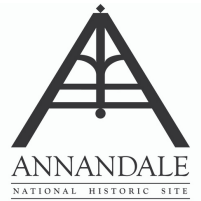




THE SOCIETY PAGES

*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
dcmorris95@gmail.com

Our December Christmas Potluck Meeting will be on Monday, December 11th at 5:30 p.m. Bring your favourite main course or dessert, as well as a plate and eating utensils. If you wish, cash donations to the Tillsonburg Food Bank will be received. The Program Committee has been working on an entertaining evening.

A special thank you to Dr Jason Pankratz for his presentation at our past General Meeting in November, which was very well received by the full house in attendance.

The Historical Society will again be hosting the Mayor's New Year's Levee on Sunday, January 7th, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Annandale NHS. This is a great event to start the New Year.

Our January General Meeting will be "Show and Tell". Bring along a family artifact or collectible. There are always interesting stories that come with these items.

On behalf of the Executive, I would wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Monday, Dec. 11th, 2023

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: Corner Gallery, 2nd Floor
Annandale NHS (30 Tillson Ave)

Event: ***December Christmas Potluck Meeting***
Meeting: Bring your favourite main course or dessert, plate and cutlery.

CURRENT EXHIBITION:

"A Hallmark® Christmas"

Nov. 24th until Jan 7th, 2024



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING:

Mayor's New Years Levee 2024

Please join the Mayor Deb Gilvesy, Council and the Tillsonburg & District Society on January 7th, 2024 for the Mayor's Levee! The Levee is being hosted at Annandale NHS (30 Tillson Ave) from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Light Refreshment will be served.



Annandale N.H.S. Catch-Up

HELLO MUSEUM LOVERS! Happy November!

Can you believe that it's already December? Where did 2023 go?

Christmas has officially arrived at Annandale NHS. Community volunteers and staff worked really hard during the first three weeks of November getting the Museum completely ready for the holiday season. We had a wonderful Open House Weekend with over 300 people over the three days coming to visit us. The weekend officially started Friday evening with the lighting of the trees on the lawn and the opening of the exhibit in the Pratt Gallery. The ever popular cider and cookies were served following the lighting/opening, although the Grinch showed up in the form of a faulty extension cord that resulted in lukewarm cider. At least no one burnt their tongue on too hot cider this year! The Museum was open all weekend by donation.

Once again, the Museum invited community volunteers to decorate all three floors of Annandale House for the season. This is the first year since 2019 that all three floors are decorated. Many of this year's volunteers are first-time decorators and we were very excited to see their Christmas vision for each room. The Museum would like to thank the following volunteers for decorating the rooms of the Museum:

- Barb Jurenus for decorating the Parlour
- Bonni Dadson for decorating the Library and the Maid's Room
- Carriane Hall for decorating the Dining Room
- Christine, Hollie and Morgan Martin for decorating the Breakfast Room
- Amber Brunekreft and Susanne Prouse for decorating the Kitchen
- Andrea Eaton and Sue Gamble for decorating the Grand Staircase and Hallways

Holiday Meeting
of the
*Tillsonburg & District
Historical Society*

Monday, December 11, 2023

at Annandale NHS

30 Tillson Ave. Tillsonburg, ON

**December Christmas Potluck
Meeting:**

Bring your favourite main course or
dessert, plate and cutlery.



**Holiday Meeting
starts at 5:30 p.m.**

- David, Judy and Allison Jakobi for decorating the Smoking Room
- Bonnie Sitts and Janet Whaley for decorating the 2nd Floor Tower Bedroom
- Julie Avery and Laura Mahoney for decorating the Master Bedroom
- Laura Scott and Danna Grenier for decorating the Restored Bathroom
- Leslie Cameron for decorating the Quarter Ceiling Room
- Jessica Van Laecke and Rosie Russo-Janzen for decorating the Education Gallery
- Summer and Starr Mudge for decorating the Tillson Gallery
- Robin Callens for decorating the Third Floor Tower Room
- Joanne Johnstone for decorating the Sewing Room
- Bonnie Sitts, Janet Whaley, Colleen Pepper, Bill Pratt and Irene Gillespie for helping to decorate the Annex and Pratt Gallery



Let's gather to celebrate the Christmas Season!

