

LIBRARY BOARD
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
February 26, 2024
BOARD ROOM & ONLINE – VIA ZOOM
AGENDA



1. Call to Order/Quorum
 - 1.1 Land Recognition – M. Olejnik
2. Approval of the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting
3.
 - 3.1 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of February 27, 2023
 - 3.2 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the February 27, 2023
4. Resolution to Ratify the Action of the Board

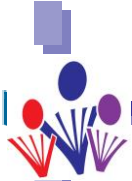
MOTION:

Whereas the Board for the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library has acted on behalf of the combined membership over the past year, therefore be it resolved that the Library Board members, at the Annual General Meeting of Monday February 26, 2024 ratify, sanction and confirm all acts, covenants and proceedings made or taken or entered into on behalf of the Board and CEO during the past year.

5. By-Laws Review
6. Annual Report
7. Friends of the Library
 - 7.1. Report from the President of the Friends of the Library, Susan Hall
8. Delegates (if any present)
9. Adjourn Annual General Meeting

Next Annual Meeting: Monday, February 24, 2025

SAULT STE. MARIE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Library Board
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, February 27, 2023 – 4:30 P.M.
ONLINE – VIA ZOOM



Board Members Present:

Hannah Caicco
Wayne Greco
Steve Murray

Jami Van-Haaften
Lisa Dobrovnik
Kevin Harrison

Mike Olejnik
Paolo Bruni

Regrets: Erin Ferlaine

Library: Matthew MacDonald, Rosanne Chan, Sharon Wigney, Elise Schofield, Kaitrin Aaltonen

Media: Livestreamed on Facebook

Guest: Nina Pyne, Livestreamed on Facebook

1. Call to Order / Quorum

M. MacDonald, CEO, called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

1.1 Land Recognition

P. Bruni read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

2. Election of Board Officials

2.1 Election of Chairperson

K. Harrison nominated W. Greco – accepted

Seconded by M. Olejnik

No further nominations.

CARRIED

2.2 Election of Vice-Chairperson

W. Greco nominated M. Olejnik – accepted

Seconded by J. van Haaften

No further nominations.

CARRIED

2.3 Congratulations to Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Congratulations were extended to the new Board Officials.

3. Approval of the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting

MOTION:

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board approves the agenda of the 2023 Annual General Meeting as presented.

Moved: H. Caicco

Seconded: L. Dobrovnik

CARRIED

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of February 28, 2022

MOTION:

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board approves the minutes of the Board's 2022 Annual General Meeting as presented.

Moved: K. Harrison

Seconded: M. Olejnik

CARRIED

4.2 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of February 28, 2022

NONE

5. Resolution to Ratify the Action of the Board

MOTION:

Whereas the Board for the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board has acted on behalf of the combined membership over the past year, therefore be it resolved that the Library Board members, at the Annual General Meeting of Monday February 27, 2023 ratify, sanction and confirm all acts, covenants and proceedings made or taken or entered into on behalf of the Board and CEO during the past year.

Moved: J. Van-Haaften

Seconded: K. Harrison

CARRIED

6. Appointments to Board Standing Committees

W. Greco as Board Chair and M. MacDonald as CEO will sit in all standing committees, with A. Gerard, as Vice-Chair, as a second, designate or alternate.

6.1 CEO Evaluation Committee

MOTION:

Be it resolved that the CEO Evaluation Committee consist of the following Board Members: Wayne Greco, Mike Olejnik, Erin Ferlaine, Hannah Caicco, and Paolo Bruni.

Moved: H. Caicco

Seconded: L. Dobrovnik

CARRIED

6.2 Facilities Committee

MOTION:

Be it resolved that the Facilities Committee consists of the CEO and the following Board Members: Wayne Greco, Mike Olejnik, Lisa Dobrovnik, Kevin Harrison, and Steve Murray.

Moved: H. Caicco

Seconded: L. Dobrovnik

CARRIED

6.3 Financial Committee

MOTION:

Be it resolved that the Financial Committee consist of the CEO, Business Administrator, and following Board Members: Wayne Greco, Hannah Caicco, Jami van Haaften, Kevin Harrison, and Steve Murray.

Moved: H. Caicco

Seconded: L. Dobrovnik

CARRIED

6.4 Policy Committee

MOTION:

Be it resolved that the Policy Committee consist of the CEO and the following Board Members: Wayne Greco, Jami van Haaften, Erin Ferlaine, Lisa Dobrovnik, and Paolo Bruni.

Moved: H. Caicco

Seconded: L. Dobrovnik

CARRIED

6.5 Any other committees the Board determines appropriate to strike

NONE

MOTION:

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board accept the appointments to the Board Committees.

Moved: H. Caicco

Seconded: L. Dobrovnik

CARRIED

7. Annual Report

MOTION:

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board accepts the 2022 Annual Report as presented.

Moved: H. Caicco

Seconded: L. Dobrovnik

CARRIED

8. Friends of the Library

8.1 Report from the delegate of the Friends of the Library, Nina Pyne

MOTION:

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board accept the 2023 Friends of the Library Annual Report as presented.

