

# The Amherst Island BEACON

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March 2004



## THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

Now that we have more room in the Beacon, we can print articles from travellers - their adventures and observations. These articles may have to be edited more than those that deal directly with Amherst Island. (No, I didn't edit Zander's "A Dip Into Southern Africa".)

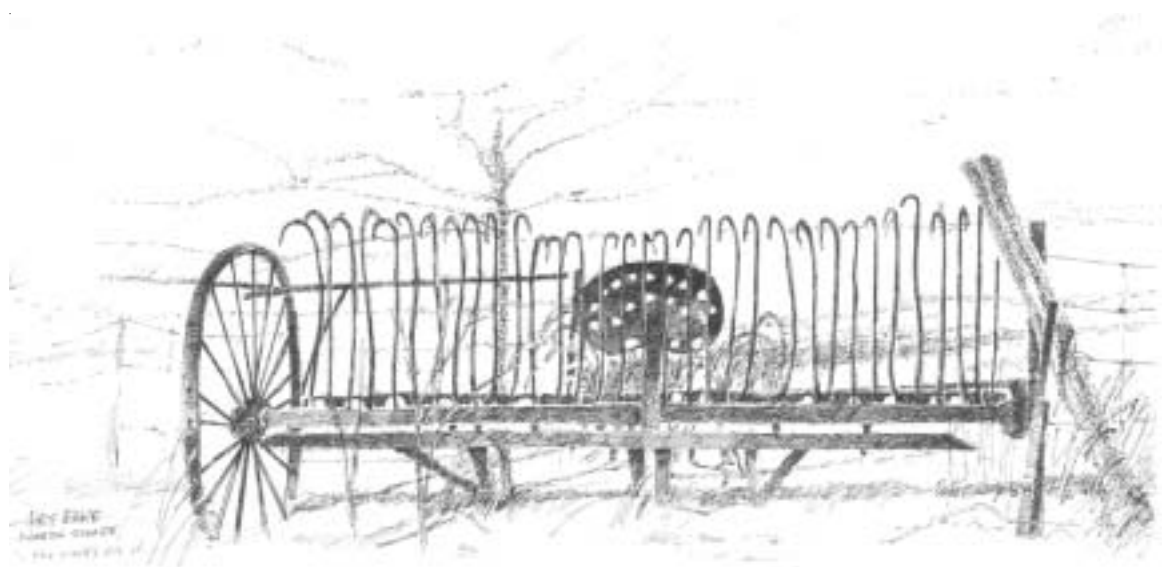
There are, on occasion, errors and omissions in the Beacon. These mistakes will become accepted truth by readers in the future (as well as present) unless corrected. So, if you see something that you think is wrong or incomplete in a Beacon issue, please let me know by phone, e-mail, letter, or in person.

We are pleased to re-visit old photos that appear in the Beacon if we have more information on them. There ought to be at least a few sentences - and sometimes a book - associated with every photo. For example, last issue, Tom printed a photo of a hockey team from the 1930's. Two readers (see letter below), between them identified all the players; the man in the coat is still a mystery.

A general thank you for the notes that often accompany subscription cheques. They make us, at Beacon headquarters, feel that our work is appreciated.

*"Advice is never a substitute for experience"*

*...The Modern Man's Guide to Life*



*Hay rake, North Shore. "The Work's All Done."*

*Peter Large, SCA*

## "IT CAN BE DONE, BUT . . . ."

- Ian Murray

When Tom Richmond phoned me and said that he and Rosemary wanted to start a radio station on Amherst Island and would I come to a meeting about doing so, I said of course I would.

My experience with Tom and Rosemary is that they get things done. And what a great thing for a community like this to have a radio station where one could hear about ferry interruptions and other things that can have an immediate impact on one's plans. The Beacon is (I hope) of use to the community but it comes out once a month; a radio station would be "right now".

At the first meeting, I asked Peter Trueman if the radio project was doable. He said, in effect: "It can be done, but..."

The only "buts" that needed to be dealt with in 1978 when the Beacon was re-started were some community support for articles and someone to organize (me), someone to get the ink on the paper (Madeline Kerr typing and Jack Kerr running the old Gestetner), and an outlet (Glenn's Store).

The "buts" involved in starting a very modest radio station in 2004 are consid-

erable: quite a bit of community support is needed for money (several thousand dollars to start up) and for content (at least 25% of air time has to be spoken word - i.e. not recorded music); and, permission from the federal government has to be obtained, and numerous regulations complied with.

This project, if it is to proceed, is going to require a lot more input than the Beacon. I think it will be worth the effort.

Is this community prepared to support a radio station? A survey to help gauge community interest is now being sent out.

If there is strong enough community support and Tom fills in all the application forms properly and the legal stuff is done right and so on, it will still take at least a year to be on the air.

I believe having our own radio station is a great idea and I support it strongly.  
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...others as noted.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get Well wishes this month to Barb Reid, Phyllis Strain, Faye Wemp, Helen Caughey and Shirley Miller.

Continued good health wishes to Syke Fleming, Sally Bowen, Lillian Miller and Rick Morgan.

Happy 75th Birthday to Ray Koenders, who celebrated with family and friends at the Community Centre.

Happy Birthday to Vera Hogeboom, who celebrated her 93rd birthday in February. I'm not sure, but I think Vera may be our oldest lifetime Island resident now, and continues to live alone in her home on McDonald's Lane.

Correction to last month's Neighbourhood column - I mentioned that several Islanders were visiting Africa and stopping to see the Schrams in Ethiopia. The Schrams are actually nearing the end of their posting in Zimbabwe.

I had a chance to talk to Elsie about her trip to Africa, and she thoroughly enjoyed the trip and everything she saw and did. It was "a trip of a lifetime".

A couple of weeks ago, as we were coming back along the south shore from Long Point (in the school bus), one of the kids spotted 4 swans feeding in the shallow water along the shore. I don't know much about different swans, but there were a large pair with orange beaks and a slightly smaller pair with black beaks. They were there for 2 days until the wind blew the lake ice in again, and we haven't seen them since. It has been a good Winter seeing deer and fox along our route as well. Ferry passengers have had many, often close up sightings of coyotes on the ice this year as well. I haven't been lucky enough to see them, but the other morning I stopped the bus for the kids to watch 2 beautiful, (unless of course you are a sheep farmer!) large coyotes in a field on the 3rd Concession. They seemed more like large wolves, with shiny, long coats.

Finally, the bitter, long cold snap has lifted and now we have mud and water and of course pot-holes to complain about. Robins are back and birds are singing early in the morning again, Spring can't be far off.

Thanks to the Amherst Island Road Crew for their hard work keeping the roads open all winter. It is nice to know when I leave in the bus at 6:30 a.m. that the roads are open. There will always be times when it is a struggle to keep up with the weather, but for the most part, we are pretty lucky not have to worry about roads closed due to snow.



## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE -

- Nancy Dunn

The 24th Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) which is the international umbrella group of what in Canada are known as Women's Institutes, will be held from March 23 to 29, 2004 in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

The last such event was held in 2001 in Hamilton, Ont. with Nancy Henshaw, our president at the time, attending. This time around, unfortunately, none of our members will be able to make it "down under". The next best thing was to have a speaker from Tasmania who could tell us about the area and give us some local flavour.

Thus it was that on Wed. 18 Feb. at 1 p.m. at the home of Nancy Dunn, 14 members and two guests gathered to welcome a Tasmanian, born and raised, to our monthly meeting. Her name is Rachael Souch and she has lived in Kingston for a few years, retiring there with her husband after a teaching career in Toronto.

Rachael began with a history and geography "lesson". Tasmania was "discovered" by Abel Tasman, a Dutchman, en route to Indonesia, in 1642; in the next century, England's Captain Cook arrived but found the natives unfriendly and the land inhospitable. Nevertheless, eventually Europeans began to settle there. French scientists/explorers gave names to several areas during the 1700's. By 1803 Britain was sending ship-loads of convicts; this continued much the same as in Australia, until 1853. Tasmania was attached to Australia politically for a time in the early days, then became a separate colony and eventually in 1901 again joined with Australia as one of its states.

Rachael mentioned the sad history of the treatment of the original inhabitants who were herded up and shot in some instances. Their story reminded her to some extent of that of the Beothuks of Newfoundland. There are no aboriginals remaining today. Notwithstanding that blot, Tasmania is described by some as a heart-shaped island of contentment. It is about the size of Nova Scotia and not as large as Newfoundland. Hobart's population is about 150,000. Nowadays there is mining, lumbering, farming - sheep, goats, dairy and beef cattle, as well as orchards and canneries, especially in the north where Rachael grew up. Much of the produce which formerly went to Great Britain now goes to Japan and China. There are also wineries and a fishing industry including excellent oysters.

As a child, Rachael often attended Country Women (W.I.) meetings with her mother and later sang at them. The Country Women of Tasmania love to knit and crochet and do all sorts of crafts. Current concerns in the state include the environment and unemployment resulting in so many young people moving away.

At the end of her presentation she passed around pictures of some of the wonderful scenery as well as of the flora and fauna (Tasmanian devils, wallabies, several poisonous snakes) of her homeland. She was thanked by President Joyce Haines and given a small token of our appreciation. Refreshments featuring apples, a familiar Tasmanian fruit, were served by the hostess and Coralie Marshall.

Subsequently the business meeting was constituted with the opening ode, collect and singing of O Canada, followed by the minutes and reports. Announcements included advance notice of an Ontario-wide quilt show for 2005 (time for each branch to design a block or create a whole quilt!) and notice of the district annual meeting in Selby on 19 May. There are plans afoot to organize a means of show-casing the individual branches' Tweedsmuir books which are the historical records kept by branch historians. Because of the W.I. interest in local history W.I. branches in this county have been asked to share a rotating representation on the Lennox and Addington Historical Society Board.

