The Communities in Puslinch, Part 2

School Sections 5 to 8

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 Killean

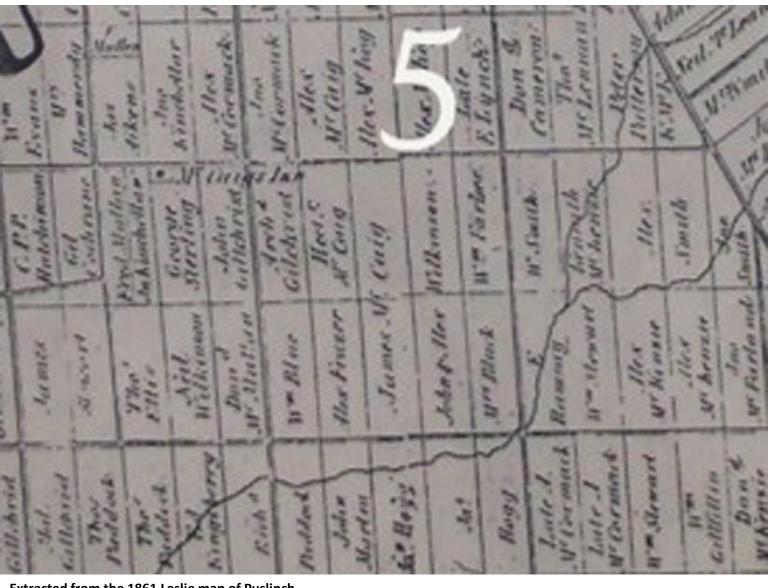
S.S. #8 Morriston

S.S. # 9 Badenoch

S.S. # 10 Corwhin

S.S. # 11 Puslinch Lake

S.S. # 12 Glenchristie



A COMMUNITY CENTERED ON

"The Third" Concession

School Section 5

Extracted from the 1861 Leslie map of Puslinch.

A log school was built on an acre of land donated by the Alexander McKay family on the southeast corner of their farm. A fieldstone schoolhouse replaced the original log structure on this lot, Part Lot 19, Front Concession 3. Opened in 1868, washrooms were added to the front of the schoolhouse in the early 1900s. A series of postcards produced c. 1910 showcased villages, schools, churches and community halls including this postcard (lower left) of S.S.# 5, known to locals as "The Third".



The Schoolhouse

A century later the schoolhouse was closed and became first a workshop and then a private home. Renovations in 2010 restored the belfry and included a room out front where the washrooms used to be.

PHC Listed Site



Settlement



Two township road signs commemorate S. S. # 5 pioneer families at *Aikensville* and *Paddock's Corners*. The 1861 Leslie map of Puslinch records *McCaig's Inn* at Aikensville where there was also a Post Office for the school section.



James Aikens emigrated from Ireland and settled on the 3rd Concession in 1834.



Malcolm McCaig's log inn and P.O., Pt. lot 12, R. conc. 2 covered in aluminum siding in the 20th Century.



Paddock family farms surrounded this corner for over 150 years. The Stewart Paddock family and Donald Paddock continue to work the land south of the intersection today.

PIONEERS

Alex' McKay was born on the northeast coast of Scotland in 1800 and brought his family to lots 19 & 20, F. conc. 3 in 1844.



Alexander McKay, husband of Catharine McLennan Son of Jean (Fraser) and Alexander McKay Born in Herau Scotland, April 1800 — Died July 11, 1887

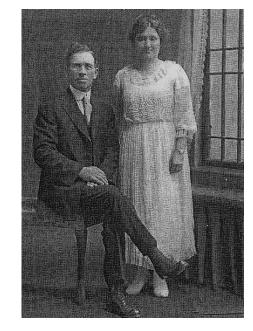
James Hogg, Scotland's famed poet known as the Ettrick Shepherd, lived and died in Scotland but relatives settled in N. Dumfries, Puslinch and Galt.

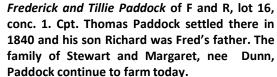


In communities of Puslinch like Badenoch, where Highland Scots settled, their plaids (wraps) were woven in *tartan* patterns. Here we see examples of Eastern Scotland's wraps, woven in *check* designs like the well-known Shepherd's Check.

PHS historians look for images of the pioneers of Puslinch in family histories and on-line research. Since there were no cameras at the time that the Township was settled in the 1830s, we rely on family portraits (paintings) or pictures that were taken when those who immigrated were getting on in years.











Above: Margaret McCaig, daughter of Donald and Mary (nee Cochrane) McCaig of lot 17, r. conc. 2, born Kintyre, Scotland 1820, immigrated with her family to Puslinch in 1838.

Left: her nephew *Donald McCaig*, son of her younger brother Hector and his wife Mary, nee McKenzie, McCaig. Donald purchased the farm across the road from the McCaig homestead in the 1890s where McCaig descendants continue to farm today. Neil McCaig is this Donald's great-grandson.



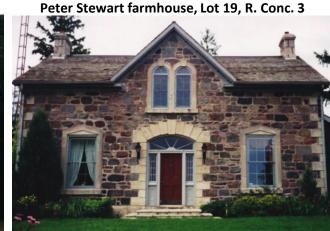
1850s McLennan log house, Lot 20, R. Conc. 3

Heritage Buildings

Many sites are listed in the heritage register of Puslinch from the S. S. # 5 school district – 7 of the 8 below, plus the McCaig/Crow/Paddock farmsteads.



