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*Name of Building / Area / Roll Number*

## **St. John's Anglican Church**

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*Year Listed*

2022

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*Year Built*

1899

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*Municipal Address*

46 Ridout St. W.

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*GPS Coordinates*

Latitude 42.86048 / Longitude  
-80.72991

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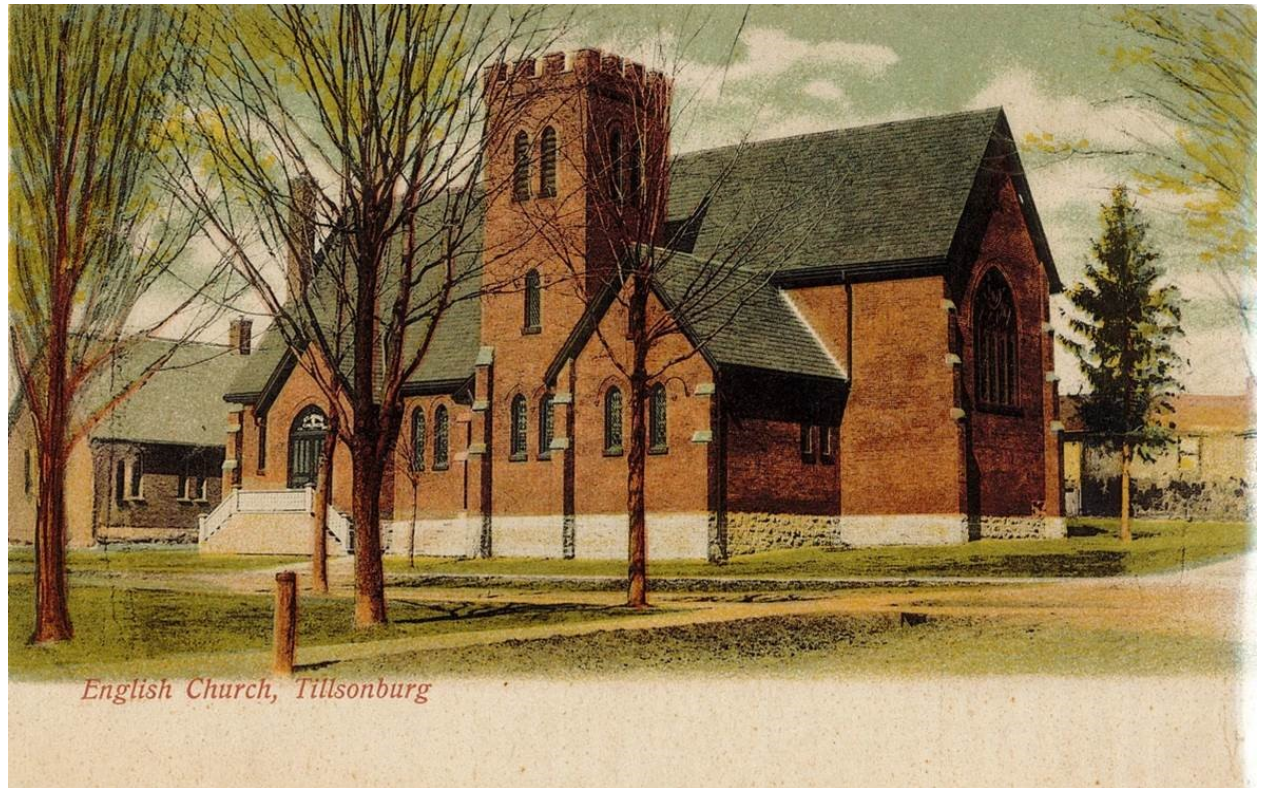
*Legal Description*

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### **Culture / Heritage Value Attributes**

The first Anglican Church in Tillsonburg (located on Harvey Street) was built in 1868 and destroyed by fire in 1870. A new church, located on Rolph Street, was consecrated in 1873, where it served for 27 years. The cornerstone for the third and final church was laid on August 18, 1899, and the building completed in 1900.



The Parish Hall, a separate structure, was opened shortly afterwards, and in 1945 a third building was added, uniting the two.

