



# ROSS MUSEUM

## ANNUAL REPORT 2024





## PLANT SALE

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, Ross Museum held its annual heritage plant sale. This event has become a staple in our community, consistently attracting passionate plant lovers and celebrating the rich diversity of our botanical heritage.

## STRAWBERRY TEA

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Ross Museum, in partnership with the Whitewater Senior's Support, proudly hosted their first Strawberry Tea, featuring the delightful treat of strawberry shortcake.



## HONOURING OUR VOLUNTEERS

May 11<sup>th</sup> the Whitewater Historical Society and Ross Museum celebrated at the Volunteer Service Awards in Petawawa. Joanne Pratt with 25 years and Evelyn St. Amour with 5 years. Thank you to Judith Humphries who nominated our recipients.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, Mark Bell, Township Representative, proudly honored Hazel Hawthorn with a certificate celebrating her remarkable 99th birthday and her unwavering commitment to

volunteerism. As a founding member of the Whitewater Historical Society, Hazel has dedicated countless hours to serving her community and inspiring others through her selfless contributions.





## CANADA DAY PARADE

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Ross Museum proudly took part in the Canada Day parade in Foresters Falls, where our enthusiastic members donned period costumes, bringing history to life in a celebration of our heritage.

## TOUR de WHITEWATER CYCLING



Ross Museum proudly took part in the exciting Tour de Whitewater Cycling event on July 13<sup>th</sup>. It was a thrilling day as over 300 cyclists stopped by our tent by the Museum, where we delighted them with a variety of tasty snacks and refreshing beverages to keep their energy high.

## GARDEN TOUR

On July 21<sup>st</sup>, the Ross Museum proudly participated in the Garden Tour organized by the Foresters Falls Athletic Association. Visitors had the pleasure of exploring our stunning gardens, and we were thrilled to hear that many considered the Museum to have the finest gardens of all.



## ART SHOW

From July 19<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, St. Aidan's Church transformed into a vibrant gallery, showcasing the remarkable creations of 16 gifted artists. The exhibition kicked off with a memorable evening on July 19th, uniting art lovers and creators in a joyful celebration of imagination and talent.



## PIONEER DAY



**Lawrie Barton, Debbie MacDonald, Hazel Hawthorn**

On August 10<sup>th</sup>, the Ross Museum proudly hosted Pioneer Day, an event that drew in enthusiastic attendees. Among the highlights was Doug Severin, who showcased a meticulously crafted model of a home he had built, captivating everyone with his craftsmanship along with the antique tool display. Throughout the day, young Mennonite girls engaged in the delightful tradition of churning butter, adding a touch of authenticity to the experience. The bake sale was a resounding success, with delicious treats that brought smiles to faces young and old. This event not only celebrated our rich heritage but also fostered a sense of community. The air was filled with laughter and joy, creating lasting memories. We eagerly

anticipate more events like this that connect us to our past and strengthen the bonds within our community.

## KIDS FUN DAY

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, the museum came alive with excitement as it hosted a delightful Kid's Fun Day, where young visitors had the chance to unleash their creativity through a variety of engaging craft activities organized by Lawrie Barton.



## END OF SEASON BBQ

Our end of season BBQ on September 22<sup>nd</sup> was a fantastic success, drawing in around 50 enthusiastic attendees. Guests savored delicious barbequed sausages, homemade baked beans, coleslaw, lemonade, and a delightful cake. The lively atmosphere was enhanced by the wonderful music provided by Steve Williams and Alan Wright.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND COOKIES



On November 30<sup>th</sup>, the Ross Museum warmly welcomed guests to the enchanting Christmas, Carols, and Cookies event held at St. Aidan's Church. The evening was filled with delightful music from the talented Don Campbell, Simon Tunley, and their associates. Heather Campbell captivated the audience with her beautiful pump organ melodies while sharing heartwarming Christmas stories alongside Lawrie Barton and Lianne Oates. We concluded this

magical evening with steaming cups of warm apple cider and an array of delicious Christmas cookies.

## CHRISTMAS QUILT DRAW

Sandra Buttle generously crafted and donated a stunning Christmas Quilt for a fundraising draw, with all proceeds dedicated to the housing of the snowroller. The draw took place on November 28<sup>th</sup>, and we are excited to announce that the lucky winner is Josee Lafortune-Procher. Tickets were sold at a variety of events, including the Beachburg and Cobden Fairs, all museum events, the Ontario Culture Days in Westmeath, and Taste of the Valley. Our dedicated members also engaged with the community by selling tickets at local Senior's lunches in Cobden, Beachburg, and Westmeath. Thank you to everyone who supported this project.



