

Executive Summary

Library History and Mission

The Saugatuck-Douglas District Library originated as a village library for Saugatuck. In a generous and cooperative effort a Library District was established that covered Saugatuck, Douglas and Saugatuck Township. The library was moved to an 1870s church in Douglas, which was extensively remodeled to meet the needs, where it remains still. The Saugatuck-Douglas Library's mission is to create and maintain an environment that facilitates access to a diversity of cultural, educational, and recreational information. The community values the library and the materials and services it provides. Our plan is to build an adaptable facility to meet current and future needs.

Needs

The Library provides services to a broad diversity of community members – children, adults, and the elderly, residents and visitors, from a variety of income levels. As a cabinet member has commented – think of what we do today, and think of what we can do in a facility that supports the service levels our community requires. To cite some examples:

- Ever wonder why the Library doesn't have the book you're looking for on the shelves? Collection development and retention is hampered because we don't have the space.
- We have eight computer workstations for public use. There's no room for any more. You might be able to use one of them for an hour in the winter, but during the summer you might be able to use it for only a half hour. There are no quiet places to read in this busy
- We don't have a space for community meetings or events. So when we want to schedule a program, we have to close the children's library, set up chairs, and use that space as a community room.
- The children's library is on another level from the adult library. So parents stay with their children while the kids browse. They can't do their own browsing at the same time. The library has to maintain two check-out desks, using more staff.
- Our staff and volunteers work closely together in spaces that are too small for their work. There is only one washroom.

Community Impact

People use the Library, even though the space is restricted. They take out books, DVDs, and music. They use the computers and our Wi-Fi. They attend programs. Our children's programs are very well-attended, and our adult programs continue to grow. It is one of the few places where education and recreation are available to locals for free. With a facility appropriate to the size of our community, the Library will have even greater attendance, and even greater impact.