Sault Ste. Marie Public Library

Library Board
Annual General Meeting

Monday, February 28, 2021
At 4:30 pm
VIA ZOOM

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Quorum

2. Election of Board Officials (CEO)
   - 2.1. Election of Chairperson
   - 2.2. Election of Vice-Chairperson
   - 2.3. Congratulations to Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

3. Approval of the agenda of the Annual General Meeting

4. 4.1 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of February 22, 2021
   4.2 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the February 22, 2021

5. 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 28, 2022 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 BY: SECONDED:

6. Appointments to Board Standing Committees
   - 6.1 CEO Evaluation Committee
   - 6.2 Facilities Committee
   - 6.3 Policy Committee
   - 6.4 Financial Committee
   - 6.5 Any other committees the Board determines appropriate to strike

7. Annual Report

8. Friends of the Library
   8.1. Report from the President of the Friends of the Library, Susan Hall

9. Delegates (if any present)

10. Adjourn Annual General Meeting

Next Annual Meeting: Monday, February 27, 2023

Sault Ste. Marie Public Library
Library Board
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, February 22, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.
ONLINE – VIA ZOOM

Board Members Present:

Ashlee Gerard	Jami Van-Haaften	Mike Olejnik
Wayne Greco	Sara McCleary	Erin Ferlaino
Elspeth Belair	Kevin Harrison	Frances Ryan

Library: Matthew MacDonald, Rosanne Chan, Sharon Wigney, Chris Rumas

Media: Livestreamed on Facebook

Guest: Livestreamed on Facebook

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1. Call to Order

M. MacDonald, CEO, called meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

2. Election of Board Officials

2.1 Election of Chairperson

J. Van-Haaften nominated W. Greco – accepted

Seconded by A. Gerard

No further nominations. **CARRIED**

2.2 Election of Vice-Chairperson

S. McCleary nominated A. Gerard – accepted

Seconded by W. Greco

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 2021 Annual General Meeting as presented.

Moved: K. Harrison Seconded: A. Gerard **CARRIED**

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of February 24, 2020

MOTION:

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board approves the minutes of the Board's 2020 Annual General Meeting as presented.

Moved: K. Harrison Seconded: J. Van-Haaften **CARRIED**

4.2 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of February 24, 2020

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 22, 2021 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: A. Gerard **CARRIED**

6. Approval of Revisions to the By-laws

MOTION:

Resolved that the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board approve its revised By-laws as presented.

Moved: F. Ryan Seconded: S. McCleary **CARRIED**

7. 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.

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W. Greco advised that the first order of business for all standing committees is the appointment of a Chair and Secretary. In addition, the Facilities Committee needs a Terms of Reference document.

7.1 CEO Evaluation Committee

A. Gerard, F. Ryan and E. Belair

7.2 Facilities Committee

S. McCleary, K. Harrison and M. Olejnik

7.3 Policy Committee

F. Ryan, S. McCleary, J. Van-Haaften, M. Olejnik and E. Ferlaino

7.4 Financials Committee

A. Gerard, K. Harrison, J. Van-Haaften, E. Ferlaino, E. Belair and R. Chan

7.5 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: W. Greco Seconded: A. Gerard **CARRIED**

8. Annual Report

M. MacDonald reviewed the 2020 annual report and highlighted the following:

- A fair comparison between the current and prior years' reports could not be done due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, the report focused on the positives that happened and the Library being resilient during the difficult times of the pandemic.

- Timeline of COVD-19 events that impacted the Library over the year,

- Library services and major events affected by COVID-19 in the year, i.e., Culture Days, Author Palooza, general activities and in-person programming.

- The Library archives receiving the Sault Star archives.

- Recognition of our volunteers and The Friends of the Library.

- Various statistics such as the use of e-resources (Overdrive and Hoopla) by patrons and increase in library cardholders. In addition, new statistics such as curbside renewals and appointments for book pick-ups during lockdowns.

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- New financial management section showing the Library's various funding sources. Majority of the Library's funding is from the municipal government.

- Introduction of R. Chan, the Library's new Business Administrator, and the retirements in the year: H. Huopalainen, S. Gaines and B. Budd.

F. Ryan asked that the report include a message from the Board Chair as this was a common practice by many organizations.

M. MacDonald advised that the Annual Report would be available on the Library's website and a post made on the Library's social media platforms. In addition, the report will be sent to City Council and other high profile individuals, including Ross Romano, MPP, Terry Sheehan, MP, and various CEO's in the city. W. Greco recommended that other distributions areas, such as, retirement homes, school boards and nursing homes be included since these organizations have libraries as well.

J. van Haaften recommended that the Library do a presentation to City Council about the Annual Report to promote itself and open the lines of communication. Further, that R. Chan be present to answer any financial questions that may arise and be introduced as the Library's new Business Administrator. W. Greco agreed that this would be an opportunity to send a positive message to City Council and highlight the Library's 125th anniversary. M. MacDonald advised that he will look into getting an invitation to a City Council meeting.

W. Greco gave his compliments to Management and staff on a good annual report.

MOTION:

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board accept the 2020 Annual Report as amended:

Add Board Chair message to the report.

Moved: W. Greco Seconded: A. Gerard **CARRIED**

9. Friends of the Library

9.1 Report from the President of the Friends of the Library, Susan Hall

Susan Hall, President of the Friends of the Library, was unavailable for a report and no member took her place. Instead, M. MacDonald presented a written report by S. Hall on her behalf and highlighted the following:

- Year 2020 marked the 30th anniversary of the Friends of the Library;

- The bookstore managed over $13,000 in sales for the year despite the COVID-19 pandemic;

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- Free books were provided to the community at “pop-up Little Free Libraries” around the city. Boxes of books were left at the Roberta Bondar Tent, Bellevue Park and at a plaza on the corner of Albert and Gore Street;

- The bookstore was refurbished internally with the decorating done by volunteers;

- More books were donated to the Library due to the downtime from the pandemic.

- Library Management and staff were thanked for their assistance and hard work through the pandemic.

MOTION:

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board accept the 2020 Friends of the Library Annual Report as presented.

Moved: W. Greco Seconded: A. Gerard **CARRIED**

10. Delegates

NONE

11. Adjournment

M. MacDonald informed that the Annual meeting was livestreamed on Facebook this year. F. Ryan advised that Board members be given advanced notice whenever the Annual meeting will be livestreamed or presented live to the public in the future.

