

# The Massey Messenger



Volume 27, Issue 1

February 2024

Twin-Power website can now be found at: <https://countryheritagepark.com/massey-harris-ferguson>

## NEXT MEETING

**February 25, 2024**

Lions Hall, 36 James Street, Innerkip

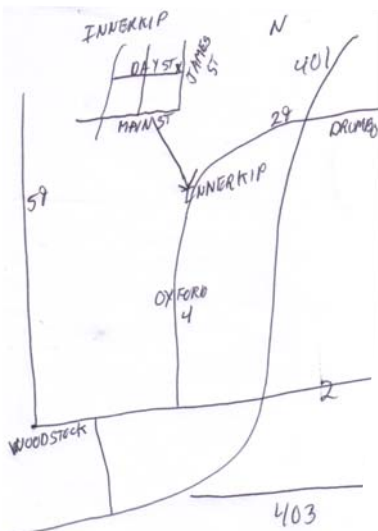
Directors Meeting 10:00 a.m.

General Meeting 1:00 p.m.

Directions: From East take County Road 29,  
Exit 250 Oxford Road #29 Drumbo/Innerkip.

Go west Oxford 29 to Day St. Turn left and  
follow to James St. Hall on left.

From Woodstock, take Oxford Rd #4, north to  
Innerkip turn right at Day St and follow to  
James St., Hall on left.



**Newsletter of the Twin-Power Heritage Association Inc.,  
Massey-Harris-Ferguson Collectors**

## **General Meeting Twin Power Heritage**

**December 3, 2023**

**Puslinch Hall**

**Country Heritage Park**

**Milton, Ontario**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM by president David Perry.

Kaylin Bell, granddaughter of Murray and Sally Musselman was introduced as our new keeper of the clubs Facebook page. Thank You Kaylin!

In the absence of our Membership chair Edgar Daer will collect our Membership renewals and take them to Barb. Barb sent notice that she and President Dave were not opposed to the idea of Membership renewal on the internet and asked that the minutes be amended to correct that. The Minutes were also corrected in that Steve Arnold and George Gordon had attended Massey EXPO last Summer and not President David Perry.

Colin Petherick gave a year end newsletter report.

Cathy McMaster presented the Treasurer's Report as presented elsewhere in the Newsletter.

It was moved by Jamie Lambert and seconded by Jack Gibson. Carried

Jack Gibson has painted some of the club's Metal Cut Signs and has done a very nice job. They came out looking very professionally done.

We were fortunate to have as a special guest Darrin Nelson of the AGCO Hesston Division. Darrin gave those present some background on Hesston and its part in Massey Ferguson and AGCO. There was some discussion of the Massey 750 Combine. He also donated Several Massey Hats for our auction. The were very special with some unusual designs.

At the suggestion of Ralph Jolley , George Gordon gave a brief talk on his role as Santa at Heritage Mall in Owen Sound, which he has been doing for the past 27 years. This was adapted from a talk given to the Shallow Lake, Ontario United Church men's club.

The club has been invited to the Bracebridge show in July as they are featuring Massey in 2024.

Past President Steve Arnold let the meeting know that MCA will be featuring Massey Days in Iowa next June. The next Massey EXPO will be in Ottawa Kansas on August 1<sup>st</sup> Weekend.

The next Canadian EXPO will be in Austin , Manitoba. The May Meeting will be at Lambert Equipment in Beaverton. The fall Meeting will be hosted by Francais Latour, East of Ottawa, Ontario.

Don MacPherson has arranged for our next meeting to be in Innerkip, Ontario near Woodstock on February 25, 2024.

Along with the hats, Nori and Paul Metcalfe donated some Auction Items. Jack Gibson donated a Dupont Calendar. These items made for a great auction.

George Gordon presided over the election of directors.

Steve Ward was acclaimed to a second term as director. Steve and Kim were absent due to illness. We are still short one Director position.

After a short break it was announced that David Perry would continue as President for one more year and that Jamie Lambert would be our new Vice President. Congratulations .

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## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**

I hope all is well with you all & you all had a joyous festive time with family. Now is the time to work off those extra pound or two getting your projects finished & ready for the upcoming season. The next meeting is in new territory for our Club, so I'm looking for a good turnout weather permitting. Don't forget we have a commitment to make by supporting Muskoka Pioneer Power club in Bracebridge

David Perry, President

# Guest Speaker Darren Nelson

Submitted by Colin Petherick

The Twin-Power club was very pleased to have Darrin Nelson attend our December 3, 2023 meeting in Milton.

