

The Amherst Island BEACON

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THIS ISSUE

- Ian Murray, editor

It was in the fall of 1978 that I felt ready to start the Beacon up again after it had been inactive for about 6 years. I initiated a meeting with the community members who I wanted to help get the newsletter re-started. Alan Glenn hosted us on a Monday evening in mid-November. Present were Helen Caughey, Shirley Miller, Jack Kerr, Alan and me. At that time, I was assured that the Beacon would receive strong community support provided that a real effort was made to avoid printing anything that would create or sustain controversy. It was made very clear to me that there had been more than enough bad feelings over the generations and that it would be best to let them fade out.

Not very long after this meeting, I was at a Township Council meeting as a Beacon reporter. The reeve - I forget what prompted him - said something like the following. "Every change that has ever come to this Island has been fought, and fought hard: our first ferry; Ontario Hydro; Bell Telephone; and the school amalgamation."

I recall this and the advice from the meeting at Alan Glenn's to remind myself there are some long-standing grievances within this community and it is not the Beacon's job to stir them up or to encourage new ones.

have a happy
and healthy
2004



TC

Following (usually) a policy of non-controversy, the Beacon has enjoyed strong community support both in the form of material submitted and Beacons purchased.

The Beacon text is a bit thinner than usual this issue - the holiday season is very busy for most people.

Best wishes for 2004 to our readers from the staff at Beacon World Headquarters.

Gordon Miller stopped me on the road one morning to point out that in the photo on page 14 of the December Issue, the student in the front row, second from

the right, is his Aunt Altha Beggs NOT Arthur Beggs. His mother, Reta, is directly behind Altha.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Lyn Fleming

Get Well wishes go to Ronnie Miller, Janet Scott and Syke Fleming, who all spent time in the hospital this month.

A couple of special birthdays to mention this month.

Garnett McDonald celebrated his 85th birthday with family at a dinner in his honour.

Nellie Marshall celebrated her 95th birthday at a party hosted by her niece, Beth Forester, with her family and friends.

Jim, Lynanne and Ben Whitton spent the holidays visiting family in Australia. Ben told me he swam almost every day in the ocean!

Chris & Dianne Kennedy spent time in England and Scotland visiting Chris' mom before the holidays. Many others travelled or had family and friends here for the holidays.

Congratulations to Cherry Allen and Mark Ritchie on the birth of another grandson. Cherry's daughter Taggett (& Kevin) welcomed their 1st son, Finn, in early December. Big sisters Noa and Lucy were thrilled with their new brother.

Congratulations also to Neil Johnson (& Bernice) who got a new granddaughter (born to Neil's daughter) for an early Christmas present on December 23rd.



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...others as noted.

Friends and family of Amherst Island Public School's students and staff enjoyed a wonderful evening on December 17th at the school's Christmas Celebration. A traditional turkey dinner was followed by entertainment by the students and finally by a draw for many great prizes. Throughout the evening, Brian Little played Christmas music along with a slide show of students and staff, taken at various activities during the first few months of school. The Gym was beautifully decorated with real Christmas trees, snowmen, lighting and much more.



At the AIWI Seniors Christmas Dinner, December 2003

JH

The year was capped off by the annual New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance at the Community Centre (hosted by AIMS). Again the Gym was beautifully decorated. A delicious Beef dinner was followed by a dance, with entertainment by a live band. About 160 Islanders and guests welcomed the New Year with family, friends and neighbours.

Well, we didn't get a white Christmas, in fact we didn't even get a cold Christmas! It was mild and rainy through-out the holidays here on the Island. In my opinion, if it hasn't snowed for Christmas, it needn't bother now! Everyone will be back to work and school on the 6th, so we can almost count on a good snow storm that week! Happy New Year to all!



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Nancy Dunn

Wednesday, 10 Dec. at 6 p.m., fourteen members of Amherst Island Women's Institute and one guest gathered for a sumptuous repast and a brief meeting followed by an exchange of gifts.

This all took place at St. Paul's Church Hall which was suitably decorated for the season. While every member had gone to the trouble to make a special dish for the occasion Kirsten Bennick must be sin-

gled out as going the extra mile. Her planned offering of a delicious dessert (in which she carefully incorporated much of the left-over cream from Sunday's Seniors' Dinner) was made on Tues. but was unexpectedly "required" elsewhere. Therefore late in the day on Wed. after spending most of the day in town she whopped up a cauliflower au gratin for the pot-luck supper. Well done, Kirsten and thank-you.

During the business part of the evening thanks were expressed by President Joyce Haines and via letter from some of the appreciative seniors to the whole group for their efforts in producing the Dec. 7th Christmas dinner for the Island's seniors. Kirsten (again) and Claire Jenney were particularly thanked as co-conveners as were those who helped with the food and the clean-up, among these being the odd husband or two. Beth Forester and Nancy Henshaw arranged for the entertainment. This enjoyable start to the event featured about 40 Sweet Adelines who sang several suitable selections and two members of the Seasoned Spirits who provided some good comedy to put the 48 guests in a mellow mood for the wonderful turkey dinner. (Evaluation by the writer as guest at the dinner, not as a W.I. member.)

There are still some copies of the Institute's 2004 calendar available at the General Store and at Victoria Hall; prints of the Daniel Fowler painting mentioned in last month's Beacon may be purchased through Judith Harrower.

Work will soon begin on the new Island phone directory.