The Island phone directories are still being worked on with the hope they will be available sometime in May.

The decision to hang the Daniel Fowler painting in the future museum has been reversed and it has been returned to its original place in the Amherst Island Public School. President Joyce spent some time talking with some of the Grade 8 students about it. There are still a few prints of the painting for sale through Judith Harrower. Hasti-notes featuring the painting have been produced and are available from Joyce Haines at a cost

of \$2.50 each or 5 for \$10.00.

As mentioned in the November '03 Beacon, the W.I. is considering ways to put back some of its funds into the community. We are investigating the purchase of a commercial dishwasher for the school/community centre. Since this is a large ticket item we would welcome assistance. The A.C.W. has already made a donation and AIMS has promised some help. Any other organization or individual who would like to give towards this project is asked to contact Joyce Haines.

Money has also been set aside for the repair of the stone fence at the Pentland cemetery this summer.

The next meeting is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and will be held at St. Paul's church hall on Wed. 17 March at 7 p.m. Stan Sherry will speak on "Abbeyfield Retirement Housing" which is a concept of retirement living different from the norm. Everyone is welcome. Come and hear about possibilities for your future or that of a family member



## Amherst Island Public School

- Lyn Fleming

Senior students held Winter Spirit week for the younger students during mid February. Capping off a week of theme days (Crazy Hair Day, Pyjama Day etc.) was Polar Bear Play Day. There was actually enough snow, and ideal weather conditions to hold a day of outdoor activities which included teams competing

in snow related games and races and building snow sculptures.

Senior Class students have been working on their basketball skills, and the Sr. Girls team participated in a tournament just before Spring Break at NDSS. Grade Eight students are also busy touring local high schools and listening to presentations as they prepare for their step up to high school next fall.

The Primary Class went to the L and A County Museum to learn about Pioneer travel and trades.

The Seniors are planning their year end trip and have begun fund raising for that trip. This year they will be going to Toronto for 2 nights and 3 days. They are hoping to pack a variety of activities into the 3 days, including a workshop at



*Dress-Up Day at the school. Here, Daniel Little dressed up as his teacher, Andrew Cotton.* **BL**



*The Polar Bear Games at the school, part of Spirit Week.*

**BL**

SCTV Studios, tour of CBC studios, a trip up the CN Tower, the theatre, shopping and of course Wonderland.

They will be selling Easter Chocolate, holding a couple of family movie nights, cooking breakfast for AIMS, selling Amherst Island sweatshirts etc. For information on any of these fund raising activities, please call the school.

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## **JANET'S JOTTINGS**

- Janet Scott

Where Have All The Raptors Gone?

This seems to be the question a lot of the Islanders and Visitors alike are asking. A short while ago on every high tree or pole there was a Rough-legged Hawk or Red-tailed Hawk surveying the open fields and Northern Harriers cruising over the fields but they are noticeably absent.

It happened about Valentine's Day.

We had that whipping overnight wind that packed the drifts hard and the snow became crusted. Since the mice were safely living under the crust and the weather was not pleasant I'm presuming the raptors migrated further south where food could be found. Rough-legged Hawks have been seen here as late as May so I don't think they've gone home yet.

Another raptor, The Snowy Owl seems to have vacated as well. Bev Harris noted that their Charlotte was missing just about the same time as I stopped seeing that beautiful white male that hangs out regularly along the fence line south of Vince Aitken's barn. The Birders coming down from the woods were complaining of no Saw-whets but they found feathers unfortunately.

I wonder if this crusty snow would also explain the more frequent sightings I've had of foxes and coyotes out in the open. If food is scarce they have to hunt longer hours and take chances.

Even after over twenty years of trudging through the snow to the Owl Woods there is still the anticipation of what will we see on this trip. On February 21st sixteen Guides from Bath, their leaders, some parents and a couple of siblings made the trek. Their joy at feeding the Chickadees makes the whole effort worthwhile. At first children jerk their hands away as the Chickadee starts to land. They don't know if it will hurt or not. But once they learn that the tiny birds have barely any weight and those little feet only grip and do not claw, then the experience becomes a joy to participants and adult watchers as well. Just like fish stories the numbers grow in the telling and on the hike back you hear,

"Well I fed 47" or "I had 56 land".

With the help of some visiting birders our group was shown a Barred Owl sitting quietly in a Shagbark Hickory just west of the benches. He or She co-operated beautifully for this large group of girls. The camouflage was exceptional. Even after you found the Owl, technically sitting out on a bare branch you could lose sight of it again and have to go back to the top of a broken tree and follow its left side down with your eye to see the bird again. The feathers in soft grey and buff just blended with the broken branches and bare vines.

The Barred Owl is our only Brown-eyed owl other than the Barn Owl which you are not likely to see here. The bird book says that it is easily flushed and does not allow close approach but this owl was very kind to these children. It is about 21 inches (53 cm.) tall and is chunky. This owl nests in March or April in the Canadian Shield in moist, mixed woods not far from streams, swamps or lakes.

The Great Horned Owls are calling so that means they're nesting now. The Horned Larks are still flying off the Stella Forty Foot so they will soon be nesting and the Starlings are getting back their yellow beaks so these are all signs of Spring. So we don't have Groundhogs here. Our harbingers of spring are more reliable.

Before the crushed ice was pushed into the bay by Bailey's on the South Shore, Lyn and her busload got to see four swans feeding. Two had yellow on their beaks and two without. My guess is that she had Tundra Swans and the two with yellow were immature but now that we have nesting Trumpeters in the area I can't say for sure.

Good Birding.

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## **COUNCIL GLEANINGS**

- Ian Murray

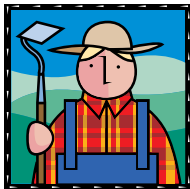
Not much of Island interest in recent meetings. There have been several severance and variance issues but I don't feel it is appropriate to deal with them here. The information is public and those interested can probably find it on the

Loyalist web site.

Council is deeply immersed in the annual struggle with the budget: how to keep taxes down while maintaining (or, even, improving) services, investing in capital improvements, increasing staff remuneration, and so on.

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## AIMS February 2004



- John Kuti

Alan Kidd acted as chairman.

Peter Large spoke about the open meeting on Jan. 15 that was held to discuss a possible clinic for the Island. He reported that the consensus was the clinic was not economically viable for the Island, but there was some considerable interest in a retirement care facility. He reported that only one person responded to his request for input on the terms of reference for a possible survey of Island residents as to their interest and need for a retirement care facility. He pointed out that some Healthcare service might be a part of such a retirement facility and might be addressed by the survey in that way. He indicated that without a serious commitment from the Island, such a retirement facility would not happen. He indicated that there would need to be far more Island support before a feasibility study or even an Island survey would make sense.

There was some discussion on how best to make Islanders more aware of whom to contact and what services AIMS offers the community. It was agreed that the executive would work out a notice to appear in the monthly Beacon that would list services and people to contact.

The Neilson Store Committee: Hugh Jenney reported that there were 10 volunteers for cleanup committee for that day. He reported that there was considerable progress in the renovation.

John Kuti reported that the first evening open speaker's meeting would be held March 30th with the agreed expert on Gardening offering a talk.

There was some discussion about future fundraising, and the rationale the executive had put forward previously was discussed. Members were reminded that they had agreed that most fundraising would be small, simple fundraising activities that would go along with social events that brought Islanders together. There would also be no more than 2 big fundraisers requiring a serious commitment of volunteers. The New Year's Eve Dinner Dance was one event. It was proposed that an artists tour might replace the house tour from previous years. John Kuti explained that the executive supported such an idea, and wanted to know if members wished to strike a committee that would decide how such an event would proceed. There was some discussion as to whether there would be a central location where people could meet after touring artists' studios. It was also suggested that people might be interested in allowing their gardens to be part of the tour which would make it more comprehensive experience. Members decided that a committee should be struck to explore options. Peter Large and Terry Culbert volunteered to Chair such an organizing committee. John Kuti offered to prepare some notes about what the executive had discussed previously.

The monthly speaker was Brian Little.

Brian Little gave a truly professional presentation about his life using PowerPoint slides. He showed pictures from all the different periods in his life which gave a vivid portrait of his past. He was born in Hamilton in 1954. His childhood was a very active as an athletic boy with a close family. He especially mentioned a favourite aunt Jean Little who became an award-winning children's book writer and winner of the order of Canada. He pointed out that she is still an important foundation in his life, and though she has gone

blind, even as a senior citizen she is helping raise 2 children - a 13 year-old and a 7-year-old - who were orphaned when their mother was killed. All members were stunned by her courage in taking on the task of raising children with multiple physical and behavioural problems.

Brian showed pictures of himself in football pads and told how athletics was the key focus of his early life, hoping to play professional football after playing for Acadia University. A crushed leg in his third year put an end to his dream, and he spent some time after college at many jobs from laying patio stones, to working at Harvey's, to working in a copper mine for Falconbridge.

He told about meeting his wife in Que-



**Brian Little cooking it up**

**BL**

bec when he was 23, and showed a series of photos of various superheros on which he had superimposed his own head to illustrate some of his life choices. He described his involvement in many community fundraising projects for the Ajax recreational committee that did re-

markable work for the community with many major construction projects.