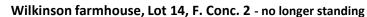






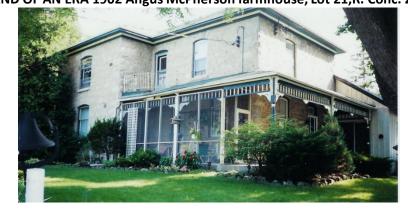
1882 Richard Paddock farmhouse, Lot 16, R Conc. 1







END OF AN ERA 1902 Angus McPherson farmhouse, Lot 21,R. Conc. 2



Others in School Section 5

Samuel Smith family from Ireland – mother Catherine, nee Coyne – lot 22 F 3





Carl Ross, son of Hugh Ross, lot 21 F3

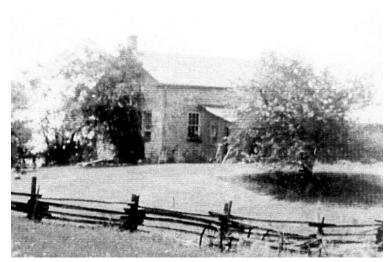


Alexander Smith family from Scotland, lot 22 R2 – son Don Smith, lot 18 R2





The John Wm. (Jack) Paddock house I. and Rhoderick McKay houses were both built c. 1922. The McKay house was to replace the original McKay farmhouse that burned at that time.



Farmsteads

There is a diminishing number of families making their living solely from the land in Puslinch.

Lot 16, Concession 1, Front and Rear



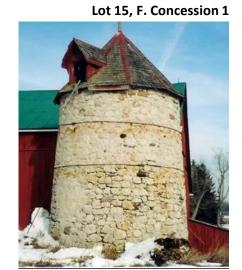
Stewart and Margaret Paddock family's farm.



Alexander McCaig's 1845 log house with additions; his son Donald's 1892 barn and small storage shed, plus new drive shed. Today Neil and Janice McCaig's.



1859 bank barn built by *Hector McCaig*, brother of Alexander, and 1875 fieldstone farmhouse, with new outbuilding in front. Today farmed by *Crows*.

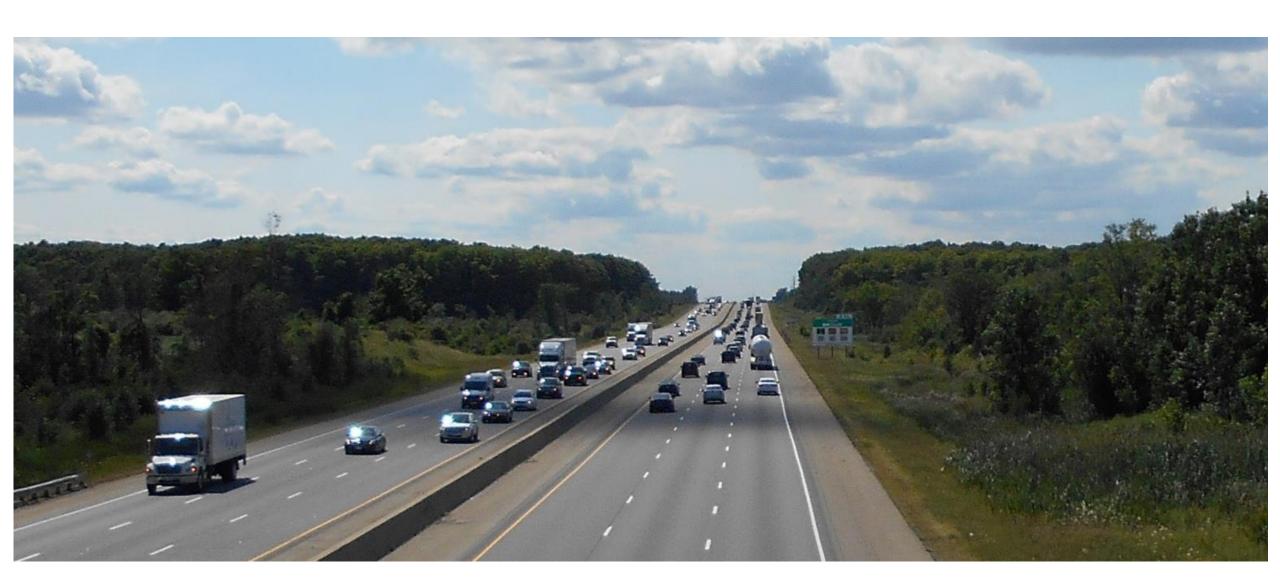


Donald Paddock fieldstone silo.



James and John Hogg farmland. At one time they owned 600 acres, F and R of the 2nd concession, W west of Sideroad 20 S, but parts were swampy land. In 1910, Jame's grandson moved his family to SK and the Julian Lake family purchased this farm.

The biggest changes to Puslinch have resulted from the dissection of the Township by the McDonald-Cartier Freeway, built here from 1958-60.