Moved: K. Harrison

Seconded: J. van Haaften

CARRIED

9. Delegates

NONE

10. Adjournment

MOTION:

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board move to adjourn the Annual General Meeting at 5:16 p.m.

Moved: H. Caicco

Seconded: M. Olejnik

CARRIED

Chairperson, Library Board



Sault Ste. Marie Public Library

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board

By-law No. 1998-01

Being a procedural by-law for the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board

Adopted: February 16, 1998

*Revised: March 20, 2000; May 14, 2007; May 12, 2016;
June 18, 2018, February 24, 2020; February 22, 2021; February 26, 2024*

Part One Holding of Meetings of the Board

1. Regular Meetings:

- 1.1. In accordance with the Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.44, the Board shall hold at least seven (7) regular meetings annually. It will be the Board's policy to hold nine (9) regular meetings and conduct special meetings at such other times, as it considers necessary.

2. Time and Place of Regular Meetings

- 2.1. The Board's meeting schedule will be determined annually at January Regular Board meetings for a twelve (12) month period (February to January).
- 2.2. The time, date and/or location of a regular meeting may be altered by Board resolution. In exceptional circumstances, forty-eight (48) hours notice may be given to Board members of the time, date and location of any special Board meeting required.
- 2.3. Meeting length shall be no longer than two (2) hours. Should additional time be required, a motion must be passed to extend the length of the meeting.

3. Meetings Open to the Public

- 3.1. The meetings of the Board, including meetings of the Board sitting in Committee of the Whole, shall be open to the public, **either in person or electronically**, and no person shall be excluded therefrom except for improper conduct.

- 3.2. The Chairperson may expel or exclude from any meeting any person who has been guilty of improper conduct at the meeting.

4. Commencement of the Proceedings

- 4.1. As soon after the designated meeting time as quorum is present, the Chairperson shall call the meeting to order.
- 4.2. The Secretary-Treasurer shall record in the minutes the members present.

5. Quorum

- 5.1. The presence of a majority of the Board is necessary for the transaction of business.
- 5.2. A member of the Board can participate electronically in a meeting and shall be counted in determining whether or not a quorum of members is present at any point of time as per the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25.

6. Quorum Lacking

- 6.1. Should a quorum not be present within twenty minutes of the appointed meeting time, the meeting shall stand adjourned. The Secretary-Treasurer shall then record the names of the members present and enter them in the minutes.
- 6.2. Notwithstanding Item 6.1, the members present may agree to proceed with the agenda informally, on the understanding that any decisions taken will be placed before the next meeting for ratification.

7. Annual Meeting:

- 7.1. An Annual Meeting of the Board shall be held in February prior to the regular Board meeting for the purpose of appointing Board committees, receiving annual reports, and any other business as may be referred to it by the Board.

8. Special Meetings:

- 8.1. The Chairperson or any two members of the Board may summon a special meeting of the Board by giving each member forty-eight (48) hours' notice in writing, specifying the purpose for which the meeting is called.

Part Two Officials of the Board

9. Chairperson:

- 9.1. At the first meeting following appointment of the Board, the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board shall elect a Chairperson from its members.

10. Duties of the Chairperson:

- 10.1. The Board Chairperson shall be responsible for:

- 10.1.1. presiding at regular and special meetings of the Board in the manner and to the extent prescribed by the Board
- 10.1.2. conducting Board meetings in accordance with these by-laws, library **policy** and any other relevant legislation
- 10.1.3. in the absence of specific authority, not committing the Board to any course of action
- 10.1.4. serving as ex-officio member of all Board committees
- 10.1.5. acting as one of the authorized signing officers of all documents pertaining to Board business
- 10.1.6. representing the Board, alone or with other members of the Board, at any public or private meetings for the purpose of conducting, promoting or completing the business of the Board
- 10.1.7. acting as the spokesperson for the Board
- 10.1.8. determining the responsibility of committees to deal with matters which arise where it is unclear as to which committee has responsibility, subject to eventual confirmation by the Board
- 10.1.9. ensuring that vacancies on Board committees are filled as expeditiously as possible
- 10.1.10. advising the Vice-Chairperson, if for any reason, the Chairperson is temporarily unable to perform the duties of the Chairperson
- 10.1.11. any other powers, duties and responsibilities as may, from time to time, be assigned to the Chairperson by the Board

11. Vice-Chairperson:

- 11.1. At the first meeting following appointment of the Board, the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board shall elect a Vice-Chairperson from

its members.

12. Duties of the Vice-Chairperson:

- 12.1. The Vice-Chairperson shall be responsible for:
 - 12.1.1. performing all the duties and responsibilities of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.
 - 12.1.2. any such other powers, duties and responsibilities as may, from time to time, be assigned to the Vice-Chairperson by the Board.

