

The Massie Messenger

A Biannual Newsletter

Issue N° 23 Fall 2018

Massie Native Gilbert Howey



Ian, Florence, Gilbert, Jean and Heather

Gilbert Howey has been singing all his life. His first public appearance was at 6 years of age when Rose McLelland asked him to sing at a Keady garden party. His older sister Florence played the piano and his other sister Jean stood up with him. "She was afraid I'd

walk off the stage!" says Gilbert. What did he sing? "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?" It's probably the only time he ever sang that song in public!

Gilbert went on to sing at school (the one-room schoolhouse turned community centre now known as Massie

Hall), church and music festivals. He was involved in choirs, duets (boys' and mixed), trios and double trios. He took vocal lessons from George Newell, a visiting musician, and his teacher Connie McMullin encouraged music at school. Singing was Gilbert's major



Gilbert and his beloved dog Rover

extra-curricular activity.

His post-secondary life took him to Toronto with studies of a non-musical nature (he obtained an MA in political science, an MD and a specialty in psychiatry), but his love of music never diminished. He studied voice at the Royal Conservatory of Music and sang in the Hart House Glee Club, the Eaton Memorial United Church Choir and the Yorkminster Park Baptist Choir. He was also in the Mendelssohn Choir for 18 years, a privilege for which one had to re-audition – “earn their spurs” –



Gilbert on the violin with his mother Mattie on the piano

every year. He travelled with Consort Caritatis to Budapest, Prague and Vienna on a memorable performance tour.

In the meantime, he married, had one son, Ian, and a daughter, Heather, and worked at UofT and in private practice in Toronto, with a short hiatus in Owen Sound.

Gilbert came back to Massie to retire in 2001 to the home and farm where he grew up on Grey Road 40. (Ian and his wife Susan now own the property. Cliff Curtis farms the land.) In his young life, Gilbert had helped with the chores. The mixed farm operation included hay and grains, cows, chickens, turkeys and geese. Weekdays, he'd walk the 2.5 miles (4 kilometres) to school with Allan McKibbin, unless it was a particularly nasty winter day when his father Frank would hook the team of horses to the sleigh and bundled up they'd go. The county road was ploughed, but not 6th Line (this is the road us newbies know as Veterans Road North).

School was a wonderful experience with all 8 grades in the one room. Gilbert found that the brighter youngsters could pick up knowledge from the older kids who were learning their lessons. It helped too that Florence had taught him at home, allowing Gilbert to skip a grade.

Church was an important part of life in Massie. Some 80 people would attend regularly. In winter, the

church shed protected the horses that had faithfully brought their owners to church even in inclement weather.

Florence and Jean were organists. Several members of the Rice Family, including Charlotte McLeod, Gilbert and others made up the excellent choir which sang at anniversaries of Massie United Church and other local churches. The young people's group was active, mentored by Reverend Paisley who inspired great fondness in Gilbert and the Massie congregation.

In the past decade plus, two grandchildren have come along to brighten his life: Jonathan, aged 11 years, and Kate, aged 5. After retirement, Gilbert tended his beloved vegetable and flower gardens (he's particularly fond of lilacs, phlox, delphiniums and peonies!), read voraciously, sang with St. George's Anglican Church in Owen Sound and joined the Golden Kiwanis Club. Ruth Hamill urged him to become more involved in the Massie community and this “struck a responsive chord in me,” he says. He began attending the church again and singing delightful solos.

The Massie United Church congregation is blessed to hear Gilbert sing when he is able to come to services and special events. We are eternally grateful.



Gilbert with Connie Neelands and Carl Seeley

Live at Massie Hall 2018

The Trio - Scerri - Yeh -Zaslow

Saturday September 29, 8 pm

Reserved Tickets \$20

Three exceptional artists featuring the powerful vocals of Chris Scerri, the electrifying Victoria Yeh on violin, and the masterful guitar and vocal stylings of Jon Zaslow. Together they revisit and re-invent songs that have influenced generations, from the Beatles to Bob Dylan, Tom Petty, Neil Young, Van Morrison, Bruce Cockburn and more. This is a show you won't want to miss!



Beggars Road

Saturday October 13, 8 pm

Reserved Tickets \$20

From traditional to the edge and back, this is a group that hopes to help rekindle an interest in local history and traditions. This is a road on which you will see many landscapes. Take the journey.



Suzie Vinnick

Saturday October 20, 8 pm

Advanced Reserved Ticket Sales Only \$23

Listen to Suzie's amazing singing, great material and wonderful acoustic playing and arranging. She's truly blessed with a rare voice that's playful, sassy and soulful.



Dean McTaggart

Saturday November 3, 8 pm

Reserved Tickets \$20

Twice nominated for a Juno for Songwriter of the year. Performing with special guests Charlie Cooley and Tom Griffiths.



A Brush with Words Hosts Second Annual Studio XX Art Show and Sale

by Bonnie Gardiner

Photographs by Bonnie Gardiner



Some Studio XX members demonstrated plein air painting and drawing skills at the second annual art sale and show.