Darrin is a technical training instructor with AGCO. He was in the area at this time doing training sessions at Waterloo. Darrin has a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Kansas State University and has been with AGCO since November 2000. He works out of the Hesston Kansas Headquarters. Darrin had contacted David Perry, our club's President and wanted to see the Massey display at Country Heritage Park. Dave said that our club was having our annual December meeting on the upcoming Sunday and that he was welcome to attend and that he would be glad to give him a tour of the Massey Collection after the meeting was over. The Twin Power club enjoyed a Christmas Pot-Luck dinner at noon, followed by the clubs meeting. Darrin was introduced and he gave a talk outlining his growing up in Kansas and education and how he came to work for AGCO and the many areas that he has been involved with and is currently doing for AGCO. Darrin is also involved with a club or group that works to preserve agricultural history and artifacts just was our club Twin-Power does. Darrin spoke about that Ben Grant's, Massey Ferguson 760 combine is now at the Hesston Kansas facility, currently not running. He along with help from the vintage collector's club in Kansas hope to get this combine running again and restored at some point.

Darrin remembers as a young man that Massey combines were as common as trees in Kansas, his words.

He spoke with several of our club members, who still use these combines today that are 40, 50 or more years old and are still working strong and doing just as good a job today as they did when new.

Club President Dave thanked Darrin for attending our meeting and was willing to give a talk on short notice. It makes our meetings much more enjoyable when we have the presence of a speaker like this. It was great to meet Darrin and to know that there are people at AGCO who appreciated the Massey Ferguson, Massey Harris and Ferguson heritage.



Never had a better load.



"True, I can't take it with me, but I can take the access codes to it."

## **Who Is W.J.Lambert and Sons LTD?**

*Submitted by Jamie Lambert*

William James Lambert was born in England in the year 1900. He lost his father, a chimney sweep, at age four to consumption of the lungs. He was ultimately shipped to Canada at age ten (with his brother George age eight) as part of the Home Child program run by Dr. Bernardo's orphanage after his mother was forced to give up the children she could not afford to feed.

William J was first billeted at a farm in Kinmount Ontario. Children in the program were supposed to be receive good food, shelter, and go to school in return for helping with work around the farm, but many children did not see these benefits when they reached their new homes. For six months, W. J. slept in the attic rafters of the farmhouse or the barn (whichever was warmest) with only a thin blanket. Freezing was a real possibility. He was not sent to school. The family would not even allow him to eat with them at meals. After word of conditions on the farm finally reached the organizers, William J was moved to a large dairy farm in western Ontario where his brother was living and working.

From the farm, William J went to work at a soup kitchen in Toronto. Family lore also has it that he worked as a janitor at U of T for a time, and expanded his education by reading the books from the library at night. He saved enough money to put a down payment on a farm of his own, in Sunderland Ontario. Ever restless, he eventually bought a farm in Beaverton, where many of his descendants still live today. There William J had a deadstock business butchering meat for dog food in addition to farming. It occurred to him that the passing of a farmer's workhorse might be the perfect opportunity to sell him a new Massey Harris Tractor and in December 1939, W.J. Lambert and Sons LTD was born.

From 1939 to 1958 William James, or "Bill" to most of his costumers, threw his lot in with the Massey Harris company. In the early days, they took the tractors off the rail cars in Barrie and drove them around Lake Simcoe to the dealership in Beaverton (which, at the time, was in town where Osbourne Plaza is today). Bill was the first one to have a self-propelled Massey 21 Combine with a bagger in the area. Grace, his wife, ran the Parts counter and did small engine repair. If she didn't know where to find a part, they didn't have it in the shop. In William's day, he did \$20,000 worth of business over a twenty year period, at a time when tractors were priced \$1000-\$1250 per unit.

In 1959, Bill's son, William John Lambert, took over the dealership from his father. In John's first year, he accomplished \$20,000 in sales with the now merged Massey Ferguson company. As a kid, John had prided himself on fixing machinery nobody else could fix. One morning, Bill was at the Massey Harris Warehouse in Toronto when he ran across a perplexed employee staring at a pile of parts on the floor. Bill could see the man was unsure how to turn the mess into a working disc plow. Bill said simply, "If you help hold the parts, the boys will show you how to put it together while I do business in the front office." The two youngsters, despite not being big enough the maneuver all the pieces by themselves, were as good as his word.

