



THE SOCIETY PAGES

*Tillsonburg & District Historical Society
& Annandale National Historic Site*

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President's Message

By Dave Morris, President

It is hard to believe that the end of summer is approaching, and fall will be starting. We are living in historical times. That story has not yet ended. We look forward to our lives normalizing as the Covid threat is addressed but until that happens, we continue to take necessary measures to protect all.

The Executive met on September 8th on the lawn of Annandale NHS. It was good to see everyone in person. The Annual General Meeting has been postponed indefinitely until we can meet as a Society. Ideas were generated for consideration of the Program Committee once we are in a position to have general meetings again.

If you are out and about at Memorial Park, take a look at the Sanders Street Entrance. The decorative fences complementing the restored stone pillars have now been installed. The Society will host a Rededication Ceremony in the future.

Good news! The bound archival copies of the "Tillsonburg News" and "Observer" dating back to the late 1800s have been moved from the "Simcoe Reformer" office to Tillsonburg by the Society. Thanks to those who accomplished this in short order...particularly the young people who were recruited. The copies are temporarily being stored at St. Paul's United Church in Tillsonburg until a permanent location can be arranged.

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

Dave Morris
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Annandale N.H.S. News September Review

GOOD-BYE TO SUMMER

It doesn't seem possible that summer 2020 has been put in the history books – and boy, was it one for the history books! It seems like it was just yesterday that we reopened on June 29th, and now it is September.

Although this was a summer like no other, the museum still welcomed visitors to view the quilt exhibit and hosted a successful summer children's program – just to much smaller numbers than we usually see.

Kathleen had a wonderful summer running the museum's "Island Hopping Adventures" and "Arts and Crafts on the Lawn" Programs. Over the course of the summer, we had over 40 kids participate in the "Island Hopping" program. Three children who attended every week were able to complete their passports! Highlights of our travels included: learning Gaelic in the United Kingdom; the importance of spoons to the people of Madagascar, and tattoos to the Maori people of New Zealand; making carp kits from Japan; and having a socially distanced luau, while celebrating the vivid culture of Hawaii.

The museum's lawn also had an unusual summer--no Turtlefest, no Canada Day Fun Fair, nor a Teddy Bear Picnic. Also missing were the usual Sunday night crowds for the Historical Society's annual music series. However, this did not mean the lawn wasn't busy, as it became a town gathering place, playing host to many socially distanced get-togethers. From book club meetings, breakfast club gatherings to family picnics and church groups, many Tillsonburg residents took advantage of our beautiful location. Part of the attraction of spending time on the museum's

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lawn was to admire our glorious flower gardens.

Museum staff would like to send out a big thank-you to the members of the Tillsonburg and District Horticultural Society who planted, weeded, watered and kept our gardens looking so magnificent throughout this Covid-19 summer. Thank You!

IN THE PRATT GALLERY



Our “Piecing Together the Past and Present: A Collaborative Quilt Show for 2020” exhibit is now off the walls. The quilts from the museum’s collection are currently in the

process of being rerolled to go into storage. All of the quilts are getting new acid free tissue and a protective Tyvek outer layer (this material is conservator approved)! Everybody who came to see the show marveled at the Cigar Band quilt and the work that went into collecting and constructing that quilt. People were also able to find their family members on the World War One Victory Quilt that had been so well preserved at a Tillson family cottage.

We would once again like to thank the Station House Quilters and Fibre Artists for all of their hard work creating the quilts for the show. The featured quilters included: Gale Connor, Louise Hamilton, Bev Rothenmund, Margaret Hawkins, Sheila Shaftoe, Jacqueline Shaftoe, Pam Brown, Mary Lou Hoogsteen, Corrie Hoogheim, and Gail Harris.

Thanks also go out to Bill Pratt, who photographed our first in-person, socially distanced exhibition, complete with directional arrows on the floor, so future generations can see what going to the museum looked like during the pandemic.

CURRENT EXHIBIT & UPCOMING EVENTS

As our Covid-19 summer comes to an end, staff have been busy planning what a Covid-19 fall and winter season will look like at the museum. We are excited about the new exhibits and programs that will allow both visitors and staff to have a safe and interesting experience in the coming months.

To begin the fall season, the museum once again welcomes Oxford Creative Connections Inc. to the Pratt Gallery. Their annual “miniature” art show “Small Wonders, Big Talent” features over 100 works by area artists. In order to be included in this exhibition, member artists of OCCI must have created a work that is no larger than 12” X 14”. Museum staff would like to thank the General Manager of OCCI, Mary-Anne Murphy, and OCCI volunteer, Diane Roberts, for all their hard work in planning and installing the exhibition. Due to Covid-19 restrictions and protocols, arrangements were made for the artists to drop their work off in the museum parking lot to Mary-Anne and Diane. Once they had accepted all the work, the ladies completed the museum’s Covid screening procedures and installed the show. The art work is for sale and 20% of the purchase price goes to the Annandale House Trust Fund. All museum members/supporters are encouraged to come out and do a little pre-Christmas shopping. By doing so, you can support a local artist and your local museum. The show and sale runs until November 2, 2020. Don’t forget that the museum is open by appointment only – so give us a call at 519-842-2294 and book your appointment today.

Annandale NHS has several events planned for the coming months. In October, museum staff are planning two Halloween parties for the kids. Complete details can also be found online in the RCP Fall Recreation Guide. The museum programs are listed on pages 96 to 98.

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/924260/>.

Since it seems a little early to talk about the holiday season, stay tuned for next month’s newsletter when we will discuss Covid-19 Christmas.