



Greater Madawaska Public Library 2019 – The Year in Review

A leader in celebrating literacy, transforming and enlightening lives through knowledge and information

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1. Who we are

The Greater Madawaska Public Library -- currently located in St. Joseph's Catholic School, 12629 Lanark Road, Calabogie -- has evolved from modest beginnings. Founded as the Bagot & Blythfield Public Library in 1978 by four individuals dedicated to literacy, the Library has -- through various amalgamations -- grown into a much-valued community resource contributing to the high quality of life in Calabogie and environs. Through exceptional programming and valued partnerships, the Library provides accessible services using current technology and contemporary facilities to all demographic groups.

The Library catalogue is fully online – accessible through the Township website: <https://greatermadawaska.insignails.com/Library/Home>

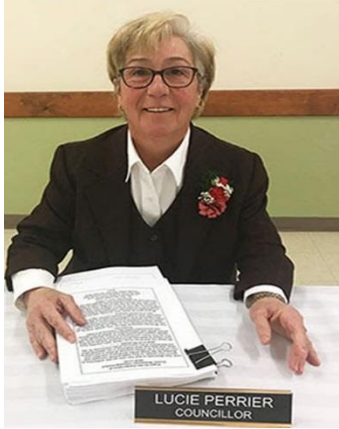
This Annual Report will provide:

- A basic overview of the operational and financial successes of our organization over the operating year 2019
- A clear statement of operational goals and strategic focus organized by service area
- A list of projects the Library initiated – including a brief description of purpose, who participates, how many participate, costs, successes and future plans
- A financial statement and statistics on users
- An account of major contributions and named supporters

In the end, this report will remind readers how the Library adds value, is worth the money invested in it and how to continue to support the Library's activities.

1.1 *It Takes a Village – Working behind the Scenes*

1.1.1 Message from the Chairman of the Greater Madawaska Library Board



Lucie Perrier
Councillor – Ward One

Phone: (613) 282-8247

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Greetings Library friends

2019 has been a successful year at the Greater Madawaska Library. Among our most welcome improvements, new air conditioning system was installed before summer -- which not only created a comfortable environment on the hottest summer days, but extended usage among our patrons. More leaves were added to the commemorative tree as new donors came forth. A big thanks to the Flying Fathers for coming last April; their events were enthusiastically received and very well attended.

The year did not come without challenges. Along with everyone else in Calabogie, the spring floods were a challenge to the Library. But thanks to the efforts of our dedicated staff, damages were minimized.

In 2020, our goal will be to find efficiencies related to the Library's operations. We will be looking for better and more innovative ways of doing business so that we can achieve financial savings. (Since the initial draft of this report, 2020 has presented even greater challenges with a forced closure due to Covid-19. However, we are using the opportunity to reassess our direction to make us even stronger going forward).



Congratulations to the entire staff for their ongoing efforts to make the Library a "go-to" place -- bravo!!! As well, a big "thank you" goes out to our donors and volunteers; their contributions have made the Library an exciting place to be.

1.1.2 Message from The Chief Librarian/CEO



Sharon Shalla

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How time flies! A full year has come and gone since we moved to our current location in St. Joseph's Catholic School in Calabogie in May 2018.

One of the biggest challenges in 2019 was the loss of the Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) courier service for the inter-Library loans. The Library now has to pay for the postage to send out materials, so this has been an additional cost of \$105.50. However, in order to continue to offer the most relevant services to our rural clientele, the Board elected to continue this very valuable service.

In order for the Library to continue to be a hub of the community for both permanent and seasonal residents, the staff strives to keep up with the demand for relevant, current, and appealing Library materials. Feedback and suggestions from the community for suggested purchases and resources are always welcomed. Please provide us with your suggestions and comments either in person at the Library, by sending us an email at gmpl@bellnet.ca, or by giving us a call at 613-752-2317.

