

The Massie Messenger

A Biannual Newsletter

Issue N° 21 Fall 2017

Canada 150 Celebrations in Massie



Photograph by Wayne Mang

Despite the less-than-stellar weather and a few unfortunate incidents (such as Carol's encounter with an unsteady ladder), Massie had a lot to celebrate this summer – our great community! On Canada's 150th birthday, fireworks lit up the skies of our

tiny hamlet at Carol Mair's lovely property on Massie Pond. As you can see from the photos, Carol's sweetie Wayne provided transportation. The potluck dinner at the church was a smash sell-out. Thanks to everyone involved in kitchen duty and those who slaved over

the barbecue (you know who you are!) . Food was fabulous as usual.

Heaps of thanks to all the folks who donated funds, time, effort and enthusiasm. The neighbourhood came together to put on this fun event. Special thanks to Joyce Downey for conducting



*Photographs Courtesy of:
Frank Tiefenback
Joanne Bastien*



Welcome to Newcomers to Massie

Kevin Connell and Jen Cliff recently purchased the old Vlieland farm for a cow-calf operation. Kevin also sells firewood, if you're interested. Jen is a detective with the Ontario Provincial Police. Their dog Chevy is part cattle dog. We welcome them into the Massie community.

If you're new to Massie and we've neglected to mention you, please feel free to contact Renee at editor@massiemessenger.ca.

In Memorium: Sydney Wilfred Martin Goldsmith (1931-2017)



Grace Dunn and Syd Goldsmith under Ed Neeland's apple tree.

Photograph by Ed Neelands

Syd Goldsmith was “a noble guy”, says his dear friend Grace Dunn. He was also a modest man. When confronted with questions about his life in Massie, he would look perplexed, wondering what he had of interest to say. But ask Grace and she’ll tell you about the wonderful memories his return to Massie conjured up. Syd’s connection to Massie was all about LOVE, as a child and as an adult.

Syd grew up in Durham, but spent many happy childhood days in Massie with his grandparents, John and Ann Goldsmith, who lived in our delightful hamlet from 1904 to 1946 (on the Massie Road farm now owned by Larry & Pat Thompson). Syd would ride behind his grandfather on a big,

black horse to the store, now the Massie Duplex across from the church. Syd was allowed to get a black gumball as a treat, but the storekeeper would always say to Syd as he reached into the jar: “You’ve got small hands, so you can have two gumballs.” Syd was 17 when he last set foot in Massie before going to work for Hydro and then SNC-Lavalin, one of the leading engineering and construction companies in the world. This position involved travelling the world to supervise major construction projects.

Grace dated Syd when they were teenagers, but then they both went on to marry other people and lead wonderful lives. Grace recalls the “incredible moment when he came

back into my life [after both their spouses had passed away]. We had special times driving around the countryside.” Both of them were living in a retirement home in Hanover. Soon after they reconnected, they took the opportunity to visit the hamlet of Massie and the sweet memories of his grandparents came flooding back. Syd and Grace decided to come to Massie Church and were welcomed enthusiastically by members of the community. As Grace says: “This church has warmth and caring for people and Syd just drank that in.”

As they dropped in for visits with Massie’s old guard, people would tell Syd stories about his older brother AG whose service to Canada in World War II is

commemorated on a memorial scroll at the back of the church. AG, a guitar player whose musical talents were much appreciated in Massie, died in Amsterdam in August 1945. Beside the scroll to him and others is one honouring Syd's and AG's father Eric who served in World War I.

Syd and Grace also visited the Massie Community Centre where Syd's father, aunts and uncles attended school. More great memories.....

A big part of Syd's life in his later years was his support of the Village of Hope, a home for orphans in Zimbabwe, Africa. Syd's generosity helped Grace do mission work in this orphanage. His large donation also enabled the

building of house #9 which was dedicated in 2016 to the memory of his late wife Olive. He also provided financial support to the medical clinic and helped provide educational opportunities for children. His generosity was deeply appreciated by the leadership team and residents at the Village of Hope. Although they never met Syd, they loved him in return for his love for



The house that Syd's donation helped to build at the Village of Hope in Zimbabwe.

them. The brass door knocker from Syd's & Olive's home in Fenelon Falls now graces the entrance to House #9.