A time capsule was placed in the cornerstone of the church in 1899. The capsule was opened in 1999 and a new time capsule containing some of the original documents has been placed in the same location.

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*Name of Building / Area / Roll Number*

## **Rotary Clock Tower**

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*Year Listed*

**2022**

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*Year Built*

**1994**

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*Municipal Address*

**41 Bridge Street West**

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*GPS Coordinates*

**Latitude 42.863015 / Longitude  
-80.730517**

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*Legal Description*

**00000**

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### **Culture / Heritage Value Attributes**

The Rotary Clock Tower stands as the northern gateway to Downtown Tillsonburg. The clock tower displays very impressive brick work as well the inner workings of the clock which is visible through the windows on all four sides.

The Tower is surrounded by memorial paving stones, engraved with the names of various prominent members

of the community, as well as those designated by donors. The clock was originally part of the Post Office building built in 1913 on the southwest corner of Broadway and Ridout. This building was demolished in 1957, but the clock was saved. The 3,000-pound bell came from the Town Hall which was built in 1898 and demolished in 1979 to make room for the Town Centre Mall. Like the clock the bell was saved.

The Rotary Clock Tower was erected through the auspices of Rotary Clubs International Community fundraising Tillsonburg celebrates the community and events by changing the colours on the outside of the clock at night. Example during the pandemic a blue light was illuminated



from the tower to thank local front-line health care providers, emergency service personnel and other essential workers.

*Name of Building / Area / Roll Number*

## **Tillsonburg Memorial Arena**

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*Year Listed*

**2022**

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*Year Built*

**1949**

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*Municipal Address*

**45 Hardy Avenue**

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*GPS Coordinates*

**Latitude 42.87143 / Longitude  
-80.73505**

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*Legal Description*

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### **Culture / Heritage Value Attributes**

Tillsonburg Memorial Arena was established in Dec, 26, 1949. The Memorial Arena started with donations from soldiers after the war coming back "home" to Tillsonburg. The soldiers wanted to do something to revitalize the community and decided to donate funds towards the construction of the Memorial arena for the community.



The structure of the Memorial arena resembles the architectural layout of a classic hip barn structure. A hip roof, or hipped roof, is a type of roof where all sides slope downwards to the walls, usually with a gentle slope. The Tillsonburg Memorial Arena has a capacity of 700 seats. It has been a cornerstone of Tillsonburg for over a century hosting their first Home Town hockey game officially in 1950.

The Heritage and Culture Committee feels the Memorial arena should be a part of preserving the community's history. The Memorial arena has been a foundation for a variety of recreational and leisure events for the community for over a century.

