

Tuftonboro Free Library  
Annual Town Report for 2009

The library was open 254 days in 2009. Circulation totaled 42,586, more than 4,000 over 2008. Patronage also increased. We issued 156 new library cards, for a year-end total of 3,589 registered patrons. Books out-circulated all other items combined. We added 1,847 new and donated items to the collection, which now stands at 29,258, close to 50% over capacity for the building's design.

Lack of adequate space for resources, services, programs, patrons, and staff continued to be the major issue facing the library in 2009. We installed over 100 linear feet of new shelving for adult fiction in the Hamel Meeting Room, further restricting the space available for public programs and meetings at a time when community use of the room is increasing. An additional 24 feet of shelving in the children's section allowed a barely adequate expansion of the heavily used picture book collection.

Although the Warrant article for a new building lost by 21 votes in March, Trustees and Friends continued to fundraise for this much-needed project throughout the year. In addition to donations, public events including a yard sale, plant sale, art sale, book & bake sale, and boat raffle raised over \$10,000 for the Building Fund. Thanks to all of our hard-working Friends of the Library, and especially to FOL officers David Lee, Terry Smith, and Barbara Widmer.

In response to growing demand for public Internet access, the Friends of the Library purchased two Netbooks, making five networked computers available for patrons to use in-house. (Wifi users bring their own laptops.) The Friends also purchased a Wii gaming system, and Tom and Barbara Hall donated a Kindle II e-reader for circulation. In other technology news, Overdrive downloadable audios became available for iPods, through the library website. We also presented an Overdrive in-service training session for TCS teachers.

We undertook a complete inventory of the collection this year, in partial preparation for moving to a web-based, open source circulation system in 2010. TFL will be part of a select group of NH public libraries to pilot the new system through a program to be set up by the NH State Library.

Results of a taxpayer survey in June caused the Trustees to review and expand open hours. The library is now open 36 hours per week, including Fridays until 7:30 and Saturdays until 2:00. Increased patronage and circulation have resulted.

We recorded total attendance of 1,673 for 140 library-sponsored programs this year. Family and children's programs included weekly pre-school Story Hour, weekly visits from both first grades, regular outreach to local daycares, and the 10<sup>th</sup> annual presentation of The Polar Express. For the fourth year, the popular winter book and author luncheon series introduced adult audiences to four distinguished and fascinating local authors.

Our original seven-week summer reading program, Food for Thought, matched every child signed up to read for pleasure with an adult sponsor who agreed to donate an item to the Life

Ministries Food Pantry for each book read. On August 13<sup>th</sup>, Jane Batchelder loaded her pickup truck to the max with 463 items! Based on this success, we will make Food for Thought TFL's permanent summer reading theme, and so will at least a dozen other NH libraries. Summer programs this year also included three special performances, two themed craft workshops, and two new movie matinees, complete with popcorn and lemonade.

Twenty-one community groups and Town committees used the Hamel Meeting Room 154 times (up from 108 last year): Agricultural Committee, Abenaki Tower & Trail Association, Bible study group, Boy Scouts, Census training, CIP Committee, Crewel Embroiderers, DAR, 4-H, GWAC, Hikers, History Book Club, Happy Hookers, Home Schoolers, KnitWits, Mountain Shadows Association, Newcomers Gardeners and Knitters, Scrabblers, Tuftonboro Association, Tuftonboro Historical Society.

Original art, craft, and collectibles exhibits this year showcased the work of many talented area artists, including Kathie Pond, Suzie McCarthy, Mary Jane Beattie, Carol Thompson, Terry Smith, and Anita Fusco, as well as popular group shows mounted by the Happy Hookers, Knit Wits, and Lakes Region Photography Club, and the annual TCS student art display.

Building maintenance in 2009 included scraping, sanding, and painting trim, repairing and repainting columns, replacing rotted door frames and sills on the exterior boiler room and emergency exit doors, and replacing the circulator pump on the boiler.

Donations and grants totaled just over \$12,000, or about 9% of the total operating budget. In addition to the many generous donations from individual patrons, major gifts from the D.A. Hamel Family Foundation, the Henry F. Hurlburt III Charitable Trust, the Eaglemere Foundation, and the Friends of the Library supported collection development. Gifts from the Abenaki Tower & Trail Association, the Governor Wentworth Arts Council, the Mountain Shadows Association, the Hikers, and the Mirror Lake Community Church supported public programs for both adults and children.

We're very grateful for our adult and student volunteers, whose cheerful assistance with everything from shelving to schlepping made a big difference during such a busy year: Chris, Tyler, and Alex Brewster, Shannon Edwards, Jordan Leslie, Jay Nicewicz, Bob Nussbaum, Cieran Paterson, Jacob Wilson, Jane Wilson, and Mike Phelps, who saw a problem, found a solution, and literally lay down to get it done.

Many thanks as well to all of our patrons who expect (and so, inspire) excellence in library service, to the Trustees who wholeheartedly support our efforts to provide it, and to the dedicated staff members who ensure it: Sally Andersen, Jennifer Caldwell, Lynn Dancause, Dennis Guilmette, and student intern Ceci Mancuso.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindalee M. Lambert  
Christie V. Sarles  
Co-Directors