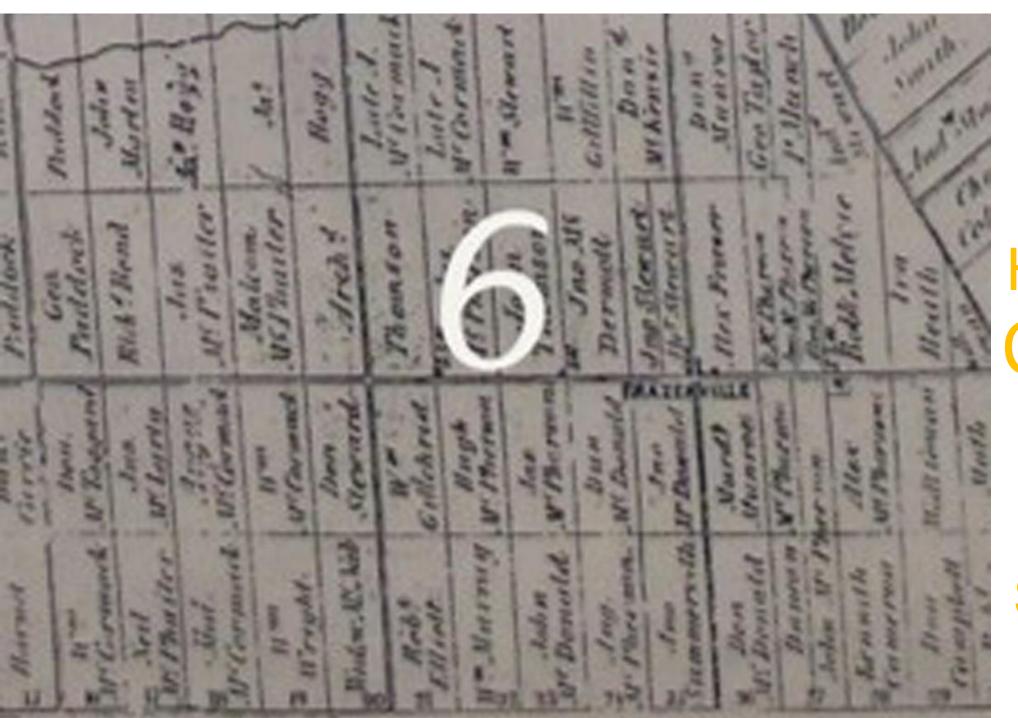




CHANGING TIMES

COMMUTER TRAFFIC is the biggest change in recent years, and new homes lining The Third – now Wellington Road 34. In the 1960s there were three houses built on the fronts of farms in this district – Norm and Dorothy Roszell sold their farm on Lot 19, R. Conc. 2 and built a small house closer to the road; retired farmer Tommy Aikens built on the front of the original McKay farm west of S. S. # 5; and Aberfoyle teacher Glennys Bell had married Ray Stewart and they built their house closer to the village on the 3rd. Now – 50 years later – there are are more than 30 houses lining the concessions in this school district, plus a cluster of large estate homes named, Heritage Lake Estates, on the former Alexander Smith farm.

Wellington Road 34 is an Emergency Alternate Route for 401. Two GO buses are in the traffic stopped in front of McCaig's farm.



The Hamlet of CRIEFF

School Section 6

Frame school which replaced the original log school in 1858.

A fieldstone schoolhouse was built in 1874.



The schoolhouse is part of *CRIEFF HILLS CONFERENCE CENTRE* today – a retreat center of the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

A CHURCH, A SCHOOL ... A COMMUNITY

c. 1920

While originally called FRAZERVILLE after the family on whose land it began, the hamlet had changed its name to CRIEFF by the 1877 Puslinch map. The latter name was after a town in the shire of Inverness in Scotland, the area left behind by several Crieff families.



The Presbyterian congregation of West Puslinch built a log church on land donated by Neil McPhatter on Lot 15 in the 1840s. This was replaced by a frame church on the SW corner of Lot 26, F. Conc. 1 – a plot donated by Alexander Frazer. In 1882 the current yellow brick church was built on Lot 26, and became Knox Presbyterian Church, Crieff.

PIONEER FAMILIES







John Bond, soldier 1836-1906



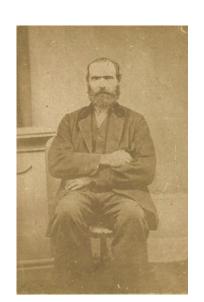
William Bond, son of Richard, farmed lot 17, F conc. 1



Alexander & Margaret, nee Wilkinson, McPherson farmed lot 28, R Gore



Mr. & Mrs. Sandy McCallum, farmed lot 22, R. conc. 1



The PHS archives hold many wonderful family

group photos, scanned from originals held by

descendants of Puslinch pioneer families.

William McCormick, Sr., lot 19, R Gore



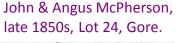
James McPherson, "Jimmy the Giant", one of the greatest roadmakers Puslinch ever had

HERITAGE BUILDINGS

Hand-hewn pine logs in 1845 John Thomson cabin, Lot 23, F. Conc. 1



Today "House of the Prophet" at Crieff Hills Presbyterian Retreat.





Archibald Thomson's 1853 2-storey Georgian farmhouse, Lot 21, F. Conc. 1.



Duncan McPherson farmhouse, 1853 with 1860s addition, Lot 27, R. Gore.



From Georgian to the "Ontario-farmhouse" vernacular style of architecture, Crieff's school district has many sites listed on the heritage register of Puslinch.

Stonemason McDonalds' 1860s house, Lot 24, R. Gore.