His career preceded from managing fitness clubs in Port Hope and Ajax for six years after which he went on to teach at Humber College in the golf manage-

ing the place where his family lives. He also talked about how he came to take up scuba diving as a hobby and how zebra mussels had recently cleaned the surrounding water and made Amherst Island the base for some of the best diving in Canada. In the 70 pictures he showed of

them out across the pasture to install them. I always suspected it would take something big and expensive, like a helicopter, to replace Keith. Then I started to wonder if the new system really is an improvement, or just more expensive. \*\*\*\*\*

## A DIP INTO SOUTHERN AFRICA

- Zander of DUNN INN

Why would Amherst Islanders go to southern Africa? For Molly Stroyman and Elsie Willard (who went from January 6 to January 30) and for us (Nancy and Zander Dunn who went from January 10 to February 12) there were many reasons: to visit friends, to see exotic animals, to get away from our winter and enjoy warm weather, to learn about another part of the world. We cannot speak for Molly and Elsie but we can report some of our experiences.

First, like Molly and Elsie, we responded to the invitation of John and

**BL**

Alena Schram to visit them at the residence of the Canadian Ambassador to Zimbabwe.

The Schrams were excellent hosts and ensured we recuperated from our long flights from Toronto to London, England, from London to Nairobi, Kenya, from Nairobi to Lusaka, Zambia, and then to Harare, Zimbabwe. They introduced us to Harare, the modern and beautiful capital city, before entertaining us at a special dinner in our honour. Representatives of the Council of Churches, CARE, other embassies, the Press and the minister of The Presbyterian Church the Schrams attend joined us for an excellent meal.

John and Alena asked those around the table to share their views, ideas and insights of Zimbabwe for our benefit. The



*Conflicting weather indicators on the Island*

ment program. He told of how his career went on to do major marketing programs for national pharmacy companies. He also was responsible to put together major trade shows where individual pharmacies would meet their suppliers. He continued his fundraising activities by putting on major golf tournaments for the Multiple Sclerosis and Children's Wish Foundation. He also led team building exercises and corporate meetings. His experience led him to form his own company to organize and put on corporate events which he runs from Amherst Island.

Brian showed pictures of all his children and then showed some of his remarkable pictures of Amherst Island, explaining how he came to live in the island and the circumstances around find-

his life, members got to appreciate his life in a very direct and immediate way.

## SPRING IS COMING

- Chris Kennedy

The Coast Guard helicopter was out today to turn on the lighthouse at the head of the Island. I can see the red light flashing tonight. We always count this as the first sign of spring. With the recent warm weather perhaps the icebreaker will soon be up.

Keith Miller tells me that years ago it was his job to turn on the lighthouse. He would go to Napanee each spring to collect the batteries. He would take them to the end of the road by car, and then put them in a wheel barrow and trundle



*Nancy Dun sits on an Ostrich in South Africa* ZD

consensus was that the country is badly reported in the foreign press but that it also faces many problems. John and Alena see it as part of their role to bring together as many people as possible to discuss the issues facing Zimbabwe. They do this well and the ambassador from Ethiopia praised them both highly that night for their efforts.

The next day we began a three day tour of some of the work of CARE in Zimbabwe. Our "guide" was my nephew, Stephen Gwynne-Vaughan, who is deputy director of CARE in that country. He took us to places most tourists would never see. We saw a dam, built with local labour, using materials supplied by European countries, to help provide water for small farmers who are growing their own tomatoes, ground nuts, pumpkins and maize. They are encouraged by their success.

We visited the huge CARE warehouses where thousands of 50 kilogram bags of maize, sorghum and beans from Europe, the U.S. and Canada are stored, counted and later distrib-

uted. Very few bags get lost, stolen or damaged. We saw how the grains are distributed to poor women who receive enough to feed their families. (CARE staff visit each family to enumerate every member. Then neighbours are asked to verify everybody in that family. Elaborate and

exact records are kept of every transaction. Very little pilfering occurs).

Women, whom CARE seeks to empower, carry home the foodstuffs (cooking oil is also provided) because they can be trusted more than the men to get the food to the children.

We went to a school where food, provided by Canada, the U.S. and European countries, is cooked so that each child can

have a nutritious meal. Because of the feeding program, attendance at school has increased remarkably. CARE is doing an outstanding job of helping to feed needy people. But it is sad that this program is necessary in Zimbabwe, which, before the present government, was called "The Bread Basket of Africa."

After the CARE experience we went on a trip to some of the areas where the wild animals roam. Although we saw many animals in the Matobo Hills we were more impressed by the rocks. Huge boulders perch precariously on the shoulders of the lava mountains. It looks as if some giant placed them there like marbles and stacked them up for his amusement. They are the result of weathering by wind and rain and many of the clusters of rocks are considered sacred by the local people. The famous Cecil Rhodes (of the Rhodes scholarships) is buried in one of the sacred rock mountains, surrounded by boulders which guard his resting place.

In Hwange National Park we stayed at Sikumi Lodge where we slept in a tree house when we returned from looking at giraffes, zebras, leopards, impalas, kudus, wildebeests, baboons and warthogs.



*An elephant in Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe*

ZD

These animals would appear suddenly around corners, overhead, in the grass, up close, and far away.

To view Victoria Falls is a must. It is one of the great sights of Africa. The problem was that it rained heavily during our visit. The rain, coming down from above, met the spray, coming up from below, and almost cut off our view of the falls. But we did get a sense of the size, shape and sound of "The Thunder that Smokes." (It cost us \$20 U.S. each to get in to view this marvel of nature).

At our hotel in Victoria Falls we had a strange experience. With our supper at the BOMA (the Eating Place) we consumed a bottle of wine. For that "extra" I was asked, when we checked out, to pay \$25,000. (One U.S. dollar is worth \$4,000 Zimbabwe dollars). When I went to pay for the wine the manager asked me if I had a receipt to prove that I had received my Zimbabwe dollars from a Zimbabwe bank. I had not because my nephew had exchanged with me a million Zimbabwe dollars for \$250 U.S. (That's the closest I've ever come to being a millionaire). When I could not produce the necessary piece of paper I was told I would have to pay for the wine in U.S. money - \$8 U.S.

We made a two day excursion into Botswana where we stayed at Muchenje Lodge, an oasis of beauty in the vast Chobe National Park. We took several overland trips to look for animals (and saw many) but it was the boat trip up the Chobe River that gave us the most delight. We enjoyed the elephants washing, cavorting and swimming in the river. When we got too close to them they expressed their displeasure by flapping their ears, snorting and splashing us.

We laughed at the hippopotamus fam-

ily which munched grass and then slid into the water to show us only their eyes and nostrils. We marvelled at the various birds, some of which live on the backs of the hippopotomi. We caught glimpses of the crocodiles which slip back away in the water when one gets too close to them.

We left the animals to fly to Malawi



where a classmate of mine, The Rev. Wally Little, and his wife, Audrey, are volunteers for six months in Blantyre with the Christian Church of Africa Presbyterian (CCAP). The Presbyterian Church in Malawi is second in size only to the Roman Catholic Church and exerts great influence. The Littles, who were kind and generous hosts, ensured that we got to see how monies sent from St. Paul's, Amherst Island, over the last three years, have been used by the Projects Department of the CCAP.

On a rainy day in Blantyre we visited programs for orphans of AIDS. In the midst of squalor and gloom we found a building full of little children, singing, playing, and eating. The children are given a breakfast, a lunch and a snack before they go home. Some of these children have literally been saved from starvation. They are recovering from all manner of diseases and sev-

eral were wearing clothes the church had provided. To see them so happy and active lifted our spirits. When we went into the little houses of a poor neighbourhood we were shown a tiny home where the parents had died of AIDS and the grandmother was looking after 15 grandchildren. She sold tomatoes to make a living. In another place two older boys

were caring for three younger siblings because their parents had been claimed by AIDS. These orphans slept on straw mats on the floor but under mosquito nets the church had provided for them. So many smiles, so much laughter, in such a sad situation!

The need is so great that the church has purchased or rented several houses where little children can be clothed, fed, taught and loved. One of these houses had 25 to 40 children sitting close together in a bedroom. On the verandah were more children. But they were singing! All except for one boy who, on seeing me, burst into tears. I was told he had never seen a white man before. We were amazed that the work in this little house is being carried on by two men and two women - all volunteers, who are paid nothing. They told us they do



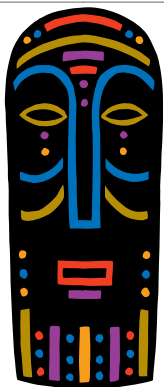
this for the children out of love.

We also got to see how money from St. Paul's has been used to provide bore holes and wells for several rural communities. The people are very proud of their pumps and rejoice to see the water coming out of the ground. I presented a Canadian flag pin to the woman in charge of one bore hole and she was thrilled to be told she had been made an honorary Canadian. All around the pumps the crops are coming to life thanks to these new sources of water.

We noted the contrasts of Church life in Malawi. In Blantyre we visited a beautiful modern church which seats about 3,000 and has four services a Sunday. In the country we saw church buildings without roofs to which people walk for miles to worship for hours each Sunday.

We visited the hospital in rural Mulanje where a white doctor from Holland told us he felt called and happy to serve. He was busy with patients suffering from AIDS, malaria, dysentery and infections but he was saving lives. How sad we were to learn 3,000 people each month die of AIDS in the vicinity. The good news is that this hospital has a gynecologist who has been instrumental in keeping expectant mothers and their babies alive.

Attached to that hospital were various schools. Each room was crowded with children three and four to a desk. We addressed a group of older youngsters congregated in the old church building - all sitting on the floor to work on exam questions written on a blackboard. There is not enough paper to provide each child with a separate exam sheet and there are not enough chairs or desks to accommodate them all. Students and staff were honoured by our visit and all marvelled when I told them about the cold and snow we had left



behind in Canada.

Further up the road, at Zomba, the church runs a theological college to train its ministers; at Chilema it provides a retreat centre for the benefit of both laity and clergy; and at Likhubula it has established a camp high in the hills for the youth of the area. We met professors, teachers, nurses, doctors, foreign volunteers - all of whom were giving of

themselves to help the people of Malawi. It was a humbling experience.

