



**OSGOODE**  
— TOWNSHIP —  
**MUSEUM**

# Annual Report



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



**2025**

# Akī Wīdjigade

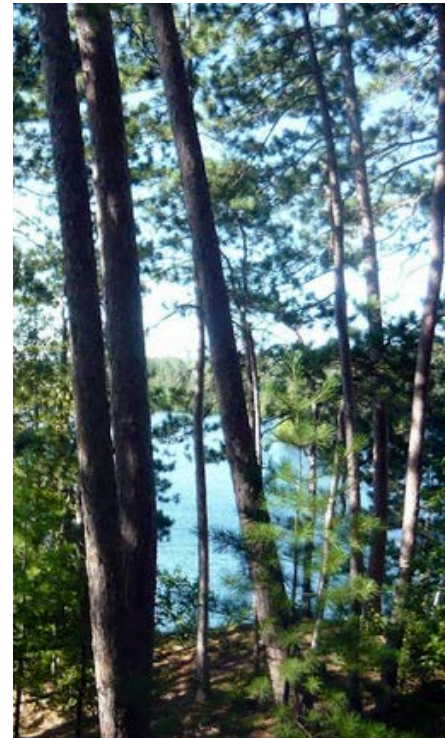
Osgoode Odena Kete Mawadjichigan Mīgiwam dibadjimochigade e daniziyeg o’oma Algonquin Anike Anishinabeg odakīmiwa. Algonquin Anshinabeg ojida iji debendagoziwag o’o akī kā iji mi Ottawa, Rideau and Castor Zibiwagan ashidj dash kaye kī iji babā dajikewag ashidj bimādiziwag mane anike midasomidana taso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

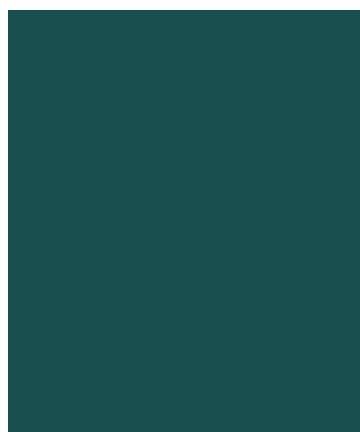
## Reconnaissance Territoriale

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 2025. Highlights included:

- An Access Agreement was successfully completed working with City of Ottawa staff
- MSA funds previously cut by the City of Ottawa were restored in 2025
- Continued momentum with artifact collection work
- Researched and sourced new collections management software
- Resumed summer program activities and launched tea parties
- Continued development of [Digital Heritage Content Mapping](#) application
- Hosted second annual Community Corn Roast

As a successful 2025 comes to a close, challenges remain to be tackled in 2026 and beyond:

- Review and update strategic plan for next three to five years
- Lack of operational funding and revenue diversification
- Continuing to fund full-time Collections Officer position
- Collections work will be severely impacted by the MINISIS database and Ottawa Museum and Archives Collection (OMAC) online databases being terminated at the end of 2025; the impacts of this unilateral decision will be felt for years to come
- Balancing in-person and online initiatives with available resources
- OTM has limited space for temporary exhibits, and collection storage is at capacity
- Declining volunteerism and membership
- Climate change

Overall, OTM demonstrates that so called 'small' organizations can take on and successfully deliver large, complex projects - such as [Sign My Book!](#) - that might otherwise only be associated with much larger institutions.



# Vision

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

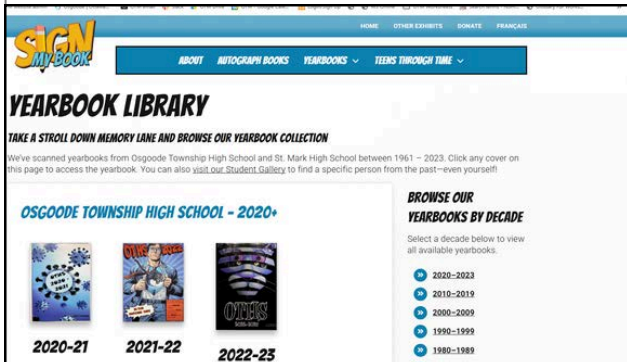
# Mission

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.





