

# The Massie Messenger

A Biannual Newsletter

Issue N° 29 Spring 2022

## Massie Hall Returns – Outdoors



*Drew McIvor*

*Photos by Groundswell Photography*

No doubt we've all been eager to see a return of concerts and other gatherings to Massie Hall. Last year we had only one concert at the outdoor stage briefly known as MOPAC (Massie Outdoor Performing Arts Centre) – where the incomparable Victoria Yeh with her smokin' violin and the ever-popular Drew McIvor performed to an appreciative audience. We had the largest turnout ever for a Massie Hall concert – 83 people.

The continuing uncertainty around the pandemic situation has us feeling a bit tentative, but that's not going to stop us! The Massie Hall board has appointed Massie's own Pete Miller as Artistic Director and we've decided to go ahead with 5 outdoor concerts in 2022.

Pete has lined up some awesome gigs to get our feet tapping and our hearts singing. The kick-off con-



*Victoria Yeh*

cert in June, called Come Together, will be a tribute to The Beatles by Pete's own band, The Millpond Project, and The Little Bigheads.

Pete, who started playing guitar when he was 12, loves the Grey-Bruce music scene – he's been involved since he moved to Massie many, many moons ago. For six years he was on the board of the Summerfolk Festival, in charge of winter programming. He met Lloyd Mohr at a jam session, the two hit it off and formed a band with the memorable name May Contain Nuts. Massie folks danced exuberantly to their commercially based pop and rock music on New Year's Eve at our community hall.

After a year-long hiatus from performing, Pete and Lloyd returned as a three-piece band with Gerard Willmes, forming The Millpond Project. Lloyd is the lead

singer plus he plays electric and acoustic guitars and, occasionally, the drums. Pete provides back-up vocals and the bass accompaniment. Multi-instrumentalist Gerard was the music and math teacher at St. Mary's Catholic School until his recent retirement. He organized concerts and musical plays. Gerard's speciality is keyboards, but for this band he sings and plays drums.

For this special return gig, the trio invited Jeff Freeman, an enthusiastic, self-taught guitarist, to be the lead guitar. Jeff has an interesting connection to Massie: he married Brenda Dutfield who once lived in the house on Massie Road now owned by Carol Mair (next door to Pete's place!).

For the few of you haven't had the pleasure of hearing their music – yet – The Little Bigheads are James Dykeman (vocals, guitar, and on rare occasions harmonica), Lori Mascherin (vocals and percussion) and Enio Mascherin (guitar, background vocals and, rarely, ukulele). Together for over a decade, they have performed at the hall and church in Massie, Harrison Park Restaurant, Coffin Ridge Winery and the Mission Thrift Store employee appreciation day, to name just a few of their gigs.

Many different artists and bands have influenced the trio. James grew up with Cat Stevens, Gordon Lightfoot and Alice Cooper! Lori loves old country like Patsy Cline as well as more recent artists like Linda Ronstadt.



*Lori Mascherin, Enio Mascherin, James Dykeman: The Little Bigheads*

And Enio adores horns such as those heard in music by Chicago or Lighthouse.

When asked about his favourite Beatles' song, James came up with "I Dig a Pony", a little-known piece from the Let It Be album that features tricky guitar work by John Lennon. Unfortunately, it's not a song that adapts well to The Bigheads' style, so we won't be hearing it at the June concert. But there will be some great harmonies and memorable performances from each band and both on stage together!

The ever-popular Massie Fish Fry will also be back, but with take-out only. Vegan options available but must be ordered in advance. Naturally, folks are welcome to bring their lawn chairs or grab a picnic table and eat outdoors on the lawn. Watch for details in your email box.

Pete Miller sees the Come Together concert as a fundraiser for Massie Hall, an opportunity for friends and neighbours to enjoy music and each other's company once more AND a chance for our local musicians to get out there and do what they do so well. "There's no shortage of great musical talent in Grey- Bruce," says Pete. "I wanted to have a concert with people who live a stone's throw from the stage. We should toot our own horn and showcase these talented local folks." And so we will.



*From top left: Lloyd Mohr, Pete Miller, Gerard Willmes and Jeff Freeman in checked shirt: The Millpond Project*



# Live at Massie Hall

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The Millpond Project

The Little Bigheads

## Come Together - A Tribute to the Beatles

Sunday June 12, 2 pm

On the outdoor stage

Rain or Shine

Tickets: \$22

The Millpond Project – named after Massie’s picturesque pond in the Bighead River, of course – is a trio of musicians that just loves to perform. Lloyd Mohr (lead vocals, acoustic and electric guitar), Pete Miller (vocals and bass), Gerard Willmes (vocals and drums) will be joined for this Beatles tribute concert by Jeff Freeman (lead guitar). You’ll love their infectious good humour, folksy charm and great rhythms.

