



High up under the ceiling electrician apprentice Derrick Vandervelde attends to the preliminary work of phase one of the restoration project.

PHOTO BY BOB OWEN

Work starts on Castleton Town Hall

COLBORGE CHRONICLE
By Bob Owen MARCH 8/07
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After a delay of over a year, work has finally begun on phase one of the restoration and renovation of the Castleton Town Hall.

Cramahe Council passed a resolution on February 20 approving the tender of the lowest bidder, Aveda Construction of Kingston.

Within a week, work had commenced.

Currently workers are removing old light fixtures and outdated wiring in the hall.

Once that is complete, Bay Electric will install the new light fixtures and wall outlets.

Several sealed-over oval windows have been uncovered in the balcony. These historic remnants of the building's youth will not be restored in phase one, due to financial restrictions.

Cramahe Township Chief Building Official, Natalie Moroz-Cornell says, "It is hoped the money raised through the Friends of Castleton Town Hall fundraising campaign will cover the cost of window repairs. It is expected eventually all the windows will be restored to their original grandeur."

The restoration for phase one is expected to wrap up in early May. At that time the hall will return to use for all community groups to enjoy. As further money becomes available for future restoration phases, the disruptions to hall rentals will be minor. Ms. Moroz-Cornell notes with optimism, "The inconvenience of the past year will be but a distant memory."

General Contractor Aveda Construction Inc. of Kingston, On. is be overseeing the electrical, plaster restoration and construction of an emergency exit from the back of the library.



One of several sealed windows in the balcony of Castleton Town Hall has been opened up.

PHOTO BY BOB OWEN

Ruth Massey celebrates century of life

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It was a memorable occasion for the Massey family Feb. 26 as they gathered at the Warkworth Nursing Home to celebrate the 100th birthday of Ruth Massey.

Ruth was born at Marringhurst, Manitoba in 1907, to Jake and Lillian Elsey at a time when many farm families were homesteaders.

Lillian and Jake were married in 1896 and homesteaded a small farm near Glenora. They moved to Marringhurst before Ruth's older brother Edgar was born in 1902. They were rugged and resourceful, facing many challenges in the prairies of

Manitoba. Jake farmed, trained horses and was a blacksmith.

Ruth and Edgar began their education in the one-room schoolhouse at Marringhurst. When Ruth was about 14 her folks again relocated near Pilot Mound, Manitoba.

Edgar and Ruth continued their schooling in Pilot Mound and at age 18 Ruth enrolled in Normal School at Holland, Manitoba. While there, she met several girls with whom she became close lifelong friends.

After graduation, Ruth taught school at Manitou, Manitoba and experienced the many challenges presented with winter weather and traveling with horse and

sleigh. The boys in the class would arrive early and start the fire in the woodstove, then unhitch her horse, Dinah, and feed and water her.

Ruth loved outdoor sports and spent many happy hours at the curling rink and on the local ski hill.

She studied piano and became a master at the keyboard. She loved dogs and cats and had a few special ones throughout her childhood, Bubbles was a Pomeranian, whom she particularly loved and brought with her from Manitoba.

It was on the Elsey farm where Ruth ultimately met the man of her life, Lloyd Massey.

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Ruth Massey at 94.

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