



Meaford Public Library Board Legacy Report Term 2023-2026



Introduction

This legacy document provides a record of the Meaford Public Library (MPL) Board's accomplishments, challenges faced, future opportunities and the strategic priorities that have guided the Board's work for the 2023-2026 term.

The Library's Vision:

Vision

Your welcoming and inspirational destination for knowledge and learning

The Library's Mission:

Mission

Bringing service excellence to meet the needs of a dynamic community through universal access to innovative and vibrant spaces and experiences.

Message from the Chair

It has been an honour to serve as the Chair of the Meaford Public Library Board for the 2023 – 2026 term. The MPL Board, over the last four years, has diligently worked to build strategic partnerships with municipal partners, community stakeholders, Library staff and volunteers to promote library services and programs that serve our diverse community. Fellow board members, your engagement, knowledge, skills and diverse work/life experiences have contributed to this Board's strong leadership in advocating for the Library in our broader community. It has been a privilege to serve with you on the MPL Board.



Kimberly Grafton
Chair, Meaford Public Library Board

Meaford Public Library Board Trustees 2023-2026

Kim Grafton - Chair

Lloyd Mohr - Vice Chair

Frank Emptage - Trustee

Elgin Pecjak - Trustee

Marnie Wraith - Trustee

Councillor Brandon Forder - Council Representative

Councillor Harley Greenfield - Council Representative

Lynne Fascinato - Library CEO, Board Secretary/Treasurer

Christine Richardson - Friends of Meaford Library Representative



Key Accomplishments

Library CEO

- January 2024 updated Library CEO job description
- June 2024 appointed Lynne Fascinato, Acting CEO, to the position of full-time permanent Library CEO

Library Board Governance

- Updated 22 policies throughout the term
- Appointed Trustee Emptage as MPL Representative on the Owen Sound and North Grey Union Public Library (OSNGUPL) Board for the term
- Approved 2024 MPL and OSNGUPL Library Services Agreement for a 3-year term in November 2023
- Approved Meaford Public Library Outreach Plan in April 2024
- Approved 2024 Annual Report with a presentation to Council in July 2025 by Board Chair and Library CEO
- Approved the MPL Emergency Evacuation Plan and Procedures in June 2025
- Approved a revised MPL Organizational Chart in September 2025
- MPL and OSNGUPL Library Services Contract Sub Committee was formed in January 2026
- Sub Committee on Library Services Contract presents its Final Report to Board in May 2026
- Approved 2025 Annual Report with a presentation to Council in July 2026 by Board Chair and Library CEO
- Updated Board By-laws June 2026
- Approved Technology Plan in Fall 2026
- Approved DRAFT MPL and OSNGUPL Library Services Agreement in June 2026 for a 2-year term of service from January 1, 2027 - December 31, 2028



Public Relations

- Library CEO and Board Council Representative Harley Greenfield partnered with Municipal Legislative Services for National AccessAbility Week video highlighting past, present, and future of accessibility in Meaford, including the Library facility in May 2024
- Board representation at library fundraising signature author events featuring Marc Garneau in 2024, Alan Doyle in 2025 and upcoming event in November 2026 featuring Carol Off and Christopher Thomas



Board Members at our 100th Anniversary Celebration



*Vice Chair Lloyd Mohr
with a Library Lawn Sign*

- Board was featured in the January 2025 edition of Connecting the Sound Magazine in an article highlighting the importance of MPL to our community
- February 8, 2026 MPL turned 100 years. Board members, MPP Paul Vickers, Mayor Kentner, Deputy Mayor Keaveney, and Council members participated in a celebration on February 7, 2026
- Board members throughout their term attended events in support of the library such as Mayor's Levees, community events, and select programming
- Board has maintained the important partnership with Friends of Meaford Library (FOML) and has attended their AGMs, celebration events for FOML during Ontario Public Library Week, volunteer appreciation events and ensures a library staff presence at FOML monthly meetings

Educational Opportunities

- Board Trustee E. Pecjak was appointed as MPL Board representative on the Ontario Library Service (OLS) Board Assemblies
- Chair K. Grafton is a ministerial appointed Director member of the OLS Board Assemblies until July 2027
- Select members attend the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference annually
- Members attend a variety of online educational opportunities focusing on governance, seniors, safety in the library, and other library-related issues
- Board member E. Pecjak along with Library CEO and Library Specialist, Ashley Trusler, presented a talk entitled: "PRIDE vs. Prejudice: Building Bridges, Creating Safe Spaces, and Connecting Rural Libraries and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Communities" at the January 2025 OLA Super Conference
- Library staff and Board members attended an all-day workshop at the library on Intellectual Freedom featuring James Turk, Director, Centre for Free Expression, Toronto Metropolitan University in June 2025



