

MUSEUM REPORT

Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards Advisory Committee

Wednesday October 16, 2024

Staffing News

- The Culture & Heritage Manager/Curator position has been posted on the town web-site and on the Jobs Board page of the Ontario Museum Association's website
- The posting closes October 23 end of day
- Multiple applications have already been received

Current & Up-Coming Exhibits & Events

- Current exhibit in the Pratt Gallery is the OCCI Small Wonders Big Talent Art Show & Sale
 - Annual show in partnership with Oxford Creative Connections Inc.
 - Almost 200 pieces on display including; paintings, fibre work, jewelry, pottery and decorative gourds
 - To date 23 pieces have been sold
 - Show runs until October 27th
- Next Exhibit in the Gallery "Faux Christmas Tree"
 - Museum's annual Christmas Exhibit will highlight the history of the artificial or "Faux" Christmas tree
 - Will display Feather trees from late 1800's to early 1900's, first bottle brush trees, early plastic trees and tinsel trees from the 1960's and more
 - Exhibit opens on the Friday evening of the museum's Christmas Open House Weekend, Nov. 22nd through Sunday Nov. 24th
- October's Up-coming Programs
 - October 16th – Flowers & Leaves Fabric Painting Workshop with Stella Jurgen
 - October 20th – Book Launch of Dr. Rebecca Beausaert's first book "Pursing Play: Women's Leisure in Small-Town Ontario, 1870-1914." Tillsonburg was one of the "Small Towns" featured in the book and the museum's collection of documents and photographs was used for research. Picture on the cover of the book shows members of the Tillsonburg Ladies Grasshoppers Tennis Club.
 - October 24th – Cemetery Tour of the Mausoleums in the Tillsonburg Cemetery
 - October 26th – Cemetery Tour of the Mausoleums in the Tillsonburg Cemetery
 - October 31st – Trick or Treat throughout the first floor of Annandale House – volunteers in costume will be handing out treats in the 5 rooms on the first floor from 4 pm to 7 pm or while supplies last

Collection News

- Earlier this month museum accepted a donation of a Log Cabin Quilt, Pineapple variation made in Tillsonburg in the late 1870's or early 1880's by Sarah Weatherwax
- Weatherwax family have been long time residents of Tillsonburg
- Although the museum has other log cabin quilts in the collection, this is the first "Pineapple Variation" to be donated

Year to Date Numbers

- Museum continues to increase attendance numbers over last year
 - YTD for 2023 : 6230 (Jan 1 to Sept. 30)
 - YTD for 2024: 6,667 (Jan 1 to Sept. 30)
 - Although not a huge increase, the numbers are going in the right direction
 - Projected that museum, barring extreme bad weather in up-coming months, will end the year with an increase over the 2023 year-end number which was 8,263