

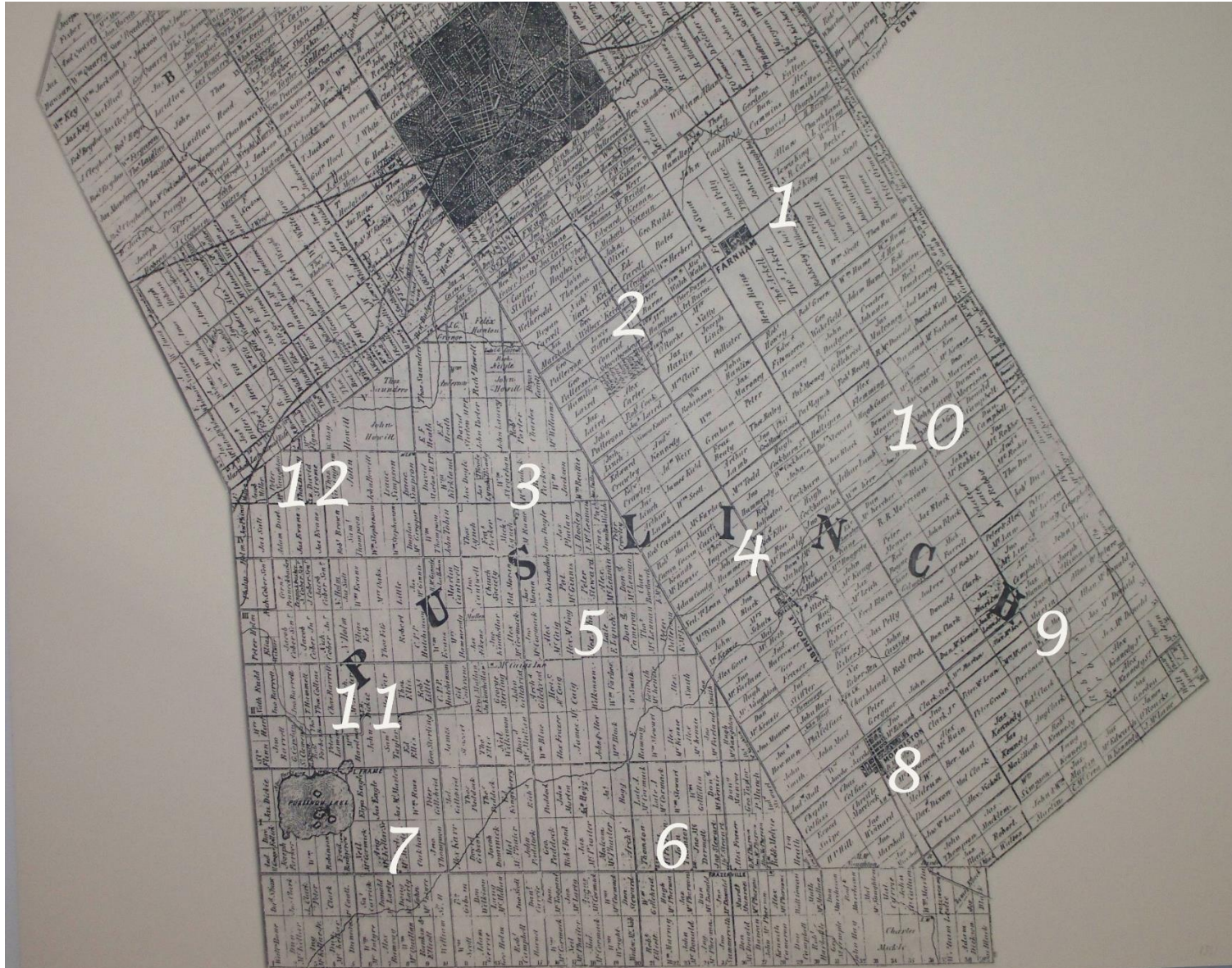
The Communities in Puslinch, Part 4 - Conclusion

