



# ROSS MUSEUM 1985 - 2025



# THE DREAM

The journey of the Ross Museum began in 1985, when Bill and Iva Oates, along with a group of community members, set out to transform their dream of a local museum into reality.



Bill and Iva Oates

# LAND DONATION

The establishment of the Ross Museum was made possible by the generous donation of land from Roy and Bette Ann Dittburner.



# ROSS HOUSE

The "Ross House", a replica of an early 1800's log home was gifted by Jack and Janice McLaren.



# HISTORY OF ROSS HOUSE

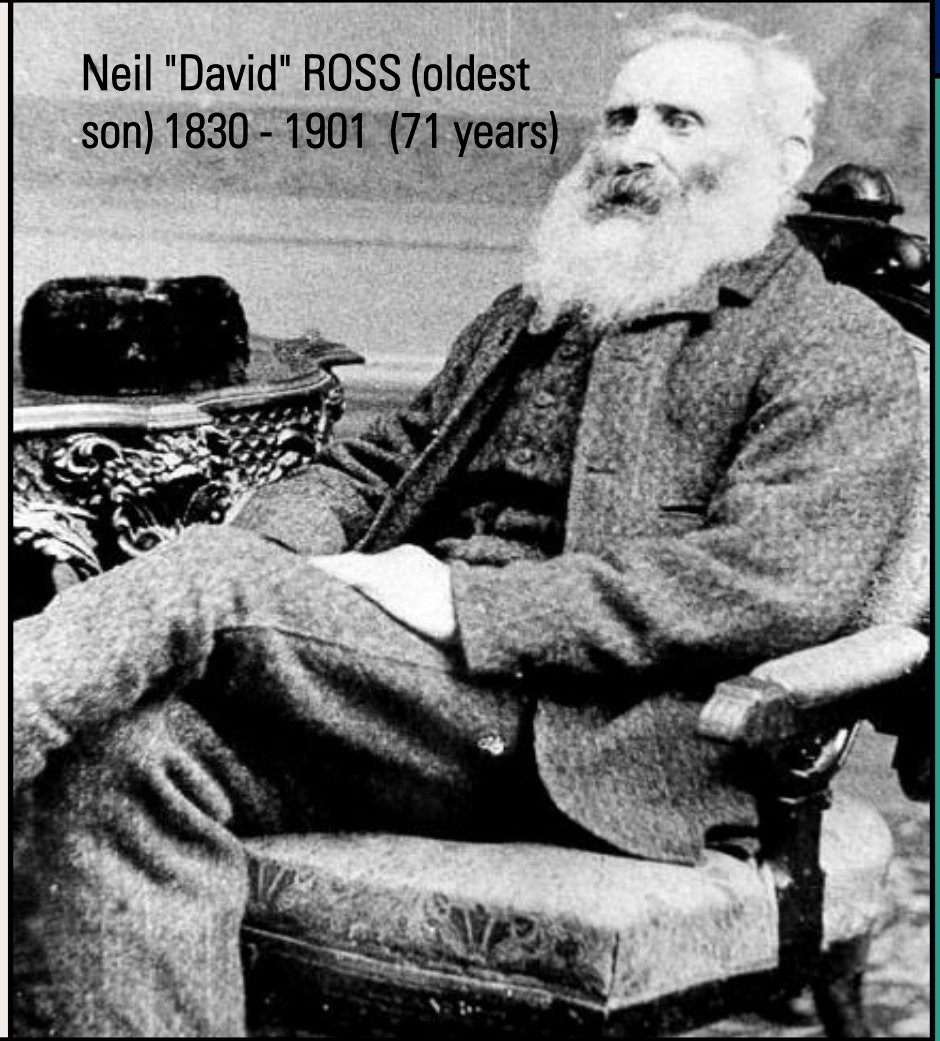
The Home stood on the farm originally settled in 1831 by James Ross from Scotland and his wife, Elizabeth Galley, and 4 children. Seven more children were born to the couple here.



