



ANNUAL REPORT 2025





PLANT SALE

On May 31st, the Ross Museum hosted its annual heritage plant sale. This event has become a highlight for our community, drawing in plant enthusiasts as members share plants from their gardens.

STRAWBERRY TEA

On June 22nd, the Ross Museum, in partnership with the Whitewater Senior's, proudly hosted 60 people at our Strawberry Tea, featuring strawberry shortcake and, of course, strawberry tea.



Mayor Neil Nicholson, Eleanor Tabbert & Connie Tabbert



Debbie MacDonald, Janis Tomkinson, Mayor Neil Nicholson & Ella Burger

CANADA DAY PARADE



Beth McLaughlin, Judith Humphries & Debbie MacDonald

On July 1st, the Ross Museum proudly joined the Canada Day parade in Foresters Falls. Our members wore beautiful period costumes, bringing history to life as we celebrated our heritage and community spirit.



Janis Tomkinson

TOUR de WHITEWATER CYCLING



The Ross Museum participated in the Tour de Whitewater Cycling event on July 19th. It was an unforgettable day as over 300 cyclists visited our tent at the Museum, where we treated them to a selection of tasty snacks and refreshing beverages to keep their spirits high and energy levels soaring.

ART SHOW

From July 26th to August 31st, St. Aidan's Church was transformed into an art gallery, showcasing the creations of local artists. The exhibition kicked off with a vernissage the evening of July 26th. This year, we also proudly displayed the incredible work of our young artists from our Kid's Fun Day events.



PIONEER DAY

On August 9th, the Ross Museum proudly hosted Pioneer Day and a Bake Sale.



The event was well attended. We offered a taste of fresh butter, homemade bread and jam which were a great hit for all ages. We also sold a variety of baked items in “Bennie’s Store”, a replica of the store in Beachburg.

KID'S FUN DAY

This year, we proudly hosted Kid's Fun Day every Wednesday morning throughout July and August. Over the course of these eight Wednesdays, we welcomed 89 enthusiastic children, marking a tremendous success for our program. Each week, the kids engaged in

creative crafts, enjoyed story telling, did scavenger hunts, and explored our museum buildings and on the last day we had live bunnies to pet. Each day the children enjoyed a variety of snacks.



ROSS RHYTHMS

On July 31st, we were treated to an evening filled with the talents of local musicians of all ages. Annora Helferty-Scott captivated us with her piano skills, while Declan Helferty-Scott showcased his skill on the fiddle. Kennedy McCallum delighted the audience with her beautiful singing and guitar playing. Lawrie Barton and Simon Tunley added to the magic of the night with their songs and engaging storytelling. This gathering highlighted the incredible talent within our community.



Lawrie Barton & Simon Tunley



Declan Helferty-Scott



Kennedy McCallum



Annora Helferty-Scott on keyboard

END OF SEASON BBQ

Our end of season BBQ on August 23rd was a fantastic success, drawing in 65 hungry people. Guests enjoyed barbequed sausages, homemade baked beans, coleslaw, lemonade, and a beautiful cake. The lively atmosphere was enhanced by the wonderful music provided by The EmTees.



40TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

On September 20th, we were delighted to welcome 100 guests to help us celebrate the 40th Anniversary Dinner of the Whitewater Historical Society/Ross Museum. The evening was a resounding success, thanks to our speakers, entertainment, generous silent auction supporters, and of course, everyone who joined us on this memorable occasion.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND COOKIES

