

The Corporation of the Town of Tillsonburg Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards Advisory Committee AGENDA



Wednesday, March 19, 2025

4:30 PM

Boardroom CSC

10 Lisgar Ave.

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

Moved By: _____

Seconded By: _____

THAT the agenda as prepared for the Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards Advisory Committee meeting of March 19, 2025 be approved.

3. **Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

4. **Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Moved By: _____

Seconded By: _____

THAT the minutes of the February 19, 2025 Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

5. **Presentations**

6. **General Business & Reports**

6.1 **Museum Report**

Moved By: _____

Seconded By: _____

THAT the Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards Advisory

Committee receive the attached Museum Report as information.

6.2 Heritage Listings

6.3 Founder's Day

7. Next Meeting

8. Adjournment

Moved By: _____

Seconded By: _____

THAT the meeting be adjourned at ____ p.m.

**The Corporation of the Town of Tillsonburg
Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards
Advisory Committee**



MINUTES

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
4:30 PM
Boardroom CSC
10 Lisgar Ave.

ATTENDANCE: Carrie Lewis, Chair
Lindsay Munroe
Doug Cooper
Joan Weston, Vice-Chair
Courtney Booth
Rosemary Dean
Kelly Spencer, Councillor
Deb Gilvesy, Mayor

Regrets: Isaac Card
Tabitha Verbuyst

Staff: Duncan Bryce, Records and Legislative Coordinator

Regrets: Andrea Greenway, Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. with Vice-Chair Joan Weston Presiding.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution # 1

Moved By: Courtney Booth

Seconded By: Rosemary Dean

THAT the agenda as prepared for the Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards Advisory Committee meeting of February 19, 2025, be approved.

Carried

3. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interests.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolution # 2

Moved By: Doug Cooper

Seconded By: Kelly Spencer, Councillor

THAT the January 15, 2025 Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards Advisory Committee meeting minutes be approved.

Carried

5. Presentations

6. General Business & Reports

6.1 Citizen of the Year

Nominations for Citizen of the Year are open on the Town of Tillsonburg website until March 31.

6.2 Spring Volunteer Achievement Award

Applications are currently open on the Town of Tillsonburg website.

6.3 Update to Cultural Grant Processes

The Committee discussed putting a motion on the floor at a Committee meeting closer to 2026 budget deliberations to potentially revisit bringing the cultural grant processes back to the Committee.

6.4 Founder's Day Event Subcommittee

Applications for the Founder's Day Subcommittee are open now on the Town of Tillsonburg website until February 25.

Resolution # 3

Moved By: Doug Cooper

Seconded By: Carrie Lewis, Chair

THAT the Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special awards Advisory Committee appoint Committee member Rosemary Dean to the Founder's Day Subcommittee.

Carried

6.5 Museum Report - Annandale 200th Celebrations

Resolution # 4

Moved By: Kelly Spencer, Councillor

Seconded By: Courtney Booth

THAT the Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards Advisory Committee receive the Museum Report as information.

Carried

7. Next Meeting

8. Adjournment

Resolution # 5

Moved By: Kelly Spencer, Councillor

Seconded By: Rosemary Dean

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Carried

Annandale National Historic Site Report

Museum, Culture, Heritage, and Special Awards Advisory Committee

Wednesday, March 19th, 2025

ATTENDANCE DATA:

Our attendance is tracking well compared to last year, despite unexpected challenges. Inclement weather on Family Day resulted in approximately 100 fewer visitors than in February 2024.

	Members	Paid Visitors	Donation Visitors	Group Visitors	Tourism Info	Rental Attendees	TOTAL	YTD
Jan-2024	121	136	102	22	24	71	476	476
Jan-2025	120	37	115	0	78	34	384	384

	Members	Paid Visitors	Donation Visitors	Group Visitors	Tourism Info	Rental Attendees	TOTAL	YTD
Feb-2024	117	53	271	0	64	0	505	981
Feb-2025	44	41	166	0	72	209	532	916

EXHIBITIONS:

"What's Your Sign: Part 2"

Date: March 3 - May 11th, 2025

A celebration of how the citizens of Tillsonburg left their mark!

"Tillsonburg 1825"

Date: June 14 - September 28th, 2025

A retrospective in honour of Tillsonburg's 200th anniversary.

Opening: June 14th at 10 a.m. (TurtleFest)

"A Pioneer Christmas"

Date: November 22, 2025 - January 6th, 2026

An immersive exhibition showcasing the cherished traditions and festive customs of Tillsonburg's pioneering families during the holiday season.

