

## LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Of the Rye Public Library:

*"I wish it to do good and be of much benefit, a store-house for books, for information and knowledge, a mine of good, a fountain of help, lasting. I hope it will help you gloriously onward and upward through the journey of life and also those following after. This is my sincere wish."*

Mary Tuck Rand speaking at the dedication of the Rye Public Library June 22, 1911

Mary Tuck Rand used the words above in her speech dedicating the Rye Public Library to the Town of Rye one hundred years ago. She beautifully described her vision of the community institution she foresaw. I am proud to report that her wishes continue to be fulfilled through the dedicated efforts of the professional staff and volunteers that keep the Rye Public Library operating at the standards expected by Miss Rand, and by everyone in Rye today. We continue to *do good* and be of benefit by providing information and knowledge to the community. We happily assist those seeking to move onward and upward in the journey of life. Today, though, we are much more than a store-house of books. Mary Tuck Rand would undoubtedly be astounded by the range of services available at the Rye Public Library one hundred years after her wonderful words were spoken. I am pleased to report on our successful year in 2010, and in anticipation of an exciting celebration of the Rye Public Library and Rye Community in 2011 during our centennial year!

After completing twelve months in my position as Library Director in November 2010, I remain continually aware of the excellence of the individuals and true team that serves you with dedication at the Rye Public Library. Once again, I join the Rye community in thanking our staff: Juliette Doherty, Sharon Foster, Shawna Healy, Lisa Houde, Margaret Hutchins, Brenda Nolette, Gwen Putnam-Bailey, Tricia Quinn, and Pam Woods for their excellent service and professionalism. We were very happy to welcome Jim Chase back from medical leave late in 2010, and are happy to have him once again keeping our facility in top shape. Thanks Jim!

2010 saw significant increases in use of the Rye Public Library. Traditionally well received, our programming enjoyed an incredible level of growth and participation last year. We provided more and varied programs, meetings and workshops, and saw record attendance during 2010. Our programming offerings increased by 49% from 2009, and attracted 8,627 attendees! This incredible statistic is more than four and one half times the State-wide average reported by towns our size, and triples the average reported across the entire State of New Hampshire in the most recent statistical reporting. We are happy to report the remarkable success of our program attendance and are always looking for suggestions to bring more of what you want to see at your public library in the coming year.

Beyond physical attendance, we are also demonstrating significant growth in our electronic services. Today's public library plays an important role in supplying electronic media to both your mp-3 player, in the form of audio books, and through e-book downloads for your computer or electronic reader. While you can always rely on us for your print material needs, we will not be left behind by the proliferation of electronic media. Rye Public Library saw 2010 usage levels of our downloadable media in the top twentieth percent of the entire State. In terms of our budgetary commitment to these services compared to usage last year, each download cost just 53 cents! That figure ranks us 66<sup>th</sup> out of 235 libraries in New Hampshire in lowest cost per download in 2010. Better usage of these services makes for better economy, and we thank you for contributing to our efficiency! Remember, you can try a selection of e-readers at the Library as well--just check them out and give them a try. Free computer classes are available each week, too!

Once again, I sincerely thank all of you who support the library through membership in the Friends of the Rye Public Library, and welcome new members to this dynamic group. We again

offered a remarkable spectrum of speakers and presentations in cooperation with the Friends during 2010. We look forward to close cooperation with both The Friends of the Rye Public Library and The Rye Historic Society in celebrating 100 years of library service to the Town of Rye this year.

Our heartfelt thank-you goes out to our Trustees and other library volunteers who give back to their community through their service at the Library. Our 2010 volunteer-hours-per-week figure exceeds the number reported across the entire State of New Hampshire in the most recent statistical reporting by 42%! This takes on new significance when you consider the Town of Rye is almost 20% smaller than the average population of library-served communities statewide. The message here is that Rye cares about its Library and Community at a level not to be belied by its size. On that same note, our thanks go out to those who made donations to the Library, often in the name of loved ones, throughout 2010.

Finally, we are proud to report our receipt of the award for first place in the Rye Christmas Parade in 2010. We hope it is just one of the many venues in which you'll see us active in the community as we celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> year in Rye during 2011. We will also be developing a Three Year Strategic Plan during the coming year, and invite community participation all along the way.

Rye Public Library is served well by its supportive community and excellent library team of staff and volunteers. Please join us in celebrating our centennial throughout 2011!

Respectfully submitted,

*Andrew Richmond, Library Director*