

2023-2026
Peterborough Public Library
BOARD LEGACY



Legacy Introduction

This legacy document highlights the activities, achievements, and key decisions of the Peterborough Public Library Board during its 2023–2026 term.

It provides a record of our accomplishments, the challenges we have navigated, and the strategic priorities that have guided our work.

In addition to reflecting on this period, the document captures our vision for the future of the Library and the Board, outlining opportunities for continued growth, innovation, and community impact.

It is intended to serve as a practical and informative resource for future Board members, supporting informed decision-making, fostering continuity, and helping to build on the strong foundation established during this term.



Red Dress created by artist Ash Street in partnership with Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre, created in the Downie Wenjack Legacy Space in the Library.

We Strive to Be

The Library strives to be a welcoming community hub, fostering lifelong engagement and learning through inclusive spaces, accessible resources, and responsive programs.

The Library is committed to meeting the diverse needs of the community while focusing on collaboration and partnership to enhance service delivery and advance shared priorities.

Through these efforts, the Library reinforces its role as a vital community service providing access to information, strengthening community connections, and supporting inclusion.



Library Board Chair | Jayne White

It has been an honour and a privilege to be the Chair of this Library Board for 2023-2026.

As Board members, you have brought a diverse set of skills to the table. You have provided advice, wisdom and created a space where we could share knowledge and challenge each other. For this I am so very grateful. We also had fun!



Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities.

-R. David Lankes



For the new Board members: We trust this legacy document inspires you to continue the work that will enhance opportunities for innovation and community involvement while maintaining and improving the structures for a successful Board. **My challenge to you, the new Board is, what will your legacy be?**



Library Board Chair, Jayne White.

Library Board Trustees 2023-2026

Jayne White, Board Chair
Laurianne Gruzaz, Vice Chair
Matt Crowley, Council Representative
Gerry McBride, Friends of the Library Representative
Gillian Sandeman, citizen appointee
Jim Russell, citizen appointee
Linda Kehoe, citizen appointee (April 2025)
Hannah Buck, citizen appointee (November 2025)
Cecile Popp, citizen appointee (November 2025)
Elaine Anselmi (Resigned July 2025)
Janette Loveys Smith, Vice Chair (Resigned September 2025)
Councillor Baldwin (Committee Portfolio changes, October 2024)

Accomplishments

Library Enhancements

- Opened new branch in the Miskin Law Community Complex, February 2025.
- Extended free memberships to Indigenous people living in Ontario
- Purchased a Green Fleet vehicle for Library operations.
- Introduced digital signage throughout the branches to enhance the communication of events and services at the Library.

Library Director/CEO

- Re-classified CEO job description.
- Liaised with the interim Library CEO to assist with steadying Library operations and participation in joint staff meetings, including providing input via surveys.
- Appointed new Library Director and CEO in November 2025 with participation in recruitment process.

Reciprocal Borrowing Agreement

- Endorsed reciprocal borrowing agreement with Cavan Monaghan, Douro-Dummer, Kawartha Lakes, North Kawartha, Otonabee-South Monaghan, Selwyn, and Trent Lakes public libraries (approved initially May 2023)

Library Board Governance

- Developed Peterborough Public Library Board's First Legacy Document.
- Held Board training and education session.
- Updated Bylaws and Governance Policies.



Library Green Fleet vehicle.

Board Values

The Board governs the Library with a strong commitment to accountability and integrity. The Board conducts its business with transparency, honesty, and respect while encouraging diversity of thought and maintaining a cohesive approach.

These core values guide the Board’s decisions.



Access and Inclusivity: Ensures services, collections, and spaces are open, welcoming, and accessible to all community members.



Commitment to Reconciliation: Commits to reconciliation by learning from Indigenous communities, honouring their histories and cultures, and advancing inclusive and equitable practices within the Library.



Diversity and equity: Values and promotes diversity and equity by respecting and celebrating diverse backgrounds and experiences throughout Library services and spaces.

Intellectual Freedom: Protects the rights of individuals to access a full range of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinions, and to express their thoughts without censorship while safeguarding privacy.

Literacy, discovery, and learning: Promotes literacy and lifelong learning by supporting access to resources and services that inspire curiosity and discovery.

Challenges Encountered

Limited Board engagement in the development of the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.

Council mandated reductions in the 2025 operating budget.

Turnover of Library Senior Management team.

Managing through challenging times.



Improve clarity about governance decisions and role of the Board.

The Library faced active media coverage and community feedback following proposed reductions in the operating budget.

Trustee turnover: resignations, and potential resignations, of Board members in 2025.

Ongoing Projects



MLCC Branch.

- Naming of the branch at the Miskin Law Community Complex (MLCC)
- Increasing visibility of the MLCC branch
- Design, implement, and review Board self-evaluation
- Finalizing terms of the Service Agreement between the Library Board and the City
- Commence Strategic Planning in 2027
- Develop Board orientation

Future Opportunities



Main Library.

- Increase Council awareness of Library services, such as fall/spring updates
- Improve social cohesion of the Board
- Provide ongoing Board training
- Create a CEO evaluation process complementary to that of the City.
- Prepare for growth
- Explore opportunities for Board engagement (e.g. events)
- Develop Board Position Statements
- Enhance Board training opportunities with continuing or outgoing Board Chair or Vice-Chair providing orientation.



Board Member Quotes



Gerry McBride

Take some time to read the agenda reports. And don't hesitate to ask questions. Chances are someone else may be wondering the same thing, and questions often lead to productive conversations.



Gillian Sandeman

Explore and use the Ontario Library Service's on-line Governance Hub. It's an invaluable resource supporting the 4 years of the Board's life-cycle.



Laurianne Gruzaz

Board members are the vital link between the library and its community. You bring strengths, skills, talents and personal experience to serve as library advocates and leaders in developing responsible and creative library services to all members of our community.



Linda Kehoe

Participate by asking questions and sharing your thoughts at Board and Committee meetings, taking sessions offered by the Ontario Library Association and sitting in on activities hosted by the Library.



Jayne White

Welcome new Board members. The success of the Library Board is dependent on the investment of your time and talents to support Library services in Peterborough. Thank you.



Jim Russell

Show up. Be prepared. Ask questions. Bring all your heart and mind. Know what you are doing as a Board member matters.



Back row, left to right: Cecile Popp, Jim Russel, Vice-Chair Laurianne Gruzaz Linda Kehoe, Councillor Matt Crowley
Front row, left to right: Chair Jayne White, Gillian Sandeman, Gerry McBride Absent: Hannah Buck

Contact the Library:

Main Library:

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MLCC Branch:

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Phone:

Main: 705-745-5382

MLCC: 705-304-0379

Email:

LibraryInfo@peterborough.ca

Social:

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional and treaty territories of the Williams Treaties First Nations, including the Anishinaabeg peoples of Hiawatha, Curve Lake, Alderville, Beausoleil, Georgina Island, Rama, and the Mississaugas of Scugog Island.

For generations, the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg have cared for these lands and waters, guided by knowledge, ceremony, and responsibility. We recognize the ongoing impacts of these treaties, the injustices that occurred, and the enduring strength and resurgence of Indigenous communities.

As we live and work here, we commit to reflection, respect, and meaningful action in the spirit of reconciliation.