Opening: November 28th (time TBD - Christmas Open House)

Upcoming Lectures, Events, Workshops, and Socials (March - June 2025)

LUNCH & LEARN LECTURE SERIES:

"Nancy Barker Tillson: Tillsonburg's First Lady"

Presented by Laurel Beechey

Dates: Thursday, March 27th or Friday, March 28th

"Benjamin VanNorman: Co-Founder of Tillsonburg?"

Presented by Patricia Phelps

Dates: Thursday, April 26th or Friday, April 27th

SPECIAL EVENTS:

"Scan-a-thon"

Preserve your cherished Tillsonburg memories by bringing your favorite photographs to the museum for scanning and archival. Participants will receive a digital copy of all scanned images—pre-registration required.

Dates & Times:

Thursday, April 3rd, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 5th, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Cost: by donation

"Mommy and Me Tea Party"

Honour and celebrate the incredible mothers and mother figures in your life with a delightful tea party and hands-on craft activity at Annandale National Historic Site—pre-registration required.

Date: Sunday, May 11th at 1:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00 for parent and child - \$5.00 for each additional child

"Cowabunga! TurtleFest Movie Night"

Join us on the Annandale National Historic Site lawn at dusk for an outdoor screening of "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Secret of the Ooze" (1991) to kick off TurtleFest celebrations—don't forget to bring your lawn chairs and blankets for a cozy experience!

Date: Friday, June 13th at Dusk

Cost: by donation

"TurtleFest 2025"

Visit Annandale National Historic Site for a fun-filled day of LEGO building, games, crafts, guided tours, and the exciting 'Turtle Find' challenge. Plus, meet live turtles up close! Activities available while supplies last.

Date: Saturday, June 14th, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Cost: by donation

WORKSHOPS:

"Maker's Workshop: Spring Bouquet Wool Flower Workshop"

Join artist Heather Cork for a hands-on workshop and learn to create your own beautiful wool flower bouquet. All materials and supplies are provided —pre-registration required.

Date: Wednesday, April 9th, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00 (tax included)

"Maker's Workshop: Rug Hooking"

Ever wanted to learn the art of rug hooking? Now's your chance! Join Sandra Thornton of the Oxwood Hooking Artisans for a hands-on workshop and create your own hooked rug. All materials and supplies are provided. Please bring your own lunch —pre-registration required.

Date: Wednesday, April 26th, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Cost \$50.00 (tax included)

SOCIALS:

"Easter Tea and Egg Hunt"

Come for hot-cross-buns and tea followed by an Easter Egg hunt through the museum. Easter baskets supplied—pre-registration required.

Date: Wednesday, April 16th, 1:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00 (tax included)

Name of Building/Roll#	Municipal Address	Year Built	Designated	By-Law #	Legal Description	Description
United Church of Canada	62 Harvey Street	1885	12-Jan-82	2179	North Part Lot 1128, Plan 500	This early English Gothic white brick church with four-sided spire is the oldest religious structure in Tillsonburg and has architectural and historic significance. The exterior of the church (with the exception of the 1960 addition to the south) has been historically designated. The congregation was established in 1849. The current church was the result of a union between a Methodist and Presbyterian Church in 1925.
Private Residence	94 Rolph Street	1880	12-Jan-82	2179	Lot 782, Plan 500	This is an excellent example of an Italianate-style house, with its rounded windows and eyebrow surrounds. The unique features of the building were typical of better buildings of the era and would have been unique in the area. Because of its architectural significance, the exterior of the building received heritage designation to retain its original character. Designation does not pertain to the more recent addition to the rear of the property.
C.N. Station (Hale Street)	125 Bidwell Street	1879	28-Nov-83	2258	Part Lot 947, Plan 500	This building was originally known as the Hale Street Station and was built by the Great Western Railway which shortly thereafter merged with the Grand Trunk Railway. The company later became part of the Canadian National Railway. For nearly a century, it was the main railway station in Tillsonburg. The station is made of brick construction and is gothic in style and is one of the few remaining G.W.R. stations. The yellow brick was painted at an early date. The windows are gothic form with stone sills and alternating brick and stone Voussoirs (wedge-shapes forming an arch). A porch extends around the entire building and is supported by wooden braces which are built into the station walls. The two chimneys, the four decorative triangular dormers and woodwork of the verges have been reconstructed from early photographs. Due to the building's historical and architectural significance, the exterior of the station has been historically designated to retain its original character.
St. Paul's Mance (United Church of Canada)	38 Ridout Street	1890	28-Nov-83	2258	Part Lot 888, 880, Plan 500	This property was the parsonage for the Wesleyan Methodist Church (St. Paul's predecessor). The structure is Queen Anne style and has been sited as a "fine example of High Victorian architecture in Southwestern Ontario". It is distinguished by its 3-storey polygonal turret and the high windows with stone sills and lintles. Adding to the elegance is the decorative woodwork off the friezes and rear porch, the high chimneys and the stained glass windows on the west side. Due to the building's architectural significance, the exterior of the house has been historically designated to retain its original character.