*Name of Building / Area / Roll Number*

## **Westleyan Methodist Church (Former Parsonage)**

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*Year Listed*

2022

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*Year Built*

1890

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*Municipal Address*

38 Ridout St. W.

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*GPS Coordinates*

Latitude 42.86085 / Longitude  
-80.72965

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*Legal Description*

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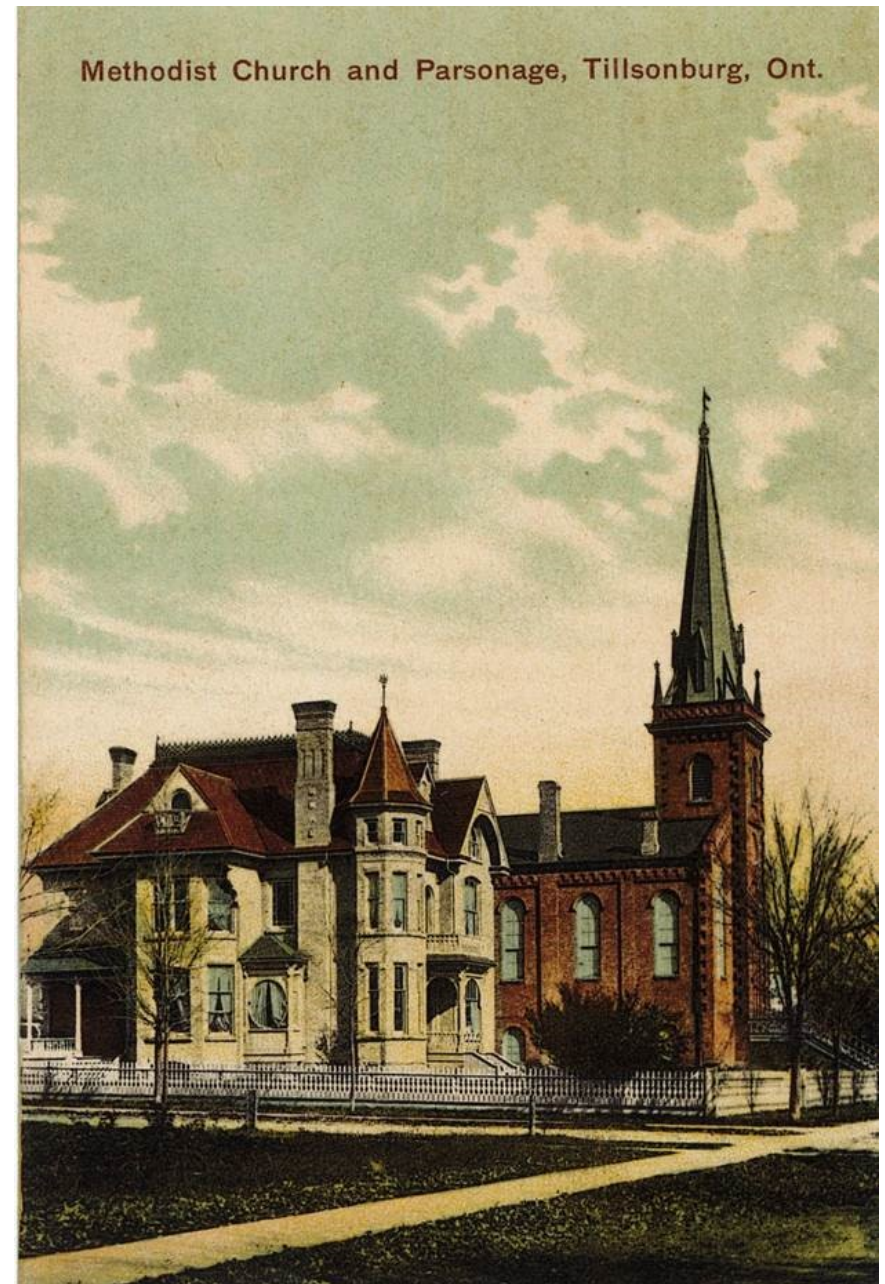
### **Culture / Heritage Value Attributes**

The building is recognized by the Ontario Heritage Trust as a building of architectural value as an example of high Victorian architecture in Southwestern Ontario.

It is distinguished by its three storey polygonal turrets, the high windows with stone sills and lintels, decorative woodwork off the friezes and rear

porch as well as the stained-glass windows on the west side.”

The Westleyan Methodist Church parsonage served as the Manse for St. Paul’s United Church and subsequently has become a popular restaurant in the community under several names. Today it is the Enchanted Eats Cafe.



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*Name of Building / Area / Roll Number*

## Memorial Park

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*Year Listed*

2022

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*Year Built*

1879

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*Municipal Address*

46 Sanders Street

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*GPS Coordinates*

Latitude 42.86989 / Longitude  
-80.73268

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*Legal Description*

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### Culture / Heritage Value Attributes

By 1875 the Tillsonburg Fair had moved to its present location near Lake Lisgar. The fair and racetrack had been the major attraction on this section of land. E.D. Tillson granted this land for recreational purposes in 1879. The town map of 1881 clearly shows the original Crystal Palace (fair building) and identifies the area as "Exhibition Grounds."



The entrances to Memorial Park have been marked by stone pillars off Ross Street, Sanders Street and John Street. The gates contain plaques attesting to the area's history.

The name of this area has changed over the years. Names associated with this space have been: Tillsonburg Fairgrounds Park, Tillsonburg Park, Lake Lisgar Park, Dixie Tribe Memorial Park. Today we regard the name of the associated leisure attractions around Lake Lisgar as Memorial Park.

