

The Massie Messenger

A Biannual Newsletter

Issue N° 15 Fall 2014

Massie Hall Makeover



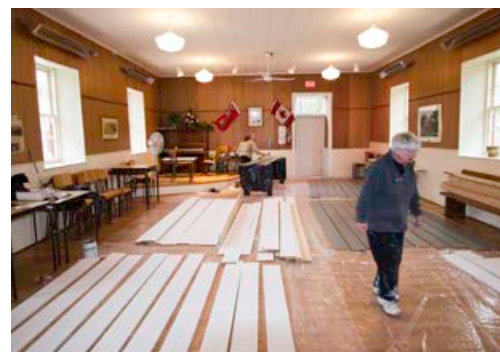
Photographs by Ralph Bergman

Massie Hall is looking pretty smart these days. Check out the new roof, the new bell tower, the new wood trim. Look forward to the new windows and doors and the new heaters.

All of this has been made possible by a substantial grant (\$38,900) from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) and sweat equity on the part of several Hall Board members. Marilyn Bergman is co-ordinating the contractors. Marilyn, Jo Ann Sauks and Glen and Matt Martin spent many weeks painting the wood trim and the new windows.



It all started when several of the floor joists gave way last year. The Massie Hall Board was prompted to take a serious look at the building which resulted in a shopping list of repairs and an application to the Trillium Foundation



for funding which was approved in full. Energy conservation and the preservation of a historic building ranked high with OTF.

First up were the stone masons (Steve's Masonry) who drilled and parged and patched, using historically correct mortar. Then came the car-



penters (Ken Burrows & Son) who repaired the floor, rebuilt the bell tower and replaced the soffits and the fascia; the latter was a major job because the

ends of the roof rafters were rotten.
Then the roofers (Ed McNabb



Roofing) got into the act and replaced the shingles. It's fascinating to note that they found the original wooden

shingles under the tin roof on the north side of the building as well as evidence of a fire.



Andy Miller has been making the new windows which will be identical to the original ones. They will be installed soon along with the new doors. Last to come will be the new heaters which go in later this fall. All work must be completed by the end of this year.

The board may make a second application to OTF requesting additional funds for more work on the hall. It's

true for all buildings, but especially one that is almost 150 years old, that something always needs doing. We will keep you posted.



In Memorium Rosemary Arnetta Neelands 1948 - 2014



"My classy lady" is how Hugh Neelands affectionately referred to his wife of 44 years, Rosemary. To the great sadness of her family and the Massie community, Rosemary passed away in July.

"I didn't know she was interested in me," says Hugh, "when she asked me to dance at a community event in Walters Falls." Hugh figured she was just using him as an excuse to avoid dancing with another fellow who really wanted her for a partner. Of course, Hugh was wrong, Rosemary really was keen on him, and the rest is history.

Life was busy with 4 kids in 4 years – Dennis, Durwin, John and Jody. When all the kids finally went to school, Rosemary decided to go as well, finishing her Grade 12 education. (At 16 years of age, she had had to leave the family farm and start working in factories. She worked for J.M. Schneider for 4 years before she and Hugh were married and settled in Massie.) Rosemary went on to obtain her RNA through the nursing course at Georgian College. She worked as lodge director at Summit Place. The Neelands had a small band for a time and Rosemary played bass guitar and drums. She had "impeccable timing", says her husband, "and she was a beautiful dancer."

Rosemary loved to read anything motivational but especially the Bible. Fittingly, her memorial service was held at Massie United Church with Pastor David Oppertshauer and Rev. Kara McKluskie officiating. Internment was at McLean's Cemetery in Bognor. Donations in her memory to Massie Church or Sauble Christian Fellowship Church are much appreciated by the family.

As Hugh says, "We were content to take those years and enjoy them as a couple." We send our thoughts and prayers to Hugh and his family.

Clarence and Jean McPherson

by Beth Boyes and Leone Diebel



Alexander “Clarence” McPherson was born in Sydenham Township in 1910 and moved with his parents and sister, Isabelle, to Lot 5 Concession 6 Holland Township at Massie when he was nine years old. Clarence attended Massie Public School, Massie United Church, Massie Young People’s Group and helped with the farm. He was interested in horses which he showed at Fall Fairs in Chatsworth, Walters Falls, Hepworth, Wiarton and Owen Sound winning many red ribbons. The horses were also used for planting and harvesting crops and haying.