13. Elections of Officials of the Board:

- 13.1. At the first meeting following appointment, the Board shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from its members.
- 13.2. ~~Thereafter, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting~~ until the end of the Board's term.
- 13.3. Elections shall be decided by majority vote when there are two candidates and plurality vote when there are more than two.
- 13.4. If only one nomination is received for a position, the candidate shall be declared elected by acclamation.
- 13.5. Voting shall be by secret ballot. The secretary shall act as scrutineer.
- 13.6. In the event of a tie, an additional secret ballot between the tied candidates shall be cast.
- 13.7. In the event of a second tie the decision will be made by a straw vote.
- 13.8. No Board Member shall serve as Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson greater than six consecutive terms.
- 13.9. Casual vacancies that occur within the executive during the year shall be filled by conducting a written vote at the next regular meeting of the Board.
- 13.10. Ballots will be destroyed.

14. Nominations for Officials of the Board:

- 14.1. Nominations for Chairperson and for Vice-Chairperson may be made from the floor by any Board Member requires a mover and seconder.
- 14.2. Nominees shall be given the opportunity to accept or decline the nomination.
- 14.3. Candidates shall be free to withdraw verbally prior to the vote.

- 14.4. Members unable to attend are eligible for election by informing the Secretary in writing of their willingness to stand for office and in which positions, if nominated.
- 14.5. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be elected ~~on an~~ ~~—annual basis—~~ **til the end of the Board's term**, for a maximum of six (6) consecutive terms in that position.

Part Three Officers of the Board

15. Chief Executive Officer:

- 15.1 The Board shall appoint a Chief Executive Officer who shall have general supervision over the direction of the operation of the public library and its staff, shall attend all board meetings and shall have the other powers and duties that the Board assigns.
- 15.2 **As a non-voting officer of the Board, the CEO:**
- a) **interprets and communicates the Board's decisions to the staff**
 - b) **does not vote on Board business**
 - c) **sits ex-officio on any committees of the Board and acts as a resource person**
 - d) **assists and supports the Board at the presentation of the library budget before the council**
 - e) **reports directly to the Board on the affairs of the library and makes recommendations they consider necessary**

Secretary-Treasurer:

1. The Board shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer who shall:
 - a) conduct the Board's official correspondence
 - b) keep minutes of every meeting of the Board
 - c) receive and account for all the Board's finances
 - d) manage financial accounts in the name of the Board including depositing all money received on the Board's behalf to those approved accounts
 - e) disburse the money as the Board directs
2. The same person may be both the Chief Executive Office and the Secretary-Treasurer.

Part Four Voting in the Board Meetings

Voting:

1. Every member present when a question is put shall either vote in the positive, in the negative, or abstain.
2. The Chairperson of the Board may vote upon all questions.
3. Any vote on a resolution shall require a simple majority of the members present to be passed, except for a resolution on a by-law, which shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present. Any question on which there is an equality of votes shall be deemed in the negative.
4. Any member present who has a conflict of interest (real or perceived) in the matter before the Board is not eligible to vote.
5. Voting shall normally be by a show of hands.
6. A member may request a recorded vote prior to a question being put.
7. Telephone and electronic votes are permitted provided that they are participants in the meeting. Email and proxy votes shall not be permitted.

Part Five Agenda

Agenda:

1. The Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Chairperson, shall decide subject matters and items to appear on the Board Agenda as well as any delegations to be heard by the Board.
2. A full agenda package will be sent to Board members electronically and/or in paper format (as preferred) no later than the Friday preceding each regular meeting of the Board.

Part Six Committee of the Whole

Moving into Committee of the Whole:

1. The Board may, by resolution, move into Committee of the Whole to deal with matters referred to it by the Board and in accordance with all applicable library and other legislation.

Report of the Committee of the Whole:

1. Following adjournment of the Meeting of the Whole, the Chairperson shall report on the proceedings and findings. A motion adopting the report, or adopting it and dealing with the subject matter shall be made.

Part Seven Closed Meetings

Moving into a Closed Meeting:

1. The Board may, by resolution, move into a Closed Meeting to deal with matters referred to it by the Board and in accordance with the Public Libraries Act and the Municipal Act, as revised, and/or all other applicable legislation
 - 1.1. The security of the property of the Board;
 - 1.2. Personal matters about an identifiable individual;
 - 1.3. A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the Board;
 - 1.4. Labour relations or employee negotiations;
 - 1.5. Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the Board;
 - 1.6. Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
 - 1.7. A matter in respect of which a board or committee of a board may hold a closed meeting under another Act 2002, c. 17, Sched. C, s. 24(5)

Educational or Training Sessions:

A meeting of the Board may be closed to the public if the following conditions are both satisfied:

1. The meeting is held for the purpose of educating or training the members.
2. At the meeting, no member discusses or otherwise deals with any matter in a way that materially advances the business or decision-making of the Board. Municipal Act, 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 103 (1).

Minutes of Closed Meetings:

1. The Secretary-Treasurer shall take the minutes of Closed Meetings. In the absence of the Secretary-Treasurer, the Chairperson shall appoint a member of the Board to take the minutes.
2. Minutes of Closed Meetings are confidential.

3. Minutes of Closed Meetings shall be approved at the next Closed Meeting of a regular meeting of the Board.

Part Eight Board Committees

Board committees specialize in key areas of the Board's overall operation and, where appropriate, develop recommendations that go to the full Board for consideration. The committees' objectives are to facilitate Board processes and promote effective decision-making.