Memorial Park has included many amenities and structures over its years. Some attractions that no longer exist are: the racetrack, the grandstand, the horse barn, the original Crystal Palace, the earlier bandshell, and the armouries (also known as the first Tillsonburg Museum).

Today park amenities include Lake Lisgar Water Park, the Sam Lamb Baseball Field, the new Crystal Palace and Fair Board Buildings, a new Bandshell/Stage (a Canada 150 Kinsmen Project), and a covered pavilion.

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*Name of Building / Area / Roll Number*

## Coronation Park

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*Year Listed*

2022

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*Year Built*

1953

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*Municipal Address*

19 Van Street

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*GPS Coordinates*

Latitude 42.85558 / Longitude  
-80.72326

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*Legal Description*

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### Culture / Heritage Value Attributes

Situated at the south of town, east of John Pound Road and across from the Otter Creek, is Coronation Park. The park is accessible by traveling down Old Vienna Road to the end of Van Street. As you enter the park you immediately notice the anti-aircraft gun to the left of the entrance. You will also notice the prominent Mill



Restaurant across the creek; the last of the Tillson Empire mills.

This green area is the last known gifted land to the town from the E.D. Tillson Estate. It is appropriately named to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, in 1953. Supported by the Tillsonburg Kiwanis for many years, the park incorporated activity equipment and a walking trail.

In 2009 the park incorporated the Carroll Trail into its landscape. Starting at the south end of the park, it travels through the gully and over and through the Bridges Golf Course. This five-km. trail is both rugged and paved allowing for different levels of exertion and different types of activity like biking or walking. Another green space within our town that focuses on outdoor opportunities and natural scenery.

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*Name of Building / Area / Roll Number*

## **Kinsmen's Participark**

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*Year Listed*

2022

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*Year Built*

1953

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*Municipal Address*

55 Concession St. W.

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*GPS Coordinates*

Latitude 42.86445 / Longitude  
-80.73819

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*Legal Description*

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### **Culture / Heritage Value Attributes**

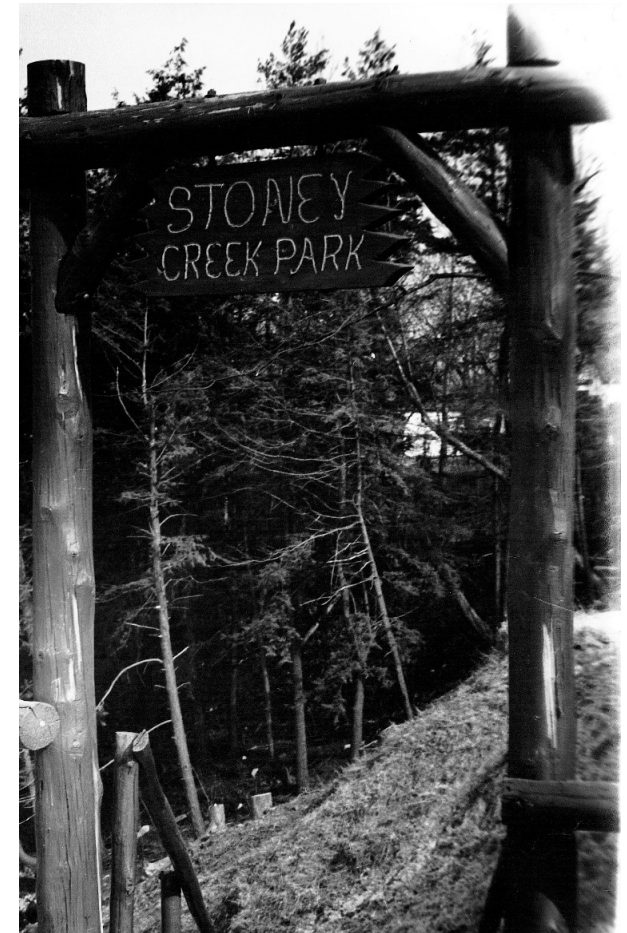
The scenic trail at the bottom of the hill on Concession Street west, previously known as O'Neil Park, has been known as Kinsmen's Participark since 1980. It is a fitting name as the Ontario initiative "Participaction," encouraged participation in outdoor activities and this would attract patrons to the area.

