



## Community Services *Staff Report*

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REPORT NO: CS-2025-05

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Chris Catania, Director of Community Services

PREPARED BY: Manuela O'Krafka, Manager of Community Services  
Sherri Gropp, Curator, Castle Kilbride

REVIEWED BY: Greg Clark, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: May 5, 2025

SUBJECT: Castle Kilbride Summary of Activities 2024

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### RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report CS-2025-05 regarding Castle Kilbride Activities for 2024, be received for information.

### SUMMARY:

The attached summary outlines events and activities that took place at Castle Kilbride in 2024.

### BACKGROUND:

Community Services staff report to Council on Castle Kilbride activities on an annual basis. The attached Report to Heritage Wilmot and Castle Kilbride Advisory Committee was approved at the Committee meeting on March 11, 2025.

### REPORT:

Despite construction activity that took place on Snyder's Road in front of Castle Kilbride in 2024, the Castle had a very successful year with visitation reaching pre-pandemic levels. The

always successful “Ghost Walks” increased from 10 events in 2023 to 22 events in 2024 and planning further dates for 2025. The Summer Concert Series saw almost 2500 visitors to enjoy the shows, and Christmas at the Castle is always a cherished tradition. Along with other new events such as the Peter Pan Pet Parade, Princess Workshops, Father Christmas and Whimsical Weekends; the Castle hosted their first Juried Art show in partnership with Central Ontario Art Association. Over 65 works were displayed throughout Belvedere Gallery and lower-level hallways.

Additional events, activities and statistics are also outlined in the attachment.

#### ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

Healthy Community

#### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Annual reporting on activities at this National Historic Site is a pre-requisite for the Township receiving funding under the Canadian Museum Operating Grant (CMOG). For the past several years Castle Kilbride operations have been supported with a grant of over \$16,600.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Castle Kilbride 2024 Year End Review
2. 2024 Year in Review