**2021 Town Report for the Library**

The Olivia Rodham Memorial Library is here to serve the community. The continuing Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to rethink, and in some ways recreate, traditional library services. During the pandemic we have found ways to offer those services to the Nelson community safely, including:

* Regularly reviewing health and safety protocols using CDC guidelines;
* Offering our patrons the option of curbside pick up, as well as access to books and periodicals online; and
* Moving many events online, via Zoom.

We welcome questions and ideas from all on ways the library can be more useful to you. To find our catalog and our calendar take a look at our web page http://nelsonlibrary.org or email us at [nelsonlibrary25@gmail.com](mailto:nelsonlibrary25@gmail.com) (a *new* email address: please update your contacts).

**What the Olivia Rodham Memorial Library offers the community:**

* Our library is free and open to the public five days each week for a total of 17 hours. See the web site for current hours;
* We offer books, audio books on CD, magazines, a telescope, DVDs, kids games and puzzles, puppets, craft kits, all of which can be borrowed;
* We provide **in house or curbside delivery**; patrons may come and browse while wearing masks;
* **Our web page**: [nelsonlibrary.org](http://nelsonlibrary.org/) has a town events calendar, links to local groups and event notices;
* We offer an **online portal for downloading and borrowing eBooks, audio books, Kindle books; and access to Novelist;** an online website has been helping readers find their next favorite book for more than 25 years and continues to develop innovative solutions for connecting readers, books, and libraries
* We can get patrons **books from every NH public and college library**, through the inter-library loan program (ILL), delivered twice a week;
* We offer **internet enabled computers**, and a WiFi color printer with a large format option;
* We host monthly and weekly **ZOOM programs and FaceBook LIVE kids programs**. (This year, 40 kids programs on Face Book LIVE and the web page, with 1038 hits);
* **In house (masked) programs**: Social hour every Saturday (10 am to 11 am) and a monthly “Talking About Race” discussion group;
* Come to the library and enjoy origami, snap circuits, Lego, and our collection of gems and rocks;
* Altogether this year, we have hosted **93 programs, with a total attendance of 2,274**.

**Meetings.** The library and the meeting room on the lower level were used for regular meetings by many Nelson groups: Agricultural Commission, Conservation Board, Friends of the Library, Library trustee meetings, Cemetery Board, and the Trails Committee.

**Contributions to the library in time, talent, grants and material goods.**The library is thankful for the hours that volunteers put in this year at the library. Contributions helped keep the Olivia Rodham Memorial Library the community resource it is today. This year the library received a grant through the American Rescue Plan Act of $2756.00. These funds purchased several items to accommodate changes being made because of the pandemic. Picnic tables and other materials were purchased to set up an area for outdoor use in the fresh air. The library added a printer (and materials) that incluses a large format option especially for maps to access Nelson’s trails. We also added shelving for organizing the book sale area. Many volunteers contributed their time: Mary Cornog, Judith Maule and Martha Collins helped weekly; occasional volunteers included Russ Thomas, David Ottinger, Stacia Tolman, Val VanMeier and Tom Buttrick . Help with cleaning the interior of the library and maintaining library gardens came from Gretchen Ezell, Kathleen Vetter, Susan Peery, Linda Singer, Ted Lenk, Russ Thomas, Maury Collins, the Agricultural Committee (colonial herb garden) and others. Our monetary supporters in 2021 included the Library Friends group, NH Charitable Foundation, NH Humanities Council, Marcia Sexton, Marianne Hammond in memory of Bud French, the Memton Fund, and the Library memorial funds. Many donations are made also of books, audio-visual materials, and magazines.Al Stoops donated the subscription to *Northern Woodlands,* a magazine.

**From the Friends of the Library:** The Friends of the Library continued their mission to support the Library. We held a "pop-up" outdoor sale in October and collected a total of $300 for the year. We purchased shelving with grant funds, organizing our space in the lower level of the Library. Due to Covid restraints, there are no plans for events, but we look forward to resuming our varied activities as soon as safely possible. Thank you to all who donate their time and financial support.

**Olivia Rodham Memorial Library Statistics 2020 v 2021**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Books & Media** | **2020** | **2021** |
| Purchased from Equipment Fund | 3 | 7 |
| Gifts of the Friends of the Library | 87 | 138 |
| Donated books, DVDs and CDs | 137 | 171 |
| Items withdrawn from the collection | 199 | 384 |
| **Total Collection (Books & Media)** | **9,377** | **9,309** |
| **Library Circulation:** |  |  |
| Downloadable audio and e-Books | 1,306 | 1,413 |
| Adult non-fiction | 268 | 327 |
| Adult fiction | 412 | 622 |
| Juvenile and easy | 294 | 467 |
| Adult DVD/CD | 65 | 558 |
| Juvenile DVD/CD | 7 | 21 |
| Periodicals | 250 | 281 |
| Inter-library loan | 551 | 763 |
| Read In-house | 79 | 26 |
| **Total Circulation** | **3,232** | **4,478** |
| **Library Use:** |  |  |
| Computer use | 360 | 91 |
| Reference questions | 251 | 518 |
| Patron visits | 1,962 | 2,005 |
| Patrons registered | 438 | 451 |
| Web Page visits | 1,400 | 1,800 |

Respectfully submitted, Kristine Finnegan, Library Director