

2003 REPORT OF THE LIBRARY

The mission of the Hampden Free Public Library is to provide materials of popular interest to our adult and juvenile patrons, and to provide materials and services to help local residents satisfy their informational, entertainment, and educational needs.

Attendance for fiscal year 2003 was over 20,000, an increase of 18% from fiscal year 2002. Our circulation of over 45,000 items, including traditional print books and magazines, audio books, DVD's, videos and CD's, represents an increase of 7%. These figures do not reflect the added attendance and circulation from the Green Meadow's students, who started bi-weekly library visits in September while their own media center is under construction, nor do they include the increased middle school student attendance which also was seen at the start of the school year.

In spite of dealing with a 9% cut in staff and hours of service beginning in July 2003, we continued to offer a variety of programs for children and adults. Attendance at our weekly toddler times for infants to children age 3 ½ and story hours for children 3 ½ to 5 was 771. For the Green Meadow's students we had some wonderful volunteers who read a story at the beginning of each session and then the children were allowed to choose books to bring home. Each week approximately 150 of these students visited the library. This program will continue through the 2003/04 school year.

Attendance at our homework center for Hampden middle school students has doubled since last year, facilitated in part by the students' ability to take a bus directly from school to the library. In just the first half of the school year, attendance exceeded 540 with an average of 10 students per day and some days as many as 23. While this program has put an enormous strain on the library resources as well as staff because of the cuts to the fiscal year 2004 budget which went into effect in July 2003, we look forward to continuing to serve this new generation of library user. Both of the Green Meadows and the middle school programs represent a cooperative effort between the public library and the administration at Green Meadow and TWB. We are grateful for their support.

We had another busy, but fun summer this year. There were 188 children from preschool to those entering grade 5 who participated in a reading program designed for their age group, with 146 reaching their goals. Fifty-five students entering grades 6 through 9 also participated in a special reading program and forty-one reached their reading goal. Certificates, raffle prizes from local businesses and a paperback book from the Friends of the Library were awarded to all the children. Weekly live performances, made possible by contributions from the Hampden Cultural Council, Monson Savings Bank, and the Friends of the Library, were also held for the enjoyment of the children. A workshop entitled "Photographing Hampden: 2003" was held for the 5th through 8th graders, resulting in an extraordinary scrapbook of images of Hampden which is on display at the library.

Twelve students attended the babysitting class, supported annually by the Hampden

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Lions Club. Our summer volunteer program also went well, with 22 students entering grades 6 through 9 giving one hour each week to the library providing much needed support to the library staff. All participants in the summer programs were rewarded with a free skating party provided by Interskate 91.

Back by popular demand was the Adult Summer Reading program. A total of 37 adults participated and were awarded prizes donated by Country Bank for Savings.

The entire summer program would not be possible without the support of our local businesses: Monson Savings Bank, Country Bank for Savings, MA Regional Library System, Village Food Mart, Pop's Pizza, Fenway Golf, Friendly's, Blockbuster, Pam's Paperbacks, Eastfield Mall, How Sweet It Is, Dave's Soda and Pet Food City, Adventureland, Radio/Disney Hood, and McDonald's.

The popularity of our monthly book discussion groups resulted in increased attendance at both the afternoon group meeting at the Hampden Senior Center and the evening group, which met at the library.

There are many people and organizations to thank for our success. We are especially grateful to the ongoing support and generosity of the members of the Friends of the Hampden Public Library. They make it possible for us to provide children's programs, and purchase DVD's, videos, CDs and audio books. Also, once again the Hampden Garden Club decorated the library with holiday decorations in December and we looked beautiful.

As always, we are very grateful for the volunteers who give so generously of their time. Our thanks to Peg Therrien, Shirley Gouvan, Karen Ntagkouakis, Patty Ehlers, Barbara Oganowski, Ryan Buel, Nora Guyer, Florence Joubert, and Genevieve Aurise.

And finally, we have an incredible staff who have risen to the challenge of keeping the library running smoothly in spite of budget constraints: Ellen Bump, Director, Dianne Regnier, Children's Librarian, Christina Fairman, Young Adult Librarian, Cindy Rowley, Technical Services Librarian, Robyn Janczulewicz, Library Assistant, and Samantha Bearse, Page.

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LIBRARY STATISTICS

General Services FY 2003

Circulation

Print Material - Adult	14,048	Volumes Added	2,737
Print Material – Juvenile	15,449	Volumes Discarded	1,992
Magazines	2,323	Total Collection	28,377
Non-print Material	12,535	Magazine Subscriptions	55
Inter-library Loan	977		
Total	45,332	Registered borrowers	4,153

Finances FY2003

RECEIPTS

Municipal Appropriation	\$107,978
Revolving Account	2,063
LSTA grant	1,119
Monetary gifts, trusts, endowments	5,812
TOTAL Receipts	\$116,972

EXPENDITURES

Wages	\$80,242
Books and Materials	25,278
Maintenance Agreements	2,803
Other Expenses	8,649
TOTAL Expenditures	\$ 116,972

CAPITAL INCOME

Appropriated	\$ 3,500
Gifts	1,407
State Aid	5,862
TOTAL Capital Income	\$10,769

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

Library Materials LSTA	\$ 1,323
Other operating	2,648
Fire alarm	3,500
TOTAL Capital Expenditures	\$7,471

(Note: The status of the library's trust funds is listed in the "Report of the Town Accountant.")

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Hutchison, Trustee Chair
Beth Burger, Trustee
Elaine Kingsbury, Trustee