School Sections 11 and 12

Prepared by the Puslinch Historical Society

2015

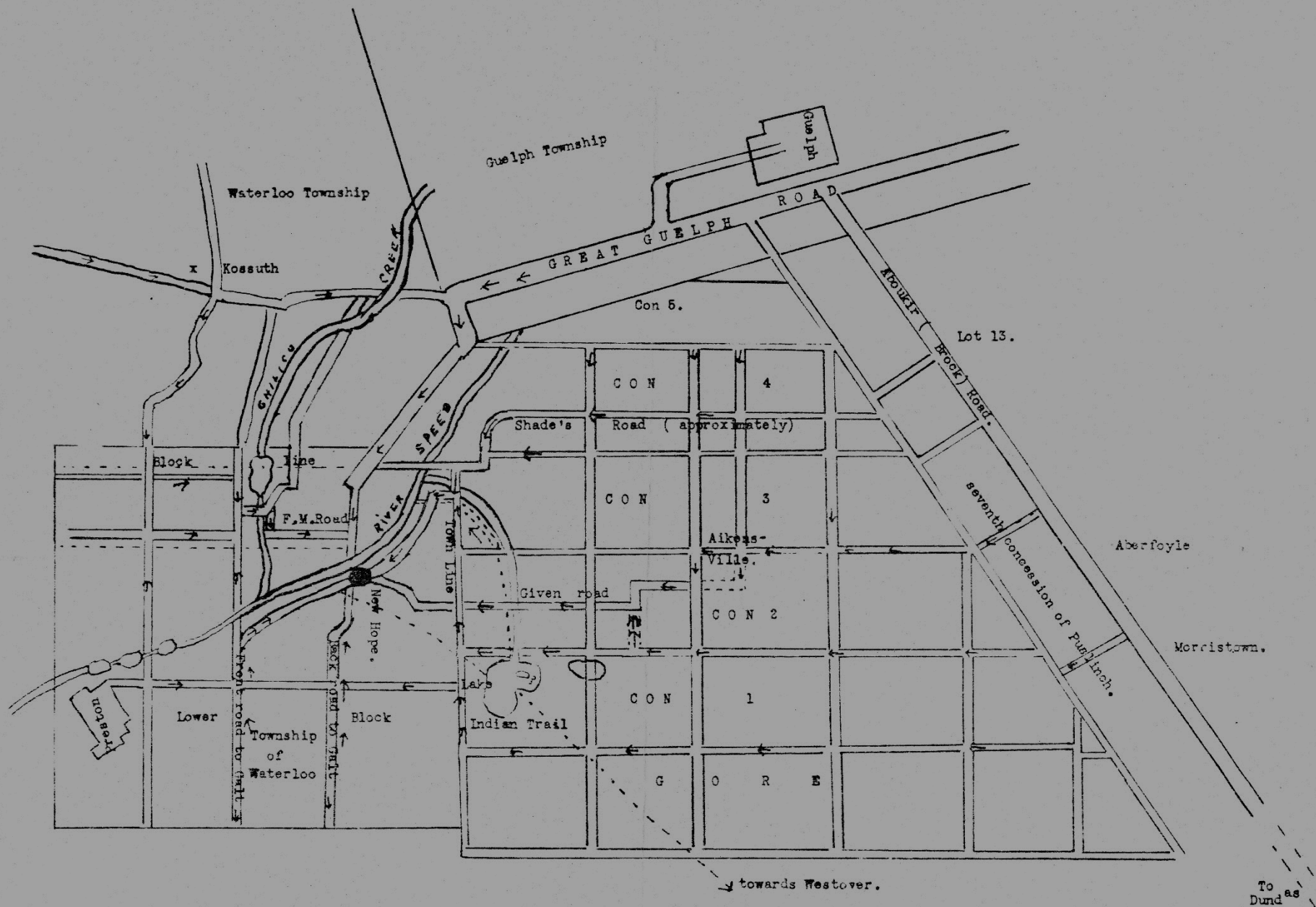
Township School Districts



- S.S. # 1 Arkell
- S.S. # 2 Brock Road
- S.S. # 3 Downey
- S.S. # 4 Aberfoyle
- S.S. # 5 3rd Concession
- S.S. # 6 Crieff
- S.S. # 7 Killeen
- S.S. # 8 Morriston
- S.S. # 9 Badenoch
- S.S. # 10 Corwhin
- S.S. # 11 Puslinch Lake
- S.S. # 12 Glenchristie

School Section 11

Pioneers in 1861



A local historian's map showing the Given or Accommodation Road between the Front and Rear lots of Concession 2 from the Speed River in Hespeler to Sideroad 10 N in Puslinch.

