The library received three grants in 2015, including a local grant to purchase 3D printers; a Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation grant to upgrade technology; and a three-year grant from the Leo S. Guthman Fund to help with repurposing some of the space in the library. There are now two 3D printers housed in the lower level for the public use and all new public computers as well as shared print software for ease of printing from inside and outside the library. There is also a new Local History Room, plans for space reallocation, and many new books in the children’s department.

Connecting with Kids

There were changes in the Youth Department this past year. After 29 years of service, the library staff said goodbye to Ron Fowler, Children’s Services Supervisor. A thorough collection review was completed by children’s collection specialist, Jane Kahan and over 300 new titles were added to the department. The entire collection was shifted, combining the paperback and hardback collections, (so patrons only have to look in one spot to find a book) and moving some of the highly desirable collections to the front of the room. Marty Samson joined the department, bringing her love of science and nature to our programming. And lastly—a drinking fountain was installed.

Connecting with the Community

We are now participating in the community activities in the downtown area. This past year we participated in the Spring Open House, Fourth of July Parade, the Holiday Open House, and New Year’s Eve Celebration with Crooked Tree Arts Center. Keeping the building open for these community events has been a great way to connect with the community.

The library also cemented a relationship with the local robotics program. The High School team assisted with the 3D printer grant and now provide the certification training for our patrons. The robotics team helped with cotton candy at the Open House as well as marched with our Friends in the Fourth of July Parade!

Valerie Meyerson joined the library at the end of January. Valerie hails from the Charlevoix Public Library where she was director for thirteen years. She is looking forward to expanding services, and working with the entire community!
Did you know...

...that if we do not own what you are looking for, the staff can borrow almost any book for you from another library any where in the country?

14,080 items were borrowed from other libraries last year.

...you can now book our meeting and conference rooms directly from our website?

Last year our meeting rooms were utilized for 363 non-library meetings.

...the Youth Department regularly hosts three story hour programs each week?

3,094 children and teens attended 459 different programs hosted by the Youth and Teen Departments last year.

Expenses ...

Did you know...

...you can now check out digital magazines and download free music?

We have 50 magazine titles to borrow and close to 1 million songs to download.

...anyone out side our district of the City of Petoskey, Bear Creek Township, and Resort Township, can purchase a library card to use our services and collections?

6,571 registered library card holders checked out 124,034 items from the library last year.

Revenues ...

Projected year-end fund balances:
- Debt Fund Balance: $185,000
- Operating Fund Balance: $489,750

Bond Debt:
- Owe: $2,965,000
- Final payment date: 10/1/2028

Connecting with Business and History

In partnership with McLean & Eakin and Crooked Tree Arts Center, we hosted an author series in the Ross Stokes Theater and were able to visit with: Ann Patchett, Deborah Harkness, and Paula McLain.

The Business Resource Center was moved to its own location from the non-fiction collection, at the front of the adult collection. Highlighting this collection will assist people looking for jobs, looking to start a business, and write a business plan.

The Local History Room was created after some staff shifts opened up a work room. Through monies granted from the Guthman Fund, Mrs. Meyerson was able to repurpose shelving from the Carnegie’s Michigan Room to place in the new space. This shelving, which was originally built by Bill Van Berlo to house the Ohle collection, seemed almost made for its new space. Once the shelving was moved, some additional Carnegie furniture was moved in to create the new space.

The Local History Room now houses the Ohle Collection, as well as local history and genealogy resources and a newly created local authors section.

Connecting with our Friends

Life-Long Learning is blossoming in Petoskey! In partnership with North Central Michigan College, the Friends of the Petoskey Library are providing a wide variety of mini courses, from world religions, to women in literature, to Mah Jong! Courses will be offered three seasons of the year. Check the library website or events brochure for the most up-to-date selection.

The Friends hosted their Annual fund raising dinner and raised a new high of just over $11,000. This money has been earmarked to go to enhancing the teen area in the lower level.

Lucky Day Books are now available in our new book area thanks to the Friends. Lucky Day Books are the hot new titles that you typically may have had to wait for. Lucky Day Books are additional copies of best sellers that do not go into a hold queue and can only be checked out for a week. These quick turn-around books means when you look at the new book shelf, there is a good chance you will actually see some of the hot new titles and be able to check them out!