

Annual Report 2017





Message from the Board President

What a remarkable and eventful year it has been.

Among other things, Ryan left with bride and baby to take on a new director's job at the library in Allegan, Michigan-a good career move for him. In short order we were able to find Bradley Chaplin, former director of the library in Kalkaska to succeed him.

Bradley and his family reside on Cedar Lake in Elmwood Township and his experience in library technology, programs, and operations is already apparent and most welcome.

With voter approval of the millage question last November, the library, for the first time in its history is financially secure. Needed improvements have been made to the collection and patrons appreciate our being open on Mondays. More open hours are on the way.

Lessons practiced during the lean years-frugality, patience, and persistence-will not be lost as we plan for even better days ahead with a dependable staff and a rock steady volunteer corps.

It is with sincere gratitude and no small measure of pride that I applaud all who had part in the things we have been able to accomplish together, most notably, helping the millage pass and bringing Bradley to Suttons Bay. Both nice wins.





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DISCOVER. CONNECT. INSPIRE.



Message from the Director

Bradley Chaplin

It has been such a pleasure for me to come to this wonderful community to be the director of such a lovely library. When Ryan told me he was leaving here as director, the gears in my head began to spin...dreaming of the possibility of working so much closer to my Leelanau County home. It was my lucky fortune that the position was offered to me.

Once I began I was very impressed at the warmth and effort that the Board, staff, Friends of the Library, and the entire community made to make me feel welcome. I was also very impressed that the community thought so much of their library that they had just approved an operating millage that will sustain the key services that the library provides for year to come.

We have already fulfilled most of our promises made during the millage campaign; we are now open on Mondays and are looking into eventually adding longer evening hours. We are vastly improving our technology by purchasing new public computers (along with a grant), creating a new website, updating the cataloging system and other cool and nerdy library stuff. Look for a smartphone app to appear very shortly!

We hope to keep making small improvements over time to make your library experience the best it can be. My door is always open to you for ideas and suggestions...or to just say "Hello"!



BY THE NUMBERS

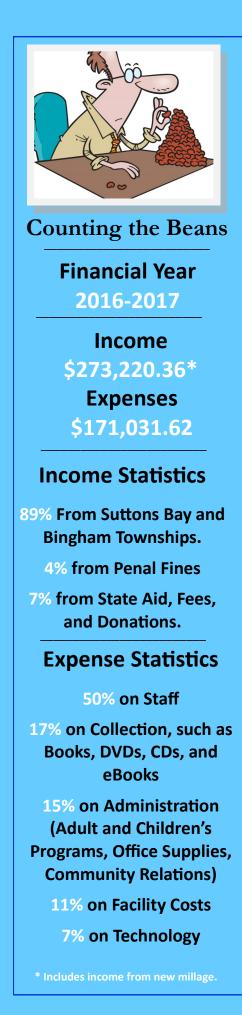
32,115 Visitors came through the door, that's 617 per week!

25,244 Items were checked out, including 2,484 eBooks

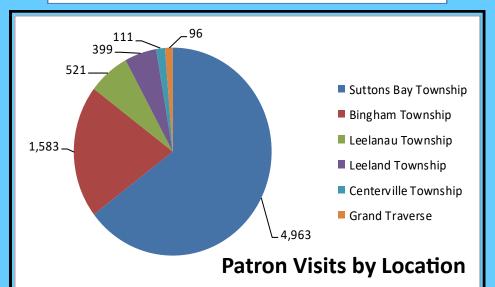
2,254 Items were added

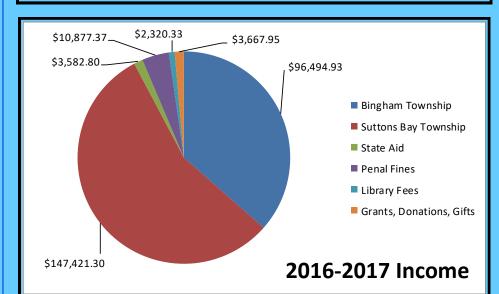
793 Items were checked out by way of Inter Library Loan

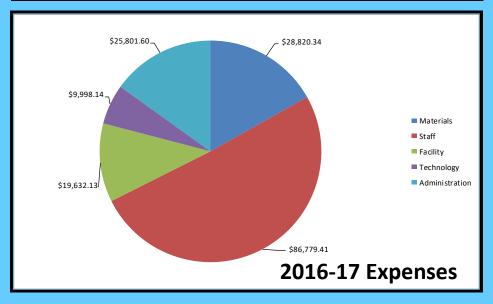
Summer Reading kids read 578 books. 484 kids attended 7 programs



"A library in the middle of a community is a cross between an emergency exit, a life-raft and a festival. They are cathedrals of the mind; hospitals of the soul; theme parks of the imagination."







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