

Castleton Free Library Town Report FY 12-13

What was new in FY13? It felt like nearly everything, as we were in such a learning curve: helping patrons with new devices, maximizing our web presence with resources from our eVermont grant, preparing for the transition to a fiber optic network, working with a bevy of contractors to tackle both long-overdue maintenance projects and some capital improvements. The FiberConnect project, a federally funded initiative bringing fiber to un-served areas throughout the state via a Sovernet network, was scheduled for completion by the FY's end, but delays pushed it to the end of 2013. By the time this goes to print, we should have very fast public internet access through our wired desktops as well as wireless access points. For anyone needing help with internet/device use, our free Tech Tutor program continues into the current year.

We now have a beautifully designed and locally-built wooden staircase leading to our front entrance - not fully accessible, but a vast improvement in terms of safety, ease and aesthetics. This project was funded by the Hugh Cook Fund, named for the former Castleton resident who funded the concrete steps in 1961. To further address safety, we added new outdoor lampposts using capital campaign money and a donation from the Friends. Our exterior trim was painted for the first time in over 30 years.

We were very excited to receive a Winnie Belle Learned grant to revamp our children's room with new exploration tables and playspaces, and to purchase resources for doing natural science. We also added manipulatives for exploring math concepts, thanks to our engagement with the Early Literacy Initiative. A life-sized stegosaurus sculpture has been living in our children's room since he was built by young patrons during a two-day intensive Dino-Immersion workshop led by a local artist, and the summer reading program was well attended. We had some amazing partnership programs, including Truck Day (with the CSO), chaired by Sue Day and attended by 700 people. For this we sincerely thank all the local organizations and business people who gave up a gorgeous Saturday to share their vehicles with the community. In all, 2,449 people attended the 106 programs for children this year, including weekly story hours, playgroups, and more. For adults, the Friends'-sponsored Science Pubs continued to draw large crowds, as did our VT Reads *Bull Run* program, with a total of 634 attendees at 22 programs for adults. In addition to attending programs, our 3200+ patrons continued to love books and other media - 29,000 items circulated this FY, a 13% increase over last year.

As always, we are deeply grateful for all of the devoted volunteers and community groups that contributed to the vitality of your library. We especially thank JoAnn Richardson, Sally Grace, Joan Eaton, Kathleen Foley, Denise Nangle, the Friends of CFL, and Castleton State College (for the donation of great work-study students).

Respectfully submitted,

Trustees:	John Klein (chair)	Librarians:	Jan Jones (director/children's services)
	Dick Diehl		Meg Fitch (adult services/tech watchdog)
	Tom Kearns (treasurer)		
	Tina Rampone		
	Mary Waite (clerk)		