



Sault Ste. Marie
Public Library

www.ssmpl.ca

"One stop...endless possibilities"

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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
Community
Respect

Caring
Hospitality
Stewardship



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

Financial Management
Community
Environment

People
Products

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 land on which we are gathered is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe 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.

Year In Review

Resilience (noun) /rəˈzɪliəns/

1. The quality of being able to return quickly to a previous good condition after problems.
2. The ability to be happy, successful, etc. again after something difficult or bad has happened.

Cambridge Dictionary



Matthew MacDonald, CEO

I continue to be impressed by the resilience of our Library, as an organization, and our community. These have been some of the most difficult years in recent memory, yet despite that here we are, undaunted, moving forward with renewed strength and optimism.

In the first few months of 2022, the Library saw closures, resumption of curbside service, mask mandates, vaccination restrictions, and a total lack of in person programming. Much of the same from previous years. However, things began to change. We reopened our doors, and the doors remained open. Slowly at first, people began to return. Long standing programs were resumed. **New ones were offered. We began celebrating again.** By the year's end the Library resembled its former self, from before the pandemic.

Even with temporary closures and reduced hours, our Library was able to host several musical and theatrical performances in addition to offering more than 700 programs and activities with an attendance greater than 26,000. All while navigating a year of uncertainty and maintaining the valuable services the public has come to expect from their Library.

Libraries are perhaps one of the most resilient organizations in existence. With histories spanning generations, they have transformed over the centuries, keeping pace with evolving societies, new technologies, and occasional crises. This pandemic in fact is not the first our organization has had to endure (the first being the Spanish flu in 1918). Established in 1896, the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library has proven its resiliency many times over its long history. When reviewing this report and reflecting on the year 2022, you will observe an organization that not only has been enduring a pandemic, but one that has been flourishing as it emerges from it. May we continue to grow and thrive in the years to come.

Sincerely,
Matthew MacDonald, BA Hon., MLIS
Chief Executive Officer





A message from the Board Chair

Wayne Greco

Reflection on 2022

“Libraries store 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

Wayne Greco

The Library and its community partners view the library as a Community Hub that is equitable and inclusive and where all are welcome. Information, entertainment and culture are accessible through various media. It is viewed as a vital, reliable service in our community. Municipal Council views the library as a resource to the community that provides a valuable contribution to the Sault's quality of life. It recognizes that the Library is a custodian of our city's history and that it plays an important role in the development of our youth, new immigrants, and citizens from all walks of life. Council recognizes the Library as an essential service and vital to a balanced community life. Other Community Partners recognize the Library for its role in providing a space for programming and information sharing. The Library is recognized for its leadership in community development and its role in culture and heritage programming. The Library is an active community partner that is inclusive, diverse and accommodating. The Board enthusiastically assists City Council in its goals to make Sault Ste. Marie a great community. With the support of Council, the Board has become more professionally diverse, representing multiple skills and work experiences. The Board is proud to be able to serve the community and meet the needs of the citizens of Sault Ste. Marie. This past year presented the Board of Directors with some challenges! The lingering effects of the pandemic carried us through the first half of the year. The Board rose to the challenge and found creative ways to carry on with the business of making the Library a successful community partner. We adapted and learned how to provide service to the community. The staff is to be commended for their efforts to make the best of a very difficult period. Finally, it's very exciting for all of us, to open our doors and bring back the vibrant atmosphere of our Library. The excitement of participation in "in person" programming is building and we look forward to the completion of the Strategic Plan and setting the direction for the future of the Library in Sault Ste. Marie.

We're still "one stop...endless possibilities"

BOARD OF
DIRECTORS
2022

Wayne Greco - Chairperson
Mike Olejnik - Vice Chair
Matthew MacDonald - CEO (Secretary/Treasurer)
Ashlee Gerard
Elizabeth Webkamigad

Elspeth Belair
Frances Ryan
Kevin Harrison
Kendall Barban
Erin Ferlaino
Jami van Haften

Staff Changes



Welcome! Kaitrin Aaltonen

We welcomed Kaitrin Aaltonen to the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library in September 2022 as the new Administrative Clerk. With a Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) from Laurentian University, Kaitrin has experience working in Human Resources and Business Administration. She was born and raised in the United States and moved to Sault Ste. Marie in 2018.



Happy Retirement! Bojana Amadio

Bojana began working at the Library on April 6, 2004 as an Adult Page in the Circulation Department. She continued on in her career as a Part Time Circulation Clerk in 2008 and became a Full Time Clerk in 2013 and in 2019 she transferred to the North Branch.

