

The Massie Messenger

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue N° 3 — Fall 2009

Where were you?

by Renee Fedun



Where were you when a “mini-tornado” swept through Massie in August? I was on a canoe trip in Killarney, happily oblivious to the 10 seconds of chaos that erupted on my property. I knew nothing about the storm or the giant spruce it toppled in my front yard. Nothing...until I came home the next day and found the top of the tree embedded among the lupines, and the mid-section,

Photograph by Connie Miller

some 40 feet of trunk, perched ever so delicately on the southwest corner of the roof. I was awestruck and profoundly grateful. That tree could have demolished half the house! Instead, a downed eavestrough and a mangled rain cover were the only casualties. Even the flowerbed escaped destruction.

Even more amazing is that for all the sudden fury of the storm, and all the trees and branches it took down, there was little damage to houses, vehicles and hydro lines. The wind seemed to carve a path through our midst with great precision and care.

In Dave Luedke’s yard it knocked down a mature maple, positioning it between the house and the shed. The smaller branches of the tree landed on his tractor and the leaves just grazed his four-wheeler – no damage to either. Dave, a logger, told us he couldn’t have done a better job himself of felling that maple.

One of Fred Marshall’s row of massive spruces was laid down diagonally across his driveway, far from buildings or vehicles. And a large sugar maple near Veterans Road came down... into the field.

Doug Fryday was outside barbecuing when the sky turned black and the winds intensified. He thought for sure the barbecue would be picked up and tossed down the

road. Instead the wind turned his umbrella inside out and put the hose reel holder through the trellis. Then it sheered off some big branches at the back of the house and one of those broke the satellite dish...but no damage to the house.

Ed Neelands and some of his family had gathered for Sunday dinner at the home farm. Suddenly there was an upsurge of wind – branches and leaves started flying past the kitchen patio door. To the west, the tops of the mature ash trees were being “whipped around in a circular motion unlike anything I had ever seen,” says Ed. No one realized until it was all over (less than a minute) that massive branches had been torn off the row of weeping willows. (Ed planted those trees in 1967 from shoots that his brother-in-law Norman Seabrook had propagated from his own willow.) The house was untouched but the page wire fence was smashed to the ground by the falling willow branches and one of the large swinging barn doors was ripped from its hinges and demolished.

The greatest amount of damage and biggest “bangs” happened at the Kivells. The huge cedar in their front yard split in half with one trunk hitting the house then landing on top of the hydro wires. Cathy says, “We felt the house move and at the same time sparks flew out of several wall sockets. We’d rented a movie for the first time in months and three minutes into it – poof, gone.” It’s odd that the newer electronics with LED bulbs could not handle the power surge and all blew out, but the old light bulbs that were plugged

directly into the wall sockets were undamaged. As for the house, the suddenly sagging hydro line loosened the bricks to which it was attached but did not pull them out. As Cathy says, “There’s something to be said for the workmanship of the late 1890s.”

The wind also split an apple tree beside the Kivells’ garage and a falling limb damaged the roof and the side of the building. “It was lucky we shut off the hot tub and drained it the day before or it could have fried – with us in it!” Cathy laughs.



Photographs by Cathy Kivell

The damage to our little hamlet was soon cleaned up and repaired by hydro crews, and eaves and chimney specialists. (The Kivells remain the exception. They were without power for a total of 6 days, 4 immediately after the storm, then 2 more while the brickwork was being repaired. And their garage roof has yet to be fixed....something about not being able to find the same steel pattern 36 years after construction!). Carl Seeley built and installed a new barn

door for his brother-in-law Ed. Rocky Neelands and his crew traversed the neighbourhood removing fallen trees and limbs and shredding them into mulch.

A couple days after the storm, Rocky parked his boom truck in front of my house. Then, with the aid of a hand-held control, he moved the gigantic lifting boom into position and gingerly plucked the spruce trunk off my roof. It took less than 15 minutes. A few days later, Dave came by with a chain saw and his huge truck. He hauled the tree trunk off to be sawed into barn boards. All in a day’s work for these guys, but pretty exciting for the rest of us. Nonetheless, I guess we’re all hoping

we don’t see another storm like that for some time.