The W.I. will again pay for the Heart and Stroke Society's mailings for their Feb. campaign. If you are planning on donating to this charity please use the envelopes pro-



Entertainment at the WI Seniors Christmas Dinner

JH

Taxi Commission (One councillor)
 Accessibility Advisory (One councillor, CAO Pearce, 3 residents)
 Police Services Board (Reeve McEwen, CAO Pearce, 2 OPP, 1 provincial appointee, 1 resident)
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That is certainly a lot of committees and, I'm confident, each committee requires some back-up from municipal staff - not much for some committees but a huge effort for others, such as budget.

It would be easy to say something sarcastic at this

point regarding the steady growth of bureaucracy but I know that each of these committees has been formed for good reasons. I also know that there is a steady evolution of committees with new ones being formed and others being discontinued (such as the Planning Advisory Committee I was a member of at one time).

Canadians, as so often happens, have their opinions influenced by our US neighbours - less taxes, less services - and by Europe - more taxes, more services. This confuses some of us into believing that we can have US taxes and European services. Unfortunately, some of these were members of parliament and voted us a large national debt.

Council agreed to purchase general insurance protection from Frank Cowan Company Limited for 2004. The premium is 129 thousand dollars which is an increase of 12.4% over 2003.

From Reeve McEwen's Inaugural Address: "I say clearly and honestly it is getting harder to maintain services, replace aging infrastructure, hire the staff we must have (while competing with other municipalities for trained employees), purchase new equipment, maintain top Emergency Services, address environmental concerns and operate up to date

vided at that time as those donations will be used locally and some volunteer credit will go to the W.I.

The next meeting will be on Wed. 21 Jan. at 1 p.m. at the home of Beth Forster, 5355 Front Rd., in Stella. All women are welcome to come and hear Vera Hogeboom, Anna Hitchins, Marian Glenn and Helen Miller recount their memories of "Winter Life on Amherst Island" in days gone by. There will also be a brown bag auction.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

COUNCIL GLEANINGS

- Ian Murray

The following post-secondary students have each been awarded \$244.98 by the Ameriks Scholarship Committee: Stephanie Fleming (St. Lawrence College); Marlene Kilpatrick (Western U.); Bonnie Marshall (York U.); Alison McDonald (Ottawa U.); Andrew McDonald (Queen's U.); Jessica McGinn (St. Lawrence College); Ryan McGinn (St. Lawrence College); Samantha Pollock (Loyalist College); Sara Pollock (Ottawa U.); and, Shannon Youell (Algonquin College).

There are 19 Council committees for the current 3-year term - special committees will be set-up as needed. Here

is a listing of the committees (membership in brackets):

- Budget (all members of Council)
- Administration (all members of Council)
- Economic Development (all members of Council)
- Property Standards (all members of Council)
- Ferry Services Advisory (Reeve McEwen, Councillor Ashley, Township Engineer Thompson, CAO Pearce and Gabriel Gagnier)
- Committee of Adjustment (min. of 3, max. of 6 residents, including Jackie Sylvester)
- Recreation & Property Advisory (2 councillors and up to 7 residents, including Lyn Fleming)
- Heritage (Councillors Ibey and Hudacin plus up to 8 residents)
- Cemeteries Committee (One councillor plus up to 8 residents, including Doris Wemp, W. Bruce Caghey and Judith Harrower)
- Emergency Planning (Deputy Reeve Bresee, CAO Pearce, Chief Calver)
- Community Policing Liaison (Councillor Joe Hudacin)
- Catarauqui Region Conservation Authority (One councillor and 1 resident)
- Quinte Conservation Authority (One councillor)
- Loyalist Parkway Association (One councillor)
- Community Animal Control (Bill Lowry)

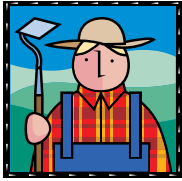
Water and Sewage Treatment plants.

"All Municipal Councils are facing the same budget concerns we are. Whether we get dollars from the Province, the Federal Government, or you, there is only one taxpayer."

AIMS' DECEMBER MEETING

- John Kuti

The request from the Women's Institute to assist in purchasing a cart for the tables at the Community Centre was resolved, with it to be provided for free by the Home Depot. This was done through the good auspices of Ken Albertan.



Ralph Woods reported two requests to the Transportation Committee.

The Neilson Store Committee reported work parties from AIMS moved three loads of wood

The next meeting will be January 10th, 2004, with ISLE providing breakfast.

**

W. Bruce Caughey spoke, telling about his personal and family history as part of one of the earliest families on Amherst Island.

He was born in November of 1947, the third child of A. Bruce Caughey and Helen Marshall. His grandmother's surnames were Filson and Miller and his great-grandmother's Glenn and Glenn. His ancestry also shows surnames which multiply by marriage into Wemps, Smiths, Wellbanks, Anderson, McCormick, Richards, Patterson and Fleming, all names very familiar to everyone on Amherst Island to this day.

Bruce described how his grandfather David Caughey died of a heart attack while attending a farm auction sale north of Bath. He was the Reeve of Amherst Island at the time and farmed, as did his father, on Lot 75, Concession 3, as did his father before him.

In 1850 the Caughneys left North Ireland, County Down, near Kircubbin. There were three brothers, one of whom was his great-grandfather with three children. A fourth child Alexander born in 1849 stayed in Ireland and was raised

by his mother's family Mahwhinney after his mother died at his birth. He never married.

Bruce described how he visited the family home in Ireland with his wife and also visited the grave of Alexander which is immediately adjacent to the Filson plot in the same cemetery in front of the Kircubbin Presbyterian Church.

"If you visited my father's grave in front of this church, you will find it immediately adjacent to the Filson plot in Glenwood cemetery," Bruce pointed out. One Caughey brother settled in Cornwall, another in Prince Edward County, and the third brought his family to Amherst Island where he joined many others from County Down.

