

Cheboygan Area Public Library
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Library Director

LIBRARY STATISTICS

Last reporting year

Library visits	65,000
Items borrowed	76,587
Computer usage	33,364
Library programs	140
Attendance lib. Programs	6,251
Interlibrary Loans	
Loaned	3,843
Borrowed	3,326

Cheboygan Area Public Library

Spring 2008

Letter from the Director

The American Library Association recently reprinted a job advertisement for Platte County, Wyo. From the early 1900's, the advertisement read: "Must be able to get along with western people, ride and drive, as well as pack a horse, follow a trail, shoot straight, run an automobile and be able to rough it whenever necessary." It started me thinking about a job advertisement for today. How do we describe the unique challenges for our times? Now a librarian must be able to navigate the USA Patriot Act, Freedom of Information Act, Michigan Privacy Act, CIPA, and Open Meetings Act, and understand tax capture initiatives like Downtown Development Authorities, Brownfield Authorities, and other similar functions. A librarian must also watch and understand state and federal legislation that affects libraries. Library conferences regularly feature sessions to meet the lawyers and understand the legislature and state budgeting process. It is a challenging and interesting time. It makes one wish for a simpler time when we dealt mainly with books, reading and providing information.

Librarians do get asked simple direct questions, like the one I heard several times recently. At first I thought it an odd question but after being asked the third time in a week, I thought it should be addressed in the newsletter. The question I hear goes something like this: "I hear the library has 15 furnaces. That can't be true, can it?" Well we don't have 15 furnaces, but we do have 13 furnaces. It was a choice that we made during the design of the building. We could choose a single large power plant which would need annual inspections from the state (with appropriate fees attached), and, if there was a breakdown, the library would be unusable until repairs were made. We chose to use conventional heating and cooling units which would not need annual inspections and, if one broke down, the building could stay open with the remaining units carrying the load until it was repaired or replaced. We think we made the better choice.

The other question I frequently hear is, "why can't I borrow books from the library? I pay county taxes." Cheboygan Area Public Library is a district library formed by the City, School system, Aloha, Beaugrand, Benton, Grant, Inverness and parts of Munro and Hebron townships. The property owners in the district provide 97% of the funding for the library. There is no financial support from the County. If you pay library taxes you will see them reflected on your Winter Tax bill. One line for operating expenses and a second for the construction bond. We do allow for the purchase of a borrowing card for people who live out-of-district. We charge an annual fee of \$50.00 per household, which is the average cost to in-district taxpayers. Everyone is welcome to come in and use materials and resources in-house, but, to borrow, you must have a library card.

"WHERE ALL THINK ALIKE, NO ONE THINKS VERY MUCH."

Walter Lippmann

WISH LIST

In the previous issue of the newsletter I asked for help with the acquisition of resources that we would like to add to the library collection. Shortly after the newsletter was distributed I received a call from the Straits Area Federal Credit Union with an offer to donate the funds so that the library could purchase the Oxford English Dictionary. The new 20 volume set is now proudly displayed in our Reference section. There are still some things that we need help funding. We would like to purchase the 2007 Encyclopedia Britannica (32 volumes, \$1,395.00). We are also looking for Cheboygan area High School yearbooks. Many visiting patrons working on family histories have asked if we have yearbooks but we only have a few. If you have yearbooks to donate, or would like to help fund other resources, please call me at 627-2381.

LIBRARY CENTER FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The library duties and work schedule of Mel Eno were recently expanded. The popularity and greatly increased use of library meeting rooms necessitated the dedication of more staff time to manage the facilities. Mel has been the point person to contact about using the rooms in the LCCP located on the lower level of the library. The enhanced hours will also allow Mel time to develop more library sponsored programming. The library board is reviewing current policy and will be soon implementing updated policies for the use of the facilities. To contact Mel, call 231-627-2381 or email eno.melanie@skycon.net.

A Library for Young People by Sam King, Children's Librarian

Last September, Cheboygan's young people experienced a special treat at the Library: The Key Ingredients Smithsonian exhibit and the MSU Michigan Foodways exhibit. These traveling museum exhibits were obtained by a grant and were installed in the Studio of the Lower Level and the Young Adult Room on the main floor of the Library.

