

## **Ramara Township Public Library Board**

### **2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Thursday, September 18, 2025    12 p.m., Ramara Centre (with lunch)**

**Board members present:** Jane Ste. Marie, Donna Hewitt, Elise Schofield, Councilor Joe Gough, Karen Whitehorn, Dayle Rochon, Heidi Stanley, Colleen McKee, Adrienne Davies

**Others in attendance:** Linda Lyons, Friends of the Ramara Public Library

**Regrets:** Deputy Mayor Keith Bell

#### **Vision**

*Ramara Township Public Library enhances the quality of life in our rural township by providing public spaces, resources, and services to meet our community's changing needs.*

**1. Call to order:** 12:04 p.m. Jane Ste. Marie

**2. Land Recognition:** Jane Ste. Marie

**3. Board chair welcome and report:** Jane Ste. Marie

**4. Consent agenda:** none

**5. Approval of agenda:**

*Motion #2025-56*      Moved by Joe Gough, seconded by Heidi Stanley that the agenda be approved. Carried.

**6. Declaration of conflicts of interest:** none

**7. Minutes of preceding AGM:** none (*This is RPLB's first AGM*)

**8. Business arising from the minutes:** none

**9. Correspondence:** none

**10. Chairperson's remarks:** Jane Ste. Marie

It's been a trial at times with the transition from 2024 to 2025: major staffing changes, closures, location changes. We can be proud of our staff, old and new, for reacting and rising to all challenges.

**11. Treasurer's report:** Elise Schofield for Manon Higgins, attached

**12. Council report:** Councilor Joe Gough

Thanks for this meeting and for proving to be a diverse and fun group. At our August conference we were able to meet with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to talk about concerns. Council is currently appraising natural gas expansion and is still dealing with ice storm recovery.

**13. Committee reports:** *none*

**14. Advocacy Reports**

**15. Other business:**

- Annual Report 2024: *Elise Schofield; attached*

Our upward trend has been impacted by smaller staff and changing Library hours. Our collection has been expanded by other libraries. Our fall newsletter is available at the table.

- Recognizing Janet Banfield: *Jane Ste. Marie*

We are missing Janet as an employee and friend. Their roles have been filled effectively, and we will no longer have their input and history. We wish them both a long and happy, healthy retirement.

- Volunteer of the Year 2025: *Elise Schofield*

Linda Lyons has been named our Volunteer of the Year. Linda is the obvious choice as she is always on the spot ready to help with all projects and day-to-day operations. She is an enthusiastic participant in all of our programs and has been a visible support with her regular visits. She has organized fundraisers and helped with those the Library initiated. As well, she is Chairman of our active Friends of the Library. There is no better person to congratulate as our first ever Volunteer of the Year.

- Welcome to the Library Presentation: *Elise Schofield*

Elise went through a presentation about the library's resources, services, and programs.

**16. Friends of the Library 2024 report:** *Linda Lyons, Chair, Friends of the Ramara Public Library*

Linda thanked Elise for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Friends. She is honored to lead this group and is proud to list their achievements for the last year. The list is surprisingly long as the Friends take on more advocacy work rather than just fundraising. There has been an influx of new members willing to welcome new ideas with the skill sets to implement them.

**17. Public comments:** *none*

**18. Board Chair closing remarks:** *Jane Ste. Marie*

Thanks to all who attended and enjoyed the lunch (provided by Jane)

**19. Date and location of next AGM meeting:** TBD for a date in September 2026

**20. Adjournment:** 1 p.m.