



**Sault Ste. Marie  
Public Library**

"One stop...endless possibilities"



**JAN., FEB., MAR. 2026**

**VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1**



Matthew MacDonald, B.A., Hon. M.L.I.S.  
Chief Executive Officer

## We're Undergoing Some Changes!

We are pleased to announce that the Library will be transitioning to a new Integrated Library System (ILS), **Symphony**, developed by SirsiDynix, in 2026. What is an ILS, you may ask? How might this affect you? When is the next James Patterson book being released? And why make this change now? These are all great questions.

An ILS is the core software that libraries use to manage their daily operations and services. It acts as the central system that connects everything behind the scenes with what patrons see and use. We rely on it to cata-

logue library materials, manage circulation and patron accounts, support catalogue searching, generate reports and statistics, and more. Simply put, it's how we know what we have, where items are located, and who may have borrowed them.

We decided to switch our ILS for several important reasons:

- **Improved reliability and performance** – The new system offers a more stable and efficient platform, helping ensure smoother day-to-day operations and fewer service disruptions.
- **Better support for staff and services** – Streamlined behind-the-scenes workflows allow library staff to spend more time assisting patrons and less time on manual processes.
- **Meaningful cost savings** – Transitioning to Symphony will result in significant savings, as its cost is approximately **35% less** than our current system. These savings can be reinvested into library collections, programs, services and library security.

- **Enhanced mobile experience** – We will be able to provide a more modern, mobile-friendly interface with Symphony, making it easier for patrons to search the catalogue, place holds, renew items, and

manage their accounts from phones, tablets, and other devices.

- **Future-ready technology** – Symphony is a widely used, well-supported system that is regularly updated, positioning the Library to adopt new features and services as they become available.

We do anticipate that the transition may result in some minimal disruption as data is migrated and systems are switched over. It may also take a little time for everyone to become familiar with the new layout and features. Our hope is that by the time the next issue of the Library's newsletter is released, the new ILS will already feel like old news and we'll be on to other exciting projects.

Thank you for your continued support of the Library. We're excited about this upgrade and the improvements it will bring for everyone who uses our services.

**P.S.** For those who were wondering—James Patterson is scheduled to release *The Invisible Woman* on January 5, *Private Rome* on January 13, and *Cross and Sampson* on February 9.

# Events

January, February, March, 2026

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**Sault Ste. Marie  
Public Library**  
[www.ssmpl.ca](http://www.ssmpl.ca)  
"One stop...endless possibilities"

## Board of Directors 2023 - 2027

**Paolo Bruni**  
**Lisa Dobrovnik**  
**Wayne Greco (Chair)**  
**Erin Ferlaino**  
**Jami van Haaften**  
**Kevin Harrison**  
**Steve Murray**  
**David Nanchin**  
**Mike Olejnik (Vice Chair)**

## Children's Programming

Help children discover the joy of reading through our Toddler Time and Storytime series as well as special programs expanding basic literacy.



Preschool Programs  
School Aged Programs  
Storytime Schedule  
Reading Club

## General Programming

Fun, creative, social programming for all ages to enjoy.



Tours  
Workshops  
Drop-In Activities  
Language Class  
Crafting Programs

## Adult Programming

Dig deeper into books, crafts, continuing education, and community through adult programs such as author talks and book clubs at the library.



Book Clubs  
Information Sessions  
Signature Events

## Boomers & Beyond

Engaging programs and services designed to empower older adults, allowing them to keep up with the world and stay current.



Book Chats  
Workshops  
VLS Service

# FREE DRAW

Fill out a ballot for a chance to win

2 BÖNSOO  
BUTTONS



Draw Runs:  
January 5th - 31st, 2026



Ballots available  
at both  
library locations!

# Children's Programming

## Registered Programs

### Baby Time

Ages 0 to 12 Months

**James L. McIntyre Centennial Library**

#### Tuesdays

March 3 - March 24, 2026

10:00 am - 10:30 am

Program Room

Online Registration begins

February 10, 2026 @ 9:00 am



**James L. McIntyre Centennial Library**

#### Wednesdays

April 15 - May 6, 2026

10:00 am - 10:30 am

Program Room

Online Registration begins

March 25, 2026 @ 9:00 am

Babytime offers the youngest library users and their parents or caregivers the opportunity to share time together at the library. Babies will be exposed to language books and playful activities. We invite you to come sing, clap, bounce and listen to stories

Register at: <https://ssmpl.ca/kids/kids-programming/>



This program is generously sponsored by:

**Kiwanis**  
OF SAULT STE MARIE



### Baby Picasso

Ages 6 to 12 months

**James L. McIntyre**

**Centennial Library**

#### Mondays

February 2 to March 2, 2026

10:00 am - 10:45 am

Program Room

Online Registration begins

January 12, 2026, @ 9:00 am



toddlers and teach caregivers how to encourage and support learning through play and fun.

