

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Statistics for 2008: Number of Patrons 3,945– Total number of items circulated 71,767 - Interlibrary loan materials borrowed 1,411 - Materials loaned to other libraries 1,346 - Community Meeting Room Use 460 - Number of library programs 406

In 2008 the Rye Public Library achieved many programmatic and outreach successes. The Library significantly increased its outreach efforts to community members through college preparatory programming geared to the teen audience, regularly scheduled visits to Rye's public and private schools, a collaboration with Rye Senior SERVE which enabled 327 senior visitors to travel to the Library on Mondays for books and fellowship, and the presence of staff promoting library services off-site. At the election polls alone, we were able to successfully register 68 residents for new library cards. In partnership with the Friends of the Rye Public Library, we were able to offer a diverse array of educational programs, among which included: computer classes, summer concerts, storytelling, book appraisal, genealogy research instruction, writer's workshops, author events, lectures, movies, and poetry readings. We are also grateful to the Rye Art Study Group for conducting three art history lectures during the summer months and to the New Hampshire Humanities Council, who underwrote the cost of Rebecca Rule's program, "Better Than a Poke in the Eye," and our Halloween lecture on N.H. gravestones with Professor David Watters.

The 2008 summer reading program "*G'Day For Reading*," was enjoyed by all ages. 157 adult readers contributed more than 250 book reviews, which they enjoyed sharing with one another during the August 14th summer reading club finale and ice cream social.

The Rye Public Library received a grant from the Rye Driftwood Garden Club to create a "*Children's Garden of Wonder*" outside the windows of the Youth Department. Our thanks to Rye residents, Pat Ritter and Tracy Ritzo who have instructed this lively group of young gardeners and instilled their appreciation for the outdoors during monthly meetings, to the Potting Shed who offered plants for sale at a reduced rate, and to the many parents and children, who have transformed this area to a most inviting public space.

We have continued to build our collections according to patron preferences. The implementation of an electronic newsletter informing residents of new holdings by genre has been very well received. Due to lack of use, we did not renew our subscriptions to the Reference USA, Legal Forms, and Grolier Online databases. Thanks to the generosity of a private donor we have added Amazon's Kindle, an electronic book reader to the collection. The library staff and Board of Trustees were pleased to offer a fine amnesty month during the month of December to further encourage use of the Library's collections.

The Library facility also received several enhancements, which included both planned maintenance improvements and necessary repairs due to a furnace malfunction which occurred in the spring.

Tricia Quinn and Pam Woods traveled to Spain to attend the Spanish premiere of *Magic Happens*, a library advocacy film, which was filmed at the Rye Public Library and for which both Tricia and Pam had starring roles. Thanks to the generosity of the Spanish filmmaker, Carmela Sainz de Baranda, they were able to attend at no cost to the Rye Public Library or to Rye taxpayers. Upon their return, they shared their experience with several community groups. Lisa Houde also made the library shine by presenting a program on teen reading groups at the New Hampshire Library Association's Annual Conference. I am very fortunate to work with a very dedicated group of colleagues, Tricia Quinn, Pam Woods, Jim Chase, Juliette Doherty, Shawna Healy, Gwen Putnam Bailey, Martha Jones, Lisa Houde, Margaret Hutchins, and Brenda Nolette, who give so much of themselves in service to the community daily. My sincere thanks to our very generous volunteers, Board of Trustees, and Friends of the Rye Public Library, without whom our team would be incomplete.

Kerry Cronin, Library Director