**2023 Olivia Rodham Memorial Library Town Report**

**Grant Success:** The Olivia Rodham Memorial Library was honored to be among the 12 libraries selected for the prestigious Rural Library Grant by the Children’s Literacy Foundation (CLiF). This grant, dedicated to enhancing literacy and community involvement, provided a total of $2,000 for enriching our children’s book collection, alongside a generous $500 allocation for books at the local elementary school. Additionally, it sponsored two storytelling events at the school, offering each attending child two new books of their choice. Moreover, the grant facilitated mini-grants to support special library programs throughout the year, bolstering our commitment to literacy and engagement.

**Library Offerings:** Catering to the diverse needs of our community, the Olivia Rodham Memorial Library remains an inclusive space for Nelson residents. From books, audio materials, magazines, and DVDs to interactive elements like a telescope, kids' games, puzzles, puppets, and craft kits, the library opens its doors to all. The library's web page, nelsonlibrary.org, serves as a hub for town events, local group links, and numerous online services accessible from home or within the library premises. The introduction of fiber internet this year has significantly boosted online accessibility.

**Programs and Engagements:** The library hosted an array of engaging programs throughout the year, fostering knowledge, culture, and community connection. These included events like Monadnock Music sessions, educational workshops on Watersheds and Estuaries with UNH Marine Docents, and captivating sessions with Monadnock Outreach and Monadnock Falconry. The library’s own summer forums, featuring discussions on Nelson Rules Baseball history and the Music of a Nelson Landscape. Four NH Humanities programs covered diverse topics:

*1. Drawing Community: Creating Comics from Shared Stories*

*2. New England's Colonial Meetinghouses and their Impact on American Society*

*3. A Walk Back in Time: The Secrets of Cellar Holes*

*4. Corbin's Animal Garden*

**Community Involvement:** Our library served as a meeting ground for numerous community groups, including the Agricultural Commission, Conservation Board, Friends of the Library, Library Trustees, Monadnock Folklore Society, Cemetery Board, Library COOP, Nelson Energy Board, and the Friends' book sale. These gatherings enriched our community, promoting collaboration and exchange of ideas.

**Acknowledging Contributions:** The library extends heartfelt appreciation to its invaluable volunteers, such as Martha Collins, Gordon Peery, Josiah Basner, Tom Buttrick, Val Van Meier and Gretchen Ezell, for their dedicated service. The generous support from contributors, including the Library Friends group and the NH Charitable Foundation, alongside numerous donations of books, audio-visual materials, and magazines, has been pivotal in the library's growth and continued service to the community.

Respectfully, Kristine Finnegan, Library Director