Register at:

<https://ssmpl.ca/kids/kids-programming/>



This program is generously sponsored by:

**Zonta Club of Sault Ste Marie Area**  
Member of Zonta International



### Pre-school Time

Ages 30 to 48 Months

#### North Branch

#### Thursdays

March 26 to April 16, 2026

10:00 am - 10:45 am

Program Room

Online Registration begins

January 22, 2026 @ 10:00 am

Children will explore stories and learning activities that encourage them along a lifelong path of reading and learning. All children will have opportunities to engage in activities that focus on pre-reading, numeracy, and socialization.

**NOTE:** To register for this program, either the child participant or their responsible adult must have a Sault Ste. Marie Public Library card. Parents and caregivers must remain in the library building throughout the duration of the program.

Register at: <https://ssmpl.ca/kids/kids-programming/>



This program is generously sponsored by:

**Zonta Club of Sault Ste Marie Area**  
Member of Zonta International

# Children's Programming

## Kid's Winter Reading Club

### Reading with my Gnomies

January 2 - March 20, 2026



Sign up today and complete reading challenges at your own pace to help your gnome team win. Join today!

## PA Days at North Branch



PA Days are the perfect excuse for kids to take a break from the usual routine and dive into some extra fun!

Join us at the North Branch Library every PA Day throughout the school year for games, crafts, and playtime. There's no need to plan ahead - this is a drop-in program. Everyone is welcome.

## Family Literacy Day with the Soo Greyhounds



James L. McIntyre Centennial Library  
Tuesday, January 13, 2026  
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Join us for games, crafts, autographs with the Hounds and prizes!

**Let's Play for Literacy!**

## Bon Tots Storytime and Craft

North Branch  
Thursday, February 19, 2026  
10:00 am - 11:00 am

Come join us for a story and a fun craft. This is a drop-in program. Everyone is welcome.



## PA DAY FUN

### Penguins & HOT CHOCOLATE



James L. McIntyre  
Centennial Library  
Friday January 30, 2026  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Storytime 10:00 - 10:30 am

Waddle on down to the Children's department and join us for penguin themed crafts and stories and enjoy a nice cup of hot chocolate while supplies last! Free event - no registration required

### Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss PD Day Fun!



James L. McIntyre  
Centennial Library  
Friday, March 6, 2026  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Come join us for Dr. Seuss themed crafts and activities! Free event- no registration required.

## Bon Soo Fun



James L. McIntyre  
Centennial Library  
Saturday, February 14, 2026  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Drop in to the Children's department for Bon Soo crafts and activities. No registration required- just come by and enjoy!

## Family Day Fun



James L. McIntyre  
Centennial Library  
Monday, February 16, 2026  
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Drop by for some board game fun with your family! Enjoy one of our board games or bring your own. Everyone is welcome!

## MARCH BREAK

### Dino-riffic Mini Putt



James L. McIntyre  
Centennial Library  
March 16 to 22, 2026

Drop in during open hours to play!

### March Break Mini Stick Day



in partnership with PUC  
North Branch  
Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Teams of three required to register via telephone @ 705-759-5248 beginning March 3, 2026. Free play will follow scheduled rounds, booked on a first come, first served basis. Preference for time slot will NOT be given.

### March Break Puppet Play & Craft



James L. McIntyre Centennial Library  
Wednesday, March 18, 2026  
10:30 am

Join us for a puppet play followed by fun crafts. All ages welcome!  
Drop-in program

## Storytime & Craft



James L. McIntyre  
Centennial Library  
Wednesday Evenings  
January 7<sup>th</sup> to May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
6:00 - 6:30 pm

Storytime and craft includes stories, rhymes, and a simple craft.  
Drop-In program for children of all ages.

# Children's Programming

## LEGO My Library



James L. McIntyre Centennial Library

Thursdays:

January 8 - May 14, 2026

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

This program will run weekly and feature a different LEGO building challenge each week, as well as time for free building.

## Build Box Fun!



James L. McIntyre  
Centennial Library

North Branch

Drop by either library location anytime during our regular hours and spend some time trying out one of our many Build Boxes. This is a great opportunity to try Magna Tiles, Code-a-Pillar, Legos and Marble Run.

## Family Literacy Challenge Jan. 5th - 30th, 2026

The North Branch Library and Uncle Gino's Pizzeria are teaming up to ignite your love of reading with a challenge the whole family can enjoy!