The Little Bigheads, a Massie trio comprising Lori Mascherin, Enio Mascherin and James Dykeman, play a mix of music, from folk to classic rock to old country to gospel and just about everything in between. A love of harmony, the interplay of guitars and a strong sense of fun all contribute to their sound. When you hear the Little Bigheads, it’s evident in every note that you’re watching a group that considers it a privilege to play for you.

Visit [massiehall.com](http://massiehall.com) and buy your tickets online with Canada Helps Ticketing or e-transfer. Tickets also available from board members or can be purchased at the door. Refreshments will be available. Don’t forget your lawn chairs, blankets, umbrellas, water, whatever you need to feel comfortable and enjoy the show!

# Live at Massie Hall

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## Dave Hawkins

Sunday July 10, 2 p.m .

On the outdoor stage

Bring your lawnchairs

Tickets \$22.00 [massiehall.com](http://massiehall.com)

Singer/songwriter Dave Hawkins has long-standing connections to the local music scene: his father owned CFOS radio, Dave started what is now Randy's Records, and he owned and operated the Fromager Music Store. As for his music, Ian Anderson of Jethro Tull had these glowing words to say about him: "Dave is a rare find in this world of hyped, derivative and bottom line-driven music. ... he has broadened his work to include many influences from the best of rich musical forms usually found elsewhere in the world."



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## Boots and Roots

Sunday August 7, 2 p.m.

On the outdoor stage

Bring your lawnchairs

Tickets \$22.00 [massiehall.com](http://massiehall.com)

This concert's theme might best be described as Country Meets Celtic. The highly talented, local collaborative features Kevin Moyse (The Shards, Moondance), Karen May (Honeygrass, Moondance) and Justine Maw-Farrar and Dave Farrar (Beggars Road, The Shards). Ever humble, Kevin says about himself, "I write songs about shipwrecks". Karen is known for her "beautiful voice" and her music and messages for women's empowerment. Justine brings her Celtic/blues/traditional folk background and powerful vocals to every concert. Dave rounds out the group with his percussion work and vocals – "the meat behind the beat". This performance will cross several musical genres and leave us begging for more.



# Live at Massie Hall

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## Drew McIvor

Sunday September 18, 2 pm

On the outdoor stage

Bring your lawnchairs

Tickets \$22.00 [massiehall.com](https://massiehall.com)

Locally based, nationally beloved singer-songwriter Drew McIvor is back by popular demand! With his trusty six-string, this charismatic crooner performs with a masterful simplicity, inviting audiences to share the musical experience. His deep affection for his craft is apparent at every turn. Elements of acoustic pop, folk, worldbeat, soul and jazz are interwoven into a tapestry of intelligent, catchy tunes that fit like your favourite jeans and soothe like a summer breeze.



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## Larry Jensen

Sunday October 2, 2 pm

Inside Massie Hall

Tickets \$22.00 [massiehall.com](https://massiehall.com)

Larry Jensen, once described as the Valdy of Owen Sound, is a singer-songwriter and music teacher of exceptional talent. In 2009, he received the first Owen Sound Culture Award for his “Outstanding Contribution to Our Musical Community”. From 2015 to 2017, he and Rob Rolfe were chosen as Owen Sound’s Poets Laureate. Larry and Rob co-wrote, produced and published *Late Nights on Irish Mountain*, a book/CD project of essays, lyrics and songs. At the beginning of the pandemic lockdown, Larry wrote, produced and published a CD and book entitled *These Streets I Know: Life and Music by Larry Jensen*, described by the late Andrew Armitage as “one heck of a read”.





# Wayne Paul Elton Mang - 1937 - 2022



*Wayne helping with a family Thanksgiving tradition. The wee pumpkins are stuffed with walnuts, butter and maple syrup then baked.*

Carol Mair's partner of 22 years and recent fiancé, Wayne Mang, was a Massie part-timer, but there was nothing half-hearted about the way he gave to our community. He would attend church services and Massie Hall gatherings, help with spring clean-up, mow lawns and split wood, and offer wise counsel when needed.

Wayne was a breath of fresh air whenever he blew into town, blasting Elvis Presley on his car radio!

He had a house and later a condo in Oakville – where he could be close to his family and enjoy his delightful grandchildren and great grandchildren – but he spent half his time at Carol's farm revelling in their spectacular view of Massie Pond.

A gentleman and businessman, Wayne believed that getting to know people and treating them with kindness and respect were the keys to success. But there was a goofy side to him as well that treasured friends got to know.