At a clergy conference we met an outstanding Malawian leader, Dr. Wiseman Chirwa, who had received his Ph.D. in sociology from Queen's University about 12 years ago so he, Nance and I promptly held a Queen's Reunion. We presented him with a Canadian flag pin. He remembers Queen's fondly for

its kindness to him but he recalls Kingston as too cold in the winter and too hot in the summer. He observed that Canadians who studied at Queen's were either very intelligent or very rich. I admitted I had been rich. Nance was (and is) intelligent.

We left Malawi much more appreciative of the riches of Canada. We each had to pay \$30 U.S. exit tax to fly on to South Africa, one of the most prosperous countries we have ever seen.

The beautiful mountains, valleys and plains, the attractive houses, the grand churches, the colourful foliage, the impressive cities, the good highways, the clean streets, the modern automobiles and buses, the industrious people, all bathed in radiant sunshine, made a profound impression on us. Although we have some gated communities in



Canada it seems that every home or cluster of homes in South Africa is surrounded by high stone walls topped by cut glass and razor wire with steel bars on the windows and doors and security guards to patrol the grounds. That fortress mentality made us uncomfortable.

South Africa is extremely attractive - except for one thing: the hovels outside the cities where the Blacks live. It is true that millions of "Mandela Houses" (two-

room concrete block houses with zinc sheet roofs) have been erected to replace the cardboard shacks, and more houses are coming, but the contrast between the way the Whites and the Blacks of South Africa live is disturbing. Many White people treat their Black neighbours with justice and love but the System seems unfair to an outsider. Apartheid is over and both Blacks and Whites look forward

to a better life for the disadvantaged Blacks of the land now that a Black government is in power. One of our cab drivers, a Coloured man, opined that changes for good were in the air, but would take time - a long time.

We were treated like royalty by our friends in Johannesburg, Corinne Schultz and her three daughters, with whom we have kept in touch ever since their involvement in our North Bay congregation over 25 years ago. Among other places, they took us to their Presbyterian church which is more modern than anything we have seen in Canada. It has a sloping sanctuary with spacious, individual padded seats, an excellent audio-visual system, a chapel, an administrative centre, an efficient kitchen, a grand hall and several smaller rooms all gathered around a spacious quadrangle. It's only problem was a lack of parking space.

We briefly visited the two capital cities of South Af-



rica - Pretoria and Cape Town - both of which are beautiful. In both places we marvelled at the unique architecture of the stone buildings. We took a bus trip through the winelands of the Eastern Cape and returned to explore the city of Cape Town more

carefully. By cable car we ascended to the top of Table Mountain to enjoy the breathtaking view of Cape Town and Robbens Island where Nelson Mandela spent 17



years in prison. We discovered that Table Mountain, which looks flat from below, is not when you get up there.

What did we learn? That Canada is much like South Africa - prosperous for many, but a place of poverty and unemployment for many others. That St. Paul's, Amherst Island, by providing orphan support, mosquito nets and fresh water, is doing good for Malawi. That even the best countries, like Zimbabwe, can make mistakes, suffer and degenerate. That Canada's involvement in CARE is helping to save lives. That Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa are part of our global village. That we now have links to those four African countries in which our brothers and sisters live. That when our African friends come to Amherst Island we must treat them with the same generous hospitality they showed to us so that they will rejoice in our kinship.

[Former Island resident Rick Tait, and his wife Suzanne Bullock, are presently volunteering in Kenya. Their experience running the Outward Bound operation at Burke's Falls will be quite useful.]

*The Modern Conceit is the presupposition that whatever idea is the latest idea is the right idea.*  
*...The Modern Man's Guide to Life*

## MARCH SKIES

- Alan Kidd

We are finally getting some mild weather and one can enjoy being out in the evening. The bright winter stars are still visible, and as a special treat we can see all the naked eye planets as well.

Leo is a prominent constellation this month. Its brightest Star, Regulus, lies right on the ecliptic, the path the planets, Sun and Moon follow across the sky. All the constellations of the Zodiac are on the ecliptic, since by definition the sun passes through them. That's why you can never see your "sign" on your birthday, since it is in the daytime sky.

The front part of Leo is formed by a pattern of stars called the sickle, which looks like a question mark. Regulus is at the bottom of the sickle. The sickle also forms Leo's mane and front foot. Leo faces the twins of Gemini, with the faint constellation of Cancer in between. In Cancer, on a dark night, one can see a large dim blur of light. This is the open star cluster M44, also known as the Beehive. It is a great sight for binoculars or a small telescope.

Venus now is the brightest object in the early evening sky. If you missed last month's impressive pairing of Venus and the Moon, you get another chance on March 24th. Venus is nearing the peak

of its brightness this year and also remains visible for four hours after sunset. Mercury makes an appearance towards the end of this month. On March 22<sup>nd</sup> the thin crescent moon is to the upper left of Mercury which is visible low in the west just after sunset. This is one of the rare occasions when all five of the planets visible with the naked eye can be seen at the same time. As a special feature Venus, Mercury and Jupiter are at their brightest for the year. Saturn continues to be well situated for observation, located just above Orion. Its Rings are in almost their best position for viewing and thus a spectacular sight with a small telescope. Jupiter reaches opposition on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and so is at its brightest and biggest for this year. It is also a great sight in small telescopes.

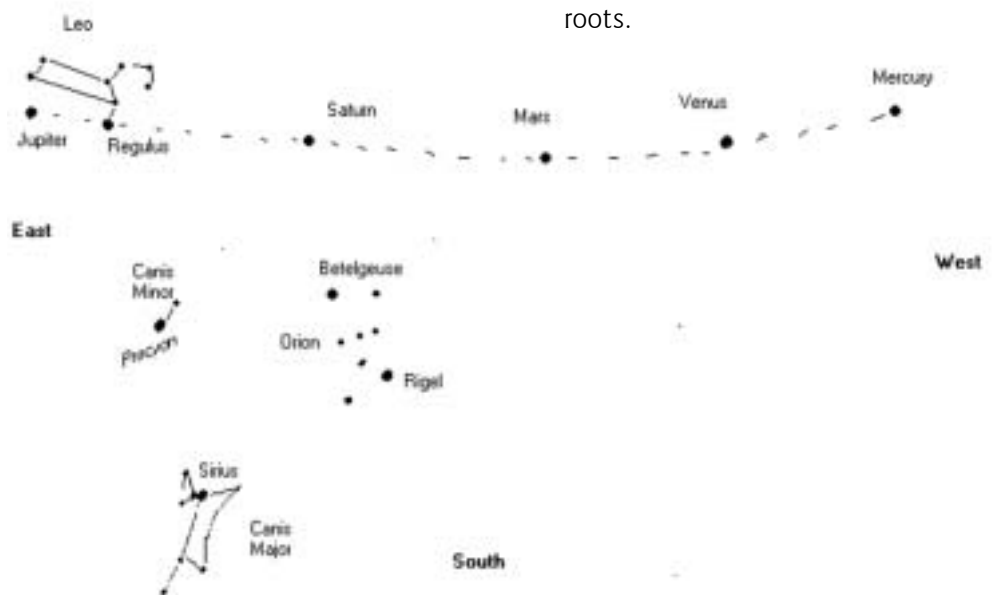
On the chart I've added Leo and Gemini, as well as the positions of the planets.

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## HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

I have finally decided to refer to everyone who lives here - yes, even those who got off the boat last week and moved in yesterday - as Islanders. Up till now, I had always reserved the term Islanders for those who were born and brought up here and who had family buried on the Island. I will now refer to these folks as Old Islanders in deference to their roots.



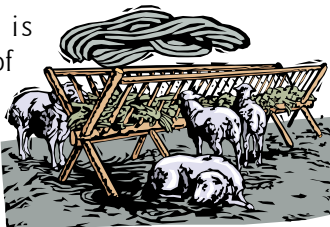
*The Modern Conceit is the presupposition that whatever idea is the latest idea is the right idea.*  
*...The Modern Man's Guide to Life*

Now that we are into the MUD season, I particularly miss the two weeks of cold bright weather that we had during the last half of February - healthy for 2-legged and 4-legged.

The warmer weather does, however, allow me to wear my Walkman again so I can listen to The Current while doing chores and to audio books at other times. It is often makes me uneasy to listen to the turmoil in the world - Haiti, Iraq, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Ottawa - while feeding a pretty contented sheep flock. Sometimes I just switch over to an audio tape while Anna Maria interviews someone from one of these trouble spots. Its sad how tragedy can become almost trivial when there is just so much of it.

We are so lucky to live here.

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Early last September a customer in Kentucky ordered a sheepskin to be mailed to her son in Brooklyn in New York state. The address she gave me was, unfortunately, not correct as we discovered when the package did not arrive in a few weeks. I was assured that the parcel would be returned and that, no, the insurance did not cover mis-addressed mail. Weeks passed and I made more phone calls and finally I told my client that very likely a postal worker was enjoying a sheepskin. The client took responsibility and bought a second skin which her son received in 10 days or so. And then, in January, the almost forgotten (and much rumpiled) package arrived at the Stella Post Office. A minor miracle!

Last Friday afternoon, we mailed a large box of yarn to 7 Sisters, Manitoba, via the Bath Post Office - too big a box for Stella. I got an e-mail the following Monday thanking me for the quick service. A major miracle!

I told Laurie this story and said that she could bathe in the reflected glory of this miraculous service.

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## PENTLAND CEMETERY

- Judith Harrower

This year, 2004, the Loyalist Cemetery Committee is commencing to restore Pentland Cemetery. This will involve clearing of undergrowth, dead limbs/trees, and removing weeds along all four sides. It is anticipated that work on headstones will begin by locating all headstones that had undergrowth cover them, toppled over or have broken off. This work will not be done in a single year but may be a five year project.

