

The Massie Messenger

A Biannual Newsletter

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Jo Ann Sauks - Massie's Pastel Artist in Residence



“I love abstracting landscape, making it very simple,” says Jo Ann Sauks, describing one of the many ways she approaches her art work. She had always dabbled in art, taking a few courses here and there, but got serious about it when her youngest daughter Jenn went off to kindergarten in the early 1990s. With her husband Toomas and three girls, Jo Ann was living in Toronto at the time and enrolled in the three-year adult art program at Central Tech. There she perfected various art

techniques, including drawing and painting, before settling on her favourite medium, chalk pastels.

Why pastels? Several years before her immersion into art courses, Jo Ann had purchased a couple of landscapes in pastels from a Dundas artist, which she obviously still loves since they have pride of place in her living room. These works and two more that she later received as gifts from the artist may have been the initial inspiration for Jo Ann's work, but her horizons have since broadened. She may be inspired by the rush of yellow fields past a train window or a camping trip to Killarney Provincial Park or any number of natural subjects. She loves when the snow is melting at the end of winter and streams of white linger in pockets on a hillside.

Before the pandemic, Jo Ann and a few local artist friends would go on art camp trips. They camped at Cyprus Lake, Memorial Park in Meaford, the far end of Manitoulin Island and a private home overlooking the Beaver River. The chosen spots were always lovely and stimulated the creative juices, but mostly it was just a lot of fun. The late Michael Milhausen of Walter's Falls, “a very funny storyteller” who would often relate tales involving himself “in some sort of predicament”, was

one of the participants. And occasionally Toomas would come, making the whole trip complete for Jo Ann.

The uninitiated among us might think that pastels are just soft colours, but Jo Ann explains that the chalk she uses comes in every colour and every shade of every colour. In her art, she finds herself blending the colours on the paper to achieve the subtle or vibrant effects she's looking for. Pastel paper is specifically treated so that chalk pastel will adhere to it. Her favourite paper company is no longer making the paper she loves, but Jo Ann still has many ideas that she wants to translate into her art.

Recently she has been working with oils, which involve a very different approach than pastels, since oils need to be mixed on the palette to achieve the desired colours. Jo Ann has also painted watercolours, but



always returns to her first love, pastels.

People have long debated which was the more important, the artist or the work. For Jo Ann, it's definitely the work. An artist will put something – often many “things” – into their art that viewers can relate to if they take the time. But once a piece is complete, the artist (like a writer) steps back and allows each viewer to find their own interpretation, something that gives them pause. The artist takes on the role of communicating

something emotionally, intellectually and technically. Not every person will respond to every piece of art, but when something moves them, the artist has succeeded.

Jo Ann encourages viewers to ask questions of artists, technical or emotional ones. “Often my work is recognizable as landscape,” she says. “However, I do use abstraction to achieve a desired effect. Sometimes my work is play, simply shape, line and colour.” People often ask her what is depicted in a piece, what inspired an abstract image, and sometimes

she can tell them, sometimes not. Ultimately, it's up to the admirer of the work to develop their own understanding. Jo Ann's studio is open by appointment, call 519-794-3509.

Jo Ann Sauks is a founding member of the **Walter's Falls Group of Artists**, waltersfallsartists.ca, where her work will be on display again this year, the 25th anniversary of the show. Once again it will be held at the Walter's Falls Community Centre, August 26, 27 and 28. Hope to see you there!

Live at Massie Hall

Boots and Roots

Sunday August 7, 2 p.m.

On the outdoor stage

Bring your lawnchairs

Tickets \$22.00 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.



Fish Fry

Sunday August 14, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Takeout

Reserved Tickets Only

Tickets \$20.00 massiehall.com

or call Laura 519-794-3841

Enjoy a traditional country fish fry! This year it will be takeout only. Mouth-watering rainbow trout fried to perfection by Blue Mountain Catering on site, plus all the fixings (including scrumptious desserts) prepared by community cooks. You're invited to bring your lawn chairs and enjoy your meal on our shady grounds or take your food home.



Live at Massie Hall

Drew McIvor

Sunday September 18, 2 pm
On the outdoor stage
Bring your lawnchairs

Tickets \$22.00 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.



Larry Jensen

Sunday October 2, 2 pm
Inside Massie Hall

Tickets \$22.00 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”.