Pick up your Reading Challenge Sheet at the North Branch Library and start turning those pages! Every 10 books completed earns you a ballot for our prize draw — and a chance to win one of two, Uncle Gino's Pizzeria gift certificates!



For more information, please call: 705-759-5248



Registration is not required  
for the following free programs.  
Storytimes include stories,  
rhymes, and a craft.

\* Children must be accompanied by an adult.

## Storytime Schedule

Day	Location	Storytime	Time
Tuesday	North Branch	Storytime	11 to 11:30 am
Wednesday	Centennial	Storytime	6 to 6:30 pm
Friday	Centennial	Storytime	10 to 10:30 am

## FAMILY LITERACY DAY WITH THE SOO GREYHOUNDS

### LET'S PLAY FOR LITERACY!

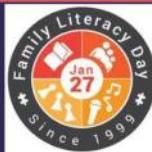
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13TH, 2026

6:30-7:30 PM

JAMES L. MCINTYRE  
CENTENNIAL LIBRARY  
50 EAST STREET



Join us for games,  
crafts,  
autographs, and  
prizes!



From Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026,  
drop in on Thursdays between  
6:00 and 7:30 p.m.  
for LEGO My Library,  
with LEGO challenges, free-building time,  
and a chance to win prizes!



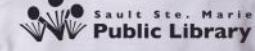
in partnership with



in partnership with

Kiwanis

of Lakeshore



# Adult Programming

## Blue Monday Care Packages

James L. McIntyre  
Centennial Library  
January 12 - 19, 2026



Be kind to your mind this Blue Monday and create a free care package for you or a friend. Fill your care package with items that help support mental health, make connections to local resources, and reduce stress and stigma. Available while supplies last.

## Living Your Retirement Plan with Jared Theriault

James L. McIntyre Centennial Library

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Program Room



We will explore these key topics: What retirement means to you? Where your retirement money could come from, How to protect your retirement savings and prepare your legacy.

For more info contact the Reference and Information Desk at 705-759-5236.

## Archive Show and Tell

North Branch

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

6:00 - 7:00 pm



Do you have interesting family treasures or historical documents and would like to share that history with other people? Share and learn out the people in our community!

Registration opens January 6, 2026 at 10:00 am.

Scan the QR code or call 705-759-5248 to register



## AI in Real Life: The Invisible Tech Shaping Your Day

presented by  
Melissa Jakimik



North Branch

Saturday January 24, 2026

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

This one-hour session will explain what AI is, how it works and the surprising ways it already impacts daily life.

Seating is limited and registration is required.

Registration begin on January 5, 2026. To register please call: 705-759-5248

## FREEDOM TO READ Scavenger Hunt



James L. McIntyre Centennial Library

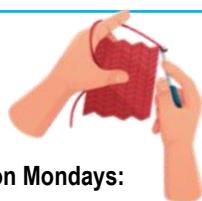
February 1 - 28, 2026

Think you know your banned and challenged books? Test your skills for a chance to win a prize.

Answer the trivia questions and solve the puzzles to make your way around the adult section of the library, learning more about banned and challenged books as you go.

Drop in during the library's regular hours to participate.

## Crochet with Lesley



North Branch

4-week series held on Mondays:

February 2 to March 2, 2026

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Participants will learn basic crochet techniques in a friendly, supportive environment - perfect for beginners or anyone looking to refresh their skills. Registration opens January 10, 2026. Those interested are encouraged to register early as space is limited.

To register please call 705-759-5248.

## Oral History Review

North Branch

Tuesday, February 10, 2026



5:30 - 7:30 pm

The North Branch Library will be showing an oral history from our archive collection of Roberta Bondar. The oral history will focus on her life, particularly her space flight in 1992. Roberta Bondar will not be present at the event.

Registration opens Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 10:00 am

Scan the QR code or call 705-759-5248 to register.



## Blind Date with a Book



James L. McIntyre Centennial Library  
February 6 - 16, 2026

No valentine? No problem! Borrow a Blind Date with a Book kit to get a new romance novel, some chocolate, and a chance to win a great prize basket!

Available while supplies last.

## Crafternoon

James L. McIntyre Centennial Library  
Last Thursday of every month  
Upcoming dates: January 29, February 26, March 26, 2026  
2:30-4:00 p.m.

Crafternoon is back! Keep an eye out each month for craft and registration details.