If you have a story to tell about last August’s storm or other spectacular past weather events please e-mail them to Renee at editor@massiemessenger.ca.

Local Girl Turns 80

by Lorna O'Neill



Lois Janette Johnson (nee Rice) turned 80 on July 20th. She was born in 1929 at home in Massie on East part ½ of Lot 4 ERG Holland Township, now called The Township of Chatsworth (the house profiled in the previous issue of the Massie Messenger by Pete Miller). Her father was George Gilbert Rice, a blacksmith in the hamlet of Massie, and her mother was Jessie Margaret (Root) Rice, a schoolteacher. Her siblings Gilbert, Peter, Sarah Yvonne and Jack all helped celebrate her birthday at the Come and Go Tea held on July 25th at the Chatsworth Legion. Over 150 family, friends and neighbours dropped in to take part in the festivities.

Lois has never strayed very far from her roots. She attended Massie

Public School-SS #11 Holland and Sydenham, then Chatsworth Continuation School. She completed one year of Special Commercial at Owen Sound Collegiate and Vocational Institute. In October, 1948 she entered the three-year Registered Nursing Course at the Owen Sound General and Marine Hospital, graduating in June, 1951.

On April 4, 1953 she married Mervyn Theodore Johnson at the Massie United Church. Lois was the first bride since the church opened to carry the white Bible presented to her by the Session of Massie United Church.

The Johnsons moved to the family farm located in Sullivan Township. By December 10, 1967 the family had grown to six children: Ruth (Johnson) Gabert, Glen, Keith, Marjorie (Johnson) Marshall, Allen, Lorna (Johnson) O'Neill. Fourteen grandchildren followed: Sherry (Gabert) Olscamp, John Gabert, Mark Gabert, Scott Johnson, Jody (Johnson) Pettit, Chris Johnson, Michael Marshall, Robyn Marshall, Karyn Marshall, Ryan Marshall, Todd Johnson, Tina Johnson, Michael

O'Neill, and Kaitlyn O'Neill. Lois now has three great grandchildren as well – Nina Gabert, Sam Gabert and Sydney Pettit – and she loves spending time with them too. Mervyn, Lois' beloved husband, passed away in May, 1993.

A couple of years ago Lois returned to Chatsworth to be close to her friends and family. Lois and her family would like to thank everyone who came out to commemorate the 80-year milestone. We look forward to celebrating another decade of Lois' life.



Lorna is the youngest of Lois' children. She lives in Chatsworth with her husband Allan and their family, Mike and Kait, and their dog Trixie.



Arrivals Departures and Milestones

James "Seamus" Carman Lyle Hamill was born to joyful parents Heather and Jamie Hamill on July 14th at Orillia Soldier's Memorial Hospital. The baby weighed 5 pounds, 15 ounces at birth, and as of early November weighs a healthy 13 pounds (more or less). Grandparents Ken & Jean Prouse and Jim & Linda Hamill, great-grandmother Ruth Hamill and all the other members of the family are thrilled!



Bernice Neelands had her birthday on November 16. She is now 95 years young. Happy birthday from friends and family.



Susan Gilbert (born Smythe) passed away early in November at the age of 78. A beautiful singer, a public school teacher, artist and much-loved community member, Susan is very much missed by family and friends. Blanche Martin, her neighbour for 38 years, recalls Susan with great fondness, "She was so talented, whatever she did." Susan started the Massie Geranium Tea many years ago and as we all know, it has blossomed beyond anyone's wildest expectations. Susan was a generous friend. The winter of Blanche and Harold Martin's 25th anniversary, Susan and her aunt motored the couple down to Florida for a holiday! Susan, who was born in Stratford, is survived by her husband, Harold, and their four children and their families.