We are asking anyone on the Island who knows of a relative, ancestor or acquaintance who may be buried in Pentland to assist us in locating grave sites or at least proximity of where the person is believed to be buried. We would ideally like to have as near as possible complete plan of Pentland. By June we would like to know so that restoration will not be delayed this year.

Any information of burial sites, names of persons buried or are supposed to be buried there would be greatly appreciated by the restoration planners. Hopefully this will be co-ordinated with the proposed work on the stone walls.

At the same time, Glenwood Cemetery will be assessed for work to be completed there as well.

If you are interested in coming out and helping with either cemetery or would consider a monetary contribution to either, it would be greatly appreciated by the committee. Both of these cemeteries are the historical records of the Island's past. Please help us to restore and maintain these sites.

Loyalist Cemetery Committee - Amherst Island: Bruce Caughey - 389-2012; Duncan Ashley - 634-1535; Doris Wemp - 386-3501; Judith Harrower - 384-0435

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## LETTER HOME

- Christopher Kennedy

Back in January I started to have my doubts about global warming, but the

last few days have restored my faith. There is even a forecast of rain and thunderstorms for tonight. The crows are around, one of the first signs of spring as they start to pair up for the breeding season. We have also seen several coyotes from the dining room window in the mornings. The guard dogs keep a close watch on them, and sometimes chase them away out onto the ice. Dianne said that one day on the ferry they watched a pair of coyotes out on the ice all day. There are still foxes around as well. I saw one right on top of one of our stacks of bales the other day, hunting for voles I expect. The deer too are thick on the Island, and are out in the sheep wintering grounds every morning at Drumgooles. The guard dogs put them over the fence when we turn up, I think just to show that they are earning their kibbles.

The wreck in the cattle and sheep industry caused by BSE continues. There is no sign of the border opening before mid-summer at the earliest, and some of the smart money is predicting that it may be a couple of years. In the cattle industry the problem is what to do with the old cows, and in the sheep industry it is too many lambs for the market to handle. 100lb lambs that last year made \$150 went for \$60 at Cookstown last week, as large numbers come in from the west. The Federal and Provincial governments are putting in some more money to help tide the farmers over, but this is short term only. In the long term, whether the border opens or not there will have to be major changes in the production and marketing of livestock.

Spring will soon be here. I have the shearers booked for the end of the month, and the ewes are starting to look broader in the beam, even though they are a couple of months away from lambing. Soon it will be mud season. We put in a new water-line to our main barn last fall, so the ewes will be able to stay away from the stream for their water. This is part of our contribution to source water protection in Ontario. Now if we could just train the Canada Geese as well?

## ICICLE AND FRIENDS

- Terrence Patrick Culbert

To come upon a full-grown sheep wandering free, sporting a red bandanna is truly a humorous sight. It was two years ago that we first spotted Icicle along Front Road near the Foot of Amherst Island out for a stroll with his family.

Gwen and Paul Lauret had adopted the lamb from their friends Mark and Cherry of the Foot Flat Sheep Farm. The lamb's mother had refused to feed the newborn, which occasionally happens during lambing season. Mark and Cherry were more than pleased to have the orphaned lamb taken off their hands. "Paul and I thought it'd be great to take the little critter home and give it some tender loving care," said Gwen. "With our grandchildren's upcoming visit, we thought it would be great fun to have this little lamb roaming around our farm."

Gwen and Paul e-mailed their three grandchildren with the exciting news and asked them to give the baby lamb a name. From Calgary came the following reply:



Dear  
Grandma and  
Grandpa:

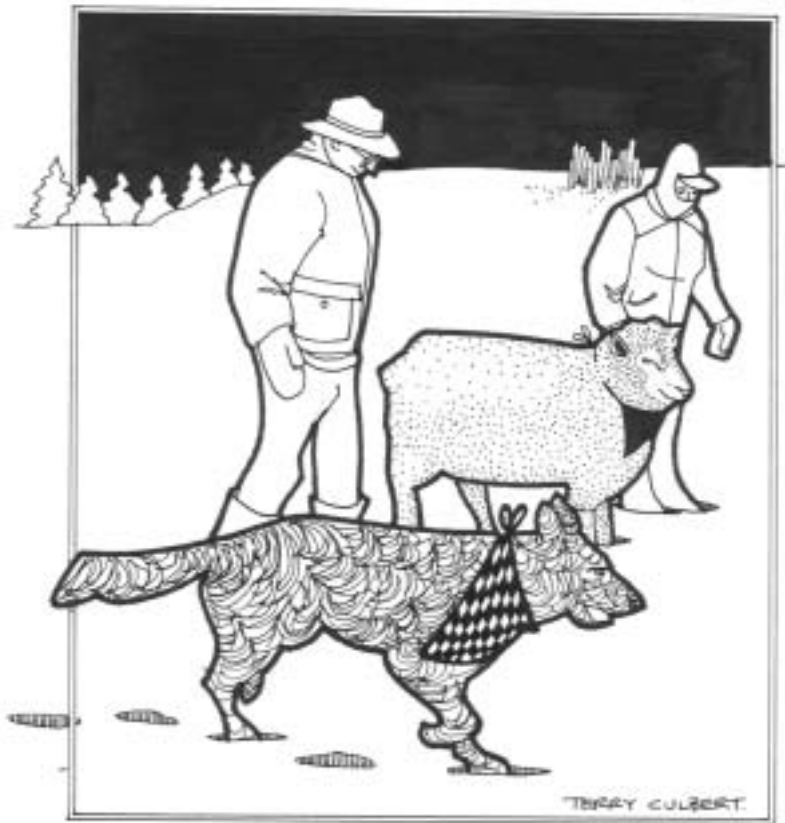
Because he's fluffy white like snow, we'd like to call him Icicle!

Love,

Colton,  
Nichola and  
Ayla.

When Icicle arrived at the Lauret's farm, he was introduced to the rest of the family, Mr. Peaches, the cat, and the young German Shepherd dog named Miss Bark. Gwen and Paul's clearly thought out plan was to return the healthy well-fed animal at summer's end. "That was good in theory," laughed Gwen, "but after he lived with us for a while, he became part of our extended family. How could we send him back knowing what his inevitable fate would be? We decided to keep him. Icicle won our hearts and he is here to stay. A healthy ram can live to be about ten years of age. If we had to make that decision over again, the outcome would certainly be different. Experience has taught us that sheep are big farm animals and should not be kept as pets."

Over the past two years, Icicle has grown into a handsome, 200-pound ram and his circle of family friends has grown. There's another feline named Meow who can roll over on command. There are fourteen chickens as well as Dickie the Duck who adores Miss Bark and follows her everywhere. There's a big rooster called Goldmember and the Lauret's special bird, a blind Polish rooster. "We bought the Polish rooster at a farm auction," Gwen said. "He was

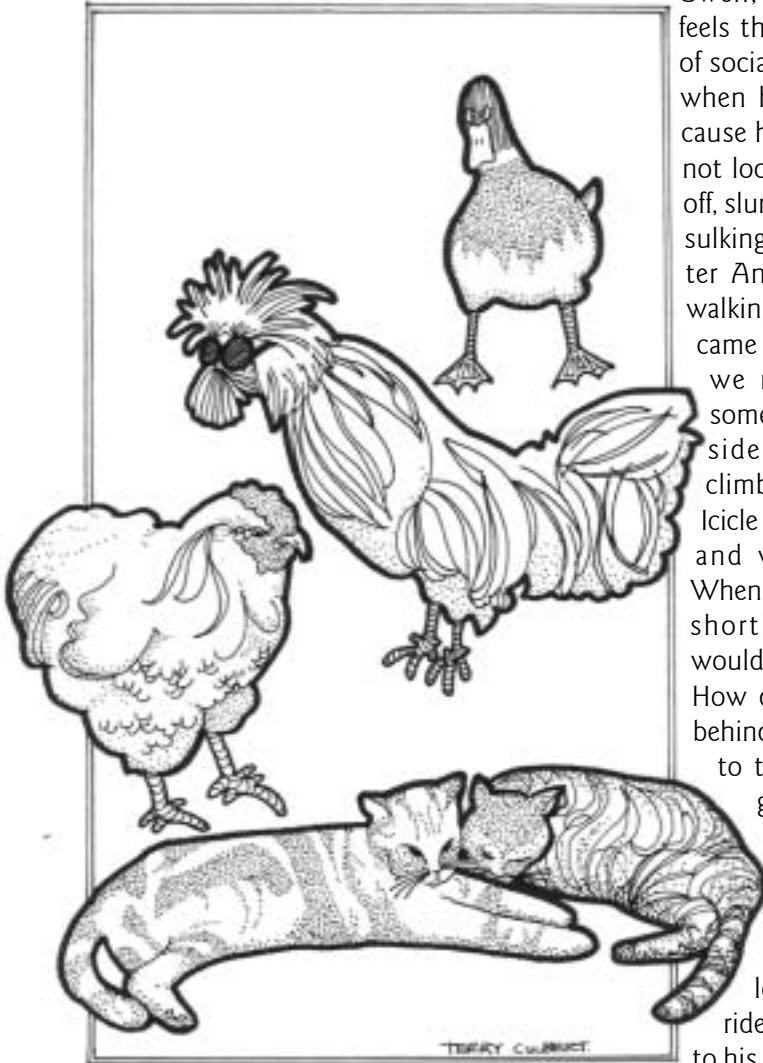


an old guy, but we wanted him anyway. Unfortunately, the first night we brought him home, a fight ensued, obviously a territorial resentment. When we discovered the Polish rooster next morning, he was in bad shape and we were convinced he was about to expire. After medicating him, Paul sectioned off the coop to keep the rivals apart. The wounded Polish rooster had to bunk with our four females. On the second night, the poor old chap gallantly stopped a fight between the four ladies by spreading his tired old wings and dividing them into two sets. That same night it began to pour rain. When Paul and I went to check our livestock, we discovered the old fellow with his wings wrapped around the four females, protecting them from the elements. That's when we decided to name him Mr. Spirit," Gwen explained.

