

2008 HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORT

Library traffic dramatically increased over the course of 2008. The statistics are as follows:

- Patron Visits: 6,198 (29% increase)
- Circulation (materials borrowed): 3,306
- Inter-Library Loan Transactions (borrowed & loaned): 335
- Computer Users: 2,194

The last two figures reported have almost doubled since 2007. Such patterns are not uncommon in other libraries across the state. In October of 2007, the Robert & Karin Finlay Foundation issued a challenge to all NH libraries: they offered to donate \$25,000 to the library that generated the most new members over the 12 months following. Our town library accepted that challenge, and issued 95 new cards. Although we did not win, we're pleased that more residents are taking advantage of the great resources available at the library. The staff and Trustees wish to thank all new patrons for their help with our endeavor.

In April, Library Trustees and the Hill School Board agreed to open the library on Mondays, for use by JDBS students and staff. A schedule was set up to allow each classroom a period of time in which students were provided with "Literacy Skills" instruction. The children were also given the opportunity to research school projects and borrow books. Adding these hours not only provided the school with increased availability to library resources, but also alleviated any conflict with the general public. (Librarian's Monday wages are paid by the school district.)

We were able to offer several children's programs in 2008. Our Summer Reading Program, "Paws, Claws, Scales & Tales!" was held for six weeks, ending with an old-fashioned summer carnival. The program proved to be quite popular, with 332 children and adults in attendance. A "Summer Film Festival" was also held weekly. Local families enjoyed great movies and fresh popcorn! In celebration of the holiday season, we hosted a Craft Party. Residents were invited to make ornament and share treats.

The Hill Public Library Rocket Club held its first meeting in October, under the direction of resident Dan Huntley. Thirteen students from JDBS attended, and were eager to start building. By early November, the rockets were completed, and all staff and students were invited to join us for Launch Day. Congratulations to all members for a job well done. We thank Dan and his assistant, Cody Hunter, for providing this fun and educational event.

The Library Book Club welcomed new members in 2008. This group met the third Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. A good variety of books were read and discussed.

Library staff and the Trustees wish to thank the members of Girl Scout Troop # 21005 for their help in organizing and assisting with several of the events mentioned above. We're also grateful for the Friends of HPL and their continued support of these activities and programs. Through fundraising, the "Friends" have also purchased books and other supplies not supported by our budget. As always, we greatly appreciate the generosity of the Friends of Hill Parks & Recreation, local businesses, and of course, the taxpayers of Hill. We would be unable to offer these programs without your support.

In the fall, the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) awarded our library with a Rural Library Grant. This sponsorship provided about 100 new children's books valued at \$2,000. Every book was borrowed immediately following the presentation! This was the third award our library has received from CLiF.

At last, we are pleased to report the library's first website was launched in late 2008! Please visit www.hillpubliclibrary.com for information about the library, planned activities, and miscellaneous events in our community. If you'd prefer, stop in and "check out" your local library!

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Christopher, Librarian

Library Board of Trustees:

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Norma Kane, Secretary

Martha L. Jordan, Treasurer