



30 July, 2025

Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum Town Report 1 for 2025

This is an exciting year for the Castle Rock Museum as we plan for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Depot building on Saturday, September 6th. During the first six months of the year the museum continued its usual services and activities. It provided a venue for many visitors to Castle Rock. Local residents and their visiting family members comprise much of our attendance especially during the summer months and at holidays. New and potential residents come to learn about the history of the community. We have several temporary exhibits for this year. We have again featured, CDR the Continental Divide Raceways, one of the top-ranked automobile race courses in the West during the 1960s. The most famous racers in the world ran at CDR. We also have an exhibit on the devastating flood of 1965 which destroyed all the bridges in Castle Rock and cut I-25 in several places. We are also preparing an exhibit for the 150th anniversary of the D&RG depot building which now houses the museum. We are beginning preparations for the 150th anniversary of Colorado and the 250th anniversary of the country. We do external exhibits or displays when requested and are working with the Town to enhance the historic atmosphere of the Cantril School. The museum operates four days per week, five hours per day as stated in the contract. However, the museum does serve additional groups such as school visits, scouts and civic programs at hours beyond the usual operating hours. School participation has included both in school and home school children. The museum staff is continually engaged in curating and preserving museum artifacts and photographs related to the history of Castle Rock. The artifacts are principally acquired through donations. (This meets our objectives 1,2, 3 and 4.)

In May, Historic Preservation Month, the museum conducted its fifth Scavenge the Rock downtown Scavenger Hunt. The program was a collaboration with the Town of Castle Rock, the Castle Rock Historic Preservation Board and the Downtown Merchants Association. The aim of the hunt is to explore a little Castle Rock history and introduce residents to local downtown businesses. Participation has grown both from those playing and with support from new businesses. This has become an annual event for Historic Preservation month. (This meets our objectives 5 and 7)

We continue the summer downtown historic walking tours and the annual Trolley Tour. This May the focus of the trolley tour was the impact of the 1965 flood on Castle Rock where all existing bridges were destroyed. Ghost Tours and a cemetery tour are planned for the fall. (These programs are designed to meet our objectives 5, 6 and 7.)

The Society and Museum held its principal fundraising event, Victoria's Tea in May. The Tea moved to Kirk Hall three years ago at the Fair grounds to accommodate the growth in participation.

The museum will continue to participate in other community events like the Car Show, Festival of Trees, Senior Center Fairs, Fangtastic and the County fair where the museum can make a contribution. The museum staff also participates in history activities in other communities when requested.(This meets our objectives 6 and 8.)

We are fortunate to have volunteer groups such as the garden club and boy scouts and talented volunteers that help the museum with events, landscape chores and provide restoration repairs at the museum. A new Eagle Scout project is in the works for this year. Our IT department is principally volunteer. Society members sponsor many of our fundraising events.

Operating expenses for the museum for the first six months of the year were \$55,960.00. Funds are principally used for salaries, utilities, maintenance and exhibits. Other funds which support the museum come from donations, fundraising events, gift shop sales, recycling and donated services.

Angie DeLeo, Director, Castle Rock Museum