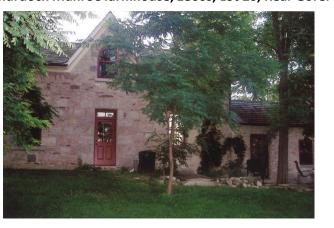
Contrast the Scottish masons' fieldstone Edinburgh-



Farmhouse of German stonemasons Christopher and Jacob Schultz, 1882, Lot 32, R. Gore.

coursing of stones to the German masons' use of small dark granite stones to separate larger limestone blocks. The quintessential Ontario farmhouse seen throughout the province in stucco, stone and brick – gable window over central entrance door, 4 rooms up and 4 rooms down, usually with kitchen wing - Crieff stonemasons embraced the style.

Murdoch Munroe farmhouse, 1860s, Lot 26, Rear Gore.



McDiarmid farmhouse, 1870s, "House of the Dove" at Crieff Hills Retreat, Lot 24, F. Conc. 1.



Alex^r McPherson farmhouse, lot 28, R. Gore.



Walter Cowan farmhouse, 1860s, lot 29, R. Gore.



Donald Stewart Sr. 1870s farmhouse, lot 20, R. Gore. James McPherson Sr. 1877 farmhouse, lot 23, R Gore





LISTED SITES continued

Malcolm McNaughton farmhouse, 1870s, lot 33, R. Gore.





Crieff once had 2 stores.

One was on Pt. Lot 25 and operated by Louis Gregor. It burned down, and James McDonald built and kept the Post Office on this site. He eventually remodelled his building. The other store – Henry Becker's – was on Pt. Lot 26. Both are now private homes. Both are PHC listed sites.

remodelled his building. The other store – Henry Becker's – was on Pt.

Lot 26. Both are now private homes. Both are PHC listed sites.

In a Puslinch Historical Society.

A hotel was licensed in 1862 by Jacob Kerracher and was just west of the 1854 frame church. William McDonald's shoemaker shop was north of the hotel. When the stone schoolhouse was built in 1874, the frame school was sold to the Sons of Temperance and relocated to Crieff. However in 1878, just four years later, a fire took the hotel, the shoemaker's and the Temperance Hall. The stone house north of the current church was built on the land left vacant by the fire.



Former Becker store. Pt. Lot 26, F. Conc. 1

In a Puslinch Historical Society oral interview with local farmer D. A. Stewart he said it was nothing to see 60 or 70 men outside the hotel in the evening in Crieff when the railroad was being built.

Across the road from Knox Church and the former Becker store is a parking lot on land left vacant when Murdoch and Kenneth Munroe's blacksmith shop was taken down. It too had been an integral part of rural services to the local farm families.



Allan Stewart of lot 20, R. Gore was Warden of Wellington County in 1899.

ALAN STEWART
Reeve of Puslinch Township
Warden of Wellington County

MUNICIPAL LEADERS



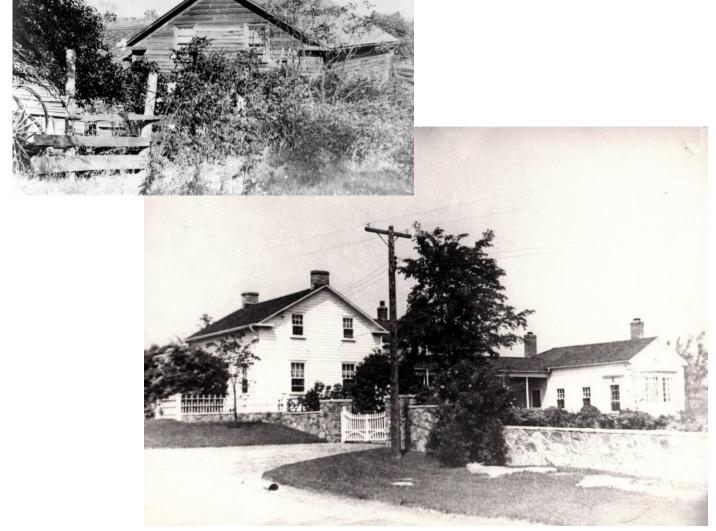
Newly-elected Warden James McMillan has chain of office adjuted by outgoing Warden Clifton Kells, while recently-appointed ounty clerk-treasurer Mrs. Vera Myers looks on.

James McMillan was Warden of the County in 1964. His Crieff-area farm was on lot 29, F. concession 7.

Though he lived on the 3rd Concession while a municipal politician, *Archie MacRobbie* was a son of Crieff. A longtime Reeve of Puslinch and Warden of Wellington County in 1985.