Irene Ruth Tribble (born Taylor) also passed away recently, aged 87. At 11, Rene won 1st prize at the Grey County School Fair in Owen Sound. Her entry included home baking, hand crafts, home-grown produce and a solo rendition of "The Girl with the Delicate Air". No small feat for a farm girl from the one-room school in Massie! An independent, outgoing woman, Rene loved to discuss politics and world affairs. She supported many humanitarian projects and was active in several women's organizations. Rene loved music, teaching herself to play the piano, did beautiful paper tole, and was a demon knitter and seamstress, dressing herself in style. Trained as a registered nurse in Toronto, she returned to Massie in 1947 and married James Alexander Tribble, a Second World War veteran, two years later. The Tribbles had three children – Ken, Mary and Allen. Rene's husband died in 1996, and her last years were spent living with Mary and her family in Waterloo. For her dry wit and fun personality, Rene will be sorely missed.



Dr. Fryday`s Top 10 List For A Healthier Cold and Flu Season

1. Regular chiropractic care balances brain and nervous system function which optimizes your immune function.
2. Supplement with 5,000-10,000 I.U. of Vitamin D3 per day throughout the fall and winter. The sun is lower on the horizon in winter and even if we spend a lot of time outdoors we're still not getting enough Vitamin D this time of year.
3. Take a broad-spectrum probiotic every day in the form of a capsule or plain yogurt.
4. Exercise every day by taking a brisk 20-minute (or longer) walk.



5. At the first signs of cold or flu take Oil of Oregano twice a day. Oil of Oregano is a powerful natural antibiotic, with anti-viral and anti-fungal properties. My favourite way to take it is to put several drops on my toothbrush and

vigorously brush my gums for maximum absorption.

6. Maintain an alkaline pH in your body. Bacteria or viruses proliferate in an acidic environment. Test your saliva first thing in the morning before you brush your teeth with a pH strip. The best alkaline foods are fruits and vegetables.



Photograph by Ralph Bergman

7. Manage your stress. Reduce or eliminate stressors with deep breathing, meditation or tai chi.
8. Get plenty of sleep. This is when your body repairs and heals itself.
9. Smile! Smiling transmits nerve impulses from the facial muscles to the limbic system in your brain – this is responsible for producing the “happy hormones” that naturally boost immune function.
10. Adopt an optimistic, adaptable, easygoing approach to life. Age is not a limitation to your ability to enjoy life!

Lucky for Massie that Doug Fryday and Connie Miller operate a chiropractic clinic and wellness centre right here in our hamlet! Call (519) 794-0722 for an appointment.



Photograph by Connie Miller

Massie 2009 Events

November 29 - 11:15 a.m. - **Massie United Church - First Sunday of Advent** - Communion

December 7 - 7:30 p.m. - **Massie Athletic Society Annual Meeting** - To be held at the Community Centre or in the Church Basement depending on the weather. Update on survey of Athletic Field and election of one of three trustees.

December 12 - 7:30 p.m. - **Massie Winter Movie Nights** - *A Christmas Carol* starring Alistair Sim at the Massie United Church. "Potluck" snacks. Coffee, tea, soft drinks and popcorn will be served.

December 31 - **Massie Community New Year's Dance and Celebration** sponsored by The Hall Board. Music by: "May Contain Nuts" (Pete Miller & friends)

January 16, 2010 - **Massie Hall Annual Meeting** - Pot Luck Dinner - 6:00 p.m. followed by Business Meeting and election of 2010 directors.

Massie T-shirts

Soon-to-be collectors' items, Massie t-shirts created by Ralph Bergman, are still available. **Special 45% off Christmas offer on The Massie Coat of Arms** available in Men's sizes small and medium and Women's small, Now \$12. Perfect as gifts for kids and grandkids!

A limited number of "I played Massie Hall" t-shirts, as presented to performing musicians, are also available. Sale price is \$22 for all t-shirts. Proceeds go to Massie United Church, Massie Hall, and Outreach. Ralph Bergman at (519) 794-4109 or by email at ralphbergman@gmail.com. (519) 794-4109 or by email at ralphbergman@gmail.com.



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We welcome articles, announcements, advertisements, photographs, illustrations, cartoons.... Anything about the hamlet of Massie, its residents and former residents. E-mail editor@massiemessenger.ca

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