W.J. Lambert and Sons has always been a family business. John always had family working in the shop. His brother Royce was the Baler Whisperer. His brother-in-law George Johnson was technician and truck driver. His nephews Bob and Harry Mitchell were Service manager and a technician respectively. And their father Jim drove truck too. Then some of John's own children joined in. Charles and James as technicians. Sister Lori Whitaker in the Parts department with youngest brother Wyatt. sister Lucy Windebank in Parts and as bookkeeper with her husband Sandy as parts manager.

William John not only looked after his costumers, but also supported his community. He was a proud supporter of Junior Farmers, having won several Junior Plowing Awards in his youth. He served on the board of directors at St. Andrew's United Church (and perhaps was slightly more enthusiastic about their fundraising auctions than his wife might have wished). He was President of the local Fair Board, President of the Lions club, and zone chairman in his time. His later years saw him steadily involved with Community Care Drives.

He received the Harold Lodwick Award for community service and Provincial Government Award for community service. Through all of this, his beloved wife Ruby was by his side, lending her grace, strength, and tenacity to all the causes of building family and community that were so important to them both. William John Lambert was with us from 1933 to the year 2020.

The current owners of W.J. Lambert and Sons Limited, are James Nathaniel Lambert and his wife Barbara. They have three children, Misty, Jamye, and William Jacob.

Jamie has been running the dealership since 1990. Jamie's past accomplishments and credentials include Beaverton Junior Farmer President, County Junior Farmer President, highest class marks in Kemptville Agricultural College Apprenticeship Course, St. Andrew's United Church board member, Fair board and Lions club member, Beaverton Historical Society member, Kawartha Lakes Antique Power member, Massey Harris Twin Power Club member, and Canadian East Equipment Dealer's Association Chair of the Board and member for 9 years.

Jamie's biggest passion is the restoration of his antique Massey Harris collection, containing over thirty tractors and implements. Restored units include: MHGP4WD, Red Pacemaker, Green Pacemaker, MH102 Junior, MH101 Super, MH101 Senior, MH30, MH44.6, MH44 Special, MH50, MF50DSL.

Current Employees of the W.J. Lambert and Sons LTD family include: Jamie's sister Lucy Windebank (General manager and Bookkeeper). His nephews, 4<sup>th</sup> generation, Cody Windebank (Parts manager/sales) and Devin Windebank (Service Writer). Kevin Cowen (Sales/truck driver). Andrew Hines (Parts). Larry Umphrey (Parts). Bill Graham (Service Manager). Josh Wilson (Top Technician foreman). Service Technicians, Braydon Soundy, Gavin Sedore, Clarence Morton, and Allen Brenner. Caroline Peters (office).

Thank you to all our valued customers for the last 85 years.



**The Lambert Family**



**Arial photograph of the Dealership**

**Please Note that Jamie Lambert will be hosting our Meeting on May 26th.**



**Current photo of new addition on back corner**



**Parade picture from Beaverton Fall Fair**



**MH 101 Senior and 101 Super on display**

**Bill & Grace Lambert  
behind the counter.**



**John and Ruby attending a formal  
banquet at the Coventry England  
plant 1960.**



**John and  
Ruby  
Lambert**



**John & Jamie Lambert with a MH GP 4 wheel drive**



**Jamie & Barb Lambert**

*Carved - only her mother did her up, still on farm in Alta.*

# McVittie family carved a life out of the land with tractors



**The Way We Were Then**  
RALPH E. BRADEN

McVittie's farm machinery shop was just west of Paris Street on the north side of Victoria Street in old Alliston. There was a storefront showroom up at street level and a shop below for assembly and repairs.

