



# Annual Report



[www.osgoodemuseum.ca](http://www.osgoodemuseum.ca)

**2024**

# Akī Wīdjigade

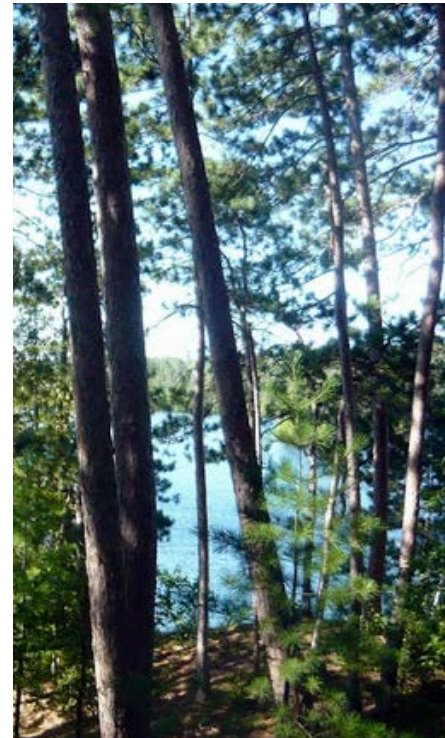
Osgoode Odena Kete Mawadjichigan Mīgiwam dibadjimochigade e daniziyeg o’oma Algonquin Anike Anishinabeg odakīmiwa. Algonquin Anshinabeg ojida iji debendagoziwag o’o akī kā iji mi Ottawa, Rideau and Castor Zibiwagan ashidj dash kaye kī iji babā dajikewag ashidj bimādiziwag mane anike midasomidana taso 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. The 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.

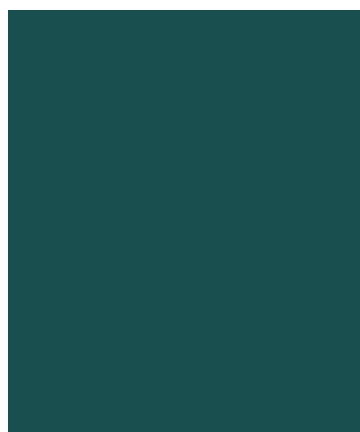
## Reconnaissance Territoriale

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

The Osgoode Township Museum was able to successfully deliver a wide variety of programs and services in 2024. Highlights included:

- Three Community Gallery exhibits were produced
- March Break paid activities resumed for first time since 2017
- Continued momentum with artifact collection work
- Launched digital yearbook project Sign My Book! online and onsite
- Started development of Digital Heritage Content Mapping application
- Corrected code issues with gazebo
- Hosted Community Corn Roast
- Updated Bylaws for Ontario Not-for-profit Corporations Act (ONCA) compliance

As a successful 2024 comes to a close, challenges remain to be tackled in 2025 and beyond:

- OTM has been without a valid lease since 2005/6; work to rectify this has been ongoing for 18 months or more, but there is little evidence of progress
- Review and update strategic plan for next three to five years
- Continuing to fund full-time Collections Officer position
- Balancing in-person and online initiatives with available resources
- Working with limited indoor, climate-controlled space
- 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.





# Vision

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

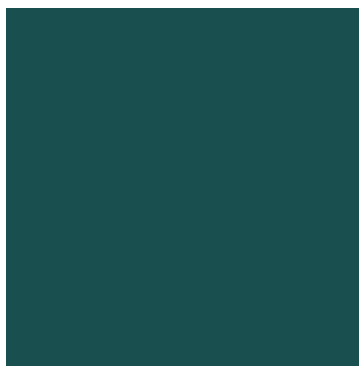
# Mission

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.





# 2024 At A Glance

1725



Museum visitors

2603



Total users

5860



Website visitors

4



Online programs

36



Volunteers

566



Volunteer hours

12



In person programs

\$4, 028



Donations

\$255, 715



Grant funding

# Programs & Events

OTM continued Second Saturdays, monthly weekend drop-in craft programs held one Saturday a month. Two themed Activity Days were held during the summer as well.