# HISTORY OF ROSS HOUSE

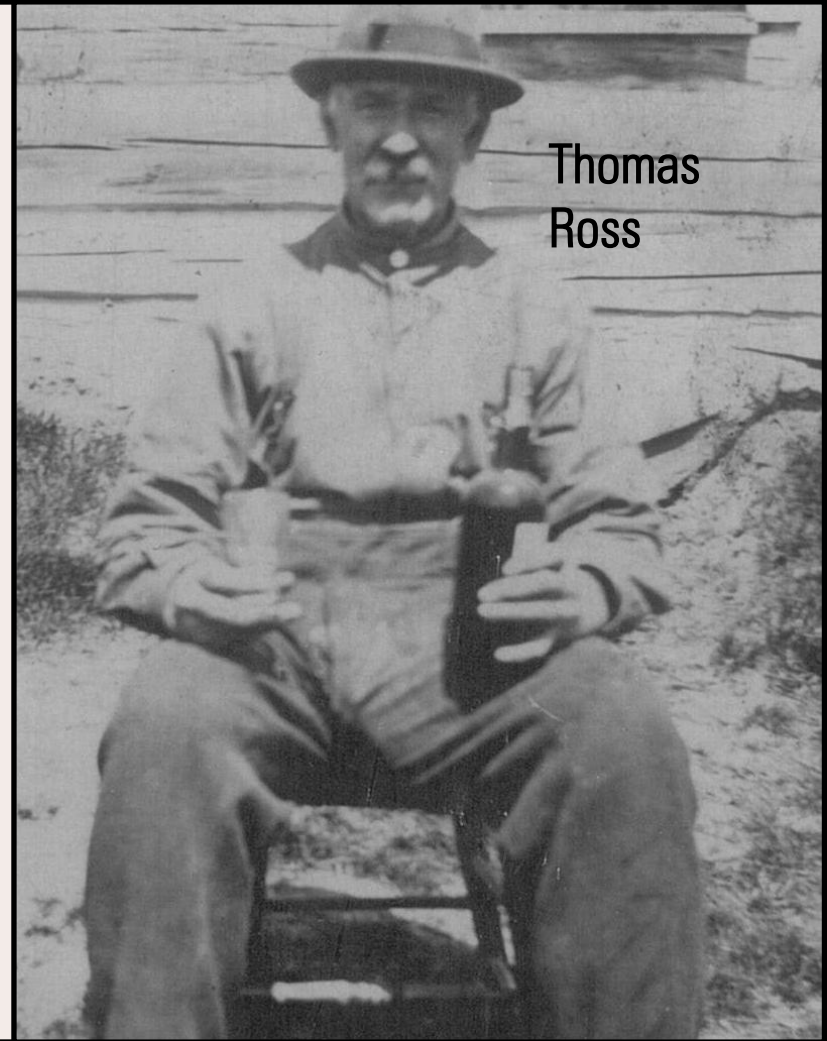
Mr. Ross paid off the price of his farm to the government sooner than he was obligated to, so he asked for a partial refund. He was offered the alternative of naming the Township so he named it "Ross Township", after himself.

Neil "David" ROSS (oldest son) 1830 - 1901 (71 years)



# HISTORY OF ROSS HOUSE

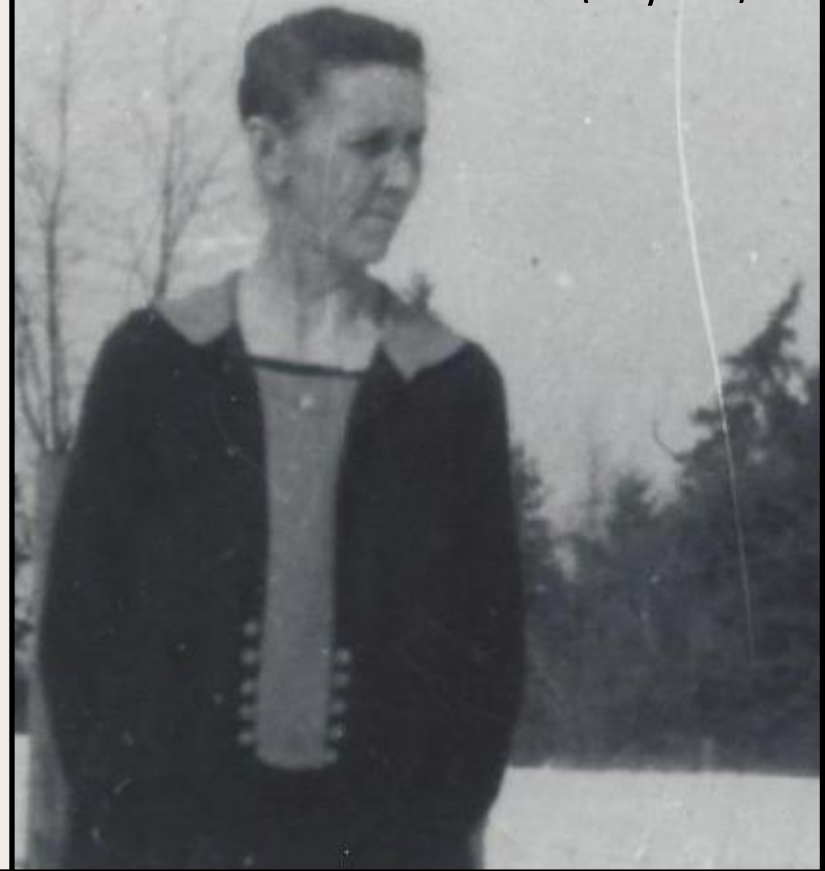
Thomas Ross, 1850-1931, inherited the farm after the death of his father, James Ross in 1887. Thomas was the youngest son and he married Christine McCulloch. They had three children.



