

## CRUISE COTTAGE

This cottage was built by Dr. William Wilson Cruise. Dr. Cruise was born on a farm in Norfolk County in 1885. His parents were William John Cruise from Ireland and Elizabeth Collins.

He was educated at Port Dover High School and the University of Toronto from where he graduated in 1910 with a degree in medicine. He undertook postgraduate work in London and Edinburgh and in 1915 joined the Royal Army Medical Corps with which

he served in France until the end of the war. On his return to Canada in 1920 he established a practice at 251 Gladstone Avenue in Toronto. He was on the staff of St. Joseph's Hospital.



In 1917 in Toronto Dr. Cruise married Eleanor Roxanna Whitlam.

The Cruises had three children: William Wilson (1918-2009), Mary (1920-), and John Alexander (1928-). The family came to the area on the advice of one of Dr. Cruise's patients and first rented a cottage on Wellers Bay. They then rented a cottage at Presqu'île from the Lord family. In 1944 Dr. Cruise purchased 1 acre of land at the east end of the property owned by the O'Connor Fentons. They planted a high cedar hedge.

Work began on the excavation of the basement in September 1944. The late Harold Atkins remembers helping to move stones with the help of the family's blind horse. The cottage was built of split field stones.

Dr. William Wilson Cruise died in January of 1957 and his wife in June of 1990.

The family moved out of the cottage in January 1958. They had it valued and received the full amount from the Park. From 1983 to 1999 the cottage was leased by the Environmental Studies Department of the University of Waterloo.