Bruce described how he enjoyed growing up on Amherst Island in a close family with good friends and people who worked closely together for the good of the community and all. He remembered the people then were close team players.

Some of Bruce's remembrances: Moving to the village each fall then back to the Third Concession in spring along with the cows.

Crossing the ice to enjoy hockey games and movie shows in the winter.

Summers on the sand beach where everyone knew every tree and picnic bench.

Sliding through the village over icy roads latched onto someone's bumper or horse-drawn bob-sleigh

Playing hockey on Stella Harbour after Harold White made sure the ice was clear of snow.

Driving around in his father's truck with a sleigh load of friends riding behind.

Waterskiing behind Uncle Rod's 16 ft. cedar strip runabout with a 24 horsepower Evinrude, and how he made sure every kid around had a turn.

Sitting in Ross and Tena Filson's ice cream parlour eating five cent popsicles.

Sitting outside the ice cream parlour waiting for brother Al to get a ride home.

Crossing the ice to Uncle Art Drumgoole's when the ferry stopped for the winter to take the mail.

High school dances and Mrs. McDonnell's dancing classes Saturday

morning at the Orange Hall in Kingston.

Racing horses on the ice.

Racing cars on the ice.

Racing skidoos on the ice.

Bruce attended the Amherst Island Central School for grades 1 to 12 and attended Ernestown Secondary for grade 13. He and Francis Glenn boarded with Willie Smith and his wife Mildred with breakfast at 8:10 and supper at 5 and it did not leave much time in the Odessa poolroom. When he was in grade 11, the ferry started making late trips - until midnight. Up till then it stopped at 6 PM. This was the year he turned 16 and could get a license.

Freedom at last!

After grade 13 he worked part of the summer at the Kingston shipyards doing four-year inspection on the boats and at the end of the summer took a job at the aluminum laboratories in Kingston for a year testing paint for siding. He enrolled in St. Lawrence college next September where he took courses in computers and business.

After college he ended up with the Bank of Nova Scotia in Toronto living in a room in the YMCA. He did not enjoy his time at the Bank and being part of the great bureaucratic masses. When his Aunt Ruth Glenn decided to sell her farm on Amherst Island he was given the opportunity to buy the farm and he did so, which meant every weekend he was back on the farm from Toronto and also spent his holidays at home for the haying.

After 20 months in Toronto, he had enough and came back to the farm. He became involved with a farm organization called Junior Farmers in 1972 and went to leadership training class and was chosen to represent the organization at the Hoosier recreation workshop around April 30th 1973. There he met a young schoolteacher named Susie from Indiana who became his wife on September 1st of the same year.

They moved into their 150-year-old farmhouse with no plumbing or central heat and other innumerable challenges. In 1975 Amy was born and 11 months

later Laurie. In 1980 Jill was born.

Bruce explained how he was elected to the Amherst Island Township Council and how he was proud of how the Council accomplished many things on the Island including the addition to the school, hiring a fourth ferry crew, beginning the Recreation Committee and quashing the proposed subdivisions by Lakeland Development. Bruce went on to describe his involvement and success in the insurance business and how he and Susie went on to found Poplar Dell B&B. He explained how his family enjoyed the guests, especially giving some people exposure to the agricultural business

Bruce went on to describe his involvement as a trustee of the Lennox and Addington County School Board and the intense issues involved in education over the past years. He then went on to talk about Amherst Island and how he believed the best land in Lennox and Addington should be returned to more intensive agricultural use. He described how this would entail a reduction of the deer population and an effort to stop the flooding of agricultural land. He felt there must be a front-loading ferry to make agricultural business more viable as well as a more serious control of noxious weeds. He also favoured the control of strip development of waterfront. He reiterated his support for a bridge and a transportation plan in eastern Lake Ontario that was fair and equitable. He also favoured continued public enjoyment of the shoreline and sand beaches. He also advocated a retirement home and nursing home for Amherst Island and a return to the teamwork and team players in the best of Island traditions. He congratulated AIMS on its work and said that all Islanders were glad for the contributions to Island life. He wished mem-



The Junior and Senior classes at the AIPS Holiday show

JH

bers all a Merry Christmas. **

Brian Grace then introduced Dr. Brian Kane, G. P., who spoke to the members concerning an Amherst Island community health centre.

He gave a handout that broke down the process by which the community might create such a centre. He stressed the importance of the health-care centre for a community.

He then spoke about how to gather together community members from all and every background to constitute an information board with a specific executive. He spoke about applying to the federal government for designation as a registered charitable organization and how to start raising money. He suggested the Island consider an alignment with Wolfe and Howe Island who were seeking provincial money for community health centres of their own. This process involves seeking provincial designation as an officially recognized under-serviced area.

He suggested visiting other established community health centres to determine the best kind of locations and what other services might be possible to include in the health-care centre such as a bank ma-

chine, café, daycare and others. He stressed it was necessary to get women involved and he said anything and everything was possible. He believed a catchment area from the mainland was from Adolphustown to Amherstview, as well as boaters, summer visitors and American tourists. He talked about a teaching centre and a nurse practitioner grant that was \$110,000. He then stressed the need for a survey of Islanders to identify needs and wants of Islanders, the health status and problems and the demographic breakdown of the Island and who would use the health-care facility. He stressed the necessity to promote the concept of community and to stress prevention rather than just treatment of disease.

Finally he spoke about the cost of the project, the minimum building size, and ongoing expenses for equipment, utilities, personnel, telephones, computers, cleaning, etc. .