# 2025 At A Glance

1638



Museum visitors

2612



Total users

14312



Website visitors

4



Online programs

31



Volunteers

1016



Volunteer hours

28



In person programs

\$9609



Donations

\$227, 137



Grant funding

# Programs & Events

Over 30 programs, onsite and off, were offered during 2025.

## Educational Programming

Successfully continued Second Saturdays, a drop-in craft program held one Saturday a month.

School visits began to gain some traction, with visits from a history class from Osgoode Township High School and Grades 4, 5, and 6 from Fernhill School in Rockcliffe Park.

March Break programs, taking the form of daily drop-in sessions, were popular. Several 'Discovery Days' were also offered: Laundry Day (May) and Dairy Day (July).

## Summer Camps

The original intent was to host two week-long summer camps, one in July and one in August. Registrations were low, and the camps were converted to daily drop-in sessions similar to March Break. This transition proved to be effective and successful.

## Outreach

OTM participated in Heritage Day, Ottawa Regional Heritage Fair, Metcalfe Meet and Greet, Tractor Jam 2025, Doors Open Ottawa, Education Day at Glengarry Pioneer Museum, Metcalfe Fair, Greely Trunk or Treat, 100th anniversary of OPL's Osgoode branch, and the Vernon Christmas Fair. OTM participates in all four Osgoode Remembrance Day ceremonies. Staff connected with over 1200 people at these events.

## Workshops

Two craft workshops were hosted: a Leather Pouch, and Broom Making (in partnership with [Sweeping Willows](#)).



# Special Events

Pop-up markets were put on hiatus during 2025 due to extreme summer weather and for-profit competition.

In their place, OTM offered three themed tea parties in May (Mother's Day), June (Jane Austen), and November (Gothic). All sold out and were well received by participants. OTM's gazebo was used for the teas in May and June.

Other events included Knit in Public Day (June) and the second annual Pumpkin Smash (October). The Pumpkin Smash was picked up by CBC Ottawa (<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-98-in-town-and-out/clip/16179186-osgoode-township-museums-pumpkin-smash>).

## Community Corn Roast

On September 13th, OTM held its second Community Corn Roast. Over 200 visitors were treated to an afternoon that included classic car displays, live music, crafts for children, heritage games, War of 1812 reenactors, cooking and laundry demonstrations, and of course free roast corn (!).



# Exhibitions

Two Community Gallery exhibits were developed in 2025:

- During the spring and summer, a display of images connected to the Doors Open theme of "Green Echoes".
- In November, a display featuring military service member profiles and medals was installed.

Modest displays were also developed in OTM's permanent gallery, featuring local baseball history during the spring and summer, and home front material in November.

Additional progress was made on the ongoing site signage project. A new identifier sign was installed at the entrance to the Museum's parking lot, as well as site directional signage.



# Collections

Collections work was severely impacted by the 5 February announcement by the City of Ottawa Archives that the MINISIS database and OMAC online database would be terminated at the end of 2025. OTM worked to mitigate the financial and operational impact of this completely unlooked for announcement.

OTM researched and sourced new collections management software, and selected a vendor (CatalogIt) in late December. An Ottawa Community Foundation grant was received to fund the bulk of the required data transfer work.

Limited data cleaning was completed of records in the museum's MINISIS database. 29,632 image files were organised and their file names standardised to support the data transfer.