OTM participated in Ottawa's Heritage Day, the Metcalfe Meet and Greet, Police Day in Greely, the Metcalfe Fair (the Museum also sponsors several prize categories), 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 residents on OTM's activities. Staff connected with over 700 members of the public at these events.

The museum resumed March Break programs in 2024, with 4 days of paid activities geared towards children and families. 70 participants took part in a variety of hands-on activities.

Staff acted as judges at the Ottawa Regional Heritage Fair at the Canadian Museum of History in April, increasing interaction with youth.

Staff visited the Metcalfe Nursey School in May to deliver a program to the preschool students in attendance.

Staff commenced the development and delivery of historic food preparation and fibre art programs.

The Museum also created a historic game 'library' for use on site and for outreach. The games include Cornhole, Horseshoes, and the Game of Graces.

To support the Sign My Book! project, two school programs were developed and they are ready to be delivered on request.

Finally, staff delivered a knitting program well offsite, at Wabi Sabi – a yarn store on Wellington street in Ottawa. OTM hopes to continue this partnership in 2025.



# Special Events

Four Pop-Up Markets were held in 2024, 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 markets struggled with poor weather – one was rained out – and increasing competition from local for-profit markets. A decision regarding continuing to offer the markets will need to be made heading into 2025.

The Museum also participated in Doors Open Ottawa, welcoming guests from throughout the National Capital Region in early June. Staff conducted tours of the collection space, and delivered a talk about how the Museum looks after the artifact collection.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, OTM held its first Community Corn Roast. 175 visitors were treated to an afternoon that included antique tractor and classic car/truck displays, music, activities for children, heritage games, War of 1812 reenactors, historic cooking demonstrations, and of course free roast corn (!). Financial donations from throughout the community helped support this special day. Based on the success of the event, it will be repeated in 2025.

Museum volunteers were invited to attend a paranormal investigation of the museum buildings in late 2024. The jury is still out as to whether the site is haunted or not!

The 2024 season wrapped up with OTM's annual tree lighting event, on a suitably snowy night in early December.





# Exhibitions

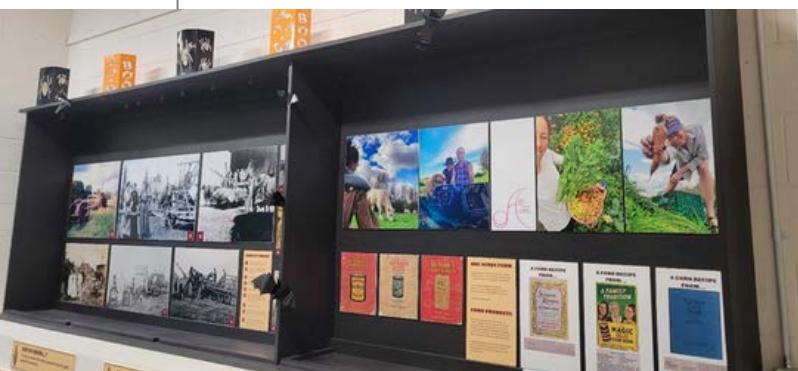
OTM produced three exhibits in its Community Gallery in 2024. During the winter, a display of miniatures created by a local maker was featured. In September, an exhibit of harvest images and material related to corn farming, in support of the Community Corn Roast, was installed. The year closed with an exhibit of winter images and holiday traditions, including greeting cards, family photos, and recipes.

OTM produced a small display for the Osgoode Care Centre in May, as it celebrated its residents who arrived from Holland following World War II. A small display tied to Doors Open Ottawa's music theme was also created.

A large touchscreen version of Sign My Book! was completed and installed in the museum. This work required an original video shoot in OTM's permanent gallery.

Research and artifact selection for a planned Women in Agriculture exhibit were completed, but further development was put on hiatus until 2025. This was largely a result of the workload of the Sign My Book! project.

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. Improvements to the museum's lobby were designed as part of this effort and were installed; the museum's reception desk was also upgraded. Further work will be undertaken in 2025.



# Collections

Rehousing of at-risk artifacts was continued in 2024, supported by funding from the Federal Government received in 2023.

