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JUNE 2021

Massey Area Museum eNewsletter

# MAM *monthly*

## Did You Know? >>>

### Massey's Early Bread-Laws

*On October 2, 1905, Massey's By-law No. 30 was passed, which regulated the weight of bread sold within the town limits.*

The by-law had four provisions:

1. A standard loaf of bread shall retain its weight of 1 ½ lbs.
2. A standard loaf of bread shall retain its weight of 1 ½ lbs. for 24 hours after being baked
3. All bread offered for sale found to be underweight would be seized and confiscated
4. Any person found in violation of the by-law was subject to a fine of between \$3 and \$10, or up to 21 days of jail time if the fine was not paid

While no longer enforced today, as far as we can determine, this by-law was never officially rescinded.

A fine of \$3 to \$10 in 1914 would cost between \$70 and \$230 today.

## President's Message

Welcome! These past 18 months have been very difficult, trying times for everyone but hopefully because of the hard work of special individuals, the future looks brighter.

Our Massey Area Museum has been affected like most businesses, but we will open as soon as restrictions are lifted. We have much to share with you, our patrons, so please stop in and meet our new Curator Katie. We'll have an informal "meet and greet" as soon as it's safe.

I'm so looking forward to our fundraising activities; our Art Show in August; the Roast Beef dinner this fall; and much more. Continue to support your wonderful Museum and I hope to see you all very soon.

Barb Mawhinney  
President, Massey Area Museum Board of Directors

## What's Happening?>>>

**We are currently closed** to visitors, but we look forward to welcoming you back as soon as we can. Visit our Facebook page for reopening updates.

**Share your history!** The museum is always looking for new additions to our website's blog. Visit [www.masseyareamuseum.com/share-your-history](http://www.masseyareamuseum.com/share-your-history) to view the posts, and submit your stories and photos to [info@masseyareamuseum.com](mailto:info@masseyareamuseum.com).

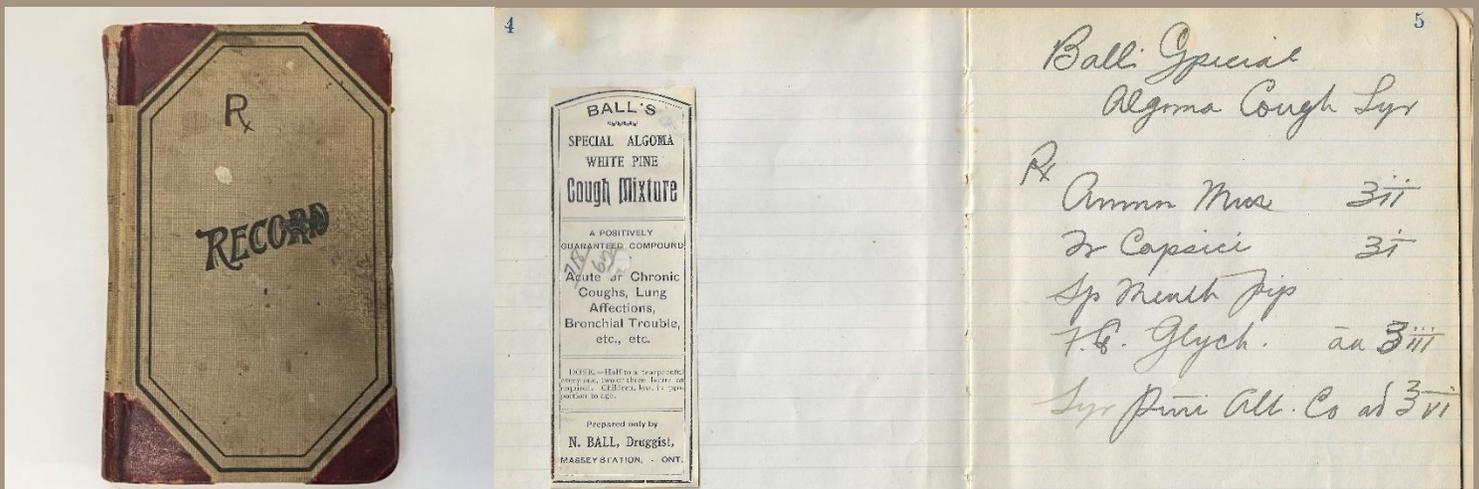
From the Collection >>>

## Record Book (c.1900-1912)

Nelson Ball (1873-1938) was the first owner and proprietor of a drugstore in Massey. Nelson, or “N.B.” as he liked to be called, graduated from the Ontario College of Pharmacy in Toronto in the 1890s. In 1897, he married Mina McKelvie while living in Webbwood and the pair had five children, although two of them sadly did not survive infancy. He opened his drug store in Massey in 1901, shortly after the birth of his second child. Not only a druggist and shopkeeper, Nelson Ball was also an optician, and there are even stories of him performing dental work for men from the lumbering camps. He was a prominent member of the community, serving on Massey’s first Town Council in 1904. N.B. operated the store until 1912, when it was purchased by Arthur Hallett. After leaving Massey, N.B. and his family moved to Orillia and opened another drugstore.



Nelson Ball, Ph. G – Ontario College of Pharmacy, Toronto.  
Photograph courtesy of Andrea McGowen



991.3.25, Rx Record Book, Massey Area Museum

Inside the notebook, handwritten notes detail the ingredients used in the prescriptions, their appropriate weights and occasional notes for preparation. Some pages even display the medicine bottle labels, such as this one for *Ball's Special Algoma White Pine Cough Mixture*. Other remedies include *Ball's Reliable Tonic*, advertised as an “appetizer and general health restorer;” *The Trapper's Friend*, an oil designed to “positively entice all fur-bearing animals;” and *Ball's Magical Liniment*, an external remedy with directions to “saturate a flannel cloth and apply to afflicted parts until very hot and red, twice daily.”

Thank you to Andrea McGowen for her correspondence regarding Nelson Ball.

## Meet the Curator >>>

Hi everyone, my name is Katie Smolinski, and I'm very excited to be working as the Curator of the Massey Area Museum! I grew up in the Niagara region, and have always been interested in the past and had a love for museums. I graduated from Trent University with a BA (Hons) in Anthropology, and completed a post-graduate certificate in Museum Management and Curatorship at Fleming College. I'm very excited to learn more about the wonderful communities that the museum serves, and I can't wait to meet you all in person and welcome you back to the museum when we are able to open. Stay kind and stay safe!

