



# 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*

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The Historical Society's next General Meeting will be **Monday, February 13th at 7:00 p.m.** Please note that this is a week earlier than normal due to the Family Day holiday. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Jason Pankratz, who will be bringing his ever-popular Trivia Night to the membership.

The General Meeting in January featured our Show and Tell Night. Thanks to the all presenters who made it a very interesting evening with their variety of artifacts and family stories.

Looking forward, March 20th will be the Society's Annual General Meeting. This is an opportunity to review and adopt the proposed budget, receive and have input into plans for the

upcoming year, as well as elect the Executive. April 17th's General Meeting will feature a presentation by Culture & Heritage Manager/Curator Patricia Phelps on the 50th Anniversary of the Museum.

### Annual General Meeting of the *Tillsonburg & District Historical Society*

**Monday, March 20th, 2023**

at Annandale NHS  
30 Tillson Ave. Tillsonburg, ON



**Annual General  
Meeting  
starts at 7p.m.**

## GENERAL MEETING

Date: Monday, February 13th, 2023

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Corner Gallery, 2nd Floor

Annandale NHS (30 Tillson Ave)

Event: **Trivia Night with Dr. Jason Pankratz!**

## UPCOMING EXHIBITION:

### "What's Your Sign?"

February 12th until May 7th, 2023

*Exhibition Opening:* Sunday, February 12th  
from 1p.m. to 4 p.m. with light refreshments

## PUBLIC PROGRAMMING:



### "Be My Valentine Tea"

Come for tea, sweet treats and make a special Valentine gift to keep or to give to your Valentine!

Date: Tuesday, February 14th, 2023

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20 plus taxes

### "Family Day at the Museum"

Come to the museum for Family Day to participate in family games, guided tours, crafts and the popular scavenger hunt.

Date: Monday, February 20th,  
2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cost: By Donation



# Annandale N.H.S. Catch-Up

HELLO MUSEUM LOVERS!

Happy February!

## REVIEW OF JANUARY

January was a busy month around the museum. Not only did staff and volunteers take down and pack away all the Christmas decorations, but also staff scurried to take down the exhibit, empty various showcases and move the art from the Corner Gallery, as a fresh new coat of paint was applied to various locations throughout the building. After the painting was finished, the installation of the museum's first exhibit of 2023 could begin. *"What's Your Sign?"* is an exhibition that brings flat signs to life, telling the stories of local people, businesses, and schools. All the signs are from the permanent collection and many have not been on display in quite some time. You are all cordially invited to the exhibition opening on **Sunday, February 12th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.** This will be the first Sunday afternoon exhibit opening that the Museum has hosted in over two years, so we hope that you all can attend and that you will help us spread the word by inviting your friends and neighbours. Light refreshments will be served in the Corner Gallery (program room) and admission for non-members is by donation. The exhibit runs until **Sunday, May 7th.**

In between all this activity, Jen also managed to install a new display on "Butter" in the original bathroom of Annandale House. On display are butter making equipment, butter paraphernalia, and an 1870s booklet on butter making from the museum's collection. We cannot believe it's not margarine!

The museum also hosted a group of museum staff from the Norfolk County Heritage & Culture Department.

The group was given a tour of the site from top to bottom and expressed their envy of our compact storage systems in our wood and organic storage

rooms. About half of those in the group had not visited our site before and they were suitably impressed by the facility and the role the community has played in its past and present.

## WHAT'S TO COME IN 2023!

As the museum begins a year of celebration for our **50th Anniversary**, be sure to mark your calendar with the following dates. You do not want to miss any of the fun and exciting up-coming events.

## FEBRUARY 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

**February 12th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. –**  
Exhibit opening of *"What's Your Sign?"*  
Light refreshments will be provided. Cost is by donation.

**February 14th from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. -**  
*"Be My Valentine Tea:"* Come for tea, sweet treats and make a special Valentine gift to keep or to give to your Valentine! Cost is \$20 plus taxes.

**February 20th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. -**  
**Family Day at the Museum:** Drop in on Family Day to play some games, make a craft, take a guided tour or participate in the scavenger hunt. Cost is by donation.

## March 2023 Highlights

**March 8th from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.-**  
**"Women's Day Chocolate Luncheon".** Come and indulge in all things chocolate as we celebrate International Women's Day 2023. Cost is \$35 plus tax.