Bojana has been a joy with her positivity and team morale. We wish her all the best in her retirement!



Farewell! Chris Rumas

Chris Rumas, Manager of Digital Literacy, left the Library on March 18, 2022 to pursue a new career path at the Ontario Lottery Corporation. He joined the Library in September 2013 as a Technical Services Technician, before moving into the position of Manager of Digital Literacy on March 2, 2015. Chris did a wonderful job solving all of our IT problems (for both the staff and the public) and keeping our Technical Services Department and the **Library's digital services running smoothly. For many of our patrons, he was a familiar face at the regular Gadget Corners that are held throughout the year.** We were very sad to lose Chris but we wish him well in this new career direction!

Strategic Planning

The purpose of a Strategic Plan is to set overall plans for the Library and to develop a plan to achieve them. Over the course of 2022 the Board and staff have continued to develop a plan that will guide the Library for years to come.

Steps Taken



Top Trends 2022 @ SSMPL



Juvenile Picture Books

1. Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes - Eric Litwin
2. Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons - Eric Litwin
3. Get Out of Bed! - Robert Munsch

Juvenile Picture Books Non-Fiction

1. Spiderman - Derek Harmening
2. Guardians of the Galaxy - Derek Harmening
3. LEGO City - **Where's the Pizza Boy?**

EZ Reads

1. The Bad Guys in Alien vs. Bad Guys - Aaron Blabey
2. The Bad Guys in the Fur Ball Strikes Back - Aaron Blabey
3. The Bad Guys in Intergalactic Gas - Aaron Blabey

Juvenile Fiction Paperback

1. Wildwood - Colin Meloy
2. Into the Wild - Erin Hunter
3. Genius Ideas (mostly) - Liz Pichon

Juvenile Non-Fiction

1. LEGO Ninjago, Masters of Spinjitzu: The visual dictionary
2. The LEGO Adventure Book
3. Inside the World of Roblox

Young Adult Fiction

1. Fat Chance - Crystal Maldonado
2. One of Us is Lying - Karen M. McManus
3. Ace of Spades - Faridah Abike-Lyimides



Adult Fiction

1. A Gambling Man - David Baldacci
2. Daylight - David Baldacci
3. Walk the Wire - David Baldacci

Adult Non-Fiction

1. Get Sharp: Build a Better Brain at Any Age - Sanjay Gupta
2. Educated: A Memoir - Tara Westover
3. Haunted Lake Superior - Hugh E. Bishop

DVDS

1. City of Lies
2. How to Train Your Dragon 2
3. How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World

Our Year at a Glance

Public Services

Library Card
Holders
23,029



Items
Borrowed
248,720



Total Questions
asked
44,389

1,273
Interlibrary Loan
items borrowed
for our patrons

901
Interlibrary Loan
items loaned to
other libraries



2,714
Vaccine
Records
Laminated

1,302
Craft
Kits
Distributed



Social Media



@SSMPL

3.6K Followers



@ssmpubliclibrary

1,416 Followers



SaultSteMarie
PublicLibrary

104 Subscribers

Our Year at a Glance

Electronic Resources



Overdrive/
Libby
Audiobooks
Borrowed
26,913

Overdrive/
Libby
eBooks
Borrowed
57,067



Overdrive/ Libby
Magazines
Borrowed
8,846



Hoopla
Audiobooks
Borrowed
1,697

Hoopla eBooks
& Comics
Borrowed
1,639

Hoopla Media
646
(including movies,
music and television
programs)

Total Overdrive/Libby and Hoopla Circulation **96,825**



Public
Computer
Bookings
7,234

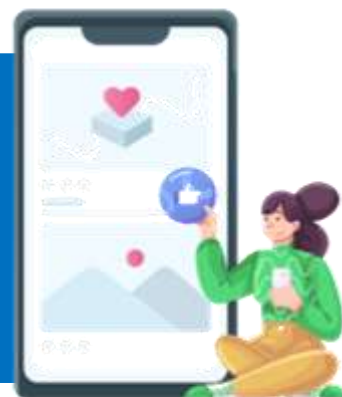
WiFi
Access
41,505

Library Online
Catalogue
Page Views
1,050,783

Databases
Available
14

Library Website
Page Views
243,597

Social
Media
Impressions
140,563



Signature Events



Through Anne's Eyes – September 10

A beautiful re-telling from Anne in her 60s reflecting on her greatest and most difficult moments in life. Performed by Maja Bannerman with accompanying music from Rusty McCarthy, the show brought tears and laughter to the audience as they remembered the dear Anne of Green Gable books from childhood.