Committees operate under delegated authority from the Board and so will not take action or make decisions unless specifically mandated to do so. These guidelines apply to all Board committees and supplement the specific terms of reference for each committee.

Standing Board Committees:

1. The Board's Standing Committees are as follows:
 - a. CEO Evaluation Committee
 - ~~b. Facilities Committee~~
 - c. Finance Committee
 - d. Policy Committee
2. Committee members are appointed for the term of the Board at its first AGM.
3. The Chairperson is an ex officio member of every standing committee. Notwithstanding, the Chairperson may be appointed to any standing committee in which case ~~he or she~~ **they** shall be counted in the formation of a quorum and may vote on any question.
4. Each committee will review its Terms of Reference annually which shall be approved by the Board.

Special Committees:

1. The Board may appoint Special Committees at any time as it is deemed necessary.
2. A resolution establishing a special committee shall set forth the terms of reference of the committee.

3. The Chairperson is an ex officio member of every special committee. Notwithstanding, the Chairperson may be appointed to any special committee in which case ~~he or she~~ they shall be counted in the formation of a quorum and may vote on any question.
4. When a special committee has completed its work and made its report to the Board it dissolves automatically.

Quorum of Standing and Special Committees:

1. A quorum of any Board committee, whether a standing or a special committee, shall be a majority of the members thereof, including the Chairperson of the Board as ex officio.
2. A Committee shall not consider any business if a quorum is not present.

Chairperson of Committees:

1. A Committee shall select a chairperson for the term of the committee at its first meeting.

Members of Committees:

1. Where the resolution establishing a committee does not appoint members, the Chairperson of the Board shall appoint them.
2. The Board may appoint persons to committees who are not members of the Board.

Meetings:

1. Each committee shall meet at such time and place as the Chairperson or Committee shall determine at the Committee's first meeting.
2. The frequency of committee meetings shall be defined in each committee's Terms of Reference.
3. No Board committee, whether a standing or a special committee, shall meet while the Board is in session.

Secretary:

1. A secretary shall be appointed for each committee, who shall:

- 1.1. Keep the minutes of the meetings
- 1.2. Perform any other secretarial functions as required

General Provisions for Standing and Special Committees:

- 1. The Chairperson of the committee may vote on any question before the committee and in the event of an equality of votes, the question is defeated.
- 2. The Chairperson of the committee ~~may will~~ present a written report to the Board. **Written reports from Committees are included in the consent agenda of regular Board meetings, for review and approval.**
- 3. Committees may consider and report on such matters only as have been referred to them by the Board.
- 4. Members of the Board may attend the meetings of committees, but shall not be allowed to vote; nor shall they be allowed to take part in any discussion or debate except by the permission of the majority of the members of the committee.

Part Nine

Review and Changes to Bylaws

- 1. Bylaws shall be reviewed by the Policy Committee on request by the Board.
- 2. Bylaws may also be reviewed/revised at the direction of the Board, when required.
- 3. Any changes or revisions to the bylaws shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present at the Annual General Meeting.

PASSED by the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board this **26th day of February 2024.**

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer

Draft



2023 ANNUAL REPORT





Year in Review:

A Message from the Board Chair

Wayne Greco - Board Chair

Dear Patrons and Supporters of Sault Ste. Marie Public Library,

As we close the chapter on 2023, we take a moment to reflect on the journey we've shared and the milestones we've achieved at the Library. Here are five highlights:

Community Engagement: We hosted numerous engaging events and programs throughout the year, bringing our community together to learn, create, and connect.

Digital Expansion: Our online collection of e-books, audiobooks, and digital resources saw significant growth, providing patrons with convenient access to a wealth of knowledge from the comfort of their homes.

Volunteer Contributions: The dedication and commitment of our volunteers enriched our programs and services, enhancing the library experience for all patrons.

Partnerships: Collaborating with local schools, organizations, and businesses, we expanded our reach and impact, enriching our programs and services through shared expertise and resources.

Completion and Implementation of the Strategic Plan: We completed and began implementing our strategic plan, guiding our efforts and ensuring alignment with our long-term goals and objectives.

As we look forward to 2024, we remain committed to serving our community with passion and innovation. Thank you for your continued support and participation in making the Library a vibrant center for learning and discovery.

Warm regards,

Wayne Greco - Chair, Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2023

Paolo Bruni

Hannah Caicco

Lisa Dobrovnik

Wayne Greco (Chair)

Erin Ferlaino

Jami van Haaften

Staff Changes

Welcome! **Rebekah Verdone**



We welcomed Rebekah Verdone to the Library in November 2023 as the new Administrative Clerk.

Rebekah has a Bachelor of English Literature (Honours) from Algoma University (2007) and an Executive Diploma in Office Administration from Sault College (2012) and has been a loyal patron of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library for 20 years.

Did You Know?

The Library
employs
50
people!

Congratulations! **Kaitrin Aaltonen**

The Library is excited to congratulate Kaitrin Aaltonen as the new Business Administrator.