The next Annual General Meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2022

MOTION:

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board move to adjourn the Annual General Meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Moved: E. Belair Seconded: A. Gerard **CARRIED**

Chairperson, Library Board

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Celebrating 125 Years 1896-2021
Sault Ste. Marie Public Library

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

JAMES L. MCINTYRE CENTENNIAL LIBRARY
50 East Street , Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 3C3
Administration 705-759-5242
Reference 705-759-5236
Circulation 705-759-5271
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

Our Library

Our Vision

Our Library enriches lives, is a community hub that provides access to information, technology and supports and encourages personal growth and creativity.

Our Mission

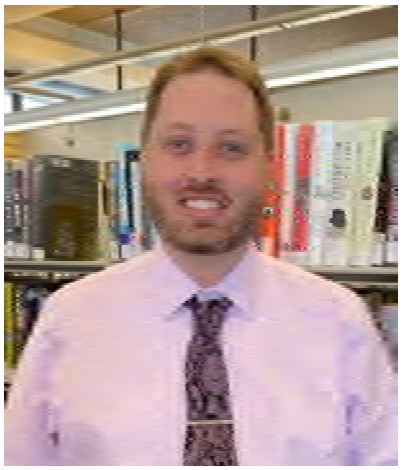
One stop... endless possibilities

Our Values

Acceptance
Caring
Community
Hospitality
Respect
Stewardship

The following pillars support the Vision and Mission of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library

Financial Management
People
Community
Products
Environment



Matthew MacDonald, CEO

"Libraries remind me that there are good things in this world."
- Lauren Ward

Year In Review

I consider the above quote by stage actress/singer Lauren Ward as being particularly relevant lately. During the good times, the easy times, libraries are useful. They bring added value to our communities and our lives. During the bad times, the difficult times, libraries are necessary. They provide services essential to some, feed the minds and imaginations of the many, and hold fast the straining fibers of our communities. Without question, 2021 was another difficult year predominated by the ongoing pandemic. The year contained closures, new health measures, and controversial restrictions. Yet despite this, we persevered.

Once were permitted to reopen we proceeded with cautious optimism, opening first at one location then the other. Slowly we increased our operational hours and expanded the services we provided. For more than a year, the Library hadn't offered even a single in person program or activity. The children's areas have been quiet, reminiscent of libraries from bygone eras. Though by outward appearance the Library may have seemed subdued, what many not have realized was that there was a flurry of activity behind the scenes. Now with greater experience, Library staff began to churn out more online content with hundreds of unique videos and thousands of views. Furiously they created take home crafts. Diligently they worked on digital preservation projects. They sought books on your behalf and made sure that not even a pandemic could prevent you from getting your reading materials.

Our organization, not because of the pandemic but in spite of it, has continued to evolve. In August, the Library became officially fines free, ending the long tradition of charging late fees on all except for a few special collections. Though first conceived as an incentive to encourage people to return items in a timely way, research has proven that it is ineffective. In reality, the items return at the same general rate but fewer people return.

Though much our staff's attention was on the present, we still made room for future planning. The Board initiated the planning process for a new strategic plan. Staff collaborated with the City and the Invasive Species Center to lay the groundwork for an educational Biodiversity Garden to be completed in 2022. The seeds of many other ideas were also planted last year, needing only time to germinate.

Finally, at the end of the year, the Library made real strides towards Truth and Reconciliation which you can read more about further in our report.

For our library, 2021 was supposed to be a year of celebration. It was our Quasquicentennial anniversary, a milestone not to be ignored. Due to Covid restrictions we did not have the big parties we had hoped for be we celebrated none nonetheless. The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library has existed for 125 years. It has been a long journey from the Library's humble beginnings to the organization it is now with over 20,000 members serving multiple communities. Through all that 125 year history there have been plenty of good times, easy times. There have also been plenty of bad times, difficult times. Throughout it all, the Library has been there for community as it will continue to be.

Wayne Greco
Board Chair

"One stop... endless possibilities"

Message from the Board Chair

"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better." - Sidney Sheldon

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On behalf of the Board of Directors of the SSM Public Library, I extend thanks to the many people who have contributed to the success of the Library during the chaos of COVID.

Despite the lockdowns, staff is to be applauded for finding innovative ways of doing business and providing service to the community. The Library's success is also due to the extremely important contributions of our extensive volunteer community. We look forward to welcoming them back to the library community. The Friends were on track toward a highly successful year. It is truly my favourite place to acquire new reading material! It would be remiss to not acknowledge our City Council. Their continued support in recognizing the value and the service of the Library is critical to its success. No other community initiative gives such a high return on tax dollars. There is no Fake News at the Library. We're a trusted source of information on all topics. Explore the abundance of resources available at the Library to expand your horizons and interests. Take advantage of the Library's extremely experienced staff to help in your quest for truth and knowledge.

There were many exciting events this year, including the success of the North Branch in acquiring the historical documents of the Sault Star, the opening and partnership for the Biodiversity Garden, the 125th Anniversary, the introduction of a Fines Free policy and the introduction of free service to the Indigenous communities of Batchewana, Garden River and the Metis community.

Our community has a rich and fascinating history that can be explored through the 'Oral Histories' or the Archives. Take the time to explore the collection of oral histories of past and present community leaders. You will not be disappointed. We look forward to providing continued service to the community of Sault Ste Marie. Please take advantage of the James L. McIntyre Centennial Public Library and the North Branch. We are here in your continued quest for knowledge.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021

Wayne Greco - Chairperson
Ashlee Gerard - Vice Chair
Kendall Barban
Elspeth Belair
Erin Ferlaino
Jami van Haaften
Kevin Harrison
Sara McCleary
Mike Olejnik
Frances Ryan

Matthew MacDonald, Chief Executive Officer

Hope to see you soon!

Meet our Manager of Community Engagement

Elise Schofield

Welcome

We welcome Elise Schofield to the Sault Ste Marie Public Library as the new Manager of Community Engagement.

With a Master of Library and Information Science and a Bachelor of Arts and Humanities from The University of Western Ontario, Elise also brings years of experience working in public libraries. Starting as a Student Page at Burlington Public Library, she moved on to work at London Public Library, Huron County Public Library, and Woodstock Public Library where she gained valuable experience working in a multitude of roles within the library field. With a passion for community development, Elise brings a positive spirit in developing new resources, opportunities, and programming to strengthen the role of the library as a second home to the community's residents.

Retirement

Marlene Mooney

Administrative Assistant

Farewell

Marlene has long been a welcoming face in the Library's Administration Office. She started work at the Library in 1988 as an Adult Page, eventually moving into the Administration Office in 1990 where she remained until her retirement on December 31, 2021.

Known for her lovely singing voice, she represented the Library for several years on the City's Soo Sings team, participating in the annual children's charity event. Her hard work and great sense of humour will be greatly missed by the library.