A lively discussion ensued, and the executive agreed to see if there was interest in forming a committee of Islanders that might include AIMS' members. *****

INTERVIEW with MARIAN GLENN

- Zander of DUNN INN

Marian Glenn was the second of four children born to Gordon Reid and his wife Georgia Brown. The first born was Stratton Reid who was followed eleven months later - March 17, 1928 - by Marian. A third child died in infancy. The baby of the family, Elsie (Willard), came along ten years after Marian. All were born in the family home on The Second Concession near where Keith and Shirley Miller now reside. The two-storey frame house has since burned down. Marian lived at home until she was 19 years old.

Marian enjoyed her childhood, especially her school years. She attended Number Four Public School on the Emerald Forty Foot a distance of one and three quarters miles away from her home. In the Spring and Fall she walked or biked that distance easily. In the winter her neighbour, Ross McKee, married to her mother's sister, Kathleen, shared with her father, Gordon, the task of getting the children to school by horse and sleigh. Marian's cousins, Carmen and Robert also went along. Later, cousins Merle and Ralph McKee, joined Elsie for the trips to school. Marian had the same teacher - Clarence Hogeboom - for all eight years of her public school career, except for the last year. Mr. Hogeboom was a good teacher who used the disciplinary methods of the day to keep the kids in line. He hit some of the kids on the head with the Geography book!

In her last year of public school Marian was taught by three teachers. The first teacher, Stella (Sharp) Instant only lasted two months before she had a breakdown. Miss Lillian Gordon, who boarded at the Emerald home of Doug



and Reta Miller and walked everywhere, was unable to keep discipline. She was replaced in March by Ernest Young from the mainland.

Mr. Young was an excellent teacher who won the respect of the students. He drilled Marian and Helen Instant, the only two students preparing for the entrance exams, so well that they passed with flying colours. Marian credits Mr. Young's devotion and perseverance for her success. Mr. Young was an unusual teacher in many ways. He loved music and got the whole school to sing along with him. He even devised a daily school closing ceremony which involved a song all the students sang before they were dismissed. Sometimes he brought his son to school who played the violin for the children.

Burned into Marian's memory is Mr. Young's stirring vocal rendition of "The White Cliffs of Dover." Marian's memories of her public school years include

Mary J. Brown, older than she, taking her and the younger kids by the hand and running them up to the top of the school yard and back - for invigorating exercise. Then the children refreshed themselves with the cool water from the spring-fed stream which ran through the school yard. Marian and the others caught the sweet water in their honey pails (lunch buckets).

In Marian's time the school was so crowded three students were assigned to one desk. Marian sat between Laura (McGinn) Wemp and Beatrice (Reid) Wemp (her first cousin). Her best friend was Helen (McGinn)

Instant, although friendships changed rapidly at that age.

In public school, Marian didn't bother much with boys whom she considered too rough. Outside the classroom the most popular games were baseball in the Spring and Goosey-Goosey Gander (a running game) in the Winter.

The three important days at the school were Hallowe'en, Christmas and Arbor Day. Hallowe'en was rougher in those days than it is now. Boys would cut down flag poles, knock over wood piles, block roads with logs, and upset the whey barrels which the farmers used to feed their pigs. Marian tried to avoid the excesses of the night by going out with Beatrice Reid who lived where the Koenders now live at 11100 Front Road.

Christmas was a happy time at school. Each child drew the name of another student to whom he or she gave a gift. And there were treats and special readings,

along with plays. Alice Hogeboom, Clarence's wife, directed three act plays like Cinderella or Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs which she produced at the Emerald Hall. She was a one-woman wonder - she even made the costumes. Of course the hall was packed with proud parents and relatives for those events.

On Arbor Day desks were cleaned, windows were cleaned, the yard was cleaned - everything was Spring cleaned! That was all done in the morning. In the afternoon the children took a trip into the bush to pick May Flowers. When it came to high school, Marian attended grades nine and ten in the upstairs rooms and grades eleven and twelve at the downstairs rooms at the Brick Building in Stella on the property where the Back Kitchen now stands.

Because she was so far from the high school she lived with Anna (Glenn) Hitchins and her mother in Stella in the house near where Laura Gartner lives today.

The high school teachers included Alice Hogeboom, Nanetta Glenn, Ruth Gibson and Carlton Miller. In the house next to the Brick Building (which was later used for a bank) lived Mrs. Hamilton who was always scolding the children for loitering on her property.

At noon, Myrtle (McCaugherty) Cuthill and Marian often walked through the village as far as St. Alban's Anglican Church and sometimes they went out to Stella Point. In those days Max Beaubien ran an ice cream parlour in what is now Caroline Ackerman's house at 5600 Front Road. The students loved to frequent his establishment. Some of them had a great appetite for ice cream!

One hot day Dorothy (McMaster) Kilpatrick purchased a whole brick of ice cream (a pint) which she and Marian cut in half and devoured quickly before it melted.

Life was busy in high school too. Alice Hogeboom devised several variety shows to entertain the community. On one occasion she challenged the high school

in Bath to present a variety show to compete with the one the Islanders were prepared to showcase. At the last minute the Bath group backed out. But Alice Hogeboom made sure the show went on anyway. She recruited Les Glenn to help with the music and Victoria Hall was filled to capacity for a show which included club swinging and various dance routines as well as musical numbers. The girls were impressive in their blue skirts and white blouses.

When Marian finished school she continued to live at home while she did domestic work for Mrs. Jim Gibson and Mrs. Bert Hitchins as well as helping her grandmother, Mrs. Robert (Miriam) Reid raise turkeys. Although she had often seen Marshall Glenn at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, which both of them attended regularly, she didn't really "meet" him until one Friday night at a dance in Victoria Hall. The Glenn orchestra - Les, Stirling and Alex Glenn and Tena (Glenn) Filson - were providing the music, there was magic in the air, love surrounded them, friends supported them and they became an item.