Previously serving as the Administrative Clerk, she took over the position in June of 2023. Kaitrin holds a degree in Business Administration from Laurentian University and has extensive prior experience in health and safety. Please join us in welcoming Kaitrin to her new position!



Our Year at a Glance

Public Services

Library
Card
Holders
24,595

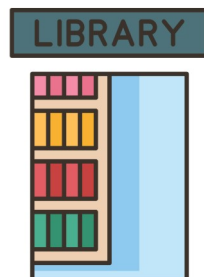


New
Borrowers
Added
3,409!

Items
Borrowed
238,204

Visits
Centennial
159,509
North Branch
39,751

38
Average
Visits Per
Hour



Room
Rentals
283

On average, each library user borrowed more than 12 books.

Total
Questions
asked
45,445



1,510
Interlibrary
Loan items
borrowed for
our patrons

921
Interlibrary
Loan items
loaned to
other libraries

Social Media



@SSMPL
4.3K
Followers



@ssmpubliclibrary
1.5K
Followers



SaultSteMarie
PublicLibrary
111
Subscribers



Our Year at a Glance

Electronic Resources



Overdrive/
Libby
Audiobooks
Borrowed
27,795

Overdrive/
Libby
eBooks
Borrowed
56,426

Overdrive/
Libby
Magazines
Borrowed
13,664



Hoopla
Audiobooks
Borrowed
2,180

Hoopla
eBooks
& Comics
Borrowed
1,773

Hoopla Media
971
(including movies,
music and television
programs)

Total Overdrive/Libby and Hoopla Circulation 96,825

Public
Computer
Bookings
10,862



Wi-Fi
Sessions
41,310

Library Online
Catalogue
Page Views
1,172,388

Library Website
Page Views
324,853

Social
Media
Impressions
296,822

Database
Searches
12,743



Spotlight on Programming

Boomers & Beyond: Back to the 50's

Boomers & Beyond "Back to the 50s" themed event was a huge success as we welcomed those ages 55 and over to join us at the Library on June 14, 2023. With 66 attendees and 7 community partners, we had a blast playing trivia, enjoying Pulla, and crafting activities by Anna Lefave, while meeting with a variety of booths for information, activities, services, and programs for retired adults.

Total Number of Programs

(In-House, Passive,
Contests)

517

Participation
26,358



Total Number of Outreach Programs

28

Attendance
1,515



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Algoma
Mental Health & Addiction Services

Association canadienne
pour la santé mentale
Algoma
Services de santé mentale et de toxicomanie

The Library partnered with CMHA Algoma in 2023 to provide Mental Health Consultations to the public. The goal was to raise awareness of mental health services in the community and get those in need connected to the right program for them. The Library has also partnered with St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dog, Zumi, to offer comfort to patrons attending the library. With 2 visits in 2023, Zumi has had 58 visitors stop by for a comforting pet and snuggle. We are excited to have Zumi continuing to attend the Library in 2024!

Authorpalooza

This year the event was hosted in a hybrid format, celebrating authors in-house and online. 14 local authors participated in the event on Thursday, October 19, 2023. This year's event included not only authors, but other professionals in the book publishing industry. **200** people were in attendance throughout the day-long event. 3 local authors spoke about their books, writing process and more in short video segments. These videos were shared on the SSMPL social media outlets throughout Ontario Public Library Week. The Author Palooza videos generated **156 views** on the SSMPL YouTube channel.



Spotlight on Programming

Virtual
Programs
4 Videos



SAULT STE. MARIE
AND AREA
LOCAL IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP



LIP Paint Night

The Library partnered with the Local Immigration Partnership to host a Paint Night for 16 new community members. Attendees enjoyed a guided tour of painting beautiful scenery while enjoying and learning more about their local library.

Total Number
of Storytimes
129
Combined
Attendance
2,493

Family Literacy Night with the Soo Greyhounds

On January 24, 2024, the Library collaborated with members of the Ontario Hockey League's Soo Greyhounds to commemorate Family Literacy Day. This cherished event, held annually, draws numerous community members eager to meet their hockey heroes while participating in the festivities of Literacy Day. The day featured a range of activities, including games, crafts, and prize opportunities. Notably, the event attracted 154 attendees, further highlighting its popularity and significance within the community.



Chess Club

The North Branch staff proudly manages the Chess Club, which convenes on Tuesday evenings from 5 to 7:30 pm. This initiative is spearheaded by the committed volunteer, Jeremy Paquin, who has diligently overseen 33 Chess Club sessions, dedicating over 49.5 hours of his time to enrich the Sault community with the joys of chess. Remarkably, in 2023, the program boasted an impressive 387 participants, showcasing its significant impact and popularity within the community.