1.1.3 The People Who Make It All Possible



The Library has many people and agencies to thank for their ongoing help – especially The **Township of Greater Madawaska**, the **Southern Ontario Library Service**, **TD Toronto Bank & Toronto Public Library**, the **Calabogie Lions Club**, **Calabogie Women's**

Institute, and the many private citizens who have donated time and money through their enthusiastic support.

In 2019 the Library received donations from the following groups:

- **Calabogie Lions Club** donated \$500 to the Library's Tween and Children's services, programs and resources.
- The **Market Mayhem Band** played at the Saturday morning Calabogie Market and collected donations for the Library. A total of \$250.69 was collected.
- The **Bagot Long Lake Cottagers Association** donated \$145 to the Library
- The **Calabogie Women's Institute** donated \$225 towards the Nancy Gorra Baby Book Bag program.
- The **Calabogie Craft Group** donated \$147.

In addition, the Library has a number of community partners who make our Library Programs possible. Among them:

- The distribution of materials in Wards 2 and 3 would not be possible without the GM Transfer Station employee **Gary Guilmete** who delivers these items.
- The Nancy Gorra Baby Book Bag Program owes much of its success to local artist **Denise McLean** who paints the Book Bags, as well as the Calabogie Women's Institute which sponsors the annual event.
- **The Madawaska Highlander** provides free editorial space for articles.
- Finally, none of our efforts would be possible without our loyal volunteers, who serve as trustees, in-house Library workers and on-the-spot resources.

The Library Board and staff are grateful for all contributions.



2. Major Accomplishments -- 2019

The chief purpose of this section is to make our funding body and other stakeholders feel confident about their investments and/or support of the Greater Madawaska Public Library.

2.1 *Closing the loop on 2018*

A number of Policy Development tasks which were started 2018 were completed in 2019. These included:

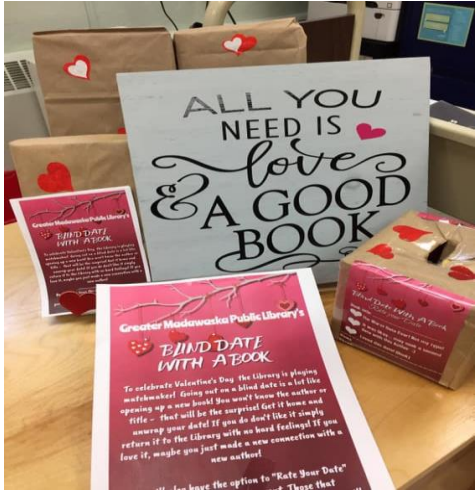
- **Increase the circulation of books and videos in Wards 2 and 3** – We exceeded our circulation statistics for a single month. In July 2019, we circulated 1,038 items as compared to 1,008 in July 2018. Our average monthly circulation is 580 and our busiest months continue to be July to September.
- **Increase volunteer base** – our existing volunteer base has remained constant and we attracted three new people to join the volunteer pool in the last year.
- **Increase recent best sellers in the fiction collection** – new additions and recent arrivals are featured on separate shelving in the Library to draw attention to them. Best sellers are pre-ordered so that they are available as soon as possible to our patrons.
- **Maintain the Township Archives and provide access to through the Library** –we have a local history section and materials have been added as they are acquired. Improvements are ongoing.
- **Develop a collaborative relationship with the CAO** -- In 2018, the Township and Greater Madawaska Public Library worked out an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which Council approved at their June 4, 2018 meeting. To meet these objectives, the Library continues to support the Township Strategic Plan with a view to making updates in 2020. We continue to support high speed internet initiatives
- **Sell Council on the Library brand** – More attention is being paid to producing up-to-date data on Library use and programs to better position us to respond to grant applications
- **Provide more reasons to come to the Library**
 - Mini courses (computers, photography etc.) hoping to add basic computer instruction course this summer – will be contacting high

school to see if any student would like to get their community hours over the summer