Prior to the flood of 1937, this was Stoney Creek waterway. It created a western border of the Town, flowed behind the Tillsonburg Hospital, Rolph Street School, housed mills on its banks and led south to the Tillson Mills. Just as the flood destroyed the Imperial Dam (southeast of town) and Concession Street (centrally located in the town), so did it destroy this western waterway. The deluge of water flooded the industries on John Pound Road south of town.

After the flood, the land became a natural environment used for recreation. In 1978 Gerry Livingston sold the property to the town for \$2.00 with the stipulation that the land become a perpetual park area void of attractions or buildings.

By 1980 the Tillsonburg Kinsmen spearheaded projects to revitalize the trail and Canadian National Railway bridge. A pathway was formed that lead from Concession to Baldwin Street.

The CRN Bridge became an elevated walkway that spanned the park's gully from Bridge Street West and leads to Hickory Hills, today called Veteran's Memorial Walkway.



Today Participark is a prominent walking trail that contained greenery, a flowing creek and wildlife. It is a seemingly secluded natural area that is situated in a gully between neighbourhood subdivisions.

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*Name of Building / Area / Roll Number*

## **Gibson House**

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*Year Listed*

2022

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*Year Built*

1933

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*Municipal Address*

Concession St. E.

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*GPS Coordinates*

Latitude 42.86652 / Longitude  
-80.73062

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*Legal Description*

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## **Culture / Heritage Value**

### **Attributes**

When the dam at Lake Lisgar went out in 1937 the town was left without fire protection of any kind. Gibson House, on the south shore of Lake Lisgar, was built to serve as a pump house. A new electric motor fed water to the mains and that became the source of fire protection.

The new pump house was a one storey square building with a



basement of poured cement. The main section was covered with multi-shaded rust and brown brick. The interior of both floors is a wide-open square.

In the 1950s the government decided that all public buildings were required to use a special type of electric motor. Unfortunately, the new motors did not work when called upon for a fire.

In 1957 the pump house was named for then Citizen of the Year Walter Gibson as a tribute to his long support of the Boy Scout movement. Gibson House became the new Scout headquarters. Walter Gibson passed away in 1970 leaving a lifetime legacy of civic involvement in the United Church, Boy Scouts, Masons, and service clubs.



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*Name of Building / Area / Roll Number*

## **Royal Canadian Legion Branch 153**

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*Year Listed*

2022

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*Year Built*

1970

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*Municipal Address*

16 Durham Street

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*GPS Coordinates*

Latitude 42.86454 / Longitude  
-80.72718

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*Legal Description*

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### **Culture / Heritage Value Attributes**

The current location of the Royal Canadian Legion Tillsonburg Varnavair Branch 153 is 16 Durham Street. Prior to this, the Branch was located on Lisgar Ave between Bridge Street and Concession Street. Known as the "Sinclair House," it was purchased by the Branch in 1946 to accommodate the growing



membership of returning Second World War Veterans. By the late 1960's it was decided that the Branch should have a modern building with up-to-date space and amenities. Ground was broken for the new Legion on Durham Street in the spring of 1969. The building was completed a year later for the 1970 District Spring Convention. A few years later, an addition was built to the north side of the building. This addition included

the upstairs Ladies Auxiliary room attached to the kitchen, the hall alcove, and the back staircase to the furnace room, and downstairs dart room connected to the canteen. The Legion is an important community organization within Tillsonburg. It provides support to Veterans and their families and is an example of a historic organization that has continually supported Tillsonburg groups and promotes the community.

