

COBLEIGH PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT – 2008

The Cobleigh Public Library and its bookmobile, Books on Wheels II had more use in 2008 than ever before. Patrons borrowed more materials and visited the library more often this year. Library staff continued to be an employment and business resource helping with more resumes this year than ever before. Along with fears about the economy, patrons expressed concerns about possible cuts in the library budget impacting their use of the Cobleigh.

The Cobleigh Public Library staff and trustees appreciate the strong community support it receives. The library is fortunate to have a dedicated staff, volunteers and trustees who work hard to insure that our library users receive the best possible service. We would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to the Friends of the Cobleigh Library, dedicated patrons who formed the group to raise money for the bookmobile and library events. Members are always looking for new Friends with fresh ideas to join. Watch for their Cabin Fever basket!

Books on Wheels II celebrates its tenth year of literacy programs in 2009 without asking for tax appropriations. The bookmobile runs on grants, gifts and donations. The Rotary generously donated \$4,000 in 2008. Our local appeal raised another \$4,000 with \$1,000 coming from a Vermont Community Foundation grantor. Parents and Kids Read Aloud Together (PAKRAT) donated \$4,400. The Turrell Fund extended support again this year granting \$7,000.

Northeast Kingdom author, Natalie Kinsey-Warnock, joined library patrons on a Sunday afternoon in April at the Town House in Lyndon Center for the culmination of the Cobleigh Communities Reads. She talked about how she became a writer and presented quilts. Natalie held the group spellbound and graciously stayed until each and every last person and child had talked with her. Our partners for this multi-community read and discussion led by Frank Green included Dollinda Lund from Lyndon Institute, Patricia Webster and Linda Wooster from Lyndon State College, Anne Brown from the Northeast Kingdom Initiative, Kim McCrady-Smith, Linda Carr and Virginia Downs.

The library was able to secure a \$30,000 grant through a partnership of Vermont Preservation Trust and the Freeman Foundation for building needs with help from Dan Hill and Ann Cousins. The building committee will focus on the use these funds in 2009.

The library received Gates grant funds totaling \$5,300.00 for six new computers and antivirus software. Public access computers now total thirteen. The library is currently participating in another Gates endeavor that may result in more new computers during 2010.

The library received a grant of \$732.00 for interlibrary loans through the Vermont Department of Libraries to offset rising postage costs. The Winnie Belle Fund which generously supplied new books for the bookmobile last year, funded \$750 in programming costs in 2008 for the bookmobile and the library in 2009 for a total of \$1,500. The Vermont Department of Libraries and the Women's Club each donated \$200 to help with the cost of programs. The Ashgate grant provided \$700.00 for materials in all formats plus programs for adults age 50 and over as well as \$300 of new toddler toys for the small baby boom explosion in the children's room

Listen Up Vermont is a new library service where patrons can download audio books from the Internet with a library card number. Please contact library staff if you need help when trying out this new service.

Even the goose egg fund, suggested by a generous patron, raised \$114.00 for books. People actually called ahead to see if there were goose eggs available.

The library has tutoring, GED testing and pretesting. Cheryl runs the computer classes and helps with Family Place. Tina, the children's librarian, runs terrific programs year round in one of the most family friendly library spaces in the Northeast Kingdom. Mary gathers books for home deliveries and always seeks others who might be home bound and in need of some books. The library participates in the Early Childhood Conference held in March at Lyndon State College. The library has many partners to strengthen all our goals.

The library staff will continue, with your generous help, to give the best bang for the buck in town. Please remember that the library is there to help with any and all questions and requests. The Vermont Department of Libraries states, "for each dollar spent at the library, there is a \$7.41 return for the community". That's about as decent an investment as any these days and best of all it stays right here in our community.

Rural communities have always scrambled to make ends meet and I believe we are stronger than our city counterparts in this economy because people in small communities help each other. We thank taxpayers for continuing to fund the library during these difficult economic times. The library's dedicated staff, trustees and volunteers will continue to access all available resources to help meet your needs.

Sincerely,

Cindy Karasinski, Library Director

Library Board of Trustees:
Paula Gaskin, Chair
Anne Brown, Sara Simpson
Ellen Doyle, John Dinsmore

COBLEIGH PUBLIC LIBRARY
Statistics - 2008

Library circulation of books and materials	43,964
Bookmobile circulation of books and materials	13,862
Listen Up Vermont (Internet Audio Books)	<u>140</u>
Total Circulation	57,966

Library Card Holders	4,796
Bookmobile Card Holders	532
Total Card Holders	5,328

713 Interlibrary Loan Requests
763 Interlibrary Loans sent to other libraries
599 Reserves

Library Programs	230	Attendance	4,225
Library Meetings	241	Attendance	2,049
Bookmobile Programs	1,161	Attendance	15,485

Library Home Deliveries – Adult

Individuals	54
Group Settings	25
Total	79

Adult Education

Computer Class participants –	384
GED testing students –	79
Distant Learning Student Exams –	5
Tutoring –	175

Bookmobile Visitors – 18,862
Library Visitors -- 54,531
Bookmobile Site Stops – 1,030

Computer Use – 25,012