- Special interest clubs (Chess, Mystery, Science Fiction)
- Exhibitions (Art, History) we feature local artists artwork in the foyer
- Kids Programs are ongoing including story time, summer reading club, sing-a-longs at Christmas
- Author visits – Local authors **Mary Cook**, and **Anne Kathleen McLaughlin** were guests at Library events



2.2 New Initiatives in 2019

Activity	Accomplishment
Provincial Park Passes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 museum and park passes are available for loan free-of-charge to our patrons who wish to visit Ottawa and area museums. • 137 patrons borrowed these passes from January to December. • We currently have the maximum number of loan passes -- so despite the success and support of the program, there are no plans to expand.
Valentine Challenge – Blind Date with a Book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019, our Library Assistant Krystal Moran, initiated and coordinated a fun Valentine-themed reading challenge called “<i>Blind Date with a Book.</i>” • A selection of books was wrapped up so that the title and author were not disclosed. • Patrons were invited to come into the Library and select a wrapped book, take it home, read it and then return it with their review of the book ... whether they liked it or didn't (making each book a “good date” or a “bad date”.) • 11 Patrons participated.

Activity	Accomplishment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program will be repeated when the Library re-opens.
<p>Ontario Public Library Week</p> 	<p>Ontario Public Library Week was marked with the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draws for free books: 15 patrons entered the draw, 4 books awarded, \$15 cost to Library (book prizes included almost new books donated to the Library by patrons – only one that was purchased by the Library). A guessing contest: Guess the number of candies in the jar. 15 patrons participating; 2 prizes awarded. Cost to Library \$16. Treats for our patrons: consisted of baked goods. Cost to Library = \$12.

2.3 Special Events and Services

Libraries are important cornerstones of healthy communities. Libraries give people opportunities to find jobs, explore research, experience new ideas, get lost in wonderful stories, while at the same time providing a sense of place for gathering. Our Library is a unique and valuable resource in the community – not only partnering with other agencies and groups, but also in initiating activities and events to help support our residents of all ages.

Program	Details
<p>A Fundraiser with the Flying Fathers</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This event was held on April 7, 2019 to raise the Library's profile in the community through a fun, nostalgic event and raise some funds as well. • There were 40 participants. • \$407.00 was raised for the Library.
	<p>(The photo – left -- shows Father Neville, Library Board Trustee - Mary-Joan Skippy Hughes Hale, and Librarian Sharon Shalla. In the Back Row, author Frank Cosentino, Library Board Trustee Doug Jordan, and Father Blake with Father Blake's sweater and an autographed stick. Thank you to David Fridgen for the sweater and stick.</p>
<p>Partnership with the Calabogie Food Bank</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Library continues to be a valuable and easily accessible collection point for the Calabogie Food Bank. • In 2019, over 20 bags and boxes of food were collected from January to December.

Program	Details
<p>Partnering with the County of Renfrew To Expand Our Programming Abilities</p>   	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnering with the County of Renfrew has optimized our abilities to provide additional programming and services expertise outside our normal operating budget. • The Renfrew County and District Health Unit nurse visits the Library weekly to discuss child development and answer any questions or concerns parents may have. • Calabogie Smiles-Mobile Dental Hygiene Services provided similar guidance to parents during Storytime. • No registration is required and there is no fee for participants of these services/programs. • These informational resources were well received by parents and represented no additional costs to the Library. • Average number of participants per session ranges from 4 to 12 children and with the equivalent number of adults. • Attendance does increase for specific special events especially when the local school children are invited to attend.


Program	Details
<p>The Mitten Tree</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mitten Tree was featured in our Library again this past Christmas season. • A festive tree was hung with paper mittens on which were written the age and gender of (anonymous) children in the community whose family used the services of the Calabogie Food Bank. • The public was invited to come in and choose a mitten from the Christmas Tree, purchase a gift for an identified child and return it to the Library. • As a result of this initiative, 12 children from the community received gifts
<p>Partnership with St Joseph's Catholic School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our partnership with St. Joseph's Catholic School continues to flourish and grow. • In the winter and spring of last year, the Library was part of a province-wide reading program sponsored by the Ontario Library Association. • This reading program called "The Forest of Reading" was coordinated with the school from January to April. • The result was to increase traffic in the Library during the duration of the program – 21 participants were registered. • This successful program will once again be running.