47 people attended

Elf @ the Library November 12 & November 19

We had a special visit from Buddy the Elf and Santa Claus at both library locations where families enjoyed stories, songs, crafts, and of course **Buddy's favourite food!**

In Partnership with the West End Theatre Project



70 people attended @ Centennial
115 people attended @ North Branch



Comfort & Joy Concert December 14, 2022

The women's choir, Cantation presented a Christmas concert for the community. This event raised funds for the **Women's Choir group and future Library Programming.**

77 people attended

Spotlight on Programming

As the impact of the pandemic slowly improved during the past year, the Library was able to gradually resume doing in-person programming at both locations. Beginning with the ever-popular Boomers and Beyond event for seniors in June and adding Storytimes in July which families welcomed with great enthusiasm, we slowly added a variety of programming for all ages. Check out some of the wonderful programs that were held in 2022.



Boomers and Beyond



Craft Programs



Sault Symphony
Mini-Concert



Halloween Party @ NB

Total Number
of Programs
(In-House, Passive,
Contests)
534
Participation
22,943

Total Number
of Virtual
Programs
173
Views
1,672

Total Number
of Outreach
Programs
31
Attendance
1,540

Grand Total
of Programs
738
Grand Total
Attendance
26,155



Author Events



Meet and Greet
Municipal Candidates



Author Palooza



Dove Real Beauty

Culture Days

An annual celebration of arts, culture and heritage that takes place all over the province. This year's festivities took place from September 23 to October 16, 2022. Under the Sault Ste. Marie Cultural Corridor, the Library collaborated with many local community organizations to create an exciting program of events.

To kickoff Ontario Culture Days, your Library organized an outdoor Cultural Family Fun Day on September 23 and invited some of our community partners to join us!

Booths, crafts, activities, bugs, traditional Latin dancing, and more!

OVER 300 PARTICIPANTS!



9 DIGITAL EVENTS

- Author Talks
- Gardening Talks
- Oral Histories recounting Residential Schools
- Book Chats



Total views: 713



Celebrating Culture

Indigenous Voices Collection

On September 30th, the Library introduced its' new Indigenous Voices Collection with a custom designed label. The collection highlights material created by Indigenous authors about Indigenous experiences, culture, history, and tradition. The Indigenous Voices collections encompass books and movies for children, young adults, and adults.

The collection can be found by searching “Indigenous Authors” and “Indigenous Films” in the Library catalogue.



Orange Shirt Day - Every Child Matters

Observed on September 30th each year, the wearing of an orange shirt commemorates the residential school experience and honours the healing journey of the survivors and their families. The Orange Shirt is meant to create awareness that “Every Child Matters”.



Voices of Bawating

During the month of June and leading up to the National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st, members of the local Indigenous community were filmed as they shared an aspect of their culture, either through music, traditional crafts or through special Leaders' Messages.

1. Frank Belleau ← 32 views
2. National Indigenous Peoples Day – Leaders' messages ← 105 views
3. Ray Fox ← 114 views
4. Mikayla Webkamigad ← 128 views



The Library partnered with NOLHA (Northern Ontario Latin Hispanic Association) to host Spanish language classes at North Branch.



Archives

Donations In 2022:

Five collections were by the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Archives and are awaiting processing.

- Glenn Gould
- Horticultural Society of Sault Ste. Marie
- Fly Anglers Society
- Algoma Passenger Train
- Roberta Bondar - This consisted of material relating to her space flight experience.



Dr. Roberta Bondar's NASA issued glasses which were used during her space flight in 1992 (donated 2022)

Items Processed

703
Items

Sault Ste. Marie
Area Hospital



W.S. Climie & Company Men's furnishings interior.

521
Items

The Sault Star



"Dorie" - flying boat of Spanish River Pulp and Paper Mills Ltd. Named in honour of Doreen Wilson. Piloted by Captain Simpson

1,246
Items

New Material
Added

Oral Histories

Living History Algoma contributed twelve new oral histories to the Archive Collection in 2022. Eight of the Oral Histories are part of the Shingwauk & Beyond: Survivors and Intergenerational Memory Collection. This collection consists of individuals who **experienced directly or were affected by Canada's Residential School system**. The individuals covered in the Shingwauk & Beyond Collection include Shirley Horn, Arnold Cachagee and Irene Barbeau.