# Adult Programming cont'd



## Registration Winter 2026

### Tuesday Book Clubs

Registration opens: Wednesday, January 7th at 9:00 am

#### Morning Club

February 17	10:00 am
March 17	10:00 am
April 21	10:00 am
May 19	10:00 am

#### Afternoon Club

	2:00 pm



### Mystery and Suspense Book Club

Registration opens: Wednesday, January 7th at 9:00 am

February 11	2:00 pm
March 11	2:00 pm
April 8	2:00 pm
May 13	2:00 pm



Registration will be facilitated through Eventbrite.  
Scan the QR code to sign-up

*A room without books is like a body without a soul.* -- Marcus Tullius Cicero

### The Knit & Crochet Crafters Group

James L. McIntyre Centennial Library

Wednesday Evenings:

January 7 to June 10, 2026

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

All levels of knitters and crocheters are welcome to attend and enjoy the company of others who love the craft!

Meet at the large table near the DVD collection at the Centennial Library.

### Olympics Watch Party

James L. McIntyre Centennial Library  
Dates & Time TBA

Get ready to cheer on Team Canada at the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympics! Drop by the library for watch parties, crafts, and other ways to celebrate our athletes. Details coming soon!

### Early Spring Gardening

North Branch

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Lead hand at Bellevue Park and local farmer, Jeff Marshall, will show you how to start your garden right this year!

Registration opens on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 10:00 am.

Scan the QR code or call 705-759-5248 to register.



### Growing Native Plants Through Winter Sowing in Containers



James L. McIntyre Centennial Library  
Saturday, March 7, 2026  
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Think March is too early to garden? Think again! Join Clean North and the James L. McIntyre Centennial Library for a FREE introduction to growing native plants outdoors in winter. Workshop hosts are Clean North's Abby Obenchain and Bill Cole. Registration is required, and all supplies are provided.

Registration opens February 9, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.



Scan the QR code or call 705-759-5236.



# Boomers & Beyond

## Savvy Seniors Book Chats



Hello Fellow Readers!

If you consider yourself a SENIOR, then you are welcome to come to the **Senior's Book Chat**. This group meets the last Tuesday of the month.

Come and share the interesting BOOKS and MOVIES that you've been reading and watching. If you're inclined to do so, swap a book with others in the group.

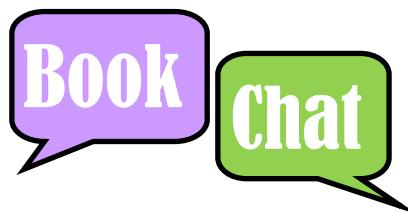
Come and enjoy an intriguing time of chit chat and get to know some well-read friends!

**Held the last Tuesday of each month from 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm**

**Free - No registration required**

**Dates: Jan. 27, Feb. 27, Mar. 31, 2026**

**James L. McIntyre Centennial Library - 50 East Street**



## GADGET CORNER



**Do you have an electronic device or gadget that has you stumped? Are you ready to throw it in the corner and give up on it? Perhaps we can help you!**

### CENTENNIAL

THURSDAY, JAN. 8TH:

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

THURSDAY, FEB. 19TH:

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 24TH:

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

### NORTH BRANCH

THURSDAY, JAN. 15TH:

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

TUESDAY, FEB. 10TH:

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH:

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### Social Hour at the North Branch



#### North Branch

**Mondays: Starting January 19, 2026**

**1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

Drop-in to the North Branch for a cup of coffee. Don't forget to bring your friends, your cards and your handicrafts!

### Alzheimer's Awareness Presentation



**James L. McIntyre Centennial Library**

**Thursday, January 29, 2026**

**6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

Join the Alzheimer's Society at the James L. McIntyre Centennial Library for a talk covering an overview of dementia and Alzheimer's disease, warning signs, risk factors, brain healthy habits, and more.



### VISITING LIBRARY SERVICE (VLS)

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library provides services to eligible residents of the City of Sault Ste. Marie who, for reasons of restricted vision or mobility, or long-term injury or illness, are unable to use regular library facilities.

This service is Free

For more information about the Visiting Library Service please call

**705-759-5236**

# General Programming

## Bridge Classes at the North Branch



### North Branch

Every Wednesday  
February 11 - April, 2026  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Revive your Bridge skills with the Algoma/ Cambrian Bridge Club. Those interested are encouraged to register early as space is limited.

To register, please call 705-759-5248.

## Visits with Zumi

### North Branch

#### Wednesdays

January 28

February 25

March 25



Zumi and Joey are back for lots of tail-wagging fun in 2026! All visits with Zumi begin at 5:15 pm. Come have some fun and snuggles with this adorable pup!

## Game Night

### North Branch

Thursdays starting  
January 15, 2026  
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm



Drop in to the North Branch to play games! Feel free to play one of our boardgames or bring your own. This is a family friendly program. Everyone is welcome to play!