Book Clubs
Facilitated
36
Total
Participants
226

Grand Total
of Programs
1,735
Grand Total
Attendance
176,971

Community

The Library held a Membership Drive from September 1, 2023 to October 3, 2023 with an incentive to win a \$200 gift card generously donated by Station Mall. After attending 15 different venues to promote the library and its free services to the community and indigenous people residing in Ontario, we had the following results:

671
New
Members!



323 Adults
53 Senior
100 Aged 13-19
178 Aged 12
& under
17 'Other'

Some of the events and locations visited for the Membership Drive included:

- Bushplane Days
- Newcomer Fair
- Sault College
- Algoma University
- Garden River First Nation
- Prince Charles Secondary School
- Grocery Stores
- ICA Student Cafe
- Greyhound Game



Community Leader Award – Presented by
Northern Ontario Latin Hispanic Association



The Library was awarded 'Community Leader' by the Northern Ontario Latin Hispanic Association (NOLHA) for 2023. The Library has worked with NOLHA for a decade collaborating for language classes such as Portuguese and Spanish, as well as large-scale festivities such as Culture Days. This award was to recognize the collaboration and strong partnership the Library has with the organization.

Community

Illuminate the Season

The Circulation Team decorated and donated a 'Red Cardinal' themed tree for Illuminate the Season that sold for \$324.00!



Hygiene Drive

Recognizing our community's need for hygiene products, the Library ran a drive which raised thousands of items that were donated to community resource centers, shelters, and social service agencies.

Giving Tree

The Library brought together the community to donate winter accessories to 'keep our community warm this year'. With hundreds of items donated and taken from the tree, we can confidently know that many people were kept a bit warmer during these colder winter months.



The Library is proud to be a part of the Cultural Corridor Committee that partners with many organizations to provide accessible programming and events to the community. We are thrilled to once again have Sault Ste. Marie in the Top 10 Participating Communities for Ontario Culture Days!

CULTURE DAYS

TOP PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES IN 2023

1. Oakville, ON
2. Town of Halton Hills, ON
3. Richmond, BC
4. Milton, ON
5. Vaughan, ON
6. St. Catharines, ON

Mid-size Cities

7. Waterloo, ON
8. North Vancouver, BC
9. Sault Ste. Marie, ON
10. Cambridge, ON
10. Thunder Bay, ON



Archives

LIVING HISTORY
ALGOMA

ORAL HISTORIES

The Oral History of Sault Ste. Marie contributed seven new oral histories to the archive collection in 2023. Two of the Oral Histories are part of the Life in the Arts Collection. This specific collection consists of individuals who have contributed to the arts in Sault Ste. Marie, who include: Kenneth Franklin Anstice and Albert Fred Kent (Fred Kent), Joseph Edwin Keith Mackay (Keith Mackay), William Samuel Eaton, (Bill Eaton), Raymond Howard Joseph Mador (Ray Mador), John Randall McDonald (Randy McDonald) which are all in the same interview. The other Oral History Collection was the COVID-19 Pandemic series, which highlighted various experiences of individuals through the pandemic. These interviews were of Paul Schaer, Erin Kristine Cistaro, Kathy Fisher, Mowafak Bahri, Maram Mahfoud and Denine Williams. To view these videos scan the barcode.



Archive Donations



**Posters from the
Algoma Art Society's
Art & Craft Shows**



**2 framed prints
of the Edmund
Fitzgerald**



**Lakeway Tech
memorabilia from
the Sault Ste. Marie
Museum**

ARCHIVES OPEN HOUSE

On November 24, 2023, the Library facilitated an Archive Tour event. The event allowed members of the public to tour and view the archive facilities at the North Branch Library. The Library Archives Technician conducted tours every hour between the times of 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The attendees were given a tour of the archive viewing room, clean room and the archive storage room. Patrons were also introduced to different types of equipment and procedures used in the archive field. 23 individuals from the public attended the event.



**7
New Oral
Histories
Added**

**New
Material
Added
1,205
Items**

Volunteers



2023 was a great year for the Friends of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library. We are celebrating our many successes, financial and otherwise. When I became the President of the Friends eight years ago, my goal was to make more money for the Library and make the Friends Bookstore a great place to volunteer.

During the past year, about forty volunteers worked approximately 6,500 hours to make over \$40,000 for our library, surpassing our goal for the year.

“The Crew”, as our Board Chair refers to us, love our volunteers jobs. “A labour of love”, “a pleasure to spend time at the Bookstore” are the phrases we hear all the time.



Over
\$40K in
Sales!

At \$1.00 per book we offer affordable reading to all and if we can't sell the books, we give them away.

Sault Area Hospital, the YMCA, the Youth Wellness Hub, Garden River Library, the Windsor Park Retirement Home, and the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Museum are just some of the recipients of books from the Friends.

In these ways and many others we promote literacy in the Sault area.

Also, this fall our Little Free Library was installed in the new Biodiversity Garden by city workers and is proving very popular. We stock it several times a week.



The Friends are also celebrating our big renovation completed in September. With new flooring and accessible pathways, it gave us all quite a boost and has improved the Bookstore in every way.

I would like to thank Matthew MacDonald, CEO, all the Library staff, and Board members for their help and support.

Here's to the continued success of the Friends of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library.

Sue Hall, President of Friends of the Library

The Library had a variety of fantastic volunteers for 2023.

