



# THE SOCIETY PAGES

*Tillsonburg & District Historical Society  
& Annandale National Historic Site*  
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## President's Message

By Dave Morris  
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The Tillsonburg and District Historical Society's next General Meeting will be held **Monday, May 27th at 7:00 p.m.** at Annandale House National Historic Site. Please note this is a week later than normal due to the previous Monday being a holiday. Our Guest Speaker will be **Robyn Michaud, Professor of Indigenous Studies at Conestoga College speaking on Indigenous Culture.**

Mark your calendar for **Friday June 21st.** The Society will be celebrating **National Indigenous Peoples Day** at the Tillsonburg Soccer Club, Attawandaron Way, Quarter Townline Road. This is the site of the largest known Attawandaron Peoples village, which was settled in the 14th and 15th century. The Society has just received a grant from the Government of Canada to assist in these celebrations. This National Day was established to celebrate the contributions of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. More information can be found at About National Indigenous Peoples Day <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1528816532546/1528816542299>. All are invited...bring your friends and family. The Celebration begins at **4 p.m.**

The Program Committee is working on plans for a day trip to Brantford to the Woodland Cultural Centre and Chiefswood Historical Site, with lunch at the Old School House. Details will be announced at the General Meeting May 27th.

## GENERAL MEETING

**Date:** Monday, May 27th, 2024  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Corner Gallery, 2nd Floor  
Annandale NHS (30 Tillson Ave.)  
**Event:** **"Introduction to Indigenous Day"**, presented by Dr. Robyn Michaud, Professor of Indigenous Studies at Conestoga College

## UPCOMING EXHIBITION:

**"Main Street Oxford"**  
**May 26th to August 25th, 2024**  
Opens Sunday, May 26th, 2024  
from 1-4 p.m.  
Light Refreshments will be served.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMMING:

### TurtleFest 2024

**Friday, June 14th**  
**"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles:  
Secret of the Ooze!"**

**Free Movie on the Lawn at Dusk**  
By Donation

**Saturday, June 15th**  
**TurtleFest on the Lawn**

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
(While Supplies Last)  
By Donation



# Annandale N.H.S. Catch-Up

HELLO MUSEUM LOVERS!

## APRIL IN REVIEW

On Wednesday, April 17th, we celebrated Spring with our Spring Bird House Workshop. At the workshop, participants built and painted their very own bird houses! We had a wonderful time. We listened to bird song to get us in the mood. It really inspired everyone to make unique and beautiful birdhouses. If you want to see the birdhouse Kathleen made, it is on our new front desk!

Our April Lunch and Learn on “The Restoration of Annandale House” was a rousing success! Laurel Beechey’s presentation was wonderful. We learnt so many new and exciting facts about the house. For example, next time you are in the Front Hallway of the house, stand in front of E.D.’s picture and look up at the ceiling. The hands on the clock are pointing to 10:10. This practice dates back to the early days of watchmaking and was used to honour the time when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865. The hands of the clock were set to 10:10 as a symbol of respect and remembrance for the fallen American President. So amazing! At the Thursday luncheon, we also welcomed three of E.D. and Mary Ann’s great-great grandchildren from the Toronto area. They were a wealth of knowledge, as well. April’s Lunch and Learn was a very significant one, indeed! Thank you, Laurel, for all your research and a wonderful presentation!

Annual General Meeting  
of the

## *Tillsonburg & District Historical Society*

Monday, May 27, 2024

at Annandale NHS

30 Tillson Ave. Tillsonburg, ON

“Introduction to Indigenous  
Day”

presented by Dr. Robyn Michaud,  
Professor of Indigenous Studies  
at Conestoga College



On April 24th, we had 44 people join us from the Probus Club of Brantford. After a lovely drive through the back roads and a delicious lunch at The Mill, the group joined us at the Museum for a history lesson. From the comments staff and the tour guides received, our visitors had an amazing time. A huge thank you to Joan Weston, Barb More, Joe Matisz, Marilyn Avent and tour guides-in-training, Jan Peters and Marion Dielman, for leading the groups through an informative tour!

## **THIS MAY**

On **Saturday, May 11th at 1 p.m.**, the Museum will be hosting our first ever **Mommy and Me Tea!** This event is open to anyone and everyone who is celebrating Mother's Day. We will be having a tea party and making a special craft to take home. Admission to this event is \$24.00 for a parent and child and \$5.00 for each additional child (taxes included). Pre-registration is required. Program registration closes May 8th.