LIVING HISTORY
ALGOMA

Doors Open

The Library participated in the Doors Open event, held October 1st which allows members of the public to tour and view historical sites, museums and archive facilities, particularly areas that are generally closed to the public. The attendees were given a tour of the Archive Viewing Room, the Clean Room and the Archive Storage Room to learn about the procedures required to protect and preserve our community's historical documents and artifacts.

Community Outreach

COMMUNITY DRIVES

The Library held several successful Community Drives this year. Items were collected from the public and then distributed to local community locations such as Women in Crisis, Pauline's Place, Soup Kitchen and St. Vincent Place. We are thankful for our generous community members.



Food for Thought
94 Food Items



Hygiene Drive
800+ Items



Giving Tree
400 Items

MENTAL HEALTH Canadian Mental Health Association of Algoma (CMHA)



CMHA of Algoma regularly visits the James L. McIntyre Centennial Library to bring information about their mental health services and provide referrals. This partnership provided more awareness of mental health services and connecting people directly to the organization.



LIBRARY VISITS/BOOTHS

The Library was out in the community visiting and showing support to our local partners and events.

Some events attended include:

- Sault College International Service Fair
- Algoma University Resource Fair
- Loud & Proud (Bushplane Museum)
- Batchewana Learning Centre
- Illuminate the Season (ARCH)



Collections

CHECK OUT OUR
OBJECT LIBRARY!

The Library is more than just books...



Wonderbooks

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Sault Ste. Marie, in late November, the Library developed a Wonderbook collection that readers can listen to as they follow along with the pages.



External DVD Drive

Check out an External DVD Drive so you can enjoy our extensive DVD collection.

23 checkouts



Permanent Snowshoe Collection

Thanks to the donations from Hiawatha Highlands and the Special Olympics of Sault Ste. Marie, you can now check out a pair of snowshoes every winter season!



YMCA Pass

In September, the YMCA provided a special pass that could be checked out at the Library.

16 checkouts



Ontario Park Passes

In partnership with Ontario Parks, the Library circulated passes for Provincial Conservation Parks that the community could access for free.

53 checkouts



Thermal Cameras

These cameras added on April 7th, allow you to visualize the hot and cold spots that can indicate electrical faults, mechanical break-downs, or air and water leaks.

42 checkouts



Reusable Bags

On April 1st, the Library phased out single-use plastics and implemented the option to borrow reusable bags.

131 checkouts



Bike Locks

To encourage the community to take more environmentally friendly transportation, heavy-duty bike locks were added in May for the public to check out for the day.

16 checkouts

Volunteers



2022 was a very busy and successful year for the Friends of the Library. We currently have over fifty active volunteers doing everything from sorting donated books to filling Little Free Libraries around town.

Last spring the Friends supported a high school co-op student and in the fall we welcomed two Sault College Aviation students in their volunteer placement. Every Saturday you will find student volunteers working towards their community hours.

The Friends help many other agencies with book donations. This year we gave books to Sault Area Hospital, The Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre, retirement and seniors' homes, Christmas Cheer, the Soup Kitchen, Algoma Conservatory of Music, Grocer4Good and many others.



Total Sales
for 2022
\$34,646.13



This important outreach, along with keeping our prices affordable, aligns with our mandate to support literacy and libraries in Sault Ste. Marie.

The Friends are justifiably proud of the work we do. We have a great group of volunteers from every walk of life, all with unique and wonderful talents. Their kindness, compassion and creativity are essential to our success.



The Library had a variety of fantastic volunteers for 2022.

Friends of the Library
Over 50 Volunteers

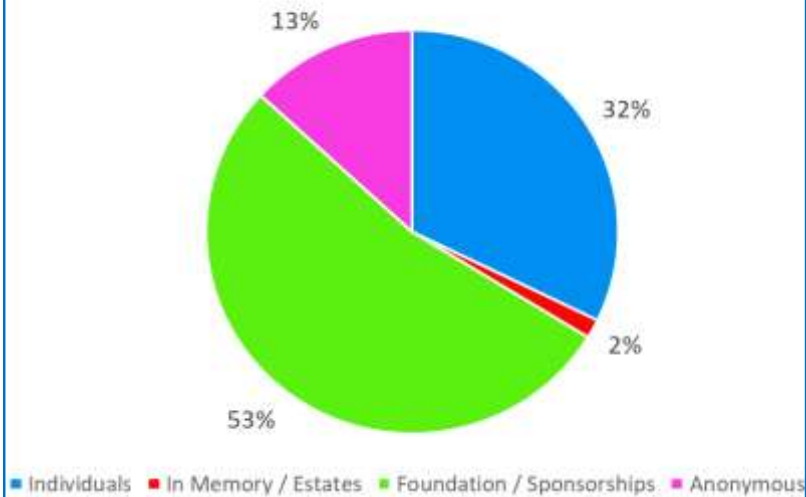
Between-branch Deliveries
3 Couriers contributed 156 Hours