CHANGING TIMES



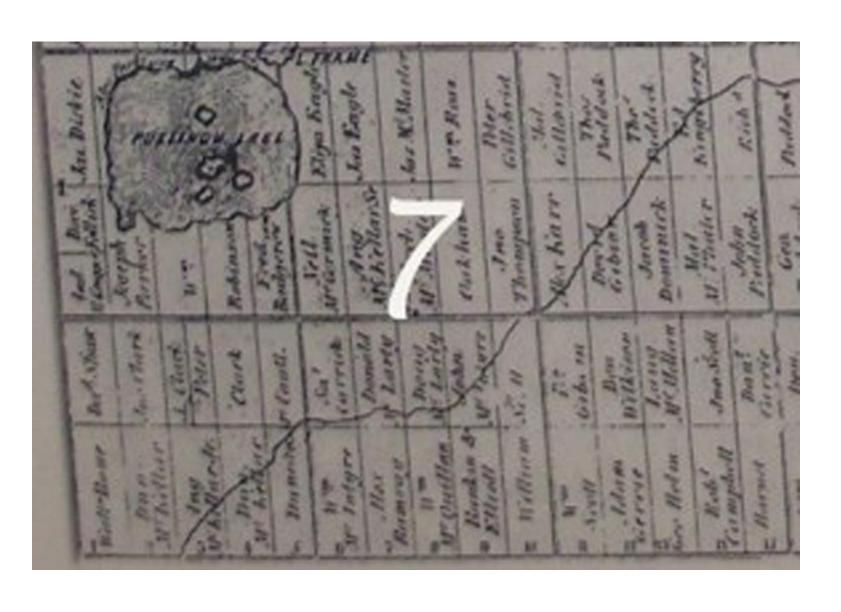
COLONEL J. B. MACLEAN ESTATE, PT. LOT 18, F. Conc. 1



Today this property is home to *Sunrise Equestrian Centre*.

A well-known Puslinch son was born at Crieff in 1862. John Bayne Maclean – referred to locally as "Colonel Maclean" because he rose to this rank in the militia – was the son of Rev. Andrew Maclean of Crieff. Known for his publishing empire and *Macleans* magazine, in 1925 Col. Maclean hired architects to remodel his father's former manse into a country retreat for his family.

In 1954 the property was sold to a SW Ontario Danish Association and renamed *Sunset Villa*. Their dining room is open to the public on specified hours and is a popular dining destination for Danish cuisine.



The Hamlet of KILLEAN

School Section 7

KILLEAN SCHOOLHOUSE

With its proximity to Waterloo County, Killean children first attended a Union School further south along Mill Creek in Waterloo County. Students attended from North Dumfries and this SW corner of Puslinch. The location is now within the boundaries of the former Galt portion of Cambridge.

Photo from collection of Dave Menary, Galt.



Students of S. S. #7 c. 1930



A gathering of the families of School Section # 7 c. 1890

John Thomson and his wife Janet McCormick of F lot 10 concession 1. John purchased his farm when lots on the west side of Concession 1 were sold at a sale in York in 1831.



FIRST FAMILIES

The Ferguson Family in front of store and P.O., 1883. Donald Ferguson, seated, donated land immediately east of their store for the local cemetery. (Fergusons' land bordered John Thomson's farm.)

From 1831 to 1842 lots in the southwest corner of Puslinch were taken up by families almost exclusively from the Kintyre Peninsula of Scotland who named this area *Killean* after their home parish in Kintyre: Thomson, McPhatter, Blue, Ramsay, McCormick, McAllister, Gibson, Gilchrist, McKellar, McLarty, Wilkinson ...



Alexander
Gilchrist –
first Gilchrist
to be born on
their Puslinch
homestead,
lot 11 R.
concession 1,
1843.





The gate to the right of the Killean cemetery entrance reads: CREATED IN MEMORY OF DONALD FERGUSON and JOHN THOMPSON WHO GAVE THE LAND FOR THIS CEMETERY.

Marriage certificate from the Gibson family Bible. Andrew Gibson married Charlotte Ramsay in Upper Canada on 13 December 1844.



PHC inventory photo, 1999

n the 1870s, the families in the Killean district funded a

COMMUNITY

Wetlands prevail in the Killean section of **Concession 1 making it difficult to farm here.**

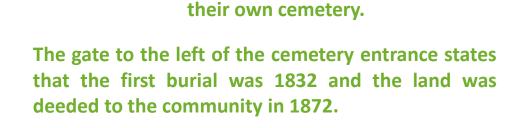






1902 Tug of **War Team**

McKellars, McLartys, Captains Ferguson and Gilchrist, etc. - names are labelled.



Many Killean families went to Galt to church, but wanted

THE RAILROAD

1959



Killean Station was on the Ramsay farm, lot 7 Gore.





Ramsays and Manarys at Killean station.

HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Ramsay farmhouse restored 2013, lot 7 F. Gore



John Gilchrist Sr. farmhouse, lot 11 R. concession 1



John Scott/Fixter farmhouse, lot 14 R. Gore



Begerow farmhouse renovated, Lot 5 F. concession 1





Above: lot 2, F. Gore Duncan McKellar farmhouse Below: Archibald McKellar farmhouse, lot 7 F. concession 1





Milroy/Frosch farmhouse renovated after fire, lot 2 R. Gore

Photo courtesy of Betty Ferguson, Killean.

SCOTCH HOUSE - store and Post Office (right half of building) and attached house (left) of the Donald Ferguson family, built c. 1869. Previous to this William Nichol had established a store quite early on lot 9.



This building is also a heritage property listed in the PHC inventory.



Peddler's used to visit the farms and this rare photo shows peddler Barney Levinsky's panel cart and horse King George calling at the Fergusons'.

Every community in Puslinch had at least one blacksmith shop. Pictured below is Neil Wilkinson's blacksmith shop, before it was torn down. It is an example of early secondstage frame buildings in Puslinch – constructed with vertical boards.





