

Many years ago Sir William Johnson was one of the commanders at Fort Frontenac. A mohawk chief from one of the neighbouring islands was very anxious to obtain Sir William's gay uniform. When all other wiles failed, he accosted Sir William with these words, "Sir William, last night I dream you give me that uniform". As the Indian expected, he was given the uniform. A few days later Sir William again met the Indian. This time he said, "I had a strange dream. I dreamed that you had given me that island over there in the blue water". The Indian was surprised and answered, "Oh ho, you dream big dream. I give you the island but we not dream any more". And this is how Amherst Island became the property of an Irish landowner, and finally fell to Major R.P. Maxwell, County Down, Ireland.

Amherst Island is situated about three miles from the south side of Lennox County and is a township of that county. It is about the same distance from Prince Edward County and is really the first of the Thousand Islands. It is divided into two parts, "The Head" or western part and "The Foot" or eastern part. Part of the shoreline is very rocky and great slabs of stone are being continually removed for foundations of buildings. There is a gravel bar from "The Foot" to the second of the "Three Brother Islands" and one from the south shore to "Big Island".

According to the last census the population was 625, a decrease of one-half of the greatest population. Most of the people are farmers, but a few live in the villages of Emerald and Stella. Emerald is near "The Head" and consists of a church, a store, a cheese-factory, and a few houses, chief among them Mrs. A. Reid's where the school-ma'm boards (1927-28). Stella is nearer "The Foot" and is the business centre of the Island. Both are on the north shore and during the summer are on the route of the steamer "Brockville" plying between Picton and Kingston twice a week. Stella has also a mail-boat which crosses daily.

Amherst Island is well supplied with churches and schools. There is a Church of England in Stella and one at Emerald; a Roman Catholic Church near Emerald; a Union Church in Stella; and a Presbyterian Church, the finest building on the Island about half a mile from Stella. As for schools, there is the Continuation School in Stella and five public schools scattered over the Island. The total enrolment of the five public schools is slightly more than one hundred. Many of the people are Irish or of Irish descent and until a few years ago the land was leased from the Irish Landlord. His agent lived on the Island and looked after affairs. The last agent, W.H. Moutray, a fine old Irish gentleman, still resides in Stella, although he has taken no part in public affairs for a few years. Most of the Island is under cultivation. There is practically no bush left, but there are two large marshes. The land is very fertile and fine crops are raised. Amherst Island has been called the "Dairy Island". Every farmer has a herd of from 10 to 20 cows and the clarion call in the morning comes not from the fowl but from the milk-wagon making its way to the cheese-factory. There are two cheese-factories, one in each village. From Stella to "The Foot" each farm stretches half way across the Island.

The Big Marsh is near the centre of the Island on the south side. It contains about 500 acres and in the centre is a beautiful sparkling "Little Lake". Just now the Marsh is dead and brown and uninteresting. When fall comes it is very interesting. From daylight till dark one can see the