

Parkinson's doing in family farm

By Cecilia Nasmith
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hint of trouble was a tingling in his little finger. Mr. Massey saw a chiropractor about it and it seemed to go away — but it came back. Mr. Massey was then referred to a neurologist. Within two and a half years of that first tingle, he got the diagnosis.

"I went through all the different phases," he admitted — "the anger, when I wondered why me, the disbelief, the bargaining and finally acceptance."

Cycling through all the phases took several years, he recalls. Meanwhile, his neurologist began working with Mr. Massey to ensure his medication was right. Over the years, of course, the dosage has increased.

"It's a battle to keep up with the disease and get the right combination of drugs — everyone's different," he said. "Some people live with it for 20 or 25 years, and the medication for that person would be different from someone who was recently diagnosed."

Though the cause is still a mystery, more is being learned about Parkinson's all the time. The doctor who gave him his diagnosis told Mr. Massey that there would probably be a cure in 10 years. That didn't work out, he said, but adds maybe people who are being diagnosed today can look forward to a cure.

Since farming is pretty well an around-the-clock job, it has gotten beyond Mr. Massey's reduced physical ability. He now leases the land out just to

ensure it continues to be farmed, but he anticipates the next step will be selling the land he has loved all his life.

"It's a shame to let it go," he admitted.

It has been some solace to him to begin a second career in writing. Along with a number of articles for national magazines, he collaborated with his father and son-in-law, Random House editor Nick Massey-Garrison, to produce *Aquadale — A Farm History, 1869-2003*. The cover of this self-published book about life on the family farm features the young Mr. Massey reaching out to touch a hen with a smile full of wonder. A sequel to the history comes out this month, he added.

Also this month, organizers of the Parkinson's Foundation Tulip Days can count on Mr. Massey's help in the Warkworth area. He will be among the volunteers standing outside selling tulips to raise money for the foundation's services and research.

You can support the same cause by watching for volunteers selling tulips between this Thursday, April 17 and Saturday, April 19 in Port Hope, and next Thursday, April 24 to Saturday, April 26 in Cobourg.