Congratulations on your retirement!

Timeline 2021

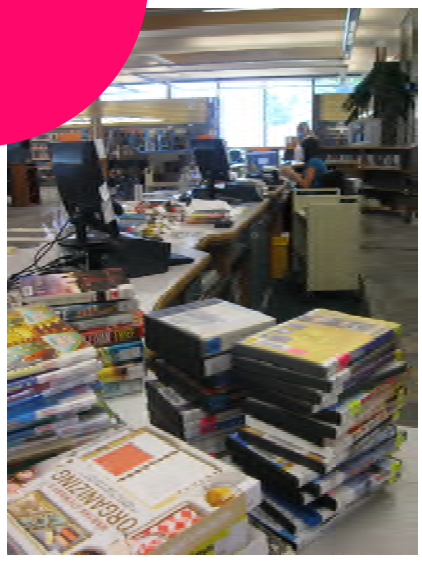
Feb. 22 - Library re-opens to the public.

May 27 - Niche Academy added to the website.

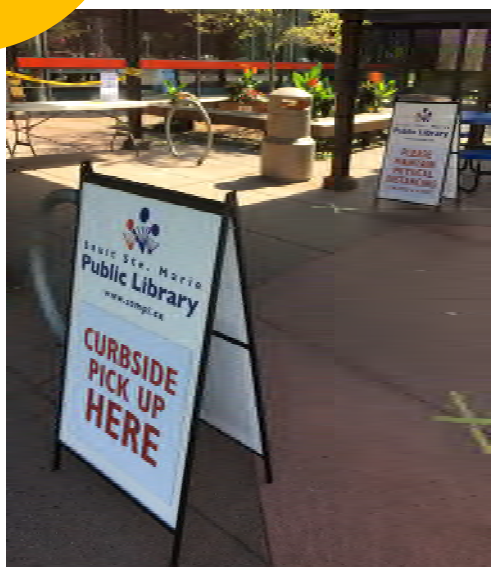
NICHE ACADEMY

JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL | MAY | JUNE

Lockdown
Dec. 26 - Feb. 21
With curbside pickup available.



April 3 - Library closed to the public, offering curbside only service once again.



July 5 - Library re-opens its doors to the public, with limited capacity.

Sault Pridefest Care Packages assembled and distributed through the Library.

Sept. 7 - Centennial Library expands open hours.

Cultures Days
Online programming begins Sept. 24th until Oct. 24th

Nov. 17 - Library capacity reduced.

Nov. 19 - Biodiversity Garden Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

NaNoWriMo
Event for National Novel Writing Month - Writer Care Packages given out

JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER

Aug. 3 - Centennial Library expands capacity to 60.

Aug. 31st - 125th Anniversary
The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library becomes Fines Free in August as part of our 125th Anniversary.

Celebrating 125 Years 1896-2021
Sault Ste. Marie Public Library

October - Proof of Vaccination and ID takes effect.
Lamination service offered.

Ontario Public Library Week
Oct. 17th - 23rd

- Gift Basket Draw
- 125th Anniversary Giveaways
- Annual Food Drive
  "Food for Thought"

Nov. 23-Dec.31
Giving Tree collection for winter accessories.

Truth and Reconciliation

On December 6, 2021, the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board officially adopted a Land Acknowledgement statement. This statement will now be read at the beginning of all Library Board meetings and library events.

Land Acknowledgment

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library is a gathering place where community comes together to share stories, to explore new ideas and to gain knowledge of the past. It is through this unique position in our community that we support and promote truth and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

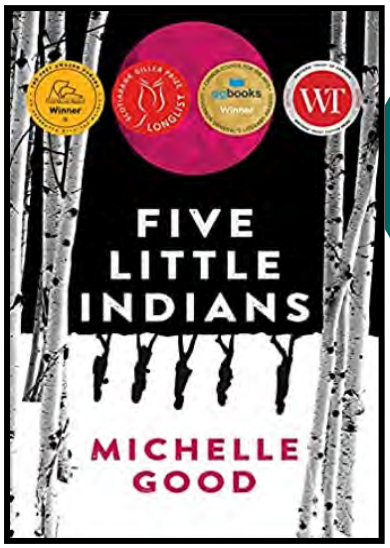
We acknowledge, with respect, that we are in Robinson-Huron Treaty territory, that the last on which we are gathered is the traditional territory of the Anishanaabe and is known as Bawating. Bawating is the home of Ketegaunseebeee (Garden River) First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, and the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Metis Council.

The Library, and we as individuals, have a deep desire to bring about change in our community and move forward together as diverse and inclusive peoples. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture and are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect.

September 30th, 2021

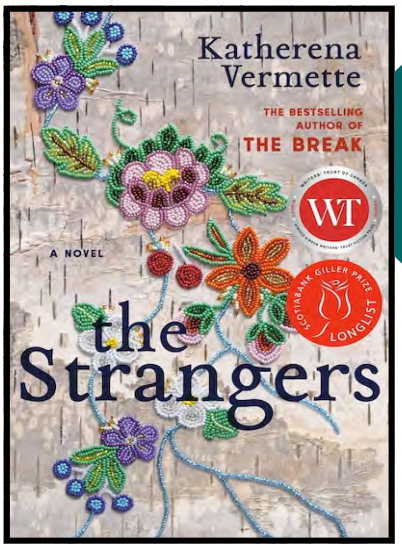
Orange Shirt Day recognized by Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Staff

2021 Top Indigenous Reads



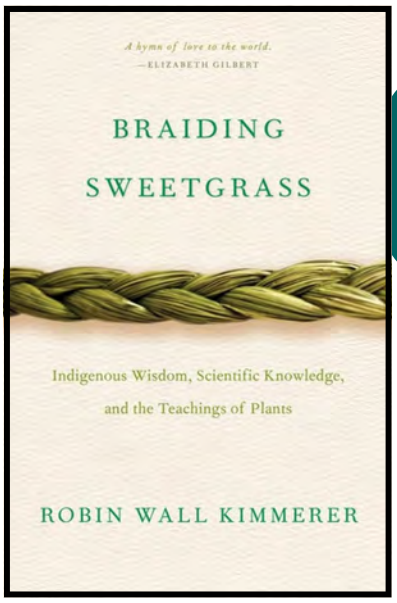
Five Little Indians

Michelle Good



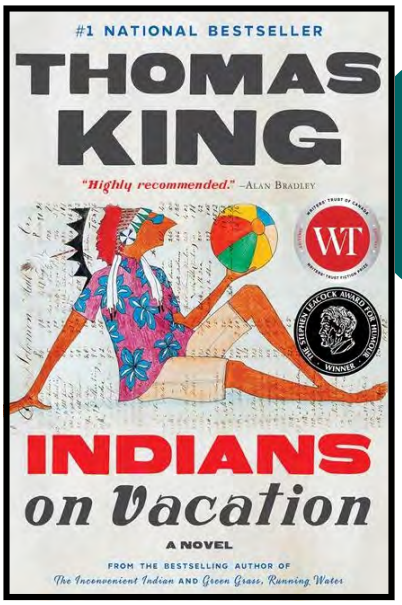
The Strangers

Katherena Vermette



Braiding Sweetgrass

Robin Wall Kimmerer



Indians on Vacation

Thomas King

Membership Policy

In December of 2021, the Library Board approved both a change to the Membership Policy and Fees schedule to provide free memberships to First Nations members, Metis Council members, and residents of Garden River and Batchawana.

