

Cobleigh Public Library  
Annual Report, 2006

In providing services and programs in the library and for outreach, an active community library like the Cobleigh Public Library relies on many hands. The staff attends yearly training sessions and most of the staff has Vermont Public Library Certification. We were all proud when Emily Zollo, the Books on Wheels II, bookmobile coordinator, received her Vermont Certification this past May. Library and bookmobile circulation continues to rise and it is due to the devoted dedication of the trustees, staff, volunteers and the Friend's group who enthusiastically support the library and help make it a success.

What is new at the library? The library celebrated 100 years this year at the Stars and Stripes Festival. The event was marked by a visit from Governor Douglas and author, Reeve Lindbergh. The parade theme was "What is your favorite book." Our float celebrated *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. After the parade everyone was invited into the library to enjoy cake and ice cream and a puppet show. Children and adults contributed art palettes that were in the parade and on display at the library.

Technology continues to be an important service for our library community and that is why the Cobleigh Library now offers high speed wireless access for people who wish to use their own laptop to connect to the Internet. With our new wireless connection the library has not only expanded its Internet capacity, but it also makes it more convenient for regular borrowers and tourists to access information quickly and efficiently.

Books continue to be an important service and our collection continues to expand. The library was able to purchase additional books due to gifts made in remembrance of Rosemary Secord. Gifts were also made from the Lion's Club.

Museum passes have expanded and we hope to continue to offer free or reduced costs to more museums in the future. Please ask the staff at the library. Some of the passes are on a trial basis.

The Read 'N Stuff teen group was a source of pride for us when they won the Governor's award for their community efforts with Katrina Teens, money raised for cancer research and funds raised for their own afternoon programs. The award was a greatly deserved honor for our teens. Cheryl McMahon conducts these weekly programs during the school year.

The library has added Chamber responsibilities during the summer months as the Information Booth is no longer in operation. The library will continue all year long answering the phone calls the Chamber receives along with continuing information packet mailings, the newsletter and participating in the business community.

I was fortunate to be selected to participate with 23 other librarians nationally as a Fellow in the first-ever Lifelong Access Libraries Leadership Institute by the national library advocacy organization Americans for Libraries Council. The Institute trained this first class of Lifelong Access Libraries Fellows at Chapel Hill in North Carolina this summer to lead the nation's libraries in enhancing services for older adults with opportunities for active learning, creative exploration, and meaningful civic engagement.

Library services and programs for older adults include home deliveries, book discussions, cultural programs, computer training, author visits, participation in community wide reads, large print books, books on tapes or CD's and now movies with our new movie license. We hope to bring other ideas to the forefront in the future. Older adults make up the core of our volunteers and Friend's group, extremely vital parts of our library community.

Over twenty groups use the library as a place to meet on a regular basis when the library is open or closed. A quilting group has been added and anyone with this interest is welcome to attend.

The library regularly welcomes requests and suggestions for books and materials and we reserve books and materials for people all year long. We search statewide and nationally for interlibrary loans. We want your suggestions and we look forward to tailoring services to local needs.

Please remember the library helps adult learners in a variety of ways. The library has public Internet access computers in the Learning Lab and in the children's room. Beginning computer classes are offered on Thursday mornings for people who want to learn more about computers and how to use them. GED testing is on the first three Tuesdays of the month and tutoring is available once a week on Thursdays.

We are now accepting some used ink cartridges as a fundraiser. Please check with us first to see if your used cartridges are on the list. This will recycle the cartridges and bring in some money for the library.

The children's room, an inviting space for children, sets a pace of year-round Baby and Toddler Times and then Family Place programs. Last year with thanks to Success by Six, the library was able to fund an evening session of Baby and Toddler Time and Family Place programs. Some of those participants joined the day time program once babies were born and schedules changed.

Story hours for preschoolers are set for three times a year for six to eight weeks each time. Read and Weed, an after school program, was very successful and it will happen again in spring of 2007. Red Clover, a kid's choice Vermont book program for Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade runs for 11 weeks once a year. The summer reading program helps kids retain and gain reading skills over the summer. This summer there was a good increase of youth volunteers in the children's room. Thank you for all your help!

Many thanks go to Reeve Lindbergh because she is a tireless contributor to public libraries. She gave 500 books for Cobleigh Communities Read and shared her thoughts during the discussion. Reeve also helped out during our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Lyndonville Savings Bank saved us much postage by including the bookmobile appeal in their bank statements. Success by Six and our Early Childhood partners along with the Friends of the Cobleigh help with bookmobile costs and partner to share and spread resources. We highly value our partnerships and the work we do together. Paul and Rita Calkins continue to house the bookmobile during cold weather and contribute to bookmobile costs. They also helped fund books for the bookmobile through the Libri Foundation match. The Rotary also has helped with repairs and will help with books through a match offer.

Many people, too numerous to mention, help the library and the bookmobile and we are grateful beyond words for all the work, ideas, materials and donations they contribute. The bookmobile receives no tax appropriations; however, local support has helped the bookmobile. The bookmobile circulation equals that of a small Vermont Public Library and most of that circulation is to children. The bookmobile offers programs that contribute to helping children become ready for kindergarten and other programs help school age children retain and grow reading skills acquired in school.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Karasinski, Director

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