Annandale National Historic Site	28 Tillson Avenue	1881-83	28-Nov-83	2258	Part Lot 1267, Plan 500 Part 2 on RP 41R-2770	<p>This property was recommended for designation for both historical and architectural reasons. Annandale House was built during 1881-83 by Edward Delevan Tillson, the son of George Tillson, the Town's founder. E.D. Tillson was Tillsonburg's first mayor when the Town was incorporated in 1872. He was largely responsible for the development of Tillsonburg. In addition to being a leading and successful businessman, he was also a magistrate and postmaster. He personally helped fund several civic projects including the waterworks and street grading. In 1882 he withdrew from active business life, devoting his remaining years to running his 400 acre model farm, Annandale. He died in 1902 and the house was sold by the family 1911. In 1928, it was purchased by Dr. Charles VanDyke Corliss, a native of Norwich and a former chairman of Mond Nickle and INCO. Upon his death in 1954, it was passed to his daughter, Mrs. Florence Burns and after her death in 1981, was put on the market by her daughter.</p> <p>Annandale House is of eclectic style and has been termed "Scots Baronial" and "High Victorian". Perhaps the latter term is best, as it implies the desired picturesque of the era. Designation includes the exterior and interior of the 3-storey home, which includes the light brick, including the interior walls, the brick being from Tillson's own backyard. The roof is multi-coloured slate, with tall decorative chimneys. The original woodwork on the eaves, and the front verandah are included as are the stained glass windows.</p> <p>The interior details designated include the marquetry floor, the doors with the stained glass windows, woodwork, staircase, radiator covers, fireplaces and the painted ceilings.</p>
Private Residence	41 King Street	1889	10-Nov-86	2352	Part Lot 450, Plan 500	<p>This property is considered an excellent example of "High Victorian" architecture. Its style is eclectic, but basically Queen Ann. Architecturally it is unusual in two features. Being on a corner lot, the sides facing the two streets are similar each with bay windows with a chimney on the centre of each bay. The roof is of patterned slate, and the exterior woodwork (bargeboards and brackets) are more highly decorated than most.</p> <p>Designation includes the brickwork</p>
Private Residence	101 Rolph Street	1882	10-Nov-86	2352	Lot 753, Plan 500	<p>The home is one of the better examples of its type in Tillsonburg. It is a composite of several styles as was common at the time. The term picturesque or "Carpenter Gothic" best describe the overall style. Its most attractive feature is the decorative trim, especially at the verge boards and over the bay windows.</p> <p>Designation includes the exterior woodwork (above mentioned trim), the shutters and verandah.</p>
Tillson Pear Barley & Split Pea Mill (Mill Tale Inn)	20 John Pound Road	1878	10-Nov-86	2352	Lot 1439, Plan 500	<p>This building is the last of the surviving industries of E.D. Tillson from which modern Tillsonburg developed. Originally known as Tillson's Pear Barley and Split Pea Mill, the building was originally water-powered, the source being the former Lake Joseph. The building is of massive timber framing with a tarred metal roof, and the siding clad with steel sheeting stamped to imitate stone. Wooden doors on each floor gave access to the various levels.</p> <p>Designation is for both the historical and architectural significance of the property, its association with E.D. Tillson, being the sole survivor of an early Tillsonburg Industry and includes the exterior features, siding, roofing, cladding and loading area.</p>

