The Massie Messer

A Quarterly Newsletter Issue N° 7- Spring 2011

Adopt-A-Road in Massie





"Dad was quite involved in the community. He was a very caring, giving guy who loved to help out neighbours. I wanted him to be remembered and this seemed like a neat idea," says Laurie Misener. Laurie and her brother Shawn chose to honour the memory of their father, Bill Misener, through the Adopt-a-Road program.



Participants in the program choose the wording for the sign which is purchased and erected by the Township of Chatsworth. They sign an agreement stating that they will clean up their section of road twice a year in spring and fall. The Roads Department supplies orange vests, garbage bags and blue recycling bags so that recyclables can be kept separate from the garbage. When the cleanup is

complete, they come and retrieve all the bags.

Dave and Sherry Luedke have chosen to "adopt" both sections of Veterans Road. On the south side of Massie Road, their sign remembers their former neighbour and dear friend of the family Walter Schorbach. On the north side, the memory of Sherry's grandfather Robert Burney and her childhood friend Roger Watt are honoured. Sher believes that it's not only a good way to keep their memory alive, it's also a good teaching for their young children who learn to take part in the community.

Lisa and Jerry Downey have signed on to the Adopt-A-Road program, covering the eastern stretch of Massie Road, in honour of Bob and Hessie Purvis, Jerry's grandparents who used to live and farm just up the hill.

Kudos to these community-minded people for making an effort to keep our roads clean. We can all help by picking up litter and loading our blue boxes so that heavy items such as glass bottles – that won't fly away in a strong wind – are on top (or putting our recyclables out in clear plastic bags). Thank you!

photos Ralph Bergman

Massie WI Meeting

Stephen Norton gave a presentation about China at the recent Women's Institute meeting, displaying some of the treasures he brought back from his three years living there.







Photos by Jim Norton

CelebrationsChristmas Concert



photos Leisha Mustard & Mary Janet Mustard

Massie Church enjoyed an old-fashioned Christmas Concert in December, 2010. Many of us will remember similar concerts hosted in the old Orange Hall. Those concerts were the responsibility of the Massie School teacher and it is reported that the success of many rural school teachers' careers was measured by the triumph of those Christmas Concerts. This vear's concert included musical selections, readings, a super Sunday School musical presentation and of course the arrival of a particularly jovial Santa Claus. Special thanks to Jerry and Lisa Downey for helping Santa with the gifts for the children.



Mrs. Claus, aka Lois Keeling, reading 'Twas the Night Before Christmas



Helpful elf Lisa Downey, curious onlooker Cayle Hargest, Wyatt Mustard on Santa Claus' knee.

New Year's Eve Party



Massie's own May Contain Nuts performing at our New Year's Eve bash. photo by Anne-Marie McLeish

Japan Disaster Relief

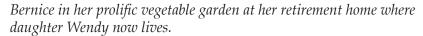
The United Church of Canada is working with partners in Japan to support on-the-ground relief and reconstruction efforts after the devastating earthquake and tsunami that resulted in massive loss of life and severe damage to a nuclear reactor. Donations to the relief fund can be made through Massie United Church. As part of The United Church's Emergency Response Fund, 85% of your donation will fund an emergency response to the current crisis in Japan. The rest will support emergencies that do not receive intense media coverage. No administration fees will be deducted from your donation.

Please make your cheque payable to Massie United Church (and indicate that the funds should be directed to "Japan Earthquake Relief and Reconstruction") and mail them to Carl Seeley, Massie United Church Treasurer, 496765 Veterans Road North, RR4, Chatsworth, N0H 1G0.

In Memoriam

Bernice Neelands 1914 - 2010







Painting of Bernice and her dog Buzz by Ann Bennett, who lived in Connie Miller and Doug Fryday's house before moving to Nova Scotia with her husband John.

Bernice died peacefully on November 29th at the age of 96, happily singing favourite songs and hymns at the very end with her son Ed. What a beautiful conclusion to a long and rich life.

The quintessential farm wife, Bernice raised nine children and worked alongside her husband Jack (who predeceased her) performing all the chores associated with farm life, particularly milking the cows. She adored gardening! Bernice was also involved with the Massie Women's Institute, the church and the Farm Radio Forum. This weekly Canadian radio program (often moderated by Bernice's brother-in-law, Wesley Neelands), which began in 1941, brought together rural neighbours to listen to a half hour devoted to rural issues. Using printed study guides, the groups then discussed the broadcast and sent in a summary of their discussions for follow-up on a later show.

