

In 2008 the Rye Public Library continued to be an active gathering place for Rye townspeople.

The Library staff, Director Kerry Cronin and Trustees worked hard on accomplishing their 2008 goals:

- Increase community awareness
- Improve access and management of computer resources
- Promote early literacy to preschool and school age children
- Increase Library use by teen residents
- Increase outreach to senior residents
- Increase use of library collection

These goals became even more important in 2008 given the significant slowdown in our economy. The national trend indicates during an economic downturn people increasingly use library services.

Rye Public Library has seen that trend first hand as circulation increased by 7.3% over 2007.

The Library also experienced expanded use of:

- Library databases to research educational scholarships, business opportunities and financial analyses
- Circulation for movies and books is up when discretionary spending is being watched closely
- Computer access via free internet access

Increased library usage occurred during a year when we had our building maintenance challenges.

During the summer and fall we had a furnace malfunction that required building cleaning, painting and rug replacement. The Library staff continued to ensure that the impact to the patrons was minimal.

During the ice storms in December, the Library opened on a Sunday as a refuge for those with no power.

Martha Jones resigned after a 12 week family leave of absence. We will miss her. Our thanks to the Rye Public Library staff, who assumed additional hours and responsibilities during this staffing shortage to ensure the Library was able to maintain its high level of programming and customer service standards.

During the fall, Jim Chase, our invaluable maintenance person, went on medical leave of absence. Many thanks to Maid Brigade and Rye resident Doug Gaskell for filling in during Jim's absence.

The 2008 Library Trustees were:

Joan Sweeney, Chairman	David Brown, Vice-Chairman	Deb Genestreti, Secretary
Sallie Mackie, Treasurer	Victor Azzi, former Chairman	

Deb and Sallie were both elected to a 3-year term in 2008. As a Trustee It is a privilege to share in serving this most important cultural and informational resource for the townspeople of Rye.

President of Rye Public Library Friends, Ann Malpass and all the Friends continued to be a significant partner. The Friends provided both the Library and the townspeople with computer classes, speaker series, museum sponsorship and support of Library programming. The Friends and the Trustees held the first Seacoast Trustees/Friends conference in October with over 50 people in attendance.

We thank all the volunteers who gave over 500 hours of their time. We also recognize and thank those citizens who have made donations to the Rye Public Library.

Whether you come into the Library or join us electronically we look forward to your participation in 2009. Join us on the website www.ryepubliclibrary.org to see the resources available to you.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Sweeney
Chairman of the Board of Trustees