

# The Massie Messenger

A Biannual Newsletter

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## The Massie Bridge



*Members of the Massie community gathered on the bridge early one morning a few days before the demolition mid-July 2024.*





*Olivia Martin*

Sadly, our beloved centenarian bridge has been demolished to be replaced by a shiny new one that will be 10 feet wider.

A group of us gathered on the bridge the Friday morning before the demolition. Connie Miller came with her drone to record us



for posterity – [https://youtu.be/q9eilgQqpCk?si=mHgtprM1c\\_tc-Fo1P](https://youtu.be/q9eilgQqpCk?si=mHgtprM1c_tc-Fo1P). The bridge was festooned with flowers as it has been every year for over a decade now.

Unfortunately, some of the nearby residents were away or at work and couldn't be in the photo. Peter Turk was also there taking photographs and plans to document the whole process from demolition to construction of the new bridge.

What little evidence we have points to 1913 as the year the bridge was likely built. According to a reference in the November 4,



*Carmen and brother Alvin Hamill*

1912 session of Council in the Holland Township Minute Book, 1912-1928, held at the Grey County Archives, cement was to be ordered for two bridges, one at Massie.





*If any reader has very old photos of the bridge please send them along to [ralphbergman@gmail.com](mailto:ralphbergman@gmail.com) and we'll publish a few in the next issue of the Messenger, which will also feature photographs of the demolition and the new bridge.*

*From a few years back... Joyce Downey with her great-grandsons Weston and Myles Tennant, and Oscar (Lisa and Jerry Downey's dog).*





# Dr. Gilbert Howey

## 1933 - 2024



The community of Massie was saddened to hear of the passing of Gilbert Howey this spring. A psychiatrist by profession who worked both in Toronto and Owen Sound, Gilbert will be best remembered for his beautiful singing.

The whole family enjoyed music when Gilbert and his sisters Florence and Jean were growing up on the family farm on Grey Road 40, but he was the only one who became a public performer, joining the Mendelssohn Choir in Toronto. He began singing at the tender age of 3, entertaining folks at umpteen weddings, funerals, garden parties and other events even as a child. And, of course, he sang throughout his life at the Massie United Church.

Gilbert is survived by his family: his oldest son Ian and his wife Susan Tingley and their children Kate and Jonathan, his second son Kevin and his wife Adrienne Galway and their children Shannon Rose and Angelina, and his daughter Heather Rayne and her husband Vlad Orovic, as well as his sisters Florence Smith and Jean Perdue and their families. He is dearly missed by all.

*Gilbert Howey as a toddler with his sisters Jean (from the left) and Florence*

## The Massie Mavens Book Club by Janet DeJong

The Massie Mavens Book Club was formed circa 2009 to share a love of reading with kindred spirits and neighbours.

Initially most members had a Massie Road address, but some of the group have migrated to Owen Sound, Dundas, Meaford and Clarksburg. Still, we keep meeting monthly and sharing.

Books are chosen and recommended to the group only after being read by the sponsor. We mostly read literary fiction and have engaged in very interesting discussions where we all pitch in and share our stories and personal life experiences.

We come from a wide range of backgrounds and careers; our common bond is a love of reading. Some of us use the library, some buy second hand, several women prefer electronic formats and we all love film versions of our reads.

We usually exchange local news of upcoming events, get each other's help and advice, and share updates on our families and members who are going through troubles.

Sadly, we have lost one of our founding members - Linda Curran - and we miss her.

We can't recommend starting a book club highly enough! Where else do you get to experience a proper afternoon tea and drink from your Mum or Gran's china?!



*The Massie Mavens at Lorette Taylor's house on Massie Road in 2024*

# Live at Massie Hall

## The Millpond Project

Sunday August 4, 2 pm

Tickets \$20.00 [massiehall.com](http://massiehall.com)

Massie's home-grown quartet regales us once again with great tunes and lots of laughs! Stay in touch with the band through their Facebook page – [millpond project](https://www.facebook.com/millpondproject).



