



Durham Public Library

08/24/2020

Dear Friends,

Greetings from your Public Library. I hope this message finds you happy and well.

We find ourselves in what is traditionally the slowest time in our library and in most public libraries — that time right after the Library Summer Reading Program ends and the right before school starts. It is a good time to reflect on our successes and our challenges during what has been a trying, but interesting time for all of us.

The manner in which staff has risen to the challenges of continuing to provide top-notch service to the community in the current COVID-19 environment has been personally inspiring. Patrons have been relieved to be able to come back to the library to browse, but most patrons continue to use our contactless “Library-to-Go” reserves pick-up service. Additionally, we have seen an enormous increase in the use of our digital resources that we have added to the Library’s collection. One very impressive statistic is the use of Overdrive/Libby to access eBooks and audiobooks. Usage is up a whopping 46% over this same time last year. Similarly, patrons engaged in our summer reading program and virtually logged 100,000 reading minutes!!! While not a total surprise given the circumstances, these statistics are pretty amazing and indicate at least two things: 1) we are hitting the mark with the services we are providing, and 2) patrons are flexing to adapt to this new environment right along with us.

One service that we know is really missed at our library is the interlibrary loan services that we are normally able to provide to our patrons through NHAIS. While we cannot provide state-wide services for Interlibrary loan at this time, the libraries that reside within the Oyster River Community — Durham, Lee, and Madbury libraries — have joined together to form what we are calling the Oyster River Library Cooperative. We have bonded together to share books in our respective collections with each other to provide a better level of service to our patrons. Now, when you check our catalogue, you will be able to see if one of the other libraries has a book available in their collection. You can just call the Durham Public Library at (603) 868-6699, and we will request it from the owning library for you. You can also use the interlibrary loan form found on our library webpage [here](#).

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or suggestions you might have about our services and access. We can be reached by phone at (603) 868-6699 or email at durhampl@gmail.com.

Thank you for all your patience and support for the Durham Public Library during this time. We WILL get through this together!

Respectfully,

Sheryl Bass
Library Director Durham Public Library

Visit our [COVID-19](#) resources and services page on our website listed under [Library Resources & Services](#).