



Annual Report 2023



AKĪ WĪDJIGADE

Osgoode Odena Kete Mawadjichigan Mīgiwam
dibadjimochigade e daniziyeg o'oma Algonquin Anike
Anishinabeg odakīmiwa. Algonquin Anshinabeg ojida iji
debendagoziwag o'o akī kā iji mi Ottawa, Rideau and Castor
Zibiwagan ashidj dash kaye kī iji babā dajikewag ashidj
bimādiziwag mane anike midasomidana taso bibōn. Enabigis
wīdjiwishinan gidji gichi inwendameg odōdenamiwa, weshkadj
ashidj nōngom gichi ayāg, kaye dash nīgān anike ayāg.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Osgoode Township Museum acknowledges that we are on
the unceded ancestral territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg.

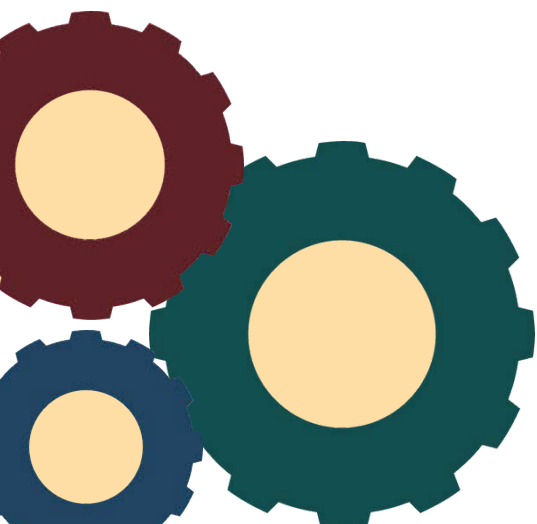
Algonquin Anishinaabeg are the original inhabitants of this
territory along the Ottawa, Rideau and Castor Rivers and have
lived and moved through this place over hundreds of
generations. Please join us in honouring their communities,
their elders past and present, as well as future generations.

RECONNAISSANCE TERRITORIALE

Le Musée rural du canton d'Osgoode reconnaît être situé sur
un territoire ancestral non cédé du peuple algonquin. Les
Algonquins sont les premiers habitants de ce territoire situé
le long des rivières Outaouais, Rideau et Castor et ont vécu et
voyagé sur ces terres pendant des centaines de générations.
Joignez-vous à nous pour honorer leurs communautés, leurs
aînés d'hier et d'aujourd'hui, ainsi que les générations futures.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

On September 23rd, the Osgoode Township Museum celebrated 50 years of enriching our community through collecting, preserving, and showcasing local history. Over 200 visitors were treated to an afternoon of entertainment that included antique tractor and classic car/truck displays, music, activities for children, baked treats, ice cream, and of course tours of the Museum. The highlight of the celebrations was guest of honour Michael Daley, now 97 years of age, who was a founding member of the Museum. MPP Goldie Ghamari attended, presenting certificates from the Governor General and Province of Ontario. Financial donations helped support this special day and the unveiling of a commemorative sign that will be installed on OTM's Agricultural Building.

Despite some staffing challenges, OTM was able to successfully deliver a wide variety of programs and services in 2023:

- *Second Saturdays* program launched
- Two Community Gallery exhibits produced
- *50 Years Serving Osgoode Township* exhibit produced
- Collection inventory completed
- Started development of digital yearbook project
- Initiated transfer of adjoining vacant property
- Corrected code issues with gazebo

As a successful 2023 comes to a close, challenges remain to be tackled in 2024 and beyond:

- Balancing in-person and online initiatives with available resources
- Working with limited indoor, climate-controlled space
- Revenue diversification
- Declining volunteerism and membership
- Climate change

The staff and volunteers of the Osgoode Township Museum will strive to meet these challenges with creative and effective solutions.





THE GOVERNOR GENERAL • LA GOUVERNEURE GÉNÉRALE

**Message from the Governor General on the occasion of the
50th anniversary of the Osgoode Township Rural Museum**

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to everyone celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Osgoode Township Rural Museum (OTRM).

No matter where we come from, what languages we speak or what we believe, understanding our past is key to shaping our future and realizing our full potential as a society.