Lot 10, F. concession 1

MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP



born at Killean. He served as Mayor of Puslinch from 1989 to 2010 and was Warden of Wellington County in 2000, 2005 and 2006.

Renovated 1860s section of the John Little farmhouse is listed by PHC.



Tree seedlings are grown in an underground nursery built under the front lawn of the former Little farmhouse.

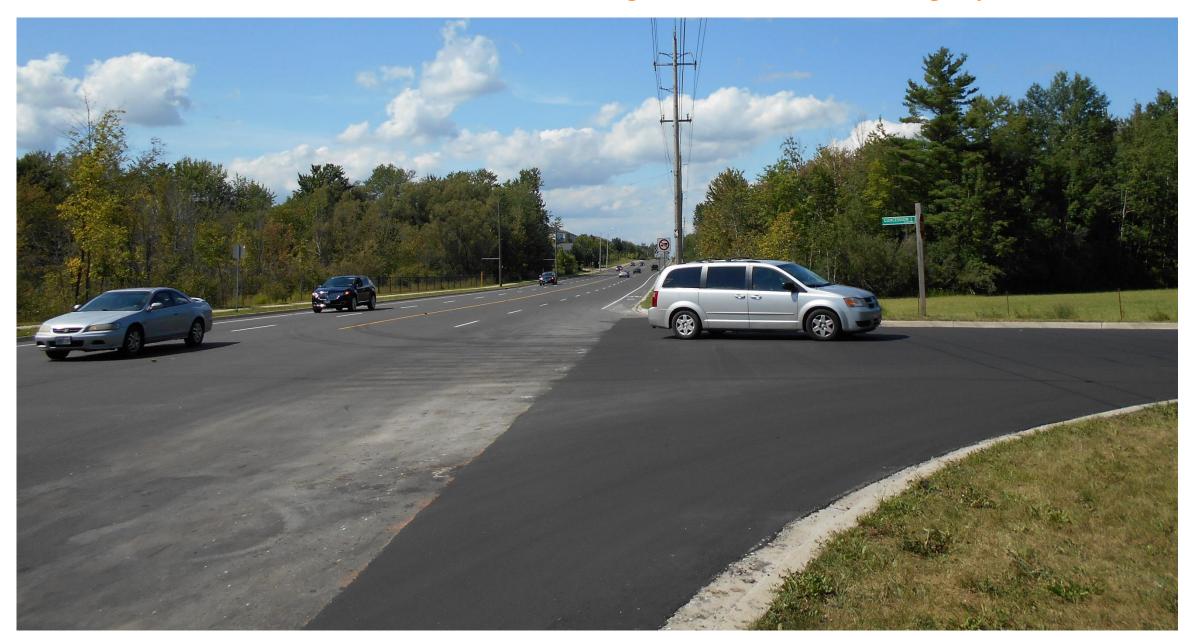


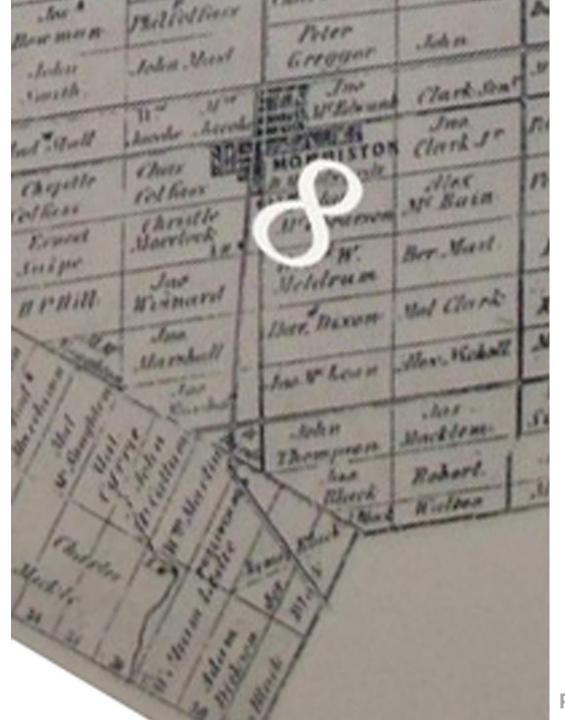


In Brad's time in politics, projects like the new library and archives with green roof in Aberfoyle, the Wellington County tree nursery on the former Little Farm, lot 9 F. concession 3, and the Aberfoyle Farmers' Market were initiated – the first two under the *Green Legacy* program.

CHANGING TIMES

Even in the southwest corner of Puslinch, traffic is increasing. Since Cambridge (to the west) upgraded Townline Road, commuters are using Concession 1 to connect with Highway 6 South.





The Communities of Morriston and Puslinch Village

School Section 8

Pioneers in 1861

Early Settlement

Drawn to what is called today *Morriston Pond* where a previous First Nations' settlement had existed, the first group of European settlers named their village *Elgin*. It soon grew into a centre of local commerce and was renamed *Morriston*, after R.B. Morrison, the storekeeper who had the beautiful yellow-brick commercial building built E of the pond in 1860. Known today as the *bank building* because of the Toronto-Dominion bank branch located next to the store, the photos below are three early views of the main street, *Queen St.*, that developed on the Brock Road leading from *Dundas* and *Hamilton* to the south to the Canada Company's *Town of Guelph* in the north.









Morriston became the largest village in Puslinch with several hotels and shops, many services, and several streets.