# HISTORY OF ROSS HOUSE

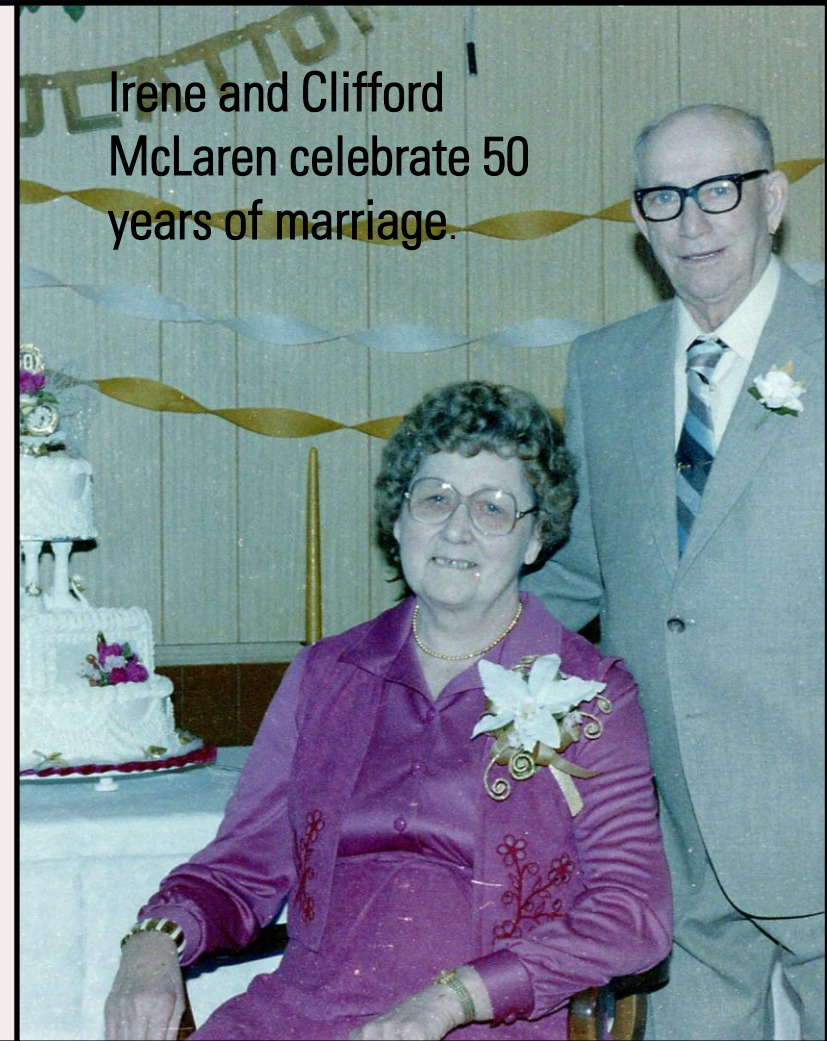
Thomas Ross and his wife had 2 daughters and a son who died in infancy. Daughter, Elizabeth Jane, married John Code who lived to be 101. Elizabeth Jane and John Code had 6 children.

Elizabeth Jane Code nee Ross,  
1882-1933 (50 years)



# HISTORY OF ROSS HOUSE

Lily "Irene" Code, 1912-1994, daughter of Elizabeth Jane and John Code, married Clifford McLaren and they had one son, Jack McLaren, who gifted his ancestral home which is now known as "Ross Museum".



