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 doing 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!

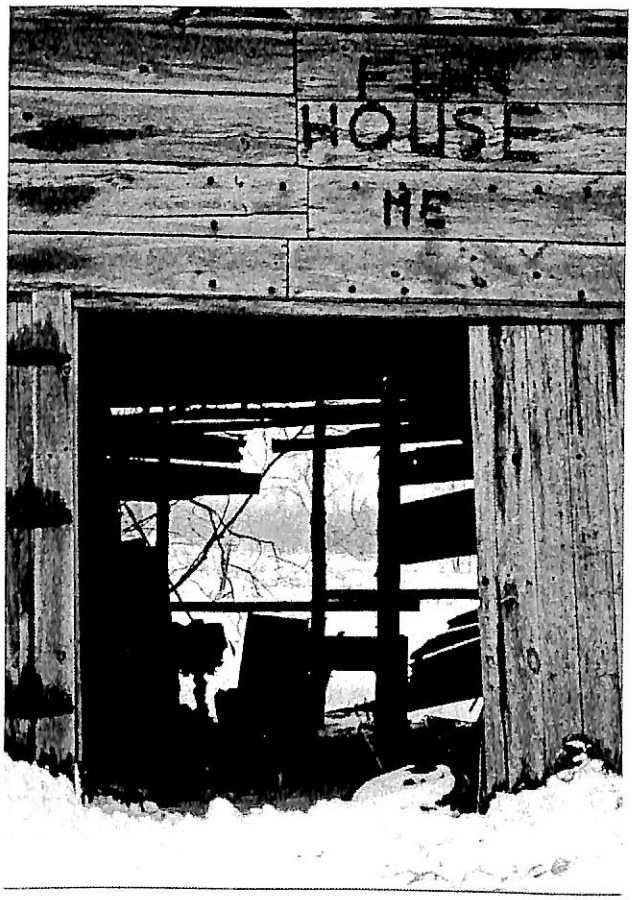
Jean Tugwell

***

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*