"We always had sheep on the farm when I was a child," Gwen went on to say, "and I thought they were stupid. Well, I owe them an apology. Icicle is very, very intelligent, much more so than our dog. Even at a very young age, Icicle learned how to open the patio screen door by running his hoof along the track.

One day while I was baking in the kitchen, I heard a resounding “baaa.” To my great surprise, he was standing

weeks before Miss Bark mastered that trick.”



right behind me immensely proud of himself. He was obviously looking for treats, his favourite being toast and bagels. This time of year, we mostly feed him hay and a bit of grain. However, he always has room for some toast. Icicle is a very clean animal, a bit of a fusspot even. He won't touch a piece of toast that has previously been touched by Miss Bark.”

Many Island tourists stop during the summer months to take Icicle's photograph. Paul and Gwen taught him to smile so he'd look really handsome in pictures. “We now have more pictures of Icicle than we do of our grandchildren,” said Paul. “Another trick we taught him was to do a ‘slap five’ instead of shaking a hoof. It took us all of four minutes to teach Icicle, and three

“Icicle shows real emotion,” claims Gwen, “especially if he feels that we deprive him of social activity. I can tell when he's annoyed, because he'll turn away and not look at me. He walks off, slumped over as if he's sulking. One day, my sister Ann and I were out walking with him. As we came to a fenced in area, we needed to check something on the other side and decided to climb over. Of course, Icicle could not follow us and was left behind. When Ann and I returned shortly thereafter, he wouldn't even look at us. How dare we leave him behind! He stomped back to the house without giving us a further glance. I knew he was enraged.”

According to the Laurets, Icicle loves going for a car ride and looks forward to his annual spring haircut with sheep farmer Mark Ritchie. He gets into the vehicle, making himself comfortable on the seat as he sticks his head out the window, letting his ears blow in the wind. Has their sanity ever been questioned by friends or neighbours? “Oh we get ribbed about it from time to time,” said Gwen. “One summer's day we were walking Icicle in the Owl Woods when we came across a bird watcher from New York State. He looked at the three of us and asked: is that a wild sheep? No, I answered, he's just having a bad hair day!”

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## CONGRATULATIONS

- Judith Harrower

If you went to the Kingston Garden Show at the Olympic Harbour the last

weekend of February the Kingston Arts Council had two exhibitors, one of which was Jill Greenaway, who resides on the South Shore. She had several items all of which were, of course, floral in theme. There were many compliments from others that I overheard while I was looking at them. I am no art expert but the artwork was beautifully executed, with soft shading, complimentary colours and appeared to have great appeal to many of those who were gardeners. I hope her sales were successful as her artwork is so pleasing to the eye.

Well done Jill.

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## LOST ART

- David Fleming

I attended Amherst Island Public School from grade one through grade 8, and for all that time I remember a print of a particular painting hanging in the main foyer. Pictured on the next page, it is “The West Wind” by Tom Thomson, a member of the Group of Seven. The original is in the Art Gallery of Toronto.

While not really an art enthusiast, I was pleased that a copy of such a famous work resided in our school (once I was old enough to learn about and appreciate it). Mr Thomson was even the subject of one of my art projects.

A few years ago it came to my attention that this print was no longer hanging in its place, and casual investigation found it was no longer in the school. This I found rather upsetting, but I didn't pursue the matter.

The recent incident with a Daniel Fowler painting at the school has again brought the Thomson print to mind. Therefore, I am asking if anyone can shed light on its present location. Perhaps it is in someone's safekeeping, or perhaps it is someone's memento. Surely it wasn't carelessly disposed of. In any event, I am suggesting that it could be returned to the school so that present and future students can have the opportunity to observe and study this important piece of Canadian art, alongside that of Mr.

Fowler, the Island's most famous artist.

Any information on the history or the location of the print (seen here on the right) will be gratefully appreciated.

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### ISLAND NEEDS TWO MORE WORKERS

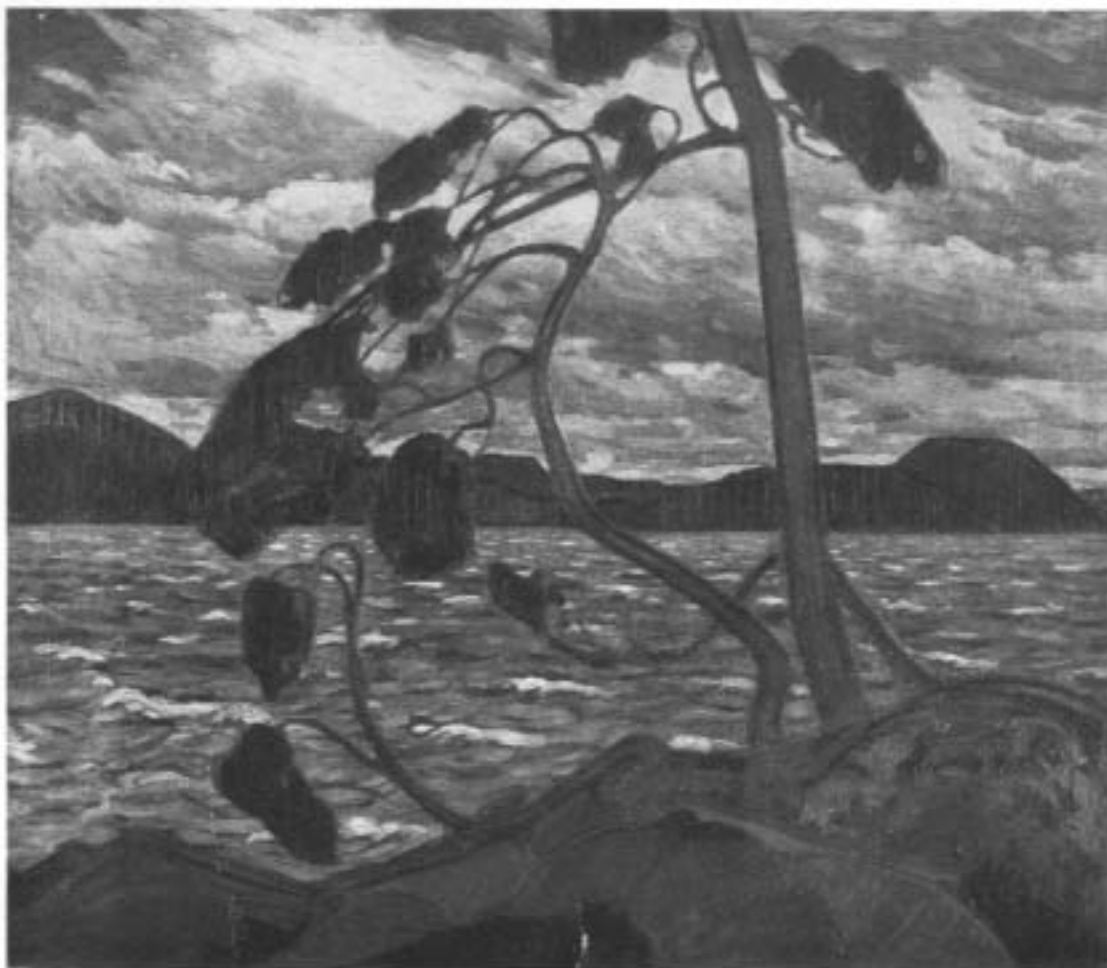
- Louise Barnett (the Press Association) Published in The Scotsman Newspaper on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2004

A tiny island needs two more workers to join its 20-strong population. Recruitment has started for a handyman and a general assistant to fill permanent posts on Lundy Island, a three-mile by half-a-mile granite outcrop in the Bristol Channel, some twenty kilometres west of England's Devon coast. Paul Roberts, the island's general manager, has placed adverts for new recruits who will move to Lundy with their partners or spouses. The successful candidates will receive free accommodation and an undisclosed salary.

Mr. Roberts said: "The people who usually apply are those who want a change and a challenge in their lives. We do provide a salary, but people do not come to Lundy for the money, they come for the lifestyle."

The National Trust-owned Island boasts its own pub, one shop and a single telephone. Properties on Lundy are powered by electricity from a generator, which is switched off at night. The island is famous for its bird population, wildlife and marine life and attracts scores of tourists in the summer who make the 10-mile trip from North Devon by boat or helicopter.

Applicants should write to Mr. Paul Roberts, Lundy Island General Manager, Lundy Shore Office, The Quay, Bideford, Devon, England EX39 2LY.



No. 1

"THE WEST WIND" BY TOM THOMSON

From the original painting in the Art Gallery of Toronto

**The print missing from AIPS mentioned in the article : "The West Wind" by Tom Thomson. Has anyone seen the copy that used to hang in the school?**

\*\*\* To all Amherst Island Beacon readers: If you're tired of our metropolis, you

might want to give this a try! Thanks to Mary Jane Culbert-Wolk, a Vancouver-



**A picture of the landing at Lundy Island**

www

based researcher and sister of Amherst Island's Terrence Patrick Culbert, for this article.