Bernice loved people. An open, compassionate person, she made everyone feel right at home. She enjoyed having company and made sure that no one went home hungry. Dona Norton, who lived beside Bernice for many years, remembers the weddings of her two oldest daughters – Maxine and Connie – held at the Neelands house. Dona and the neighbours would be asked to help but there wasn't much to do because the basement was always "spotlessly clean" and the tables would be "loaded with food."

"Mother was like a book," says daughter Pat Campbell. "She could reach back in time and describe all the food from a Christmas meal or remember who lived where when. We all liked to hear her stories. The last few years were special," Pat reminisces, "because she had more time to spend with her kids!"

Lois Keeling kept up a ritual of writing to Bernice every week or so, often about the history of the area or simply to relate events in the lives of family and friends. In her later years, Bernice would rarely send a reply but she loved receiving the letters, distributing them to her family after she'd read them. Last year, Lois asked for a recipe – and was delighted to receive it written by Bernice's own hand.

Pete Miller remembers Bernice zooming up the Massie Road hill on her electric scooter and stopping to chat. She'd gush over the orchids and wildflowers growing in the ditch along the road. Then one of her grandsons would come by to make sure she was okay. Of course, she was – she was having a blast!

Bernice, who was born and raised in Chatsworth, was the daughter of John D. Collins and Gladys Hall. Her paternal grandmother, Ann Deavitt, was the daughter of John Deavitt after whom Johntown (now Chatsworth) was named. Bernice's paternal grandfather, Henry Collins, was one of the two contractors responsible for the building of the Massie United Church which opened in 1895.

Bernice leaves behind a huge family and an entire community of friends. She is survived by Maxine, Connie, Bill, Hugh, Pat, Wendy, Ed and Andy and predeceased by Bob. She is sorely missed by all.

In Memoriam

Ivan Stuart McKibbon 1925 - 2011

A farmer all his life, Ivan loved farming and all the perks that went with it – such as going to auction sales and buying "wagon stuff" (used hand tools, boxes of nails, anything that could fit onto a wagon)! He especially enjoyed the social interactions with his farmer friends!

The McKibbons owned 200 acres devoted mostly to beef production although at one time they had pigs. When Ivan wasn't tending to the animals or bringing in the hay or thrashing for other farmers (he owned a custom thrashing machine) he was driving the school bus. In his leisure time, Ivan really enjoyed curling and playing soccer in the men's league on the Strathaven Team, keen rivals of the Massie Team! He also loved building and fixing things, sometimes even things that were hardly broken! He was a genuine Tinkerer!

Our profound sympathy go out to Ivan's wife Hilda, who now resides at Central Place in Owen Sound, his son Wayne, daughter-in-law Kathy and granddaughter Lauren who live and farm on Perdue Road, and his daughter Julia Lonsway, her husband Chris and sons Zachary and Josiah in Midland, Michigan.

William James Ivan Hill 1926 - 2010

Born in Wiarton, Ivan returned to his roots when he, his wife Iris and young family moved to Massie in 1965. Ivan became the first principal of Holland-Chatsworth Central School, the focus of great upheaval and controversy in the area – children who had previously attended local one-room schoolhouses (such as the one in Massie which has since been converted into our famous community hall) were now to be bussed to this combined facility. Being new to the community, Ivan was blissfully unaware of the uproar and happily went about his job running the school and introducing all manner of exciting new programs.

During his 14 years at Holland-Chatsworth, Ivan launched the Cleanathon, project to clean litter off country roads, introduced conversational French classes for the senior grades, and organized swimming lessons at Williams Lake for the students. They would romp through the woods to get to the lake, then invariably return home missing underwear, swimsuits or towels! Another



fun project of Ivan's was the Maple Syrup Festival. Kids would help tap the maples across the road from the school, then boil down the syrup. Their reward would be a huge pancake feast!

When Holland-Chatsworth Central School was expanded a few years after his arrival, Ivan contributed to the design of the addition, another project that gave him great pleasure. A farm boy, Ivan loved horses and could indulge his passion living out in the Massie countryside. After taking early retirement, Ivan and Iris taught at a mission school in Bolivia for a year, and Ivan returned there several times to work with the missionary kids.

Our deepest condolences to Ivan's wife Iris, their five children, 10 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

News From Out West

by Kim Lever-Deneau



We're in northeastern Saskatchewan now, a lovely area with rolling land and trees a two-hour drive east of Saskatoon. Our employers farm about 13,000 acres of wheat, canola, barley and oats. It is a family-run farm and the folks are just wonderful. They've supplied us with housing and a lovely old yard so the horses are here with us too. This yard was originally settled back in 1908 by a family from Owen Sound. What a small world!