Staff continued to update the museum's MINISIS database and sit on the OMAC (Ottawa Museums and Archives Collection) committee. OTM's Executive Director continued as OMAC chair. OTM will participate in the City of Ottawa's procurement process to replace the MINISIS database in 2025.

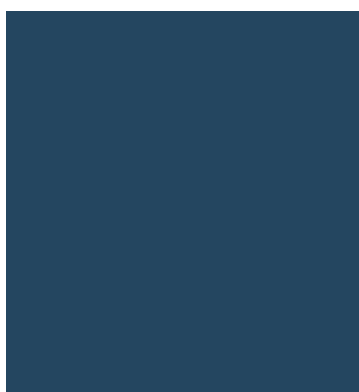
The Osgoode Township Museum Artifact Assessment Committee (OTMAAC) reviewed over 118 objects during 2024. 21 artifacts were approved to be added to collection; the Board also approved 95 for deaccession (some of which have been transferred to other Canadian institutions).

OTM staff proposed and will lead the Ottawa Museum Network Collections Community of Practice (COP). The first meeting was held in November.

Additional storage racks were installed, following demolition of the remaining old school millwork in the collection storage space. The collection space can now also be locked during off hours.

Collection staff attended hands-on disaster recovery training delivered by the Canadian Conservation Institute. Following this training, OTM commenced development of emergency/disaster preparedness and recovery plan. Work on this plan is expected to be complete in 2025.

As the holidays loomed, the Museum launched Adopt an Artifact – a fun way to introduce the artifact collection to the public, while raising funds for the museum.



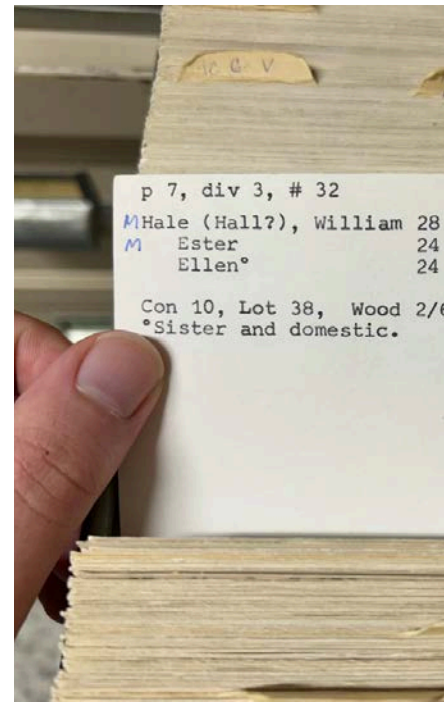
# Research

In 2024, OTM received 15 private and public research requests. These requests came from all over the world, including Ireland, Wales, Missouri, Oberlin (Ohio), Saskatchewan and of course local communities. The requests ranged from photographic and genealogy services to deed and mortgage searches to built heritage research. OTM also received numerous inquiries about local cemeteries.

Transcription of numerous Parish Registers and other local historical documents continued for research users.

While researching local Indigenous history, additional information on the Kekekons family was found. This Anishinaabe family was in the Metcalfe area in the 1850s, and is featured in the Museum's permanent gallery. This new information added to our understanding of Indigenous History in the area.

The year ended with an oral history interview with OTM founding member Michael Daley. David MacEvoy of the Bytown Fire Brigade assisted with this endeavour.



# Social Media

The museum continued to increase its online presence.

**1838**  
  
 Up from  
 1710

**934**  
  
 Up from  
 841

**701**  
  
 Up from  
 557

# Online Engagement

OTM's primary online project - [Sign My Book!](#) - was completed and launched in June. This project involved the scanning of nearly 10, 000 yearbook pages, and cropping 30, 000 student images, from OTHS and St. Mark high schools. Some scanning and digitization work continues in support of Sign My Book!

## Osgoode's Objects

Staff continued the online video series entitled "Osgoode's Objects" on [TikTok](#). These short videos feature artefacts from the collection and their present-day connections to the community. This initiative highlights the collection in an engaging manner, advancing and developing knowledge of artefacts in the collection. Followers on TikTok continue to increase as a result.

