

A Community Place

In 2006 the people of Sault Ste. Marie continued to make the library their facility of choice for literacy-based recreation, personal research, education and information.

- ⇒ 28,553 people registered for a library card in 2006
- ⇒ Library patrons came to the library 386,000 times during the year. They
 - * Borrowed 611,843 items from the library, and
 - * Used the library's free Internet computers 28,642 times
- ⇒ Library staff helped 56,787 persons find the information or research material they needed

Teens @ the Library

In 2006 the library unveiled its new Teen Area. Located at the Main Library, the Teen Area features library materials of interest to teens, comfortable chairs, bar stools, games, puzzles, and wireless Internet access.



TAG group enjoying the new Teen Area at the Main Library

A Teen Advisory Group (TAG) group was also formed. The TAG group, which meets monthly, plans activities for teens and advises the library on teen services.



Cosmo Night for teens

I love the new young adult section! It's really bright and friendly. Hope to spend more time here!

2006 Customer comment

Some Happenings!

In 2006 the library continued to reinvent itself to reflect the changing expectations of modern libraries. Libraries today are vibrant civic spaces of discovery and enrichment.



Chris Belsito performs in the library's [Music In The Library](#) series of concerts.

Tibetan monks construct a sacred Sand Mandala in the library Story Room



Promoting a healthy lifestyle: 10,000 steps pedometers now available from the library

Singing Santa visits the library



Algoma Conservatory musicians perform Christmas music in the Children's Area

Library participation in the CNIB Technical Aids Display



2006 Community Days festivities at the Main Library

Our Mission Statement

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library believes in the individual's right to access all expressions of knowledge, creativity, experience and intellectual activity.

To this end, the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library provides and promotes services and resources that meet individual and community needs for information, education, recreation, and personal development.

2006 Library Board

Michel Aubé
Judge Wayne Cohen
Janet McFadden
Christopher Rous
Doreen Simard

Elsbeth Belair
Margaret Christenson
Wm. Latham
Frances Ryan

Wilhelm Eisenbichler, Secretary-Treasurer

How the Library was Funded

Revenue

City of Sault Ste. Marie	\$ 2,306,170
Province of Ontario	368,070
Grants, Fundraising and Fees	188,179
Funds Forward from 2005	45,850
Total Revenue	\$ 2,908,269

Expenditures

Staff costs	\$ 2,044,836
Library Materials	267,366
Facilities, supplies and administration	504,815
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,814,655

Carry Forward to 2007 \$ 91,252



Your library service is nice and help was terrific. I'll always come back here.
2006 Customer comment

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SAULT STE. MARIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

2006

A Place of Discovery



Construction of a Tibetan Sand Mandala in the library Story Room

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Message to the Community

In 2006 the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library continued to adapt to changes in technology and demography. As our community changes, the library also needs to change—not only in the services we offer but also in the way we deliver those services. The residents of Sault Ste. Marie can take comfort in the knowledge that the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board has in place a Strategic Plan and a Marketing Plan designed to ensure that the library continues to meet the personal, informational, educational, and recreational needs of all Sault Ste. Marie residents.

Throughout the year the Board and staff worked diligently to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan and the Marketing Plan. As you read through this report I am sure you will find many examples of how the public library is changing to meet the needs and expectations of the community.

On behalf of the Library Board of Trustees, I would like to thank the Council and Staff of the City of Sault Ste. Marie for their support of library services in our community, all library staff, Friends of the Library and volunteers for their hard work throughout the year, and our many donors and community partners whose assistance helped make 2006 a very successful year indeed.

Christopher Raus

Chairperson
Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board



It's nice to see the library moving forward in the times.

2006 Customer comment

Community Support

We wish to thank our Community Partners who generously assisted the library in 2006.

- * Community First Credit Union, sponsors of the Family Storytime, the Saturday Morning Story and Craft Hour and of the library's annual Volunteers Appreciation Reception
- * Cambrian Mazda and Cambrian Nissan, sponsors of the Toddler Time program
- * Zonta Club of Sault Ste. Marie, sponsors of the Pre-School Storytime program
- * Kiwanis Club of Sault Ste. Marie, sponsors of the Babytime program
- * TD Bank Financial Group, sponsors of the 2006 Summer Reading Club
- * Friends of the Library, sponsors of the CNIB VISUNET service

A special thank you to the hundreds of individuals who generously supported the library with their individual donations, and to our many volunteers who contributed thousands of hours to library services in 2006.

Safekeeping our Cultural Heritage

The library's Community Archive program collects and preserves documentary collections significant to Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma District.

Two significant additions were made to the Archives in 2006. The Archives obtained the Custom Letter Books for Sault Ste. Marie dating from 1843 and 1881 as well as the papers of the Sault Ste. Marie Community Concert Association. In addition, the Archives was able to add new materials to its Roberta Bondar and Sault Opera Society collections.



www.ssmpl.ca The Virtual Library

The library website was given added functionality and a new look in 2006.



During the year 93,701 transactions were logged on the library's web-based library catalogue and 36,618 searches for information were conducted on the library's suite of web-based databases. These databases, which are available 24/7 from the library web site, provide free access to thousands of magazine articles and journals—all from the comfort of your home or workplace.

An e-news service that delivers library news to any valid email account was also started. Anyone may register through the library website at www.ssmpl.ca to receive library e-news for free.

My First Library Card Campaign

In 2006 the library implemented the "My First Library Card" campaign.



This early-literacy campaign, run in partnership with the Algoma District School Board and the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board, aimed at placing a library card in the hands of every Junior and Senior Kindergarten student in Sault Ste. Marie.

The My First Library Card campaign introduced the public library to 1,276 children. 150 of those children, or 12% of the total, then chose to register for their very first library card and to become regular library users.

This campaign will become an annual event.

Promoting Literacy

In 2006 the library offered 805 library programs designed to foster a culture of reading and instill early literacy skills. These programs were attended by 7,299 people.

Early literacy programs provided pre-school children with a head-start in learning and taught parents early-language skills which they could practice at home with their children. Programs such as the Babytime program for newborns to 17 months, the Toddler Time program for children ages 18 to 35 months, and the Pre-School Storytime for children ages 3 to 5 were all very popular.



Children enjoying a session of the Pre-School Storytime.

In 2006 the library introduced two new Family programs: the Family Bookclub, which provides the opportunity for children and parents to read, play and learn together; and the Family Storytime at the Main and Churchill Branches.

Author, Author!

Authors who visited the library in 2006.



Maggie Wood



Anne Lloyd



Matthew Williams (and fan)