

James E. Nichols Memorial Library Librarians Report for 2007

We are sad to report that Library Trustee Barbara Benoit passed away on July 25th after a long illness. Barbara served as a library trustee at the Nichols Library for 28 years. During that time, five of our librarians benefited from her support. Barbara was also an avid gardener who took great interest in the Library's grounds. Our sympathies go out to her husband Robert and many family members. A memorial fund has been established in her memory. We are grateful to everyone who contributed to the fund.

The Nichols Library extended its hours in 2007, adding a 10am to 1pm time block on Thursday mornings. Public response was good, averaging 16 visitors for the first six months. This addition was particularly welcome during the busy summer season, meeting the needs of parents with children and computer users. The children's story time was also held during this time block.

In April, the Library made its InfoCentre System available online for searching, renewing materials and placing reserves. The ability to access Library's catalog from home proved to be popular. Patrons also made use of the NH-Link searches which are available through the Library's web page. By providing an online catalog and wifi, the Nichols Library showed itself to be on leading edge of area libraries in technology applications.

Important material improvements were made 2007. The center rail on the front steps was replaced by two side rails, which made for greater ease of access both to patrons and delivery persons. Energy efficient glass was installed in the existing window frames, which were also scraped and painted. New shelving units were added in the reference room and stacks. This accommodated easier access to large format books and magazine back issues, and made it possible to consolidate its media shelving in the stacks. Unfortunately, the Library had to close its popular basement sale room due to code regulations.

The Nichols Library continues to be a well-used and appreciated resource in the community, as demonstrated by the following table:

Circulation	13, 307
Adult	6,981
Children & youth	1,642
Media	4,414

Library Visits	7,786
New Patrons	114
Materials Added	760
Material Withdrawn	477
Total Collection	13,780

Between May and October, when extended hours are offered, the Library averaged over 1,000 circulations a month. During the busy summer season, this figure rose to over 2,000 items per month.

Our staff supported library patrons reading interests and information needs by responding to patron questions, supporting computer use, and providing materials from other libraries:

Reference/Book advisory	214
Computer/Technical help	71
Total	285
Computer Use	1,575
Wifi access	205
Total	1,780
Interlibrary Loans	246

The Nichols Library also loaned 416 items to other NH libraries. While our computer workstations continues to be a popular resource, our wifi link is growing in popularity, with 205 in-house uses . Our web page offered announcements of library events, new book listings, and links to NH-supported research databases. A brochure was produced this year that detailed these resources. Our staff produced monthly displays featuring different aspects of the collection. Our column in the Meredith News featured book reviews and other library news. These also appeared on the Library's web page.

This year, we added a weekly story time to our summer reading program. The program was led by Library Aide Kim Anderson. Seventeen participants submitted lists of completed books for prizes and promotions. Bayswater Books, Movie Mania and Red Hill Dairi provided incentives and prizes, for which we are grateful. In the Spring and Fall, the Library hosted a story time for the Village Pre-School. The Librarian gave two book talks for the Bayswater Book Club.

Librarian Jon Kinnaman honed his skills at meetings of the Reference and Adult Services Division (READS) of the NH Library Association and a vendor workshop hoisted by the Scrooge and Marley Coop. Library Assistant Linda Belisle helped manage interlibrary loan requests, provided valuable reader advisory and references services, and kept our book displays up-to-date. Library Aide Kim Anderson showed initiative in her work with the summer reading program, helped at the circulation desk and assisted with cataloging functions. A volunteer procedures manual was compiled as a reference for emergency staff needs.

Thanks are due to several persons who contributed to the well being of the Library over the past year. Nancy Chapman led the Village pre-school Story Time. Bob Beem assisted with library maintenance services and donating materials. Ginny Ferlazzo and Sandy Webber helped us prep materials for circulation. Priscilla Teague, Helen and Jay Heiner, and Michelene, Vanessa and Anna Tocco helped with our summer book sale. We would also like to express our thanks to the many patrons who provided gifts and material donations to the Library in 2007.

Finally, the Library's Board of Trustees deserves special thanks for the many hours of service given to the Nichols Library. Special mention this year must go to Sarah Heath, who continued in the role of interim Treasurer and played a major role in realizing the material improvements mentioned in this report, and to chair Helen Heiner for her insights and support.

Faithfully Submitted,

Jon Kinnaman, Librarian