## Family Literacy Day Reading Challenge!



### North Branch

January 5 - January 30, 2026

This January, the North Branch library and Uncle Gino's Pizzeria are teaming up to ignite your love of reading with a challenge the whole family can enjoy! Pick up your Reading Challenge sheet at the North Branch and start turning those pages. Each completed book earns you a ballot for our prize draw and a chance to win one of two, Uncle Gino's Pizzeria gift certificates! For more information please call 705-759-5248.

**OUR NEWSLETTER IS ONLINE**

**"From the Stacks"**  
is published quarterly and gives you up-to-date information on programming and events happening at your library!

Visit our website at [www.ssmp.ca](http://www.ssmp.ca) or scan the QR code

## The Library is more than just Books!



This winter season, use your library card to check out:

- ★ Snowshoes
- ★ Walking Poles
- ★ Radon Kits
- ★ Thermal Cameras

Or one of our many Passes to local attractions!

Our Object Library has a variety of other items available for check out as well!

Call our Circulation Dept. for more details!

**705-759-5271**

# Living Your Retirement Plan

WITH JARED THERIAULT

Wednesday, January 14, 2026  
6:30pm to 8:00pm  
James L. McIntyre Centennial Library  
Program Room

We will explore these key topics:

- What retirement means to you?
- Where your retirement money could come from.
- How to protect your retirement savings and prepare your legacy.



For More Information call Reference & Information at 705-759-5236



## Growing Native Plants Through Winter Sowing in Containers

*Think March is too early to garden? Think again!*

Join Clean North and the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library for a **FREE** introduction to growing native plants outdoors in winter. Workshop hosts are Clean North's Abby Obenchain and Bill Cole. All supplies are provided.

Saturday, March 7, 2026  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

James L. McIntyre Centennial Library,  
50 East Street



Register Here!



COMING FEBRUARY 2026...



Drop by the library to cheer on Team Canada at an

## OLYMPICS WATCH PARTY!

Date, time, and sport to be confirmed –  
details coming soon!



Presented in partnership with the  
CBC and the Milano Cortina 2026  
Olympics.

## CANADA READS

COMING SOON  
MARCH 2026!

Watch for  
contests, book  
lists, and more  
related to  
CBC's annual  
battle of the  
books!





KIDS' WINTER READING CLUB 2026

# Reading with my Gnomies

January 2 - March 20, 2026

Sign up today and complete reading challenges  
at your own pace to help your gnome team win!





## The Friendly Bookworm

Newsletter of the Friends of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library

### Top Ten reasons to shop at the Friends of the Library Bookstore

- ◊ We have three (3) rooms to explore
- ◊ The bookstore is a No-Inflation Zone:
- ◊ Most books and DVDs are still \$1!
- ◊ Premium, like-new, books are just \$2
- ◊ Most children's books are 3 for \$1
- ◊ You are guaranteed to find unexpected gems in our stacks
- ◊ Our friendly and knowledgeable volunteers are happy to help you find something great
- ◊ We have a curated section of unique collectibles
- ◊ Our ever-popular FREE CART is refreshed daily
- ◊ You're supporting the re-use and recirculation economy, diverting waste from landfill
- ◊ You can enjoy a great conversation with our volunteers
- ◊ There is ALWAYS something new in the Bookstore
- ◊ 100% of our bookstore sales go directly to the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library!

And....we'd love to see you there!



Volunteers Lisa and Kathy would be happy to greet you when you come to browse at the Friends bookstore.

### Become a Friends of the Library Member and Get Extra Discounts

Anyone can purchase an annual membership to the Friends of the Library for \$5, and receive a 10% discount on all purchases in the bookstore.

Members also receive 50% off \$1 books on Saturdays!

Your membership also supports our activities and outreach into the community.

Memberships run from January-December, so get yours early in the year for the best value.

**Premium Books  
\$2.00 each!**



Find our Premium Books selection in the second room of the Bookstore. Amazing, nearly new books for only \$2 each. Perfect for gift giving.

### Bookstore Hours

**Monday - Friday 10am – 5pm**

**Saturday 10am – 4 pm**

**Sunday Closed**

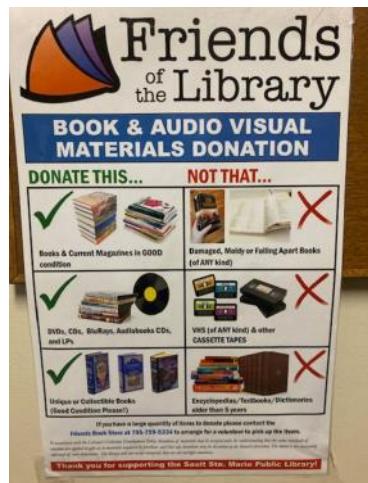
**Lwr. Level - James L. McIntyre  
Centennial Library**

**Next  
General Meeting  
Monday February 2, 2026,  
7:00 p.m.  
James L. McIntyre Centennial Library**

### Donations Welcome!

Think of us when you're downsizing, decluttering, reorganizing, or making room for new books!