Badenoch Street runs from Queen Street east towards the farm community of Badenoch.

POSTCARD C. 1910





Victoria Street is parallel to Queen Street, on the west side of the village. Left: view of south end of street. Below: view of north end of street.

There are many buildings with heritage plaques on *Victoria Street* including the house built by Prussian-born stonemason Herbert Leitch depicted on the plaque.

The Morriston community and surrounding area was large enough to attract a resident doctor. At first the doctor's office was in the R.B. Morrison building, but Dr. King had a house with attached consultation office built on Badenoch St. early in the 20th century. Dr. Crispin was the last to practice here.

Puslinch Village

The Credit Valley Railway (later C.P.R.) through this area saw this section of the Brock Rd. south of Morriston develop into a large rail business, shipping livestock, grain, stone from local quarries and lumber.



William Leslie built a log post office on his property, adding a store in 1954. The business expanded to a large emporium-style when the railway went through. Leslie had granted a right-of-way through his land for the railroad provided the station be called *Leslie Station*. A bureaucratic error awarded this name to Killean and the station here was named *Schaw*. The name was changed to *Puslinch in 1912*.



Puslinch
Station
before and
after
Highway 6
overpass
built in the
1927.



Earliest Morriston Settlers

John, son of Paulus Weiner, with his wife Magdalena, nee Moatz, Winer.



Johans and Catherine, nee Baumgartner, Weiss.



John and Elizabeth, nee Bender, Stein came in 1840. A large group of German farmers from Alsace-Lorraine settled on farms surrounding Morriston beginning in 1828 with the Bauman, Stahl, Weiner, and Weiss families' arrivals. Most anglicized their names. Weiner became Winer, Weiss became Wise, Bauman became Bowman; Johans became John, Paulus became Paul etc.



Joseph and Josepha Bauman's grandchildren – Elmer, Florence and Harry Bowman.



Johans and Regina, nee Haist, Mast arrived in 1830, as did the Calfass and Morlock families.

Fuhry Hotel on east side of Queen Street (Brock Road)

Morriston Hotel on west side of Queen Street



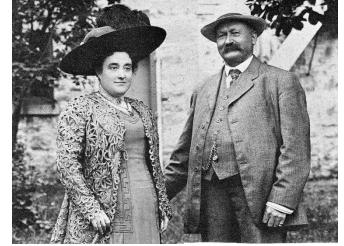
Dr. Telfer, veterinarian, had his office in one part of the Fuhry Hotel and lived above. He and his family can be seen on the verandah.



Donald McPherson of Lot 24, F Gore built this hotel on the site of an earlier log hotel that burned down in 1860.

In 1904 John Vogt, from Copenhagen, Denmark purchased the Morriston Hotel. His second wife was Fanny Fuhry, widow of Jacob Fuhry from the hotel across the road!

MORRISTON HOTELS



JOHN & FANNY VOGT



John and Mary, nee Martin, Huether (r.) outside their general store on E side of Queen Street.



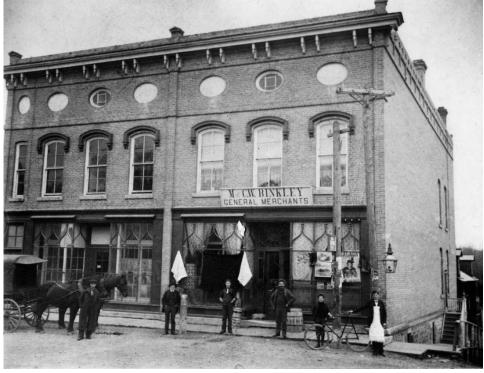
Post Office building on E side of Queen St. N. John McNaughton, postmaster 1911-1947



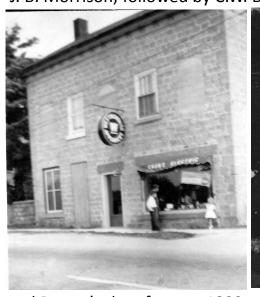
John McEdwards' blacksmith shop (above) and Huether's garage (below) that was previously a cooperage.



QUEEN STREET
was a CENTER of
COMMERCE by
the 1880s



J. B. Morrison, followed by C.W. Binkley on W. side of Queen.



Bernard Brown's shoe factory, 1800s; Crow's Electric at time of photo.



Kitchen/Finkbeiner butcher's shop on Queen E.

PUSLINCH VILLAGE PIONEERS

Two of five sons of William Wade and Louise, nee le Sage, Leslie: Left, *George* born Ireland, 1820 and right, *Henry* born Ireland 1827





John A. McPherson was raised on the land originally owned by the Blacks on Lot 37, Front Concession 8. He was the son of Donald McPherson who immigrated from Scotland in the 1850s. John was working in the import/export business with his brother Adam in Chicago when their father died. He returned to farm but later became the Roads Superintendent in Puslinch following D. A. McNaughton and delivered rural mail from Puslinch Post Office for many years.



John A. MacPherson

In the 1830s Henry worked at Adam Black's hotel, Lot 38 F8 on Brock Road, until he had saved enough to buy his own farm. Their older brother "Squire" William Henry Leslie opened the first P.O. between Dundas and Guelph and a store where he and George worked after their parents' untimely deaths in the late 1830s, only five years after taking up their military patent in Puslinch. George became an itinerant Methodist preacher and purchased his own farm where he operated a lime kiln. Known as *kiln farm* in recent years, it became a well-known herb farm — its rocky terrain ideal for growing herbs.

