

PUSLINCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Presidents Report
Annual Meeting April 9 2013

Our membership is up significantly over the past few years. Some of our members are out of town, and our only contact with them is by email. This is a reflection of the success of our website. As well as our paid membership, we have a mailing list of almost 150 "friends of the society". Our membership chairman will report the current standing.

The events we have held this year have been generally well received. At our annual meeting on April 17, 2012, we presented a powerpoint on the Native peoples of this area. This generated an invitation from the Fireside Group at Duff's Church, and the same presentation was given there later in the year.

On May 27, 2012, we held a walking tour of Victoria Street in Morriston. The histories of the seventeen houses on this street, and profiles of the first residents were given by Historical Society members. The research for this tour came from our archives, an indication of the wealth of material we now hold. Morriston Evangelical Church provided refreshments at the end of the tour. Our plans for this year are to put this tour on powerpoint, so that it is available again sometime.

This year was the 175th anniversary of Duff's Church, and it held several events during 2012 to celebrate. One of the events was a Spirit Walk in Crown cemetery in collaboration with our society. The walk was held September 17. Puslinch Historical Society researched the life stories of five members of Duff's Church buried in Crown, and they were presented by descendants. Some of these people came from a fair distance in order to take part in the event. By the time we had gone round to five headstones in this big cemetery, it was getting dark, and the last one had to be read by flashlight. Refreshments were provided in the chapel at the end of the tour by the church. There were about 50 people present.

The last meeting to report on was held January. 22 2013. Readings from diaries, journals and newspaper clippings documenting the experiences of the first settlers here were presented. It was a bitterly cold night, and we thank those who turned out for the event.

Our archives have been open to the public on Wednesdays afternoons and all day Saturday. But because so many queries are handled by e mail now, we have found that Wednesday afternoons at the archives are very slow. It means that our archivist Vi Bain is often tied up here only to have no one show up. Therefore, for the present time, the archives are open on Saturdays only, but there are three names posted on the window to contact for appointments for other times if needed. Vi and Betty Ferguson man the archives on Saturdays.

We have added a lot of material to the archives this year, which has meant rearranging the shelving. The big chore of re-indexing everything lies ahead. Most of the new items have been donated, and I must mention that Betty Ferguson, archives researcher, has been especially generous.

Another thank you goes to Dianne Fine, our website manager, who has also agreed to serve as a Director effective with this meeting.

In summary, I feel that the year was successful. Although our society is not large, we have a significant profile in the township, and indeed, internationally. I thank all the volunteers for their commitment and enthusiasm.

Betty Andersen, President.