

# **PUSLINCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*c/o Puslinch Library  
29 Brock Road South, Aberfoyle  
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www.puslinchhistorical.ca*

*Newsletter No 12 February 2014*

## ***SOME HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS IN 2013***

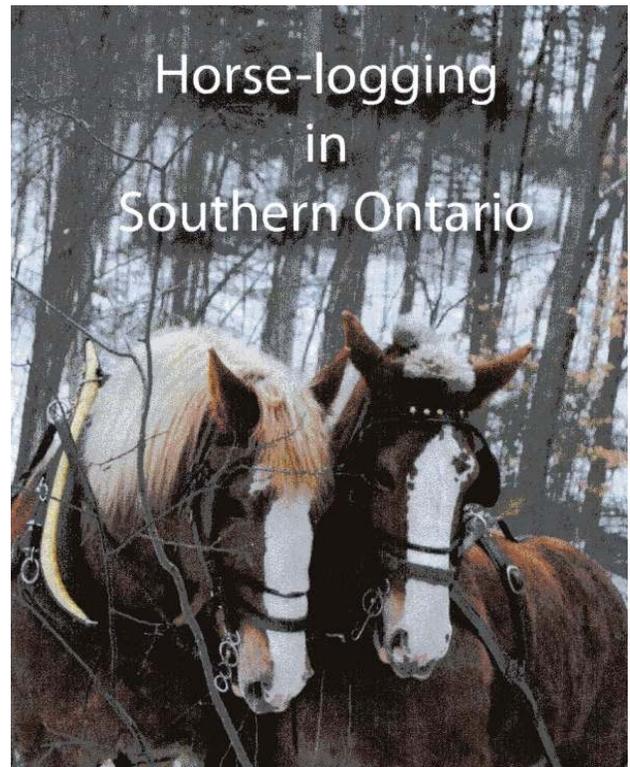
For our third annual ***Spirit Walk in Crown Cemetery*** last June, five people who are buried there were profiled. Included were a World War 11 soldier, an early music teacher, two settlers and a storekeeper. As we toured the cemetery locating their graves, details of their lives were presented by five volunteer readers. The story of soldier Roy Winer was especially touching. Another Spirit Walk is planned for mid June this year.



***Film maker and quilting artist Joan Hug-Valeriotte***

Joan's documentary of horse-logging which was shown in October, evoked times past when horse-power was all there was.

Greg Parker of Puslinch and his team of Belgians were the stars of this production.



On November 12, 2013 author Larry D. Cotton came to Puslinch to spin tales of booze and the role it played in pioneer life in Puslinch from his new book "Whiskey & Wickedness-Wellington & Grey Counties 1825-1885."

He has done a series on the role whiskey played in pioneer life in various Ontario counties. He gathers his information from criminal court records, early newspapers and other original sources. His book was snapped up by the audience, who peppered him with questions as well.

**IN THE ARCHIVES**

Betty Ferguson is on deck in the archives every Saturday and on call at other times for historical queries. Genealogy is her passion, and she is helping people from all over trace their Puslinch roots. Many inquiries come through our web site, manned by volunteer Dianne Fine. Lynn Crow manages the photo collection; there is a sizable collection now, indexed and with all people identified. We are indebted to another volunteer, too modest to be named I'm sure, for his work in updating our database. Many hours were involved, and we thank you, Mr. C.

**COMING UP IN 2014**

**A SPECIAL TREAT !**

**ELIZABETH RITCHIE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE HIGHLANDS IN SCOTLAND**

**RELATES STORIES OF PIONEER WOMEN IN UPPER CANADA**

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25 - 7 PM**

**at the ARCHIVES in the LIBRARY**

**ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY APRIL 8 - 7 PM**

Our Annual meeting is coming up in April when elections for the next two year term will be held. Our next executive will be taking on a society that is running quite smoothly. Do consider putting your name forth, new ideas and fresh approaches are always beneficial. A program of readings of local authors is also planned for the meeting, time permitting.

We are also seeking applicants to represent Puslinch Historical Society on the **Heritage Committee**. If you are a Historical Society member and live in Puslinch and this interests you, leave your name with Lynn Crow at ardyne.farm@sympatico.ca. See the article below for more information.



**May 13** Tuesday - 7 pm. At the archives

**Edith George**, Advisor to the Ontario Urban Forest Council will speak to us on "Heritage Trees - Preserving Our Natural Roots". She will focus on how to identify a tree's historical and cultural significance.

**June 23** 2014 - Spirit Walk in Crown Cemetery. Five people to be profiled.

**September 16** 2014 - Prof. Don Smith, (retired from U. of Calgary) on the Natives of this area.

**November 18** 2014 7 pm at the archives. **Paul O'Hara** is a field botanist, landscape designer and native plant gardening expert. He co-authored "Flora of Halton Region" in 2006 and has worked on numerous Species At Risk surveys. He will speak on 'Indian trail marker trees', which were trees intentionally deformed by the Natives as navigation aids to mark trails, water sources, or places to ford creeks for example.

Meetings are held at the Puslinch Historical Society archives, located in the Puslinch library building, 29 Brock Rd, Aberfoyle. Guests always welcome.

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#### PHS Representative on the Puslinch Heritage Committee

When Council formed an advisory committee in 1986 to record sites of heritage or historical significance in Puslinch to assist them, the Puslinch Historical Society was asked to nominate two members. Marilyn (Lynn) Crow and Duncan McFarlane were named by the Society and joined the first Local Architectural Advisory Committee (LACAC). Mrs. Gertrude (Gary) Collins represented the Ellis Chapel Board, and there were 3 other members at large who responded to the Township's ad in The Puslinch Pioneer.

Since that time, over 175 sites have been recorded. Local heritage plaques have been approved for 111 to date (66 of them in 2000). This plaquing program was a millennium project of LACAC. In 1998 and 1999, the Township hired summer university students to aid with the research for the June 2000 presentation of plaques. Since the initial program, half a dozen sites have been researched each year by the Heritage Committee. Once the research is compiled, a decision is made as to whether or not a site meets the criteria for a plaque. In 2003, Ontario changed the name of local advisory committees from LACAC to MHAC (Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee) and these are generally referred to by the shorter term 'Heritage Committee'. PHS has named just a single candidate since Duncan McFarlane retired.

This is a summary of the work to date by the Puslinch Heritage Committee. One other responsibility of the committee is to review applications for the demolition of a site. The Building Inspector has an inventory of heritage sites that have been plaqued locally, and contacts the Heritage Committee if a party applies for a demolition permit on one of those sites. Development, annexations and the changing official plan all affect growth in Puslinch. All zoning applications are reviewed by the committee.

I have continued to serve on the local heritage committee since its initiation in 1986, as secretary for many years and currently as chair. When my current 4-year term is complete in December 2014, I plan to step down. PHC will again be asked to send a nomination to the Township Council in the fall of 2014 and this time we will be looking for another of our members who might find this work of interest. Could this be you?

Respectively submitted as an item for our  
annual meeting in April 2014,

Lynn Crow - PHS member, PHC chair