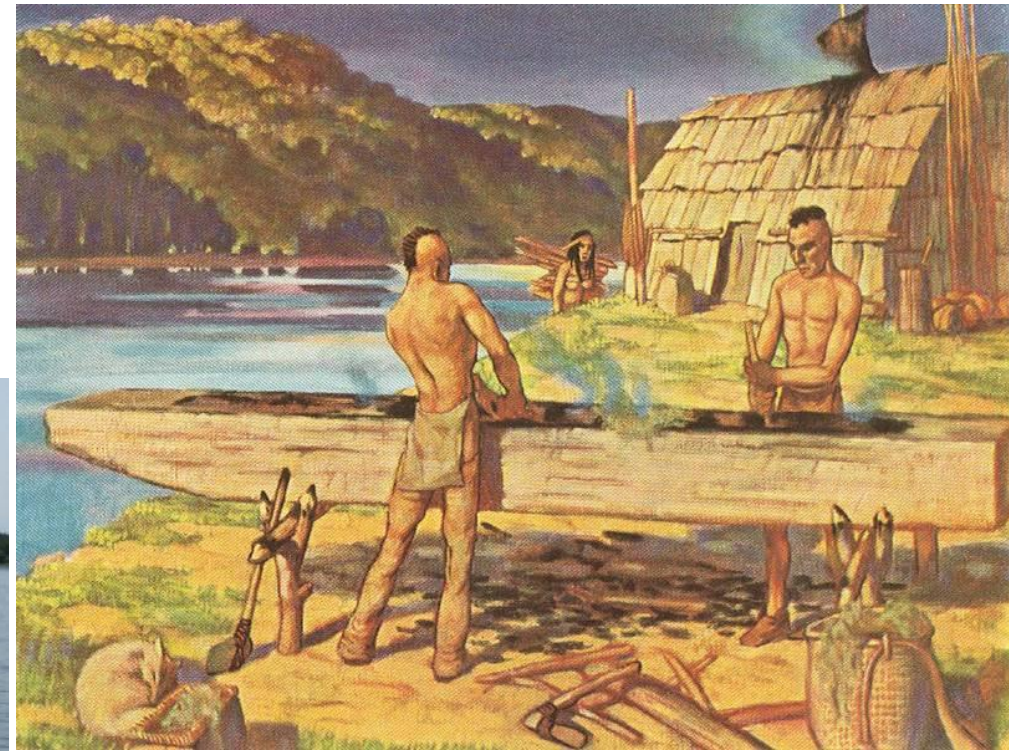
Also marked on this map are the known First Nations early trails through this section of Puslinch.

N.B. Morristown should be Morriston



THE LAKE ITSELF

– the largest kettle lake in Canada – in 2013 both *Puslinch Lake* and its companion *Little Lake* were signed as Natural Heritage Features of Puslinch



The lakes are shallow but have been popular as fishing and sailing sites.

LAKE SECTION PEOPLE

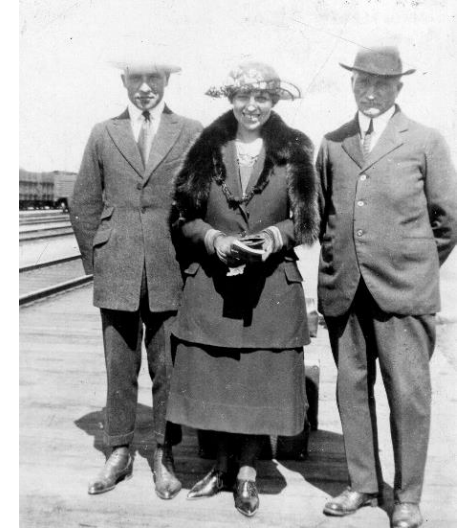
Elizabeth Ellis, Wm Sanford Ellis's daughter;
Thomas & Edward Ellis's grand niece



Peter Lamont, framer of
Ellis Chapel 1806-1879



Belle Robertson,
district nurse after
training in New York
and Ellis Chapel
Sunday School teacher
- her family lived on
the former Thomas
Ellis farm.



l. to r. Arthur and
Bertha Eagle with
their father Marvin
Eagle, former
school trustee and
Ellis Sunday School
superintendent