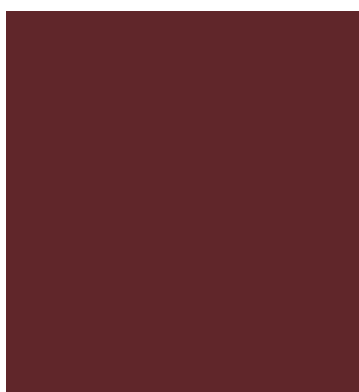
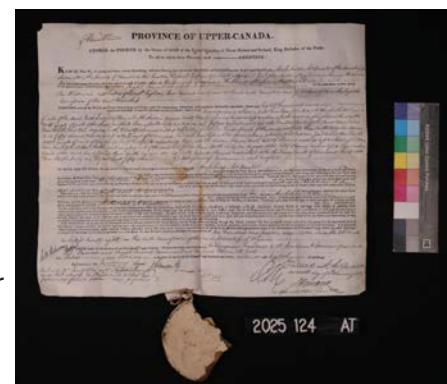
Rehousing of at-risk artifacts and storage rationalisation continued, supported by funding from the Federal Government.

Osgoode Township Museum Artifact Assessment Committee (OTMAAC) reviewed over 44 objects during 2025 ; 42 artifacts were approved to be added to collection; OTM's Board approved 82 artifacts for deaccession (some since transferred to other Canadian institutions); 35 artifacts from the backlog were catalogued.

Development of the emergency/disaster plan continued, with input from OPS and City of Ottawa emergency management staff.

OTM staff co-leads the Ottawa Museum Network Collections Community of Practice, which provides a forum for collections staff at all area community museums.

OTM holds the land deed of the first permanent European settler in Osgoode Township, but its condition and storage were not ideal. OTM engaged a professional paper conservator to clean, remount, and frame the deed.



# Research

Over 30 research requests were received. They came primarily from local villages and Canada. Requests included: photography; deed, mortgage and tax roll searches; general genealogy; and built heritage research.

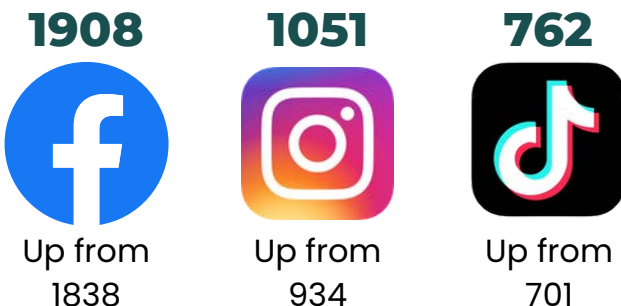
Transcription of numerous local historical documents continued for research users.

Ongoing digitization in support of [Sign My Book!](#) Project.

OTM took advantage of LAC's [Digilab](#) to scan over 200 images related to Osgoode village's Boyd Brothers Concrete. These will be used in several upcoming projects.

# Social Media

The museum continued to increase its online presence.



# Online Engagement

The museum continued to increase its online presence. These efforts remain vital as the physical museum has limited space for additional exhibits.

Social media growth is slowing, but web usage increased dramatically, in part due to [Sign My Book!](#) and [War Letters for Teaching](#).

## Osgoode's Objects

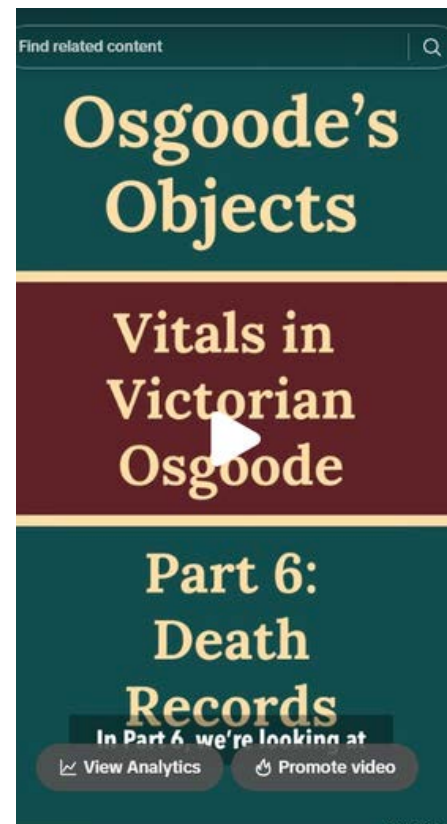
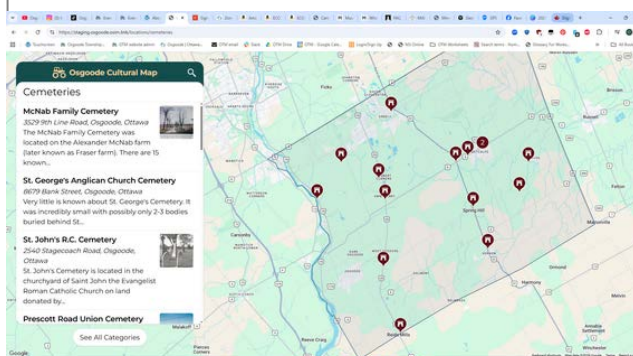
Staff continued the online video series entitled "[Osgoode's Objects](#)" on TikTok. These short videos feature artefacts from the collection and their present-day connections to the community.

