells. Kicked off in 2001, it has a \$6 M budget and only 15% has been spent. The program expires in September 2003.

For Information and Applications: Contact Sara Zippin

40 Eglington Avenue E., 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1A6

416-485-3333

info@ofa.on.ca (e-mail)

Website: www.ofa.on.ca

NOTICES & ADS

MINDFULNESS

A day of Mindfulness practice cultivating moment to moment awareness, enhancing concentration and the precious connection to self and all of life.

Saturday June 21st. Contact Jocelyn Leyton 384-6488

COMPLEMENTARY HEALTHCARE PRACTICE

Complementary Healthcare Practice: Cranial-Osteopathic treatments offered to restore health and balance. Telephone Jocelyne Leyton 384-6488

THREE POSITIONS FOR THE NELSON STORE

(Volunteers are preferred)

Researcher

A researcher will find and verify information and artifacts relative to the exhibit themes defined by the Exhibit Committee. The Researcher will provide a list of applicable artifact and image sources (including sizes, detailed description, and if possible photocopies of photographs of both images and artifacts), along with written summaries of events (including information sources). The Researcher will have the ability to produce results in an electronic format to be easily used by others. The Exhibit Committee, will monitor and guide the research direction, and will decide when the research is complete enough for the Interpretive Planner/Writer to commence work.

Length of time for work: 4 weeks

**

Interpretive Planner/Writer

The Interpretive Planner must create a storyline based on the Exhibit Committee's themes, and the Researcher's list of available artifacts, images and events. The Interpretive Planner will determine the appropriate media to best suit each exhibit element. The methods chosen for each theme must suit the topic, the available resources, and effectively attract, engage and inform the audience. The Interpretive Planner must be able to work in a compatible electronic format.

Upon approval of the Interpretive Plan by the Exhibit Committee, the Interpretive Planner will write the Museums text (including captions as well as text panels) to suit the intended audience.

Length of time for Interpretive Plan: 4 weeks

Length of time for Text Writing: 3 weeks

**

Designer

The Designer will take the Interpretive Plan Package (consisting of the Interpretive Plan and text) and design the structures and graphics re-

quired. The Designer must allow for proper traffic flow, lighting, security, and legibility. They must work within the space budget, and time frame available.

The Designer must be able to work in an electronic format and produce conceptual design for approvals and final drawings for fabrication.

Length of time for Design Development: 6 - 8 weeks

FREE BUILDING

The small tin building, located on the Old Neilson Store property on Amherst Island, is available, at no cost except for a relocation permit. Please contact the Building Department at 352-3361 for details re removal regulations.

Anyone interested in obtained this building should contact the undersigned for details. Deadline for submission is Friday, June 30, 2003.

Patrick Beyer, Recreation Director

W.J. Henderson Recreation Centre

322 Amherst Drive Amherstview, On. K7N 1S9
389-3648, ext. 208

WI GUIDE

An excellent resource and guide to Women's Health and Community Services for Eastern Ontario is available at the library. This directory will help you search for government and non-profit organizations serving women and the elderly. It also has a page on questions to ask your health care provider. A few copies will be available at the W.I market stand

AMHERST ISLAND WEBSITE

www.amherstisland.on.ca

now "under new management"

The site is run as a service to the community, and is now overseen by Alex Scott and Tom Richmond.

If you would like to have something added to the website, or would like to discuss hosting your ISLAND BASED business there, please contact either of us in person or by phone, or by e-mail at info@amherstisland.on.ca. Some changes are being planned at this time to update the site.

Many have contributed financially in the past to the website (it costs about \$270 per year to pay the "lease" on the website). We will be looking for support each May/June to pay for the following year. If 13 individuals or businesses each pay \$25, we will be set for the next 12 months.

We are not doing this for profit, & lack the funds to run it as a benevolent society. A lack of immediate financial support will mean shutting down the site. Please don't let this happen.

Thank you!

AUCTION SALE OF THE CENTURY!

(OK, so it's been a short century so far!)