Gladstone
Zimmerman, Ellis
trustee's
90th birthday



Zimmerman family



Robert Little, on ground, John Little standing –family unknown

SOURCE: All photos from Helen Purdy collection

FARM LIFE



Edwin Shantz with double team on binder



Archibald & Alexander McAlister's threshing crew, c. 1885

Chopping wood was a necessity
for the cookstove

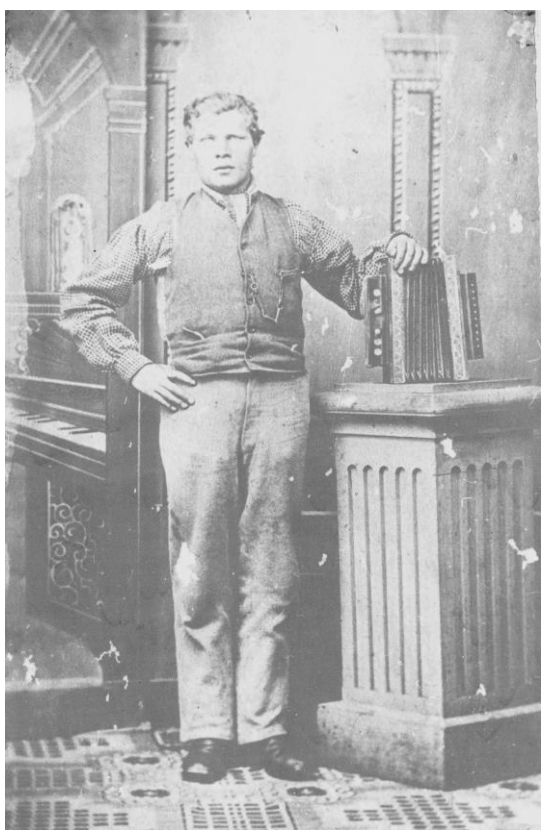
Harvesting silage c. 1910

Bringing in the winter supply of wood



John Little's lifelong interest
was forested land





August Begerow was known for his accordion music. His father Frederick owned the *Chieftain Hotel*.



A meal being served outside the *Marriot Hotel*.

An outing at the Lake, c. 1910



George Sleeman owned the *Puslinch Lake Resort* from 1882. The City of Guelph took over his holdings in 1903 and it remained a popular spot for outings from nearby Guelph.



Camping at Puslinch Lake was popular also and soon organized camps became profitable.



COMMERCE

In the 1920s *Eagle Point* was severed from the Eagle farm and 26 lots were created for cottages.

c. 1927

The Schoolhouse

The Lake school in the 1880s – Miss McWilliams, teacher. Note separation of boys and girls which was the order of the day.

S. S. # 11, *The Lake*, SCHOOLHOUSE.

The first log school was built on the John Dickie homestead, Lot 7 F2, in the 1840s. It was also used for worship by the section until Ellis Chapel was built in 1861. The fieldstone schoolhouse was built in 1865. Its rubblestone construction and 9-over-9 paned windows confirm this early date.



CHURCH SUPPER



This Methodist chapel served Section 11 from 1861 to 1884 when many went into Hespeler to worship.



It then continued as an interdenominational Sunday School from May to October until 1943.

YESTERDAY AND TODAY

A Chapel, a Sunday School,
a Scouting Hall and then
restored, which earned it
Provincial designation as a
Heritage Site in 1963.



Today it is used for weddings again.



ELLIS CHAPEL



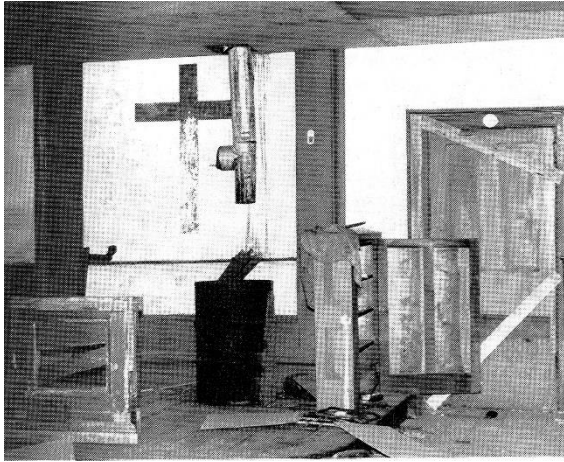
In 1962, the Department of Highways chose the land south of Ellis Chapel to build a Service Centre. Mr. Loyd Frank looked at the abandoned chapel when doing a cost estimate for the project and decided to organize local residents to restore it for the community.



1992

The Board of Ellis has planned various fundraisers including this Strawberry Festival.

l. to r. Bill & Jean Barker, Marilyn & Doug Robinson and Tom McMaster painting fences moved from the Old House of Providence in Toronto.



l. to r. Tom McMaster, Bill Barker and Jack Bishop restoring pews in Bill's barn.

CHAPEL RENOVATIONS

By the late 1950s, Ellis Chapel, unused and vandalized, was boarded up.

The cemetery stones were gathered into a cairn.

The plaster walls were sandblasted.



1966



1989



1989



1988

Helen Purdy was teaching at S. S. 11 when it closed in 1966. She taught next at Glen Christie and then at the consolidated school in Aberfoyle for many years.

Helen wrote the history:

ELLIS CHAPEL – Enduring and Everlasting about the church and families of Section 11, was groundskeeper for the Chapel and also Secretary of the volunteer committee that is responsible for Ellis Chapel.



In 2011, Ellis Chapel celebrated its 150th anniversary

From a small gathering of families at the Dickie homestead, to Thomas & Edward Ellis and Peter Lamont creating this house of worship with its remarkable windows for Sunday services, the community has made use of the building ever since.

In the summer of 2012, a series of services commemorated the sesquicentennial of Ellis Chapel with vignettes recreating its history.



l. DON TILMAN AS MAGISTRATE THOMAS ELLIS; r. DAN McMASTER AS HIS ANCESTOR ARCHIBALD McALISTER

PLAQUE BY FRED MAHNKE, PUSLINCH



Helen, nee Reeve, Einwechter, honorary trustee of Ellis Chapel, at the 150th anniversary. She attended Ellis Sunday School as a girl and her father was the last trustee of Ellis Chapel. He boarded it up for safekeeping.

