

	Report Title	January – March 2019 Activity Report Culture & Heritage
	Report No.	RCP 19-07
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	Meeting Type	Council Meeting
	Council Date	, 2019
	Attachments	

ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2018

The first quarter of 2019 was an active one for museum staff and volunteers. The dismantling of both the seasonal décor throughout the building and the annual themed exhibit in the Pratt Gallery is labor intensive and requires several weeks of staff time. Immediately following the removal of the “Christmas Season” staff began work on the first exhibit of 2019 “***Call the Doctor***” which highlighted the history of medicine in Tillsonburg with special emphasis on the community’s earliest physicians. The exhibit, which showcased medical instruments and equipment from the museum’s permanent collection, has been well received by the community. Throughout the quarter many retired nurses, doctors and staff members from the local hospital have toured the exhibit. Considerable staff resources were expended to complete the exhibit for the February third opening deadline. The opening was a success with descendants of many of the featured doctors and nurses attending.

Inclement weather during the quarter caused the postponement of several scheduled programs. The programs will now be completed during Q 2.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

	2017						2018						2019				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	YTD	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	YTD	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
Admissions	311	934	912	404	404	2965	192	533	522	522	612	2381	174				174
Programs	27	290	341	618	618	1894	21	91	15	15	765	907	0				0
Events	288	1000	2867	553	553	5261	235	912	2624	2624	446	6841	357				357
Tourism & Historical Information Services	302	436	373	253	253	1617	164	323	452	452	289	1680	221				221
Members & Volunteers	455	537	517	656	656	2821	365	548	381	381	655	2330	488				488
Room Rental Visitors	398	247	240	238	238	1361	183	288	349	349	268	1437	250				250
QUARTERLY TOTAL	1781	3444	5250	2722	2722	15919	1160	2695	4343	4343	3035	15576	1490	0	0	0	1490

2018 BUSINESS PLAN

The first exhibit in the Pratt Gallery for 2019 “***Call the Doctor***” was researched, fabricated and installed by museum staff and volunteers. Along with artefacts from the museum permanent collection, the museum borrowed items from the Weston family,(descendants of Dr. R.E. Weston), the Board of the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and several retired nurses from the community.

This quarter saw the start of the popular Lunch & Learn Lecture Series, with two of the four L & L completed. Museum volunteer, Laurel Beechey presented the first lecture “***Tillsonburg’s Architectural Treasures***” while the Culture & Heritage Manager/Curator researched and presented the second lecture “***Buggies & Tin Lizzies; the story of Waller’s Carriage Works and Mabey’s Garage.***” The series is offered on the last Thursday and Friday of each month, February through May with patrons able to purchase either individual tickets for each lecture or a series pass for all four. The Friday lectures are booked at 100% capacity with the Thursday lectures running between 60% – 90%.

The Mayor’s Levee, Family Day Open House and the Woman’s Day Cheesecake Social were all successfully completed during Q 1. The Spring Bus Trip to Canada Blooms was cancelled due to lack of ticket sales.

Preliminary planning for Turtlefest, Canada Day Open House & Fun Fair and the Dolly & Teddy Bear events was undertaken during the quarter.

Programing in correlation with the ***Call the Doctor*** exhibit in the form of power point presentations highlighting 5 Tillsonburg Doctors was offered during the quarter. The Culture & Heritage Manager/Curator researched and presented these mini talks on Dr. Alexander, Dr. Weston, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Rankin, while volunteer Laurel Beechey, presented her talk on Dr. Joy.

The Collections & Exhibit Specialist completed two exhibits within Annandale House during the quarter; ***Mid Century MRS.*** an exhibition featuring clothing, hats and accessories that belonged to Ethel McKenney which examines 1940s-1960s fashions was displayed in the ¼ ceiling room, ***Pond to Pool: Swimming in Tillsonburg*** – an exhibition featuring the swimwear from the museum’s collection with accompanying photographs of people swimming at Lake Lisgar, the outdoor pool and the indoor pool was created in the third floor tower room. The major exhibit ***Call the Doctor – Tillsonburg’s Medical History*** was installed in the Pratt Gallery.

The museum received objects, documents, and photographs from 7 donors this quarter. These donations resulted in 24 items added to the permeant collection. Of particular interest were the Graduation Certificate, Pins, and photographs of Joanne Young who was part of the last Registered Nursing Assistant class that graduated from Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital before the program was disbanded in 1968.

During the quarter a new data entry volunteer was trained on PastPerfect. Volunteers finished data entry and processing both of the yearbooks in the collection and the large Scott Collection that consisted of 116 documents. Volunteers also began the task of scanning the oversized photographic collection.

Collections and Exhibitions Specialist attended a Museum Lighting course in Hamilton taught by Canadian Conservation Institute and attended a Writing for Museum Exhibits workshop held in Milton by Halton Heritage Services.

The Culture & Heritage Manager/Curator requested sponsorship in the amount of \$2,000 from the Tillsonburg & District Historical Society to cover the costs in completely outfitting, in full piper regalia, Mr. Corey Hill, Facility Manager of the Town of Tillsonburg and member of the Ingersoll Pipe Band. Mr. Hill has agreed to become the “new” Tillson Pan-Dried Oats Scottish Highlander and the “official” museum piper, piping at museum and other town events as requested and as negotiated with him.

The Collections and Exhibitions Specialist applied to the Frank Cowan Company Home Town Program for \$4,000 in funding to redo the Tillson Family Gallery. If successful, the grant will allow for a complete up-grade of the gallery with new panels and visuals depicting the history of Tillsonburg's first family.