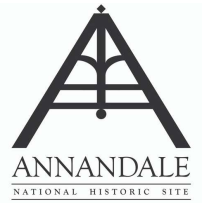




# THE SOCIETY PAGES

*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

The Society's General Meeting **Monday, November 18th** will feature Dr. Jason Pankratz making a presentation on the **History of Varnavair, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch # 153** at 7 p.m. at Annandale House NHS.

**Saturday, December 7th at 7 p.m.** is the **Christmas Dance with Back to the 50's Band** at Branch # 153, Royal Canadian Legion, 16 Durham Street, Tillsonburg. Advance Tickets are \$20 available at Annandale NHS, Royal Canadian Legion, Station Arts Centre, and Sharon Brinn (519-842-6301). Tickets are \$25 at the door. There will be a cash bar, and snacks provided. This is a fundraiser for the Society so invite your friends and family and be prepared to have a great evening of entertainment and socializing.

**Monday, December 9th** is the **Society's Annual Potluck Christmas Dinner** starting at **5:30 p.m.** Bring your favourite main course or dessert as well as eating utensils and dishes. This is always a fun event.

Mark your calendars for the **Mayor's New Years Levee on Sunday, January 5th, 2 to 4 p.m.** Annandale NHS will still be decorated for the Christmas Season. This will be your last chance to enjoy all the work that volunteers and staff put into transforming Annandale House into a Christmas Wonder as well as meet with Mayor Deb Gilvesy and Members of Town Council. This event is sponsored by the Society, and we thank the volunteers in advance for this great event.

Start thinking of something old you would like to share with others at the Annual Show and Tell at the January Society Meeting. This is always an entertaining and informative evening.

## GENERAL MEETING

**Date:** Monday, Nov. 18th, 2024  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Corner Gallery, 2nd Floor  
Annandale NHS (30 Tillson Ave)  
**Presentation:** *"History of Varnavair, the  
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 153"*  
presented by Dr. Jason Pankratz

## UPCOMING EXHIBITION:

*"Faux Christmas Tree"*

Nov. 22nd until Jan 5th, 2025



## PUBLIC PROGRAMMING:

**Tree Lighting and Open House**  
Watch as we light up the outside for the season! Then come inside and enjoy visiting Annandale NHS all decorated for Christmas and our seasonal exhibition, "Faux Christmas Tree."

Tree Lighting at 7p.m.

Friday, Nov. 22nd: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 23rd: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 24th: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: By donation



# Annandale N.H.S. Catch-Up

## HELLO MUSEUM LOVERS!

Fall weather has officially arrived! The changing colours of the leaves are so beautiful!

### In the Pratt Gallery

On **November 22nd**, Annandale NHS is excited to be opening our 2024 Christmas exhibition, “**Faux Christmas Tree**”, an exhibition highlighting the evolution of the artificial Christmas tree from the first artificial trees in the 1880s to present day. The exhibition will run from **November 22nd, 2024 to January 5th, 2025**.

### At Annandale NHS in October

The OCCI Small Wonders Art Show and Sale, which was in the Pratt Gallery throughout September and October, was a great success. 25 pieces of art sold with a total retail value of over \$1300. Twenty percent of each sale is deposited into the Annandale House Trust, so this year the show netted \$ 270 for the Trust. We are very grateful for our partnership with Oxford Creative Connections Inc, as this annual show is a nice fundraiser for the Museum. We are also grateful and would like to thank the local artists for the commission they give to the Trust. We will definitely miss them!

The Museum hosted a workshop by local artist Stella Jurgen entitled “Flowers and Leaves Painting on Fabric”. Stella taught the group how to use natural materials to make printed fabric. The participants loved their creations and were looking forward to making more nature-inspired prints in the future.

General Meeting  
of the  
*Tillsonburg & District  
Historical Society*

**Monday, November 18th, 2024**

**at Annandale NHS**

30 Tillson Ave. Tillsonburg, ON

*“History of Varnavair, the Royal  
Canadian Legion Branch 153”*

presented by Dr. Jason Pankratz



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

Back by popular demand, we once again hosted walking tours in the Tillsonburg Cemetery. This year, we explored the amazing Mausoleums in the cemetery and learned all about the families who built them. Thank you everyone who braved the cold and the wind and joined us! Kathleen had a wonderful time sharing the stories of Hannah Forshee-Tribe-Trumpour, John Teall and Dr. Sylvanus Joy. Look out in the fall of 2025 as we explore the Pioneer Cemetery in celebration of Tillsonburg’s 200th anniversary of founding.

Trick or Treat! Annandale NHS was so excited to be the newest trick or treat spot on the block on October 31st! We had lots trick-or-treaters come and join us. They got to walk through the first floor of the house collecting treats and goodies. Kathleen and the volunteers had a fantastic time seeing all the kids in their costumes!



