

THE PUSLINCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER 2019

A NEW PUBLICATION

Having an interest in history and particularly the history of our township, you have probably been curious about life in the pioneer days of Puslinch. In this newly released book, John Gilchrist wrote of his own experience growing up in Killean. He related stories told by his parents, documented the early history of the Puslinch Lake section and illustrated early farming implements by scale models, photos of which are included in the book. This work gives us a good idea of what life in 19th century Puslinch was like, particularly in a Highland Scottish settlement.

John W. Gilchrist was born on July 1, 1865 on lot 10 in the 1st concession of Puslinch. He lived in Puslinch most of his life. His formal education consisted of five years of regular attendance at Killean School, followed by four years, most of it in the winters only, as his help was required by his father on the farm from spring to fall. Despite this, John became a violinist, a marksman, county constable, carpenter and wood carver, a writer and a historian.

His memoirs and stories, and photos of his paintings and carvings have been gathered together by Marjorie Clark for THE COLLECTED WORK OF JOHN W. GILCHRIST. It is for sale at the Puslinch Township Municipal Office at \$32.



AN ONLINE PRESENCE

The work of both the *Puslinch Historical Society (PHS)* and the *Puslinch Heritage Committee (PHC)* is at your fingertips when you open a search engine.

The *PHS* website puslinchhistorical.ca includes a photo banner, notice on the home page of upcoming events and news, and the research done by its committee members since the inception of the Society in 1984.

Some of the links under the *Research* tab are the biographical sketches that were part of the *PHS* Spirit Walks, a section "Puslinch in Uniform", a list of families that have been researched, the story of the early German settlers, and a pictorial history called "The Communities of Puslinch". The latter is such a large file that it had to be posted in 3 sections. Under *Links* there are many useful sites including the website of Marjorie and John Clark.

PHS is represented on *PHC*. Currently that rep is Barb Jefferson. When Lynn Crow retired from this position, there was a discussion about how the knowledge she had acquired over her three decades recording heritage properties as Secretary, then Chair of *PHC* could be passed on to the public. Should she write a book, or create a presentation that could be posted on the Township's website? Council and the *PHC* members chose the latter.

Here is the path to an in-depth pictorial study of the heritage architecture of our township: Type puslinch.ca in your browser. Open *Explore Us*. Then open *Heritage* and finally open *Architectural Heritage of Puslinch*. You will also find historical maps, a

guide to the Township's natural heritage features that have been plaqued and a list of plaqued buildings.

Wondering about the plaquing program in Puslinch? Open a different tab on the Township's website. Go to: *Our Government, Committees and Boards, Heritage Committee* and the button *Puslinch Heritage Plaquing Implications*. Happy surfing!

THE MORRISTON VETERINARIAN

Dr. Walter Bell Telfer was born on July 19, 1867 in Elsdon, Troughend Parish, Northumberland, England, the son of Walter Bell Telfer, a veterinarian, and Margaret Martinson. The family lived in Bellingham, Rochester Parish, Northumberland in 1861-1871.

They emigrated to Wentworth County, Ontario about 1883. One of the sons, Adam Telfer, returned to West Woodburn, Northumberland, England and became famous as the breeder, who developed the Border Collie as it is today. A memorial has been erected at his former home, "Woodhouse". Like their father, three sons of Dr. Walter Telfer became veterinarians, young Dr. Walter Telfer and his brothers, Thomas and Joseph. Thomas and Joseph resided in Milton. Walter set up practice in Morriston. Walter married a Morriston woman, Annie Jacobs and they had three children, Verda, Charlton "Doc" and Margaret. "Doc" stayed in Morriston, remaining on the Jacobs farm until his death in 1958.



Dr. Walter, Annie & daughter, Verda. Telfer home above & veterinary office below.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PUSLINCH FAMILY?

The Puslinch Historical Society is a group of volunteers dedicated to collecting, preserving and sharing the history of this township and its people. We share information with all interested parties from near and far at no cost or at minimal charge.

If you have a genealogy, information on or photographs of your own or any Puslinch family, we would be thrilled to receive a copy. What you share will remain in our Archives and be available for any researcher to consult.