Our work is made possible by generous donations from the community. We will happily take your gently used books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, and more. Books and DVDs in like-new condition may be accepted into the Library's collection, and all the rest are offered for sale - or for free - in our bookstore. We also pay it forward by donating books to little free libraries around town, seniors' homes, the Soup Kitchen, SAH, and more.



**Most Books  
\$1.00!**

# Our History

From September 1939 until the end of World War II, Sault Ste. Marie was one of the most fortified positions in North America. Although the battlefields were thousands of miles across the ocean, the twin border cities were home to the world's busiest shipping canal, a vital transportation system for the Allied Forces.

Between 1939 and 1945, more than half a billion tons of ore mined from Northern Michigan and Minnesota passed through the Sault locks for war production in blast furnaces and steel plants on the eastern coast. Meanwhile, millions of tons of Canadian grain were also carried down the St. Mary's River and across the Great Lakes, destined for the Allied soldiers fighting on the Western Front.

When Britain had declared war on Germany on Sept. 3, 1939, approximately 125 armed soldiers began patrolling the city. A week later, on Sept. 10, Canada declared war.

Less than twenty-four hours later, Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury Regiment troops were stationed at the locks, alongside American soldiers on the southern side of the river in Michigan. Their mission was simple yet paramount: defend the locks at all costs.

Both Canada and the United States feared that Germany would be brave enough to strike the border with an aerial assault, possibly using suicide bombers. If the locks were destroyed, military manufacturing plants would grind to a screeching halt for both North American nations.

Three 800-million candlepower searchlights were mounted on the American

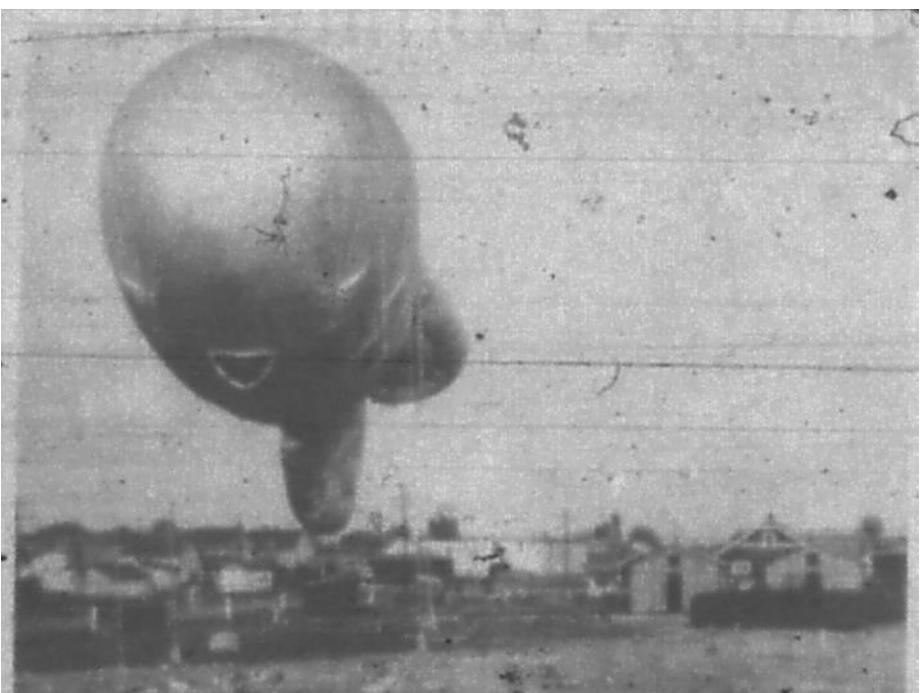
border. Powered by independent generators, the five-foot-tall beacons were effective at locating airplanes flying up to four miles high.

A 50-calibre anti-aircraft gun capable of shooting targets from 4 ½ miles away was delivered to the locks, while soldiers from Fort Brady were armed with 50-calibre machine guns at every approach and command post.

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, defence measures were dramatically increased. About 12,000 troops were stationed in Michigan, and by the spring of 1942, barrage balloons were launched into the sky.

Balloons hovered above lower Pim Street, Forest and Simpson Streets, near the King George School, Railroad Avenue, the hill areas, the current site of the Station Mall, and all five canal locks. Power outages were common, as high winds would push the balloons into power lines around the city.

Eventually, both cities were carpeted with searchlights synchronized with anti-aircraft guns. Smokescreen generators were also installed surrounding the canal, and camouflage companies with fog-making machines were stationed in the Poplar Avenue area.