Tom Juffs gave this tribute to his friend's memory, "Wayne had an innate ability to connect with others. His first question would always be about you and it was always sincere and thoughtful. This man who had dined with presidents and prime ministers could always come down to my level, so to speak (he was very tall!), listen and make me feel better about myself and the world around me. His interests and talents were many and could be shared as one would with a father or brother. I believe that Wayne's gift of connection to us is what endeared him to so many. The night before he passed Wayne asked why we would be interested in 'hanging around with us old buggers.' I wish I could ask him the same question."

This warm-hearted man will always be remembered as one of ours.



*Carol and Wayne made a lively pair at community gatherings.*

# Connie Neelands - 1935 - 2021



Connie Neelands, who lived with her husband Carl Seeley at the corner of Massie Road and Veterans Road for 25 years, right in the thick of life in Massie, passed away last fall. She was a lovely lady with an easy laugh – a bright light in our community. She is dearly missed by her family and friends. “A wonderful sister,” says Wendy Neelands. Despite



*Connie Neelands with her kids: Jon, Joel and Julie*  
*Photo by Cheryl Young*

their short stature, the two shared a sense of adventure (“Oh, sure, we can do this!”) that often ended in hysterical laughter. Like the time... Wendy wanted to put up her Canadian flag at the pond so she called Con to help her. “Little but mighty” Connie readily agreed. Of course, it was a challenging task for the two of them but they finally got the flag up the pole.

As they were walking away, Connie looked back and nudged Wendy. They had raised the flag upside down!

One of nine siblings, Connie was the seamstress in the family, and her sibs, children and grandchildren certainly took advantage of that talent. Her daughter Julie recalls how Connie taught her and her brothers Jon and Joel how to sew on an old treadle machine that their mother had had restored. Julie would make clothing, of course, but the boys sewed GI Joe tents and parachutes. Eventually Connie bought an electric sewing machine, but the antique (“a beautiful piece in a wood cabinet,” says Julie) is still in her daughter’s possession. And it still works!

In addition to sewing, Con enjoyed gardening and her tulips have become a highlight of spring in our humble hamlet.

Carl and Connie dated in high school, but life took



*Connie and Carl were high school sweethearts!*

them in different directions for several decades, until Carl’s wife died and Con separated from her husband. In their 50s, they found each other again and the rest is history!

Connie had many severe health challenges over the course of her life but she was “a real trooper”, says Wendy. “We were fortunate to have her as long as we did.” Our deepest condolences to Carl and the entire family.



# McCracken Wedding



*Rebecca, Hazel and Tyler McCracken*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY



*The bride with her brother Keegan, sister Shelby, step-sisters Savannah and Sidony Bannon*



*Shelby Hunter, Cole McCracken, Rebecca and Tyler, Hank Obradovich and Sidony Bannon*



*Lisa Hunter and Rocky Neelands*



*Lisa Hunter with her grandchildren Henry and Hazel*



# Martin Wedding



*The bride and her daughter Livie*



*Glen Martin and his granddaughter Livie*



*Laura Martin (the groom's mother) and Nadine Osborne (the mother of the bride)*



*Brent, Glen and Matthew Martin, Keith Osborne, Laura Martin holding her granddaughter Olivia, newlyweds Andrew and Melissa Martin, Nadine, Neil and Siobhan Osborne and Kara Schmid.*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY



# Massie 2022 Events

## Massie United Church

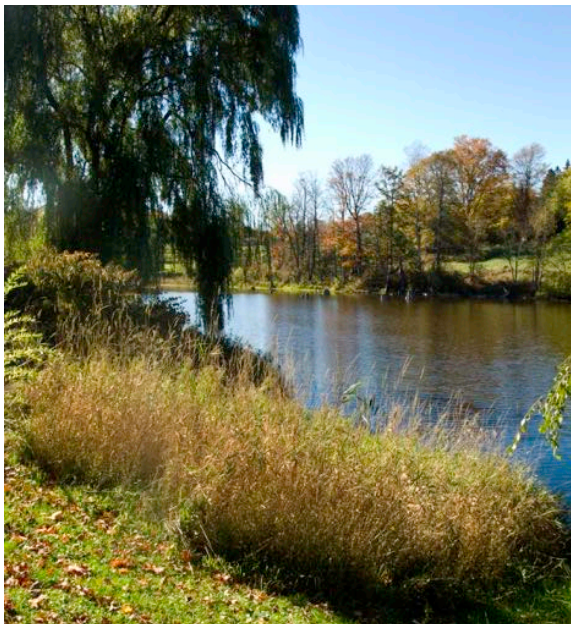
Sunday services at 10 a.m.  
Rev. Debbie Grant  
EVERYONE WELCOME!

