



## June Report from the Executive Director

In June, the Frederick Law Olmsted Lamp Posts that now provide light to the entire front library courtyard, were dedicated with appreciation extended to Rotary and Mascoma Bank Foundation. The Rotary gift is in memory of Rotarian Connie Miller McCollom. Funding for installation was provided by Mascoma Bank Foundation and the Vermont Standard covered the event. The Rotary is pleased to publicize the many contributions they make to the community.

Additional improvements to the building and grounds included planting two trees outside the library entrance, gifts of the Garden Club and Friends of the Library.

The theme for the Summer Reading Program in the Children's library this summer is "Every Hero Has a Story." Over 100 students have enrolled in this incentive program that encourages students to continue reading every day. Special programs, crafts and movies tied in with the theme are scheduled through July and have featured Animal Heroes, Local Heroes, Student Heroes and Super Heroes. The program was promoted widely, including a visit to each library class at the elementary school and visits to the library by Woodstock Elementary School, K, 1 and 2 classes.

Progress is continuing on the strategic planning with Chris Miller focusing on space allocation, Wendy Spector on communications and Travis Hellstrom on technology and the Learning Center. Work is continuing on a case statement and brochure to give to leadership donors. Marcia Polese continues to guide our work. Several team members will visit *Bibliotech* author, John Palfrey on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

### End of FY 14-15 Year highlights:

- Increased our library collection from 53,000 to 55,000
- Circulation of 45,000 items in our collection represents 82% of the collection
  - 25,000 Information sources circulated from the general collection
  - 19,000 information sources circulated from Children & Youth collection
  - Patron requests for ILL increased by 25% over last year
  - E-book and audio book circulation doubled from 557 in 2014 to 969 in 2015 and increase of 43%
- Patrons: The library has 3500 active patrons and we have an average monthly increase of 30 patrons
- Contrary to the experience of most public libraries, requests for reference help increased by 31% -- from 3, 922 to 5,711 inquiries.

- Use of library computers in the mezzanine decreased since users are more frequently bringing in their iPads and laptops. (Usage decreased from 4,000 to 3,600 users.)
- The Use of Wireless Woodstock is very high and reached 30,000 users from the area in the Village who downloaded 465 GB.
- Programming was very well received by the community:
  - 8,564 attendees -- an average of 700 monthly attendees
  - 500 programs -- an average of 37 monthly programs
- Volunteers contributed 2,700 hours or 225 for a monthly average
- NWPL celebrated its 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year – Centum Triginta -- with a wonderful celebration. Patrons were encouraged to identify book titles from decorated cakes, including *The heart of Darkness*, *Raisin in the Sun*, and *Crime and Punishment*. As part of the celebration, we issued free library cards during the month of November.
- We had another very successful Ex-Libris Gala in May, with revenues and net proceeds exceeding those of any prior year.
- The installation of snow-guards on the roof redirected falling snow away from the handicapped access ramp.
- French drains were installed on the library front lawn and grading work was successfully completed that was designed to prevent water and ice buildup on the front walkway.
- We had strong results for both the year-end and spring library fund appeals but must work to exceed those levels next year.
- Through careful fiscal management we have met our FY14-15 financial obligations through the town allocation, successful annual appeals, the gala and revenues from book sales.
- In an effort to build the library's reserves to a sustaining level, the library has declined in the last two years to tap any of the interest or dividends generated by the Library Reserve Fund. The fund now stands at \$1.5 million.