

Cobleigh Public Library
Annual Report 2009

Due to the current economic conditions our library was busier than ever in 2009. The Cobleigh bookmobile service, Books on Wheels II, continued to see increased demand in services and circulation. The bookmobile operates solely through grants and donations received, without any town tax dollars.

The Cobleigh Library is a community library with a well-trained, dedicated staff and hard working board of trustees whose sole purpose is one of service to the public. Our goal is to provide excellent service to each and every person who uses our library. Whether you're looking for a good book to read, need computer help, update your resume, prepare a job application, request materials from another library, or attend one of our many programs, our goal is to meet your needs with high quality service and community resources.

In 2008 and 2009 the library has raised about \$24,000 each year in grants primarily for the bookmobile, but also for the library, for postage, programming, and items for people 50 and up. In addition, the library appeal letter raises \$8,000 each year to contribute to the library budget and about \$3,000 to \$4,000 locally for the bookmobile. We are very grateful for your continued and generous support. We hope to spend the \$30,000 Preservation Trust Grant in 2010 to help with building costs. That grant was obtained through Preservation Trust's partnership with the Freeman Foundation.

The library hosts tutoring, GED testing and pretesting throughout the year. Distant learners can take exams at the library, as library staff can be proctors. Cheryl has computer classes every Thursday morning based on your individual needs. Mary brings books and materials to any homebound individual or will arrange for a volunteer to bring the items. Tina offers tremendous children's programs and is always available to help parents navigate their way through children's literature. Christine, Susan and Mary Liz help process interlibrary loans and offer friendly, courteous circulation desk services.

Borrowers can renew or reserve books and other items in the catalog from home. As we add more upgrades to our circulation system we anticipate adding additional services for our public. The free periodical service, the Vermont Online Libraries, which borrowers can use from home using their library card number as a password, has a new face with new services as well.

The library has many partners to help with our participation in the Early Childhood Council, Early Childhood Conference, Cobleigh Communities Read and many other endeavors including the bookmobile. Library partners help strengthen community goals.

Over twenty-six groups use the library to meet for educational purposes when the building is open or closed. The library does not charge for this community service.

The bookmobile serves Burke, East Haven, Lyndon, Newark, Sheffield, Sutton and Wheelock. In a recent survey of childcare providers for a Children's Trust Fund grant report, twenty-six bookmobile users believed overwhelmingly that on average 65% of the children increased their capacity for meaningful conversation and discussion regarding the stories. This means children will mostly likely be able to discern a sequence of events, will increase their vocabulary, and know stories have a beginning, middle and an end. A love of stories is also being developed which means when the children enter school, they will want to learn to read.

The Friends of the Library help raise funds for the bookmobile and other library projects. As grant funding dwindles, we count heavily on their abilities because without this small enthusiastic, dedicated group the bookmobile might not exist. They are always looking for new members and new energy, but they deeply appreciate all the help they now receive with fundraising. Library trustees and staff greatly appreciate all their many efforts. Watch for the Cabin Fever Basket in February and the ever-popular book sale in October!

The library is still the best deal in town and library use contributes to other community use. The Vermont Dept. of Libraries states, "for each dollar spent at the library, there is a \$7.41 return for the community". That's a decent investment these days and best of all it stays right here in our community.

We thank taxpayers for the funding in the past and we know times continue to be difficult. The library will continue to have dedicated staff, trustees and volunteers with resources to help meet your needs.

Sincerely,

Cindy Karasinski
Library Director

COBLEIGH PUBLIC LIBRARY
Statistics - 2009

Library circulation of books and materials	48,559
Bookmobile circulation of books and materials	14,424
Listen Up Vermont (Internet Audio Books)	<u>215</u>
Total Circulation	63,198

Library Card Holders	4,404
Bookmobile Card Holders	<u>412</u>
Total Card Holders	4,816

792 Interlibrary Loan Requests
 968 Interlibrary Loans sent to other libraries
 836 Reserves

Library Programs	250	Attendance	5,065
Library Meetings	243	Attendance	1,977
Bookmobile Programs	1,293	Attendance	14,424

Adult Education

Computer Class Participants – 338
 GED Testing students – 32
 Distant Learning Exams – 3
 Tutoring – 143

Library Home Deliveries – Adult	
Individuals	39
Group Settings	<u>25</u>
Total	64

Bookmobile Visitors – 19,901
 Library Visitors – 63,492
 Bookmobile Site Stops – 1,088

Computer Use – 37,120