On November 8, 1947 Marshall Glenn and Marian Reid were married in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church by The Rev. R.K. Earls. The reception was held at the Reid family home on The Second Concession and was attended by 35 people. Marshall and Marian honeymooned in Watertown and Ottawa only from Saturday to the following Wednesday because Marshall had to get back home to plow. If Marian was Marshall's greatest love, farming was his longest love. He missed the farm and always wanted to be working at it.

The new young couple took over Marshall's father's farm while Robert Glenn and his wife moved into Stella to take up residence where Doug Shurtliffe and Helen Trotter live today at 5575 Front Rd. The Marshall Glenn farm on The Third Concession, backed onto the farm of his brother Gordon (and his wife, Nanetta) who lived on The Second Concession. The brothers shared machinery and resources as they farmed together.

Even more together than Marshall and Gordon, were Marshall and Marian who

did everything together. They painted, papered, farmed, hayed, roofed and worshipped together. They were always together - like a good team. They even served together as caretakers of St. Paul's Church for several years.

Marian and Marshall were devoted dairy farmers. But they made sure they did not over-extend themselves. They milked 25 cows and kept five or six heifers as well. They drew their own milk to the Cheese Factory in Stella until it closed. Then they installed the various equipment necessary to store and send their milk to the mainland. Although they did most things themselves, they did hire their niece, Janice Willard, to drive the tractor during the haying season.

Marshall and Marian raised pigs, chickens and hens and planted a large garden. Sometimes they sold their produce to Neilson's Store in Stella but often they gave away the potatoes, carrots and turnips they raised. Later, with the help of Elsie and her husband, Eldon Willard, they harvested various berries. The vegetables and berries tasted especially good in the winter after they had been carefully preserved.

Marian, who has sustained several broken bones herself, remembers the time Marshall fell off the roof of the barn and broke his pelvis. He had been spray painting when the rope holding the ladder in place broke and he hit the ground in a sitting position. He was 21 days on his back in the hospital before he regained his health.

The arrival of T.V. to the Island at first brought neighbours together because everyone went to The Hendersons on The Third Concession to watch the shows. But then it fractured the fellowship when everybody bought a T.V. and stayed at home to watch it. Relatives who invited them in every week to watch a special show with them were disappointed when Marshall and Marian got their own T.V. They feared that would end their friendship because Marshall and Marian would not have time for them anymore. That was not the case, but T.V. became a hurdle to overcome in order to keep friend-

ships strong.

After more than 40 years of farming, Marshall and Marian sold their dairy herd in March 1985. They kept six young heifers until September and then took them to the auction barn. They were retired farmers. But they kept on gardening. They rented their land, first to Geoff Mathews for his beef cattle and then to Neil Mangan of Gananoque for pasture. They stayed in their house and lived off the land until Marshall got sick in 1996.

Marshall's illness demanded too much of Marion so she decided to sell the farm and move to Bath where Marshall could be closer to medical facilities. The house was sold in July 1997 to Tom and Rosemary Richmond, after being only 3 weeks on the market. [The farm land south of the road was sold to the Eves family.] On September 1, 1997 Marshall began a month-long stay at Providence Manor before he was moved to Friendly Manor in Deseronto in October. He died on February 14, 1998.

Both Marshall and Marian were baptized in St. Paul's and were strong members there. Both became elders (leaders) of the congregation and Marian continues to hold that position.

Marian remembers all the ministers back to The Rev. R.K. Earls whom she regards as a great preacher and pastor. R.K. Earls, minister of St. Paul's for 22 years before he moved to Cobden, would often invite the young people, the young couples and others, back to the manse after Sunday evening worship for an informal time of tea and cookies. The Rev. R.K. Earls also got the young people of the congregation involved in the various plays the church presented to the community. Marian remembers those plays with fondness.



A group at the PCW Loyal Friends dinner in December

The Rev. Norman Allison served St. Paul's several years and became reeve of the Island. After him, The Rev. Lindsay McIntyre was, for 14 years, the minister of St. Paul's. He and his wife, Jean, are fondly remembered. Marian and Jean became good friends.

Every garden party, almost every tea and sale and every special supper has seen Marian playing a leading role. She specialized in pickles, pies and breads and she is renowned for her ability as a quilter. The Presbyterian Church Women have also benefited from Marian's commitment. She served as treasurer of the P.C.W. for over 30 years.

The Women's Institute has had Marian as a member since 1948 and she is proud to have been honoured as a life member. She enjoys the friendship of the women and the good working relationship they share but she does miss some of the informality of previous years. Now everything must be organized closely, planned carefully, scrutinized minutely; some of the spontaneity has disappeared.

Although Marian is comfortably ensconced in her beautiful new home in Bath, she continues to return to the Island several times a week. She seldom

misses Sunday worship, Session meetings, P.C.W. meetings or W.I. meetings. Before this December she decorated the sanctuary with Island greenery she cut herself and bright bows she concocted. Marian is still part of the Island - an extended part - but someone who continues to make the Island the unique place it is today.

We are fortunate to have Marian continuing with us.

NOTICE & THANK YOU!

We have decided that as of January 24th we will no longer be delivering the Kingston Whig Standard, & the Globe and Mail newspapers. We would like to thank all our customers, both new and old ones, for the past 10 years of delivering papers.

If anyone is interested in delivering both papers on the Island, contact us at (613) 389-4484.

