

PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Alana Dunn Clarke2006
Christine Sterling2007
Roland Ochsenbein.....2008
Robert C. Zak, Jr., Chairman.....2009

STAFF

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

2006 was easily the most significant year in the library's recent history as well as the busiest for the Board of Library Trustees, for it was the year that the voters formally approved the renovation and expansion of the 100+ year old building. In addition to holding regular monthly meetings to oversee the library's administration, the trustees worked additional hours organizing volunteers, getting out the votes, publicizing the benefits of an expanded library, attending meetings with other boards and committees, and generally advocating for the renovation/expansion.

Acceptance of a state library construction grant depended upon two local actions: securing votes (which was done in May), and raising \$750,000 in private funds on or before December 7, 2006. Ann Hurd and Chris Sterling cochaired the Capital Campaign Committee. Together with an energetic group of volunteers, they raised cash and pledges in the amount of \$840K. Among the capital campaign's accomplishments this year were hosting Author Fest, which brought to town 10 outstanding children's book authors and illustrators to sign and sell their works, with all proceeds donated to the campaign. With the cooperation of Norm Wagner Toyota in Lancaster, the Capital Campaigners also held a Cash or Camry raffle with a top prize of a 2007 Camry or \$17,000 in cash. From children who emptied their piggy banks to companies that matched gifts to generous donors within the community and beyond, support has been widespread. The Campaign will continue into the New Year and after, with an ultimate goal of raising \$1.04 million for the renovation/expansion project and giving sustained private support of the library.

Late in the year, the Library Board of Trustees and Board of Selectmen jointly appointed a Library Construction Committee as follows: Pam Czekanski, Brent Gates, Joel Lindsay, Roland Ochsenbein, Chris Rogers, Mickie Simpson, Bill Strapko, and library director Kelly Collins. The Committee began regular meetings in November, and plans to hire a project manager early in 2007.

As in previous years, the library's statistics reflect a well-used and valued institution. Among the highlights:

- Circulation (i.e., items borrowed) totaled 53,708 (a new record!), including 28,317 books, 3,377 magazines, 1,685 recorded books, 19,568 movies, and hundreds of electronic resources (e-books and databases).
- The library was open 2,050 hours, including 200 hours on Saturdays and 468 hours after 5 p.m.
- Attendance in the library (i.e., people visiting) numbered 23,400, or about 90 people per day
- We offered 95 children's programs with a total attendance of 1,110
- We offered 7 adult programs attended by 94
- The library houses 25,104 items, 22,777 of which are books.

For the past four years, the library has had the distinction of being a net lender; that is, of loaning more materials to other libraries than it borrows from them. This year, a healthy state budget allowed Central Massachusetts Regional Library System to resume its program of financial rewards to net lenders, and as a result, Bolton Library received a check in the amount of \$3,073.68. The Library was again fully certified and thus qualified to continue receiving state grants and aid. This year the library received \$5,531 in state aid.

Library programs and special events this year included the following:

- summer reading programs for both youth and adults
- craft workshops for young adults, held on school early release days
- "Cabin Fever," a series of craft demonstrations by local artisans
- participation in Shades of Autumn fall festival at Tower Hill Botanic Garden
- observance of the 5th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks
- Cowapalooza and a writing contest sponsored by Suzy Becker
- the Museum of Science's traveling planetarium*
- magician Steve Charette*
- musician Roger Ticknell
- programs on beekeeping, the Harvard Shaker community, and origami.

**Cosponsored by the Friends of the Bolton Public Library and Bolton Cultural Council.*

The staff saw several changes this year. Longtime shelvees Przemek Kawka and Verity Sayles graduated from Nashoba Regional High School and left for Amherst and Zambia, respectively. In September, we welcomed new shelvees Daniel Stefanis and Nicole Balin, both Nashoba Regional High School students. In December, staff member Mary Murtland resigned in order to become Director of Ashby Public Library.

Every library staff member took advantage of continuing education and other professional opportunities: Phil Whalen completed the third of four courses required for state paraprofessional certification, while Linda McGeehan is halfway there. Director Kelly Collins served as the library's voting representative at C/W

MARS network Users' Council meetings, attended several regional directors' roundtables, and completed short courses in ethics in the library and outcomes-based evaluation. The entire staff contributed to the library website and newsletter, as well as a regular column in the *Bolton Common*.

The Trustees wish to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of board Secretary Alana Dunn Clarke. Alana served for over a year before resigning in order to spend more time with her new daughter, future trustee Nora Clarke. Roland Ochsenbein, who for several years chaired the Library Building Planning Committee, applied and was nominated to fill Alana's role until the elections in 2007.

The Trustees offer special thanks to the Friends of the Bolton Public Library, the Kaminski family, the Delaney family, the Nelson family, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Bartlett, Allan Pommer, the Bolton Garden Club, Bolton Cultural Council, Fruitlands Museum staff, Christine Cahill Alfano, Julia Quinn-Szcesuil, Dottie Paquette, Shirley Sefton, Pat Bensetler, Miss Jennifer Lord, Mr. Timothy Henderson, the *Bolton Common* staff, and Ken Cleveland.

Financial Statement
July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

Salary		
Appropriated		\$54,475.00
Expended		<u>\$54,474.94</u>
		\$.06
Wages		
Appropriated		\$66,686.00
Expended		<u>\$59,626.32</u>
Unexpended balance returned to general fund		\$ 7,059.68
Expenses		
Appropriated		\$54,415.00
Transfers		2,196.00
Expended	Heating	\$4,208.39
	Electric	3,048.63
	Repairs	200.00
	Telephone	813.89
	Supplies	3,696.68
	Materials	37,306.43
	Programs	6,995.88
		<u>\$56,269.90</u>
Unexpended balance returned to general fund		\$ 341.99



Aerial View of the Public Library