

# The Massie Messenger

A Biannual Newsletter

Issue N° 35 Spring 2025

## Massie Bridge:

### Demolition of the Old, Construction of the New

*Photographs and text by Peter Turk except concrete pouring by Ralph Bergman and planters by Ed Neelands*



In July, 2024, after concrete barriers were placed to block traffic from entering the soon-to-be-demolished bridge, and small trees and brush were removed to provide access to the area around the bridge, and equipment and conduits had been delivered, the river was dammed with sandbags on both the upstream and downstream sides of the bridge. This action trapped water creatures between the two dams. A couple of biologists moved the trapped fish so they could escape downstream.

The purpose of the conduit became clear. A channel of three parallel conduits was constructed underneath the bridge. This provided an artificial river bed that allowed the river to flow normally for the duration of the bridge construction project.

The conduit was supported by large piles of sandbags, which ensured that most of the river water flowed where it was wanted and did not flood the construction area. Large steel slabs were placed on top of the conduit to protect it during construction.

A small backhoe was used to carefully expose communication lines, which were attached to the east side of the bridge. These had to be unburied, then swung away from the construction area, so that phone and data communications were not disrupted.

The destruction of the old bridge began. The large CAT, with various tool attachments, did this quickly. It had a large toothed jaw that crunched chunks of concrete in order to separate the embedded rebar. About one truckful of rebar was carted away.

The first level of the footings was poured. Modern concrete construction uses more rebar than was used in the original bridge over 100 years ago. At this point, the highest thing on the construction site was the old river bed, flowing through conduit about 10 feet above the base of the new bridge.

In early August, the construction of forms began for the next pouring of concrete. I was surprised at the extent of the network of rebar and wooden forms for the next pouring. Another pouring has brought the bridge above the river bed.

Backfilling around the bridge's footings had to be done and then the rebar was placed for the main deck of the bridge. Once the deck had been poured, sprinklers kept it wet for a few days to ensure slow, complete curing of the concrete.





*Photograph by Ed Neelands*

Carl Seeley put the finishing touches on the bridge: he took the five geranium planter boxes remaining from the old bridge and redesigned them to fit the dimensions of the new railings. And he built a sixth box from scratch, making the new bridge look right at home in our little community!

# Live at Massie Hall 2025

## The Trio:

Victoria Yeh, Chris Scerri  
and Jon Zaslow

Friday May 2, 8 p.m.

Reserved Tickets \$25

Order: online @ [massiehall.com](http://massiehall.com)  
or 519-477-3019

Massie Hall proudly presents the much-anticipated return engagement of The Trio, featuring Victoria Yeh, Chris Scerri and Jon Zaslow. Join us for an evening of inspiring music. These virtuoso musicians play everything from The Beatles and Neil Young to Procol Harum and imaginative new originals. This Georgian Bay trio has not performed together since Victoria moved to Peterborough in 2022. This is a rare opportunity to see them produce their extraordinary sound back on home territory.



## The Millpond Project

Saturday June 14, 7:30 p.m.

Reserved Tickets \$20.00

Order: online @ [massiehall.com](http://massiehall.com)  
or 519-477-3019

Yes, they're back! In fact, they never left. Massie's home-grown quartet entertains music lovers once again with fabulous tunes and fun times! Stay in touch with the band through their Facebook page – millpond project.



# Live at Massie Hall 2025

## The Little Bigheads

Sunday August 10, 2 p.m.

Reserved Tickets \$20

Order: online @ [massiehall.com](http://massiehall.com)  
or 519-477-3019

Lori Mascherin, James Dykeman and Enio Mascherin bring two decades of musical camaraderie back to the Massie Hall stage for a summer Sunday afternoon concert. This tightly knit trio delights audiences with their engaging stage presence, rich harmonies and vibrant guitar work. They perform folk, country, pop, classical rock and a sprinkling of original tunes. For anyone who hasn't guessed, the band's quirky name is a tribute to their Massie roots – the river that runs through our charming little hamlet is known as the Bighead!



## David Shipley 1954-2025

Music lovers would recognize Dave Shipley from the many times he visited Massie Hall (and Summerfolk) to enjoy our great concerts. He didn't just come to listen, he got involved – wherever he went. He became a board member at Massie Hall, helping distribute posters for our events, greet people at the door and clean up afterwards. And Dave enticed his partner Valerie Lang to join him at concerts and help out as needed.

But music wasn't Dave's only interest. He loved watching both Attack games and plays at the Roxy! He played billiards, enjoyed photography, explored the great outdoors and was "weirdly passionate about harvesting tomatillos and other such obscure vegetables," according to his obituary. He put up numerous hummingbird feeders in his backyard in Shallow Lake and "managed to lure hummingbirds to his yard in swarms." Dave and his beloved kitty Holly would spend time together watching the parade of wildlife outside his window.

Dave is deeply missed by his family and friends, including concert-goers who loved seeing his cheery smile at Massie Hall and hearing his great stories.



# Hunter-Kirk Family



Shelby Hunter and Jarred Kirk tied the knot in Massie last fall.  
We wish them many years of love, light and happiness!

Nora Jane Marie Kirk born March 24, 2025 at 6 Lbs. 10 ozs.



Daughter of Shelby and Jarred Kirk

# Massie Church Dedications

Massie Church held a special service on August 25, 2024 to dedicate the trees planted and the structures erected by members of the church to commemorate the lives and contributions of several people in our community.

Several years ago, the late Sydney Goldsmith donated the garden shed, picnic shelter, playground equipment and oak tree on the edge of the old baseball diamond to the Massie community in memory of his grandparents Anne and John Goldsmith, his parents Eric and Sadie Goldsmith and his wife Olive Goldsmith.