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*Name of Building / Area / Roll Number*

## **Anti-Aircraft Gun**

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*Year Listed*

**2022**

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*Year Built*

**1943 - brought to Tillsonburg in  
1963**

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*Municipal Address*

**16 Durham Street**

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*GPS Coordinates*

**Latitude 42.86454 / Longitude  
-80.72718**

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*Legal Description*

**00000**

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### **Culture / Heritage Value Attributes**

Purchased in 1965, the 1943 Mk 1X 40mm anti-aircraft gun has been associated with the Royal Canadian Legion Tillsonburg Varnavair Branch 153. Prior to its current location at 16 Durham Street, the gun and Branch 153 were located on Lisgar Ave. After nearly 55 years its condition had deteriorated greatly. In 2019 the gun

was removed, repainted, and restored to a more desirable aesthetic. A cement pad was poured, and the gun was returned in the summer of 2020. It is situated at the corner of Durham Street and Lisgar Ave. It is proudly displayed to remind us of the cost of conflict: historical and contemporary. Let it serve as a memorial of remembrance for those from the Tillsonburg community and Legion Branch 153.



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*Name of Building / Area / Roll Number*

## Imperial Dam Ruins

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*Year Listed*

2022

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*Year Built*

Dam 1879

Ruins, 1937

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*Municipal Address*

16 Durham Street

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*GPS Coordinates*

Latitude 42.86021 / Longitude  
-80.72044

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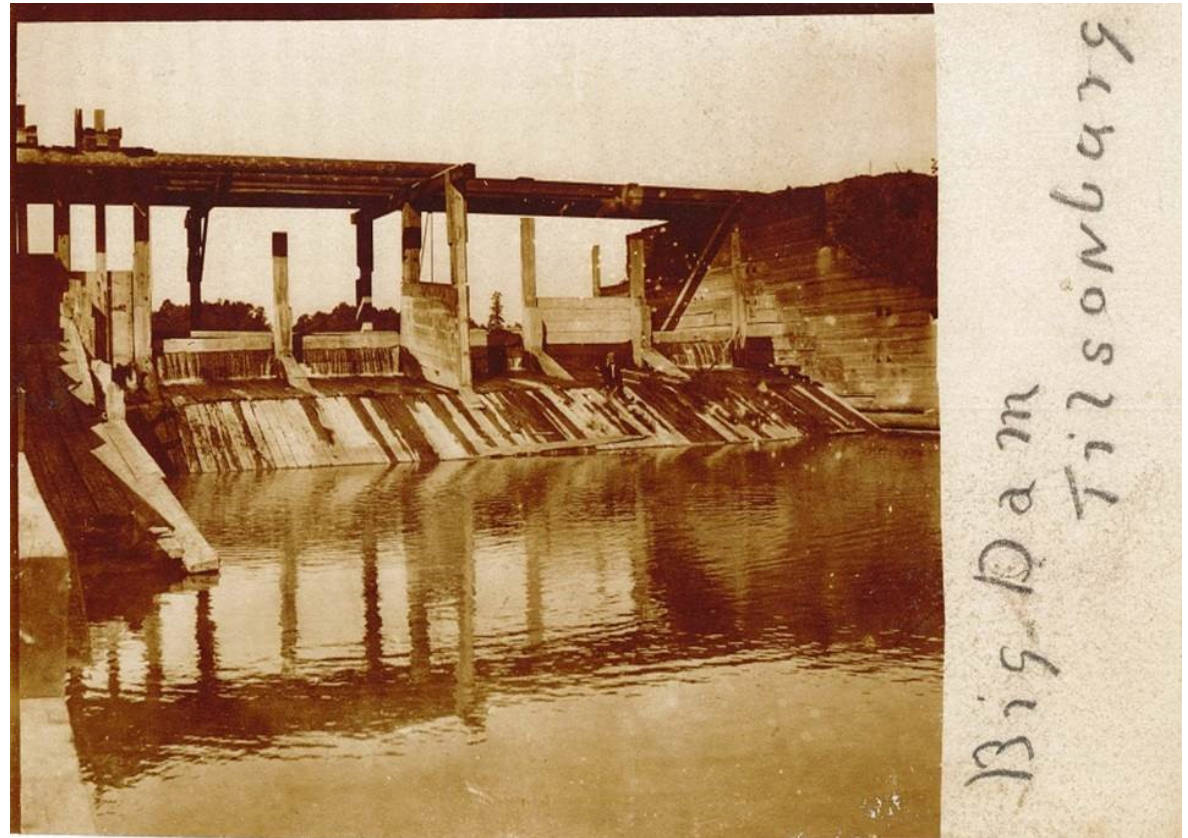
*Legal Description*

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### Culture / Heritage Value Attributes

The dam was built in the late 1870's by E.D. Tillson. To the northeast was the large feeding body of Lake Joseph. The water from the lake was dammed and directed under the White Bridge of Simcoe Street, south to the sawmill and southwest to the other mills. The dam was built to harness waterpower



for the Tillson Empire's mills and enterprises.