Prior to this, these groups (except for SSM residents) were required to pay a non-resident fee for a membership.

Community

The pandemic has had a significant impact on how the Library interacts within our community due to the social distancing directives and limits on social gatherings, however we have still been able to find unique ways to partner with organizations within our community.
In recognition of the fact that many people in our community are facing hardship the Library participated in several projects that encouraged our patrons to contribute by donating items.

Giving Tree The Library held a Giving Tree drive encouraging the public to donate winter accessories and people could take what they needed. Unclaimed items were donated to SOYA (Save Our Young Adults), St. Vincent Place, Pauline's Place, Child & Youth Services, and Women in Crisis.

An estimated 200 items were donated

104 Social Services brochures were picked up

Food for Thought Food Drive During Ontario Public Library Week, the Library held its annual food drive. This year, because of going fines free, the use of non-perishable food items to reduce library fines was no longer relevant. As a result, the Library put out a call for food donations under the new program name of Food for Thought.

Sault Pridefest Care Packages In July, the Library partnered with Sault Pridefest to assemble and distribute LGBTQIA2S+ care packages consisting of a donated book (primarily geared towards teens), a bookmark, stickers, a rainbow bracelet, a Read with Pride reader's advisory pamphlet, and resources from organizations such as Rainbow Camp, Welcome Friend, Algoma Family Services, and LGBT Youth Line.

Illuminate the Season
The Library was invited to create a gift basket for a Silent Auction fundraiser to support ARCH (Algoma Residential Care Hospice). The gift basket was created with the theme of 'Cozy Up by The Fire Bundle' and raised $100 for ARCH.

Culture Days
The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library participated, in partnership with other local organizations, including but not limited to the Ermatinger-Clergue Historical Site, Art Gallery of Algoma and the Sault Community Career Centre, in the month-long event from September 24th to October 24th with virtual content.

507 Views 8 Videos

Ranked #6 Nationwide Top Participating Mid-Size Community!

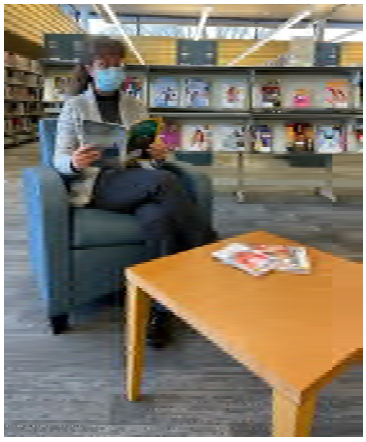
Biodiversity Garden

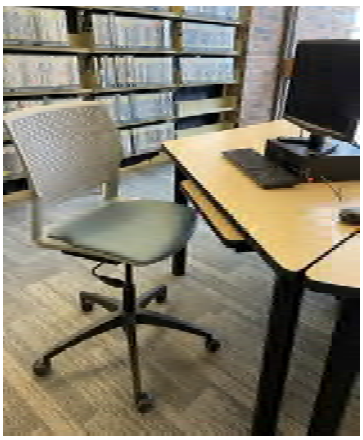
In March 2021, the Invasive Species Centre approached the Library and the City of Sault Ste. Marie with a proposal to partner on creating a Bio-Diversity Garden on the grounds of the Library. The purpose of a Biodiversity Garden is to "grow a diverse array of native plants, attract and support pollinators, as well as actively absorb and hold groundwater, keeping it out of storm drains. The garden will also showcase how residents can prevent the spread of invasive species while providing an educational element."

The front lawn of the James L. McIntyre Centennial Library was selected as the site for the garden and design plans were drawn up detailing the native plants and trees that would be included. Orders for the plant material were placed and applications for additional funding were applied for. Some preliminary site work began in the fall with the bulk of the work to be completed in the spring of 2022. An official ground-breaking ceremony took place on November 19, 2021.

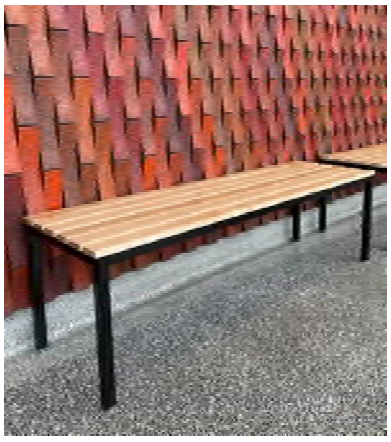
We look forward to the next phase for the development of this garden when the plants and trees are put in place in the spring of 2022. The addition of benches will make this an attractive destination for those looking for a quiet, restful place to sit down and read a book!

Take a Seat





Visitors to the James L. McIntyre Centennial Library will notice that during the past year new furniture has begun to appear in the public areas. With the emphasis recently on the need to be able to clean and sanitize surfaces, it was decided to start replacing some of our 30-year-old upholstered furniture with furniture that could be easily cleaned. New lounge chairs, a couple of loveseats, along with several occasional tables were purchased for the Adult and Children's Reading Areas. New wooden benches were purchased for the front entry lobby. Adjustable task chairs were purchased for the public Internet stations to coordinate with the other furniture purchases.



Celebrating 125 Years!

2021 was an important year in the history of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library. In 1896, Sault Ste. Marie changed from a subscription-based Mechanic's Institute Library to a free library system and Sault Ste. Marie Public Library was established. This anniversary was observed during 2021 in a number of ways, despite the restrictions on physical gatherings.

City Proclamation

At the City Council meeting on August 9, 2021, a proclamation was read acknowledging the 125th Anniversary of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library.

SAULT STE. MARIE

PROCLAMATION

"Whereas the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library was first established by resolution by the council of the Township of Sault Ste. Marie on August 31, 1896.

