

WALPOLE TOWN LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Each of the last several years, the libraries have seen a steady increase in the total number of guests and in total circulation of library materials. Once again that was true as circulation increased by about 5% and the number of guests by about 12%. That might be due in part to the economic downturn, but even more likely it is due to the terrific services provided by the library staff, which includes: Library Director Frankie Knibb, Assistant Library Director Mary Farrell, and North Walpole Librarian Rose Werden, as well as Fran Moses, Carolyn Norback, and Bethany Hebert. We also have a number of volunteers who this year gave over 850 hours of their time: Connie Adams, Jon Blumquist, Carol Christian, Barbara Dretzin, Carol Failla, Julie Stevens, Annalisa Hebert, Bethany Hebert, Carroll Johnson, Chris Burchstead, Marge Murphy, Phyllis Olsen, Pam Paligo, Pam Rohdenburg, Paula Schwenk, Abbie Siddall, Cameron Tollett, and Cathy White.

Below are a few highlighted services/projects undertaken by two libraries in 2008:

1. Downloadable Audio Books and Tumble Books are two internet-based programs; their growing popularity reflects the ways in which technology continues to blossom into new areas of our lives.
2. The library updated three of its ten computers with funds given by the Friends of the Library.
3. The theme of the children's Summer Reading Program was "G'Day for Reading" and focused on Australia. The library held several special events for the reading program including: the Grafton Nature Museum presented a program on the animals of Australia; Angela Klingler told stories celebrating the culture, customs and art of the aborigines; puppeteer Martha Dana gave a lively program with her full-sized puppets; and Lucy Weber talked about the Great Coral Reef. Nancy Hague offered four programs during the month of July at the North Walpole branch Library.
4. Relative to the buildings, there were a good handful of projects needed to maintain or repair roofs, lighting, window sashes, exterior woodwork and such.
5. Jennifer Burr, who maintains the library gardens, planted a donated elm along Main Street.

The Walpole Library is extremely fortunate in the financial support that it receives. Because of various trust funds available to the library, the town has, for several years, not had to pay for any of the materials in the library, nor any of the software or hardware, nor any of the major repairs or upkeep to the buildings. In addition to the private funds, the library also receives a considerable financial boost from the Friends of the Library, who this year donated \$9,000 to the library.

Circulation Statistics for 2008

Bridge Memorial Library

Adult Fic: 11,625 Non-Fic: 3,814
Youth Fic: 5,704 Non-Fic: 2,018
Other (Mg, tapes, ref.): 3,900

North Walpole Branch Library

Adult Fic: 1,985 Non-Fic: 47
Youth Fic: 369 Non-Fic: 17
Other (Mg, tapes, ref.): 36

Grand Total: 29,884

Other Statistics for 2008

Number of guests: 14,562
Number of borrowers: 2,312
Number of new books: 1,735
Number of books: 20,800

Number of guests: 758
Number of borrowers: 350
Number of new books: 280
Number of books: 5,103

2008 marks Shirley Capron's 40th year as one of our library trustees. If that weren't remarkable enough, Shirley has worked in the Rockingham Public Library on a volunteer basis for over fifty years, and she is still there today. And if those two items weren't astonishing enough, Shirley started the library at the Experiment in International Living in Putney. Shirley directed that library for 25 years and worked in that library for a total of over 40 years. There is even more to the story of Caprons and libraries, but maybe next year. For, the moment, congratulations and thank you, Shirley.