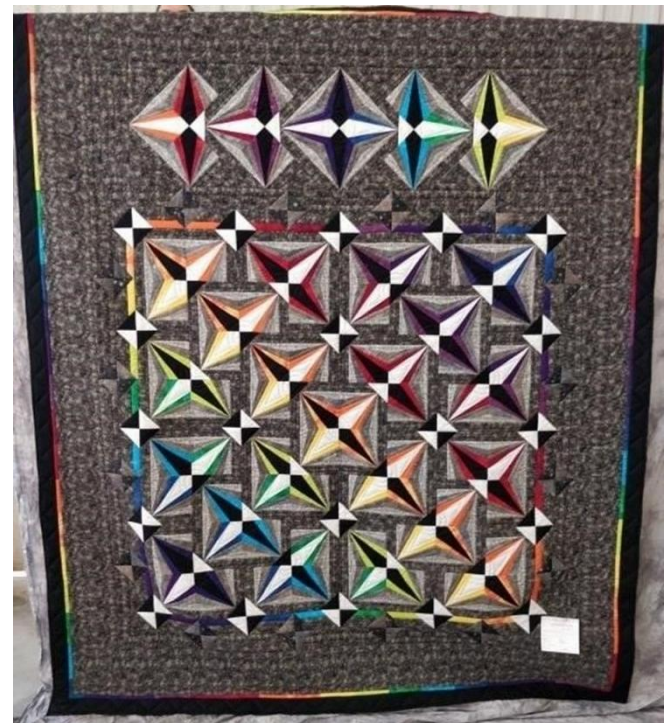


We celebrated the spirit of the season at our Christmas Carols and Cookies event on November 30th at St. Aidan's Church. Attendees were treated to an evening filled with music from Mine Road, featuring the talents of Dale and Kaitlyn Black, Al Stokes, Diane Coulas, Rob McKenzie, and Joanne Thom. Heather Campbell played the historic pump organ, inviting everyone to join in singing Christmas hymns. Jean

Robinson and Lawrie Barton shared Christmas poetry, while Heather Campbell and Lianne Oates shared their Christmas stories. Guests enjoyed warm apple cider and delicious Christmas cookies.

CHRISTMAS QUILT DRAW

This year, we were thrilled to receive a beautiful quilt donated by Judith Humphries. The draw took place during our Christmas Carols and Cookies event, and we are pleased to announce that the quilt found its new home with the lucky winners, Ray and Kim Dunlop.



SUMMER STUDENTS

This year, we had the pleasure of welcoming Ella Burger and Beth McLaughlin as our summer youth, thanks to the Canada Summer Jobs program. During their time with us, they made a significant impact by designing posters, creating videos of our artifacts, assisting/creating the programs for Kids Fun Day, guiding visitors through our exhibits, and lending a helping hand at all our events. A heartfelt thank you to Ella and Beth for your dedication and enthusiasm.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

This year we completed the restoration of the door on St. Aidan’s Church and replaced the door on the Exhibit Hall.



St. Aidan’s Church door before and after restoration.



Exhibit Hall – old door and new door

SNOWROLLER SHELTER

We are excited to continue our efforts in raising funds and spreading awareness for our Snowroller Shelter. With the Township Council's approval of our easement, we are thrilled to announce that we are moving forward with this important project. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2026, and we can't wait to see our vision come to life.