Shaped like zeppelins, the large balloons were anchored to the ground by steel cables, designed as the first line of defence against dive bombers. Due to wartime censorship, Sault residents received no warnings about the barrage balloons, which appeared seemingly overnight.

"I remember it was Good Friday and being shocked when I came out of the church. The whole sky was full of barrage balloon," librarian Kay Punch recalled.

According to residents, approximately 70 balloons blanketed the sky.

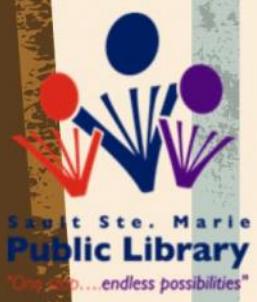
The American forces vastly outnumbered Canadian soldiers, with several southerners crossing the northern border to live in barracks in the city. The Monterey Gardens reportedly stationed many troops, with the headquarters located somewhere on Queen Street West.

After World War II, Sault Ste. Marie prospered socially from the fortification of the locks. Marriages between Canadians and Americans blossomed, and many U.S. troops decided to become Canadian residents in the years that followed.

# Early Spring Gardening

North Branch  
March 24, 2026  
6:00 - 7:00 pm

Lead hand at Bellevue Park and Local Farmer, Jeff Marshall, will show you how to start your garden right this year! Registration opens on March 3, 2026 at 10:00 am. Scan the QR code or call (705) 759-5248 to register.



# ORAL HISTORY REVIEW

North Branch

February 10, 2026

5:30 to 7:30 pm

The North Branch Library will be showing an oral history from our archive collection of Roberta Bondar. The oral history will focus on her life, particularly her space flight in 1992. Roberta Bondar will not be present at the event.

Registration opens  
January 27 2026 at  
10:00 am. Scan QR  
code or call 705-  
759-5248 to register.





# North Branch Library

## *Crochet Lessons*

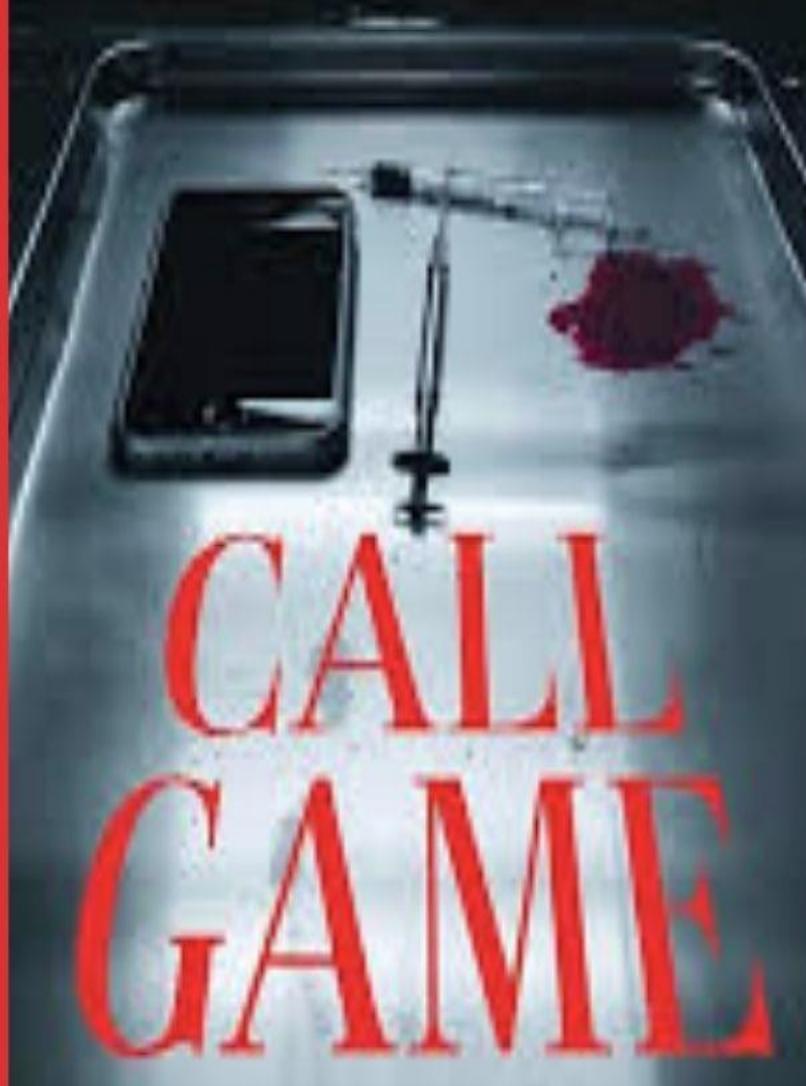
**Learn to  
Crochet with Lesley**  
*tutorial for beginners step by step*

**Classes start Feb 02 -Mar 02, 2026  
Mondays from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
at the North Branch**

**Registration starts January 10, 2026  
To register call 705-759-5248  
Registration is required as seats are limited.**

**Please bring to class one 4.5mm or 5mm  
crochet hook. Yarn will be provided.**

# GRAHAM ELDER AND LAURA CODY



## Local Author Event

Answer the call this February  
for an author talk and book  
signing!