# DISMANTLING THE LOG HOME

Pictured are Ross Code, who was born in the house, and Jack and Janice McLaren.



# DISMANTLING THE LOG HOME

Ross Code watches through the window of the house he was born in while Doug Patterson, Mac Coughlin and Bill Oates dismantle the home.



# DISMANTLING THE LOG HOME

Downstairs kitchen walls were insulated with cement bags and covered layer upon layer of wallpaper. The stairway was closed in with beautiful wide pine boards.



# DISMANTLING THE LOG HOME

Murray Dittburner  
and Bert Montgomery  
cleaning up shingles



# DISMANTLING THE LOG HOME

After the wood shed was taken down



# DISMANTLING THE LOG HOME

Wood shed  
down, now clean  
up!



# DISMANTLING THE LOG HOME

The roof was taken off. Took wide boards off the floor upstairs. Raised and removed downstairs floor. Removed window frames.



# DISMANTLING THE LOG HOME

The boom took  
each log and  
placed it on the  
wagon.  
Not done so easily  
in pioneer days.



# DISMANTLING THE LOG HOME

## OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Peter Deruiter, Jack McLaren,  
Bill Oates, Bert Montgomery,  
Chris Bennett, Mike Trudeau,  
Murray Dittburner, Douglas  
Patterson, Clarence  
Pettigrew, Mac Coughlin



# RECONSTRUCTION

McGregor's Concrete,  
Beachburg, poured the  
footings.  
Mac Coughlin, Doug  
Patterson, Bill Oates, Bert  
Mongomery, Rev. Lloyd  
Reany, Mike Trudeau.



# RECONSTRUCTION

Mac Coughlin  
levelling the cement.



# RECONSTRUCTION

7 rows of logs to the top of the door and windows, all around the house.



# RECONSTRUCTION

Boom truck to lift the top logs up.



# RECONSTRUCTION

Putting on the  
rafters and  
board and  
batten on gable  
ends.



# RECONSTRUCTION

Getting ready  
for shingles



# RECONSTRUCTION

Cedar shingles  
on a pioneer  
day roof.



## LUNCH IS SERVED

Ladies of the Ross Township Historical Society divided into 4 groups supplying and serving hearty, old fashioned meals to the volunteer workers.



## LUNCH IS SERVED

The meals were served on site, outside. Meals included roast beef & gravy, meat loaf, ham, stew, baked beans, corn, carrots, peas, pickles tomatoes, cucumbers, peaches & cream, cake & pie, tea & coffee



# LUNCH IS SERVED

The 4 ladies groups who served the lunches were:

1. Elva Coughlin, Mabel Weller, Greta Patterson
2. Iva Oates, Hazel Hawthorn, Dorothy Jack, Joanne Pratt
3. Eleanor Black, Ruby Bulmer, Lulu Calder
4. Helen & Norma Bennett, Dixie Dittburner & Lola Byce



## FINISHING

Mac Coughlin,  
Doug Patterson  
and Murray  
Dittburner  
making plans.



# RECONSTRUCTION

Murray and  
Dixie Dittburner  
staining  
downstairs  
floors.



# RECONSTRUCTION

Mervin Black  
painting  
upstairs.



# RECONSTRUCTION

Shingles were presented by Murray Dittburner to Mac Coughlin, Bill Oates, Doug Patterson and Bert Montgomery for many hours of labour.

*Missing from photo Bert Montgomery*



**After years of careful planning,  
securing the perfect location,  
moving Ross House and curating a  
collection of artifacts, the Ross  
Museum proudly opened its doors  
to the public on  
July 1, 1996.**

# GRAND OPENING

Ross Museum opened July 1, 1996 in combination with Ross Township Canada Day Celebration in Forester's Falls with Roy Dittburner pulling the float.



# GRAND OPENING

Len Hopkins,  
MP, giving a  
speech of  
Congratulations!



# GRAND OPENING

“Bless this House” being sung by Fran Pinkerton & Dale Black with Chris Bennett on Trombone.