At the August 21, 2011 anniversary service, Rev. Bill Lord of Harcourt Memorial United Church, in Guelph dedicated a plaque in the memory of the Dickie family who gave the land for the first log school where families of S. S. 11 first worshipped.

CELEBRATING the HISTORY of SCHOOL SECTION 11

PUSLINCH HERITAGE SITES

1860 Samuel Little farmhouse before renovations, Lot 7 F 3



County of Wellington *green legacy tree farm* office – Little farmhouse restored

Jacob Cober yellow-brick farmhouse, Lot 2 F 3



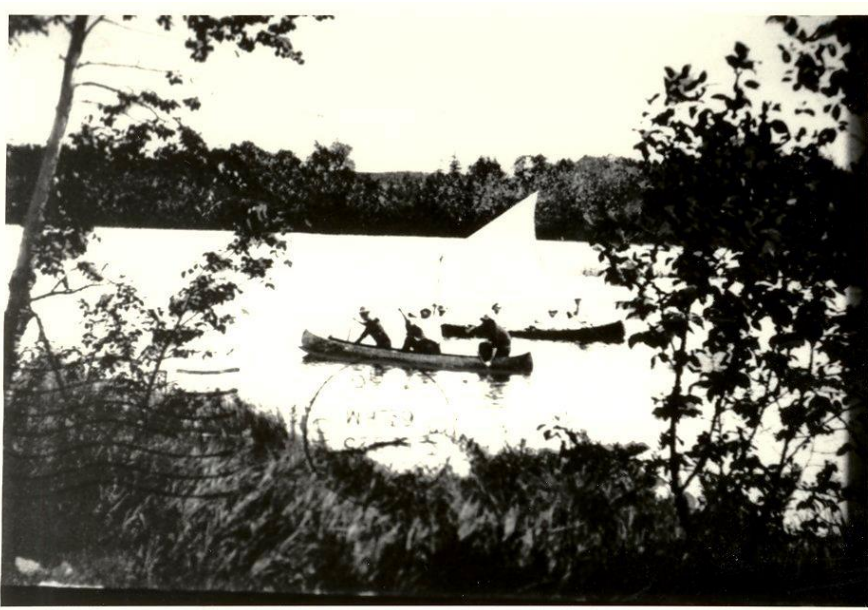
Charles Barrett farmhouse, Lot 5 R 2 – stucco over rubblestone

James Dickie farmhouse, Lot 1 R 1 – owned by GRCA and burned by vandals



John Barrett/Strome farmhouse, Lot 2, F 2, as seen on recreation page – today golf clubhouse

RECREATION yesterday & today



1909 postcard of sailing and canoeing on the lake



The GRCA Puslinch Tract, 2015



Many heritage buildings are being repurposed a century and a half after they were built – here a fieldstone farmhouse has been transformed into the clubhouse of the Puslinch Lake Golf Course.

Whitney McClintock, *5x world champion waterskier* (including 2015) – from McClintock family ski school at Puslinch Lake



In an unusual move in the 1970s, S. S. # 11 was approved for renovations that completely surrounded the original school, making it unrecognizable. It was repurposed as a union hall.

CHANGING TIMES

Top, right:
dredging
Puslinch Lake in
2005.



Below, right:
Today boaters
paddle past
estate homes on
the north side of
the lake.



GLEN CHRISTIE

School Section 12



SCHOOLHOUSE

In 1958 the stone schoolhouse was replaced by a 2-room T-shaped brick school. After consolidation meant the closure of the school sections in the 1960s, the school was purchased and changed into a private residence.

19th-century one-room schools were of similar architecture in this area. Built of fieldstone, with soldier lintels above the apertures, they were pointed with a mix of horsehair, sand and lime. Those with two entryways provided a girls' and boys' entrance. Support wires across the length of the ceiling were often visible in the classroom. A stove, usually near the back of the room, not only provided heat but also a place to warm up food.