Friends of the
Library
Over 40
Volunteers
Contributed over

Between-branch
Deliveries
4 Couriers
Visiting
Library
Service

30
Volunteer
Hours



JUVENILE

Top Picture Books

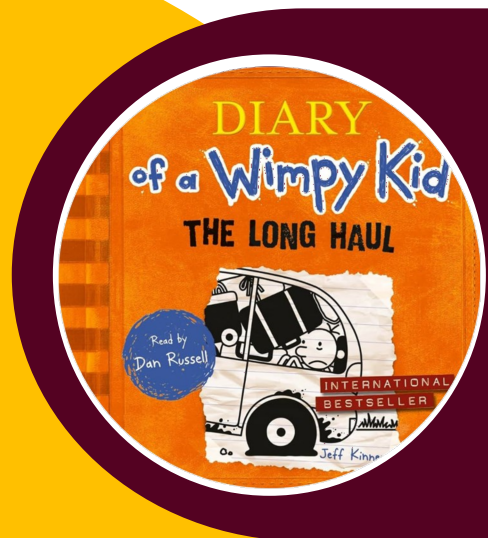
1. The Day the Crayons Quit - Drew Daywalt
2. Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons - Eric Litwin
3. I Love My White Shoes - Eric Litwin

Easy Reader

1. Thea Stilton and the Mystery in Paris - Thea Stilton
2. The Kingdom of Fantasy - Geronimo Stilton
3. The Wildwood Maker #7 - Rebecca Elliott

Juvenile Fiction

1. Diary of a Wimpy Kid #9: The Long Haul - Jeff Kinney
2. Diary of a Wimpy Kid #12: The Getaway - Jeff Kinney
3. Diary of Wimpy Kid #14 : Wrecking Ball - Jeff Kinney



YOUNG ADULT Fiction

1. The Hunger Games - Suzanne Collins
2. The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes - Suzanne Collins
3. A Good Girl's Guide to Murder - Holly Jackson

ADULT

Fiction

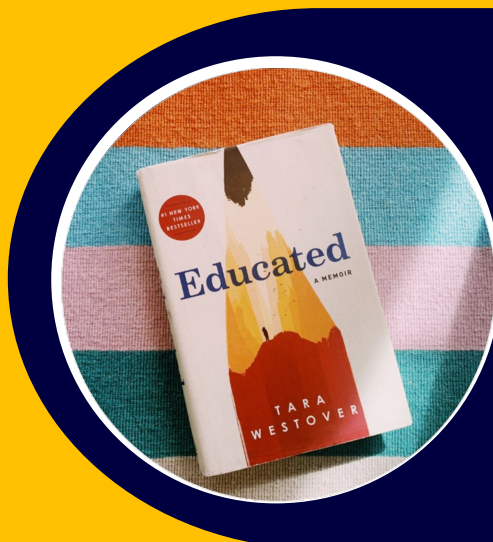
1. The 6:20 Man - David Baldacci
2. Long Shadows - David Baldacci
3. Desert Star - Michael Connelly

Non-Fiction

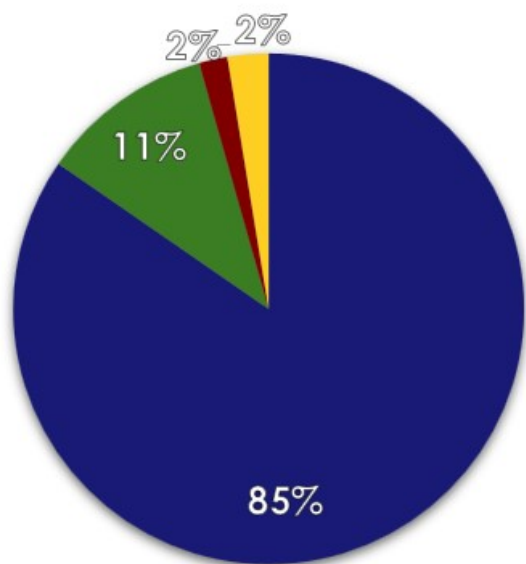
1. Freezing Order: a story of Laundering, Murder and Surviving Vladimir Putin's Wrath - Bill Browder
2. Educated: a Memoir - Tara Westover
3. Spare - Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex

DVDS

1. Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom
2. The Next Three Days
3. Sonic the Hedgehog; 2



