

**BOLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
TRUSTEES**

Robert C. Zak, Jr., Chairman2006
Christine Sterling2007
Alana Dunn Clarke2008

STAFF

Kelly Collins, MLS, Director	Cheryl Labonte	Linda
McGeehan	Mary Murtland	Przemek
Kawka	Verity Sayles	
Philip Whalen, Assist Director/Youth Services Librarian		

In addition to meeting monthly to oversee the library operations, the Board of Library Trustees devoted additional time planning for the proposed renovation/expansion of the library building. This year, with approval of the voters, the trustees applied for and received two grants providing a significant amount of funding toward the proposed project. First and most significantly, in February 2005 the Library Board of Trustees and Library Building Planning Committee submitted an application for a construction grant to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). In July, we learned that the Town was among the first seven public libraries (out of 41 applicants) chosen to receive a provisional grant, ours in the amount of \$2,487,906 or about one-third of the total cost. Second, the library received a private grant for treating drainage from the proposed parking area.

With news of the provisional grant, fundraising activities began in earnest. Chaired by Trustee Chris Sterling, the Capital Campaign Committee met regularly and produced a town-wide appeal for pledges. This effort raised an additional \$250,000 in the four weeks before Special Town Meeting.

The Trustees and Building Planning Committee sponsored an article at Special Town Meeting seeking \$4,291,626 to fund the cost of the renovation/expansion not covered by grants and private funds. 266 people voted Yes, and 238 voted No. Though a simple majority of voters approved, the article failed because it did not get the required 2/3 majority. A week later, the ballot question about the library failed (by 19 votes) to get the simple majority needed to pass. At year's end, with the deadline for the MBLC provisional grant looming, the Trustees decided that forfeiting the grant would be a mistake. Gathering support among voters, donors, and the town administration, they planned to appeal to the MBLC for an extension of the deadline. This appeal will take place in early January 2006.

In the midst of meetings and discussions about the library's future, we continued to offer programs, materials, and services from our beautiful but crowded building. Among the year's highlights in services:

- The building now houses 25,014 items in a variety of formats including books, recorded books, movies on DVD and VHS, periodicals, and electronic databases.

- For FY05, library users checked out 47,402 items.
- Once again the library was a net lender (that is, it loaned more material to other libraries than it borrowed), supplying 5,900 items to other libraries and receiving 2,643 from them.
- The library was open 42 hours a week, and a total of 2,157 hours during the year.
- We held 131 children’s programs with a total attendance of 1,785.
- 2,511 individuals hold library cards with Bolton as their home library.
- 23,894 people visited the library this year (or 75-100 each day)
- 188 young people participated in the Summer Reading Program for kids, and 63 in the adult summer reading program.

The Board saw a major change in spring, with 4-term Trustee Secretary Barbara Carvalho’s decision not to run for office again. Barbara’s 12 years on the board have seen many changes at the library, primary among them automation. Her good humor, organizational skills, knowledge of libraries (she is a professional media specialist), and institutional memory will be missed. The Board and staff honored her at a dinner in May.

The staff also changed, with Cheryl Labonte’s departure and the appointments of Linda McGeehan and Mary Murtland. In recognition of his continuing energy and achievement in youth services, in September the Trustees elevated Philip Whalen to the new full-time position of Assistant Director/Youth Services Librarian.

The Friends of the Bolton Public Library had a similarly eventful year. After three very successful years as Chair of the organization, Mary Jo White stepped down. She was replaced at the helm by co-chairs Pam Sowizral Kaminski and Mary Delaney. The Friends continued to support the library in many ways, from fundraising (including two book sales) to sponsoring programs and museum passes. Their contributions enhance the library and support its mission in every possible way.

The Trustees and staff offer their sincere thanks to the following individuals and groups for their continued support of the library this year: The Bolton Garden Club, Great Brook Farms, Bolton Cultural Council, Cia Boynton, Leigh Shanny, John Rodenhiser, Paul Vasington, the Capital Campaign Committee (Bill White, Pam Kaminski, Pat Bensetler, Randy Batson, Sharon Shepela, and David McKinley), the Library Building Planning Committee (Hank Amabile, Jim Flaherty, Ann Hurd, Roland Ochsenein, Kelly Collins, *ex officio*), and all who pledged to the capital campaign. A special thanks to Roland Ochsenein for his tireless leadership of the Library Building Planning Committee.

**Financial Statement
July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005**

Salary	
Appropriated	\$52,894.00
Expended	<u>\$52,894.40</u>
	\$ (.40)

Wages

Appropriated		\$57,513.48
Expended		<u>\$56,198.21</u>
Unexpended balance returned to general fund		\$ 1,315.27

Expenses

Appropriated			\$51,446.00
Expended	Heating	\$3,103.14	
	Electric	2,746.62	
	Repairs	225.00	
	Telephone	831.60	
	Supplies	3,421.64	
	Materials	34,897.60	
	Programs	6,678.61	<u>\$51,904.21</u>
Unexpended balance returned to general fund			\$ 9.64