COMMERCE at PUSLINCH STATION



John Angus Macdonald, Storekeeper

John was single when he emigrated from Scotland. He worked in the Leslie store and married Squire William's eldest daughter Louise. He was the first in a dynasty of Macdonald storekeepers in Puslinch Village.

William Ironside, Grain & Lumber Merchant

Another daughter of Squire William Leslie, Adelaide, married William Ironside in 1883. By 1906 they owned the Leslie property where he had established a lumber and grain business at Puslinch Station. Below, mother and daughters look out a CPR freight car at their family's lumber yard.



CHURCHES

Three denominations worshipped in the Morriston area, all in log buildings at first.

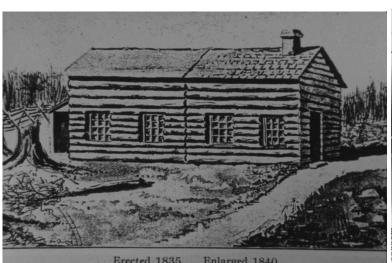


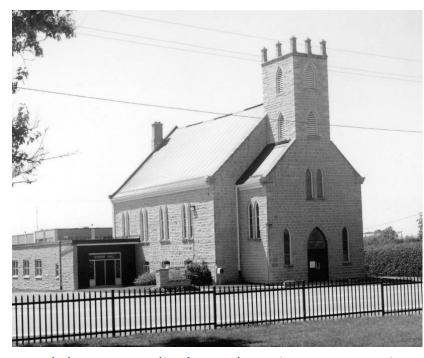
The German community's Evangelical congregation,





the Marian Roman Catholic congregation,



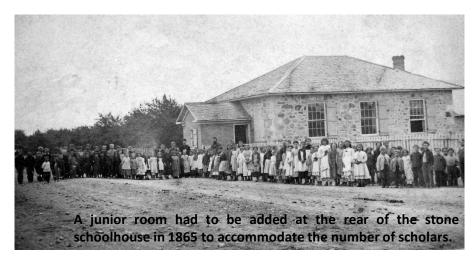


and the East Puslinch Presbyterian congregation.



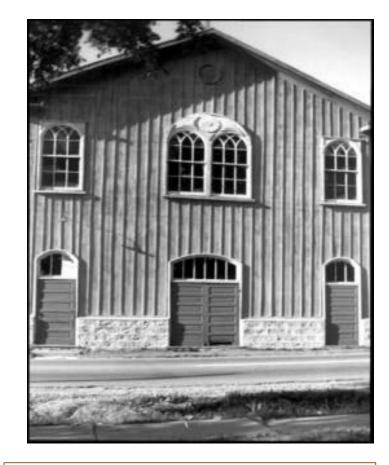
At the corner of the Morlock farm south of the village, a fieldstone schoolhouse was built in 1856. Previous to this classes were held in the log church north of Morriston with Rev. Wardrope instructing. The shell of the stone school can be seen in the picture below. In 1909 a red brick schoolhouse was built (center) and the aerial photo below was taken in the 1950s.





The schoolhouse has detailed brickwork done by Morriston residents Otto and John Rappolt. The bell is now in Corner Park on Church Street.





Those wishing to continue their education locally attended Continuation School for two years (Grades 9 & 10) in the upper level of the Morriston Hall in the village (no longer standing).

EDUCATION

FARMHOUSES - examples of 1st , 2nd and 3rd stage buildings in Morriston

Meldrum frame farmhouse burned 1979.





Winer 1829

cabin, BELOW, is oldest house

still standing in

Puslinch.

BELOW, R. Christian Morlock 1882 stone farmhouse.

Former *Gregor* log cabin moved to Elora Yvonne Richardson painting of *Calfass* farmhouse.









SCHOOL SECTION 8 WARDEN



Squire William Henry Leslie, Warden in 1865

Eldest son of William Wade Leslie and his wife Louise. Born in France in 1816 while his father was a British soldier in the Napoleonic Wars. William was the first Postmaster in Puslinch. He served on the Gore District and Wellington District Councils from 1842 to 1847 and then on Puslinch Council from 1850 to 1881, as Reeve for the last 22 years.

CHANGING TIMES



On June 15,1993 many Puslinch people attended an information meeting hosted by the Ministry of Transportation that was held in Aberfoyle. It provided an opportunity to examine provincial plans to change the route of Highway 6 from Freelton to Guelph, as it had become obvious that the northern section through Morriston would require a bypass.

In 2010 an information session was organized by the M. T. O. at the Carlisle Community Centre to yet again present maps showing a proposed bypass of the village.

In March 2016 M.T.O. announced that the bypass is in the Province's 5-year plan.

IS IT TOO LATE for the buildings?

Puslinch Communities from A to T

You've added *Aikensville, Elgin, Frazerville* and *Schaw Station* to your Puslinch vocabulary now.

Aberfoyle

Aikensville

Arkell

Badenoch

Brock Road

Corwhin

Crieff

Downey

Elgin

Farnham Plains

Frazerville

Glen Christie

Killean

Morriston

Paddock's Corners

Puslinch Lake

Schaw Station

Strachan's Corners

The Third