Margaret “Jean” Hewitson was born on a farm in Keppel Township in 1913 where she lived with her parents and younger brother and sister. They had “no hydro, no bathroom and no car,” according to Jean but they did have a telephone: “16 families on ONE party line!”

Jean attended S. S. No. 1 Keppel for her elementary school education. At the age of 10, Jean passed her high school entrance exams but was kept at home for a year because her parents thought she was too young to leave

home. At 14, she learned to drive a car, a 1919 Gray Dort. “No drivers’ licences in those days,” she told us.

At the Owen Sound Collegiate Vocational Institute, Jean was a member of the debating team, winning the WOSSA Championship, and editor-in-chief of the school yearbook. She won an oratorical contest and the first Carter Scholarship of Grey County. Jean was honoured to be chosen valedictorian for her graduating class. She then attended Stratford Normal School where she was chosen Form President.

Upon graduation in 1932, Jean became a teacher at U. S. S. No. 11, Massie School. In her estimation, she “went to live with an older couple, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Norton – she was 41 and he was 45!” There were no modern conveniences at the school. It was heated by a big wood-burning furnace. The pupils carried wood in from the woodshed and water from a neighbour’s pump. The toilets were outside. “No luxuries in those days!” Christmas concerts, Arbor Days and school picnics were highlights of life at Massie School. Jean spent her summers at Cleveland’s House Muskoka Resort working in the dining room.

Clarence became interested in the local school teacher and they attended many house parties and other community events. Stan teased Jean telling her to watch out for that “McPherson character” at the different parties. They were married in 1937 and settled on the home farm. Jean gave up her teaching career because she had “a house to keep, a husband to feed, a garden to tend, cows to milk, a tractor to drive, and other farm tasks.”

Jean, Clarence and their two daughters, Beth and Leone, were active in community and church affairs. Church was an important aspect of their lives. Clarence served several terms on the



Board of Stewards and was also as an Elder. A highlight for Clarence was to sing with a group of men from Massie, Chatsworth, Desboro and Knox Sydenham United Churches on the Sunday afternoon program “Hymn Sing” on CKNX Television in Wingham. The families all journeyed to Wingham, had a tour of the station, and then watched the broadcast being aired as the men sang. Jean was church treasurer for over 35 years and an active member of



the United Church Women. Her daughters Beth and Leone presented her with a life membership in the UCW.

Mrs. Norton introduced her to the Massie Women's Institute and she joined in 1933. Jean remained an active member for over 65 years holding several offices at both the Local and District levels. Jean was particularly interested in the Tweedsmuir History, acting as curator at both the Massie branch and for the District. She led 4-H homemaking clubs and Institute short courses over the years. Jean received the Grey County Agnes McPhail Award and a Centennial Award presented by the Federation of Women's Institutes of Ontario for her work. On Jean's 85th birthday, her very good friend Dona Norton honoured her with a life membership in the Institute.

The Holland Township Federation of Agriculture, the Junior 4-H Fair and the Farm Safety Council also benefitted from Clarence and Jean's expertise and enthusiasm. However, life at Massie was not all work. The good times included euchre parties and concerts at the hall (sometimes the planning

to place an order. He wanted shorts for his pigs. Gordon's wife took the call and exclaimed, "Shorts for your pigs! The next thing you will want is bras-sieres for your cows." Item 2: A huge crowd attended the evening Evangelical Service at Massie. The pastor preached on the dangers of drinking alcohol and stated that all the booze in Massie had been dumped in the Big Head River. HALLELUJAH! For a closing hymn we sang "Shall We Gather at the River?" Item 3: Several couples participated in a game show trying for prizes. With the men offstage, the ladies had to answer questions such as "Who is your favourite movie star?" Jean's answer was Marjorie Maine. When they returned to the stage, the men had to guess their wives' answers to win the prize. When asked to name his wife's favourite movie star, Clarence responded with Maw Kettle. He won the prize! Of course, there was the shivaree gang! The neighbours would get together and "visit" the couple celebrating an anniversary. Lots of noise and laughter rounded out a good evening!

A strong interest in politics led Jean to serve as Chairperson for the Holland Township Liberal Party from 1975 to 1983. She was Census Commissioner in 1976 and served one term on the Ontario Advisory Council for Senior Citizens.