Thank You.
Jim and Sandra Reid

CHRITMAS DINNERS & SOCIALS

During last month several organizations put on special occasions for Islanders.



*More folks at the PCW Loyal Friends Dinner (above)
Below, a skit at the gathering: L-R are Peggie Coulter, Susie Caughey, Rosemary Richmond, Joyce Haines, Nancy Henshaw.*



The Seniors Dinner was well attended and food abounded with entertainment being provided by two diverse and wonderful groups.

The School Dinner on December 17th was a wonderful evening and I would like to thank the school staff and parent volunteers. The school was beautifully decorated festooned with huge

snowflakes, lights and trees everywhere. The bountiful food was excellent and the tables had great handmade decorations, especially the napkin holders.

The performance by the students was entertaining, amusing and enjoyable. The students put their own antics into interrupting the words as well as very young members of the audience Mr.Cotton and his staff certainly have encouraged their students to be expressive and entertaining. It was nice to see three or four generations enjoying the evening and in this day and age the Island families

are unique.

The raffle had various and varied items that appealed to all and raised a considerable amount of money for ISLE to use towards school projects.

I would like to say thank you to the all the volunteers, school staff and parents who worked long hours for such varied and enjoyable evenings.

2004 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

- Terrence Patrick Culbert compiled the following New Year's resolutions beginning with his eleven a.m. ferry trip across the North Channel on Tuesday, December 30th, 2003.

Helen Trotter - Frontenac II purser: "I'm going to try and not hit Brent Wolfreys as much in 2004, even though he really annoys me!"

Brent Wolfreys - Frontenac II first-mate: "I'm going to cut back on food a little bit and bug Helen Trotter even more!"

Dan Wolfreys - Frontenac II deckhand: "Stay home more often I guess!"

George Syllas - Frontenac II engineer: "Quit smoking!"

Donna Willard - passenger: "I really don't make New Year's resolutions!"

Dick Shurtleff - passenger/ Keeburnie Kennels: "I don't make any resolutions because I can't keep them!"

Kaye McGinn - passenger: "What am I going to cut out that I really don't want to cut out....not to eat so much!"

Returning to Amherst Island, Culbert stopped at the General Store in Stella, the Loyalist Township Roads Garage, St.Alban's Anglican Church, the Victoria Hall Tea Room and a hobby farm on the Front Road.

Laurie Youell - Stella General Store: "To learn the names of all the new people on the Island for the store and the post office."

Tom Richmond - electrician: "Don't worry, be happy!"

David Youell - Stella General Store: "Try to live a less stressful life. Not let things get me down. Look at things and make



Winter feed delivery

Don Tubb

sure I look at them in the right perspective!”

Bernice Gould – Victoria Hall Tea Room: “I resolve not to make any resolutions!”

Garry Filson – Loyalist Township Roads Supervisor: “How can anyone make a New Year’s resolution when you can’t prove anything? I’m a lot like Keith Miller, I’m purr-fect. I’m sure my wife Susan would take a different view of this!”

Phil Silver – Loyalist Township equipment operator: “My New Year’s resolution would be to help my wife stop smoking!”

Bobbi Shaw – retired communication & marketing consultant: “To be thankful for what I’ve got and that includes himself...my husband Michael!”

Michael Shaw – retired communication & marketing consultant: “To enjoy every minute of everyday and not look back!”

Paul Lauret – retired banker: “To look after my animals and take care of them in the New Year. There’s Icicle the lamb,

Dickie-duckie the duck, Goldmember, the big rooster, Mr. Spirit, the blind Polish rooster, Miss Bark, the German Shepherd, two cats and our fourteen chickens.”

HERE & THERE

- Ian Murray

One of the satisfying things in this farm life is that we have been able to provide employment to several of the Island young people. It is good to hear how they are doing as their lives progress. So it was a very pleasant surprise to meet up with Kevin Kilpatrick in a Kingston store during the week before Christmas. Kevin’s company, Network Security, is doing well. He and his family have also started up a canteen at John and Maureen Glenn’s soccer dome.

Kevin worked here for 3 or 4 summers. We never doubted that he would be successful across the bay.

**

A less pleasant experience was seeing Dave Willard’s photo on the front page of the Whig a few days later. The photo was fine, but the story about Dave’s fitness business closing because it cannot compete with taxpayer funded operations, made me angry as I know how much effort Dave puts into everything he does.

Dave sheared for us from the time we got our first sheep in 1974 until his accident in 1990.

NEW YEAR THOUGHTS

- Ethel Culbert Gras

Another cycle of a year begun
The old one numbered with the countless years
Since earth began its journey round the sun —
So small a star amid the vaster spheres!
How small again is man — the merest mite

To live a moment of infinity;
 But so endowed with power of brain and thought
 To contemplate the whole reality.

It may be after many million years
 The mind of man now limited and small
 May yet evolve assuming godlike powers
 To understand and comprehend it all.
 Old Father Time moves slowly
 on but sure
 And time like space forever
 must endure.

(This timeless poem was written in 1947
 by Terry Culbert's great-aunt Ethel
 Culbert Gras, a native of Lucan, Ontario.)

THE LAIRD OF POSSUM LODGE

- Terrence Patrick Culbert

Visiting POSSUM Lodge is an experience I look forward to each week. At the entrance gate, one is welcomed with this sign: NO DUMPING of dead animals, waste oil, abandoned vehicles, septic tank waste or hazardous waste. As I accelerate up the grade, I pass enclosures looking as if Possum Lodge raises sheep or swine. Then, to my left, the Lodge itself. It's a tiny structure with a metal roof. Years ago, it had been painted a pretty yellow, but today the elements have left it dull and peeling. The exterior walls are covered with an assortment of articles; a non-working wall phone, a large circular thermometer and two stop signs. Hand lettered, cardboard posters, tacked to the wooden walls read: 'I started with nothing and I still have most of it left' and 'If all is not lost, where the hell is it?'