Over 700 students, from preschool through 8th grade, public and private schools, were toured through the exhibits. Many children had never seen a museum exhibit before. Each group was sent on a special scavenger hunt assignment to find specific items in the exhibits. After the tour, every child received a juicy apple from Crusoe's Orchards.

Along with my weekly preschool story-time, other groups of young people (and adults) continue to visit me for stories, songs and puppetry; or simply to find and check out materials. These are the schools and organizations that have brought groups: Inverness Elementary School, Westside Elementary, Eastside Elementary School, Cornerstone Christian School, Bishop Baraga Catholic School, St. John's Lutheran Preschool, Head Start Program, Straits Area Services, Cheboygan Public High School and Middle School. Most of these groups come on a monthly scheduled basis.

David Anthony and Charles David, the authors of the popular "Knightscares" book series for young people, came to perform near Halloween time. They acted out scenes from their books and imparted a positive message about reading. As one young audience member remarked, "They're spooky, but funny, so, not *too* spooky!"

In February, See North, a wildlife conservation group, brought Belfry the Barn Owl. Belfry is a ten-year old bird that prefers human company. (He was raised from the egg by people). See North furnished snacks and refreshments and provided pamphlets and information while Belfry posed for photos with his many fans.

The Teen Group meets with me once a month to help develop programs and services for their age group. During Teen Tech Week in March, Joel Tacey, a professional youth performer, set up and operated a video game arcade in the Library's Gallery Room. After school that day, teens came to compete with friends on four different game stations. It was a fun and successful "social experiment".

On April 21, Mike Offutt, a science teacher and demonstrator, presented his "Ultimate Science Show" in the Library's Studio. Mike did an excellent job of showing how science works in a zany and fast-paced manner.

My Summer Reading Program will take place in the month of July. Insects are the theme, with the slogan "Catch the Reading Bug". The performers I have booked for July are: The Hastey Pudding Puppet Troupe, Ron Loyd—the Bubbleman, Storyteller Jenifer Strauss Ivinskas and Songwriter Carol Johnson. In addition, I will do weekly programs for three different age groups (preschool, 5-8, 9-up). I'm looking forward to seeing all of our young people this summer.

The Cheboygan Area Public Library Staff and myself extend a hearty welcome to all visitors, and we all enjoy seeing and serving Cheboygan's young people.

LIBRARY FOUNDATION

In less than one year we have exceeded our projections. With a donation of \$80,000 from the Gordon and Frances Spies Trust the foundation now has nearly \$100,000. The library plans to leave the principal and re-invest half of the interest each year. To achieve significant annual revenue the foundation must continue to grow. The State of Michigan allows a generous tax credit for charitable contributions to public libraries. A taxpayer can claim 50% of their donation as a tax credit not to exceed \$100.00 or for husband and wife filing jointly \$200.00. A couple filing a joint return can donate \$400.00 to Cheboygan Area Public Library and receive a \$200.00 tax credit on their Michigan Income tax. For those who itemize you are also able to take a deduction on your federal tax. Business taxpayers can make charitable donations to public libraries and claim a credit against the tax imposed by the Michigan Business Tax Act, 2007, PA 36 under section 421, MCL 208.1421.

GOODBYE TO MICHICARD

With the beginning of the year, the library withdrew from the Library of Michigan Michicard program. This voluntary program is a reciprocal borrowing agreement between libraries which allows patrons of member libraries to borrow materials from other participating members. Unfortunately, some jurisdictions use the system to provide library service to their constituents instead of providing support for their local library. The system is meant to be reciprocal with members balancing lending and borrowing, however, we have only been lending materials, thus providing free library service to some outlying areas. CAPL continues to participate in a borrowing agreement with 8 northern Michigan libraries: Petoskey Public Library, Charlevoix Public Library, Alanson Area Public Library, Boyne District Library, Crooked Tree District Library, Presque Isle District Library, Montmorency County Public Libraries, and Alcona County Library. We also provide inter-library loan for our library patrons. All people are welcome to use the library. If they do not reside within our district and wish to borrow materials they may purchase a Guest Borrowers card which has an annual fee of \$50.00 per household.

