

Librarian's Report

May 18, 2004

As everyone knows by now, Referendum Question #4 asking for \$10,000 for start up costs for the building committee passed, as did our requested budget. We are having people ask where and when the new building will be built. As of Thursday, May 1st, Jean and I can now say we have a new building committee, we will let you know when they decide!

I attended our quarterly "Yapping Yorkies" meeting, this time at the Hollis Center Library, on Friday, April 10th from nine a.m. till twelve-thirty. We discussed several of the meetings that were coming up, talked about the Summer Reading Program, several questions people had about the Maine Standards and how they related to their library. We also discussed some programs different libraries had done among other topics. A very good meeting.

Our Kaya Pow-wow on Saturday, May 1st was a great success. We had over eighty people come out to learn about the Native American way of life in Maine. Mary Weyer, the librarian from Salmon Falls, designed the craft for the children to make - either ankle or wrist bells. These the children wore when they learned how to do a native dance. The five speakers were wonderful, Yellow Turtle Basket telling stories handed down to her, Buffalo Wolf, Jim Blackhawk, the area peacekeeper, Windwalker and Emily, a thirteen year-old all added information about their Native heritage and how they live their lives in two cultures. A typical Native American feast of turkey, Indian bread, corn bread, Indian pudding, maple popcorn and sweet water was enjoyed by all.

Our April Read-a-thon was a great success with us reaching 895 body parts on our bookworm. Michelle Dion, who runs a day care, only counted one body part for each book she brought to the day care, and didn't count each book her children read this year. If she had, we would have added another hundred books as she has eight or so children in her group.

The corner in the children's room was finally repaired over the past weekend. We are now waiting for the new book cases to be built and working on adding the homeschool books to our computer data base so people will know what we have. This way they can plan their curriculum for next year.

Brigit and I attended the Trustee Forum at the Portland Public Library on Tuesday, May 11th on the Maine Library Standards Brigit gave a wonderful presentation, and several people came up to her afterwards with questions. Discussion at supper was informative about what other librarians and directors were doing, how they were using the standards, etc.

On Friday, May 14th I attended the annual Maine Library Association meeting in

Waterville, along with Maureen Cole, Mary Weyer and one of our volunteers, Darlene Chadbourne. The morning program was a craft workshop to show us some crafts to go along with this summer's summer reading program. Kathy Ross, the author of almost a dozen children's crafts books, provided a "hands-on" program. It was interesting to see how many librarian's were "craft challenged!". You could tell those who work with children and those who didn't. The afternoon brought a vote on a revised set of by-laws and other information.

On Monday, May 17th, I went to the Scholastic Book Warehouse in Scarborough. They are having a 50% off sale on all their books and I was able to purchase books for the summer, some hardcovers at a good price.

I am using the last of the book money for the year to purchase requested book and audio titles, replacement books, especially outdated books in the adult room and books for the summer reading program. People have been very happy with the selection of materials we have been purchasing and have been giving us suggestions on titles to add to the collection.

I have called the furnace company to find out when they will be coming. They are coming Thursday to start tearing out the old furnace and will be working through next week will be done. I also emailed Nancy about having the front stairs repaired since the weather is warm, and am waiting to hear back from her.

We are trying to sort out the new books that are donated as soon as they come in to keep the bathroom as clean as possible. All the homeschool books waiting to be input are in boxes in the bathroom along with videos to be added and books we are keeping. People have been very generous in their donations of books this year.

We have two regular volunteers at this time, Darlene Chadbourne and Keegan Chamberlain. They come each week for several hours, Keegan loves looking up book records on the Net and Darlene will do what ever is necessary to be done. She is learning to check books in and out so she will be able to work the desk if Jean or I are away.

I am working on the schedule for our open hours beginning in July. It looks like we will be open Monday - Friday for six hours and Saturday for five hours. That will allow Jean and I to have every other Saturday off with Pat filling in when Jean is off and a fourth person (Jessie, Darlene) to fill in the other open hours. It allows for some needed closed hours to complete work before and after the library closes.

Ruth Blake, Director
Waterboro Public Library