

About the AAHS

The Athens and Area Heritage Society is dedicated to preserving and sharing the rich history and heritage of the people of Township of Athens.

Volunteers of the Athens and Area Heritage Society (AAHS) operate the Athens Museum in conjunction with the Township.

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Version date: June 28th, 2026

Discover and Explore the Athens Museum

Discover the stone foundation, beautiful wooden stair railings, and striking high metal ceilings. The former Model School is a great location for a Museum!

Explore the Museum by viewing captivating exhibits including Crawford Slack paintings, early 20th-century hand tools, the legendary Mother Barnes' table, and much more!

Summer Hours

July 2nd to August 22nd 2026

Open Tuesday to Saturdays

9am-4pm.

Closed 12-1pm.

Unless otherwise noted at the door.

Open Saturdays 10am-12noon throughout the year.

Free admission.

Donations appreciated.



Presents...

A Sneak Peak into the Athens Museum

The Athens Museum is located on the main floor of the Lions Club building at 12 Wellington St. East Athens, Ontario

Schools of Athens



School photos., lettered jacket, football, and skates all provide many memories for students of the Athens High School and one room schoolhouses that once dotted the landscape in our Township.



Harmonious
and Jerusha
Alguire

Paintings of early settler Harmonious Alguire and his wife Jerusha Alguire in the late 1800s. Harmonious was the builder behind what is now known as the 'white house' on Elgin. They watch over the Museum with a careful eye.

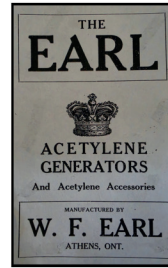
Athens Telephone

A switchboard and phones may stir up memories. Did you know that Athens had a telephone office? Some residents have worked on a switchboard like the one on display at the Athens Museum.



Some visitors have said that they grew up with shared / party lines and they can remember listening to the conversations of others to get the latest news!

Foss Earl Inventor and Tin Smith



Foss Earl, known to his family as 'Fossee' owned and operated a tin shop on Main Street. He received a patent in 1905 for the acetylene generator. His gas lighting systems were installed through out the village until 1928. Come to the Museum to find out what happened in 1928.

Elizabeth 'Mother' Barnes



Tales and fortunes were told at the table of Mother Barnes. Canadian Prime Minister Sir John A McDonald was said to be a frequent visitor. He did open the Athens Town Hall building in 1905 confirming he was in this area!



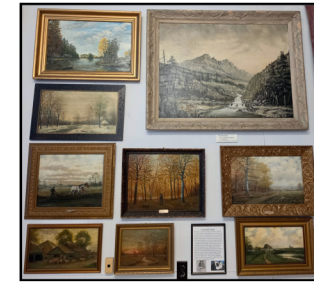
Aunt
Sarah's
Bonnet

Various Doctors and Nurses have cared for patients over the years in Athens. Of note, is Sarah Wiltse, known as 'Aunt Sarah' to many. She tended the sick at the hospital at what is now a private residence on Sarah Street South.



Paintings by Crawford Slack

Circa 1920's



Athens artist Crawford Slack was a prolific painter, poet and a musician. The Athens Museum is proud to host several of his art works including a backdrop used for various stage performances in the 1920s.

Athens Fire Department



The display for the Athens Fire Department is new and a work in progress.

On the left, a Fire Chief's uniform and on the right, a dress uniform for a Fire Prevention Officer. The sign features the 1936 Bickle fire truck that is driven in parades including the annual Athens nighttime Christmas Parade.



Book of
Ferns

The Book of New Zealand Ferns was given to Lydia Brown Leavitt in 1877. The book was at the Athens Public Library for many years before making its way to the Athens Museum.