Opened in 1973, the OTRM acknowledges it is located on the traditional unceded ancestral territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg. The OTRM's permanent gallery showcases the stories of how Indigenous people and the first European settlers paved the way for current rural community members, and the deep connection they still have with the land.

In celebrating the culture and practices of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg, and by providing historical context for the former Osgoode Township, the OTRM is advancing both inclusion and reconciliation.

Congratulations to all those who contributed to reaching this 50th milestone anniversary.

I wish everyone a wonderful celebration.

Mary Simon

1 SUSSEX DRIVE • 1, PROMENADE SUSSEX
OTTAWA • CANADA • K1A 0A1 • WWW.GG.CA



Ontario

*On behalf of the Government of Ontario,
I am pleased to acknowledge the*

OSGOODE TOWNSHIP MUSEUM

on the occasion of this institution's 50th anniversary.

*Over the years, the Osgoode Township Museum has
made an invaluable contribution to this community and
enriched the lives of community residents.*

*My best wishes go to the staff and to all those
who use the vital facilities at this museum.*

Legislative Building, Toronto
September 21, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Ford".

**Doug Ford
Premier**



ABOUT THE MUSEUM

VISION

We foster a sense of community identity by inspiring curiosity about our shared rural life, past, present and future.

MISSION

For residents of, and visitors to, the Nation's Capital, the Osgoode Township Rural Museum tells the story of the people and heritage of Osgoode Township and surrounding communities to exemplify the role that rural heritage has in the life of our city.

MANDATE

The Osgoode Township Rural Museum's mandate is to collect, preserve, display, study, interpret and make accessible the material and cultural heritage of the Osgoode Township as a means to further the understanding of the former Osgoode Township's significance to the greater Ottawa community as an example of rural and agricultural life.

2023 AT A GLANCE

1551



Museum visitors

2514



Total users

5056



Website visitors

5



Online programs

27



Volunteers

668



Volunteer hours

\$6, 227

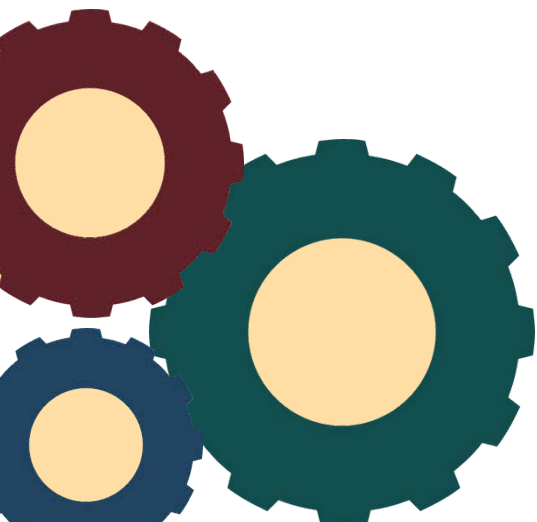


Donations

\$254, 818



Grant funding



PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Educational Programming

The Museum successfully launched *Second Saturdays*, a monthly weekend drop-in craft program held one Saturday a month. These programs have become quite popular, with over 40 attendees on some Saturdays!

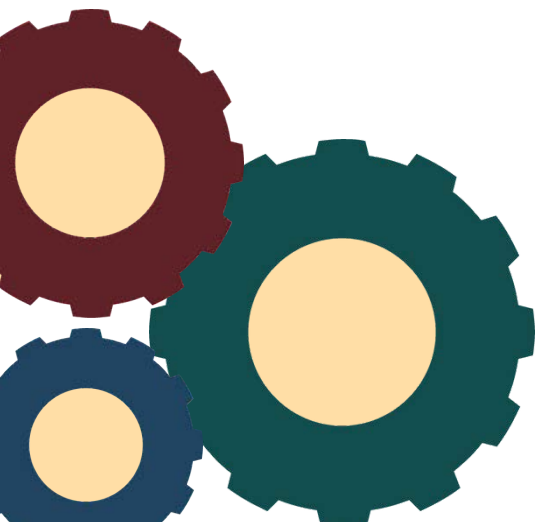
Outreach

OTM participated in Ottawa's Heritage Day, the Metcalfe Meet and Greet, the Metcalfe Fair, and the Vernon Christmas Fair. OTM participates in all Osgoode Remembrance Day ceremonies, four in total. The Museum now attends the annual general meetings of all local community associations to update the community on OTM's activities. Staff connected with over 700 members of the public at these events.