**March 13th through March 17th each day from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – March Break Fun**

Annandale NHS is celebrating March Break this year with some groovy crafts, in celebration of the 70s (the decade the Museum was founded). Each day of March Break from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Kathleen will be leading a 70s inspired craft:

***My Pet Rock***- Monday, March 13th

***Shrinky Dinks*** - Tuesday, March 14th

***Lava Lamps***- Wednesday, March 15th

***Dream Catchers***- Thursday, March 16th

***Tie Dye Fever***- Friday, March 17th

The program is geared towards children aged 5-10 at a cost of \$15 a day. Pre-registration is required. You can register via Connect2Rec ([www.townoftillsonburg.perfectmind.com](http://www.townoftillsonburg.perfectmind.com)) or by calling the museum at 519-842-2294.

**March 29th – 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.- Guided Tours of the Exhibition.** Jen will be leading the group(s) through our exhibition “What’s Your Sign.” She will be discussing the ins and outs of exhibition planning and design. Pre-registration is required and regular admission prices apply (which for members is FREE). If you are from Tillsonburg, she would love to hear your memories of the signs featured.

## UPCOMING 50TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMMING!

### "Fifty of my Favourite Things: Show & Tell"

Join museum Curator, Patricia Phelps for a 5-part series of Show & Tells of her favorite things from the collection. Show & Tell starts at 1:30 in the Corner Gallery. The cost is \$5 +taxes single ticket or \$20 +taxes for series pass Light refreshments will be served and pre-registration is required.

**10 Wonderful Things**- Thurs., May 18th

**10 Delightful Things**- Thurs., June 8th

**10 Superb Things**- Thurs., Sept. 7th

**10 Wicked Things**- Thurs., Oct. 19th

**10 Precious Things**- Thurs., Nov. 2nd

### "Salute to 70's Craft Workshop Series"

Get crafting with museum program coordinator, Kathleen Watkin, as she brings the unique crafts from the 1970s back to life. Workshops begin at 1:30 with all materials and instruction supplied. Pre-registration is required. Cost \$20 per workshop or \$80.00 for a series pass.

**Macramé Madness**- Wed, April 12th

**Flower Power Bouquets**- Wed, May 10th

**String Art Tangle**- Wed, June 14th

**Hooked on Rugs**- Wed, Sept 13th

**Digging Decoupage**- Wed, Oct 11th



## LUNCH AND LEARN 2023

The museum's four part series of catered lunches and interesting lectures on local history is BACK! Just like previous years, lunch will be served at noon with the lecture following. Admission to tour the museum is included in the ticket price. The cost is \$30 +taxes single ticket or \$100 +taxes for a series pass. The lectures will be offered on the fourth Thursday and Friday of each month. The schedule is:

<b>FEBRUARY</b>  <b>"The End of the Line:"</b> -The story of the T.L.E. & P. Railway.  Presented by Joan Weston	<b>MARCH</b>  <b>"The Great Quake"</b> -The story of Tillsonburg's connection to the San Francisco Earthquake  Presented by Patricia Phelps	<b>APRIL</b>  <b>"Armchair Travelers"</b> -The story of the Tillsonburg Ladies Travel Club  Presented by Joan Weston	<b>MAY</b> <b>50<sup>th</sup></b> <b>"50 Years of Collecting the Past for the Future"</b> -The story of the Tillsonburg's Community Museum  Presented by Patricia Phelps
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## Artifact of the Month: The "Tillsonburg Shoe Factory Sign."



The **Tillsonburg Shoe Factory** was located on Broadway, in the general area of the north parking lot of the Town Centre Mall. The Shoe Factory began in 1913, when the Snedecore-Hathaway Company of Detroit set up a branch factory in Tillsonburg, known as the Tillsonburg Shoe Factory. The factory manufactured footwear of "a distinctively rugged and inexpensive character for men and boys." The company's founders viewed themselves as excellent "shoe man" and took great pains in selecting and training their workers. In 1919, the company purchased a Simcoe women's shoe company and added it to the factory's manufacturing program. In early October 1934, the company declared bankruptcy, leaving over five hundred people out of work. In February 1936, Scott-McHale (a London shoe manufacturer) purchased the Tillsonburg Shoe Company. They reopened the factory, but at a reduced rate and with a reduced staff. It was demolished in February 1963 to make way for an IGA Store.