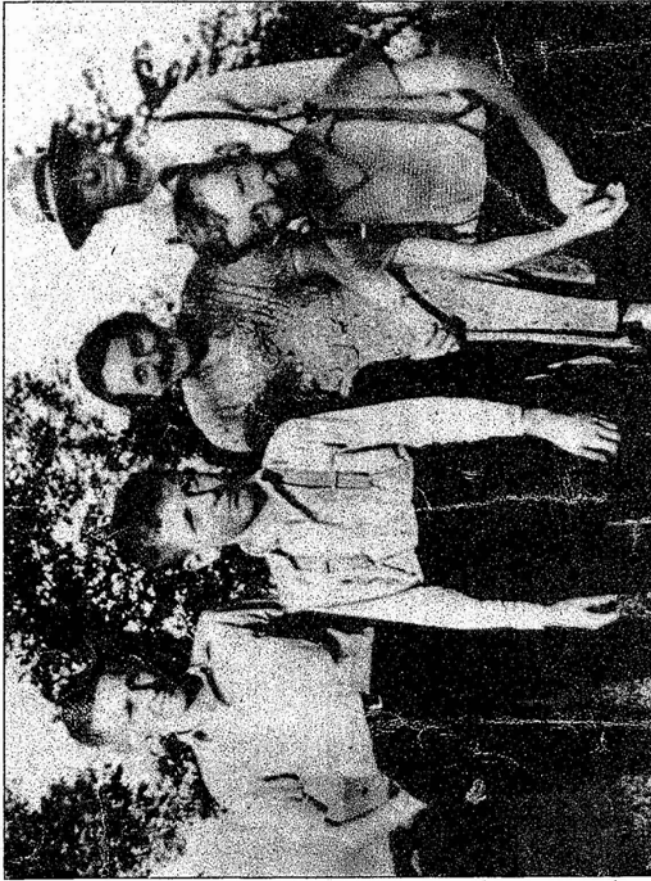
The big shop door at the back opened onto a large machinery lot that was normally covered with a variety of farm machinery for a wide assortment of uses.

George and Alice McVittie sold tractors and various other machines built by The Massey Harris Co. as well as a variety of used farm equipment.

The original McVittie family arrived in Canada early in the 1800s and cleared the forest off their pioneer property on the 3rd Line of St. Vincent Township in Grey County. The family built the first house and barn there and farmed the stony land that dropped off steeply toward the lake at the back of the farm.

It was not an easy property to work as the plough was frequently striking the stones that were heaved up by the freezing every year and the supply never ended. They had to be picked every season and hauled to the fence by horse and stone boat where they served a useful purpose for the building of stone fences.

The really big ones were hoisted out of the ground by a special machine that not only lifted them but carried them off the field. If any were missed, they were sure to be found by the grain binder or hay mower at harvest, causing downtime while a broken knife section was removed and a new one was riveted into place. It was a hard life on the farm.



**George McVittie and his wife Alice (nee Lambe) and their children, from left, Donald, Lloyd and Harvey.**

George took a little stroll down the gravel road farm machinery and looked for people to sell them throughout the farm country.

George Lambe had arrived from Claresholm, Alberta to live with her grandparents after her parents died. Her older brothers stayed behind on the family farm. Apparently, the young farmer had become quite fond of the western girl, who was just a year younger than he, and no doubt he missed her when she returned to live with her brothers.

There was very little fall wheat grown around Meaford and less field machinery was sold so George was looking out for a better place to locate his business and one day, his prayers were answered when Ab Cousins decided to retire from the business in Alliston.

Soon the McVitties closed the deal and were welcomed to town as the new Massey Harris dealership and the economy was really taking off in 1945, at the end of the Second World War. The pretty red Massey tractors were in big demand and George and his sons were kept busy receiving and selling. Their shop was popular on Saturday night and George kept a nice big barrel of apples for showroom visitors to eat, while he smoked his pipe and promoted his products.

At fair time they displayed a line of the great modern machinery and farmers came from far and wide to admire them. I remember, the youngest son, Harvey, used to bring one of the little "Pony" tractors out to our farm after school. It seemed like nothing could possibly go wrong but sometimes that's when trouble strikes.

In the winter of 1950, Alice and her eldest son Don took a trip out west to visit her brothers and George and Lloyd and Harvey felt quite confident to manage without them. Money was coming in and it was time for a little recreation and travel. Then like a bolt from the blue, on his wedding anniversary, Jan. 26 1950, George fell dead from a sudden, massive stroke while still a relatively young man. What a shock to the family!

After the funeral the family kept the business going. Alice had graduated from a school commercial course and Don graduated from Grade 13 in high school. They also had the contract as a license-issuing office and their big brick house was right next door.

Eventually, however, Donald McVittie bought land on the first hill west of Alliston and established a used machinery business there. He ac-



Little George was born there in the humble pioneer home in April of 1898 and as soon as he was big enough, he learned how to pick stones and drive a team of horses to haul them off the working land. Also, he learned how to walk behind the plough and turn over a nice straight furrow in the working land and many a time the lad was bruised when the implement struck a stone and bounced out of his hands. That's when he resolved to find a new line of work when he went out on his own.

One day, the young farmer was talking with his friend Ez Pritchard and the two formed a business partnership and became custom threshers. They bought a team of horses and a steam engine as well as a threshing machine and a water tank to supply the thirsty engine. They hauled his equipment from farm to farm separating the farmer's grain from the straw and chaff for seven years before they realized that they would never make their fortune in that business so they both sought a new line of work.