The outdoor Christ Candle was donated by Marg Philips. The candle holder was handcrafted by Carl Seeley. The picnic table was built in memory of John and Bernice Neelands. The gliding bench was given in memory of Andy Neelands. The two wooden benches were placed in memory of Connie Neelands. Connie and Carl Seeley donated the swing. Carl planted the birch tree as a tribute to his beloved wife Connie. The flagpole was given in memory of Leonard and Alice Seeley.

Many thanks to everyone who made a contribution to beautifying our community.



*Tribute to Syd Goldsmith*



*The Goldsmiths: Cliff (Syd's brother) and his wife Kathy and their family*



*Gliding bench dedicated to the memory of Andy Neelands*



*Birch tree in memory of Connie Neelands*



The dedication ceremony service with Massie Church congregants in attendance and Hugh and Carol Neelands providing the lovely music

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## Assisted Living Devices Available on Loan

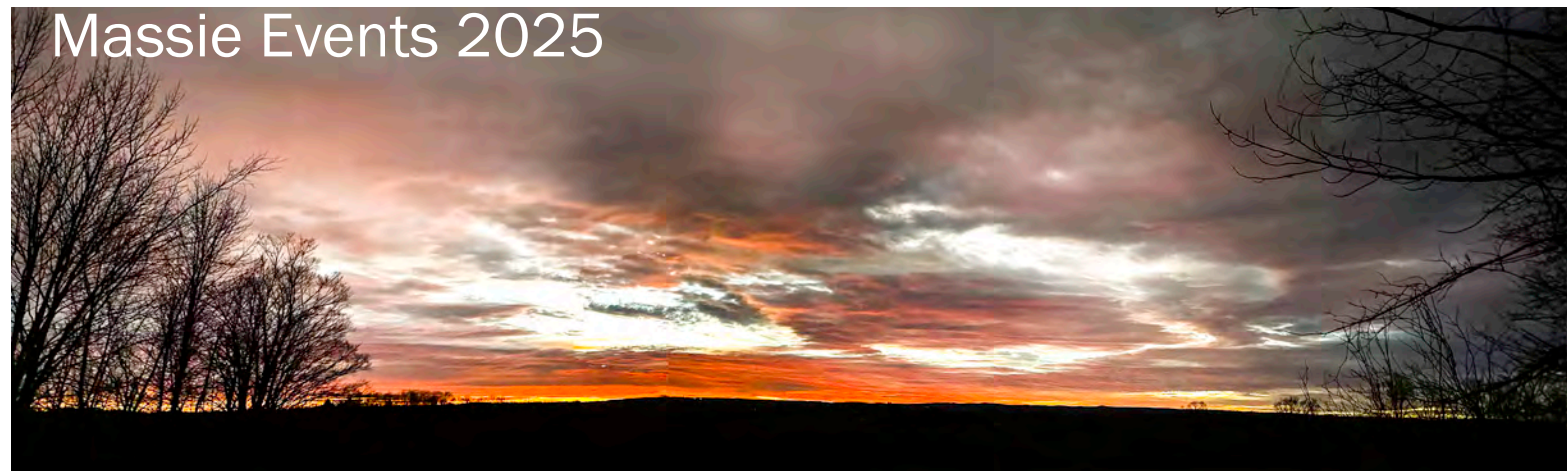
Thanks to their successful fundraising events, The Massie Church maintains an active outreach program that supports The Chatsworth & Area Food Bank, War Amps, Zimbabwe Orphanage School, Ukraine Relief and Massie Church's Loan Program of Assisted Living Devices on a short-term basis to individuals and families.

There is no cost for this service. However, donations to the church's outreach program are much appreciated.

To find out how to borrow any of these post-op or pre-op devices please call Carl at 519-794-0168 or speak to a congregation member.

**Available for loan: raised toilet seats, bathtub transfer bench, walkers, sliding board exerciser, long shoe-horn, reachers, orthopedic wedges, hand weights, knee exercisers, canes, crutches, commode, sock aid assist, wheelchairs, shower stools, pedal exerciser, bed assists, arm sling, knee supports, elastic exercise bands.**

# Massie Events 2025



## Massie United Church

\* Sunday services at 10 a.m. Rev. Debbie Grant.

\* 169th Anniversary Service on Sunday, September 21, 10:30 a.m. Old and new friends are all welcome to attend. Doug and Marion Brown will perform their lovely music. 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!

\*The Geranium Sale and Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 10th from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pre-order geraniums – specify salmon, fuchsia, white, pink, red or orange and quantities at \$3.50 per plant until May 3rd. Contact [massiechurch9@gmail.com](mailto:massiechurch9@gmail.com) or 794-2576. Pickup at 823785 Massie Road.

The yard sale in downtown Massie will offer seedlings, maple syrup, birdhouses, treasures, lunch (hot dogs, fried onions, desserts and beverages) and more. Rent your space for \$10 or donate items. Call Mary Janet at 794-2216. All proceeds support the Massie Church Ministry and Outreach Program.

## Massie Hall

\*Sunday, July 6, 5-6 p.m. CHICKEN BBQ this year! Three different pieces of delectable chicken (breasts, thighs, legs or wings) with roasted potatoes, cole slaw, bun and butter, and your choice of date square or brownie. \$25 per fabulous meal! Order your tickets by calling Susan at 519-477-3019 or visit [massiehall.com](http://massiehall.com).

*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](mailto:lauraglenmartin@gmail.com).*

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

## Editorial Board

Renee Fedun — Editor

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