And whereas the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library has served the community for a hundred and twenty-five years, providing numerous services over those years that have advanced literacy, knowledge, culture and the overall enrichment of the community.

And whereas the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library has continued to be a public space that is open and accessible to all members of our community, providing equitable service that respects the rights and dignity of each individual,

Now therefore, I, Mayor Christian Provenzano, and council do hereby proclaim August 31, 2021 to be the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library's quasquicentennial anniversary and a moment to be celebrated."

Fines Free

In recent years, many libraries have discussed the barrier to accessing Library services posed by charging Library fines. After investigating the potential impact of removing fines, the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board voted to become Fines Free on most library materials, effective August 31, 2021.

Flower Bed

The city's flower bed located on Bay Street in front of City Hall commemorated the Library's anniversary.

Chocolate Bars

Launched in August 2021, the Library began selling chocolate bars with the Library logo on them, made locally by Sweet Change Chocolate.

Congratulations!

Matthew MacDonald, CEO presenting certificate to Eva T.

125th Writing Contest

In the fall, the Library held a writing contest for children ages 9 to 13. They were invited to write an essay, 300 to 500 words in length on the theme of "Celebrating 125 Years of Public Library Service in Sault Ste. Marie" and specifically, its impact on their life. The panel of judges reviewed the entries and declared Eva T. as the winner. In December, she was presented with a certificate and a backpack from the Royal Bank of Canada, filled with items from both the Royal Bank and the Public Library in addition to being a recipient of a $1000 contribution to her RESP.

Customer Appreciation Days

Starting on August 31st and periodically throughout the fall, "surprise" Customer Appreciation Days were held! On these days, any patron who visited the Library was offered some special items printed with the Anniversary logo, including water bottles, pens, and USB's.

Book Talks Featuring Staff's Favourite Books

Staff from the Adult Services and Children's Departments selected some of their favourite books from the last 125 years and segments were filmed for the Public Library's YouTube channel sharing some of these items

Programming

Once again programming was presented using online formats, either through the Public Library's YouTube channel or on Social Media. The following are just a few highlighted programs for both adults and children.

Children

Literacy is a key component in planning children's programming and staff were able to create a variety of programs that supported this objective. Online content included Story Times, Craft Videos, Take Home Craft Kits, Art Programs, and Reading Contests.

The Children's Art Book

Nearly 100 children participated in the 4-week digital art lessons. The finished masterpieces were compiled into a book that is available for viewing in the children's collection.

Surprise Reads

Each week, Children's Staff selected and prepared 3 books each for 25 different children, based on their interests and reading levels.

Over 100 Participants Per Month!

103 Story & Craft Videos = 1,705 Views

Puppet Plays

Puppet plays are a favourite way to engage with children and their caregivers. One of the puppet plays, Enid the Intrepid Puppet Play, was recorded featuring a 'glow in the dark' film technique.

38 Views

114 Views

Musical Story Times

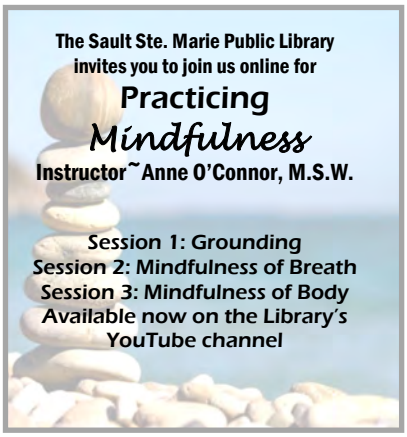
The Sault Symphony approached the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library about partnering with them to present musical story times. In December, staff members recorded a reading of Twas the Night Before Christmas while being accompanied by a trio of musicians. The Story Time was filmed by Shaw and broadcast on their channel before Christmas.

Storybook Walk

During the past year, the Library has partnered with the City of Sault Ste. Marie to create Story Book Trails, featuring popular children's books. Working with the publishers, the Library has secured permission to display specific titles on podiums with full page spreads of some favourite books. City staff have looked after setting the podiums up in Clergue Park so that children and their families can wander along the trail and read a book.

Adult

Adult Programming focused on lifelong learning, diversity and creativity as a way to connect with community members. Online programming covered a variety of topics from gardening and hobbies to literature to exploring Indigenous culture.
During the year, **25 videos** were created with **1,766** views.



Practicing Mindfulness

An interactive program offered through Zoom by Anne O'Connor with several sessions offered throughout the year.

244 Participants + 3 Videos = 245 Views

Indigenous History Month - Voices of Bawating

A series of videos were recorded by members of the local Indigenous community highlighting different aspects of Indigenous culture. (See playlist on Library's YouTube channel)

557 Views (4 Parts)

Author Palooza

Local authors were interviewed in a series of online segments about their writing process and highlighting some of their recent publications. (See playlist on Library's YouTube channel).

YouTube

233 Views 7 Videos

Paper Festival

In November, staff from all departments worked on creating Take Home Craft Kits featuring the wonders of what you can create with paper.

200 Kits Picked Up

Archives

Newly Added Collections:

- The General/Plummer Hospital
- Algoma Art Society
- Blueprints for the Canadian Plaza Redevelopment Project for the International Bridge.

79 Items requested from the Archives

6 New Oral Histories added:

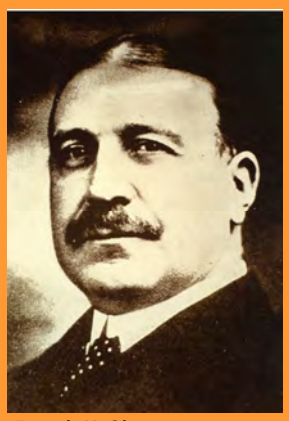
- Ruby Newell Farmer
- George Gough
- Erno Alfred Guylas
- Ken MacDougall
- Karl Sepkowski
- Linda Irene Szabo

OHSSM Oral History of Sault Ste. Marie

Oral History with Ruby Newell Farmer

Oral History with Ken MacDougall

Edwin Durham



Francis H. Clergue

Dr. Roberta Bondar

Dr. Roberta Bondar's NASA Training Suit

Outreach

The Northern Community Centre 55+ Zoom Programs
Kevin Meraglia, the Library's Archive Technician, held 3 presentations that focused on an artifact and presented the history surrounding the item.

Archive Association of Ontario (AAO) Conference
The Archive Technician created a virtual Archive Tour for the conference.

Algoma University Virtual Lecture
On March 11, the Archive Technician presented a lecture to an Algoma University class discussing the history of WWI veteran Edwin Durham.