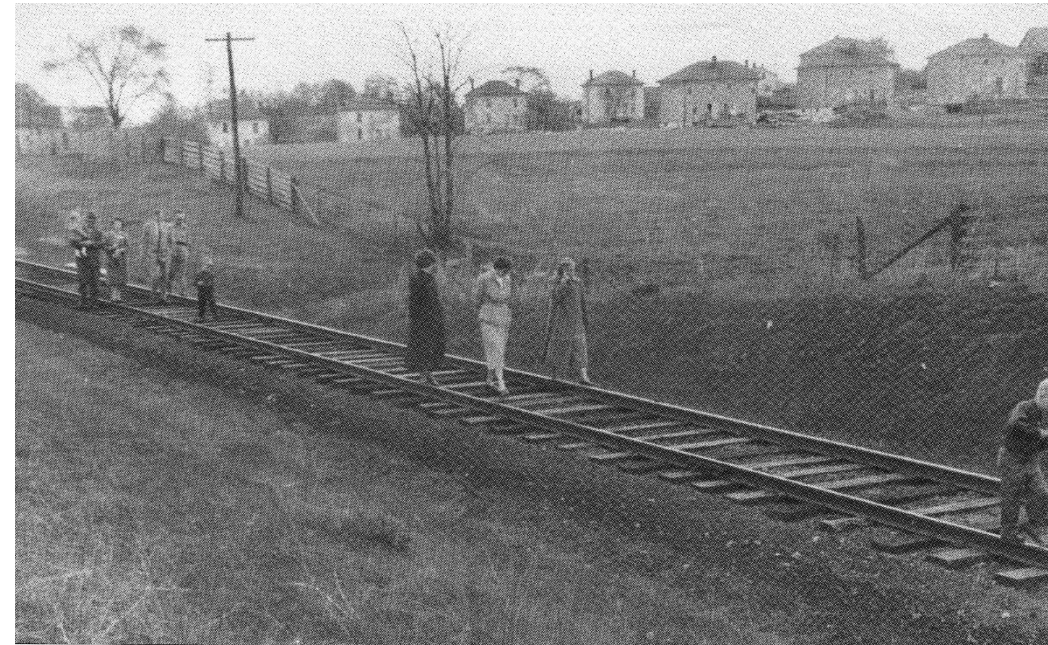
GLEN CHRISTIE: A COMPANY TOWN

- named after Mr. Christie, an early owner of the gravel pit in the NW section of this district



Above: aerial view of Glen Christie Centre, #16 on aerial photo: family outing on the tracks – the children attended S. S. 12

Left, #11 on aerial photo: general store on Highway 24 at entrance to Glen Christie



**PHOTOS
SOURCE:**
*Remembering
Glen Christie*, by
Paul Langan, in
PHS archives



A church was built on the grounds, but workers soon worshipped in nearby towns. The building then continued to be used as a Sunday School and meeting place for groups like the W. I.

PHOTOS SOURCE: *Glen Christie*
by Paul Langan in PHS archives



This photo of Glen Christie workers is from 1932.

1932 Workers – men and horses.

The gravel pit provided jobs and housing during the depression

When the pit was expanded in the 1970s, the buildings were all demolished and the workers moved to Hespeler and Guelph.



*Glen Christie had the first post boxes in Canada.
Bonnie Kerr in the arms of her dad E.J. (Fin) Kerr*



The pit where limestone was quarried and crushed for lime used in plaster.

The company changed hands several times but after the 1979 strike it was closed down.



Del Meadows, seen here in this 1970s picture, was the management representative staying in the quarry office during the 1979 strike.

CHURCHES

There were 3 churches in the area. The short-lived church at Glen Christie, Howitt Memorial Methodist Church and Crossroads Memorial Church.

Howitt Memorial Church



SOURCE: Miss J. North, Hespeler ON

An early photo of the fieldstone church that replaced the log *Kirkland Church* on the property in 1888. Note the horse sheds out back. Built on a corner of the Howitt property, the name was changed to *Howitt Memorial*. In 1925 union, it became *Howitt Memorial United Church*. The church was closed just 4 years later, became vandalized and was eventually torn down in 1983. It is located at the SW corner of Conc. 5 and Sideroad 10.

Crossroads Church



SOURCE: *Building Sites* website

This red brick church was built in the 1870s as an interdenominational house of worship, also known for a time as *Union Church*. It is at the intersection of Concession 4 and County Road 32. Today it is the *Crossroads Brethren in Christ Church*.

PIONEERS



In the NE corner of this section were Scottish settlers. The Buchanan farm (above) and the Anderson farm on Conc. 5 were recorded by PHC. James Anderson chaired several meetings at Howitt Memorial Church.



Niels Holm, whose parents immigrated from Denmark, dammed the Speed River just east of the town line with Waterloo County. He built a grist mill on the Waterloo County side, and a sawmill on the Puslinch side. His frame home, seen below, was built of post-and-beam construction and his original mill was expanded several times.