## Laura Bird

Sunday September 29, 2 pm

Tickets \$24.00 [massiehall.com](http://massiehall.com)

Songstress Laura Bird draws her inspiration from early folk roots and bluegrass music to old jazz standards. Audiences love her warm stage presence, finely honed guitar work and sultry, smoky voice. Laura has released two critically acclaimed albums (Dreamwalker and The Water in Between) and is working on her third. [laura-bird.com](http://laura-bird.com)





# A Run in Memory of Emilie Sauks



*Emilie on a trip to Glacier National Park in 2009*

It is hard to believe that Emilie died of colon cancer already a year ago in July 2023. Every day we have missed her smile, laugh, and witty remarks. It has been hard not being able to pick up the phone and call her just to say hello, to share what's up, to get her advice. Emilie had a kind and brilliant mind and, while she was a private person, you were guaranteed to have interesting conversations and to benefit from her perspective. She truly wanted the best for everyone.

Emilie was a beautiful piano player. She was creative and made her daughter's diapers from old T-shirts, felted purses and knitted clothing. She loved to run. She was a talented runner in high school and continued to enjoy challenging herself physically right up to when she suddenly got very sick from the cancer and could no longer run.

Throughout her illness, Emilie comported herself with a strength and grace that no one could have reasonably expected of her. She worried mostly about her children and Jody, and not seeing her young nieces and nephew grow up. She continued to walk outside, even when it was hard.

Emilie moved from Toronto to Massie in 1995 with her parents Jo Ann and Toomas, and her sisters Kate



*Kate, Jenn, Toomas, Jo Ann and Emilie Sauks*



and Jenn, after the family bought their farm on Concession 6S. Despite already being in high school when she moved, and only a few short years later moving to London to attend Western University, it was Massie that Emilie considered home.

After completing her undergraduate degree in geography, Emilie enrolled in the Center of Geographic Sciences in Nova Scotia to earn a diploma in marine geomatics. It was there that she met her future partner, Jody, and set off an exciting career of travelling the 519-377-8722 world surveying coastlines. Some of her most notable work locations were Alaska, Guam, northern Australia, the Marshall Islands, and American Samoa. Her home base then was Mississippi. It wasn't long in her tenure before Hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf communities along Louisiana and Mississippi. Emilie's car was flooded with salt water, her apartment building reduced to rubble in a parking lot. For a while she stayed in the community – in an RV in a community called Kiln (which the locals called Kill). Her temporary accommodations left much to be desired, and were situated near a pond with a few alligators. Eventually she transferred away from the Mississippi office to San Diego. The new position allowed her to live in Canada, so she moved to Victoria, BC to be with Jody again.

Emilie and Jody lived in Thunder Bay and then Edmonton before returning to Massie to start their family. Emilie was mother to two wonderful children, Thomas and Kylie, whom she loved dearly. She taught them to be kind to others and themselves, and to always try their best. She particularly loved spending time outdoors with them, whether on her parents' farm, the Bruce Trail, or camping.

In the spirit of Emilie's love of running, in the autumn of 2023 Emilie's family set up a charity run to raise money for colon cancer research through the Canadian Cancer Society. This November will be the second iteration of that

run. Please consider supporting this cause. Cancer medicine has made truly remarkable advancements in recent years, but much work and research remains to be done. Run or walk 7km in November and share your efforts on social media with the hashtag #Emilies7k.

For anyone who does not have access to email or the internet, you are welcome to contact Jody at 519-377-8722 to arrange to make a donation.

<https://bit.ly/4d1azMd>



*Emilie, Jody and their two kids Thomas and Kylie*



## 2024 Massie Events

### Massie United Church

- \* No services during the summer.
- \* Anniversary Service on Sunday, September 29th at 10 a.m. with Rev. Debbie Grant presiding. Old and new friends are all welcome to celebrate 168 years of faithful worship. A time of fellowship on the lawn (weather permitting) after the service.

### Massie Church

- \* Summer Sunday services held at 11:30 a.m. under the red maple off the parking lot beside the baseball diamond in Massie. All are welcome. Fellowship after the church – bring lunch.
- \* August 11th service will be at Wendy Neelands' pond. Call Marie at 519-794-3571 for details

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*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).*

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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

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