



## 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

### USAGE:

Libraries nationwide experienced a significant increase in usage during the calendar year 2008, and Merrill Library is no exception. The introduction of some new programs and services, combined with more traditional Library offerings, caused our usage statistics increase for the first time in almost 10 years. Some highlights:

<b>Category</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Total items loaned	125,149	125,264	132,931
DVD's loaned	15,921	17,286	22,423
Adult fiction loaned	17,057	24,165	25,622
Interlibrary loans processed	483	499	829
Juvenile materials	33,988	33,112	34,874
Summer readers	249	281	345
After School Kids program attendance	not counted	112	480
Museum/Park passes loaned	144	138	224

### GRANTS:

- We received a generous grant from the [Yarmouth Lions Club](#) to purchase an AED unit for the lobby of our building. In addition, the grant also funded Red Cross CPR training for all of the Library staff.
- We received grants from the [Davis Family Foundation](#) and the [Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust](#). These grants were combined to fund the Library's web site revision project. Our new site was launched in September and has been very well received.
- The [Yarmouth Arts](#) Community Grant Program awarded Merrill Library money to improve the Art & Architecture Collection.
- The [JTG Foundation](#) Grant was given to Merrill Library for the purchase of Health and Wellness materials in many areas of our collection.
- A second-year [Cornerstones of Science](#) Grant was awarded to our Children's Department. This money is given to purchase materials and programs for children that focus on science and technology.

### PROGRAMS:

Attendance continues to increase at all of our programs. Adult programs include the [Readers' Circle](#) monthly book group, [author visits](#) and the [Saturday Knitters](#). In the Juvenile department, we continue with four [Storyhours](#) weekly, [After School Kids](#) twice weekly and [Teen Book group](#) once a week.

The [StoryWalk](#) is a new cooperative program between the Library and Yarmouth Community Services. Each page of a story appears along an outdoor path, combining literacy and a love of the outdoors. We installed a children's story in early fall along the Royal River Park Pathway, and an adult poetry walk along the Spear Farm Estuary Preserve Trail. Both StoryWalks were popular and we look forward to our continued partnership with YCS to bring additional programs to the community.

We worked hard in 2008 to deliver materials and services to meet the changing needs of our patrons. We value our place in the community and will continue to listen and adapt as needed to remain a vital asset to the residents of Yarmouth. The library is more than ever a community center, with a vibrant collection of materials and services, and our staff creates a welcoming atmosphere with resources for all ages and interests.

#### **Heidi Grimm, Director**

Jo Adamo, *Circulation Librarian & Assistant Director*  
 Melissa Madigan, *Youth Services*  
 Nissa Flanagan, *Technical Services*  
 Trudy Briggs, *Adult Services*  
 Amanda Baker, *Collection Development*

Jane Mullany, *Children's Department*  
 Kerry Charles, *Technical Services*  
 Linda Coleman, *Programming and Publicity*  
 Diane Goddard, *Circulation*