

Cobleigh Public Library
Annual Report 2014

The Cobleigh Public Library continues to be the center of the Lyndonville community. Along with books and many other services and programs, people of all ages come to the library to meet their friends, take advantage of the library spaces, and carry on their learning activities during library hours or afterwards with various educational groups. People come to the library to take a test through a distant learning exam or through the local schools. On Wednesday afternoons people can come and learn how to get their GED with the help of a certified tutor. The library also makes available a state-of-the-art video conferencing equipment to use free. People even leave off items for other people to pick up! We've been doing this for years!

This was the year of the survey as the library also undertook the five-year plan. Many thanks for those people who helped fill them out. We are also grateful to the people who took the time to attend the public meeting. This helps us tailor services to local needs. Some of the most popular wishes were to get the children's room back, to keep up with technology and to focus on early literacy. The plan will be unveiled in 2015. Please know that people are welcome to make suggestions and comments any time to improve services.

When we asked people about technology at the library we found out the following:

81% of public technology users who have computer access elsewhere received help when they visited the library.

35% of respondents who used the library's public technology did so for employment activities.

Of those that used public technology for educational purposes, 62% took an online class, did research or did homework for a class.

At Cobleigh Public, 49% of public access technology users reported using library technology for health purposes.

38% of users reported learning about diet or nutrition; of those, 90% made a change to their diet.

24% of users reported learning about exercise or fitness; of those, 85% made a change in their exercise habits.

33.9% felt having technology and the Internet available was personally important while 54% said it was very personally important. 24.2% said it was important for the community to have Internet access while 69.4% felt it was very important.

The library staff and trustees wanted to find a way to open the children's room, but when we had mold testing in late 2013 the children's room had to remain closed because of the costs for cleaning up the mold—it was not covered by our insurance. Earlier in the year the parties involved met for the first time 294 days after the room flooded and well after the cause of the flooding was determined. Once the Select Board decided to get public permission to move funds to fix the children's room, the library was able to move forward with the repair. In late December 2014 after mold remediation work, the library completed more mold testing and air quality is very safe. Work continues and by the time this town report is printed and released, or shortly after, we hope the Cobleigh Children's Room will be open. Everyone, especially the children, will be very happy when this opens. The community support was very much appreciated at the public meeting last October where \$50,000 was appropriated from the town sanitation fund to fix the children's room until the lawyers come to an agreement about the responsibility of the flooding.

A special thank you goes out to the Town of Lyndon Select Board for their perseverance in helping the children's room reopen. The children and their families are excited and can barely wait. Tina Achilles, our children's librarian, deserves a thank you all her own for her tremendous patience during the whole time from June 24, 2013. It is a terribly long time to wait and wait. The children learned to wait as well and I don't know how they did it.

Our library partners such as Building Bright Futures, Headstart, the After School Program, Cobleigh Communities Read committee, The VT Dept. of Health, the Childcare Network, NEKI AmeriCorps, the Early Childhood Council and Green Mountain United Way help us reach more folks with their connections . Thank you! A special thank you to Anne Brown for her enthusiastic dedication running the AmeriCorps program from Lyndon State College—we would not have had bookmobile services so long without AmeriCorps members. Many thanks to our Friends of the Library for their devotion to the library and the community—they make the library a better place and they enable us to offer bookmobile outreach services—we wouldn't have outreach services without you. Many thanks to all our volunteers who help us do more each and every week--your love of the community is strong. Many thanks to all the staff and trustees for their dedication, hard work and a passionate service oriented mind-set that keep this library a true community place where people explore ideas, meet with other people and interact with other community members.

Sincerely,
Cindy Karasinski
Library Director

Cobleigh Public Library
Statistics 2014

Library Circulation of books and materials	41,422
Bookmobile circulation of books	15,146
Listen Up Vermont (Downloadable audio books)	<u>7,875</u>
Totals	64,443

Library Card Holders	2,714	Interlibrary loan items requested:	600
Bookmobile Card Holders	63	Interlibrary loan items sent to other libraries:	<u>443</u>
Total Card Holders	2,777	Total Interlibrary loans:	1,043

Library Programs	216	Attendance	2,483
Bookmobile Programs	<u>1,192</u>	Attendance	<u>11,740</u>
Total Programs	1,408	Total	14,223

Library Meetings	209	Attendance	1,578
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Adult Education

Computer Class Participants – 211
Computer Intern Participants - 210
GED Tutoring & other tutoring - 48
Distance Learning - 11

Video Conferencing Equipment

Programs – 35 Attendance - 342

Library Home Deliveries – Adult	
Individuals	72
Group Settings	<u>25</u>
Total	97

Library Visitors	44,524
Bookmobile Site Stops	894
Computer Use	26,504
Volunteer hours	652