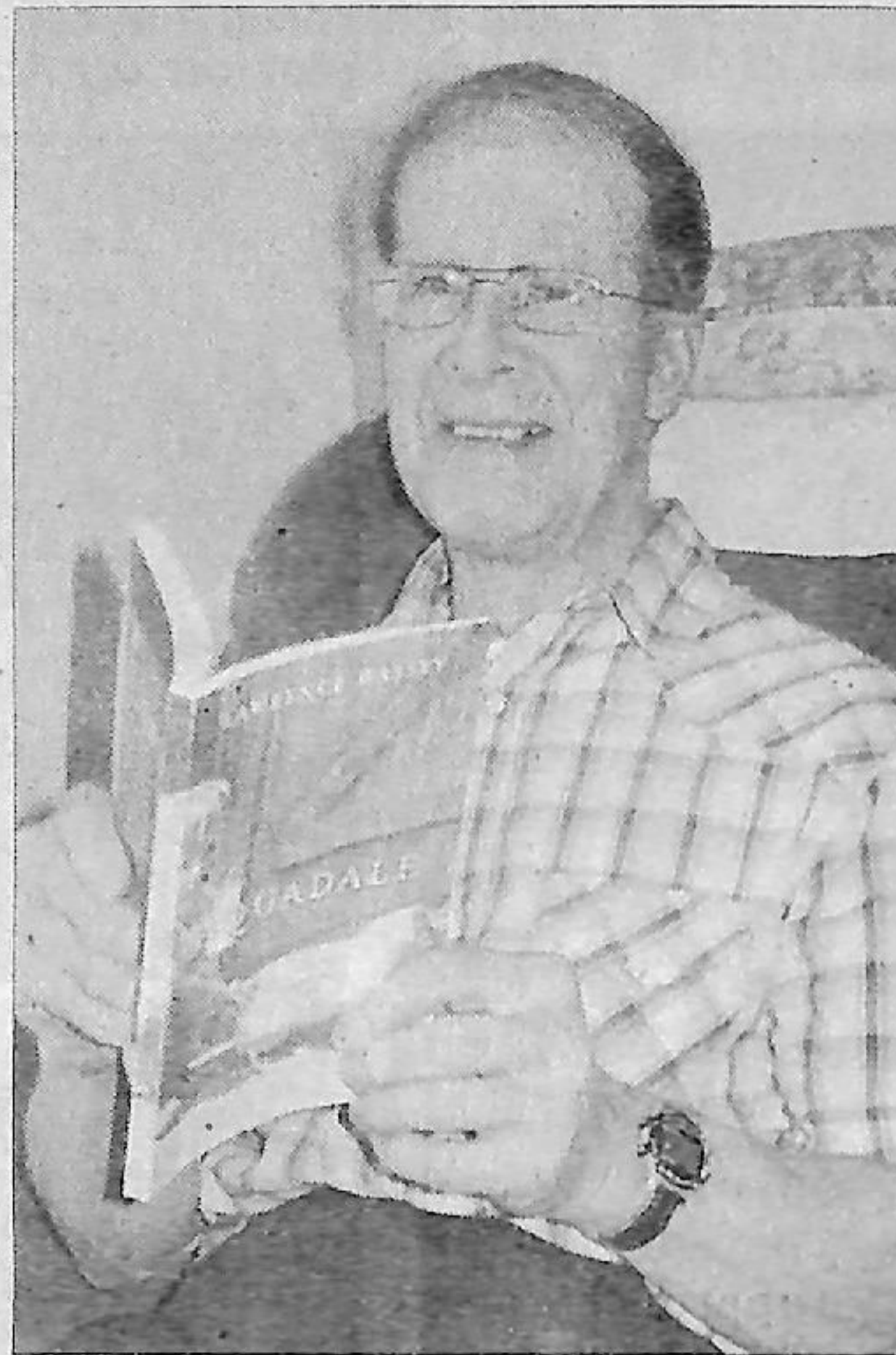


PHOTO BY CECILIA NASMITH

Lawrence Massey reads from his book, *Aquadale — A Farm History, 1869-2003*, about life on the Morganston farm his family has worked for five generations. But that may be coming to an end as Parkinson's Disease renders Mr. Massey incapable of doing the work.

Aquadale Farm has been in the Massey family since 1869, and Lawrence Massey is the fifth generation to inhabit the beloved Morganston acreage.

His would probably have been the last generation, anyway, since his children are happy in Toronto — his son as a landscaper at Ontario Place and his daughter teaching and raising his two granddaughters. Mr. Massey doesn't think it's really feasible to wait until the girls grow past elementary school and beyond to see if they're interested in taking over the farm.

Longevity runs in the Massey family. Mr. Massey regularly visits his parents, Donald and Velma, who are in their 90s and live in Campbellford. His paternal grandfather lived to the age of 93, the son of a woman who lived to be 108.

"We have the genes for that," he said with a gentle laugh. But longevity may not be in the cards for Mr. Massey, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease 10 years ago.

It's not necessarily hereditary, he has learned, but certain types of it do seem to run in families. It is a slowly progressive degenerative disorder of the central nervous system that affects 100,000 Canadians and is characterized by a wide variety of symptoms, including blurred vision, stooped posture, extreme fatigue, urinary problems, constipation and depression.

Of the symptoms that have most plagued Mr. Massey, he lists tremors, slow movement, stiffness and balance problems.

Like Canadian actor Michael J. Fox (whose 2002 memoir, *Lucky Man*, Mr. Massey enjoyed), his first

Castleton Town Hall completion expected by mid-June

COLBORNE CHRONICLE APR 24/08

Rutherford. "They're working on the drawing specs for the new ramps" to be installed, she adds. The project, being paid on a time and materials basis, is within budget, Ms. Alexander said. "All the subtrades are working there right now," Cramahe CAO Christie Alexander responded to an enquiry from John

Announcements

Birthday greetings



The Family of Flo Dale

invite you to celebrate her 80th Birthday on Sunday April 27th at The Keeler Centre from 2 to 4 p.m. Best Wishes Only.

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Deaths

OLIVER, Arnold Cecil (Cece) - Peacefully in hospital surrounded by his loving family on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at the age of 82 years. Cece Oliver beloved husband of Shirley (nee Packard) for 58 years. Cherished father of Margaret, Catherine, Jane, Jim (Susan), Susan (Henry), Pete (Anita), John, and Andy (Erin). Dearest Grandpa to David, Kelsey, Graydon, Amanda, Ben, Bryce, Gracie, and Haydon. He also leaves his brothers Doug (Jean), Cliff (Barbara), Herb (Gertie), and Stu (Betty). Predeceased by parents Howard and Jennie Oliver, brother Stan and sister Dorothy. He will be missed by many nieces, nephews and friends. Cece served in the Canadian Forces, Mapping and Charting Establishment and was honoured to receive the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal and the Privy Council Lifetime Achievement Award as the longest serving Public Servant in Canadian history with 61 years of service to the people of Canada. Long-time resident of Stittsville and an active member of Stittsville United Church, L0L 489 Orange and Black Lodges, Scouts Canada, and Branch 618 Royal Canadian Legion. Friends may call at the Garden Chapel of **TUBMAN FUNERAL HOMES**, 3440 Richmond Road (between Bayshore & Baseline), on Thursday, April 17, 2008 from 7-9 pm and Friday, April 18, 2008 from 2-4 & 7-9 pm. Funeral service will be held at Stittsville United Church on Saturday, April 19, 2008 at 2 pm. Burial at Stittsville United Cemetery in the spring. Condolences, tributes or donations may be made at www.tubmanfuneralhomes.com

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Deaths

"MEMORIAL DONATIONS gratefully received by Hospice Northumberland Lakeshore, Box 32, 259 Division St. Cobourg, ON, K9A 4K5."

COLBORNE CHRONICLE APR 24/08
RUSK, Albert Henry - At the Golden Plough Lodge, Cobourg, on Monday April 21, 2008 in his 96th year. Albert Rusk of Castleton husband of the late Verna Mabel (nee McComb). Loving father of Robert and his wife Sheila. Dear grandfather of David and Edward (Rebecca). Great grandfather of Heather and Alexander. Predeceased by his infant son Ian Albert, his sisters Mabel and Gertrude and by his brothers William, Allen and Clifford. A funeral service will be held at the **MacCOUBREY FUNERAL HOME**, 11 King St., West, Colborne, on Friday April 25 at 1:00 p.m. Internment Castleton Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home on Thursday from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Those wishing may make memorial donations by cheque to Castleton United Church. Condolences received at www.MacCoubrey.com.

7