Special Events

Pop-Up Markets were expanded from three to four in 2023, showcasing local producers, makers and growers. This initiative fulfils important parts of OTM's Strategic and Community Engagement plan – showcasing our unique agricultural heritage, building community ties, and expanding tourism in Osgoode Ward.

The Museum also participated in Doors Open, welcoming guests from throughout the National Capital Region in early June.



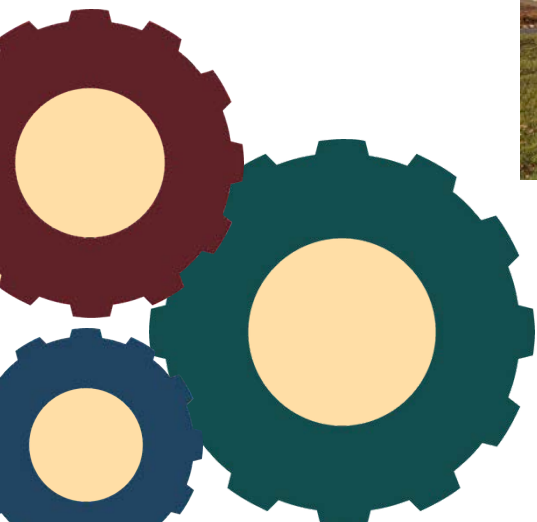
EXHIBITIONS

OTM engaged with the community for 2023's *Community Gallery* exhibits. During the summer, North Grenville Pride produced a display highlighting the 2SLGBTQI+ community in this rural area. In November, a display of miniatures created by a local maker was installed.

Research and artifact selection for a planned *Women in Agriculture* exhibit were completed, but further development was put on hiatus until 2024. In its stead, an exhibit about OTM's first 50 years was produced. This exhibit used graphic stands purchased with funding provided by the City of Ottawa's Community Partnership Minor Capital Program.

Planning and design for site signage was completed. This signage will enhance the appearance of the museum building, provide information to potential visitors, and include some interpretive elements. The first phase of the signage – roadside flag banners – was implemented. These banners along Bank Street reinforce that the museum is open to visitors.

Enhancements to the museum's lobby have also been designed as part of this effort.



COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH

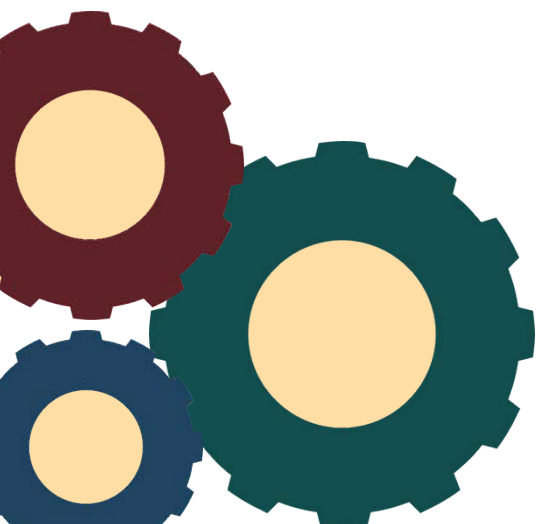
Following 2022's Re-org project, a complete collection inventory and renaming of storage locations was completed by a YCW student in 2023; some discrepancies were identified.

Rehousing of at-risk artifacts commenced later in the year, supported by funding from the Federal Government (\$31,700.00).

Staff continued to update the museum's MINISIS database and sit on the OMAC (Ottawa Museums and Archives Collection) committee. OTM's Executive Director assumed the mantle of OMAC chair

In 2023, OTM received 26 private and public research requests. These requests came from all over the world, including the Netherlands, Michigan, Missouri, Toronto, Alberta and of course local communities. These requests ranged from photographic and genealogy services to deed and mortgage searches to built heritage research.

One photo, showing Kenmore ladies playing hockey in the early 20th century, was provided to the French-language Office des télécommunications éducatives de langue française de l'Ontario (TFO) for use in the web series *Gang de hockey*.



ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Major funding (\$75,000.00) was received from the Federal Government for a digital project examining autograph and high school yearbooks. OTM has partnered with the two local high schools to work on this project, and design and development is well underway with a planned completion in early 2024.

Osgoode's Objects

Staff continued the online video series entitled "Osgoode's Objects" on TikTok. These short videos highlight the collection in an engaging manner. Followers on TikTok increased dramatically as a result.

Virtual Programs

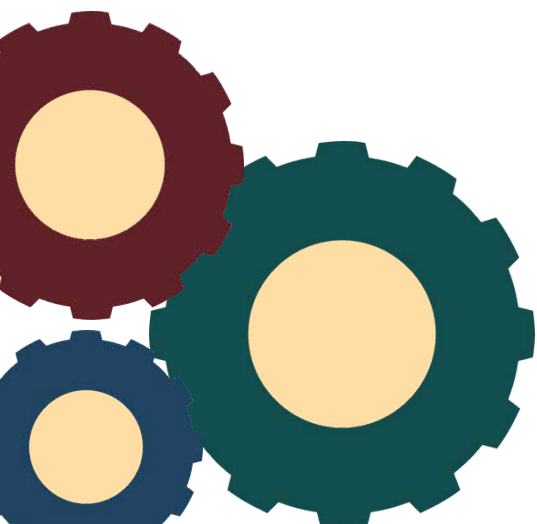
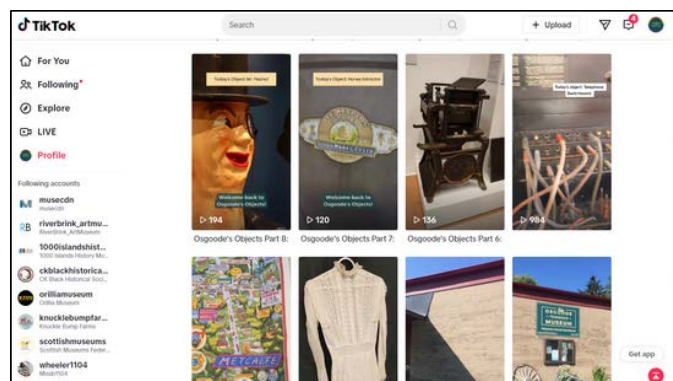
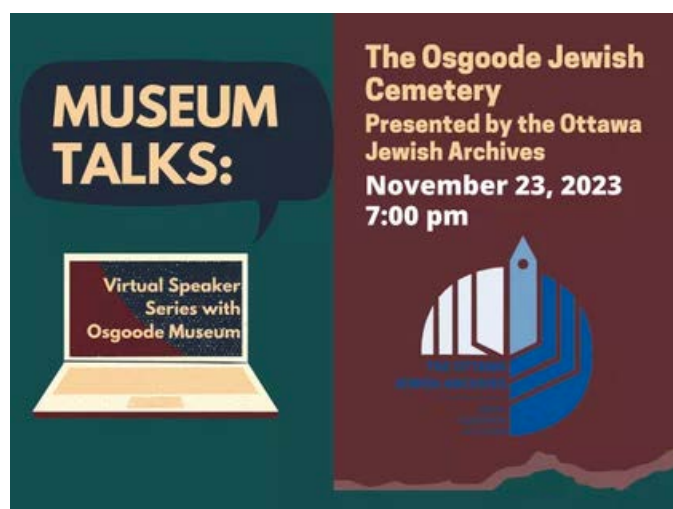
OTM offered new virtual talks during 2023 – *Surveys, Swamps, & Scandals* and *Not Diggin' It: How a local farm is shaking things up*. In partnership with the Ottawa Jewish Archives, the Osgoode Jewish Cemetery was examined in late November. These programs continue to be made available on YouTube.

Seniors Programs

Two programs were delivered, one for the Dementia Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County and the other for Pinecrest Queensway Community Health Centre.

Social Media

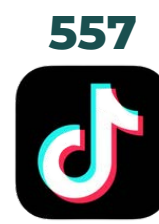
The museum continued to increase its online presence.



Up from
1573



Up from
737



Up from
201

MUSEUM SITE

OTM Initiated transfer of property adjoining the museum site from the Ottawa Carleton District School Board. OCDSB owns the parcel due to an unspecified title error that occurred in 1987 when the former Township of Osgoode purchased the rest of the former school (now museum) property. Securing this property will allow OTM to enhance the site amenities offered to visitors.