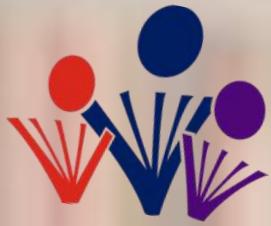
Come celebrate Dr. Graham  
Elder's new novel entitled  
*Call Game*.

February 4, 2026  
James L. McIntyre  
Centennial Library  
6:30pm to 8:00pm

For more information please  
call the Reference and  
Information Desk at  
705-759-5236



*The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library  
would like to acknowledge  
and thank our generous Library Donors  
(for gifts over \$100.00)*



**Would you like to donate  
to the Library?**

The Library accepts **Cash, Debit & Cheque** (made out to the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library) at either of your favourite library locations.

**Paypal** - an online donation by credit card at <https://www.paypal.com/ca/fundraiser/charity/3465175>



**Other donation options:**

**In Memoriam** - As a tribute to a family member, friend, or colleague.

**Special Occasion Gift** - In celebration of a birthday, anniversary, graduation, retirement, or any other special occasion.

**Adopt A Magazine** - Individuals or businesses can sponsor a magazine or newspaper subscription for the Library.

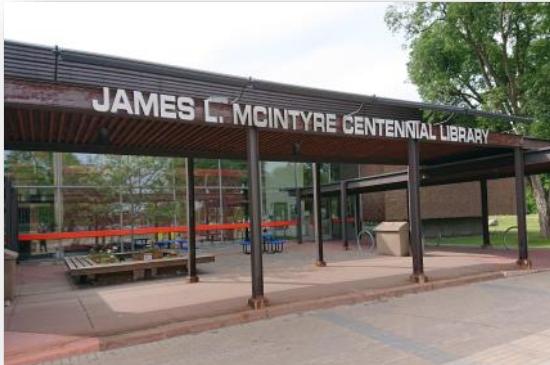
**The possibilities are endless!**

**Contact us today at 705-759-5242**

Terry Agnew  
Brandon Batman  
Bryce Batman  
Ann Corris  
Remi & Kirsten Gentes  
Clyde & Gurta Healey  
Ruth Hopson  
Ora James  
Nicolas Malard  
Dawn Ann McClure  
Kai Kang & Ian McKay  
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Northern Ontario Latin Hispanic Assoc.  
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*Recognized donors from  
January 1, 2025 - December 13, 2025*

# About Your Library...



## JAMES L. MCINTYRE CENTENNIAL LIBRARY

50 EAST STREET, SAULT STE. MARIE, ON P6A 3C3

### HOURS OF OPERATION:

MONDAY - THURSDAY	9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
FRIDAY	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
SATURDAY	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
SUNDAY	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM



## NORTH BRANCH LIBRARY

232C NORTHERN AVE, SAULT STE. MARIE, ON P6B 4H6

### HOURS OF OPERATION:

MONDAY	10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
TUESDAY - THURSDAY	10:00 AM - 8:00 PM
FRIDAY	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
SATURDAY	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
SUNDAY	CLOSED

## Library Closures 2026

New Year's Day	Thursday, January 1, 2026
Family Day	Monday, February 16, 2026 <b>(North Branch only)</b>
Good Friday	Friday, April 3, 2026
Easter Sunday	Sunday, April 5, 2026
Easter Monday	Monday, April 6, 2026
Victoria Day	Monday, May 18, 2026
Canada Day	Wednesday, July 1, 2026
Sir William Hearst Day	Monday, August 3, 2026
Labour Day	Monday, September 7, 2026
Thanksgiving	Monday, October 12, 2026

Remembrance Day Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Staff Development Day Monday, November 16, 2026

Christmas Day Friday, December 25, 2026

Boxing Day Saturday, December 26, 2026

### Early Closures:

Family Day	Monday, February 16, 2026 Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm <b>(Centennial only)</b>
Christmas Eve	Thursday, December 24, 2026 Closed at 12:00 pm
New Year's Eve	Thursday, December 31, 2026 Closed at 4:30 pm

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Sault Ste. Marie Public Library



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