2.4 Looking to the Future

As a result of cuts in the 2019 Ontario budget, funding for the **Southern Ontario Library Service** (SOLS) was reduced by 50% -- a significant financial impact that The Library has felt already in terms of costs we have had to absorb.

We have elected to continue to pay for this valuable program at an additional cost to the Library of \$105.50 annually.


The Government has committed to provide a replacement program – we will keep you posted.


Program	Details
Update Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The current Strategic Plan was created in 2009 and can be accessed in PDF format at the Library.• The goal for 2020 is to update this long-term planning document in conjunction with the Township's efforts to renew their own strategic objectives. This will ensure the Library is fully coordinated with the Township's goals• Initiation of the development of the revised plan is planned for the first quarter 2020.
New Community-Oriented Programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are plans to organize community-oriented programs and activities that engage the talents of local residents<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Initial proposals include a Knitting group○ Dates are still to be finalized• These programs are dependent on volunteers coming forward to assist with running the program and the need to share the program room.

Program	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Library is exploring the opportunity to engage one or two high school students over the summer to offer basic computer instruction at the Library (i.e. setting up an email address, searching the internet.) This would not require additional space as the public computers are already available.
<p>EARLY On Indigenous Storytime program</p> 	<p>Starting in January 2020 an indigenous Storytime program will be run in partnership with BIAK – Bonnechere Inòdewiziwin Abinòdjìnjish Kikinàmàgan through their EarlyOn Mobile Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EarlyON provides Indigenous programming including Indigenous Teachings, Algonquin Language, and themed activities The benefit of this program will be to introduce the Library and its services to a currently under-served population segment. We will keep track of participants' names to keep them informed of scheduling and encourage users to come back to the Library for other services

3. Children's Programming

Library services play a special role in supporting children as they learn to read and by providing them access to all media (print/electronic/social). Such services empower children and encourage them to become confident people. According to the National Library Association, children's programs help develop strong reading skills at an early age. By encouraging children to enjoy reading and giving them opportunities to spend time with books, child-specific programs provide a first step toward developing strong life-long reading skills. Children also benefit from the rich literacy experiences afforded by the many special events and organized programs the Library offers. Finally, parents of children who are engaged in preschool and various reading programs help in their children's reading achievement.

Program	Details
Preschool Storytime Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This program is made available to children 0-6 years of age every Thursday from 10:30am -11:30am.• The children enjoy play time, and story time, as well as themed arts and crafts activities.• Parents and caregivers also enjoy the opportunity to network with others during their visit.• Average number of weekly participants: 4-10 children and 4 – 12 adults.
Nancy Gorra Baby Book Bag Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This unique program was initiated by Patricia Ripmeester -- a former Library Board member – who suggested new babies in the community be welcomed with their first Library card.• Librarian Mary-Joan Hale launched the program as a way to honour the late Nancy Gorra – mother, grandmother and charter member of

Program	Details
	<p>the Library in recognition of her generosity to the Library's children's programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019, eight babies received a lovely hand-painted Nancy Gorra Baby Book Bag. • This program is funded by the Calabogie Women's Institute – at no cost to the Library
	
<p>Lego program</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lego program is offered Tuesday evenings and Saturdays. Families are invited to come in and have fun building with Lego. • Building with Lego helps to improve valuable skills such as hand-eye coordination, attention to detail, dexterity and teamwork. • This program is partially funded by the Calabogie Lions Club.

Program	Details
Levelled Readers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Library features a number of levelled readers help children to progress according to their reading skills starting with Level 1 and continuing to Level 5 as they build their skills and confidence.


