

Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report
Buckland Public Library

During the fiscal year of 2016 at the Buckland Public Library, approximately 15,000 items went home with patrons, and 1500 people attended meetings and events. We are thrilled with these numbers, which recognize the library's dual role in our town as both a purveyor of media and a locus of community.

Circulation statistics indicate almost 70% of materials loaned are for adults, and that those adults borrow books and dvds in roughly equal numbers. Borrowers include browsers – those who select items from our shelves -- as well as those with more specific interests who request particular items to be sent to Buckland from libraries throughout the Commonwealth. Genres beloved by many local readers include historical fiction and mystery, and non-fiction pertaining to the social sciences, crafts and rural living. Travel books, biographies, science fiction are sought by an avid few, as are books on cd of any genre. Critically-acclaimed television series, foreign films and documentaries are as popular as cinematic blockbusters among our patrons. Across all categories, most of us prefer to physically hold rather than electronically download our materials, yet we're not literary luddites, and do enjoy hearing stories read aloud via our devices.

While only 30% of materials loaned are for children, the number those books leaving the premises is well over three times that of their digital counterparts. Picture books for young children are the most sought-out items; graphic novels for upper elementary school-aged children are also popular, as are board books for the teething set.

Library programming and events of the year included a book sale, children's story hours, a series of soup suppers, a pancake breakfast, a book talk with a candy historian, a performance by a Buckland mime/storyteller, and a presentation by a Buckland documentary filmmaker. Groups dedicated to reading books, speaking Spanish, and sewing met here regularly. The Town's Finance and Energy Committees, along with the Buckland Cemetery Association and an occasional other private group, utilized the community room for after-hours meetings. While the number of households without internet access in the area has declined, the offering of free wi-fi daily remains an important service.

A merry band of eight Trustees met monthly, usually on the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 PM, to ponder and plan; they spent many additional hours advising the librarian, facilitating events, managing the building and grounds, and raising and budgeting funds. Fiscal year 2016 trustees were George Dole (chair), Sue Atherton (treasurer), Amy Love (secretary), Kristin Howard, Cass Russillo, Horace Taft-Ferguson, Dale Ward and Richard Warner. In some organizations, the role of trustee is nominal; this is *not* one of those organizations! I hope you will seek out and thank these volunteers for their extraordinary efforts.

An additional cast of volunteers, with regular or cameo appearances throughout the year, included Polly Anderson, Mark Benjamin, Karen Blom, Ann Bodkhe, Jim Bonham, Ben and Madison Boucias, Sonny Crawford, Kate Davenport, Bill Deters, Andrea Donlon, Cindy Fisher, Ann Marie Gardner, Barb Harris, Adi and Sam Harris-Fried, Peggy Hart, Michael Hoberman, Lois Holm, Steve Howland, Sandra Jaquay-Wilson, Christopher Lenaerts, Rick Leskowitz, Margaret Olin, Patricia Donohue, Ron Reniewicki, Jenna Smith, Janice Sorenson, Deborah Stevens, Abby Straus, Jeff Strube, Marti Taft-Ferguson, Alan Young, and Dianna Young. Thank you, all!

Heartfelt appreciation is due to donors to our 2015-16 annual appeal: Ruth Anderson, Beth-Ann Bascom, Ann & Sri Bodkhe, Ronald Bourassa, Dena Griggs, Sandra & Glenn Cardinal, Joyce Charland, William & Helen Delaney, George Dole, Patricia Donohue, Andree Duvall, Rita Egan & Rosemary Huggard, Tanya & David Every, Harold Fait, Cheryl Faufaw, Janice & Daniel Fleuriel, Michael Garfield-Wright, Janet Gerry & Carl Nelke, Robert Goodell Jr., Judy Harlow, Jack Hayden & Ciara Reynolds, Pat & Bob Hinds, Lois Holm, Kristin Howard, the Jacobson-Carroll family, Doris Johnson, Steve & Kathy Jurentkuff, Bill Knittle, Christina Kuralt & Brandon Boucias, Joan Lawless, Doreen & Rick Leskowitz, Donna Liebl, Luann & Rob Lord, Catherine Maletz, Mildred March, Terry & Marla McConnell, Judith McWilliams, Elizabeth Moreland, Dale Moss & Norman Clarke, Michael & Penny Novack, Carisa O'Kelly, Tina Peters, Jim Picardi, Betsy Powell, Barbara & Mark Purinton, Kevin & Vy Richardson, Victoria Rogers, Pam & David Sand, Harvey Schaktman, Barbara and Sheralyn Scott, Vicky & Jill Selleck, Mary Shaffer, Muriel Shippee, Judy Sweet, Martha & Horace Taft-Ferguson, Martha Thurber & Dena Willmore, Cynthia Tomasini, Rani Turner, Patricia Vanschoyck, Shirley & Donald Ward, Richard Warner, Don & Marcia Wheeler, Chip Wood, Marian Woodsome, and Hedley Yost & Gordon Dean. Individuals who have donated or purchased books, movies, tag-sale items, and treasures as part of our ever-unfolding fundraising efforts are too numerous to name, but the trustees and I are grateful nonetheless. We are indebted also to those who carefully select and confer classic works previously absent from our shelves.

Local businesses generously supporting the library of late include Atherton Farm, Buckboard Eggies, Maverick & Boutique, McCusker's Market, Nancy Dole Books & Ephemera, Purington Maple, Shaw's Sugarhouse, Sow's Ear Spoons, Spencer Maple Syrup, and Ward Plumbing and Heating. Thanks go to the First Congregational Church of Buckland for hosting the annual Maple Breakfast, and to the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement program for its support of our children's programming.

We are particularly grateful to the taxpayers and Town of Buckland who financed, once again, nearly three-quarters of the library budget. My own special thanks go to substitute librarian Marcia Wheeler for her fine work and collegial good humor.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Director