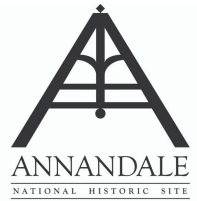




# THE SOCIETY PAGES

*Tillsonburg & District Historical Society  
& Annandale National Historic Site  
c/o Tillson Ave. Tillsonburg, On N4G 2Z8 519-842-2294*



## President's Message

*By Dave Morris, President*

Here we are 5 months into the Stay at Home, Social Distancing, Washing Hands and wearing masks where required routine which is important in keeping down the numbers in this Covid pandemic. The Historical Society Executive, at its meeting on June 2nd, cancelled all Society event scheduled from that date through the summer, including Music on the Lawn. The next Executive Meeting is scheduled by way of Video Conferencing (Zoom) on September 8th. At that meeting the executive will consider future activities of the Society, including the rescheduling of the Annual General Meeting, which was to be held in March of this year.

I will be calling a Program Committee meeting early in August to look at future speakers and events when we are able to get together. If you have any ideas, please let me know and I will pass these on to the Committee.

The Annandale House Memorial Fund has been notified by the Estate of Shirley Williams that it is the subject of a bequest from the Estate. This fund is used for the purchase of Historical Artifacts for Annandale National Historic Site.

Please note that the Museum is now open on by appointment. Details can be found on the Town Website or elsewhere in this Society Page.

As you may be aware, the Society took on the Restoration of the Historical Stone Pillars at the Entrance to Memorial Park. The restoration was completed this spring by Adam Guthrie of Deer Creek Excavation. The final work, being the installation of Metal Fencing at the entrance of Sanders Street, will be completed this month. Thanks to Betty Lou Ireland for co-ordinating this work. The Society will host a Rededication Ceremony in the future.

On behalf of the Executive, we hope everybody stays safe in this historic time.

Dave Morris  
dcmorris95@gmail.com



**Looking for a place to spend some time in the shade? Annandale House's lawn has lots of space to social distance while enjoying the trees. The lawn also has 3 tables that are 6 feet apart for you to enjoy a picnic!**

# Annandale N.H.S. News August Review

Yes, we are back in the building and life is starting to get slowly back to a new normal! We thought we would send you a little update on what has been going on over the last several months!

Covid-19 may have closed the building, but it couldn't stop the show from going on! The much anticipated exhibit to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Tillsonburg News was moved from the Pratt Gallery to the internet, becoming the museum's first ever online exhibit. Staff worked very hard to not only create the exhibit, but learn how to create it in a new format. Designing it for the first time digitally (no moving show cases or cutting text panels this time); Jen photographed, posted text and images using Wix.com. The end result is an amazing exhibit that looks at the history of the newspaper industry in Tillsonburg. If you haven't checked out the exhibit yet, don't worry, as unlike a usual exhibit in the Pratt Gallery, this one is still open for viewing at [www.annandalenhs.ca](http://www.annandalenhs.ca). "Breaking News – the 100th Anniversary of the Tillsonburg News" has been well received and enjoyed by our online visitors with 715 people clicking the link between its opening on April 28 and the end of May.



Museum staff has also been busy reaching out and staying connected to our community through the museum's Facebook page. Kathleen has been very busy creating fun and engaging posts with everything from puzzles and historic recipes to highlighting artifacts and photographs from the museum's permanent collection. While we don't have any "attendance through the door" numbers to report we are excited to report that between March 15 and the end of June our Facebook posts had a whopping 218,560 viewings. Check out the fun at [www.Facebook.com/AnnandaleNHS](https://www.Facebook.com/AnnandaleNHS)