Just as Syd had wonderful memories of Massie and its folks, so too do Massieites have many fond remembrances of him and his family. Luella Neelands described Ann Goldsmith as her best friend in Massie.

Syd has generously remembered the Massie Church in his estate. The church has planted an oak tree and also made a donation to the Village of Hope in memory of Syd. The tree commemoration service will be held in the spring/summer of 2018. The oak is a fitting tribute to this "oak of a man." We miss you, Syd!

Summer Church Service at Wendy Neelands Pond



Photographs by Ed Neelands



Two Grand Ladies Turn 90

Laura Mustard



From left: Margaurite Juniper, Eileen Mustard, Brian Perdue, Jean Perdue, Laura Mustard, Bob Torrie, John Gillies, Sharon Torrie



Many happy returns, Laura!



The Little Bigheads: James Dykeman, Lori and Enio Mascherin.



Photographs by Sarah Dykeman

Laura Mustard got to celebrate her 90th birthday with her date George Clooney!

Lois Keeling



Photograph by Ed Neelands

Standing behind Lois Keeling are her kids: from left, Dan Keeling, Judy Bridge, Peggy Keeling, Tim Keeling and Jane Keeling Ribbel



Photograph by Peggy Keeling

Lois Keeling and Carl Seely!

Live at Massie Hall 2017

Deanne Hallman

Paul Danard

Don Buchanan

Steve Wood

Saturday October 14, 8 pm

Reserved Tickets \$20



Deanne, a singer-songwriter who can rock the house, belt the blues or sing a lullaby, backed up by a Who's Who list of legendary musicians.

Our Shotgun Wedding

Saturday November 4, 8 pm

Reserved Tickets \$20

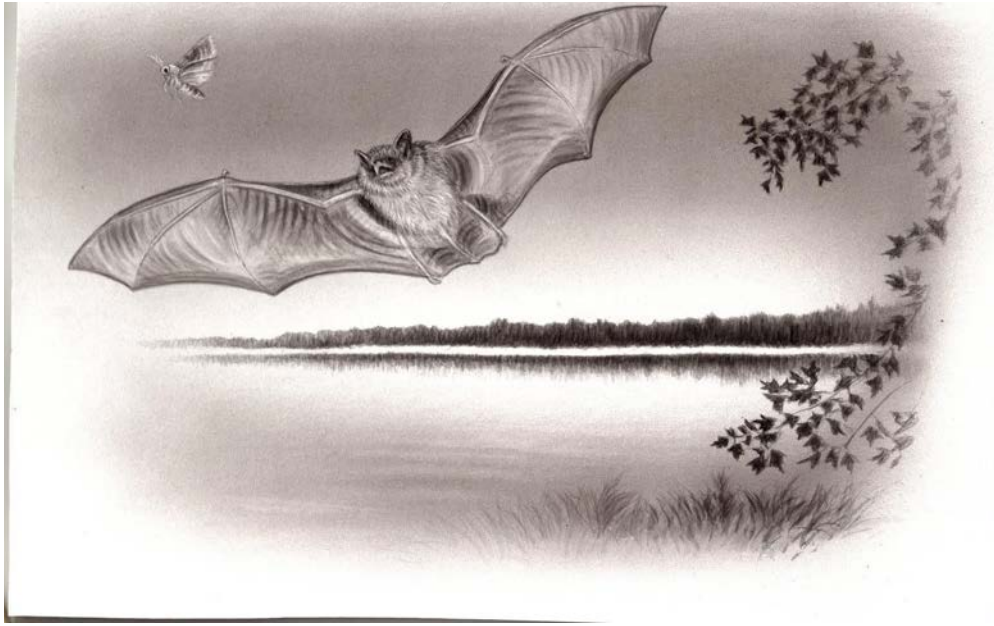


The pop-folk duo of Dylan McMullin and Lauren Jewell have an infectious on-stage chemistry. Their songs about life, love, loss and discovery are set on the Bruce Peninsula and, like the landscape, “have a rugged, real, yet touching texture.”