Tools and other items from the estate
of

Captain Eldon Willard

To be held at 105 McDonalds Lane,
Amherst Island, Stella, ON

Saturday June 14, 2003

Open 9AM, **Sale starts 10AM**

by Doug Jarrell Auctions Limited

*(whose exceptional services were last seen at
Clinton Kilpatrick's farm equipment auction last
month on the Island)*

Island memorabilia: lights; compasses;
anchors; marker and ships lanterns; milk
bottles; cheese boxes; etc, etc, etc..

Power / hand tools, parts, including

Edge planer (jointer); Drill press; Table Saw;
Wrenches; Chains; Rope; extension cords; milk
cans; oil cans; gas cans; Prince Albert-in-a-can;
large quantity of plumbing parts; fuses; nuts;
bolts; screws; jacks;
pumps; etc, etc, etc.



Lawn and garden tools.
Farm wagon.
snowmobile trailer.
Antique Cast Iron
patterned tractor seats,
etc, etc, etc.

Coca-Cola machine
(c.1953 vintage)

Vintage ships compass (appears to be new)
with oil filled interior gimbal mounting, brass
vessel kerosene/ alcohol wick light, anti-glare



hood, and a real
glow-in-the-dark dial.

Could be Navy
surplus? Made in

Ottawa, info. plate attached.

This will be an exceptional sale,

***an opportunity to meet with your friends &
neighbors, and perhaps take home your own
piece of island history. Do not miss it!***

Food & drinks on site by the St. Alban's ACW

NO Early Birds!

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL STORE

SUMMER HOURS: M-Th 9-6, Fri-Sat 9-9, Sun 10-6. Now the playoffs are over, we've got some great new movies in on VHS or DVD right now:

***The Recruit**-Al Pacino, Colin Ferrel

***Analyze That**- Billy Crystal, Robert DeNiro

***Atlantis** and **Milo's Return**- Disney

***The Hot Chick**-Rob Schneider

***Two Weeks Notice**- Hugh Grant, Sandra Bullock

Many more to choose from!

Our Store Hours for Canada Day are 10AM to 5PM. Happy Canada Day everyone!!!

VICTORIA HALL TEA ROOM

Crafts are selling well, come in and browse. By popular demand, Tea Room **Gift Certificates** are available for 'anyone who has everything else!' Drop by for Island Videos @ \$16.95 ...or just to say 'Hello'. REMINDER: Afternoon card games please call 389-5389. Open Tuesday through Sunday noon to 6pm.

THE BACK KITCHEN

The Back Kitchen's opening weekend was terrific. The weather was beautiful, the support from the Island community was excellent, and the encouragement, kind words, and gifts were uplifting for all of us at The Back Kitchen. We thank you all and hope to see you on a regular basis.

Visit Watercolours, Etc.

The studio gallery of Shirley Miller. We are exhibiting the works of several local artists. Paintings, prints & lessons available. 2545 Third Concession... If we are home, we are open! Tel. 389-2588

SIGNS

Computer generated, vinyl lettering for mailboxes, vehicles or small signs. Different styles of fonts and colour choices. Lyn - 634-2509

Godden's whole-hog sausage

Made using the finest cuts of pork including hams, chops, loin, etc. Choose from regular, honey garlic, tomato oregano. \$40.00 for 10lb. box. Available at Poplar Dell B&B:

Call Susie at 389-2012 or Lori at 705-653-5984.

Picnic Tables & Weather Vanes For Sale

Keith Miller 389-2588

Country Seats Repairs to woven chair seating: Reed & Ash, Splint Cane & Fibre Rush. Call Johanna MacKinnon at 352-7453

Summit International Canada Carpet Manufacturer and Distributor Gord Forbes, Sales Agent ...389-8516

Amherst Island Video

sponsored by AIMS. Available in VHS and CD format. You can purchase copies at the Amherst Island General Store, or through Neil Johnston at 389-5389

I am collecting used stamps (any kind) for the guide dogs, clean used clothing and books for the "Cat's Meow." Used towels, cleaning products, A&P tapes & 12" knitted squares. Freda Youell 384-4135

Babysitter available

-After school and weekends. -Responsible.