## STAYING SAFE WITH PROTOCOLS IN PLACE

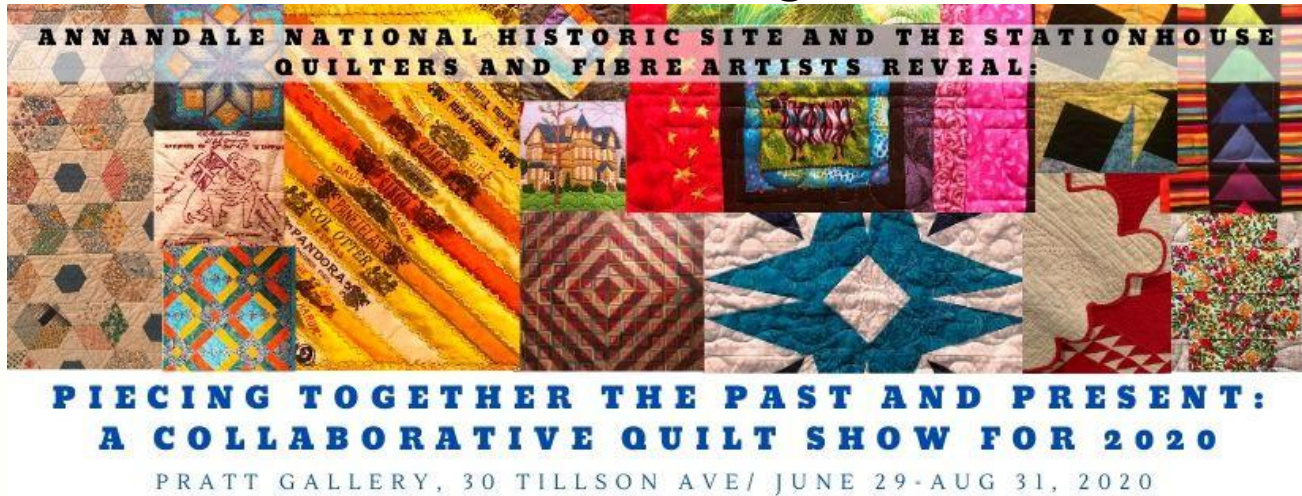
On June 15th, the Province of Ontario allowed museums to reopen provided certain restrictions were in place: limited number of visitors in the building, one-way traffic flow, timed appointments with screening and contact information collected, protective barriers at reception areas and sanitization of all high contact areas such as door knobs and hand railings after each visitor.

Museum staff reviewed the guidelines and realized that the Pratt Gallery could be open by June 29th, thereby honouring our original exhibition schedule. The planned exhibition was the Stationhouse Quilters and Fibre Artists. Staff also realized that Annandale House, with its nationally and provincially designated interior, would have to remain closed in order to protect our incredible treasure. The sanitizing cleaning products required between visitors cannot be used on the historic surfaces without causing irreversible damage.

Fortunately, the modern surfaces in the addition can be safely sanitized allowing for our partial reopening. Staff are pleased to welcome back members and guests for timed appointments. We want to assure everyone that we are following all public health guidelines to keep everyone safe and healthy – Give us a call To book your visit. We have missed you!!



# Annandale N.H.S. News August Review Con'd



As mentioned, the Pratt Gallery is currently showing an incredible Quilt show that highlights both historic and modern quilts. “Piecing Together the Past and the Present – A Collaborative Quilt Show for 2020” is a joint project between the Stationhouse Quilters and Fibre Artist of the Station Arts Centre and the museum. The modern quilts in the exhibit are brand new pieces created by members of the group within the past year or so and have never before been exhibited. Some of the quilts selected from the museum’s collection have not been displayed in many years or where recently been donated. The exhibit was originally scheduled to open on Sunday, June 28 until August 31. However, when the Province mandated the closing of museums on March 13th, museum staff decided to put the exhibit online. Our plan was to photograph the quilts and create our second online exhibit. When the Province announced that museums could reopen in Stage 2 on June 15th, we moved back to the original schedule of hosting the show in the Pratt Gallery. The opening reception was cancelled and the exhibit opened on Monday, June 29th for its original run until August 31. In keeping with public health guidelines, people can tour the exhibit by timeslot with a maximum number of 7 visitors allowed per appointment to maintain social distancing. Appointment times are 9 am, 10 am, 11 am, 1 pm, 2 pm, and 3 pm Monday through Friday. You can call 519-842-2294 to book your appointment!

Once again, the museum adapted and is offering our children’s drop in camp in a new way this summer. Originally, scheduled as a drop-in summer program at the museum, “Fun on the Lawn” has morphed into “Island Hopping Adventure,” a 1 hour program offered on the museum lawn two times a week. Every Tuesday or Thursday, Kathleen and the kids hop onto their “social distancing” rafts (tables) and head to the islands. This program is designed for kids aged 5-10 and it will run throughout the summer on Tuesday OR Thursday from 1:30-2:30. Each session will be filled with a number of interesting crafts and activities. For example, in our first week, we travelled to Newfoundland and discovered its Viking past, learned how to write like a Viking in Rune Stones and made our own Viking shields. Kids will receive a stamp in their passport for each week they attend! The cost is \$2 per person, per day. Advanced registration is required as we only have 10 spaces each day.

We still have spots available on both days, so if you know of kids who that might be interested, please call the museum at 519-842-2294 to sign them up! Parents and Guardians are welcome to stay!