Values — Defined

Welcoming — we strive to be an inclusive and safe environment where all patrons are treated equitably, with kindness and empathy.
Dedicated — we are reliable and knowledgeable and ready to provide answers.
Community — we provide a clean, comfortable space for all and strive to be an integral part of the greater Petoskey area.
Discovery — we are a place to explore, have questions answered, find new joys, and continue life-long learning through books and programs.
Resources — we provide materials in a variety of formats for reading, learning, and entertainment.

Petoskey District Library

Director’s Message:

What a year! While we attempted to make 2019 a year of no change, many things happened anyway. First and foremost, our staff was awarded the State Librarians Citation of Excellence, for their dedication to providing outstanding customer service. It was quite an honor to be recognized on the State level for the work we do for our community.

Public Libraries are staff driven organizations and are only as good as the people that work in them. Our staff here in Petoskey took seriously the goal of becoming a “Yes” library. Now that we know how great that is—they are 100% on board for our next round of goals.

We worked hard at creating our new mission statement and utilizing public input to come up with our action plan. The new mission of the Petoskey District Library: nurture knowledge, drive discovery, and connect community—will carry us well into the future. You will be hearing and seeing more of this while we embark on a rebranding project this year (supported through a generous grant from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation) and work towards providing value to our community.

~Valerie Meyerson

Digital Update:

Our overall circulation of materials was up 6%, but our digital collection increased usage 25%. There are several reasons for this increase: more people have devices; our applications are easier to use; our content is improving; people’s comfort level with digital content is increasing. If you haven’t checked out a digital book, audio book or movie—stop in and we’ll show you how!

Ann Ingles, President
John Smith, Vice-President
Jodi Adams, Secretary
Sue Fantini, Treasurer
Ken Winter, Secretary pro tem

Friends of the Library Board

Anne Lewis, President
Lynnet Johnson, Vice-President
Ann Ingles, Secretary pro tem
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Service Additions:

Summer of 2019 was the inaugural year of our Adult Summer Reading Program! 237 people signed up with 108 completing at least one bingo to earn the very popular ceramic PDL mug. Look for a new Adult Reading Bingo Card this summer! (Lynne P., winner of the grand prize drawing)

The Library of Things was formally introduced. We now provide ukuleles, bocce ball, corn hole, a metal detector, fly rods, telescope, exploration kits, and games. 2020 will see this collection continue to grow.

Drew Cherven passed the Adult Services Librarian torch to Mary Beauchamp. Drew spent 22 years with the library prior to his retirement. Lucky for us, Drew will continue to assist at the reference desk on Tuesdays.

Nurturing Knowledge!

library@petoskeylibrary.org
Yes to our Seniors!

Lisa Scholl, Children’s and Outreach Librarian expanded her senior reach this year. Lisa now visits six different senior living facilities and brings books and conversation to many senior residents. Last fall we were able to graduate 20% of the students off of their Individual Reading Improvement Plans—which was a higher percentage than the general school population.

Connecting Community!

The Growing Readers Together program, a three pronged approach to supporting our youngest readers, is flourishing. To date we have tutored 87 K-3 grade students. Last fall we graduated 20% of the students off of their Individual Reading Improvement Plans—which was a higher percentage than the general school population.

Yes to Youth!

We continue our partnership with the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra bringing instruments and classical music to kids and families on the first Saturdays throughout the school year.

Connecting Community!

The community prizes were big hits for summer reading this year. The teens enjoy their gaming table & the younger kids love the color floor tiles.

Driving Discovery!

Our circulation increased 6% over last year, for a total of 175,563 items borrowed!

Pre-audited, year-end fund balances:
- General Fund Balance: $678,000
- Building Reserve Fund Balance: $273,000

Current debt on the library: $2,170,000 and the Building Bonds will be paid off in 2028.

Volunteers provided 1,450 hours of service!

Our book delivery system is more popular than ever. We lent 18,654 items to other libraries and borrowed 21,705!

We saw a 4% increase in our registered library card users to 7,572!

4,820 kids attended 390 programs.

Total Revenues: $1,488,508

Total Expenditures: $1,394,657

102,224 people come in to the library!

5,799 adults attended 271 programs.

What’s Next?

Fine Free—As 2019 drew to a close, we looked forward to welcoming back many patrons who have stopped using the library because of overdue fines. Starting January 1, 2020, overdue fines are no longer being charged on most items. In addition, most patrons’ existing overdue balances were wiped clean to give them a fresh start to the year. We cleaned up 1,709 patron records!

Re-Branding—We will be working this winter and spring on creating a new look for the library and this fall we will be updating our website. The goal of this project is to have more immediate recognition of library programs and events, make our website more user friendly, and to help spread the word to the underserved.

Circulation of juvenile materials increased 8% and now represent 46% of the total library circulation!

Baby Prom was a fun celebration with all our little ones in the “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” program. There are 256 kids participating and to date, 47 kids have read 1,000 books or more!