# GRAND OPENING

Iva Oates and  
Elva Coughlin  
enjoying the  
activities



# DEMONSTRATIONS

Bert  
Montgomery,  
bucksawing



# DEMONSTRATIONS

Spinning and  
Knitting by Dixie  
Dittburner



# DEMONSTRATIONS

Bobbin Lace by  
Fran Pinkerton



# Exhibit Hall



**The Exhibit Hall was formerly the Ross Township Fire Hall built in 1954.**

**The Township gave the building to the Ross Township Historical Society in July 1996.**



# Exhibit Hall

Today, you can step back in time to visit Lester Jack's iconic barber shop and discover the intricate millinery and sewing sections that showcase the artistry of the past.

We also feature military and photo history displays that bring to life the rich heritage of our community.



# Exhibit Hall

You can also step back in time to the Bennie's Store in Beachburg



# Exhibit Hall

Visit the  
school room



# The Drive Shed

houses the implements of the past.

An early walking plow, farming tools, logging equipment and a photo logging exhibit are a few of the featured areas of interest in the drive shed.



# St. Aidan's Church



# St. Aidan's Church History

- By 1869 Foresters Falls was an outstation of the mission of Beachburg. In 1891 a church dedicated to St. Aidan was built on the 15th concession, 3rd line in Alice Township. By 1909 most of the congregation in that area had moved away.

# St. Aidan's Church History

On September 29, 1909, William S. Coleman and his wife Margaret of Foresters Falls, seeing the need of an Anglican Church in the village, deeded a parcel of land to the Diocese of Ottawa. The Church of St. Aidan in Alice Township was cut into 3 sections and moved the 25 miles to Foresters Falls. A petition was sent to the Archbishop of the Diocese of Ottawa and on October 8, 1909, the church was consecrated for public worship.



# St. Aidan's Church

Over time, extensive renovations were done and the church was bricked. Wardens at the time were W. S. Coleman and Peter Danlin. Over the years three generations of the Colemans served as Church Wardens.

*Pictured are Murray Dittburner and Bill Oates*



# St. Aidan's Church

The Church was deconsecrated by the Ottawa Diocese in 1969 and then converted into a public library for the community.

In 2002 the Township Council asked the Whitewater Historical Society to take over the church.

The History of the Church was compiled by Kay and Ester Coleman. Kay is the grandson of W.S. Coleman.



Kay and Ester Coleman

# St. Aidan's Church

Volunteers restored this local landmark to its former beauty as a sanctuary. We now have a space where meetings and/or special events can be held. The church displays many of the original artifacts.



