

James L. McIntyre Centennial Library Renaming Ceremony

Monday, June 18

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good morning everyone. It is an honour to be here with all of you.

I want to begin by thanking the library board, board chair Toni – Nanne Little, Friends of the Library President Susan Hall, city and library staff and Councillors Myers, Hollingsworth, Christian and Shoemaker. All of you helped bring this important recognition to pass.

It is great to be here with all of you to honor and recognize Mayor James McIntyre.

I want to recognize Mayor McIntyre's children that are here with us: his son Paul McIntyre and his daughters Catherine Gregory, Mary Anne Wilson and Nora Zahn, along with his grandchildren, family and friends.

We are all here today for the re-naming of the Centennial Library, which will be known hereafter as the James L. McIntyre Centennial Library.

It is an honour befitting of the man who was the driving force behind building a new library as a 'centennial project'.

During his Mayoral term, Mayor McIntyre identified the opportunity to fund a library project build and he urged the council of the day to support the opening of a new library that would meet the needs of a growing and changing community.

In his Inaugural Address delivered in 1964 he said, and I quote:

“The Centennial Grants are payable every hundred year, as has been said before, and we should not wait for the next time to obtain such assistance toward a new library. I recommend selecting this project by a resolution of council, and naming the Library Board as our Centennial Committee, and authorizing that Board to obtain sketch plans of a new building, and also to submit an application for a grant at the earliest possible date.”

City Council unanimously supported the project through a resolution, and with this directive and guidance from Mayor McIntyre, the Centennial Library project began. As we all know, the project moved ahead, received centennial funding and was thereafter built and eventually opened in 1967.

Mayor McIntyre was not the Mayor when the library opened but such is often the case in public life. These positions are trusts that those of us who occupy them, occupy temporarily.

As we are all aware, most things, particularly big things, whether they be projects or challenges or goals, they take time.

But all things, no matter how big or small, need a start and Mayor McIntyre gave this project, this building, this community space, its start.

This library would arguably not be here but for him and his leadership; however, it is important to recognize that his impact on our City was not limited to this project.

Mayor McIntyre recognized the need for a bridge to connect Sault Ste. Marie with its Michigan counterpart and during his time in office he helped oversee the construction of the International Bridge, which opened in 1962.

In 2017, the Federal Bridge Corporation named the new service building at International Bridge's Canadian Plaza the James L. McIntyre building in his honour.

He also played a role in the re-development of the City's waterfront, the acquisition of the Old Stone House property and the proposed development of a new City Hall.

James McIntyre's impact on our City was not limited to his time in office as a Mayor and as an alderman. He served as director of the Kiwanis Club, the Chamber of Commerce and as chairman for the Community Chest.

He also served as the first public relations chairman for the United Appeal and as the publicity director for the Soo Greyhounds. He served on the International Bridge Authority Board for 53 years, the Sault Ste. Marie Police Service Board for 23 years and the General Hospital Board for over 10 years.

To put it simply, but I suggest accurately: James McIntyre served.

James McIntyre served our community as a municipal politician, both an alderman and a Mayor, who was committed to making a positive and constructive contribution and improving his community.

James McIntyre served our community as volunteer who truly cared for others and who used his expertise to improve the lives of his fellow citizens.

James McIntyre was a tremendous public servant and beyond all of the things his service leaves behind, touched or influenced: this library, the International Bridge, the Greyhounds, the Police Service Board, Kiwanis, the Hospital, City Hall and City Council, he leaves us with his example.

Most importantly, from my perspective, he leaves us with his example.

The Sault Ste. Marie you see today was shaped by his service, and it is only fitting the Sault Ste. Marie of tomorrow reflects the important role he has played in our community's history.

It is an honour to be with you today, to pay tribute to and memorialize Mayor McIntyre, to thank him and his family for his contribution to our community and to ensure his example is one we remember and continue to rely upon.

Thank you.