## THINGS I REMEMBER:

### GROWING UP ON AMHERST ISLAND

#### Part 2

- Grant Filson

In September 1935, at the age of 14, I became a high school student. The school was in the east end of a two storey brick building occupied by the Samuel Glenn family. During my first year the teachers were Dorothy Brown and Clifford Reid. Clifford Reid, I believe, stayed one year only and then moved to a school on the mainland. The second year my teachers were Anna Neilson and Dorothy Brown. High school was exciting, especially the first year as I was with students from other elementary schools.

My father who was the local veterinarian, also had a mail route. It was Rural Route No. 1, which ran east from Stella to the Foot of the Island and across to, and along the South Shore Road to Long Point, about 15 miles. He was diabetic and had insulin problems. I, therefore, dropped out of school to help at home and to carry the mail.

Delivering mail in the winter time, with a horse and cutter, was a very cold job. My horse's name was "Old Pete." He was a black horse with a white spot on his forehead. After, or during, a heavy snowfall the trip was a long, slow journey. Although I was dressed warmly for the occasion, my hands and feet were always cold. My mother heated bricks for my feet which, of course, didn't stay warm very long. At the Robert Marshall farm, Mr. Marshall was always at the gate to lead the horse to the house. He attended "Old Pete," while inside the house, Mrs Marshall would have hot soup or tea and rolls for me. She also had hot bricks which were exchanged for the cold ones. At the west end of the route, Wilfred and Florence



*Winter Squash*

*Peter Large, SCA*

McCormac did the same for me. I will always be indebted to those two couples for their kindness.

In 1937, our family moved from the village to a 50 acre farm which lay between the farms owned by Wallace Hefford and James Kilpatrick. The property was formerly owned by Randal Richards.

Each year, on November 11, an Ecumenical service was held in Victoria Hall, in remembrance of those who paid the supreme sacrifice in The Great War of 1914 to 1918. Those gatherings were always well attended.

The schools participated in a Christmas concert, in Victoria Hall, which was held a few evenings before Christmas. This event was well attended by proud parents who were very delighted to see their children on stage. Santa Claus arrived at the end of the concert with a gift for each child present.

Amherst Island usually received snow about the middle of December. When ice formed between the Island and the mainland, ferry service would stop. The mailman was the first person to test the ice. When it was safe for travel, a road was created by planting evergreen boughs along the route. People would cross with motor vehicles and horses and sleighs. Many Island residents lost their lives by breaking through the ice.

There were plenty of winter activities to keep people happy. Snow would be scraped off a portion of ice in the harbour to form a hockey rink. Some of us used magazines as shin pads.

There were some good hockey players on the Island. A few of the better players were as follows: Fred Neilson (Fred was one of the best), Max Beaubien, Stewart and Mike Brown, Jim Glenn, Stirling and Les Glenn, Chester and Earle Tugwell, Francis McKee, Herb Kilpatrick



See the article in the centre column for the description of who is in this photo, which was first published in *The Beacon* last month.

and Francis Welbanks. I hope I haven't missed anybody.

There was a county league in which many of the municipalities participated. Amherst Island had a team and all the games were played in the Napanee Arena.

Most of us had sleighs and skipjacks. Stella Point had a good snowy slope that allowed us to glide out on the harbour ice.

The Jockey Club held horse races on the ice. Sometimes a pilot from Kingston would fly his plane to the races and take couples for a four or five minute flight. After the races there would be a dance in Victoria Hall.

Victoria Hall was also the site of romps put on by the local churches. There were well attended affairs, by the young and old, with lots of games and refreshments at the end.

Mr. William J. Beaubien lived beside us. His property was the one that is now occupied by Ron Miller. Mr Beaubien had a workshop at the rear of his property where he built boats in the summer. Our family called him "The Lamplighter." He hung Coleman lamps on certain telephone poles in winter time. They were to light the Main Road of Stella, between The Glenn's Store and The Neilson Store.

## LETTER From W. HOWARD COCHRANE

In Issue 312, Feb. 2004, page 4, (Hockey Team on Stella Bay 1932) there were no names of the persons shown. I will attempt to name a few.

**Back row,  
left to right:  
?, Gordon**

**Tugwell, Fred Neilson, Bill Cochrane (my father).**

**Front row, left to right: Albert Taylor, Max Beaubien, Francis McKee, Jim Glenn (goal), Stirling Glenn, ?.**

I was born in Oct. '32 - my father would be age 28 when the photo was taken. I remember the sweaters were Red-White-Blue - SAC stood for Stella Athletic Club. Other parts of the uniform were hand-made. The shin pads were made from half inch blue felt - the shin portion had home made small sticks sewn in vertical rows around the front. The front of the pants was made the same way.

Stories of the team I remember.

They played in local arenas such as Bath etc. They also played in the old Jock Hardy arena in Kingston- against a team called the Rink Rats. Gordon Glenn, who had a very strong shot, once put a puck through the time clock. Jim Glenn was the character of the team. If a puck was coming at him too fast, he simply stepped aside.

I hope the above information will be of some help to your readers. I stand to be corrected regarding some of the names and spelling.

P.S. Re. pages 19-20, A Case for Mulder & Scully: Just a suggestion: This may have been caused by people with metal

detectors using a square nosed spade to loosen the sod looking for relics such as arrow heads etc. and failing to fill in their holes.

**[More on the hockey photo: Grant Filson, in a phone call, added the name Mike Brown, son of Wes Brown, to the player on the front row far left.]**

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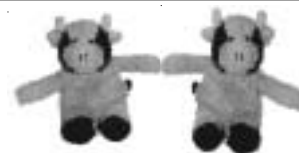
## LETTER from JUANITA GLENN

... I really enjoy the older pictures from years gone by, those pictures and people of Amherst Island are what makes the Beacon and the population what it is today.

Being an Islander as I am, in spirit at the moment and not owning land, I would like to see articles on "who lived where (from years past), on each of the parcels of land, and who (or what) lives there now". I think that would make for interesting reading. I can remember as a child, driving on the Island roads Sundays after church and Mom and Dad saying to us, "and this is where so and so lived, see you can still see some of the stones that were part of the house", or we would see a group of lilacs or tiger lilies or some other flowers and that would indicate where someone else lived, and they would tell us who, and perhaps some incident that they would chuckle about. Perhaps someone could relate these articles to the old Atlas that has the Island featured in it. We had so many residents on the Island back when my parents were children, and I know that others would be interested as well in a series of articles that I am suggesting. We are losing our older residents too quickly, and they are the ones that have that knowledge of the former years of our Island. . . . [Editor: I hope somebody takes you up on this suggestion. It would make interesting reading.]







## A community radio station for Amherst Island?

A group has been meeting to discuss the feasibility of having our own radio station here, about the Island, by Islanders. **We feel there is a need in our community for a source of information that is immediate and whose primary focus is to serve the Island.**

The Federal government allows opportunities for such endeavours in small remote communities. They are given more freedom within the rules governing broadcasting during their developmental phase. This kind of station could readily be heard from one end of the Island to the other. It could be an important outreach to friends who live in Millhaven, Bath, Amherstview, and even Odessa.

Such a proposal is a radical one, as we already have our own Island news and information publication (*The Amherst Island BEACON*). **This is not intended as a replacement for printed news, but as a complement to it**, carrying information that is more time sensitive than the Beacon is able to do. Three Beacon staffers are on the radio committee, which at present includes Tom Richmond, Peter Trueman, Ian Murray, Rosemary Richmond, Alex VF Scott, Lyn Fleming, Neil Johnston, Tom Sylvester & Morgan Camley.

One of the first steps we are taking is a survey of island residents, to make them aware of the proposal and see if there is enough support for such an endeavour. Once we have this information, we can begin to do the paperwork to justify the application. Once we have made our case, it takes the Federal Government between eight and fourteen months to process these requests. Only then would we be able to begin operation on the air.

An interim project to do audio reports or “webcasts” via the Amherst Island website is getting underway. More information will be available soon at [www.amherstisland.on.ca](http://www.amherstisland.on.ca)

### What could be on an Island radio station?

- **Community news:** special events; re-occurring events (bake sales, farmers market, etc) ; AIPS school events; & The opportunity for residents to have their “own” radio show to cover issues they see as important to Islanders and Canadians as a whole.
- **Information that is time-sensitive:** Transportation issues regarding the boat; the roads; Township, County, Provincial & Federal news that directly affects residents of the Island.
- **Emergencies:** For example, ice storm information to residents; Wind, flooding and other weather related warnings; Power outages, utility related emergencies.
- **Maintenance of island culture:** Contributing to the oral history of the Island; Using written history as broadcast oral history; Bringing issues to air that are important to Islanders from a variety of sources.
- **Music:** The promotion of music or artists not heard locally on commercial radio, for example: Folk, Traditional, Celtic, Blues, Jazz, Chill, Modern, etc, with an emphasis on current and past Canadian artists in all genres.
- **Promotion of Island pursuits, such as (but not limited to!):** Recreation; Education; Farming; Retirement; Community groups; Tourism; Trades; Artists and their endeavours; Homegrown and locally produced music.

Please fill out the survey form being delivered with your Island mail, or download it from the Amherst Island website [www.amherstisland.on.ca](http://www.amherstisland.on.ca).

**Deliver your completed surveys (one for each person in your Island household) to the AI General Store**

## NOTICES

## NEW AMHERST ISLAND DIRECTORY – SPRING 2004

If you are aware of any amendments to the new Directory, please call:

Jackie Sylvester, 389-1320

Kirsten Bennick, 389-0636

Nancy Henshaw, 384-0799

Also, there will be draft copies in The General Store and The Victoria Hall Tea Room around the second week in March if you wish to make any necessary changes. Check to make sure we have your information correctly printed.

Thank you from,

The Amherst Island Women's Institute  
[Editor: This Directory is where the Beacon staff check the spelling of Islanders' names- please check that yours is correct!]