# Quilt Display At St. Aidan's Church



# Charter Members 1985



Lawrie Barton,  
President



Norma Bennett,  
Vice-President



Helen Bennett,  
Correspondence  
Secretary



Hazel Hawthorn,  
Treasurer

# Charter Members 1985



Dorothy Jack,  
Recording Secretary



Iva Oates,  
Archivist



Bill Oates



Joanne Pratt

# Charter Members 1985



Rene Rose



George Wallace



Evelyn Moore-Price

# Joining the Team in 1996



**Catherine Beach,  
Archivist**



**Dixie Dittburner,  
Curator Manager**



**Clare Stoppa, Curator**

# Past Presidents



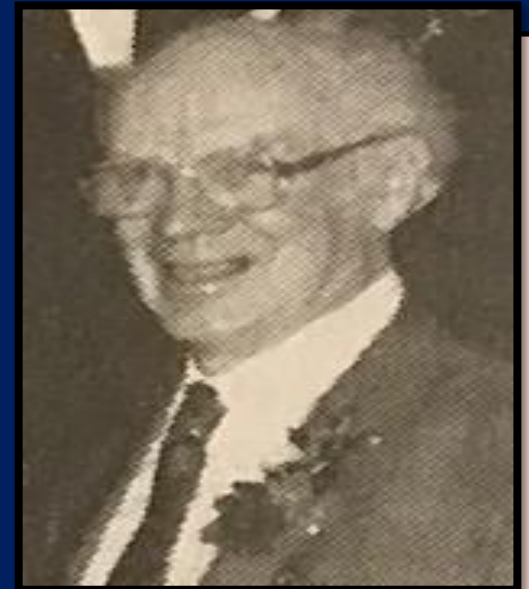
Lawrie Barton



Norma Bennett



George Wallace



Douglas Patterson

# Past Presidents



Mabel Weller



Murray Dittburner



Hazel Hawthorn

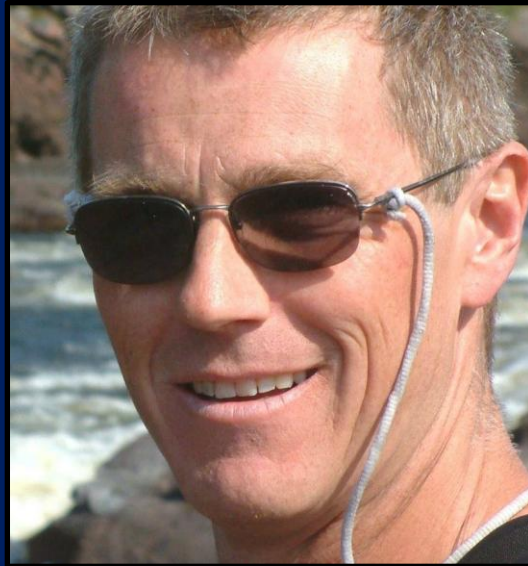


Lola Byce

# Past Presidents



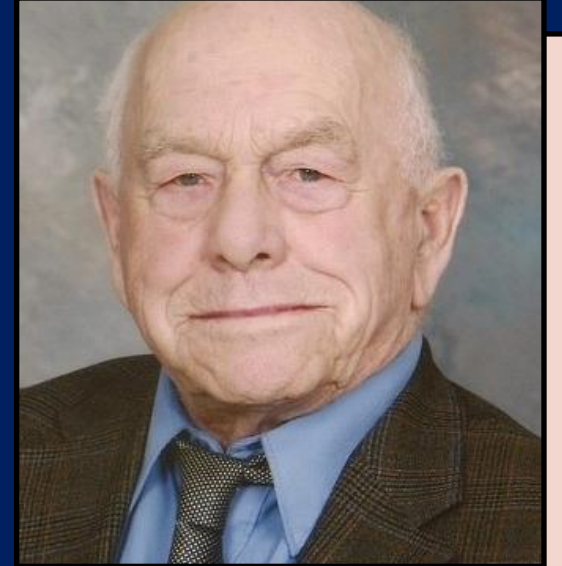
Barbara MacWha



Simon Tunley



Beth Wilson



Mac Coughlin

# Past Presidents



Evelyn St. Amour



Beatty Pilgrim



# ROSS MUSEUM TODAY 2025



# ROSS MUSEUM TODAY

Throughout the years, our museum has proudly accepted a diverse array of artifacts from across the region, each telling a unique story of our shared heritage. We remain committed to this mission, continually welcoming new contributions that help us preserve and celebrate the rich tapestry of our history for future generations.



# Ozzie Caswell

Following his retirement, Ozzie embraced a new chapter at the Ross Museum, diving into the art of woodworking. As a dedicated volunteer, he meticulously crafted stunning designs of historic trains, each piece a testament to his passion and skill. Today, these remarkable creations are proudly showcased at the Museum.



# Hazel Hawthorn



Hazel Hawthorn is a founding member of the Ross Museum and today she is still active and participating in our Museum events.

# Our Executive 2025



Janis Tomkinson  
President



Daryl McLaughlin  
Vice-President



Sandy Buttle  
Secretary



Debbie MacDonald  
Treasurer

# Our Executive 2025



Fay Bennett  
Archivist



Lawrie Barton  
Curator



Joanne Pratt  
Master Gardener

# Snowroller Project

We are actively engaged in a project to build a shelter for our snowroller. We are excited to move forward and bring this vision to life. Thanks to the generous contributions from our members and the community, we have made significant progress in fundraising for the housing of the snowroller. Our commitment to this project remains strong as we continue to seek additional support.





# Quilt Tickets

Enter our draw for the Rainbow Prism Quilt. Tickets available at Ross Museum or from members.

Proceeds for Snow Roller Shelter at Ross Museum.

\$5.00 Donation for 1 Ticket

\$10.00 Donation for 3

Draw November 29, 2025

# WANT TO JOIN OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS?

Contact us at  
[rossmuseumwhs@gmail.com](mailto:rossmuseumwhs@gmail.com)

We would love to have you  
join us!



# FOLLOW US

- VISIT THE ROSS MUSEUM WEBSITE  
<https://rossmuseum.ca>
- FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK  
<https://www.facebook.com/rossmuseum>



**Thank you for joining us this evening.**

**Your support is vital for us to keep the museum thriving and our history alive!**