Join the Tillsonburg and District
Historical Society on Monday
December 11th, 2023 and share
your favourite entrée/casserole or
dessert.

Don't forget your cutlery, plate
and mug... and a big smile, of
course!

Please sign up at the November
Meeting.

RSVP to Betty Lou Ireland.

Phone: 519-842-3131

Email: jigglejugs@sympatico.ca

**5:30 p.m.: Social: Punch by
Joan Weston**

**6:00 p.m.: Dinner, followed by
entertainment and carol singing.**



- Liz Bukta, Tony Bukta, and Lois Hersey, members of the Tillsonburg Horticultural Society – Annandale House Committee for creating the beautiful Christmas outdoor pots this year.
- Peter Beechey for his help with the Hallmark® Christmas exhibit in the Pratt Gallery
- Our Volunteer Tour Guides who welcomed the visitor during our Open House Weekend: Joan Weston, Diane Mackeigan, Irene Gillespie, Holly Hansan, Marianne Sandham, Marilyn Avent, Barb More, Alexandra Drennan, and Dolores Ross.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank fellow town staff members, Craig Lamoure from the Facilities Department for his assistance moving display cases, Christmas Trees and cleaning Annandale House and Mike and Brittany from the Parks Department for putting up all the lights that decorate the Museum's porches and lawn this year. They say it takes a village to raise a child, while it takes 40 volunteers & staff to get one 3-storey Victorian Mansion ready for the Christmas season in Tillsonburg!

In the Pratt Gallery

It's hard to believe, but the Holiday season has arrived. The Museum kicked-off the festive season on Friday, November 24 at 7:00 p.m. with the officially opening of this year's seasonal exhibit in the Pratt Gallery. Entitled "A Hallmark® Christmas", it is an exhibit celebrating 50 years of Hallmark® Keepsake ornaments. There are just over 200 ornaments from 1973 to 2023 on loan from a private collector on display. Come and learn all about the history of Hallmark® and its connection to Christmas traditions. The exhibition runs from **November 24th, 2023 to January 7th, 2024!**

Final Event at Annandale NHS in 2023...

The final special event of our 50th Anniversary year is the Hallmark ® Christmas Tea on Wednesday, December 20th, 2023. Come and celebrate the shortest day of the year with seasonally-flavoured tea and goodies. Take time to catch up with new and old friends. Following the tea, you will be provided with a guided tour of the Hallmark ® exhibition by Curator, Patty Phelps. Tickets are \$15.00 plus tax. There is VERY limited space available, so register soon. You can register online via Connect2Rec or by calling the Museum at 519-842-2294.

What's to come in 2024!

2024 will begin with the return of the TDHS Mayor's Levee, on Sunday, January 7th. The Tillsonburg & District Historical Society will host Mayor Deb Gilvesy and Council at this annual event that has been on hiatus for the last few years. The Mayor's Levee is an opportunity to welcome the New Year with the Mayor and Council. It is also the last chance to take in the Christmas exhibit in the Pratt Gallery and tour Annandale House all decorated for the season. The Levee runs from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., with light refreshments being served.

The Museum's entire 2024 Calendar of exhibits and events will be available at the Levee and will also be included in your January newsletter.



WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Museum staff would like to wish all the members of the Tillsonburg & District Historical Society a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. We hope that you have all enjoyed this year's special 50th Anniversary exhibits and programs. The Museum would not have survived 50 years without the support of both the Town of Tillsonburg and the Historical Society. Your on-going support makes a big difference and is appreciated by the staff. Speaking of staff, as you know the Museum's Collection & Exhibition Specialist, Jen Gibson, is off on a Parental leave to look after the latest member of her family, Wesley Franklin, born in June. We thought that in this season that is extra special for the little ones in our lives, we would include a photo of Wes to bring our good wishes for Christmas and thanks for your support this past year. May the joy of the season surround you and your family and may 2024 be a year filled with blessings.



Merry Christmas Everyone!!

Patty, Jen, Kathleen & Meg