Visit massiehall.com for tickets or contact Ralph at 226-668-2251

Bats

by Renee Fedun



Little Brown Bat

Illustration by Chris Kerrigan

Anyone who grew up in the country knows the eerie, fascinating glide and swoop of bats on a summer night, but if you've been paying attention you will have noticed that there are far fewer bats than even a decade ago. The reasons are many. Bats store the pesticide residues on the insects they consume in their fatty tissues. These fat stores allow non-migratory bats to survive winter hibernation. A dangerous accumulation of chemicals at their most vulnerable time of year can mean the difference between survival and death. Cats will wait outside a roost and leap up to catch a bat as it flies out. Wind turbines, for reasons not fully understood, also pose as threat. But the newest and most critical problem is white-nose syndrome (WNS), a disease caused by a fungus that coats the muzzle and wings of an infected bat. It likely came from Europe, possibly carried by people who investigate bat caves, in 2006.

Five out of eight of Ontario's bat

species are non-migratory and overwinter in caves, abandoned mines and human-built structures where the temperature remains just above freezing. Since they slow their metabolism, suppress their immune response and lower their body temperature in winter, bats cannot survive during the colder months out of doors.

WNS penetrates the wing membrane, disrupting cells including blood vessels, connective tissue and nerves, likely causing dehydration. Since they must be awake and warm to fight the infection, infected bats emerge from winter hibernation more frequently and use up their fat stores flying about in search of food, water and shelter, eventually starving to death.

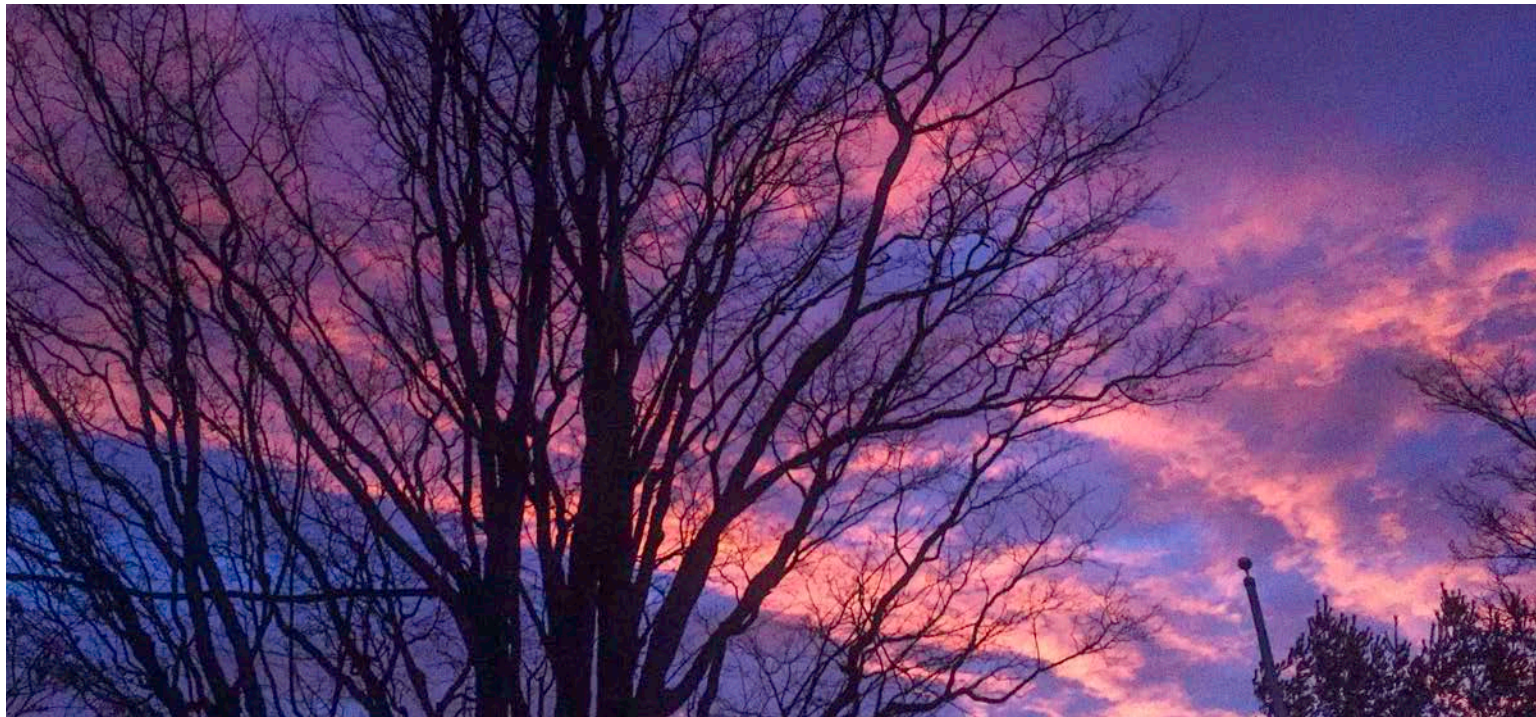
Not everyone is enamoured of bats, but we can still be amazed by their acrobatics and grateful for the services they provide us. They have a voracious appetite for moths, flies, wasps and beetles. They also provide millions of dollars' worth of chemical-free pest control for agriculture and forestry. Their poop, known as guano, is a natural fertilizer.

