

## MICHIGAMME COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Report prepared for the Michigamme Township Board

October 14, 2013

The Michigamme Community Library will celebrate nine years of continuous operation on November 26, 2013. The Township has supported the Library generously by underwriting the costs of the building and its maintenance. All other expenses necessary for the maintenance and operation of a public library have been donated by members of our community. The Library is staffed by volunteers. Books, both current best sellers and those books deemed interesting to our readership, have been purchased with funds donated by the Library's patrons, or raised during book sales of duplicate copies of books during the summer months. Initially, nearly all of the books found in the Library were donated by community members: However, due to space considerations, we now ask that books not be donated to the Library without the approval of the librarian. The Library is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We have had almost no theft of books or other items from the Library during the past nine years, and very little problem with misuse of the Library or building. There has been no vandalism or other difficulties which would plague a larger community. Many of our readers are older persons, who find it convenient to have a library so close, available when they can visit, and that does not have a set number of days for returning books, and where no "late fees" are collected.

The Library currently houses a total of 7,337 individual titles of books. Of these, 1,547 are childrens' books; 4,129 are adult fiction books; 1,661 are adult non-fiction books. One bookcase contains current bestselling books, while a separate bookcase has approximately 100 large print books. In addition to the above mentioned items, the Library also houses a number of maps world-wide, and a large selection of National Geographic and Audubon Society Magazines.

Over the past year, the Michigamme Community Library has had a readership of 88 persons who are regular patrons of the Library. Of those 88, 21 of them are children. The children have checked out a total of 68 books during the year (this figure does not count the children who have come to the Library with parents or grandparents to sit and read in our childrens' section). We have 67 adult regular readers who have checked out a total of 653 books over this past year.

For purposes of comparison, our community library has a higher ratio, per capita, of regular readers than does either the L'Anse library or Ishpeming's Carnegie Library. Generally speaking, libraries in the State of Michigan have between eight and ten percent utilization, per capita, of their public libraries, while the Michigamme Community Library runs closer to fifteen percent.

Clearly, then, the Michigamme Community Library enjoys widespread support among its patrons. Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Township Board of Supervisors for its continuing support of this community endeavor.