

Portage Lake District Library

New Library Will Become Key Community Resource

Picturesque views of Portage Lake and Quincy Hill

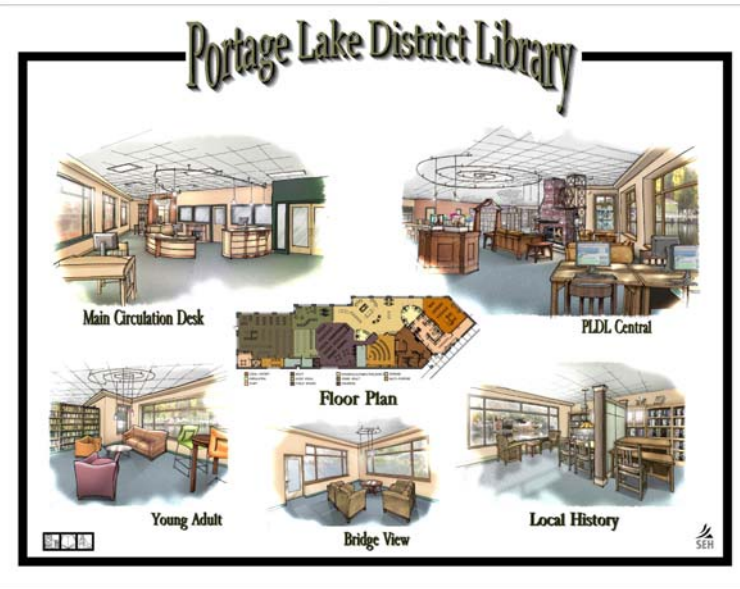
By the time you read this, the move from the old Portage Lake District Library on Huron Street to the new facility on the Houghton waterfront will be history.

While we were somewhat sad to see our fine old home in the rear-view mirror, the new building is all on one level, has barrier-free access, and the views out the many, many windows are stunning. When you are standing in the library, you feel like you are floating on the Portage.

Our new building includes a separate section for local and Michigan history, including a locally crafted archway that serves as the entrance to this important collection.

The library includes distinct areas for adults, young adults and children. We have a spacious recreational reading area right by the windows.

Our new community room will allow for adult and children's programs such as special presentations and talks by authors and local experts. It will also provide a convenient meeting place for community groups.



Above: architect's rendering of the new library. Below: the move begins.

The new library will include expanded computer access, both wired and wireless.

Our stacks are easier to browse, our reading areas are

more spacious, and the scenery is stunning. We hope you will visit soon – and often.

While our location has changed, our mission remains

the same. We are committed to serving our local communities.

Everyone can enjoy the library – our public computers, the relaxing reading space and our other amenities. Residents of our district, and our annual dues-paying members from outside the district, will continue to receive the same prompt, friendly service when checking out materials.

We are grateful to the City of Houghton for becoming a valuable partner in making this new building possible. We also appreciate those who have provided financial support to provide the furnishings.

Our fundraising campaign has now cleared the \$200,000 mark, on the way to the \$300,000 goal. We still need our friends and patrons to participate at whatever level they can. See the back page for more information.

Portage Lake District Library

Adult Section

The new library's adult section will include all of your favorite fiction and non-fiction selections.

The collection will be much easier to browse, with more room between the stacks. Informal reading areas will take advantage of views of the lake and the Portage Lake Lift Bridge. Two rooms adjacent to this section will be available for group work and small meetings.

Young Adult

For the first time we will have an area dedicated to our middle school and high school readers. The young adult section will also include a reading area to take advantage of the view and computer work stations.

Living Room

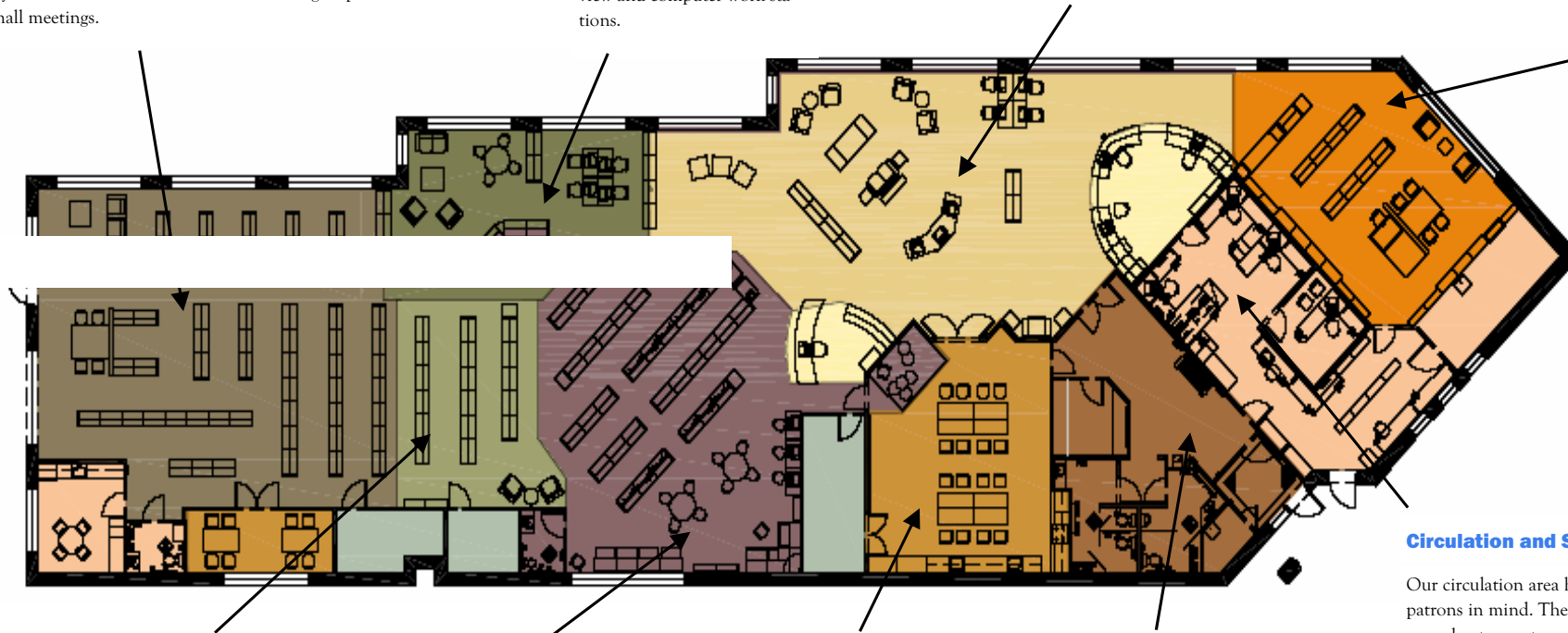
Our living room, complete with a fireplace, will provide a place for recreational reading, public computers, and special displays. Our periodicals collection will also be located in the living room. With stunning views of the lake, and a feeling like you are floating along the Portage, this should prove to be a very popular spot.