GOODBYE

Longtime library board member Lorna Brach recently resigned after extensive service to her township and the library district. Lorna began representing Inverness township in Sept. 1996. She served through the beginnings of the library's move to a district library. Much of her time on the board was as the board treasurer. She also served during the planning and construction of the new library. Thank you, Lorna, for your years of service and good luck in your future endeavors.

MICHIGAN'S ANYTIME, ANYWHERE LIBRARY OPEN 24 HOURS (Michigan Residents Only)

MelCat is here! MelCat is the statewide union catalog and resource sharing project to share materials among all types of libraries in Michigan. Currently there are over 250 Michigan Libraries with over 26 million holdings. Items are sent to the library at which you are registered. If it's on their shelves, you can reserve it. If you need some answers and the library is closed—check out the rest of the Michigan eLibrary (MeL) for magazine articles, newspapers, practice tests, genealogy resources, consumer health information and much more. Mel.org—a 24-hour link to quality information.

AT THE MOVIES

The library received donations of DVD collections. The Straits Area Concerned Citizens donated all of the films that were shown at their summer film series. The library also received a private donation of nearly 500 DVDs. This collection includes both feature films and television series. Library staff has been working to add the titles to the collection. Keep checking to see what is new!

MAP RESOURCES

The library now has a complete set of USGS 15 minute Topographic maps for Cheboygan County. This set of 26 maps is located in the local history/genealogy room for use in the library.

The other mapping resource comes to us from the Cheboygan County Community Development Dept., GIS Dept. They are sharing aerial photographs of Cheboygan County which come with Geographical Information System software to manipulate the content.

COMPUTER GRANT

The library has been named a recipient of an \$11,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The program is to help libraries purchase new or replace old public computers. With the grant we were able to add 4 computers in our computer lab, bringing the number of public computers to 28. Additionally, we replaced 5 public access computers. The Gates Foundation has been a great supporter of rural libraries.

NEW LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER

Inverness township swore in a new board representative at their April 1st meeting. Danny Faircloth has been selected as the newest member of the 7 member board. He jumped right in with his first meeting the very next day. Welcome, Danny.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION TRAVELING EXHIBIT

Since the last newsletter our two year project with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit: Key Ingredients; America by Food has run its course. The exhibit was on site from Labor Day to mid-October 2007. Beginning with the first programs in the Spring of 2006 there were 29 programs, attended by 1,282 people, over 3,000 visitors to the exhibit, and we had 200 volunteers help with the project. We were one of six sites in the state of Michigan selected to host the exhibit. It was a great opportunity and experience.

How Do I...

How do I... search for a book on the card catalog?

How do I... find tax booklets online?

How do I... add columns to my newsletter?

How do I... find study guides for the GED?

The library is more than "just" books. It's also your portal to information. Maybe you want to polish your resume, research a vacation destination, or get ideas for your garden--you can do all this and more at the library. However, now that our card catalog is online, even the most basic search at the library begins with a computer and for some, that can be a scary thing. If you've never moved a mouse or entered words into a search box--you will likely have no idea how to begin. The computer is just a tool. There is very little about a computer that is intuitive--this is not something you are supposed to just know. We're here to help, and hopefully make using this tool a little less frustrating and a lot less scary. We can show you how to search for books on the card catalog & every time you do it, you will get better at it. Learning even a few basic skills provides you with the tools you need to do more.

To help you get started, we now offer "Open Labs" every other Friday afternoons from 2-4 pm. Open Labs are 30 minute, one-on-one computer help sessions. They are done on a first come, first served basis. If you have your own laptop--please bring it. If you don't have your own laptop, we will have our portable lab set up in a study room. If you are feeling a little brave & want to go it on your own, stop in & use our public computers. We aren't able to work with you one-on-one in the lab but we can usually answer a quick question if you get stuck. With an open mind and a willingness to practice, you will get the hang of it!

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