1,463 scans were completed for the Archive Digitalization project.

Staff have been continuing to digitize the negatives from the Sault Star collection.

Friends of the Library

Friends of the Library

(Excerpts from Susan Hall, President of the Friends of the Library - Annual Report)

The Friends of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library provide a valuable service to the Library and have been able to meet the challenges of the past year successfully. President Susan Hall reported that, "We have to be very proud of the fact that over forty dedicated volunteers kept the Friends' Bookstore open and thriving for another year of ups and downs, openings and closings, as we navigated the changes that the pandemic brought."

Despite the lockdown/closures, the bookstore was able to resume almost normal operations for the last six months of the year, with donations coming in regularly to re-stock the shelves. Regular requests were received to provide books for the "Pop-up Little Free Libraries" around the city.

Susan reported that the sales in the bookstore and the books for the free libraries "represents at least 20,000 books that were enjoyed by our customers . . . we also kept thousands of books from the landfill by recycling them." There is an active network within the city for sharing of used books, including Christmas Cheer, avid readers, collectors, and those who buy books to read to others or for shut-ins.

$16,178 IN SALES IN JUST OVER 7 MONTHS!

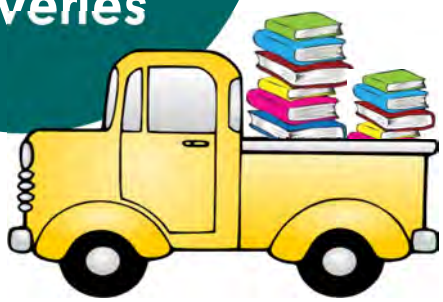
40 BOOKSTORE VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERED OVER 4,000 HOURS

Clean North partnered with the Library by featuring the Friends of the Library Bookstore on their poster about "Green Gifts" and during their Christmas tree chipping operation, books were collected for the Bookstore.

In an excerpt from their Annual Report it is stated that, "the Friends of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library are happy to make an important contribution to literacy and community action. Whether it is providing community volunteer hours for high school students, work placements for Community Living Algoma clients or free books to strollers at Bellevue Park, the Friends' volunteers will pitch in. A BIG thank you to the Friends!"

3 LIBRARY COURIERS VOLUNTEERED 65 HOURS on Inter-branch deliveries



Del W., Volunteer Courier

Collections

The Library is more than just books...

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library's Object Library is growing and we are pleased to offer our patrons more than just books.

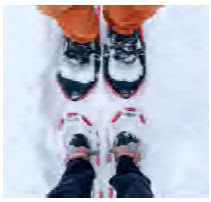
Radon Kits: In partnership with the Lung Association, Radon Detection Kits are available for patrons to borrow.

Urban Poles: Urban Poling walking sticks are available to borrow from the Library.

Disc Golf: Check out a Disc Golf Kit and play some rounds at the Kiwanis Club of Lakeshore's course at Penhorwood Park.

Ermatinger • Clergue National Historic Site

Arts & Culture Activity Pass: The Arts & Culture Pass allows library users to visit the Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site with up to 4 family members.



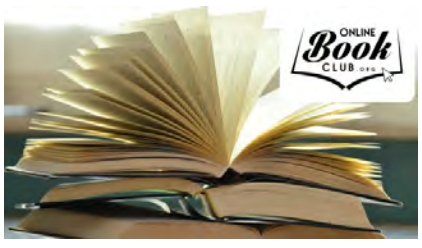
Snowshoes: The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library has teamed up with Hiawatha Highlands to offer our patrons the use of snowshoes for the whole family to be checked out on a valid library card.

ONTARIO PARKS

Ontario Parks Pass: Explore provincial parks by checking out a day pass with your library card.

NICHE ACADEMY

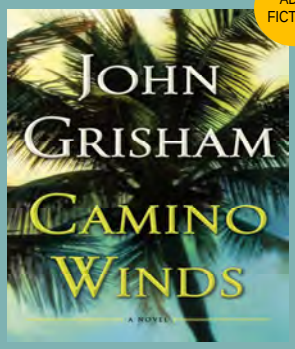
Niche Academy is an online learning resource that was added to the Library's website in 2021. It is still growing and being developed by our Library staff. On the public side of this resource, patrons will find webinars on learning how to use the latest social media platforms and technology including information on how to use the Library's various databases.
Lessons are presented in a fun and engaging format and can be customized to meet the needs of our Library.



There is also a Staff Academy that is being used to facilitate staff training for new and existing employees.

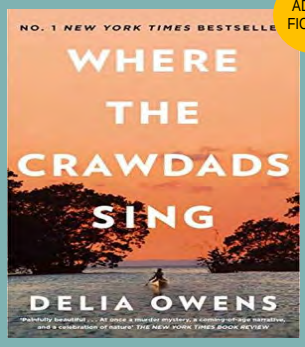
Top Trends 2021

BOOKS



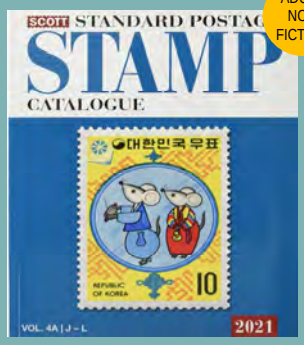
ADULT FICTION

Camino Winds
John Grisham



ADULT FICTION

Where the Crawdads Sing
Delia Owens



ADULT NON FICTION

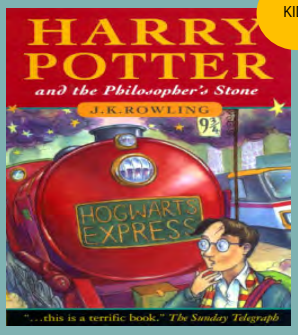
Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalgue

TEENS

Midnight Sun
Stephanie Meyer

GRAPHIC NOVEL

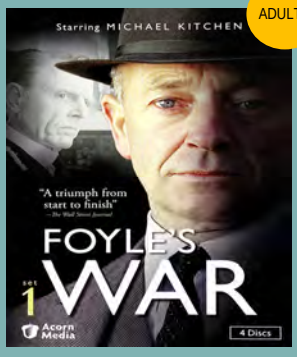
My Hero Academia Vol.1
Kohei Horikoshi



KIDS

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
J.K. Rowling

DVDS



ADULTS

Foyles War - Set 1

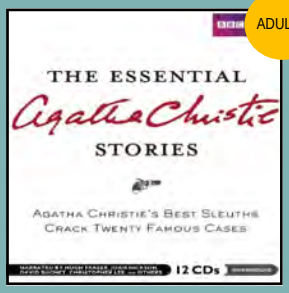
ADULTS

Hacksaw Ridge

KIDS

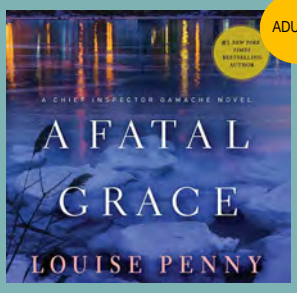
Strawberry Shortcake: Bright Lights Big Dreams