The little farming communities were very

For several seasons Mr. McVittie joined the Rifle Club. In the old days there was a little Orange Hall on a corner in most little farm communities and George, a dedicated Anglican, became so active in the lodge he became master of the Griersonville chapter. He and Alice were confident that Jesus was their go-between with the great Heavenly Father and that He was the long-promised Messiah who came to die to pay for the sins of mankind if only we would believe and turn from sinful ways. They must also have believed His words when He said that He was the only way to eternal life with Him in Heaven. This was a popular faith then.

Well, nobody made much money during the hungry years of the Great Depression of the '30s but at least those on the farm didn't go hungry like many in the cities. Alice McVittie probably had a good garden which she preserved for winter. George likely grew a few rows of potatoes which he stored in the cellar or an outdoor pit and farmers never tired of eating them two or three times a day.

As long as the hens were laying, a fried egg supplied the protein for their little children and they could prepare their own baby food and bring in milk from the cows. All this was needed because, over those years the couple had three children, Donald, Lloyd and Harvey.

Hard times never come instantly to an end

accumulated many acres of farm machines there and he was known for hundreds of miles around as the used machinery guy just west of Alliston.

Most good things come to an end sooner or later (at least earthly things), and Don's business is now cleaned up and ready for sale and the era of the old McVittie business is winding down after all these years. Not much remains as a reminder of the way they were then.

For more stories about the yesteryears of Alliston see next Tuesday's edition of the Alliston Herald. Ralph Braden is in the process of putting these stories together in a book entitled *The Way Were Then*.

This is to Certify that

**George McVittie**  
of Meaford, Ontario.

Has Been Awarded

**First Prize**

In the 1939 Ontario Branch  
Plow Sales Contest.

Massey-Harris Co., Limited  
Signed on Behalf of the Company

*R. Amos*  
Manager, Ontario Branch



Article submitted by Steve Radford



Pair of western fenders, came off a 102 Jr. will fit others, "very" good condition - \$300

Pair of fenders came off a 22, needs some work - \$60

Pair of hood's off 22's needs some holes repaired - \$50 each

Pair of Pony fenders good condition - \$100 & Pony dash - \$20

Massey Ferguson rototiller, will run but needs some TLC - \$100

Massey Ferguson #38 pipe loader with trip bucket, every thing comes with to install including Hyd. valve - \$500

Murray Shay

613-652-2216

shaysmasseys@gmail.com





1967 Oliver 770  
Good rubber, in excellent condition.

1957 Farmall 130  
Complete with row crop cultivator. Excellent condition. Good rubber.

Prices are negotiable. Contact Mrs. Lois Ward (613) 399-3483 1424 Gilead Road, Prince Edward County Road.



MH 333  
\$6500  
Ken O'Brien, Midhurst. 705-821-8266



1969 Massey Ferguson 7 lawn mower for sale. Price is \$1000.00

Contact Jim McKee  
(289) 890-0299



MH 30, \$4000.00  
Ken O'Brien, Midhurst. 705-821-8266



Massey Ferguson 85 Tractor \$6000.00  
Continental F-140 engine. Can be seen running. \$600.00

Contact Curtis Royston  
Email: [curtroyston@gmail.com](mailto:curtroyston@gmail.com)



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[www.gasketcity.com](http://www.gasketcity.com)



MH 26 plow parts  
Ken O'Brien, Midhurst. 705-821-8266

**TWIN-POWER HERITAGE ASSOCIATION INC. EXECUTIVE**



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<b>Jamie Lambert</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>705-426-5124</b> wjlambert@bellnet.ca
	3rd Year 1st Term	
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<b>Steve Arnold</b>	<b>Past President</b>	<b>905-971-7045</b>

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<b>Tim Leis</b>	2nd Year 1st Term	<b>226-751-3317</b>

**“MEMBERSHIP”**

New or renewal

**Barbara Smyth**

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**(519) 525-9511**

**E-mail : gbsmyth@hurontel.on.ca**

**All membership information or inquires  
should be directed to Barb.**

**First year membership - \$30.00**

**Renewal - \$ 30.00**

**MASSEY MESSENGER INFO**

**Newsletter issued quarterly:**

**February, May, September, November**

**Next Issue: May 2024**

**DEADLINE for articles, ads, etc.:**

**April 20th, 2024**

**Send to: George Gordon**

**136, 5th Avenue East**

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**Email: ggordon@bmts.com**

**OR**

**Colin Petherick**

**(705) 653-0213**

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