## Virtual Programs

OTM offered new virtual talks during 2025 - Ottawa's Baseball History; History of Irish Stick Fighting (Bataireacht); A Knitted History of Osgoode Township, 1827-1976; and From Petawawa to Passchendaele: Artillery Training on Canadian Soil, 1905-1918. These programs continue to be made available on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@osgoodetownshipmuseum241>).

The Knitted History of Osgoode Township was also offered as a talk to Sydney Roseweck's online school for vintage knitting, which reached an international audience. This collaboration continued as Sydney studied a pair of socks in the museum collection to create a knitting pattern. The pattern will be used in 2026 for educational programming purposes.

Development work on the Digital Heritage Content Mapping project, supported by Ottawa Community Foundation, was completed (<https://staging.osgoode.osim.link/>). It will be publicly launched in 2026, adding to OTM's online portfolio.



# Museum Site

An Access Agreement was successfully completed working with City of Ottawa staff.

## Garden

The Garden experienced a difficult growing season due to drought, but continued as a focus for volunteers. Produce from the Garden is made available to community members and included in fundraising Harvest Baskets. Broom corn harvested from the garden played a role in October's broom making workshop.

## Gazebo

The museum's gazebo continued to be used throughout the year. Additional picnic tables, including a fully accessible version, and a garbage receptacle were added to the space.

## 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 OCDSB. Securing this property will allow OTM to enhance the site amenities offered to visitors. This process has stalled with the recent Provincial takeover of OCDSB.

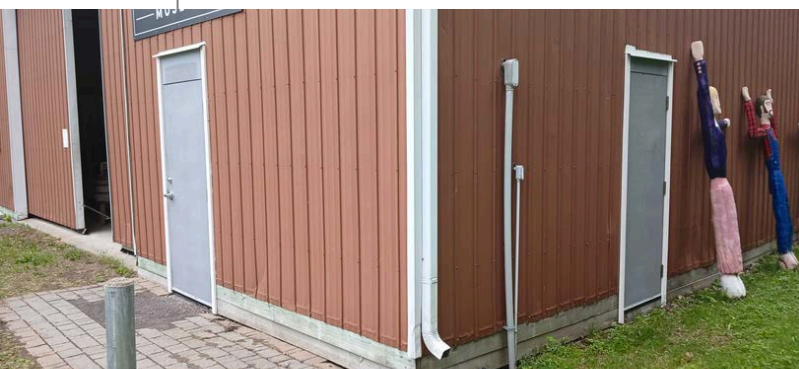


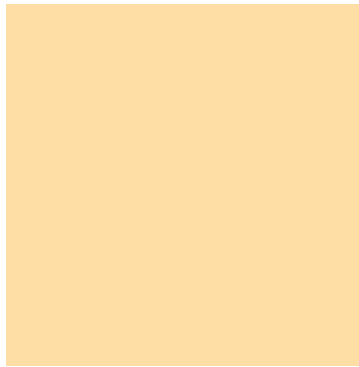
# Building Improvements

- The museum building's rear entry canopy was completely rebuilt in 2025
- The storage barn received three new doors to resolve accessibility and fire safety issues that had previously existed

City of Ottawa staff continued to provide ongoing maintenance in a timely and professional manner.