## Let's gather to celebrate the Christmas Season!

Join the Tillsonburg and District  
Historical Society on Monday  
December 8th, 2024 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.**



## Looking Forward To Christmas at Annandale NHS...

With November comes the Christmas Season at Annandale NHS. In order to be ready for our annual Open House weekend (November 22nd-24th this year), staff and volunteers need to get in the Christmas spirit starting the last week of October. Museum staff are looking forward to another year of seasonal decorations and the return of lots of in-person visitors.

Annandale NHS is excited to collaborate with local artist Cindie McCormack for our **Christmas Ornament Workshop** this year. Cindie will be teaching participants how to make ornaments using the quilling method. Quilling involves using strips of paper that are rolled, looped, curled, twisted and otherwise manipulated to create different shapes, and glued together to create decorative designs. This workshop will be happening on **Wednesday, November 13th** at both **1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.** All supplies and instructions are included. The cost is \$24.00 plus taxes and pre-registration is required.

The Museum's in-person school program is back this year. Museum staff are so excited to see the kids again. The classes always fill the air with excited Christmas energy. The school Christmas program is offered from November 27th to December 19th, 2024. More information about the Museum's school programming will be available in the coming weeks.

Staff are very grateful to welcome back community volunteers to decorate all of the floors of Annandale House for the season. We are always excited to see what our amazingly talented decorators will come up with year after year.

The official grand opening of “**Christmas at Annandale NHS**” will happen with our annual “**Tree Lighting Ceremony on the Lawn**” on Friday, **November 22nd, 2024 at 7 p.m.** Following the lighting, everyone is invited inside for light refreshments and the official opening of both the Christmas exhibit, “**Faux Christmas Tree**”, and Annandale House decorated for the season. Admission to the Museum throughout the weekend is by donation.

The Christmas Open House hours are:

**Friday, November 22nd: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Saturday, November 23rd: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.\*\*\***

**Sunday, November 24th: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

\*\*\* The Museum will be open late on Saturday evening as we have been asked by the Tillsonburg Craft Guild to be a stop on their Christmas tour of homes. Tickets for the tour are \$10.00 pre-event and \$12.00 at the door. You can pick one up at the Station Arts Centre.

Our final special event of 2024 is the **Faux Christmas Tree Tea on Friday, December 20th, 2024.** Come and celebrate the shortest day of the year with seasonally-flavored teas 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 Faux Christmas Tree exhibition by Collections Specialist, Jen Gibson. Tickets are \$24.00 taxes included. You can register online via Connect2Rec or by calling the Museum at 519-842-2294.

## Coming in 2024

We are starting 2025 off with the **Mayor’s Levee.** On **Sunday, January 5th,** the Tillsonburg and District Historical Society is hosting Mayor Deb Gilvesy and members of Town Council. The Mayor’s Levee is an opportunity to meet the Mayor and catch up with friends and family after the holiday season. The levee runs from **2 p.m. to 4 p.m.,** with light refreshments being served.

Our **Lunch and Learn Series** is BACK for another year! The series continues to be held the last **Thursday and Friday** of the month from February to May. We are looking forward to presentations by Kathleen Watkin, Patricia Phelps, Laurel Beechey and Joan Weston! This year’s lectures’ themes will be around the founding of Tillsonburg. Tickets for the Lunch and Learn Series will be available January 6th. A **series pass** will be **\$123.00** (taxes included) or **\$37.00** (taxes included) for a **single ticket.** Pre-registration required.

This is just a little taste of what will be happening at the Museum in 2025! There is so much more sensational programming and events to participate in during 2025. We hope that all of you will join in the excitement!

Annandale National Historic Site is  
looking for some new

## “Guardians of the Museum”

Do you wish to make sure that items do not get stolen or damaged during Open Houses and/or Tours? Shifts are typically 2 hours in length. Thank you those who responded last month. We still need a few more volunteers.

Please submit your name to  
Kathleen at [kwatkin@tillsonburg.ca](mailto:kwatkin@tillsonburg.ca)  
or at 519-842-2294.

**Tillsonburg & District Historical Society  
Presents:**



**Christmas  
Dance with  
*Back to the  
50's***



***Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.***

**Branch 153 Royal Canadian Legion  
16 Durham Street, Tillsonburg**

**Advanced tickets \$20.00      \$25.00 at the door  
Cash Bar & Snacks**

**Tickets can be purchased at Annandale NHS,  
Royal Canadian Legion, Station Arts Centre &  
Sharon Brinn (519-842-6301).**

**Call 519-842-2294 for tickets now!**