

The Massie Messenger

A Biannual Newsletter

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The Massie Isolated 2020 Project



Photographs by Peter Turk

For their big 2020 trip, Peter and Lois Turk had planned a two-month-long drive along the Trans-Labrador Highway to visit family and friends in Newfoundland, with a side trip to Saint Pierre and Miquelon. Like so many well-laid plans, it fell apart when COVID-19 struck. Instead, Peter launched into a project to take photographs of his neighbours – to create a record of how they were spending their time under lockdown. He started with families living in or near Massie, but expanded to anyone with a strong connection to our humble hamlet.

The photos were taken mostly in May and June, with Peter carefully maintaining social distancing all the while. This issue of the Massie Messenger features a sample of these delightful photos, beginning with the one on this page of Peter and his wife Lois presenting a delectable dessert she had just baked.

Contact Peter at pturk@tundraswan.com to purchase a copy of the Massie Isolated 2020 book or to see his panoramic pictures from around the world.



Lisa and Jerry Downey and Tucker Elizabeth, the Miniature Australian Shepherd



Marion, Kevin and Lindsay Little and Ashton Henry Lord



Ted Hamill



Carl Seeley and Connie Neelands



Marie and Rich Palmer



The Martin clan. In front: Brent with Charlie the Boston Terrier, Melissa Cabrera, Olivia, Andrew and Laura. Back: Glen and Matthew.



Jen Cliff, Tate and Kevin Connell



Pat Campbell and Moki the Yorkie



Ryan, Winston, Bryer and Mackenzie Ormsby



Hayden, Lee and Holly Torrie



Stella, Hazel, Holli, Louis the Bouvier de Flandres dog, Alex, Xan and Khalezi the bearded dragon Torrie



Jo Ann and Toomas Sauks



Stewart Wallace



Jonathan, Dennis, Phoenix and Crystal Lemoine



Susan McGowan and Hugh Evans



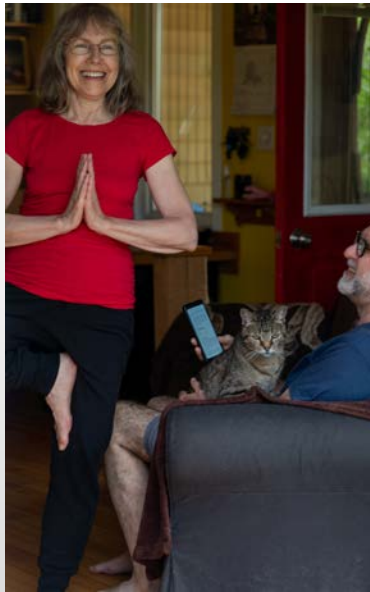
Wayne Mang and Carol Mair



Anna and James Dykeman



Hugh and Carol Neelands



Renee Fedun, David Wells and Charcoal the cat



Desirée van Dijk



Brian, Norma and Gilbert Rice



James Ribbel, Lois Keeling and Rick Ribbel



Laurie Misener with Nash the horse and Maya the Chocolate Lab



Mackenzie, Rachel and Pete Miller

In Memoriam: Andy Neelands 1959-2020



Andy, photographed in 2019 at the Neelands family farm, now owned by brother, Edward. Note the plaque in the background that celebrates the building of the house in 1900 by Andy's great-uncle, John A. Neelands.

Photograph by Lorrie Ferguson

Andrew Peter Neelands grew up on his family's fourth-generation farm in Massie. The youngest of nine siblings, Andy was a natural storyteller with a dry sense of humour. He lived and worked in Alberta for several years, but returned to Massie to stay when his father John passed away. Andy worked on the construction of electrical transformers throughout southern Ontario, but spent much of his free time tinkering with motorcycles and other small engines and riding his favourite motorbikes, street and dirt bikes.

Andy met his one true love, Lorrie Ferguson, and her young daughter Jessica in 1993. Despite his preference for rock bands such as Lynryd Skynyrd, Andy would patiently listen to Lorrie's beloved Country 93's Golden Oldies on Sunday nights and let her teach him how to dance. Andy may have not had a natural sense of rhythm, but he learned to hold his own, leading to the proud moment many years later when he danced with Jessica on her wedding day. When they first met, Andy was like an "annoying, older brother" to Jessica, but they became fast friends and he was especially pleased when she called him Dad. He would pick her up from school and teach her useful life skills such as using the push mower. These lessons would invariably end with them doing something fun such as playing croquet or crokinole.

Like other members of the Neelands family, Andy was interested in politics and would read the newspaper and listen to CBC radio. He especially loved doing the Word Searches. Andy loved his Massie community and would always be the first to help unload the 2,000+ geraniums for the annual Massie Church Geranium Tea and Sale.

The quiet times with Andy are the memories Lorrie treasures most, enjoying a drink on their deck or working on the lawns.

Deepest condolences to Lorrie, Jessica, the entire Neelands family and Andy's friends.



The Massie community "honour guard" for Andy Neelands

Photograph by Peter Turk

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