-Red Cross Certified
Call Whitney Fleming :389-9869

Babysitting

Red Cross Certified Babysitter. Available early evenings & weekends. Torri Phillips: 389-0512

Babysitter

- Red Cross Babysitting & CPR certified - available after school, early evenings & weekends. Call Beth Albertan: 389-2662

Seasonal Winter Storage for Boats, etc., right in beautiful Downtown Stella! Indoor, reasonable rates. Dayle Gowan, 634-3815

Amherst Island Sweatshirts, Golf Shirts & T-shirts. Embroidered Logo. Wide Selection of colours & sizes. Now available at Victoria Hall tea room

WEASEL & EASEL

The W&E will be open every weekend from noon till 4 until July when it will be open every day until Labour Day.

The Lodge on Amherst Island

Rental available for special occasions. Call Molly at: (613) 634-1388 or (416) 533-5997
www.amherstisland.on.ca/thelodge



2 BEDROOM COTTAGE

on Stella Point: By the week or week-end, May-September. Call Molly (416) 533-5997

NORTH SHORE COTTAGE

for rent year around. By the week or week-end. Please phone 389-2012.

SOUTH SHORE COTTAGE

for rent on private, secluded peninsula. Over 2000ft of limestone shoreline. \$650 weekly. Call (613) 389-5536 for further information

LAKESHORE RUBBER STAMP

Lakeshore Rubber Stamp has recently moved to Amherst Island and would like to inform old and new customers of this new location.

I can provide business and art stamps, daters, signature and similar products. All stamps are custom made on the premises and can be ready in 24 hours. Please call 389-8441 or fax 389-9770. Email: selc.welbanks@sympatico.ca

This is a home-based business and available most days. Linda Welbanks *****

Tim Hicks Plumbing and Heating

Water treatment, pumps, heating: in floor; radiant; forced air; solar. Certified Master Plumber. Phone 545-3541

Awareness Workshop

Developing skills in concentration, heightening awareness and mental and physical calmness. Telephone Jocelyne Leyton 384-6488

Frozen Meals Designed for Seniors

offered by Lennox and Addington Senior Outreach Services. Restricted and special diets can also be accommodated. Contact: Freda Youell at 384-4135 for menus, meal descriptions and prices.

FOR SALE:

Tales of Amherst Island by Dr. H. C. Burleigh call 389-3943



Topsy Farms:

sheepskins, wool blankets, yarn, socks etc. Queen size blankets, \$99.95 (10% off on over-stocked items).



Phone 389-3444 for an appointment. Visit us at www.topsyfarms.com

Ted Gow Painting, wallpapering, tiling, home maintenance and repairs. Free estimates. Island references. 634-5404

Thomas A. Richmond, Certified Electrician. Home, Farm & Commercial wiring and repairs, right here on the island. Ontario Electrical Safety Authority Authorized Contractor Program. 634-1855

HAY BALES FOR SALE on the Island:

40-45lb bales. Wayne Fleming 389-9869



WI BAKE SALE

Friday 27, June - 3:45 at the General Store.

FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

ISLE will hold a Father's Day Breakfast on Sunday, June 15th, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

YARD SALE

Where: 20 Front Road

Who: Garry & Susan Filson

Jan & Bonnie Sneep

When: Saturday, June 21

10:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

What: Household items, toys, books, child's bedroom set, misc.

HOUSE TOUR

Enjoy the Summer Solstice

House Tour & Strawberry Social

June 21 from 10:30 to 4 PM

384-7830 or 389-5389

LANDFILL SITE HOURS

Wed 11-2; Sat 10-noon; Sun 2-4.

FERRY OFFICE HOURS

Mon, Wed, Fri, 9-noon & 1-4

Ferry fuel-up days are Tuesday and Friday (be prepared for a delay).