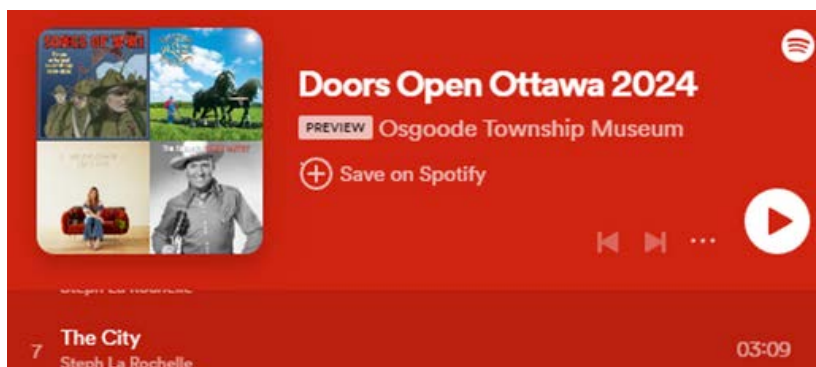
## Virtual Programs

OTM offered new virtual talks during 2024 - Cooking the Backwoods Way: A culinary history talk; Haunting Settled Ground: Haunted Heritage in Settler Colonial Ontario; "The Board Does the Work:" Domestic Industrialization and Laundry Technology. These programs continue to be made available on [YouTube](#).

Staff experimented with a live online program, hosting a knit/crochet-a-long.

Throughout the year, OTM experimented with [Spotify playlists](#) of music related to collections and exhibits.

As the year came to an end, work started on a [Digital Heritage Content Mapping](#) project, with financial support from the Ottawa Community Foundation. Further progress will be made in 2025.





# Museum Site

The Garden experienced a difficult growing season, as did many local farms, but continued to serve as a focus for volunteer efforts at OTM. Produce from the Garden was made available to community members and is included in the fundraising Harvest Baskets.

## Gazebo

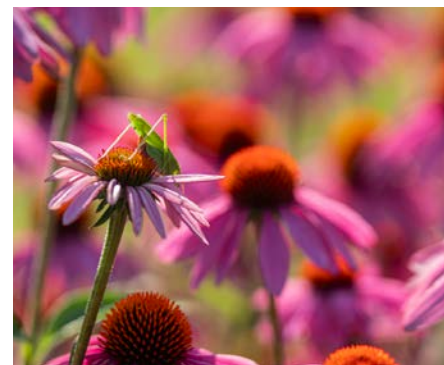
The museum's gazebo, delivered in late 2022, could not be used during 2023. Errors made during design and construction in 2020 and 2021 resulted in this situation. These deficiencies were corrected in early 2024, at some cost to the Museum, but they resulted in being able to use the structure throughout the year. Additional picnic tables and a garbage receptacle will be delivered before the end of 2024.

## Climate Impacts

Extreme heat and poor air quality reduced visitation during the summer.

## Adjoining Property

OTM continued discussions related to the 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 Township of Osgoode purchased the former school (now museum) property. Securing this parcel will allow OTM to enhance the site amenities offered to visitors. The process has experienced delays due to changes at the Provincial level regarding the disposition of surplus school lands.



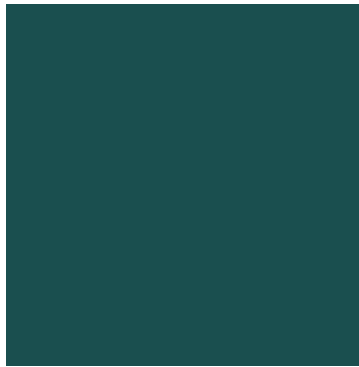


# Building Improvements

- Roof repairs to OTM's 10, 000 sq. ft. artifact open storage 'barn' were undertaken as skylights failed in the spring and were sealed to prevent water damage
- Rear canopy demolished due to rot, with planned replacement in summer 2025
- Museum HVAC was upgraded with installation of two 1-ton split unit air conditioners and new in-line humidifier installed on furnace
- New bench at front entrance

