

# The Massie Messenger

A Biannual Newsletter

Issue N° 33 Spring 2024

## Fishing on the Bighead River



George Perrone at Massie Pond

As a kid, Hugh Neelands always dreamed about catching “the big one”! By his own admission, he wasn’t a particularly gifted fisherman, but loved to go out with his older brothers.

It wasn’t just the fishing, it was the river. In his book, *The Hugh Neelands Story*, (which we reviewed in the fall 2023 issue of the *Messenger*), Hugh compared the Bighead River to a symphony. In one rocky spot, it created “a beautiful harmonic tapestry with different notes interweaving among themselves as the water trickled over and through the rocks”. Hugh would be mesmerized by the babbling he could hear in the water, “like a group of children talking happily outside my window, each one trying to outdo the other...”

The boys enjoyed swimming in a spot they referred to as “the sucker hole” for the fish that were plentiful there. They had other favourite fishing holes where they caught mostly Shiners and Suckers. They would fish right down to the mill dam where they hooked mostly Chub. But the very best day was when young Hughie caught a Speckled Trout!

The east side of the river was con-



sidered to be the best place to go – the land was pastured and less swampy. However, one day when they were headed towards the “third bridge” (demolished by Hurricane Hazel in the 1960s on land now owned by Marie and Rich Palmer), Hugh chose to stick to the west side.

He baited his hook with a worm, threw the line from his long, ash pole out into the water and waited. All of a sudden something hit the pole and Hugh instinctively braced himself. “I thought I had a whale,” he says. He started hollering and his brothers came running. Hugh hauled in a 12” Speckled Trout – not a whopper but a mighty fine fish nonetheless!

Hugh has a fond memory of the fish derby

held annually by Slaters Sportswear, formerly at the corner of 8th Street and 2nd Avenue East in Owen Sound. One year the prize-winning fish was a Brown Trout caught in Massie Pond!

Although no one we know of still swims in the Bighead, there are still fish to be had and fisherpersons catching them. Virtually everyone in the Perrone family has tried their hand at fishing. They, too, have caught Chub, Speckled Trout and Suckers. One time young George dropped his rod into the millpond and James got “absolutely soaked” retrieving it!

Still lots of great fishing to be had in the Bighead River!



*Hugh, Bob and Bill Neelands*



# Boreal



Katherine Wheatley, Tannis Slimmon and Angie Nussey – *BOREAL* – are three award-winning musicians who have demonstrated their prowess as solo acts, in long-standing groups and as backup singers in too many venues to count. The trio is known for wonderful stories told with humour, honesty and heavenly harmonies! [borealsongs.ca](http://borealsongs.ca)



LIVE AT  
MASSIE HALL

BOREAL



[www.borealsongs.ca](http://www.borealsongs.ca)

The trio's spell-binding harmonies, combined vocal prowess and tour-de-force songwriting make for a powerful musical event. With humour, storytelling and heart-melting honesty, Boreal takes their audience on a journey of friendship, laughter and connection.

Sunday May 26  
2:00PM - Indoor Stage

Massie Hall

TICKETS \$26 ALL AGES  
[WWW.MASSIEHALL.COM](http://WWW.MASSIEHALL.COM)  
OR CALL DAVE - 519-376-5024



# Live at Massie Hall

## The Millpond Project

Sunday August 4, 2 pm

Tickets \$20.00 [massiehall.com](https://massiehall.com)

Massie's home-grown quartet regales us once again with great tunes and lots of laughs! Stay in touch with the band through their Facebook page – [millpond project](https://www.facebook.com/millpondproject).



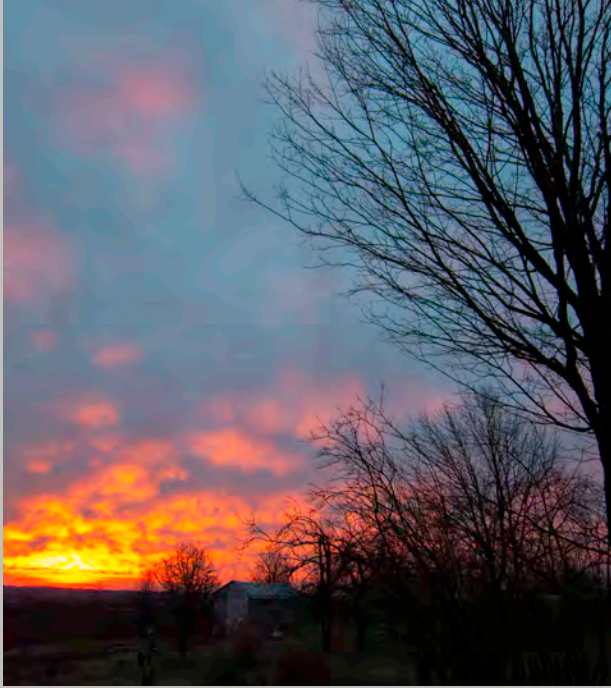
## Laura Bird

Sunday September 29, 2 pm

Tickets \$24.00 [massiehall.com](https://massiehall.com)

Songstress Laura Bird draws her inspiration from early folk roots and bluegrass music to old jazz standards. Audiences love her warm stage presence, finely honed guitar work and sultry, smoky voice. Laura has released two critically acclaimed albums (Dreamwalker and The Water in Between) and is working on her third. [laura-bird.com](https://laura-bird.com)





## MASSIE FISH FRY

Sunday, July 14, 5 - 6 p.m.

\$25 per person

Massie Hall

Takeout only, but you're welcome to stay at the hall and eat on the picnic tables. Tasty rainbow trout, prepared once again by Blue Mountain Catering, roasted red potatoes, summer coleslaw, roll and our fabulous homemade desserts – your choice of delectable date square or yummy brownie.



For more information or to get tickets contact Susan at 519- 477-3019, Laura at 519-794-3841 or [info@massiehall.com](mailto:info@massiehall.com).





## 2024 Massie Events

### Massie United Church

- \* Sunday services at 10 a.m. with Rev. Debbie Grant presiding.
- \* Anniversary Service on Sunday, September 29th at 10 a.m. Old and new friends are all welcome to celebrate 168 years of faithful worship. A time of fellowship on the lawn (weather permitting) after the service.

### Massie Church

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

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*Rent Massie Hall for your special event! Enjoy family and community gatherings, —birthdays, anniversaries, celebrations of life, dances, concerts —in a historic stone building, the former one-room schoolhouse in our picturesque hamlet! Contact Laura and Glen Martin, 519-794-3841 or lauraglenmartin@gmail.com.*

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The Massie Messenger is a community newsletter. Send us your Massie stories, photographs or artwork! Email Renee at ifedun@xplornet.com or call 519-794-0865.

### Editorial Board

Renee Fedun — Editor  
Ralph Bergman — Art Director