From deep within POSSUM Lodge, a fine figure of a man wearing a bright orange, fluorescent winter coat appears at the door. I recognize him immediately...it's Keith Miller, the Laird of POSSUM Lodge. Keith is also the keeper of the Amherst Island Waste Disposal (Landfill) Site. "Gudday Terry!" was his welcome to me. "Did you know this building was originally a two-hole outhouse? It was trucked here from Stella

and located over by the entrance gate. I basically used it as a place to sell garbage bag tickets. Eventually we moved it to the hub of activity so that I could keep track of what people were throwing out."

Keith named his wee building after Possum Lodge on his favourite television pro-

of the year." Placed proudly on the interior walls among the Loyalist Township administration papers is a plastic fish and a rather colourful 2003 calendar. There are two mailboxes at POSSUM Lodge. High above the roof and mounted on a steel pole, the first serves the purpose of



TC

gram, The Red Green Show. On this bitterly, cold December morning, I asked The Laird to give me a tour. "There's not a lot I do to winterize this place. I've got a propane heater going and I've closed the windows. I've also got a piece of carpet over the 3-inch crack in the door. Other than that, it's pretty much the same as the rest

receiving Air Mail. The second stands to the south of the building at chest height, with Fan Mail printed on its side. Opening the front flap, emblazoned with a large red heart, Keith, known affectionately as Doctor Love, pulls out a hand written note. "I get lots of letters," he said with a chuckle, "most are any-

mous. Here's a typical message to me: 'Keithie, I love you. I want you so badly and don't know what to do. Please come and make me happy!' Signed, your secret love." We both broke into laughter.

Placed between a plastic Santa and a plastic snowman sits Keith's latest artistic creation.... a tire wreath. "Watching The Red Green Show just before Christmas, I got the idea!" Without the help of Red Green's famous duct tape, Keith took an old truck tire and wrapped it in plastic garland. I'll bet Canadian Tire will be selling this idea as Christmas decorations next year.

Something I'd seen on previous visits was missing. Where had 'Spot', the stuffed dog riding an exercise bike gone? "I had to put Spot out back for the winter," Keith explained, "so that I wouldn't hit him with the snow plough."

Easing off from a lifetime career as an Island dairy farmer, Keith took the landfill job in February of 1997. He works a total of seven hours a week over a three-day period. "When I started, I'd be lucky to get one customer a day, now I'll get fifty. There are so many new Islanders with much more garbage. The old Island people had very little waste. They'd burn what they could in old metal oil drums on their property. They didn't buy canned goods and they'd reuse their glass jars over and over again. Keith would like to see everyone recycle. He still discovers cans and bottles as he pushes the mounds of garbage bags with the Township's 1967 Case tractor. "I was on Council the year they bought this machine and it still works well", he said.

"Strange things end up here at the dump," said Keith with a twinkle in his eye. "A couple of years ago I found a false moustache and ladies wig. When they were searching for Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden, I decided to play a little joke and disguised myself as both those

bad guys!"

If you're longing for a little sunshine in your life, visit 'The Laird of POSSUM Lodge' on Wednesdays from 11 to 2pm, Saturdays 10 to 12 or after church on Sundays from 2 to 4.

THANK YOU NOTES

How do I say thank you to so many kind and loving people over such a long period of time? Friends, family and neighbours were always offering help and encouragement. They shared their strength with prayers by phone and just good old phone calls of support. There were letters, kind words, offers of rides and countless hugs. I want to thank you for the many delicious surprises I received at the door or found on our table. Thank you for helping with my workload by do-

ing chores I just couldn't seem to get done. Thank you for the beautiful and cheerful cards you sent to Earle and I.

A special thanks to Bonnie Baker and Mary Kay Steel for their hard work, patience, cheerfulness and guidance, gained from their training and experience.

My sincere thanks to the First Response Team for their prompt, professional and kindly care towards Earle on September 24th and then on the first of November for myself. We are so blessed to have such a well-trained, dedicated group of men and women on Amherst Island.

Our Island is truly a wonderful place to live.

God bless you all!

Jean Tugwell

I would like to thank the First Response Team for the care and support given to myself and family during our recent crisis. The fast and reassuring response at the time of my stroke was such a relief and I knew I was in good hands. We are so lucky to have these dedicated people always there for us.

Thank you also to everyone for the cards and get well wishes. They brightened up each day and went a long way to my fast recovery and return home.

Freda Youell



The Fun House in Emerald

Don Tubb



The Fishing Village in winter

Don Tubb

BORN ON THE ISLAND

- L&A County Museum and Archives (Excerpts from the Napanee Beaver, April 1895-April 1897) November 29, 1895

EMERALD

Our mail carrier, J. Baker, met with what might have proved a fatal accident, on Wednesday of last week. Shortly after leaving Bath a squall struck his boat, upsetting it and precipitating Mr. Baker into the water. Fortunately he escaped with little worse than a cold bath.

Through several sources we have learned that J. Roberts has purchased the Royal hotel at Stella from J. McDonough, the present proprietor. He intends changing the name into the rather quaint one of "The First and the Last."

Charles Fowler has left for Kingston, where he intends completing the course he commenced last winter at

the business college.

Ross Gibson, of Kingston, spent several days of last week visiting at the home of her father, John Gibson.

