

Puslinch Historical Society Newsletter Fall 2020

If you want your family history to survive through the ages, share it.

During the virus shutdown, work has continued within the Puslinch Historical Society. The following items on paper have been added to the archive and will be available when it reopens:

- A copy of The Puslinch Women's Institute Tweedsmuir Book
- A copy and a transcription of the baptism records of Duff's Presbyterian Church, 1840-1900
- A copy of Victoria Street, Morriston, A History of Early Houses and Families by Cheryl McLean & Joanne Green
- The Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal Register for Puslinch Township, 1837-1900, transcribed by the Wellington County Genealogical Society.

Please note that the Puslinch Historical Society is available to answer queries by e-mail.

PUSLINCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES

A Virtual Tour by Lynn Crow

Located in the library in Aberfoyle, the PHS collection houses a large variety of local materials. As you enter the building, the archives are on your left. To tour the room, start at the file cabinets. Drawers include two divisions – one filed alphabetically by



surnames and the other by subject. To research your family, start by looking in the surname files. If you are researching a topic such as gravel, look in the subject files.

On the east wall, the genealogy shelves have expanded from the work of a few family researchers to 5 shelves filled with family histories. Many genealogy researchers come to PHS for information, and the Society requests that they deposit a copy of their family history when it is completed. Check the PHS website, puslinchhistorical.ca under the Research tab, for families researched. Publications written by PHS members, and local municipalities are next. On the top shelf are Puslinch general publications such as *Annals of Puslinch, 1850-1950*. The next few shelves are arranged by the names of the former 12 school sections – from S.S. #1, Arkell to S.S. #12, Glen Christie. Below are

house logs and lot histories. The shelves nearest to the window hold Birth, Marriage and Death records including local church histories and cemetery records, marriage registers and obituary binders (that are regularly updated). Below these are Gazetteers and Voters Lists.

Nearest to the desk, is a CD/DVD collection and the original audio tapes with interviews of Puslinch notables (Pioneer descendants, community leaders) which are now available on CDs. The central section houses the PHS photograph albums, with scrapbooks and postcard collections below. The bottom center shelf has County Historical Society Journals for Wellington and Waterloo. Closest to the window are publications organized by topics: Agriculture, Architecture (including copy books listing Puslinch properties that have been researched by the Puslinch and Guelph Heritage Committees), Biographies, Local Authors, Military, Natural Features, Transportation and First Nations. The lowest shelf has the PHS collection of *Puslinch Pioneers*.

Also look for a long counter with cabinets below. Nearest the door, is a stand with CDs. Next to it are sample PHS 'Books for Sale'. A few display items also appear on the counter. The cabinets below store PHS Equipment, Office Supplies, and County Atlases, Maps, and PHS Display Items. Shelves next to the drawers house copies of books for sale, historical ledgers and large pictures which are rotated on the walls as display items.

The Puslinch Historical Society is volunteer based. We are pleased to have such a wonderful place to house our collection. Our regular hours are Saturday from noon until 3, but due to the pandemic in-person visits are postponed. However, you can contact one of our researchers with questions at any time. Thanks goes to John Clark, archivist and to Puslinch Council for their support of our endeavours. Please contact Betty Andersen at bettyandersen24@gmail.com; Marjorie Clark at marjorie@clarksoftomfad.ca or Lynn Crow, photo archivist, at ardyne.farm@sympatico.ca for help in your research.

PUSLINCH HISTORY QUIZ

Do you consider yourself to be knowledgeable about the history of our township?

Then, you should have no trouble answering this simple quiz.

What are we referring to?

Here are the clues :

- WILDLIFE PARADISE WITH THOUSANDS OF DUCKS IN 1850
- AN EARLY ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSION CHURCH WAS SITUATED ON AN ISLAND
- IT'S FIVE HOTELS CATERED TO HUNDREDS OF VICTORIAN VACATIONERS
- IT'S WATERS WERE PLIED BY THE STEAMER "CITY OF QUELPH"
- CROWDS DANCED TO THE DANCE BAND ORCHESTRAS IN THE 1920'S
- IT WAS AN EARLY EXAMPLE OF COTTAGE COUNTRY
- A POWER BOAT REGATTA IN 1950 ATTRACTED 3500 ENTHUSIASTS
- HOME OF THE ONTARIO & CANADIAN WATER SKI ASSOCIATIONS

If you responded "Puslinch Lake", you are correct. These and more fascinating facts about this local landmark are in the Puslinch Historical Society Archive.

Puslinch Lake Hotel



Oh, for the days when picnickers travelled by horse drawn vehicles to enjoy an outing at Puslinch Lake! This group, like many others prior to the First World War, posed for the photographer before settling down to an afternoon of sports, fun, and amusement at the popular resort. The building, with its imposing two-decker verandah, was the Lake Hotel, at that time owned by the City of Guelph. It was operated for many years by W. J. Marriott who on retirement made his home in Hespeler. (Guelph Mercury newspaper, July 25th 1967.)

A Covid Project by Betty Andersen

Our little local newspaper, the Puslinch Pioneer, has been chronicling township events for 44 years. The first edition, July 1976, was “laboriously but cheerfully produced” on the kitchen tables of a handful of citizens who saw a need to inform people of political and social events in the township. City newspapers only sketchily cover little places like Puslinch.

The Puslinch Historical Society has all the editions of the paper. But, in the absence of an index, the Puslinch Pioneer has not been terribly useful as a research tool. This year, the Puslinch Historical Society has undertaken to index the past 44 years of the paper. You can thank Covid for making this happen. It’s a tedious, laborious job, each page has to be read, a decision made as to what gets indexed, the items underlined, the pages numbered. Then comes the ‘data entry’. Thankfully the computer is able to alphabetize the entries. I have not come up with any quick way to do this, since we are working with material that precedes digitization.

Pouring through the old papers is a trip down memory lane. The early editions were a crash course in civics, as the paper began to delve into the machinations of industry and Council and question their decisions. Its attentions were not always welcome in Council Chambers in those days.

Of more interest to historians and genealogists, though, are the articles the paper ran every month on some historical aspect of the township or the sketches of the early pioneers. This wealth of information goes back to the early 1800’s. When indexing is complete, it will finally be easily accessible.