4. Adult Programming


Library is committed to ensuring high quality and excellent services to our clients while responding to their expressed needs. Part of our commitment is to enhance our overall services through partnerships and consultation with the community.

In 2005, we initiated an Outreach Program to Wards 2 and 3. Residents may call the Library to arrange pickup and delivery to take advantage of this free service.

Library materials include a good collection of fiction and nonfiction books, magazines, DVDs, audiobooks, CDs, large print books, and reference materials. We have three public access computers for high-speed internet use. We also provide free wireless access within the Library. As the Province of Ontario is currently requiring all high school students to undertake a number of on-line courses to graduate, offering an environment for students to take courses and exams with access to the internet will become increasingly important.

The Library subscribes to the Large Print Pool which makes a variety of large print books available on a rotating basis to assist patrons who experience challenges with regular print books.

Program	Details
<p data-bbox="203 1234 381 1270">Book Club</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="787 1234 1421 1407">• Adult Book Club meetings were held once a month the last Wednesday of the month over the year with an overall participation of 42 people.<li data-bbox="787 1417 1421 1501">• Books are recommended by group members.<li data-bbox="787 1512 1421 1596">• In 2019, 10 books were on the reading list.<li data-bbox="787 1606 1421 1764">• Participants can join by calling emailing or dropping into the Library. The Book Club is ongoing and will continue in 2020.

Program	Details
Electronic Books	<p>A wide variety of electronic resources are available to Library patrons:</p> <p>E-books - 62,226</p> <p>Audiobooks - 15,651</p> <p>Videos - 154</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This availability represents a 17.7 % increase of electronic resources in 2019 over the previous year. • To access, patrons can book an appointment with Library staff who will provide one-on-one assistance with downloading electronic books from our OverDrive software.
Business Services to The Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services such as laminating, faxing, photocopying, and scanning are available to patrons upon request. Charges range from .25 to \$1.50 per item. • 14 residents were assisted in 2019 with printing out their hunting licenses and tags – at no fee to users. • This program introduces the Library and its services to an under-served population segment.

5. By the numbers

As well as providing information on the Library's mission and summarizing the organization's achievements over the past year, the Library Board reports back annually to the community on our fiscal performance through this Report and periodically with our strategic initiatives.

5.1 Circulation

Circulation for 2019 (up to December 31, 2019)	
Books, Magazines & DVDs	7,902
Electronic Books/Audiobooks	2,041
In-Library Use	735
	10,678

QUICK FACTS

- 10,678 uses of the collection including checked out items, in-Library and downloaded electronic books/audiobooks
- 3,507 visits
- 3 public access desktop computers with internet access and a laptop for in-Library use
- 259 reference questions answered
- 647 active cardholders
- 48 new cardholders (registered)

Appendix A – Our Operational Guidelines

Mission Statement
The Greater Madawaska Public Library offers the community equitable access to information and ideas that stimulate imagination and inquiry through a variety of resources.
Our Vision
The Greater Madawaska Public Library is a leader in celebrating literacy, transforming and enlightening lives through knowledge and information. The Library provides accessible services through current technology and contemporary facilities. The Library is a recognized contributor to the high quality of life in the wider community through exceptional services and valued partnerships.
Statement of Values
<i>Creativity, imagination and curiosity</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encouraging the joy of reading and life-long learning
<i>Equity</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring accessibility and fairness, to recognize diversity in serving all individuals
<i>Intellectual Freedom</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitating access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity
<i>Customer service</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring high quality and excellence in responding to the needs of our customers
<i>Community Connectedness</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhancing Library services through partnerships and consultation with the community
<i>Teamwork</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fostering a work culture that advocates cooperation, communication, respect and training

Appendix B – How to contact us

Website: <http://www.gretermadawaska.com/Library/>

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/GreaterMadawaskaPublicLibrary/>

Email: gmpl@bellnet.ca

Telephone Number: 613-752-2317

Hours of operation: Tuesday: 1 – 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday: 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.