

	<b>Report Title</b>	July–September 2019 Activity Report: Culture & Heritage
	<b>Report No.</b>	RCP 19-49
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	<b>Council Date</b>	October 15, 2019
	<b>Attachments</b>	

### **ACTIVITY REPORT JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2019**

The third quarter of 2019 was active at the Museum as several planned events were hosted along with a new exhibit and various public programming. Preplanning for the fall and busy Christmas season commenced in the third quarter. Information regarding the decorating schedule was sent to the volunteer decorators, while quotes were requested for the two Lunch & Learn programs to be offered in the fourth quarter.

The Culture & Heritage Manager/Curator developed and presented an in-class World War One program to Ms. Giffin’s Grade 10 history students at Glendale High school at the end of the quarter.

The Culture & Heritage Programs Coordinator position was posted and closed during the quarter, with interviews and candidate selection to occur within the first weeks of Q4.

Minor plaster repair work in rooms on the second and third floor of Annandale house began late in the quarter with completion scheduled in early Q4 ensuring the house will be ready for the Christmas decorating season.

### **ATTENDANCE UPDATE**

The Museum saw an increase in attendance over Q3 of 2018. New events like the **Dolly & Teddy Bear Picnic** along with new programming like the **Breaking News – Not Fake News** power point presentations helped to increase the 2019 third quarter numbers.

	2017					2018					2019				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
<b>Admissions</b>	311	934	912	404	2561	192	533	522	612	1859	174	335	610		2978
<b>Programs</b>	27	290	341	618	1276	21	91	15	765	892	0	106	23		1021
<b>Events</b>	288	1000	2867	553	4708	235	912	2624	446	4217	357	1131	2873		8578
<b>Tourism &amp; Historical Information Services</b>	302	436	373	253	1364	164	323	452	289	1228	221	379	365		2193
<b>Members &amp; Volunteers</b>	455	537	517	656	2165	365	548	381	655	1949	488	510	462		3409
<b>Room Rental Visitors</b>	398	247	240	238	1123	183	288	349	268	1088	250	241	199		1778
<b>QUARTERLY TOTAL</b>	1781	3444	5250	2722	13197	1160	2695	4343	3035	11233	1490	2702	4532	0	19957

### **2019 BUSINESS PLAN**

During the quarter two exhibits were installed in the Pratt Gallery. **“Hello Dolly,”** which opened in the second quarter, continued into the third, while **“Those Crazy Quilts”** opened and closed in Q3.

The “Hello Dolly” exhibit featuring over 120 dolls dating from the early 1860’s to present day was well received by the visiting public. The **Dolly and Teddy Bear Picnic** hosted on the lawn in August was a success with over 170 people enjoying a picnic lunch, live entertainment, games, crafts and a tea party. This was a first time event for the Museum and those in attendance made several requests to make this an annual event. Responding to this public input, a Teddy Bear Picnic has been added to the 2020 event calendar.

“**Those Crazy Quilts**” an exhibit highlighting crazy quilts from the Museum’s permanent collection along with borrowed quilts from area Museums and a private collector was the third exhibit in the Pratt Gallery for 2019. Due to the fragile nature of these quilts, this exhibit had a relatively short run, being installed for only a four week period. The Crazy Quilt fad began in the late 1870’s and were popular among upper middle class women throughout the 1880’s, coming back into favor for a brief time in the 1970’s. These particular quilts were produced as decorative items, not bed coverings. As such, the fabrics traditionally used to produce them were velvets and satins. These fabrics become incredible fragile over time, consequently this type of quilt is rarely displayed. The exhibit hosted during the quarter displayed over 20 Crazy quilts that brought visitors from London, Brantford, Waterford, Woodstock, St. Thomas as well as citizens from Tillsonburg. Several quilting groups and local quilters took in the opportunity to view so many of these unique quilts on display at one time. A **Crazy Quilter’s Tea** was offered during the exhibition run. This program gave participants tea and goodies followed by guided tour of the exhibit from the Museum’s Collections & Exhibitions Specialist, Jen Gibson. The program was filled to 90% capacity.

The Museum’s annual **Canada Day Open House and Fun Fair** on the lawn was hosted during the quarter with close to 800 visitors taking part in the various activities offered. Generous donations from the Rotary Club of Tillsonburg, the Tillsonburg Lions and Lioness Clubs and the Tillsonburg Knights of Columbus allowed the Museum to offer this event free of charge to Tillsonburg citizens and their visitors.

The public program of Power Point presentations “**Breaking News – Not Fake News**” which looked at interesting news items from the Tillsonburg Observer in 1869, 1879, 1889 and 1899 was completed during this quarter. The program, which was offered by donation, was well received with over \$200 in donations collected from those who attended the series. The next series of power point presentations “**Say Cheese**” will be presented in the fourth quarter and will look at the Museum’s historic photographic collection. Planning for this series was undertaken during Q3.

The **Annandale House Trust** Account received a **\$10,000 bequest** from the **Estate of Nancy Tillson** of Vancouver B.C. Miss Tillson was born and raised in Tillsonburg, being the **great, granddaughter of E.D. Tillson**.

The Collections & Exhibit Specialist cleared some of the displays within Annandale House during the quarter in preparation for the plaster repair work. The “**Hello Dolly**” exhibit was dismantled with loaned items returned to their donors and the “**Those Crazy Quilts**” exhibit was installed in the Pratt Gallery. This exhibition was featured in the Woodstock Sentinel Review, Tillsonburg News and Heart FM with the Collections & Exhibition Specialist conducting an live on-air interview. Two exhibit cases of recent acquisitions were created in the front lobby of the Museum to showcase artifacts that had recently come into the Museum’s collection. Planning for the upcoming Christmas exhibit is underway.

The Museum received objects, documents, and photographs from 14 **donors** this quarter. These 14 donors gave **66 objects** total. The most significant artifacts received during this quarter came from Martha and Max Jackson. Martha is a descendent of E. D. Tillson. The Jackson's donated a **1916 World War One Victory Quilt** embroidered with names of many past citizens of Tillsonburg. Included in the donation was the **WWI Nursing Cape of Nursing Sister Marguerite Sinclair, granddaughter of E. D. Tillson.**

Also of note was a large collection of **Tillsonburg souvenir ware** from Mr. Roger Matz. The bowls, plates, cups and saucers represent high quality souvenirs from around the **early 1900s** and feature **images of Tillsonburg including the Town Hall, Public School and Tillson Water Tower.** The Museum purchased three artifacts from a private collector. The items are a **very rare Luke & Sons Cream Lager Bottle, a R.H. Wilcox Soda Bottle, and a brass address plaque** from the **Tillson Pea Mill** and will add greatly to the collection of the Museum.

Volunteers, working under the Collections & Exhibition Specialist continue to scan documents and photographs from the permanent collection and to add records to the Pastperfect database. During the quarter data entry was completed for all bibles and Christmas greeting cards in the Museum's collection. Volunteers also started scanning the family history files the Museum has in its research files. All names appearing on the newly donated 1916 Victory Quilt were recorded by collection volunteers.