Additional Amherst Islander Logbooks found

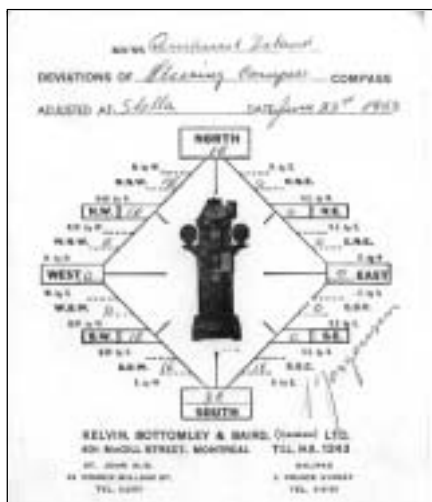
-Tom Richmond

In preparation for Elsie Willard's sale (see page 18 of this issue), a great deal of cleaning has been done- places that hadn't seen the light of day in nearly 50 years were emptied out and gone through. Some of the discoveries were amazing.

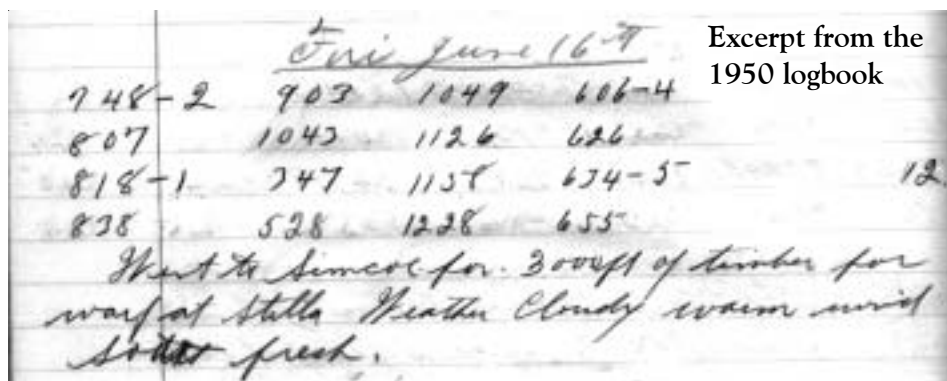
1942 LOGBOOKS FROM THE FIRST AMHERST ISLANDER (the wooden boat c.1929-31 that was the first official township-operated ferry) were in the pile, covering the early forties. The late forties saw the arrival of the LANDING CRAFT, and we now have the logs from it's Maiden voyage (it arrived only DAYS before the ice set up in late December, and it lay tied up for many weeks before seeing any real use.

Thses logs detail the years from 1942 to 1954. In one log, we can find where the wood came from for Stella warf. (fig 1).

In another (fig 2) we can see that, in war-time Canada, the crew kept track of how many times each resident took a vehicle on the ferry.



Compass calibration chart for the M.V. Amherst Islander, found in the 1953-54 logbook



(fig 1) "Went to Simcoe for 3000ft of timber for warf at Stella. Weather cloudy warm wind South fresh"

3	Miller Ailine	1	1	1																
17	Mr. Mullen Charles	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
9	Mr. Mullen Edward	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10	Mr. Campbell Harold	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
16	Mr. Donald Edwin	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
7	Mr. Donald Sammet	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
32	Mr. Neil Ross	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

(fig 2) Oh, the scandal! While Garnet McDonald only left the island seven times in 1942, Ross McKee had business on the mainland thirty-two times. What would the rationing board say!?

This note was found in the back cover of the 1953-54 book:

Cost Per day of ferry

Wages-	\$32.50
Oil-	\$30.00
Lube Oil-	\$ 2.71

Cost Per day \$65.21
Coat Per trip \$17.30
including (intro Pay??)

Cost Per day of ferry	
Wages —	432.50
Oil —	30.00
Lube oil	2.71
<hr/>	
Cost Per day	65.21
11 " Trip	1730.
including intro Pay.	

These fascinating pieces of Island history have been turned over to Loyalist Township by Elsie Willard for safekeeping, presumably with the recently received logbooks of the MV Amherst Islander (1955+). Sadly, the old boat itself won't be making any more trips: apparently the auction sale it was to endure last winter was put off because the engine room had been damaged in Leamington harbour due to freezing... at best it may be sunk to act as a destination for divers... at worst it will see the scrap heap and be regenerated into the steel that, perhaps, will be used to build another ship. Bon voyage, little boat!