Financial Management



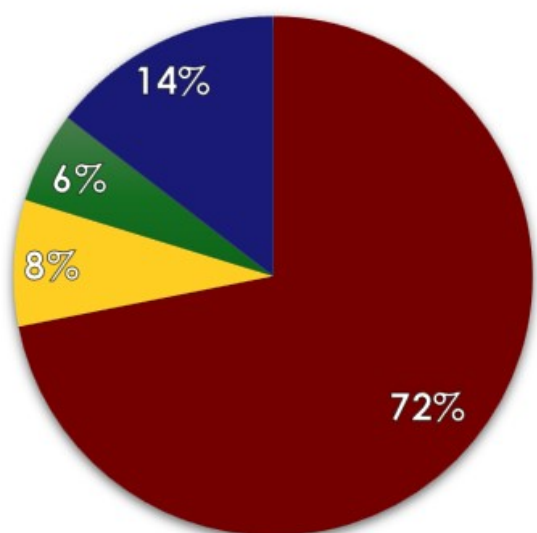
Where the money comes from

85% City of Sault Ste. Marie

11% Ontario Government

2% Grants & Donations

2% Self-Generated



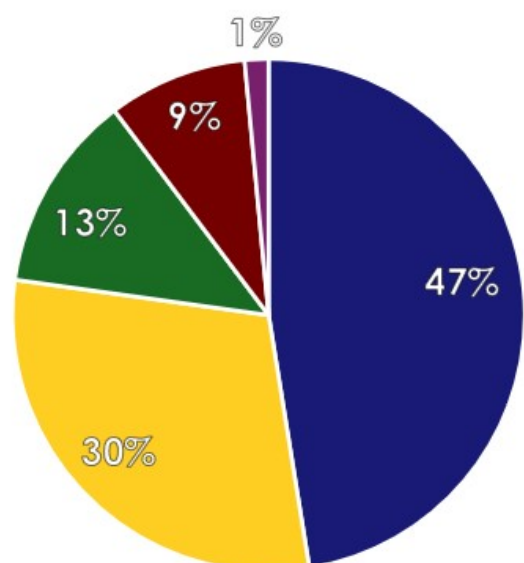
Where the money goes

72% Salaries and benefits

8% Collections

6% Office expenditures

14% Building Related



Collection expenditures

47% Books

30% E-Resources (E-books & Downloads)

13% Multimedia (DVDS & Audiobook)

9% Periodicals (Magazines & Newspapers)

1% Other (Object Library, Build Box, etc)

How Donations Are Being Used

Zonta Club - Dove Real Beauty and Toddler Time



**Sault Ste
Marie Area**



The Dove Real Beauty workshop is a fun, educational and interactive program for young girls ages 6-12 and their adult female mentors that encourages girls and women everywhere to embrace a more positive image of themselves, both inside and out.

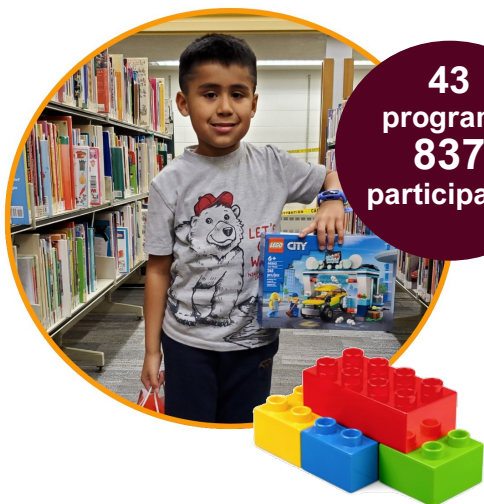
**3
Sessions
58
Participants**

Toddler Time is a fun, 45-minute program designed for toddlers and their caregivers. This program encourages and supports learning through stories, songs, art, and play.



**weeks
369
Caregivers
& Toddlers
Attended**

Kiwanis Club of Lakeshore - Lego My Library



**43
programs
837
participants**

This program features a different LEGO building challenge each week, as well as time for free building.



**In Memory of
Norman Rippon
Books &
Programming
Supporting
Children's
Literacy**



NOHLA - Spanish/Portuguese Programming

Thanks to our partnership with Northern Ontario Latin Hispanic Association, we are able to host their organization to facilitate language classes.

**Spanish
Classes
3 sessions
19 weeks
144
Participants**

**Portuguese
Classes
3 sessions
20 weeks
45
Participants**

Kiwanis Club of Sault Ste. Marie Baby Time



Designed for the youngest library users and their parents or caregivers, Baby Time is a great way to introduce young children to the library, to begin a love of books and to help children develop into lifelong learners. This 30 minute program is for caregivers of babies aged 0 to 12 months.

**2 sessions
12 weeks
324
Participants**

**Thank
you**

To our generous 2023 Donors

PLATINUM
\$50,000

GOLD
\$5,000-\$49,999

SILVER
\$2,500-\$4,999

FMI Elliott Foundation

BRONZE
\$1,000-\$2,499

Howard Bennett
In Memory of Norm Rippon
Robert Cohen
Kiwanis Club of Sault Ste. Marie
Len Scramstad

COPPER
\$500-\$999

Mary Coventry
Jane Forth
Kiwanis Club of Lakeshore
Zonta Club

Our Mission

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library provides opportunities to discover, learn, and grow. We serve as a community partner offering spaces, resources, and connections which contribute to quality of life.

Our Vision

A diverse and welcoming community hub, the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library fuels innovation, demonstrates leadership, and promotes literacy aligned with our growing community. We strive to deliver library service for all, driven by knowledge sharing, partnerships, and new opportunities.

Our Values

Community Engagement
Diverse People and Perspectives
Innovation
User Experiences
Literacy

Locations

JAMES L. MCINTYRE CENTENNIAL LIBRARY
50 East Street Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 3C3

Administration: 705-759-5242
Circulation: 705-759-5271

Reference: 705-759-5236
Children's: 705-759-5241

NORTH BRANCH
232C Northern Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 4H6

Main Desk: 705-759-5248 Archives: 705-759-5447

www.ssmpl.ca