In the fall of 1983, Jean and Clarence retired to an apartment in Owen Sound due to Clarence's deteriorating health and he passed away two years later at the age of 75.

Jean remained active joining a volunteer group which did custom quilting and a senior's club to play euchre. She was chairperson of the committee that compiled the first Holland Township history, "The Paths That Led To Holland". Jean travelled to Europe, the British Isles, Florida, and the Rockies but the highlight of her travels was a trip Jean and Dona took to Oberammergau, Germany to see "The Passion Play" in 1990. A dream come true for Jean!

No longer able to care for herself at home, Jean moved to Central Place Retirement Community in the fall of 2008. She was well cared for and enjoyed her time there until her passing in 2010 in her 97th year.

Our parents were very serious people – no tom-foolery – but they were also very loving and caring people. Clarence and Jean worked together when it came time to milk the cows, plant the crops and do other farm chores. They never argued and always enjoyed each other's company. They travelled together when they had a chance taking many short and long trips. They enjoyed their life in the beautiful Massie community.



meetings were more fun!).

One concert was a mock TV show which had a fake boxing match, a mock wedding and a newscast. Clarence was the news reporter. Item 1: A local farmer called Gordon Lang's Feed Mill



Chicken Grill



The weather gods smiled on the Massie Chicken BBQ again this year. A great group of volunteers banded together to make the event a success – over 160 tickets were sold. Robert Foreman's chicken was delicious as ever and volunteer cooks supplied tasty salads, spuds and desserts, including some pies. Rainbow Country Way entertained the crowd as people arrived early to sit out and socialize.



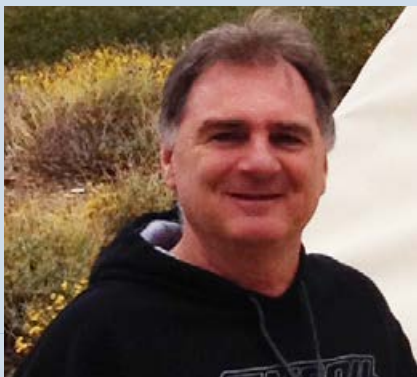
Part of the afternoon's entertainment included a recognition event to acknowledge the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to fund repairs to Massie Hall. Massie Community Centre President Glen Martin introduced MPP Bill Walker to the crowd and displayed a facsimile of the grant cheque. Mr. Walker presented Glen with a certificate commemorating the grant. The Township of Chatsworth also contributed monies to the work on the Hall and Mayor Bob Pringle and all members of the Chatsworth Township Council were present and acknowledged.

A special THANK YOU to all those who helped make this event a success – it is a very important fundraiser for the hall and a great way to maintain community.



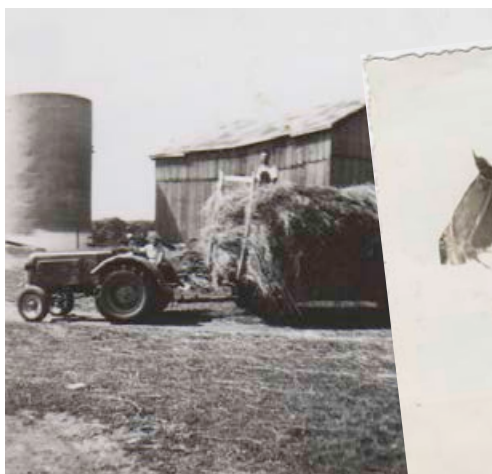
Pat Campbell with her granddaughter Emma. Proud parents are Sheldon and Andrea, proud grandpa is Pete.