Temperatures climbed to 32 degrees Celsius and felt close to 40 with the humidex in Massie. Despite the heat, some 80 people attended Studio XX's second annual art show and open house at our home, A Brush With Words, at the end of June. Formed 12 years ago, Studio XX is a group of painters who meet once a week 10 months of the year to paint, provide creative encouragement, exchange ideas and provide constructive critique for individual projects. Just about every one of the studio's 16 participating members garnered a sale at this year's event. Those who braved the soaring temperatures wandered in

the shade of the extensive hosta and perennial gardens, then sought reprieve in the air-conditioned studio to feast their eyes on artwork and enjoy light refreshments.

Our small house had been the home of two treasure-hoarding



Peter John Reid in his studio with a small selection of his paintings.

artists for many years and was brimming with art and supplies. My partner Peter John Reid decided to have a 28' x 30' studio built the summer/fall of 2016. It was to serve many purposes: a place to paint and store art supplies and canvases; a weekly painting space for members of Studio XX; art classes; and for me to teach yoga sessions.

A graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design, Peter is an accomplished painter and art instructor. His work can be found nationwide and he is represented by 14 Bells Gallery in Halifax, the Red Canoe in Port Carling, Southampton Art Gallery in Saugeen Shores



Bonnie Gardiner in 2017 at the inaugural open house for Studio XX and a very successful art show and sale.

and, a little closer to home, Matilda Swanson Gallery in Clarksburg. He teaches two on-line art courses and is the publisher of two books: *Painting With Acrylics and Techniques*.

Peter is one of the founders of Studio XX. The group initially rented Room 20 (hence the name) at Timothy Christian School in Owen Sound. Rising rent and the climb up three sets of stairs prompted the move in 2016 to our home studio. The group has completed a number of projects as fundraisers for the Studio and different charities. Our motto is "Painting it Forward". Past projects have included the Owen Sound 150th Celebration, Safe 'N Sound Homeless Initiative, the Owen Sound Little Theatre's 50th Anniversary,

the Grey Bruce Animal Shelter Pet Project, the Residential Hospice of Grey Bruce, the Owen Sound Hunger and Relief Effort, the Owen Sound Women's Shelter and the Equine Learning Centre. We focus on helping people and animals in need.

I dubbed our property in

Massie "A Brush With Words" when I moved here in 2004 because at the time my creative passion was writing and Peter's was painting. Once introduced to creating with watercolour and acrylic, I fell in love with painting. I have published three anthologies of prose and poetry featuring my art and two



children's books. I've been attending yoga classes for the past 14 years in Flesherton and in 2010 completed the 200-hour teacher training course through Georgian College to deepen my knowledge. Three years ago I added another 200-hour teacher training to my repertoire through Deva Tree in Owen Sound. The following spring I completed their 50-hour Yoga and Expressive Arts Certificate and most recently a 50-hour Subtle Energy Body in London.

Recently retired from administrative work at Royal LePage RCR Realty in Flesherton where I worked for 22 years, I now provide administrative help to Peter. I also look forward to weekly yoga classes in the space and having more time to create. My work is on display at Matilda Swanson Gallery, Southampton Art Gallery, Arts on Ten Gallery Boutique in Flesherton and All Things T in Owen Sound. Currently, I hold gentle stretch yoga classes (with a few challenging



poses!) on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in the studio from 6:00 to 7:15 pm. I am open to alternate times/dates when the need arises. I look forward to spending more time as Nana to my five grandchildren.

Follow our creative lives on Facebook: Peter John Reid Artist and Bonnie Peart Gardiner. Our websites: www.peterjohnreid.com and www.bonniegardiner.com. We can be reached at peterjohnreid@mac.com or bonniegardiner@me.com.

Photograph by Tiffany Gardiner



From Our Recipes and Memories

(Massie Millenium Reunion, 2000)

Tipsy Parson

- 1 cup blackberries, raspberries or strawberries, fresh or thawed if frozen
- 6 tbsp sugar
- ½ stale sponge cake, cut into 1 inch cubes
- 3 tbsp sweet sherry
- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- ¼ tsp salt
- 2 cups milk
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 tsp vanilla
- ½ cup whipping cream, whipped



In a glass bowl, toss cake cubes and sherry. Set aside. In separate bowl, combine fruit and 2 tbsps sugar. Set aside. Combine 4 tbsps of sugar with cornstarch and salt in a heavy saucepan. Stir to combine. Add milk and stir until well blended. Cook over moderate heat, stirring constantly until mixture boils. Add a small amount of hot mixture to beaten eggs and beat well. Slowly add egg mixture to saucepan, stirring constantly. Reduce heat to low, stirring until mixture begins to bubble. Stir in vanilla. Cool 15 minutes. Fold in whipped cream. Layer cake squares, fruit and custard in bowl. Refrigerate at least 4 hours. Decorate with whipped cream and toasted almonds. Makes 6 servings.