*All work funded and delivered by City of Ottawa.*





# Staff & Board

## Staff

- James Jensen - Executive Director
- Holly Benison - Program Coordinator
- Ann Robinson - Exhibit and Administrative Officer
- Sarah Verreault - Collections Officer
- Elias Schaffner - Collections Assistant, Summer Student

## Board of Directors

### President

Doug Thompson

### Past President

Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle

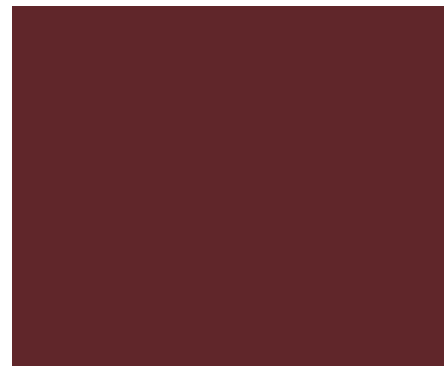
### Secretary-Treasurer

Cheryl Sullivan

### Directors at Large

Doris Prescott

Helen Porteous



# Supporters & Partners

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

100<sup>th</sup> Grenadiers  
 Adele Espina  
 Aiden Locke  
 Alicia Edwards-Boon  
 Alyssa Gutoskie  
 Anderson Links Golf and Country Club  
 Anna Crossley, St. Mark HS  
 Astral Light Paranormal  
 Ava Angione, OTHS  
 Axle Automotive  
 Bayshore Community Oven  
 Betty and Brian McGowan  
 Bob Barclay  
 CAMM Heavy Machinery Movers  
 Carleton Mushroom Farms  
 Carley Scharf  
 Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle  
 Cheryl Sullivan  
 Chesterville Record  
 City of Ottawa museums and historic sites (Billings Estate National Historic Site, Cumberland Heritage Village Museum, Fairfield's Heritage House, Nepean Museum, Pinhey's Point Historic Site)  
 Community Gardening Network  
 Cooper Physiotherapy Clinic  
 Coreen Atkins  
 Crystal Klein  
 Cynthia Comacchio  
 David Guy  
 David McEvoy  
 Dementia Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County  
 Dominique Bonniere  
 Doors Open Ottawa  
 Doris Prescott  
 Doug Thompson  
 First Student, Inc  
 Foodland Osgoode  
 George Darouze, Ward 20 Councillor  
 Greely Foodland  
 Greely Lions Club  
 Greely Sand and Gravel  
 Guy Fuels & Propane  
 Heather Burke  
 Helen Porteous  
 Hope's Birdseed  
 Ironworkers Local 765  
 J. Diane Oliver-Jensen

Jacob Taylor  
 Jane Cooper  
 Keith Porteous  
 Kylie Burke  
 Lisa Bower  
 Marc Dubeau, OTHS  
 Marie Petersen  
 Maryse Paquet  
 Metcalfe Community Association  
 Metcalfe District Lions Club  
 Metcalfe Fair  
 Metcalfe Golf Club  
 Metcalfe Nursey School  
 Michael Daley  
 Moe Robinson  
 Olivia Huang, OTHS  
 Osgoode Care Centre  
 Osgoode Legion Branch 589  
 Osgoode Outreach  
 Osgoode Township High School  
 Ottawa Community Foundation  
 Ottawa community museums (Bytown Museum, Dickinson House, Diefenbunker, Goulbourn Museum, Muséoparc Vanier, Watson's Mill)  
 Ottawa Fire Service, Station 91  
 Ottawa Public Library, Vernon Branch  
 Ottawa Museum Network  
 Ottawa Regional Heritage Fair  
 Patti Mitton  
 Porch View Hobby Farm  
 Russ Keenan Enterprises  
 Shroomfest  
 Sarah Cooper Godoy  
 St. Mark High School  
 Sue Hill  
 Sylvie Bonniere  
 Teagan Labossiere, OTHS  
 Trevor Porteous  
 Vernon Community Association  
 Vernon Women's Institute  
 Vince Zandbelt  
 Wabi Sabi  
 Wallace Service Centre



## 2024 Grants

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