COBDEN & DISTRICT CIVITAN CLUB DONATIONS



Janis Tomkinson, Daryl McLaughlin & Sandy Buttle

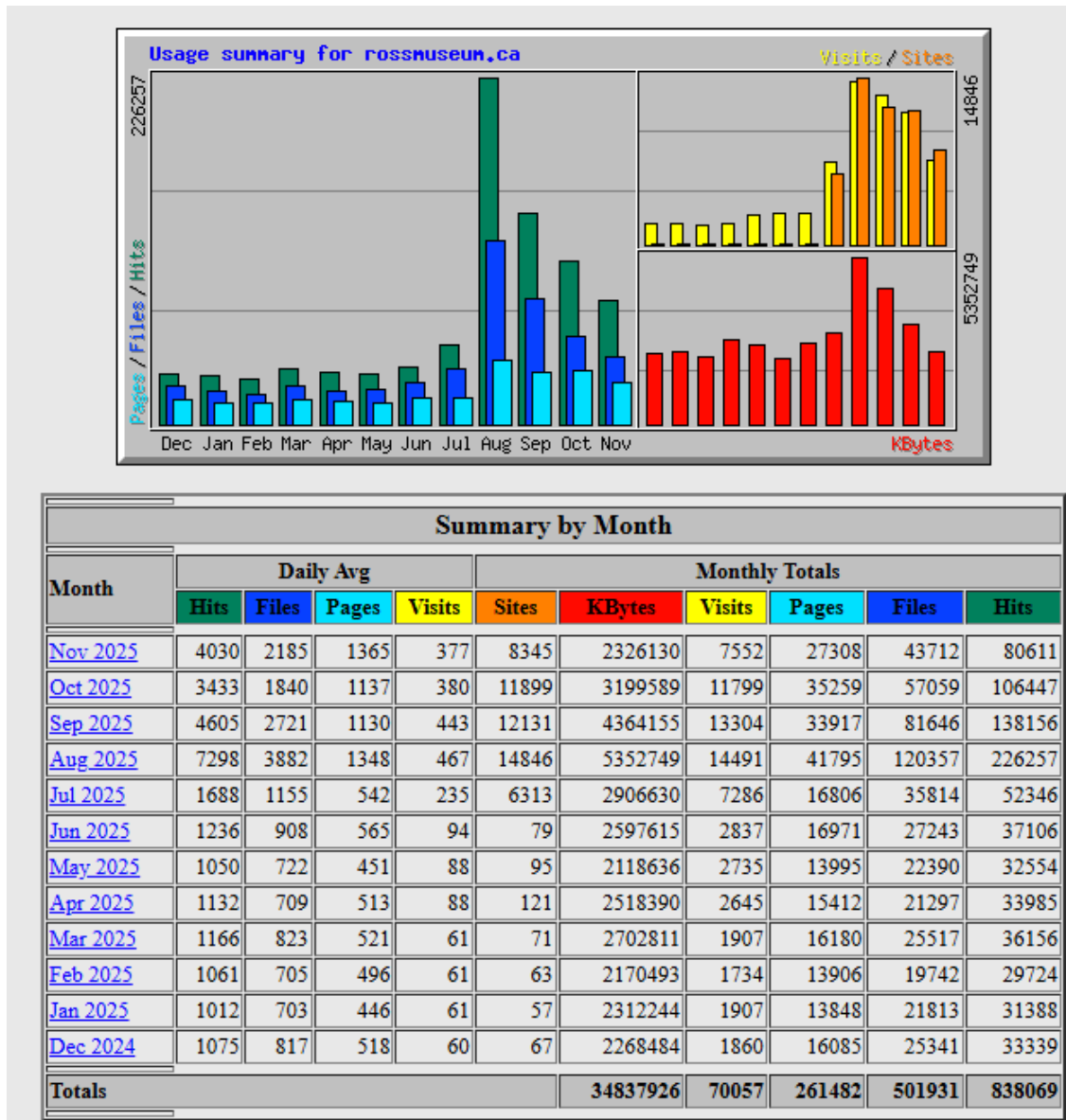


Sandy Buttle, Jean Cull & Debbie MacDonald

In the spring of 2025, the Whitewater Historical Society/Ross Museum reached out to the Cobden District Civitan Club for assistance in constructing a protective shelter for our snow/land roller, a remarkable artifact that currently stands exposed to the elements outside the museum. In October 2025, the Council of Whitewater Region approved the location for this shelter and gave us the green light for our snow/land roller project, which will be situated next to the Exhibit Hall. With Council's approval in hand, we returned to the Cobden District Civitan Club to seek further support. In April 2025, the Cobden District Civitan Club generously granted us \$3,000.00, and in October 2025, they again contributed \$3,000.00 to this meaningful project. We extend our heartfelt thanks for your invaluable support!

ROSS MUSEUM WEBSITE

Check out the Ross Museum website to enhance your exploration of our rich heritage and strengthen your connection with our community “rossmuseum.ca”.



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**