The world is only a visit away.

As I sit here thinking about 2017, one day sticks out and reminds me of why Petoskey is so wonderful. The solar eclipse was truly a day for all. The whole country was excited about the eclipse viewing. We invited the community to come hang out on the Labyrinth and view the eclipse through the hundreds of eclipse glasses we procured. We had over 800 glasses to hand out. We quickly realized, when the line wound around the perimeter of the library sidewalks, down to the alley, that 800 glasses would not be enough. When we finally ran out of glasses, we asked people to share with their neighbors so everyone would have a chance to view the solar eclipse when it popped out from beneath the clouds, which they did, happily. Everyone had a fun afternoon viewing and hanging out at the library. The staff was overjoyed at how many people attended and how we had zero incidents. It was incredible to be part of such a great community enjoying Mother Nature, each other, and the library.

~ Valerie Meyerson

The Friends of the Petoskey Library work hard in support of library services. The Friends raise thousands of dollars every year which goes directly into library services. The Friends sponsor the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative, which helps promote reading for pre-school children. Each child pledges to try and read 1,000 books prior to Kindergarten enrollment. The kids receive free books, free bags, and other goodies for each milestone reached.

The Friends sort, clean, shelf, and straighten their used book sale, which raises close to $15,000 each year. Approximately $9,500 of that goes directly to the library in support of children's books and programs.

The Friends helped launch and continue to support the Rhea Murray Awards Collection. These books have won an award within the past two years.

The year began with a major shift in the children's room: changed the shelf direction to add better visibility; added wall shelving to increase shelving availability; extended the picture book collection; added floor space and reading areas for all.

The completion of the space repurposing project does not mean we are done—infrastructure projects are next in line!
We hosted our first Repair Café where volunteer fixers helped our patrons fix broken or damaged household items that needed repair. Everyone had a great time and lots of people went home with their “fixed” items!

2017 Expenses...
... you can now check out digital magazines and stream movies and music?
We have 50 digital magazine titles to borrow and thousands of movies and music from Hoopla and Kanopy—digital circulation is up 18%!
... not only residents of the City of Petoskey and Bear Creek, Little Traverse, Resort, and Springvale Townships are eligible for a resident library card, but students and employees as well?
6,818 registered library card holders checked out 147,838 items from the library last year—an 18% increase over 2016!

Did you know...

2017 Revenues...

2018 will be the infrastructure year. The projects in the wings include:
⇒ Carnegie Library roof will be replaced
⇒ Library roof drains will be enlarged to handle heavy rain and reduce internal water damage
⇒ Library lighting will be converted to LED to save energy and dollars
⇒ RFID Technology will be introduced to help manage inventory and streamline the circulation process
⇒ Full analysis of the library heating and cooling systems

What's Next?

Makerspace launched in January and all sorts of people came in and enjoy creating something of their own—from the 3D printer to the sewing machine and the Ozobots to the button maker—there is something for everyone to explore!

New Services!

Ready Read Kits—back packs filled with books on special topics.
Book Club Kits—bags containing five copies, book discussion questions, brief author biography, and a check out sheet.
Library Cards—available at no charge for students and employees in our area, and for residents of the city and the townships of Bear Creek, Little Traverse, Resort and Springvale.
Kindles—check out from the second floor reference desk. Patrons may request one title to add to the Kindle library.
Wifi Hot spots—available to check out from the second floor reference desk.
Laptops—available for in library use, check one out from the youth, circulation, or reference desks.