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**ACW BEEF DINNER** Sat. March 20, 2004 At Community Centre 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. Adults \$10.00; Children (5-12) \$ 5.00; Preschool Children Free Advance Tickets Only

For Tickets Please Phone:

389-4327, 389-0482, 389-6939, 389-4874, 389-7907 or 389-5328 \*\*\*

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**DANIEL FOWLER PRINTS**

If you are interested in purchasing the Daniel Fowler print, Dempster's High Water, there are just four left at this time. The cost is \$75.00 unframed.

The Women's Institute have had printed on notecards the Daniel Fowler print, Dempster's High Water. The cards are for sale and the price includes envelopes as well.

To order one for \$2.50 or 5 for \$10.00 call Joyce Haines at 634\_7894.

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**WOMEN'S INSTITUTE OPEN MEETING**

Wed. 17 March - 7 p.m.

St. Paul's Church Hall

"Abbeyfield Retirement Housing"

Speaker: Stan Sherry.

All Welcome

*Arts at The Lodge on Amherst Island Summer 2004*

**Botanical Painting** w/Pamela Stagg- June 5<sup>th</sup> to June 7<sup>th</sup>

**Get into the Thick and Thin of Things Acrylic!** w/AndrewSookrah-June 14<sup>th</sup> to

**Watercolour Basics And Beyond** w/Shirley Miller - June 21<sup>st</sup> to June 25<sup>th</sup>

**Mixed Media** w/Jean Campbell- June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Watercolour Basics And Beyond** w/ Shirley Miller- July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 9<sup>th</sup>

**Nature Photography Workshop** w/ William Reynolds- July 9<sup>th</sup> to July 11<sup>th</sup>

**Fresh Seeing A Photography Course** w/ Diana Harding Tucker- July 12<sup>th</sup> to July 16<sup>th</sup>

**Step-by-Step Watercolour:Let Nature be Our Guide** w/ Barry Lovegrove-July 19<sup>th</sup> to July 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Landscapes in Oil** w/ Lucy Manley - Aug.23<sup>rd</sup> to Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>

[.amherstisland.on.ca/thelodge](http://.amherstisland.on.ca/thelodge)

For information contact Molly Stroyman:

Toll Free- 1-866-552-3535, [ms@mollystroyman.com](mailto:ms@mollystroyman.com)

123 Albany Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5R 3C5

*If you have more information on any of the older photographs appearing in this or any other issue of the Beacon, please write or phone us at our Global Headquarters.*

*Ian's number is (613) 389-3802  
Tom is at (613) 634-1855*

*-Who is in the photo?  
-Where was it taken & by who?  
-What was the occasion?*

*Thank you! Your assistance is greatly appreciated!*

**COMMUNITY EUCHRES** are going very well this year and participants are enjoying a fun evening of cards as well as visiting with fellow Islanders and sharing some laughs!

Many thanks to all who have supported our Euchres this winter, we are very pleased with the turnouts !

The schedule for the last few Euchres has been altered some to allow for other Community Centre rentals. Please note the dates below for the final nights of cards.

March 12th and 26th, and April 2nd and 16th.

All Euchres start at 7:30 p.m. with prizes and light refreshments.

Admission \$2.00 per person.

The A.I. Recreation Association



**Foot Flats Farm**

(613) 634-1212

Waterfront cottage to rent seasonally by the week or weekend.

Year-round two bedroom house to rent on the farm, by the week or weekend

Three bedrooms, Good Swimming Private!

**NEWS FROM THE GENERAL STORE**

Just a reminder to everyone that postage increased as of January 12. New Rates: within Canada, \$0.49; USA, \$0.80; and, international, \$1.40.

New Releases available to rent: Johnny English - Rowan Atkinson  
Seabiscuit - Tobey Maguire, Jeff Bridges  
Alex & Emma - Kate Hudson, Luke Wilson  
View from the Top - Gwyneth Paltrow

Freaky Friday - Jamie Lee Curtis  
Dawg - Dennis Leary, Elizabeth Hurley

Open Range - Kevin Costner  
DVD:

The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen - Sean Connery  
S.W.A.T. - Colin Farrell, Samuel L. Jackson

Anything Else - Jason Biggs, Christina Ricci

Biker Boyz - Laurence Fishburne, Kid Rock

The Third Wheel - Ben Affleck, Luke Wilson

Fax service available - to send local-1.00\$ for first page, 50¢ each for additional pages.

- long distance- 5.00\$

- to receive- 50¢ per page

**Regular Store Hours:** Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

### VICTORIA HALL CRAFTS & TEA ROOM

-New winter hours for lunch afternoon teas and early dinners Noon to Six Wednesdays to Sunday,

-New and improved menu includes Godden Pork and Willard Lamb Sausages on homemade garlic and Parmesan cheese buns with Napa salad.

-Hot specials include homemade soups, lasagna, and smoked ham & cheesy macaroni.

-Hall available for private functions.

-Wednesdays are card days from 1:30-4:00 ...Call 389-5389 if you plan to attend.

Christmas Crafts Gift Suggestions:

- Tea Room Gift Certificates

- John Munro Y-Knot T-Shirts

@\$10.00 each

- Commemorative Swim buttons @ \$3.00 each

- Shirley Miller cards and paintings

- Tole painted Island sap buckets & milk cans

- Topsy Farm wool products  
- Quilts and throws by local quilters

- Local Authored Books  
Tom Sylvester's Loyalist Roots Cycling Tours @ \$8.00

John Kuti's Archtypes of Self Esteem @ \$25.00

Nicole Florent's Walk, Hike or Jog Kingston @ \$20.00

Hans Krauklis Amherst Island Video @ \$16.95

For reservations call Bernice or Neil @ 389-5389

**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

**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](http://www.amherstisland.on.ca/thelodge)

**2 & 1 BEDROOM COTTAGES**

on Stella Point: By the week or weekend, April-October. Call Molly (416) 533-5997

**NORTH SHORE COTTAGE**

for rent year around. Private with

good swimming. By the week or weekend, May-October. Please phone 389-2012.

**House for rent** by the week or weekend- Call Cherry 634-1212

**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**

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](mailto: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. Kingston licensed plumber. Phone 545-3541

**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

**RAWLEIGH PRODUCTS**

Rawleigh Products include delicious flavourings and extracts, household items for heavy-duty cleaning, home remedies which are well-known for their healing abilities, spices and seasonings that will make all the food you serve special and specialty foods that are convenient, versatile and taste like homemade without the hassle.

Herbal remedies and nutritional products are also available. To place your order or get further information call Marie Ward at 389-5767 or E-Mail: [bmward@ihorizons.net](mailto:bmward@ihorizons.net)

**Mindfulness Meditation Workshop**

Developing calmness, understanding, and richness of the present moment. Jocelyne Leyton, 384-6488, 9060C Front Road.

**Complementary Health**

Jocelyne Leyton, RPP, has a Cranial Osteopathic practice, a manual therapy to restore health and balance to improve the overall structure of the body. For information/appointment 384-6488

**Topsy Farms:**

To encourage knitting (and to increase sales), we have lowered the price of our natural pure wool yarn to \$3.25/4 oz. skein (was \$4.35). Dyed yarn is now \$3.75/skein (was \$5.22). We will mail an order, regardless of size, anywhere in Canada or the continental USA for \$10. [www.topsyfarms.com](http://www.topsyfarms.com)

(613) 389-3444

**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

**Bookkeeping, Property Oversight & Management Services** Rosemary Richmond. Home, Farm, Cottage, Small Business. Island references. 634-1855

**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 and 12" x 12" knitted squares may be left in my front porch or call for a pick-up. The animals really need our help. Freda Youell 384-4135

**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).

**NEW LIBRARY HOURS**

Tuesday 7-9PM, Wed 10-Noon  
Friday 1-3pm  
Tel # 389-9371

## Theatre Review

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, the venue was the Eldon Willard Room at The Lodge. The talent was Canadian balladeer Aengus Finnan... and the audience of 50 impressed – very, very impressed Islanders. Not only is Aengus talented, but he is very handsome as all our ladies will attest. Each of his fifteen songs was introduced with stories of real people he has met or heard about in his travels across Canada and around the world.

From his Grafton apple farming roots in Shelter Valley he told and sang about marrying Crystal on the school bus and falling in love in “Apple Blossom Time”. A bit further west...in Port Hope... Aengus researched and sang the sad story of the “Julia B. Merrill”, the last 3 masted schooner to ply the great Ontario Lake; only to be sold to the CNE and torched as an exhibition event.

Just before intermission, Finnan opened his heart to Gordon Lightfoot (think mentor) who spent six weeks in a coma. After listening to all his records, he wrote “Lightfoot... a tribute” in which, if you closed your eyes, you could feel their reciprocal love for our country.

After a brief intermission (who made the fudge?) a poem about Sandy Gray, a white pine logger in the Georgian Bay /Severn River area took the audience by surprise. “Swing Boys Swing” became a history lesson about Welcome ON (just after Cobourg on the 401... heading west) where the east/west Grand Trunk had competitions on which town could get a spur line to Peterborough first. Today all that is left is ditches.

There were seven other well staged songs that I’d love to tell you about, but I’d rather have you buy one or both of Aengus’ excellent CD’s which are available at [www.aengusfinnan.com](http://www.aengusfinnan.com).

On behalf of all attendees, thanks to Molly Stroyman (and Eldon for “opening the shutters” to the Lodge) and Tom, Rosemary et al for finding Mr. Finnan and bringing him to our Island. He promised me personally that he would return.

Neil Johnston



*Canadian singer/songwriter Aengus Finnan played live to a sold-out audience at the Lodge March 7th. We'd like to thank everyone who came, helped, and worked the concert- you all were awesome! Aengus really enjoyed Island hospitality and hopes to return again.*

TR