Bats are generally misunderstood and often maligned unfairly. They are not blind: they see better than we do in the dark. They never get tangled in people's hair: their sonar or echolocation allows them to swoop close to people but not come in contact with them. Less than 1% of bats become infected with rabies. That said, never pick up a bat lying on the ground with bare hands. There are no vampire bats in Canada: only 3 species exist and they live in Mexico, Central and South Americas.

A bat inside your home during spring, summer or fall can be removed safely. At night, confine the bat in one room and turn OFF INDOOR lights. Open doors and windows to the outside and turn ON OUTSIDE lights. The insects buzzing around the light will draw out the bat.

During the day, if you discover a bat indoors, find a large-mouthed yogurt or ice cream container and poke lots of tiny holes in the lid. Gently put the container over the bat flush to the wall or surface where it lands. Slide the lid carefully under the tub to close the container (from bottom to top in order not to break the bat's little toes). Keep in a cool, quiet area until dark. Take the bat outside, tip the open container onto a surface at least six feet above the ground. It will fly away once it has warmed its body temperature through shivering (about five minutes). If the bat does not fly away in the next hour, recapture it in your container and call a wildlife rehabilitator by visiting ontariowildliferescue.ca.

For me, it was a delight this summer to have three bats swooping and diving around my house in downtown metropolitan Massie. May they return year after year in ever greater numbers!



Photograph by Ralph Bergman

2017 Events

- Saturday, October 14 **Live at Massie Hall featuring Deanne Hallman, Paul Danard, Don Buchanan, Steve Wood.** 8 p.m. Visit massiehall.com for tickets or call Ralph at 226-668-2251
- Saturday, November 4 **Live at Massie Hall featuring Our Shotgun Wedding** 8 p.m. Visit massiehall.com for tickets or call Ralph at 226-668-2251
- Friday November 10 **Shoreline Chorus concert, "The Roaring Twenties",** 7:30 pm, Massie United Church
- Saturday, November 11 **Massie Snowflake Tea & Bazaar.** Contact Mary Janet at 519-794-2216
- Saturday, December 9 **Massie Christmas Concert – 2 p.m.**

Rent Massie Hall

If you have a birthday or anniversary or some other special event to celebrate, why not hold it at our very own historic Massie Hall? Contact Glen Martin at 519-794-3841 or lauraglenmartin@gmail.com for details.

Editorial Board

Renee Fedun — Editor
Ralph Bergman — Art Director