Local Boy Runs for Office

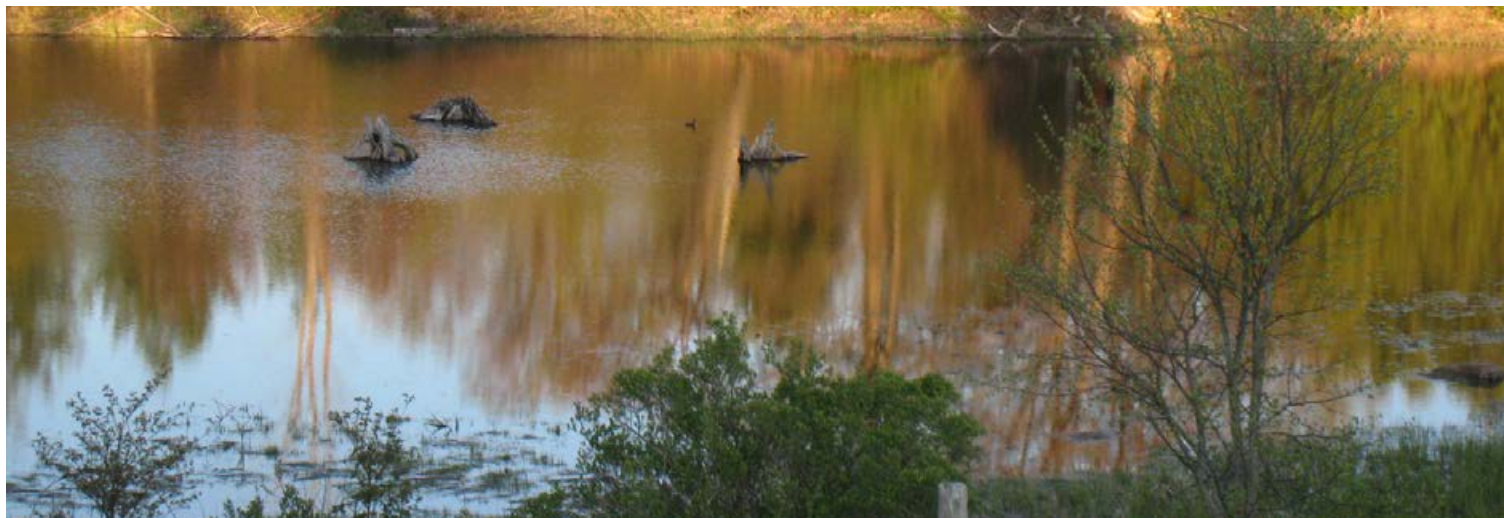


Massie resident and business owner Jerry Downey is running for councillor for the Township of Chatsworth. Jerry owns two Quiklubes and Sunrise Carwash and Laundromat in Owen Sound, Car Wash and Storage in Chatsworth, and he's a beef farmer in Massie with his wife Lisa. A former police officer and Grey County snow removal and road construction guy, Jerry is also a steward and trustee of Massie United Church, supporter of Chatsworth Agricultural Society and sponsor of Chatsworth Minor Soccer and Owen Sound Attack. To learn about Jerry's policies visit www.jdowneyforchatty.ca. To chat with him about what's important to you, call him at 519-372-5797.

2014 - Year of the Family Farm







Photograph by Carol Mair

Massie 2014 Events

- November 1 **Massie Church Snowflake Tea & Bazaar**, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., hearty chili or soup lunch for \$6.
- November 7 **Shoreline Chorus at Massie United Church**, Theme: Love Songs, 7:30 p.m.
- November 30 **Dramatic reading of "A Christmas Carol" at Massie Church**, 2:30 p.m., Mabel Williamson on harp, tickets \$10, money raised will be donated to the Food Bank, contact Sharon Burnside for tickets or more information, sburnside@amtelecom.net.
- December 6 **Massie Christmas Concert at the church**, 7 p.m., local performers, apple cider, coffee, goodies, and, of course, Santa will make an appearance
- December 31 **New Years Eve Party at Massie Hall** with live dance music performed by "May Contain Nuts" 9:00pm to 1:00 am. Tickets \$15.00 call Marilyn at 519-794-4109 or mariberg44@gmail.com or Glen or Laura Martin @ 519-794-3841

The Massie Messenger is a community newsletter. What would you like to see in it? Stories from people who have lived here a long time or stories from newcomers? Articles about the houses, churches, barns or other buildings? Recipes? Health tips? Conservation tips? Articles about the natural world in and around Massie? Stories about the artists and craftsmen in our midst? Photographs of people or places or both? Would you like to write an article or a poem or submit your photos or paintings or cartoons? Do you have events you'd like to advertise or stuff you want to sell or rent or lend out? Tell us how you would like The Messenger to unfold and we'll do our best to make it happen. Please don't hesitate to make your ideas known. Call Renie at 794-0865 or Ralph at 794-4109 or e-mail editor@massiemessenger.ca.

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