History

Our local and Michigan history collection will have a space of its own with a special entrance arch celebrating our local heritage, including history and natural history.

Library Facts

- 11,650 square feet
- Expanded public seating and stack space
- Downtown waterfront location with picturesque views
- Convenient single story layout with barrier free access
- Expanded computer access, both wired and wireless
- More than 360 safe, off-street parking spaces within one block
- Attractive, energy efficient construction



Multimedia

This section will be home to the library's collection of videotapes, CDs and DVDs.

Children

Our children's collection has always been one of the most popular features of the library. Here the stacks will be much easier to negotiate and we have provided a seating area. A circulation station is adjacent to the children's area for your convenience and kids have their own rest rooms here.

Community Room

This multi-purpose area is available for children's and adult programs, including special presentations and talks by authors and local experts. Community groups can also use this space for meetings.

Entrance

The library's entrance will include a tribute to those who made this new building possible. Our rest rooms are conveniently located here, along with some storage space.

Circulation and Staff

Our circulation area has been designed with both our staff and patrons in mind. The semicircular desk will allow us to serve several patrons at once and the spacious area will improve the efficiency of our operations.

The behind-the-scenes areas include an office for the director and work areas for staff members to catalog new materials and take care of the checking-in process.

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Support still needed; \$300,000 goal

The Portage Lake District Library's capital campaign has exceeded \$200,000 toward its \$300,000 goal.

"Our capital campaign goal is \$300,000, which will fund the furniture, equipment, bookshelves and computers needed to support and enhance the library's educational goals and activities," said campaign chair Jim Bogan, Portage Health CEO.

"Most of the furniture and shelving from the old building was not moved," said Jim Curtis, library director. "These items were either built-in or worn and a transfer was not practical."

The campaign, which is ongoing,

encourages one-time tax deductible gifts or pledges that can be made over a three-year period.

The committee has included a number of naming opportunities. And a number are still available. Contact Jim Curtis at 482-4570.

Donor Wall

A section of the new library's lobby will include a donor wall of wooden "books" honoring donors at three levels: \$200, \$400 and \$1000.

The size of each book replica is equivalent to the size of the donation and has a title engraved on the spine.

These book replicas will remain

Up-Lifting View



The view from the west end of the library. "It feels like you are floating on the water," one library staffer said.

USDA Loan Provides Funding

The Portage Lake District Library (PLDL) operates with property taxes contributed by the citizens of Portage Township, Chassell Township and the City of Houghton. A large number of families and individuals from the City of Hancock and surrounding townships pay annual member fees.

Those sources of revenue pay for the operating expenses, but there is no regular funding for building projects.

To build the new library, the City of Houghton applied for, and received, a \$2 million loan through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The city will make the regular payments on the loan and will own the building.

The library board has a 30-year lease with the city and will manage the building and the library. While the city owns the building, the residents of the library district (Portage and Chassell townships and the city of Houghton) will own the books, shelves, computers, and other furnishings.

The PLDL worked together with the City of Houghton and Gundlach Champion, Inc., to provide a valuable new use of the city waterfront.

Portage Lake District Library

Library Board

Gloria Melton, vice pres.
(City of Houghton)
Becky Darling, secretary
(Chassell Township)
Kriss Bosley, trustee
(Chassell Township)
Denny Garver, trustee
(City of Houghton)
Beth Martin, trustee
(Portage Township)
Jack Jobst, trustee
(Portage Township)
Jim Curtis, library director

Library Hours

Monday 10AM - 9PM
Tuesday 10AM - 9PM
Wednesday 10AM - 5PM
Thursday 10AM - 9PM
Friday 10AM - 5PM
Saturday Noon - 5PM
Sunday Closed

Portage Lake District Library
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