Strategic Planning
Survey Distribution
5 Volunteers contributed 30 hours



Financial Management

2022 Library Donations by Donor Type



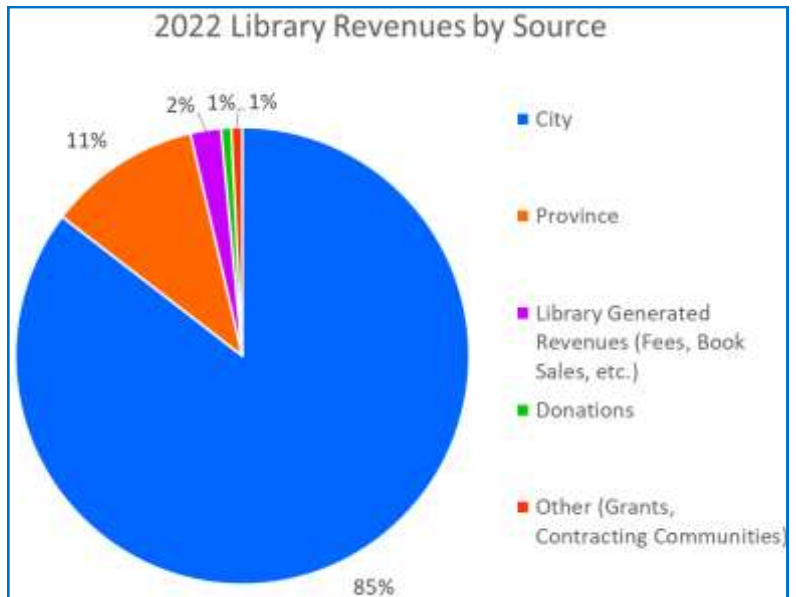
Total Amount of Donations for 2022
\$24,594.30

GRANTS

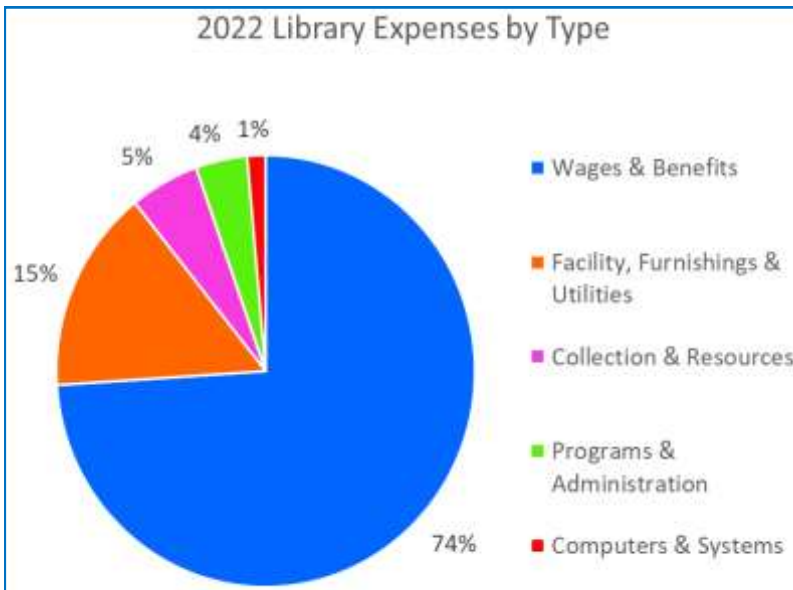
International Dyslexia Association
\$500

Ontario Summer Experience Program
\$3689

2022 Library Revenues by Source



2022 Library Expenses by Type



24 Full Time Staff
26 Part Time Staff (Including Pages)
Total 50

Donors/Sponsors

A special *Thank You!*
to our generous 2022 Donors

PLATINUM
\$50,000

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

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

Howard Bennett
FMI Elliott Foundation
Friends of the Library
Kiwanis Club of Sault Ste. Marie

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

Patrick and Maxine Ducey
Roberta Bondar Astronaut Enterprise
Len Scramstad
Sault Finnish School

COPPER
\$500-\$999

Kiwanis Club of Lakeshore
D. Ann McClure



We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Thank you to our many community Partners and Sponsors!