*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
- Ashley Harper - Collections Assistant, Summer Student
- Gabannette Wooltorton - Program Assistant, Summer Student

## Board of Directors

### President

Doug Thompson

### Past President

Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle

### Treasurer

Cheryl Sullivan

### Secretary

Brian Graham

### Directors at Large

Bob Acres

Helen Porteous

Doris Prescott



# 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  
 Aiden Locke  
 Agonquin College, Applied Museum Studies  
 Axle Automotive  
 Betty and Brian McGowan  
 Bob Acres  
 Bob Barclay  
 Boyd Brothers Concrete Products  
 Brian Graham  
 CAMM Heavy Machinery Movers  
 Canadian Conservation Institute  
 Capital Heritage Connexion  
 Carleton County Junior Farmers  
 Carleton Mushroom Farms  
 Carley Scharf  
 Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle  
 CBC Ottawa  
 Cheryl Sullivan  
 City of Ottawa, Office of Emergency Management  
 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  
 Dan Chen  
 David Guy  
 Doors Open Ottawa  
 Doris Prescott  
 Doug Thompson  
 Fernhill School  
 Foodland Winchester  
 George Darouze, MPP Carleton  
 George Zandbelt  
 Greely Lions Club  
 Guy Fuels & Propane  
 Hélène Bonniere  
 Helen Porteous  
 Hicks Insurance Brokers Limited  
 Hope's Birdseed  
 Isabelle Skalski, Ward 20 Councillor  
 J. Diane Oliver-Jensen  
 Jane Cooper  
 Kaiqian Wei  
 Keith Porteous  
 Levi Helmer  
 Library and Archives Canada  
 Lilly Taylor  
 Maryse Paquet  
 Metcalfe Community Association  
 Metcalfe and District Lions Club  
 Metcalfe Fair  
 Metcalfe Golf Club  
 Moe Robinson  
 Nayeli Gatica  
 Osgoode Legion Branch 589  
 Osgoode Porchfest  
 Osgoode Township High School  
 Osgoode Village Community Association  
 Osgoode Youth Association  
 Ottawa Community Foundation  
 Ottawa community museums (Bytown Museum, Dickinson House, Diefenbunker, Goulbourn Museum, Muséoparc Vanier, Watson's Mill)  
 Ottawa Fire Service, Station 91  
 Ottawa Police Service  
 Ottawa Public Library, Osgoode and Vernon Branches  
 Ottawa Museum Network  
 Ottawa Regional Heritage Fair  
 Patti Mitton  
 Peter Benison  
 Porch View Hobby Farm  
 Qiani Zhou  
 RA Ski & Outdoor Club of Ottawa  
 Russ Keenan Enterprises  
 Shelby Hill  
 Shroomfest  
 Sarah Cooper Godoy  
 St. Mark High School  
 Steve Rennie  
 Sue Hill  
 Summer Institute in Museum Studies Program at Carleton University  
 Sylvie Bonniere  
 Sweeping Willows  
 Trevor Porteous  
 University of Toronto, Faculty of Information  
 Vernon Community Association  
 Vernon Women's Institute  
 Wallace Service Centre  
 Xinyan Fu



## 2025 Grants

- Rural Community Building Grant; City of Ottawa
- Projet de propulsion RONDE 6; L'Association des Communautés Francophones D'Ottawa (ACFO Ottawa)
- Canada Summer Jobs; Employment and Social Development Canada
- Capacity Building and Major Capital grants; City of Ottawa
- Cultural Service Agreements Program; City of Ottawa
- Museum Assistance Program (Collections Management); Canadian Heritage
- Community Grants; 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