SOURCE: Clarks of Tomfad website

John Howitt painting, 1862

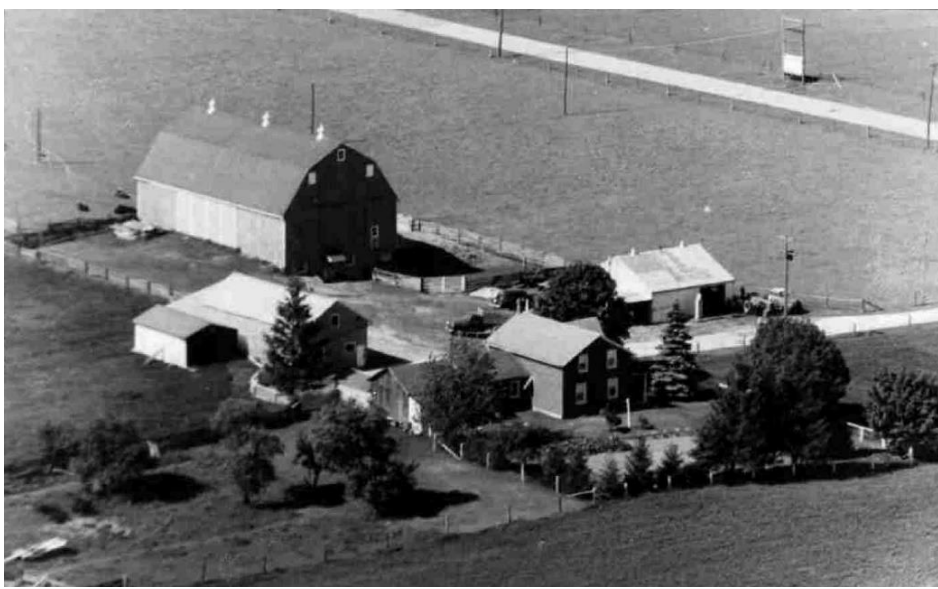
English families of means settled blocks of land along the Speed River, south of the Guelph Township border. Roland Winfield had 800 acres. When he sold out, 600 of them went to John "Quaker" Howitt. A friend of William Wetherald, John Howitt had one of the largest libraries in this part of Upper Canada at his farm, *The Grange*. Winfield and Howitt were best known as importers of purebred livestock. What is not as well known is that John Howitt profited from opening a large gravel pit in NW Puslinch. Others of English descent to pioneer in the area were the Heath, Evans and Saunders whose homestead, *Woodlands*, is recorded on the *Settlement* slide.



Waterloo County was settled 30 years before Wellington. Many German settlers moved over the line from the Hespeler area into Puslinch when land opened up here. Above are two houses built by the Pannabecker family. Right is the farmhouse of the Rudels. The Cobers owned several hundred acres, part in S. S. 11 district and part in S. S. 12.



Aerial view of the
Louis Evans family
farm, Lot 5, R 3 –
today Don Inglis'
produce farm.



Cattle farm of
Glen and Louise
McKittrick, west
of Roszell Rd.

FARMS



Deter farm, F. Conc. 4 at
Roszell Road.



