

# **Athol Public Library**

## **Report of the Board of Library Trustees 2011-2012**

*To: The Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol*

This year has been a wild ride for the library staff, customers and citizens of Athol. There was so much work to be done to prepare the library for the move to temporary quarters and clear the building for occupation of the general contractor. The staff cannot be commended enough for the job they have done.

The bids went out for the sub-trades in June but came back too high. The Construction Committee directed the Architect to reduce the scope of the work and some unpleasant choices had to be made. The work was bid again and while reduced were still over the construction budget. The committee reduced again and went out to bid for the General Contractor. Those bids were expected back in July.

We just made our state certification requirement this year to the dollar. Just to reiterate the importance of this certification - it allows our borrowers to use any library in the commonwealth and to have access to the state databases which are critical for students doing homework or researchers. It also provides Interlibrary Loan services which this year shows us ranking number three in this half of the state for materials borrowed for our residents. It allows us to apply for state and federal grants. It is necessary to keep the \$4.57 million construction grant for our new library. De-certification generates, by contract, an automatic call for repayment of the money.

In staff news, Libby Lipin our webmaster and cataloguer left to take a position in a college environment. We wished her well in her new job and promoted Kelsey Matthews to the position. Kelsey has been with the library since high school days as a page and has been working very hard to earn her bachelor's degree. With that in hand and her years of library experience, we were pleased to offer her the job. Gosia Spooner was selected to fill Kelsey's part time position. Gosia brings several years of library experience and holds a Master's in Library Science. Also leaving after many years was our very part time computer aide Ryan Johnson who joined the military. We miss Ryan's smiling face and cheerful disposition but were happy to welcome Tom Deam into the position. Rheba Gagne was hired as the Brouillet intern and she is also working at the Mount Library as a student.

Because of the upcoming building project, we did not do any major improvements to the building. Maintenance efforts to keep the building in good running order were done. We look forward to a renovated building because the outdated plumbing has caused many overflowing toilets this year.

The Trustees like to acknowledge the numerous volunteer hours served by many individuals and groups, including the Friends of the Library, the town manager for his cooperation and the Athol DPW. The library staff in particular deserves a huge round of thanks for boxing up and moving our library this summer with the help of a huge number of volunteers, businesses and family.

Moving into shared space can be challenging and we wish to thank the Council on Aging for working with us to provide a home in their Senior Center for us for one year. It has been a nice location with good parking and the customers really appreciate having a library to use while ours is getting built. We all look forward to giving the COA their home back so they can provide the full services they want to but express our appreciation for their cooperation!

Respectfully submitted,

**Board of Library Trustees**  
Margaret L. Young, Chairman