Heritage Garden

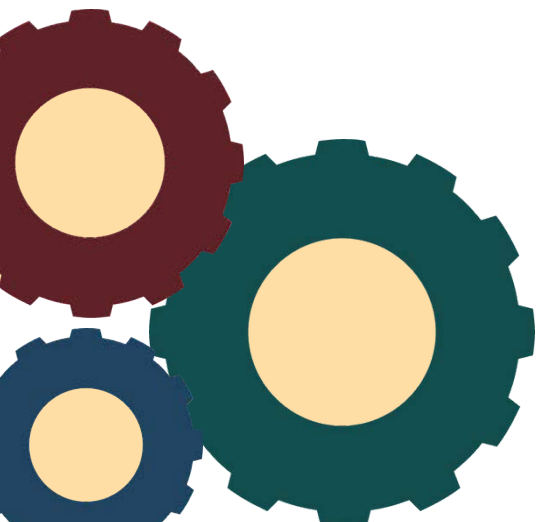
The Garden experienced another successful growing season and served as a focus for volunteer efforts at OTM. Produce is made available to community members and is included in the fundraising Harvest Baskets.

Gazebo

The museum's gazebo, delivered in late 2022, could not be used during 2023 because of building code issues. Following months of discussions, a solution that meets code was arrived at. The fix required new engineering drawings and modifications to the as built structure, which were completed in December.

Climate Impacts

The museum was forced to close for a week in early April, following damage to its electrical service by an ice storm. Extreme heat and poor air quality reduced visitation during the summer.



STAFF & BOARD

Staff

James Jensen - Executive Director

Emma Bower - Program Coordinator

Ann Robinson - Exhibit and Administrative
Officer

Sarah Verreault - Collections Officer

Clemency Robinson - Collections
Assistant, Summer Student (YCW)

Board of Directors

President

Doug Thompson

Past President

Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle

Treasurer

Cheryl Sullivan

Secretary

Tracey D'Aviero

Directors at Large

Suzanne Hill

Doris Prescott

Helen Porteous

SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

Thank you to those individuals and organizations who have graciously contributed funding; volunteered time and expertise; donated or loaned artefacts and supplies; or shared our news locally.

Anna Crossley, St. Mark Highschool
Ava Angione, OTHS
Axle Automotive
Betty and Brian McGowan
Boyd Bros Concrete Products
Brenda Cumming
CAMM Heavy Machinery Movers
Carleton Mushroom Farms
Carley Scharf
Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle
Casey Grey
Cheryl Sullivan
Chesterville Record
The Community Gardening Network
Cooper Physiotherapy Clinic
Coreen Atkins
Cynthia Comacchio
D&T Construction
Dementia Society of Ottawa and
Renfrew County
Doris Prescott
Doug Thompson
Foodland Osgoode
George Darouze, Councillor
Goldie Ghamari, MPP
Greely Lions Club
Greely Sand and Gravel
Guy Fuels & Propane
Helen Porteous
The Home Depot South Keys
Ironworkers Local 765
J. Diane Oliver-Jensen
Jennifer Thivierge
Keith Porteous
Lisa Bower
Marc Dubeau, OTHS
Metcalf Community Association
Metcalf District Lions Club

Metcalf Fair
Metcalf Golf Club
Michael Daley
Moe Robinson
Olivia Huang, OTHS
Ottawa Amitabha Buddhist Temple
Ottawa Community Foundation
Patti Mitton
Pinecrest Queensway Community Health
Centre
Shroomfest
Sue Hill
Teagan Labossiere, OTHS
Tracey D'Aviero
Trevor Porteous
Vernon Community Association
Wallace Service Centre

2023 Grants

- Cultural Service Agreements Program; City of Ottawa
- Museum Assistance Program (Digital Access to Heritage); Canadian Heritage
- Museum Assistance Program (Collections Management); Canadian Heritage
- Translation and Innovation Grant; Ottawa Museum Network
- Young Canada Works; Canadian Museums Association
- Cultural Facilities Fund (Minor Projects); City of Ottawa
- Heritage Organization Development Grant; Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries