

Community Information Policy

1. Introduction – Bulletin Board Use

This policy governs any requests for public display of information on the Library bulletin board.

1.1. Definitions

“Library” shall mean The St. Marys Public Library

“Board” shall mean the Library Board of the St. Marys Public Library

“CEO” shall mean the Chief Executive Officer of the St. Marys Public Library

“Community” shall include the residents of St. Marys and Contracting Municipalities (Perth South), non-resident Library cardholders, and communities served by other libraries with which we share services

“Town” shall mean the Town of St. Marys

2. Principle – Sharing of Community Information

The Library is committed to facilitating the sharing of community information by providing bulletin board space for announcements, pamphlets, newsletters, newspapers, magazines and other media that deal with cultural, recreational, informational and educational activities or for displays or petitions that contribute to the free flow of information on issues of importance to the community.

Generally, notices will be posted for a period no longer than three weeks.

All material left for display becomes the property of the Library and, on expiry of the display period, will not normally be returned.

3. Permission Required

All materials posted or displayed and any petitions are subject to prior permission from the Library.

Those wishing to post a notice will provide it to the CEO or Library staff at the desk. The Library staff person who authorizes the notice will initial the poster or notice on the lower right-hand corner. Non-suitable postings will be denied access.

4. Criteria for Permission

Non-profit community groups will have access to the bulletin board and other display facilities.

Space is limited so precedence will be given first to Library information and then to information on activities in the Town of St. Marys and in Perth South, and then to events held by non-profit organizations in the community.

No commercial activities or purposes will be given access.

No individual or personal activities or purposes will be given access.

Community information that contravenes applicable federal, provincial or municipal laws will not be accepted. The Library reserves the right to remove materials at any time.

Display of materials is guided by the Ontario Human Rights Code, R.S.O. 1990.

5. Non-Endorsement

Materials are made available in response to the diverse informational, recreational, cultural and educational needs of the community. These materials may represent varying points of view. They will reflect current conditions, trends, and controversies so that members of the community may inform themselves and make individual judgments.

Particular beliefs or views are not promoted, nor is the acceptance of any item for this space equivalent to endorsement of the viewpoint expressed therein. Materials accepted for display may represent a range of viewpoints and every effort will be made to ensure that all sides of an issue have the opportunity to present their views.

In providing these materials, it is accepted that while people have the right to reject for themselves material of which they do not approve, they do not have the right to restrict the freedom of others.

The Library does not participate in partisan politics nor take an advocacy role on issues outside the library world.

History

Date of Latest Board Approval: April 2015

Date(s) of Revision(s): March 2005, December 2012, April 2015

Date of next scheduled review: April 2016 (to review the need to include Social Media here or as a separate policy)

Related documents

Circulation and Services Policy

Ontario Human Rights Code