Private Residence	300 Broadway	1894	13-Aug-90	2521	Part Lot 1010, Plan 500	This home is an example of a simplified Queen Anne style with an Eastlake influence. Originally sided with clapboard, with elaborate exterior trim at the roof line, gables and windows, some of which have stained glass. A metal railing originally framed the upper front windows and there were elaborate front and back porches. The roof is of slate with masonry chimneys. The staircase is also of Eastlake influence and is made of red oak, a wood used extensively in the
Station Arts Centre (CP Railway Station) Station Arts Centre (CP Railway Station)	41 Bridge Street	1898	14-Jun-94	2676	Part Lots 732, 734, 735, 736 and Part of Hale Street, Plan 500, Part 2, 41R-1941	The Tillsonburg Lake Erie and Pacific Railway, chartered in 1890, was largely the creation of John Teal of Vienna, Ontario. It eventually ran from the Village of Port Burwell to the Town of Ingersoll, and was taken over by the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1905. The station was originally on King Street in the Town of Tillsonburg, alongside of the Tillsonburg Lake Erie and Pacific Railway tracks, and was built by Thomas Murphy in 1898. When the line was abandoned and the land sold to the Town of Tillsonburg in 1990, it was moved to its present site in 1992 west of the Great Western Railway station on Bridge Street. Its design is cruciform (shape of a cross) in plan, of frame construction, clapboard siding, the longer axis of the station is parallel to the (then) tracks. A verandah roof extends around most of its perimeter, although its floor has disappeared. The station's design once commonplace in smaller centres, is fast disappearing. It is the sole remaining reminder of a railway inspired by and built by local endeavor.
Cenotaph	200 Broadway	1929	25-Feb-10	3381	Part Lot 976, 977, Plan 500	The cenotaph is located in front of the current Town Centre Mall and has not moved from where it was originally located in front of the old Town Hall for the Town of Tillsonburg. It was first unveiled November 11, 1929 as a monument to the Great War. A rather large amount of money was spent on the building the cenotaph as a statement made by our ancestors that they never wanted to forget the sacrifice made by the individuals that served in the War. It is the responsibility of future generations to ensure the culture of acknowledging the important efforts of our forefathers is not forgotten. In later years, the names of those who fought and died during World War II and Korea were added to the monument. On each side of the cenotaph are the battles in which Tillsonburg residents participated. The granite used for the cenotaph is the same granite used for the gargoyles on the Peace Tower at the Canadian Parliament buildings and is generally along with lines of the famous cenotaph in Whitehall, London England.
Joy Mausoleum	191 Simcoe Street		27-Jun-11	3520		The Joy Mausoleum is located within the Tillsonburg Cemetery. The building has an impressive design and construction which clearly identified Dr. Joy as a prominent member of the community in Tillsonburg's past. The mausoleum features granite pillars, a bronze door, stained glass window and marble walls. Doctor Joy also served as a coroner for Oxford County, a Railroad Surgeon and farmed apples, grapes and sorghum (grain). His winery received awards at the 1889 Paris World's Fair.
Forshee-Tribe Trumpour Mausoleum	191 Simcoe Street		12-Dec-11	3574		The Forshee-Tribe-Trumpour Mausoleum is located within the Tillsonburg Cemetery and was constructed by the London Marble Granite Company. The structure is designed with large granite stones stacked three high. The base is made of granite, as is the roof which is peaked to shed water. The mausoleum features two copper doors accompanied with two pillars. The mausoleum is well constructed as is of architectural significance to the Town.

Pioneer Cemetery	Corner of Simcoe & Cedar Streets	1838	22-Apr-13	3721	Lot 1377, Plan 500	<p>The Pioneer Cemetery is a small cemetery located at the corner of Simcoe and Cedar Streets. It spans over approximately one acre of land and over 125 individuals are interred in the cemetery. The cemetery was started by the founding family of Tillsonburg, George and Nancy Tillson. The cemetery was created in 1838 at the request of Mrs. Tillson for the burial of her daughter Tamsen Sophronia. It remained in use from 1883-1880 and includes the final resting ground of the Tillson and VanNorman families which have been honoured as the Founding Fathers and members of many of the earliest settlers. It serves as an important link to the history of Tillsonburg and provides an insight into the lives of the people of Tillsonburg during periods of increased burials due to epidemics and by showing the key historical themes through the various markers and monuments.</p> <p>Many of the original markers and monuments with their surviving inscriptions remain. A wrought iron fence now surrounds the property.</p>
Rolph Street Public School	83 Rolph Street	1911-1913	14-Oct-14	3852	Lot 761 Plan 500; Part Lot 763, 764A Plan 500	<p>This property includes a three-storey building built between 1911-1913. The current structure is on the same parcel of land as the original Rolph Street Public School which was built in 1872. For over 101 years, the school has been home to thousands of school children, many of which still reside in Tillsonburg. The school serves as a tool to connect generations of people with shared memories and experiences.</p> <p>The building also holds architectural importance with the Town. Being of early 19th century design, the building features bright red bricks, original dormers and window sills, original stonework with keystones above four main entrances, and the original redbrick chimneys. All of these features are exuberated by a high degree craftsmanship.</p> <p>Key attributes of the school which reflect its cultural and historical value within the Town include the original red brick, window openings and sills, foundation made of heavy and thick stone and concrete with a block stone covering, stonework around the main entrances with keystones above the doorways and entrance windows, five dormers on the third floor overlooking the front of the school and original chimney work on the roof for the hot water heating system.</p> <p>Designation does not include the interior of the building.</p>