## SUMMER STUDENT

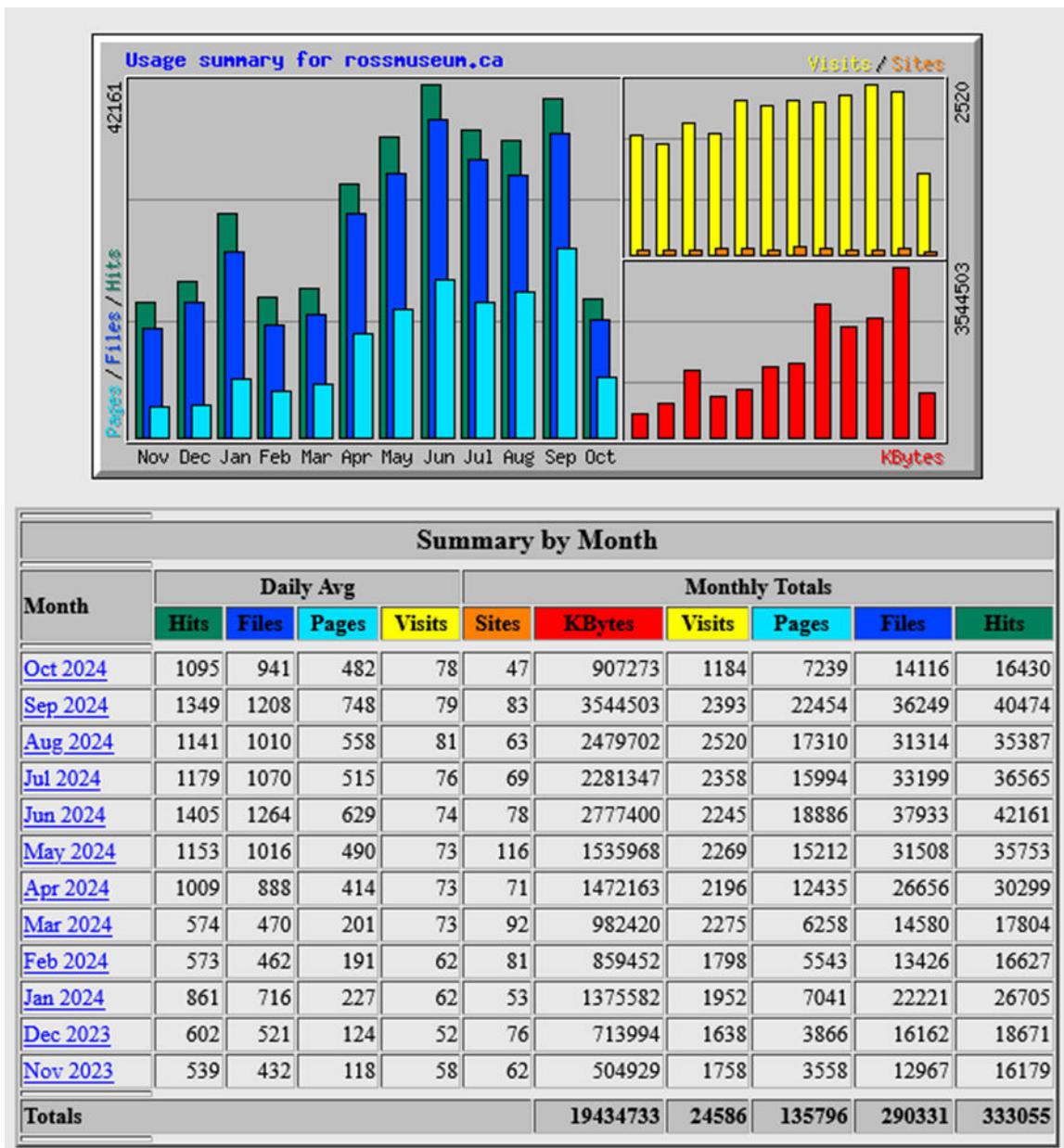
This year, we had the pleasure of welcoming Samantha Hyatt as our summer student, thanks to the Canada Summer Jobs program. During her time with us, Samantha made a

significant impact by designing eye-catching posters, guiding visitors through our exhibits, and lending a helping hand at all our events. A heartfelt thank you to Samantha for her dedication and enthusiasm.

## ROSS MUSEUM WEBSITE

On January 8, 2024, we were thrilled to announce the launch of our website for the Ross Museum, designed to enhance your exploration of our rich heritage and strengthen your connection with our community.

Here are some insightful statistics about our website.



## BARN QUILTS

A barn quilt is art, and they are no longer just limited to barns. You can find them on historical buildings, schools, churches, municipal buildings, and museums. Barn quilts are not a new tradition. In fact, they have been around for almost 300 years now. In many areas it has increased the flow of tourists to view these quilts. In August 2023, members of the Whitewater Historical Society came together to craft these beautiful barn quilts. By Spring 2024, these creations were displayed on the Exhibit Hall, Drive Shed, Ross House, and St. Aidan's Church.



By Zoe McMaster



By Pat Krose



By Sandra Buttle



By Judith Humphries



By Sandra Buttle



By Janis Tomkinson

## VISITORS

This past year the museum was very successful, with a total of 154 visitors exploring our exhibits. We welcomed 49 guests to St. Aidan's Church for the Quilt Display and Art Show, while 55 attendees experienced our Strawberry Tea. Our End of Season BBQ attracted 50 enthusiastic participants, and we wrapped up the year on a high note with the Christmas, Carol and Cookies event that brought together 25 attendees.

## THANK YOU

***We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated members of the Whitewater Historical Society Executive and its membership for the countless hours you invest in our museum. We also wish to express our appreciation to Whitewater Township for your unwavering support, as well as to our amazing community for your enthusiastic participation and support of our events.***

**Janis Tomkinson,  
President, Whitewater Historical Society**