*Trustee Pecjak, CEO Lynne Fascinato
and Library Specialist, Circulation & Interlibrary Loans, Ashley Trusler
at OLA Super Conference 2025*

Key Challenges

- Departure of Library CEO from the position in August 2023, with the appointment of Lynne Fascinato, Manager, Library Services to Acting CEO of MPL
- Responding to some negative community feedback with the October 15, 2023 Fay and Fluffy Drag Story Time and Musical Bingo. Event had great support from Board Members, Council and Municipal Directors
- Challenge to library interlibrary loan system with Canada Post strike in 2024
- Bill C-15 and Canada Post consideration to cancel the discounted library book postage rate. Board sent letter and encouraged a letter writing campaign by library patrons to challenge the Bill
- MPL and OSNGUPL Library Services Agreement annual budget amount for the 2026 MPL budget from the OSNGUPL. Board held special meetings in November and December 2025 to discuss the proposed increases. Board remained steadfast to remain at a 4% increase for the 2026 Library Services Contract budget line
- Strong Mayor Powers and the possible affect on the 2026 budget and future budgets
- Book challenges and censorship which led to an improved MPL Item and Program Challenge form
- Negative feedback from Queer Fest 2026 event



*Fay and Fluffy Drag Story Time
with Library Staff*

Future Opportunities

- Provide ongoing Board training and ensure Library staff have adequate resources for training and development
- Prepare for growth within the Municipality placing increased demand on space, services, collections, programs and library hours of service. Ensure demographics are serviced effectively
- Increase Council awareness of Library services, such as at Annual Report presentation time and budget days
- Review the existing Strategic Plan and update if required. Process to include public survey and public engagement sessions if needed
- Explore a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Municipality
- MPL and OSNGUPL Library Services Agreement expires January 1, 2029. In 2027 initiate a community consultation process on the Agreement via a community feedback survey, as a guide during the 2028 Agreement negotiations
- Explore opportunities for Board community engagement
- Explore more Library outreach engagement opportunities within the Municipality of Meaford
- Ensure Library users receive exemplary library service
- Ensure policies reflect current trends such as AI
- Sustain existing and pursue future community partnerships

Council and Board Leadership

- Council to ensure the new Board is comprised of diverse members that are a representation of the area
- Applicants should have a passion for the Library and its community and have an interest in governance



*Board Members with
Sparky, Meaford Fire Department Safety Mascot*

Wishes for New Board's Success

- Collaboration and co-operation with Council
- Lead and inspire Library staff and patrons; including researching grants and sponsorships
- Lead and inspire Library patrons
- Be open to feedback from Library staff and the community regarding services and programming

Board Member Quotes

“..... Kim Grafton - Chair

Congratulations to all the members of the new board. You will be surprised how fast the four years will pass. Make use of all the OLS resources available to you. Continue to build on the strong organizational culture within the library and with municipal partners. Your library is the cornerstone of the “social infrastructure” in our community. Your service on the board is impactful and important.”

“..... Lloyd Mohr - Vice Chair

As a board member remember to keep your mind open to new thoughts, new directions, new concepts and old experiences. Your role is important in ensuring the library and its staff follow the strategic direction set by you and your predecessors. Most of all sit back and enjoy being part of a truly amazing community function.”

“..... Councillor Brandon Forder - Meaford Council Representative

As new board members, the keys to success are asking questions, keeping an open mind, and working together as a team. Don't be afraid to bring forward new ideas or challenge the way things have always been done. A strong library should continue to grow and change along with the community it serves. Enjoy this experience and take pride in helping shape the future of such an important community service.”

“..... Frank Emptage, Trustee

Public libraries embody a paradox: they are independently governed institutions, yet depend largely on municipal support to serve their communities. Their independence is essential—not to separate them from the public, but to protect the individual’s right to free expression from political interference. A library is not a business measured solely by transactions or outcomes; it is a public service committed to learning, access, and the long-term progress of the diverse people it serves.”

“..... Elgin Pecjak - Trustee

The Meaford Public Library board was not only an amazing way to get involved in the community, but opened my eyes to the vibrancy of what the library has to offer everyone in the community.

Working with the library board was one of the most fulfilling experiences of my first five years in Meaford. I learned exceptional skills from devoted community members. From budgeting to community engagement, the library board teaches essential skills while opening up endless possibilities for your future community involvement."

“..... Marnie Wraith, Trustee

Stay curious and keep an open mind. All board members are there to make the library better. We just have different views and approaches. However, stay true with what you believe and put your voice, views, opinions forward. Lastly, enjoy! Enjoy being part of a great library community.”

CONTACT US :



519-538-3500



libraryinfo@meaford.ca



www.meaford.ca/library



11 Sykes Street, North, Meaford, ON N4L 1V6