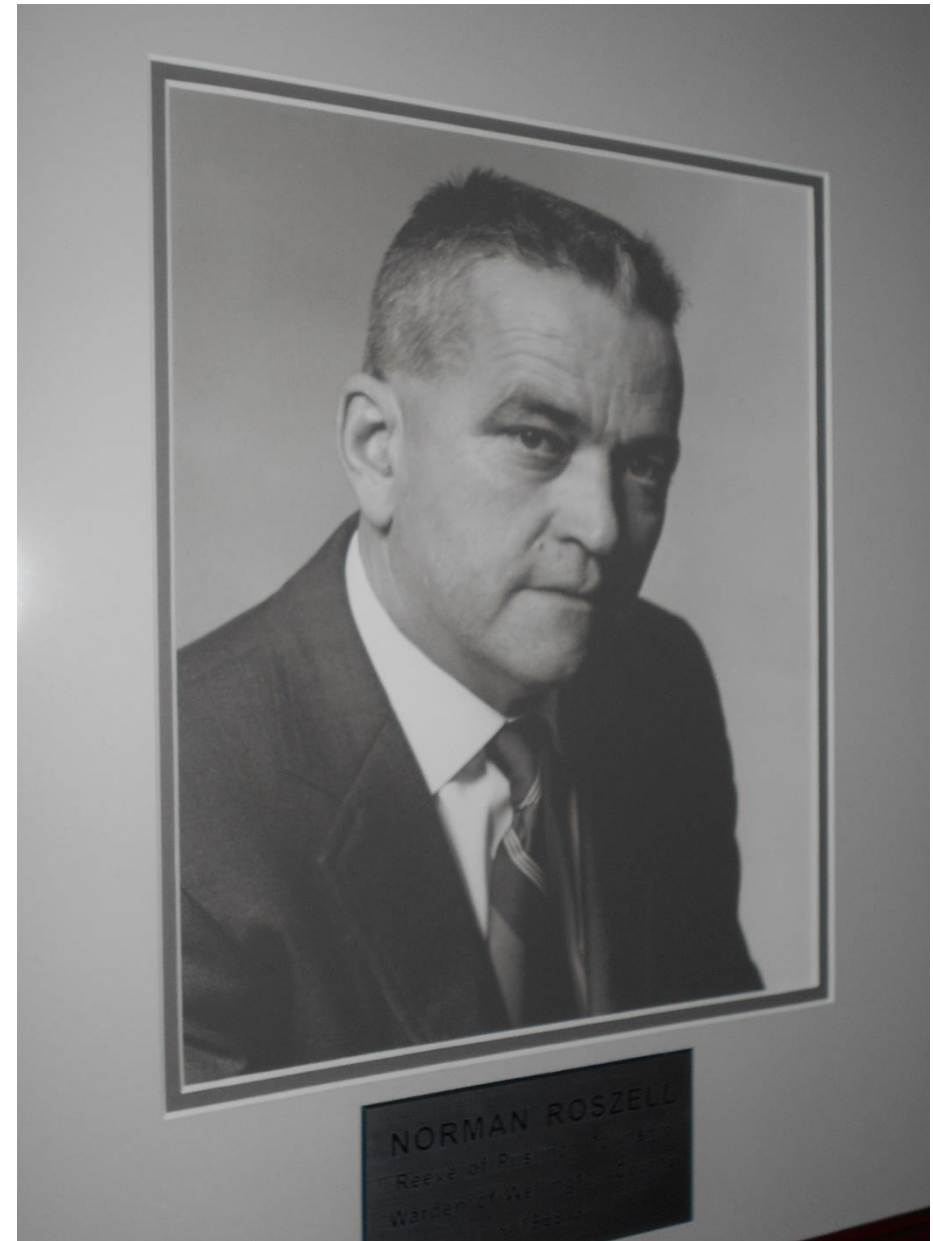
Lloyd & Elaine Weber
have become the biggest
livestock producers in
Puslinch today with their
poultry production.



MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP

While born in the Crieff school section on Lot 25, Rear of the 1st, Sam and his wife Dorothy purchased a farm on “the 3rd”, and Dorothy accepted a job to teach at S. S. # 5.

We have placed Sam in School District 12 because he later purchased a farm on the road that wound from Town Line up to Concession 5, and this road became Roszell Road in the Township.



Norman (“Sam”) Roszell, Wellington County Warden 1969

CHANGING TIMES

Gravel extraction began in the 1860s but most farms in this district were family units until recently. Now gravel pits have taken over.

- the 1860s Howitt quarry was at the south end of the present day Dolime Quarry that you see at the SW corner of the Hanlon Expressway at Wellington Street
- the Glen Christie pit in the early 20th century spanned the line between Puslinch and Waterloo County off Regional Rd. 24
- extensive gravel extraction off Concession 5 that includes the Nigro, Puslinch, Martini & Philips Pits
- another large area of gravel extraction today is on the former McKittrick farm, just north of the Roszell farm



ROSZELL PIT

Puslinch Communities from A to T

If you have browsed through all four of the PHS *Communities in Puslinch* presentations, you should now be able to knowledgeably discuss all of the former hamlets and villages of the Township!

Aberfoyle
Aikensville
Arkell
Badenoch
Brock Road
Corwhin
Crieff
Downey
Elgin
Farnham Plains
Frazerville
Glen Christie
Killean
Morrison
Paddock's Corners
Puslinch Lake
Schaw Station
Strachan's Corners
The Third

This presentation was given over three different evenings in 2015. PHS would like to thank the narrators for their work in presenting each community:

- Bea Woolsey (PHS author of village histories), S. S. 1 Arkell
- Lynn Crow (PHS photo archivist), S. S. 2 Brock Rd.
- Dan Forestell (native of *Downey* school district), S. S. 3 Downey
- Lynn Crow (PHS photo archivist) and Glen Leachman (native of *Aberfoyle* who helped prepare this), S. S. 4 Aberfoyle
- Bill Crow (native of *The Third*), S. S. 5 The Third Concession
- Doug McDonald (native of *Crieff*), S. S. 6 Crieff
- Lynn Crow (PHS photo archivist) and PHS member Betty Ferguson (for material on this district), S. S. 7 Killeen
- Cheryl Huether McLean (native of *Morrison*), S. S. 8 Morrison
- Lois McLean (native of *Badenoch*), S. S. 9 Badenoch
- Robert McFarlane (native of *Corwhin*), S. S. 10 Corwhin
- Betty Anderson (PHS 1st past president), S. S. 11 Puslinch Lake
- Leonard Harnack (native of *Glen Christie*), S. S. 12 Glen Christie