This dam and others were destroyed during the flood of 1937. On Monday April 26, 1937, after several days of relentless rain, the Imperial Dam gave way. The result of this break, and others in town, flooded the land south of town on John Pound Road and the flats; what would become of Coronation Park and the Golf Course.

The ruins can be seen as you drive west on Simcoe Street, to the immediate right, shortly after going through the stop lights at Vienna Road. Up close, you can witness the marvel of engineering with its huge square cut timbers, long iron spikes and rods, nuts and bolts and concrete abutments. This is a hidden monument that represents the legacy of Tillsonburg's early industry.

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Name of Building / Area / Roll Number

## Lake Lisgar

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Year Listed

2022

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Year Built

1887

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Municipal Address

Concession Street East (between  
Broadway and Lisgar Ave)

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GPS Coordinates

Latitude 42.86676 / Longitude  
-80.73050

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Legal Description

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## Culture / Heritage Value Attributes

Early Lake Lisgar

Lake Lisgar started out as Thomas Hardy's Mill Pond. It was bought by the town in 1867 to serve as a water reservoir for fires. In 1887 the lake was named Lake Lisgar after Governor General Lord Lisgar. A dam was built at Concession Street which enlarged the pond. Turbines were placed at the



base of the dam, and they supplied water under pressure to municipal fire hydrants.

In April 1937 the big flood occurred, and rain added 13 centimeters (more than five inches) of water to area waterways. On Sunday, the 25th the flood gates at Lake Lisgar were opened, on Monday the hydrants on Broadway were opened and pumps were installed in an attempt to lower the water level in the lake. When this failed work began on a levee at

Concession St. in hopes of keeping Lake Lisgar within its banks. On Tuesday, April 27 the levee was swallowed up by the sheer volume of water. The Concession Street dam broke, and Lake Lisgar disappeared.

## Lake Lisgar Today

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*Name of Building / Area / Roll Number*

## Lake Lisgar continued

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Lake Lisgar today is the beneficiary of countless community volunteer hours contributed and dollars raised to revive the lake through both the Lake Lisgar Renaissance Project (1992-) and the Lake Lisgar Revitalization Project (2011-). With a gazebo, a fountain, a pedestrian bridge, board walks, and a rowing club facility Lake Lisgar is a popular attraction.

The maximum depth of Lake Lisgar is 6.8 metres.

Residents and visitors enjoy fishing for large mouth bass, (stocked) rainbow trout, and blue gill, canoeing and rowing and sailing small miniature boats. It's waters are home to four at risk or endangered turtle species and surrounding parklands host over 400 bird species.

Since 1993 the Tillsonburg Kinsmen Club Fountaineers and friends have been installing the water fountain each spring and removing it again in the fall. A labour of love.



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Name of Building / Area / Roll Number

## Mineral Spring Park

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Year Listed

2022

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Year Built

1881

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Municipal Address

56 Oxford Street

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GPS Coordinates

Latitude 42.859660 / Longitude  
-80.723836

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Legal Description

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## Culture / Heritage Value

### Attributes

In 1881 the Mineral Spring Park was opened at the "V" of London & Oxford Streets where a natural spring of Sulphur water flowed. It was strongly believed at the time that Sulphur water had curative powers and that the drinking of the water on a daily basis was good for your health. A cup was chained to the pipe from which the water flowed, so that citizens and



visitors alike could take of the waters free of charge. Although the park would change in appearance over time, the pipe and cup were still in use to the 1960's when the pipe was capped and the cup removed. Today, the small green space at the "V" of London & Oxford streets still bears the name of the original park – Mineral Springs.