

The Ainsworth Public Library has had an exciting year. Our librarian, Sarah Snow, clerks Monique Hayden and Autumn Bissonnette have been busy with lots of programming, a large increase of patronage and the demand by patrons for more current books, audios and dvds. The library currently has 20 active volunteers as well as a Friends of the Library group. The library serves over 550 patrons that actively use its services for borrowing library items, internet use, programming and as a meeting place. Without the dedication of its staff, volunteers, Board and Friends group, the library could not accomplish as much as it does every year.

The most important part of our library is the usage. Library cards are FREE to anyone that visits (cards are for ages 4 and up), we have no fines and we offer more than just books. This year we circulated 5,500 items. We have an extensive book collection for adults and youth of both fiction and non-fiction books, audios, and dvds. We order books monthly and therefore we have current bestsellers. Why buy when you can borrow from the library for free? We offer 6 passes for reduced or free visits to Echo Center, Shelburne Farms, Billings Farms, State Parks, State Historic Sites, the Vermont Historical Museum; the passes are checked out for 3 days and can be returned in our drop box.

Extensive repairs were made to the library this year: including roof repair, outside lighting, a railing put on the side entrance, outside sign repaired and painted, the stairs in front, a new front door, electronic repairs inside, and our cherry tree on the side of the building. More people than ever have been using the library and the current Board of Trustees feels that it is essential to have both a library that is an inviting place for people of all ages and also a safe building. The Friends group purchased an air conditioner for the downstairs. The library is now fully air conditioned in the warmer months and is a great place to come in and cool off.

With the increase in internet use at the library, we purchased a new public access computer this year, giving us 3 public access stations for patrons to use. The library continues to offer fax service (25 cents a page for local/50 cents a page for long distance), printing needs (15 cents a page black and white and 50 cents a page color), and scanning (free). The library serves as a wonderful place to be able to get work done, apply for jobs, and complete online forms; our staff is always willing to help as needed in these areas.

As part of the state wide courier system, the library is able to inter-library loan any materials needed. This year, we had over 1,000 inter-library requests. The Vermont Department of Libraries has become so efficient in the courier system, that our library can usually get any item that is requested within 2 weeks. This free service that the library offers benefits many of our patrons.

The library offers free access to Listen Up Vermont and Universal Classes to library card holders. Many of our patrons enjoy the flexibility and selection of these services, with Listen Up Vermont providing unlimited access to e-books. Universal Classes offers 500 online classes. All you need is an internet connection and a library card to access these great resources.

The library offered 150 programs for adults and youth. This year we had a summer reading program for both youth and adults, 36 adults and 46 youth completed the program. The Friends of the Library donated the prizes for the summer readers. Our library offers a series of classes

and lectures in the fall and winter called the Williamstown Academy; it has been a wonderful way for people in town to meet one another, learn new skills and enjoy the satisfaction of completing projects. Look on our website under programming for this year's offerings. Last year in conjunction with WES, the library received the CLIF grant that formed a bridge between the library and the elementary school, this year we continue to work in partnership by offering monthly visits to the pre-school, collaborations with programming and library visits from other classes. Our library was chosen as one of the 26 Vermont libraries to receive the Federal 3 year VELI-STEM grant; this grant allows dynamic programming and materials for youth that focus on science, technology, engineering and math. We are in the second year of the grant. We are a great place for teens in town to volunteer and complete the community service requirement at WMHS. Stop in and fill out an application. If you are 16 years or more, you can volunteer to help at the front desk.

The Friends of the Library donated all of the Vermont award books for Kindergarten through High School so that local youth can be a part of other Vermont towns voting for their favorite book. We have seen an increase in youth using the library after school as a safe place to study and socialize. The library has two adult reading groups, the Williamstown Readers and the Senior Book Group, each group meets monthly to discuss a new book each month. If you have a suggested program for next year, please contact the library.

On behalf of the library, we would like to thank the town for their continued support. The library is a hub for the community and we are grateful to be such an integral part of the town. Please visit our website www.Ainsworthpubliclibrary.org or look for us on Facebook for pictures, information and upcoming events. We love new ideas and inspirations, if you have anything that you would like to see happening at the library, email or call us.