

Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report from the Director of The Buckland Public Library

Library hours: Tuesdays 2 - 8pm, Fridays 1 - 6pm, and Saturdays 9am - 1pm

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As we approach the 125th anniversary of the establishment of the library in Buckland center, I am pleased to report that attendance and circulation continue to increase, the latter by over 1500 transactions, bringing the total to almost 16,500 items borrowed during the fiscal year 2014. Patrons appreciate their borrowing privileges – and the library as a community gathering place. If you haven't done so recently, stop by; you'll likely meet a neighbor, find a good book or movie, and enjoy the friendly atmosphere. Remember that a library card gives you free access to a vast collection of physical and on-line media here and abroad. Your library is local, but it can take you anywhere. It is old, but so much is new.

Seasonal programming and fundraising activities punctuate the prosaic affairs of circulation, while also engaging volunteers and donors, and connecting the library with other local organizations. Again last summer, I read to kids semi-weekly at the Mohawk Summer Recreation Program day camp run by Mary and Jeff Johansmeyer. Children visiting the library tracked their summer reading, earned small prizes, and celebrated with an August ice cream social courtesy of Mo's Fudge Factor. Last fall, Peggy Hart led a productive workshop on the upcycling of old wool sweaters to a group of fiber enthusiasts of varied ages. On a couple of chilly winter evenings, Ann Bodkhe and Alan Young hosted Soup Socials featuring warm food and conversation. As spring emerged, we helped the Buckland Energy Committee promote a community reading and book discussion (and have since circulated several excellent dvds that the committee donated to a growing collection of documentary films.) For the Maple Breakfast fundraiser in March, Janice Purington donated syrup, Sue Atherton provided eggs, and Cass Russillo supplied paper goods. A crew of dedicated early-risers set tables, sold tickets, and manned the griddle while Mohawk High School students, under the direction of Barb Harris and daughters Sam and Adi Harris-Fried, again served hundreds of pancakes. Musicians led by Steve Howland enhanced diners enjoyment of this seated breakfast; at the Mary Lyon Church; a few months later, they had us up and twirling at a contra-dance at the Buckland Public Hall. Ann Bodkhe orchestrated the second Historic Upper Buckland Progressive Dinner in April; her hard work, combined with the generosity and culinary skills of Patricia Donohue & Richard Warner, the proprietors of The Bird's Nest Bed & Breakfast, and Cass Russillo & Kate Davenport made for a successful and memorable event. We mailed an annual appeal to all Buckland households for the first time last spring, and were pleased to receive donations from more than three dozen families and individuals. The Board gratefully received additional gifts in memory of beloved former trustee Edie Gerry.

Many other volunteers focus their efforts on 30 Upper Street. Lois Holm, Dianna Young and Ron Reniewicki, with help from Mohawk senior Laura Spencer, handle hundreds of books and movies every week, keep our shelves in order, and engage patrons in lively conversations about authors, actors, and award winners, often prompting them to find new favorites. Ann Marie Gardner, whose behind-the-scenes work facilitates much of our ongoing programming and activities, oversaw the scheduling of the community room by organizations and individuals. Landscape committee members Sandra Jaquay-Wilson, Polly Anderson and Cass Russillo scaled back the flower beds beside the historic front door and began stockpiling native, low-maintenance shrubbery to enhance the current entryway beside the parking area. Former long-time residents Sue and Lou Chadwick delighted us with a surprise donation of a large and beautiful oriental rug to complement the restored original table and lovely old windows of the historic section of the building!

Members of the Board of Trustees include George L. Dole (chair,) Susan Atherton (treasurer,) Amy Love (secretary,) Ann Bodkhe, Cynthia Fisher, Catherine Russillo, Dale Ward and Richard Warner. They are hands-on volunteers and sound advisors with a wide range of skills -- notably including Sue Atherton's remarkable financial acumen -- who expertly steward Town resources. As a board they meet monthly, in subcommittees they consult regularly, and with me, they collaborate continually, all with grace and good humor. Please join me in thanking each of them personally.