BOOKS ON CD



ADULTS

The Essential Agatha Christie
Agatha Christie



ADULTS

A Fatal Grace
Louise Penny

KIDS

Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince
J.K. Rowling

Year @ a Glance

Lockdown with Curbside Only - 119 Days
Open to Public with Capacity Limits - 154 Days
(not including Public holidays and Sundays)

Public Services

Lockdown Circulation – Total
Jan.1 - Feb. 21: **14,839**
April 3 -July 4: **24,997**

Open Dates Circulation – Total
Feb. 22 - April 2: **19,948**
July 5 - Dec. 31: **98,602**

158,386
Total Circulation

39,836
Curbside Checkouts

21,241
Library Card Holders

7,117
Curbside Appointments

1,243
Interlibrary Loan items borrowed for our patrons

703
Interlibrary Loan items loaned to other libraries

Total Questions asked
30,414

Vaccine Passport Printing and Laminating

The Library began providing a vaccination passport and laminating service for the public in October 2021 so that vaccination passports could be laminated free of charge. With the announcement that a proof of vaccination with a QR code would be required by many businesses as of January 4, 2022, the need for this service rose significantly in December 2021.

Total Laminations
October: 80
November: 368
December: 1,105
1,553

Year @ a Glance

Electronic Resources

Social Media

Total Overdrive and Hoopla Circulation
93,634

@SSMPL

@ssmpubliclibrary

YouTube
SaultSteMarie PublicLibrary

Overdrive Audiobooks Borrowed
26,243

Overdrive eBooks Borrowed
63,624

Overdrive eVideos Borrowed
38

Hoopla Audiobooks Borrowed
1467

Hoopla eBooks & Comics
1473

Hoopla Media (including videos, music and television programs)
789

2,160
Public Computer Bookings

WiFi Access
37,613

766,230
Library Online Catalogue Page Views

275,765
Library Website Page Views

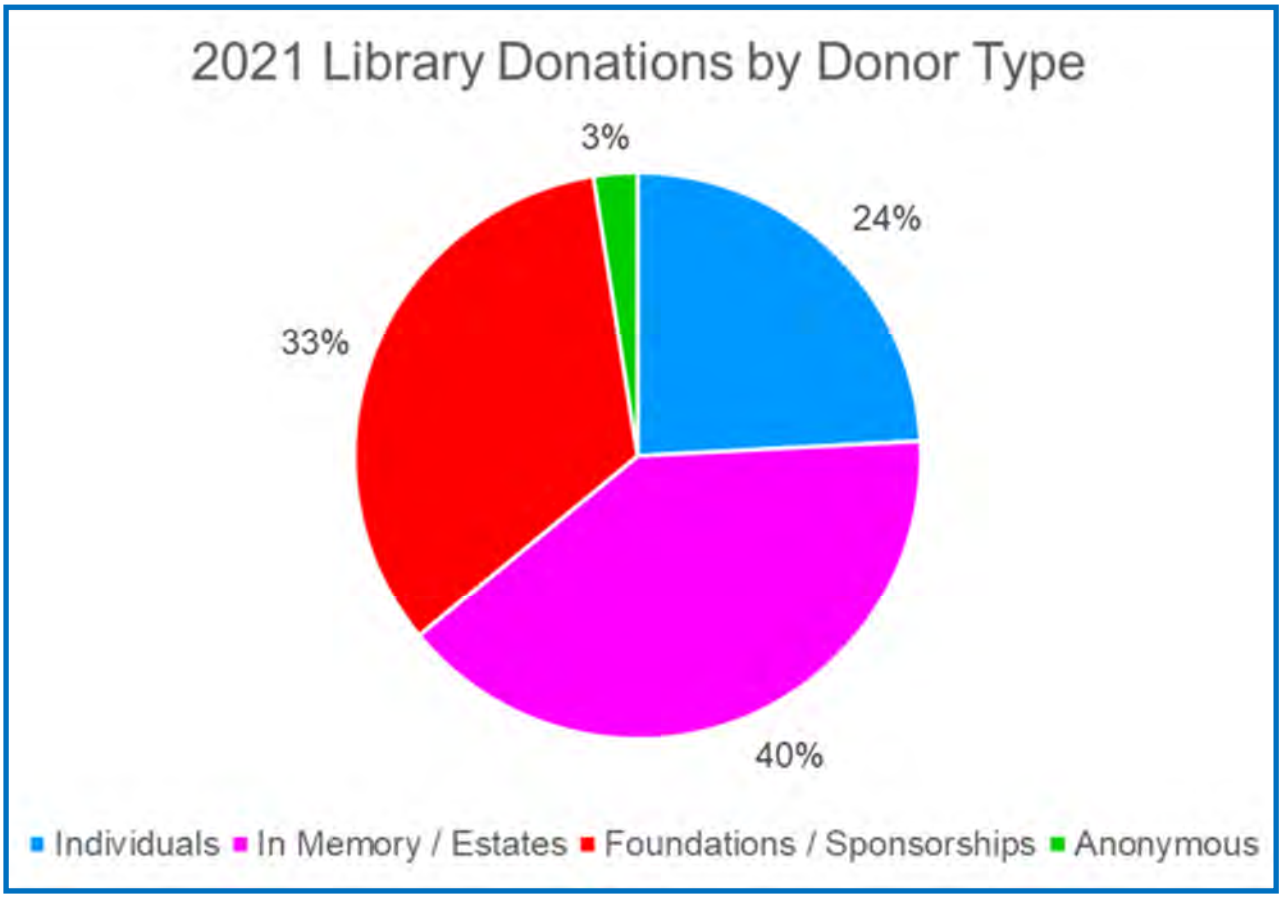
564,819
Social Media Impressions

9,718
Database Searches Conducted

Financial Management

Sources of Funding 2021

Total Amount of Donations for 2021
$22,600.00



GRANTS

Invasive Species Centre
$10,000
for Bio-diversity Garden

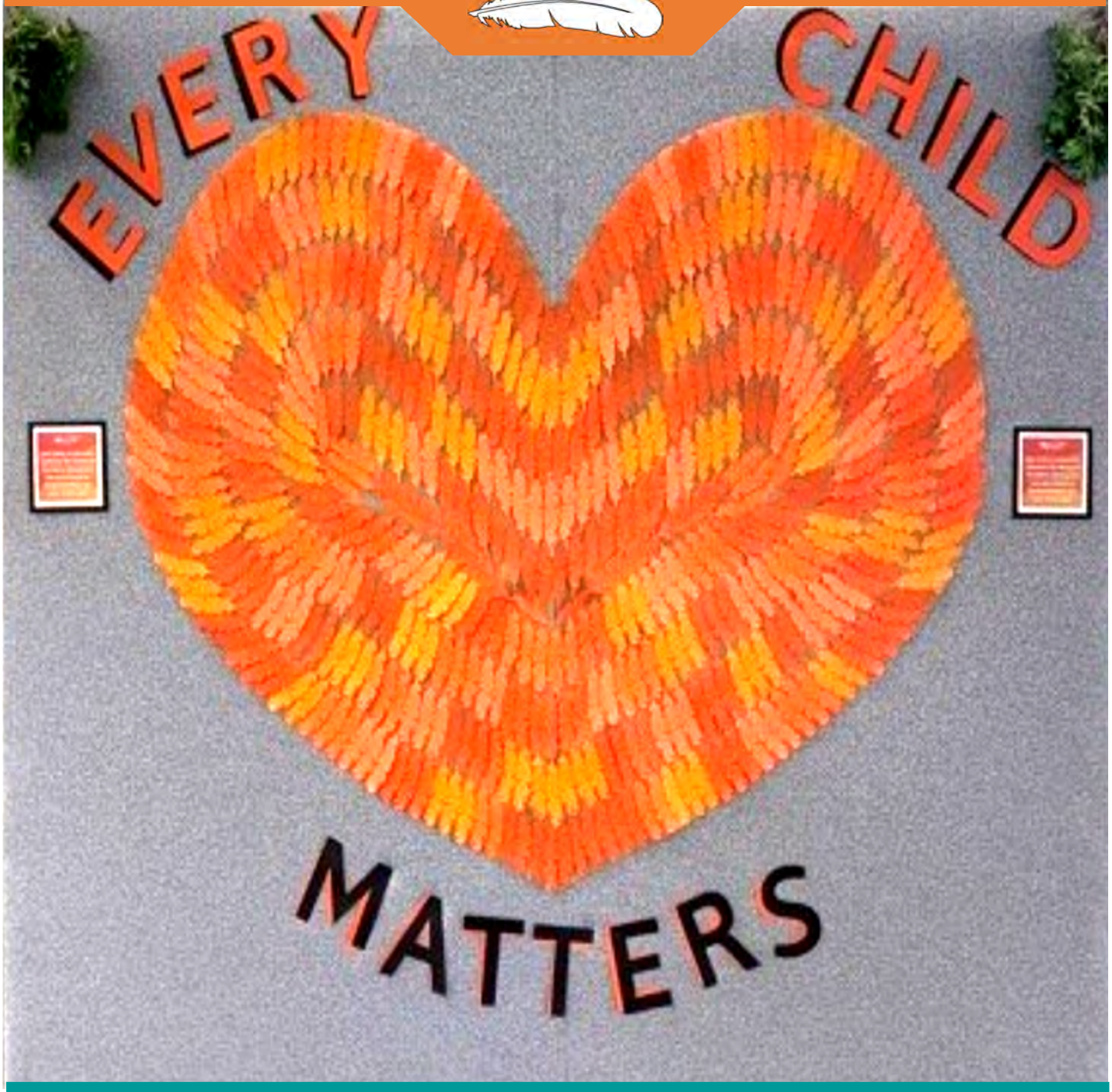
City's Community Development Fund for Green Initiatives Program
$2,033.96
to purchase Thermal Cameras

International Dyslexia Association
$500
to purchase Dyslexia-friendly books

A special thank you to our generous 2021 Donors

Donor or Sponsorship Category	
GOLD $5,000-$50,000	In memory of Dr. James Owen Donated by Mrs. Irene Owen
SILVER $2,500-$4,999	FMI Elliott Foundation
BRONZE $1,000-$2,499	In memory of Bill Latham - Donated by Brian Latham Kiwanis Club of SSM - sponsorship of Baby Time Zonta Club - sponsorship of Toddler Time Kevin Dorse Howard Bennett
COPPER $500-$999	Friends of the Library Estate of Dorothy St. Michael Don & Joyce Watts Mary Coventry Just-In-Credible Lawn Care Services Inc. in Memory of Mr. Bisson