The attendance at our school has considerably increased this month, many of the larger boys have commenced attending for the winter

**

December 27, 1895

STELLA

The Farmers*s Institute meetings held in the Town Hall on Thursday, 19th, at Stella, at Emerald on the 20th, were well attended. Messrs. Dean and McCrae are fine speakers and understand butter-making, etc. A great benefit can be derived from such meetings.

A Christmas tree and lunch was held in the Select Knight*s hall on Saturday afternoon for the Sunday School children of the Presbyterian church; also a bazaar in connection with it in the evening.

Mr. A. Follock and daughter

Annie spent Christmas at Cornwall.

Mr. A. Glenn has returned, accompanied by his cousin, Miss Florence Glenn.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Thompson arrived here on the 16th to spend a few weeks.

Mr. H. Asselstine will teach next year at Morven, and Mill Roberts is to take Mr. Asselstine*s place.

Mr. Gibson has been engaged for the school at the south side.

Capt. Sanders, Mr. Macdonald, Mr. W. Montgomery and Mr. G.H. Howard have returned.

Mr. H. Lawson has returned after an absence of five years.

Mrs. Edith Scott, Miss G. Stevenson and E. Patterson have returned from Deseronto school, and Miss Carrie Fleming and George Chown from Kingston, to spend the holidays.

**

December 27, 1895

WILLIAM GLENN INJURED.

Tuesday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, William Glenn, a highly-respected farmer who resides near Stella, Amherst Island, was working at the drive-belt of a steam threshing machine, when his right arm was drawn into the belt. The machinery was brought to a stand-still as soon as possible, and a skiff was dispatched to Bath to bring Dr. Northmore to the sufferer's aid. The doctor found the arm had suffered a compound fracture between the elbow and the wrist. Wednesday morning of last week Mr. Glenn was rowed across to Millhaven, and from Ernestown Station he took the Grand Trunk express for the east. He was removed to the General Hospital about 2 o'clock to-day. Mrs. Glenn accompanied her son to the Hospital. Mr. Glenn was able to walk from the ambulance to the hospital without aid.

NOTICES & ADS

TO RENT: Village Cottage for rent in Stella. Walk to the ferry. By the week or weekend, year round.

Call Jan at 519-451-1197.

FOR SALE: Antique Oak Dining Room Table with **6 chairs & 2 leaves.** Table is **40 x 70** full size. 389-2515

"Going away? You can leave without care and worry as I would be happy to look after your home and lavish love and affection on pets and plants. Am available beginning January 29th full time. Please call Judi Gould at 905-642-6729 or leave a message with Terry Culbert at 613-634-8217."



Carrolers in the Village

Terry Culbert

**HOT LUNCHES at AI School
by ISLE**

ISLE provides hot lunches on Wednesdays through the Winter and into Spring. This year we have a shortage of ISLE members available to make and serve the lunches. We are also interested in new ideas for lunches. They should be "kid friendly", simple and healthy. All costs are covered by ISLE. If you are available to prepare and serve a lunch or have ideas for the menu, please contact Lyn at the school (389-4582).

**FIRE DEPARTMENT & EFR
Recruiting**

If you are interested in joining the Loyalist Township Emergency Services, Amherst Island Station, please submit a letter of application and resume. Resumes may be sent to:

Email: training@loyalistfire.ca
Mailed: Loyalist Township Emergency Services, P.O. Box 70, 50 Main St., Odessa, Ontario.K0H 2H0

Dropped-off to the Odessa Station: 50 Main Street, Monday to Friday (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) 613-386-3762

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AENGUS FINNAN

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Sunday March 7th, 2004.



Aengus has received support from the **CBC**, the **Canada Council** & the **Ontario Arts Council**. He has been interviewed by the **Globe and Mail**, and is heard regularly on **CBC Radio One**. He has several CD's out, and his latest

work appears on the **new Gordon Lightfoot tribute album**. He tours worldwide.

Doors open 6:30PM, Show begins at 7:30PM at **The Lodge, 320 McDonalds Lane**, located on Stella Point, Amherst Island, Ontario, a short walk from the ferry dock. All ticket sales in advance: **There is extremely Limited seating for this intimate concert**, and it WILL sell out quickly! \$20 per person. Snacks & Refreshments will be available.

Phone (613) 634-1855 to purchase your ticket today.

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL STORE

New movies for rent:
 The Hours- Nichole Kidman,
 Meryl Streep
 The Hulk
 Legally Blonde 2- Reese
 Witherspoon
 Finding Nemo- Disney/Pixar.
 Terminator 3- Governor Arnold
 George of the Jungle 2
 Bruce Almighty- Jim Carey
 Santa Clause 2- Tim Allen
 X-Men 2- Rebecca Rommjin-
 Stamos
 Laura Croft Tomb Raider 2-
 Angelina Jolie
 plus many more to choose
 from
 New Releases: Now \$3.75
 Older Titles: \$1.49
 All of us at the store extend our very
 best wishes for a Happy New Year
 2004. **Regular Store Hours:** Mon.-
 Sat. 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m.-
 5 p.m.

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 tions.
 -Wednesdays are card days from
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 - John Munro Y-Knot T-Shirts
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 - 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

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-After school and
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 weekends. Torri Phillips:
 389-0512

Babysitter

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 after school, early evenings
 & weekends. Call Beth Albertan:
 389-2662



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[www.amherstisland.on.ca/
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2 BEDROOM COTTAGE

on Stella Point: By the week or week-
 end, April-October. Call Molly (416)
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NORTH SHORE COTTAGE

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

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 stamps, daters, signature and simi-

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 meal descriptions and prices.

FOR SALE:

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

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 Mail: bmward@ihorizons.net

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Snowfall

Don Tubb