Mike is blissfully employed in the shop, working on trucks and grain trailers. He gets to tear back together. I am mostly driving semis and trailers. Bethany is living with us as well, working on a different grain farm just up the road. She is involved in running big machines that clean the grain and get it ready to be sold. Our lifestyle is much more relaxed here, we have a lot more time to socialize with the neighbors and play with the horses. Now that we have sold our farm in Massie, our financial worries have disappeared. We are considering buying a property here, a fixer upper.

I was in a car accident in February and was very fortunate that all I sustained was a broken neck. Sounds so awful, but I'm on the mend (3-4 months for a full recovery). Bethany is my hero! She was with me but luckily she was not hurt. She called 911 and kept me calm and stable. Mike has been a rock through all this, staying with me at the hospital and doing his best to keep things up in the house and with the horses.

I suppose if there was a good time for something bad to happen, then this is it. Our employers have been wonderful, helping out with a spare vehicle. Our neighbors have brought food and visited. We feel very fortunate to have landed in just as wonderful a community as Massie!

We have a lot of snow this winter and bitter cold too. The flood predictions are on for our area for the spring – maybe you'll catch us on the Weather Network! We live very close to the Quill Lakes, very large salt water lakes where potash is extracted. If these lakes flood as predicted, it's going to be a very messy year here.

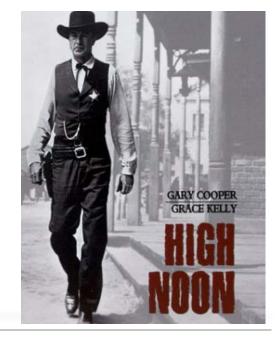
Looking forward to hearing from anyone who wants to call or visit. We have a spare room, so all are welcome!

Hugs, Kim, Mike and Bethany <u>kimleverdeneau@gmail.com</u> 1-306-554-2236

Massie Movie Nights 2011

Massie Movie Night 2011 continues with perhaps the best western ever made High Noon, starring Gary Cooper, who won an Oscar for best actor, and Grace Kelly.

Saturday March 26, 2011 at 7:30pm



Snacks and popcorn after the show. Donations to the church gratefully accepted.

THE MASSIE MESSENGER

Spring Photo Gallery

Connie Miller













"Live @ Massie Hall" Coffeehouse 2011

Blair Packham

Saturday April 30th, 8 pm
Doors open at 7:30 pm
\$16 (all ages) includes coffee/tea/goodies
www.blairpackham.com



Acquiring a varied skill set has never scared Blair Packham. A singer, songwriter, guitarist, composer, producer, engineer, writer, broadcaster and educator, he has many stories to share. In his youth, time was well spent at Comfort Sound, where Blair engineered live recordings for the likes of Bryan Adams, Stevie Ray Vaughan and REM. During The Jitters' ten years together Blair wrote five Canadian hits, including "Last of the Red Hot Fools" and "Til the Fever Breaks". The Jitters sold 80,000 copies of their two albums.

Matthew Barber

Saturday June 4th, 8 pm
Doors open at 7:30 pm
\$16 (all ages) includes coffee/tea/goodies

www.matthewbarber.com



Matthew Barber is an acclaimed singer-songwriter hailing from Toronto, Canada. A fixture on the Canadian music scene over the last five years, Barber has released three records and toured extensively across Canada and into Europe, Australia the United States. His sound is influenced by folk-rock and country singers like Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Tom Petty, Hank Williams, Leonard Cohen and Bruce Springsteen, but also years in contemporary indie-rock.



Photograph by Ralph Bergman

Massie 2011 Events

7:30 pm - Massie Movie Night, showing High Noon, a classic western – donations to the church gratefully accepted – popcorn and treats after the show.

April 24

11:15am - Easter Sunday leading up to Easter, families and friends are invited to place
Easter Lilies in memory of loved ones in the Sanctuary – \$12 payment can be made
to the Treasurer, Carl Seeley, RR4, Chatsworth, N0H 1G0 – please contact Ed
Neelands at 794-2503 to place a lily.

April 30 10:00am - Yard Clean up at Massie Church and Hall – Everyone welcome – lunch provided

April 30 8:00pm - Massie Hall Coffee House: Blair Packham - contact Pete Miller for tickets at petemkit@xplornet.com or call 519-794-3652

May 7 Massie United Church Geranium Tea & Sale – for advance orders contact Connie Neelands at 794-0168.

May 20 7:30pm – Shoreline Chorus at Massie United Church

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