



## Castle Kilbride 2022 summary of events and activities

**Visitation-** The museum re-opened to the public on March 16, 2022. The museum was then open regular hours until January 8, 2023 when we traditionally close for the winter season. We were able to accommodate walk-in visitation for the first time since 2019. Regular operating hours for the museum were Wednesday to Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The months of July & August had extended hours from Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Collection Management-** In January of 2022 a capital project for a mobile storage system was realized. Museum staff chose a Montel system to meet the needs of the growing collection. Altitude Solutions installed the entire unit in under 3 days. The unit has greatly improved the organization of the collections and better space for future growth. In 2022 we had 9 donors to our collection. Some significant pieces include: a collection of New Hamburg Hockey memorabilia, toys, and butter knives that were original to Castle Kilbride.

**Exhibitions-** After COVID, museum staff wanted to host a fun and positive exhibit and featured an exhibit called “Toys Through Time.” Dolls, cars, and castles, oh my! See how toys have evolved from the 1880s to the 2000s. Come and walk down memory lane with us. The exhibit saw the return of family visitation which had not been realized since before the pandemic. Staff also partnered with the local Legion to update their display cases at Castle Kilbride. The museum partnered with the Firebirds Hockey Association to create a special exhibit for their 70th anniversary at the Wilmot Recreation Complex. All four cases were dedicated to the club and were on display from December 2022 into Spring of 2023.

**Programming and Education-** We were able to return to hosting school groups in 2022. However, these groups were not as plentiful as prior to the pandemic but it was still nice to welcome them back to the museum. The museum returned to hosting “Homeschool Days” which were well received. The themed toy exhibit saw the return of families. Special tours called “Time with Toys Family Tours” increased family visitation. With the new Full Time Museum Assistant role being implemented, focus could be placed on improving and enhancing educational programs and offering outreach programs for the first time.

**Event Listing-** Museum events although slightly modified returned to Castle Kilbride.

- March Break and Summer Months- Time with Toys Family Tours
- Summer Concert Series- 7 concerts
- Twenties Tea & Tours- June, July & August
- Christmas at the Castle- November to January
- Castle Aglow Evening Tours- guided tours on Thursday nights in November and December

**Governance/Policy/Planning-** As of October of 2022, the museum and two full time staff fall under Community Services Department. The Curator now reports to Manager of Community Services under the Director of Community Services.

The Castle Kilbride Advisory Committee had 9 meetings planned in 2022 and struggled with participation. Projects they accomplished were updates to the Collections Management Policy and returned to assisting with special events. (\*Please note that after consultation and input from the Manager of Information and Legislative Services for the Township the Heritage Wilmot and Castle Kilbride Advisory Committees will become one advisory committee in 2023).

## Curatorial Activities (Research and Collections Management)



Collection Room before mobile storage



Collections Room after mobile storage



*The 2022 Activities Report for Castle Kilbride is respectfully submitted by Sherri Gropp, Curator, Castle Kilbride.*