Glen Martin

Massie Schoolgirls' Reunion



Massie schoolgirls reminiscing: Betty Lou Lemon (nee Sutherland), Doreen Bannister (nee Hamill), Leone Diebel (nee McPherson), Beth Boyes (nee McPherson) and Margie Hunt (nee Sutherland)

*Photographs by Carol Mair
and Joyce Downey*



The schoolgirls' gathering chose the theme "Tie a yellow ribbon 'round the old oak tree". Joyce Downey put ribbons on the maple trees out front and Carol Mair picked up the theme as she did the indoor decorations with balloons!



Mary Jean (Midge) Hamill addresses the gathering

Applesauce Salad Recipe

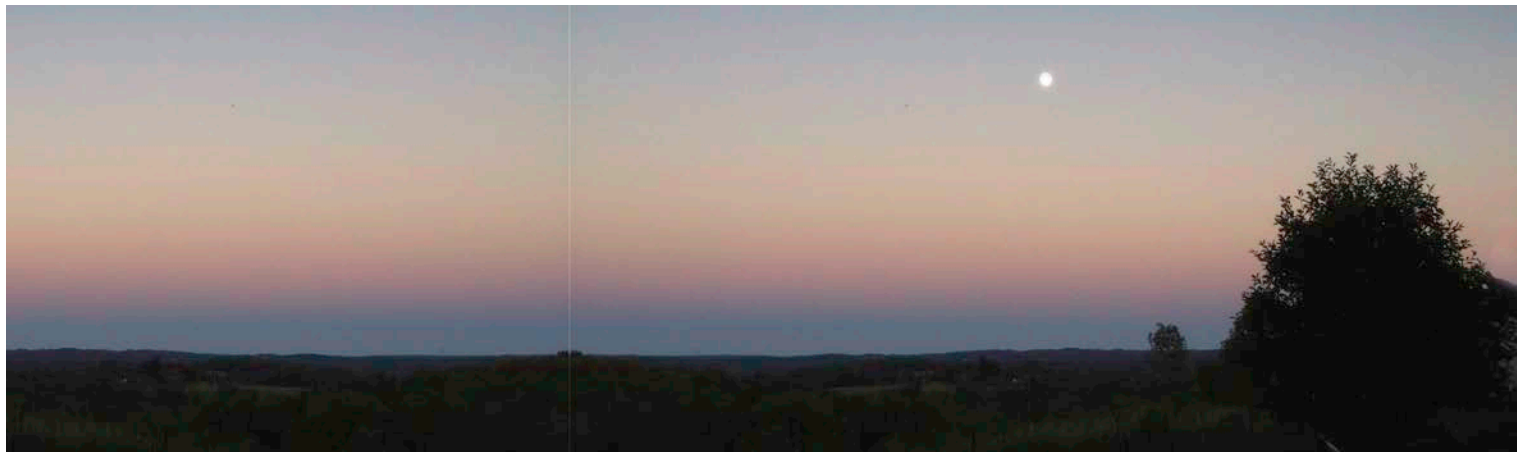
1 cup applesauce
1 pkg. raspberry Jello
1 cup ginger ale

Heat applesauce in saucepan until hot and bubbly. Stir jello out of package into hot applesauce until well blended. Slowly stir ginger ale into mixture – it will foam up a little but settles down. Refrigerate in your favourite bowl. The salad is a lovely dark red colour. To be eaten with first course – especially good at Thanksgiving or Christmas. Serves six.

Joyce Downey

Joyce organized the Massie Schoolgirls Reunion along with her friend Betty Lou Lemon.

Many thanks, ladies!



Photograph by Ralph Bergman

2018 Fall Events

- Saturday, September 29 **Live at Massie Hall: Chris Scerri, Victoria Yeh and Jon Zaslow**, 8 p.m. \$20 per person. Contact Ralph at 226-668-2251 for tickets
- Sunday, September 30 **Massie United Church Anniversary Service, 11 a.m.**, Guest Minister Rev. Jack Fearnall.
- Wednesday, October 3 **Massie Church Ham Dinner** accompanied by scalloped potatoes, cole slaw, corn, rolls and pie! Tickets \$15 for adults, \$10 for children. Contact Con or Carl at 519-794-0168 or cwsconn@gmail.com.
- Saturday, October 13 **Live at Massie Hall:** Beggars Road, 8 p.m. \$20
- Saturday, October 20 **Live at Massie Hall:** Suzie Vinnick, 8 p.m. \$20
- Saturday November 3 **Snowflake Tea and Bazaar at Massie Church**, free admission, lunch \$6 for adults, \$3 for children, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Christmas crafts, preserves, bake table.
- Saturday, November 3 **Live at Massie Hall:** Dean McTaggart, 8p.m. \$20 .
- Saturday, November 9 **Shoreline Chorus performing at Massie United Church** 7:30 p.m., \$10



Correction

In the last issue of the Messenger, on page 4 in the piece on the Perdue family, Brian's father is referred to as "Tom". His name was Bob. My apologies for any confusion this may have caused. *Editor*

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