Mums Sale

Saturday September 10, 11 am to 3 pm
Pickup at Massie Hall

Advance Sales Only \$8 Per 8” Pot
White, red, yellow, orange, purple
To purchase visit massiehall.com
or call Susan at 519-477-3019

Our chrysanthemums, from a greenhouse in Grey County, last much longer than box store flowers and your purchase will help sustain Massie Hall and our ongoing programs. Give your colour preference at time of purchase. Order early for best colour selection.

Gilbert Rice – 1926 – 2022



Gilbert, the toddler with the great toothy smile, on his brother Brian's first birthday!



The Rices outside their Massie home, from left: sister Lois, mom Jessie holding baby Ted, dad George holding Yvonne, Brian and Gilbert.

When asked to share their memories of their father, Elaine McLennan and Murray Rice recalled his ability to make and fix things. Gilbert Rice especially liked designing fun things for kids such as tree swings and go karts. If he needed a special tool he didn't have, he'd just make it. His dad's advice came in handy when Murray was renovating his house in Toronto; Gilbert also made a lovely flat iron decoration for the garden. Elaine has bird feeder stands and plant stands designed and built by her father. During one Christmas visit he made a stable for her manger scene. Another time Gilbert built a large Christmas card out of plywood for the local United Church Women for a display in Mather, Manitoba. Many friends and family members have Christmas tree ornaments he fashioned. But Gilbert's great passion was restoring automobiles – he completed 10 of his own and helped numerous friends and family with theirs.

The oldest son of Massie's blacksmith George Rice and his community-minded wife Jessie (née Root), Gilbert worked alongside his father in the smithy throughout his youth, where he acquired many life skills. In his early twenties, he appren-

ticed as a mechanic at Tom's Garage and continued to work there until 1955 when he joined the Owen Sound Fire Department.

The Rices were a musical family and Gilbert naturally played in the school orchestra at OSCVI. He took time to do volunteer work, developing many lifelong friendships. His volunteer resumé is long and impressive: Central Westside United Church (also when it was still Central United Church), Y's Men, Silver C's, Merry Music Makers, Grey Roots Museum and the Bluewater Antique and Classic Car Club.

With his wife Evelyn, they travelled extensively, clocking many kilometres on antique car tours, including local events and Tour to Yesteryear Cross Canada.

Most of all, Gilbert was a devoted family man, who is much missed by his children Elaine (Don) and Murray (Joanne Opsteen), his grandchildren Carol, Deanna and Jocelyn, his surviving siblings Brian, Yvonne and Jack, and their families and friends.

Many thanks to Elaine and Murray for their contributions.

Massie Church Services

Massie United Church - Sunday services at 10 a.m. - Rev. Debbie Grant
EVERYONE WELCOME!

New Massie Church - Sundays at 11:30 a.m. - Pastor Michael Henkel
Summer services held outdoors. Call Marie at 519-794-3571 for details.
Fellowship after service: bring a lawn chair and picnic lunch! Welcome one and all!



Photo by Carol Mair

Growing Up In The Country

by Laura Martin

Growing up in the country, the wind did blow,
Our swing would dance gently to and fro.
My Dad, home from work, would stop to see,
Just how high he could push that swing and me.

A new litter of kittens helped me put in the time,
At the end of the day, I was covered in grime.
In the hot weather I would run to the barn with a drink,
My family and neighbours baling hay enjoyed it, I think.

In one barn or outside, there gathered our cows,
In another barn, little piglets lay content with the sows.
We played on big rocks or climbed up apple trees,
Sometimes in our sand pile you'd find us down on our knees.

We helped in the garden, each using a hoe.
We weeded, picked vegetables or berries, for the freezer to stow.
In the winter, to the pond we would go for a skate
Or toboggan down hills at a very fast rate.

My Mom played the fiddle, my Dad played the harp,
For dances or house parties, we'd often depart.
We had a simple life style, but lots of fun too,
I wouldn't trade it for anything - how about you?



Laura wrote this book (illustrated by her son Brent) for her granddaughter Livie.

The Massie Messenger is a community e-newsletter. If you live in Massie or have ever lived here, we welcome your submissions of ideas, articles, poems, recipes, photos, illustrations and cartoons. Send them to Renee at ifedun@xplornet.com.