Each feather on this heart represents the remains of 10 children whose graves have been located on Residential School sites across Turtle Island.



Sault Ste. Marie
Public Library
www.ssmpl.ca
"One stop....endless possibilities"

President's Report to the Friends of the Library
Annual General Meeting February 7, 2022

The Friends of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library have had another interesting and challenging year.
We have to be very proud of the fact that over forty dedicated volunteers kept the Friends Bookstore open and thriving for another year of ups and downs, openings and closings as we navigated the changes that the pandemic brought.
We opened up briefly in March at shortened hours then closed again in early April.
July restored us to a nearly normal operation so we were able to see six months of great business. All in all, those forty volunteers chalked up over 4,000 hours!
Thanks to the always generous citizens of Sault Ste. Marie, donations remained steady and plentiful throughout the fall, letting us keep fully stocked with great books. This also allowed us to do our usual book giveaways at "Pop-up Little Free Libraries" around town.
In just over seven months of selling books we made $16,178. I'm extrapolating here, that translates to a potential $30,000 year! We will be aiming for that figure in 2022.
This also represents at least 20,000 books being enjoyed by our customers…..from autobiographies to 'zines.
We also kept thousands of books from the landfill by recycling them. Clean North featured our Bookstore on their poster about "Green Gifts" and collected books for

us at their Christmas tree chipping operation. The folks at Christmas Cheer gave us all the books they couldn't use. We are part of a huge book network in Sault Ste. Marie; readers, collectors, those who read to others or buy books for shut-ins. Many customers buy books for their grandchildren or kids in the neighbourhood. Thanks to all who make this work.

Special thanks as well to all the library staff who help the Friends in so many ways. Thanks for keeping us all safe and well informed. The Library is such an important community hub.

The Friends of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library are happy to make an important contribution to literacy and community action. Whether it is providing community volunteer hours for high school students, work placements for Community Living Algoma clients, or free books to strollers at Bellevue Park, the Friends volunteers will pitch in. A BIG thank you to the Friends!

Susan Hall
President
Friends of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library