As stated in last month's newsletter, on May 13th, our university summer students will be joining the team. Kathleen is EXTRA EXCITED to have Kenize and Larissa join her this summer! She is looking forward to having smiling, young, helpful faces in the Museum! Then in June, the "24 Summer Dream Team" will be completed when Lily Lee joins us. Lily is a Grade 11 student at Glendale High School. She will be joining us at the end of June and will be working in our Summer Camp program.

On **Wednesday, May 15th, 2024**, we will be celebrating the art of cross stitching with a **Victorian Cross Stitch Workshop**. We have an amazing local cross stitcher to lead our workshop. We will be learning how to cross stitch using a Victorian-inspired pattern. The workshop will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at a cost of \$28.00 (taxes included). All materials and supplies will be provided and preregistration is required. Spaces are limited! Registration closes Friday, May 10th.

Kathleen has also started a program for home school groups in the area. Each month, local groups will be invited into the Museum to learn and explore. In our inaugural program in May, the students will be exploring "Flowers and Bugs: A Look at Annandale's Natural Side". The program is being offered on May 21st and 22nd, with both days filling up quickly.

At the end of May is our last Lunch and Learn of the season. Entitled "**Life by Lake Lisgar**", local historian Joan Weston will be talking about the history of Lake Lisgar. Joan will be presenting on **Thursday, April 23rd and Friday, May 24th**. Lunch begins at 12 p.m. and costs \$35.75 (taxes included). Beres will be catering and we will be enjoying a delicious lunch of Quiche Lorraine or Broccoli and Cheese Quiche, garden salad and mixed vegetables. Spaces are limited. Pre-registration is required.

Our last event of May is the opening of our summer exhibition, "**Main Street Oxford**". This is a banner exhibition featuring historical images of Oxford County's Main Streets. The exhibition opening will be occurring on **Sunday, May 26th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.** Light refreshments will be served. The exhibition will be on display in the Pratt Gallery from **Sunday, May 26th to Sunday, August 25th, 2024**.

## **COMING IN JUNE**

We are starting June off with a temporary exhibition in the Program Room. The Tillsonburg Military History Club is taking

over the Program Room from June 4th to 7th, with an exhibition celebrating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. More information about the exhibition and the D-Day celebration on the evening of June 6th will be available in coming weeks.

June will also see the return of **TurtleFest** to the Museum's lawn - YES- TurtleFest is BACK AGAIN!! We are starting the weekend celebration on **Friday, June 14th** with the second annual TurtleFest Movie on the Lawn. This year we will be showing the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Movie: The Secret of the Ooze (1991)". Bring a blanket or lawn chair to the Museum's lawn to celebrate all things Ninja Turtles. The movie will start at dusk.

Then come back on Saturday and join us on **June 15th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** (while supplies last) for a day of turtlely fun. We will have live turtles, games, crafts, Lego® creations, tours of the Museum and the popular Turtle Find. Admission is by donation. The Museum is partnering with Jana and John Everett, authors of "Never Give Up"; Scales Nature Park (Turtles & Snakes); ToroLUG (Lego); Skunk Haven of the Dragon's Lair (Skunk Rescue); The Long Point Basin Land Trust (Local Conservation) and the Tillsonburg & District Historical Society to make the return of TurtleFest extra special.

Did you know that Tillsonburg is a "Bee City"? In celebration of this distinction, Annandale NHS is offering end of the school year Programming entitled "Buzzing Bees: A Pollinator Week Celebration". This program is being offered to all local elementary and

home school groups in the area from June 19th to 26th, 2024. We are very excited to celebrate and share our gardens with local school groups.

**Music on the Lawn** is back for another season. The Historical Society is starting the season off on **Sunday, June 23rd with Dave Cook at 7 p.m.** The completed list of artists will be available next month. The Music on the Lawn series occurs each Sunday on the lawn of Annandale NHS during the summer. Favourite musical groups from last year will be appearing, as well as some new musicians. Thanks again to Joan Weston for co-ordinating this.

June is definitely going to be one very busy month. Be sure to mark your calendar!

### **THANK YOU**

HI!

I just want to say a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who has dropped by to see how I am doing; offered to help me with programming; done the dishes after events; and just generally been supportive over the last month. With all the "unknowns" that April brought, I am incredibly thankful for our amazing volunteers and members! You are all wonderful and I am so grateful for you!

While I do not know what May will bring, I know that if I need any help, advice or just a friendly voice, the Museum community is there for me.

Thank you again!

Kathleen