

## Town of Limerick Public Library

### Librarian's Report 2020

2020 was a very unusual year as the COVID-19 pandemic became evident. We all struggled with the restrictions of COVID-19. We closed to the public on March 16, 2020 and reopened on June 1, 2020 for curbside pickup only. We opened to the public on June 29, 2020 with safety guidelines in place with a limited number of patrons allowed in the library at a time as well as social distancing. We removed/moved a couple of computers to make the computer areas safe within the guidelines. We also installed plexi-glass around the customer service desk area and set up a self-serve checkout. We returned to curbside pickup only on December 28, 2020. We will monitor the numbers and the CDC/State guidelines to determine when we feel it is appropriate to open to the public again. As of the last week in January, 2021, we have started making appointments for patrons to come in to choose their own books and may soon open again with the same guidelines we used on June 29, 2020.

Based on the above closures and restrictions, our numbers are down from 2019. Our one increase was a 70% increase in electronic books used through our Cloud Library.

In 2020, the following items were added to the collection: 373 adult books, 216 children's books, 40 audio books and 83 DVD's. Total of all additions were 712. These additions to the collection were made possible through budgeted purchases and generous donations. Circulated in 2020, were 10,021 books, 212 through curbside pickup and 2,814 non-book materials. The library has 1,281 active patrons with library cards, some of those are family cards "one card used by multiple family members". Through the Inter-Library loan system we borrowed 261 books for Library patrons from libraries throughout the United States and we loaned 21 books to other Maine Libraries. Patron visits for 2020 totaled 3,532. Our patrons borrowed 1,357 electronic books using our Bibliotheca/Cloud Library subscription that we purchased through the Maine State Library, an increase of 70% from 2019. The public computers were used by 543 patrons.

Patrons were able to borrow the reduced admission passes to the Maine Wildlife Park in Gray and the Portland Museum of Art.

Fundraising: Book sales, DVD sales, donations and the sale of the calendars, generated \$1,735. We were not able to have our annual Book Sale due to COVID-19 restrictions. We had an Art Program for children/teens to create a piece of art based on their favorite book that would then be used to create our 2021 calendar. We had 15 children/teens submit their pieces. We printed 60 calendars and offered them for purchase as a donation to the library. We received cash donations and book donations from some of our patrons. Incomes from these were used to purchase books and programming materials.

We were open for 11 weeks during the beginning of 2020 where we had 52 programs *at the library* attended by a total of 300 patrons. For the remaining of 2020, we had virtual programs or

take and make craft/activity kits that totaled 36 with 1,046 participants. The following is a partial list of the in house programs: Weekly pre-school story-time, book discussions, adult card games, numerous seasonal paper craft programs, author and artist receptions, poetry workshops, play readings, painting, children sewing programs, therapy dog visits and story time, Halloween costume donation and give away, puzzles, blind date with a book program, edible book art, animal tracks. We also had Virtual Programs including take and make craft/activity kits: National Library Week, story-time, earth day, peeps/dinosaur count, 1<sup>st</sup> Line Friday, Zoom book discussions, white table, summer reading program and take and make bags (1per week, per age group –we gave out over 700 bags), back to school kits, pumpkin kits, fall fun kits, winter wonderland kits, and other holiday take and make crafts, activities and worksheets.

The annual Summer Reading Program was a virtual program in 2020. The Maine State Library purchased the subscription to Beanstack, a reading challenge software program, for libraries in Maine to use. We had 123 children register for our program with 65 active readers. The readers logged over 78,000 minutes read and earned 677 virtual badges. This was a very successful virtual program during a stressful year. The Masonic Bikes for Books giveaway was a success with 4 children receiving brand new bikes and helmets.

Thank you to the 15 volunteers who donated 76 hours of service in 2020.

For current news, activities, and programming visit the Library's Facebook page. The online catalog, monthly newsletter, and calendar are available on the Library page of the Town of Limerick web site at: [www.limerickme.org](http://www.limerickme.org) .

Respectfully submitted,

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Library Director/Librarian