## Massie Church

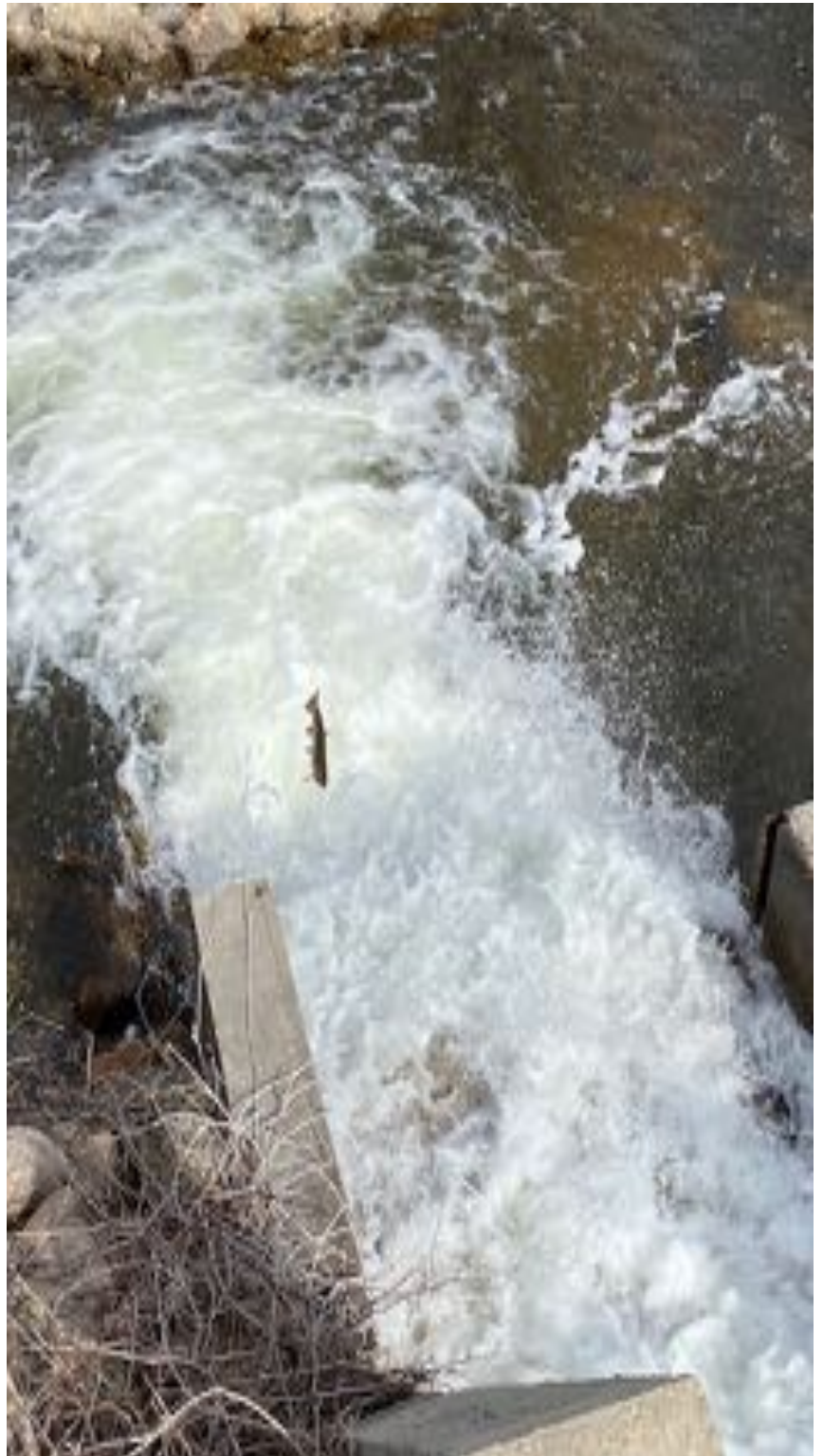
Sunday services at 11:30 a.m.  
Pastor Michael Henkel  
496660 Veterans Road North  
Summer services may be held outdoors  
at different venues. Call Marie  
at 519-794-3571 for details.  
Fellowship after service:  
bring a lunch! Welcome one and all!

## Massie Hall

Fish Fry (takeout only) Sunday, August 14  
Mums Sale Saturday, September 10  
Watch [massiehall.com](http://massiehall.com)



*Photograph by Ralph Bergman*



*Photograph by James Perrone*

The Massie Messenger is a community newsletter. We would love to hear from you, members of the Massie community, whether you live close by or have moved far away! Send us your stories, photographs or artwork that have anything to do with Massie! Email Renee at [editor@massiemessenger.ca](mailto:editor@massiemessenger.ca) or call 519-794-0865.