

City of Tonawanda
PUBLIC LIBRARY



333 Main Street
Tonawanda NY
14150

Director

Glenn Luba

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2012 At a Glance

Collection size

- 30,949

Registered Borrowers

- 4,833

Circulation

- 125,955

Library Visits

- 95,829

Children's and YA

Programs

- 107 with an attendance of 1,462

Adult Programs

- 102 with an attendance of 916

Annual Report

2012

Retirement of a Storyteller

An otherwise good year ended on a sad note when longtime Children's Librarian Carol Veach announced her retirement after fifteen years with the library. Carol was well liked by both the children who experienced her story hours as well as their parents. Over the years, she brought in entertaining programs ranging from fire trucks to monkeys. Carol began her career as a Librarian at the City of Tonawanda Public Library in 1997. Former Director Mary McKee remembers, "I had the pleasure of hiring Carol for the City of Tonawanda Library. She was a dedicated, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic children's librarian". During



Carol's years at Tonawanda, she revamped and updated the children's area and helped with purchasing new books and furniture. She updated and subclassed the entire children's and young adult's reading collections. Teams of teens from the City of Tonawanda have consistently done well in the annual Battle of the Books contest sponsored by the county library system. Carol was the recruiter and coordina-

Children's Librarian Carol Veach during one of her many captivating story times enjoyed over the past 15 years.

tor for the City of Tonawanda teams and, together with volunteer coach Mary Smith, celebrated being champions for three years in a row (2008-10). Michelle Hurley will be taking Carol's place as the new Children's Librarian.

For Children

Children's programming continues to be popular in Tonawanda! Pre-school and Toddler story hours regularly bring in local families, and the Lego Club is a hit with our kids.

The summer reading 2012 theme was *Dream Big—READ!* and it presented us with opportunities to share many stories, activities and crafts with the students who joined us. Groups ranged in age from 2 year olds up through the 5-9 year old Summer Fun Club.

The Aquarium Touch Tank brought a program

in, as did Hawk Creek and The Wondermakers. The Tonawanda firefighters were here for their yearly visit, and we capped everything off with an end of summer picnic, featuring a Kiwanis Hot Dog Cook-out and the magic of Charlie and Checkers.

October brought in An-nemarie Jason and her Not-So-Spooky stories, and in December, Santa joined us for a well attended evening of stories and picture taking.

Some numbers:

The Primate Sanctuary
•100 children, 75 adults

Summer Fun Club

•89 children

Aquarium Touch Tank

•32 children, 25 adults

End of Summer Picnic

•75 children, 25 adults

Not-So-Spooky Stories

•34 children, 20 adults

Santa's Visit

•32 children, 18 adults

SPCA Program

•100 children, 75 adults

Hawk Creek

•25 children, 20 adults

Battle of the Books



Front Row l to r: Declan Rapp, Alyssa Campbell, Staci Williams, Brian Deyell

Back Row l to r: Eoin Rapp, Jacob Neumeister, Ryan Hayter, Kieran Deyell

The 14th annual Battle of the Books was held at ECC in August, and Tonawanda sent a team of 8 teens to the competition. They fought hard and tied for 3rd place with Elma out of 31 teams countywide. Congratulations to them on their great showing!



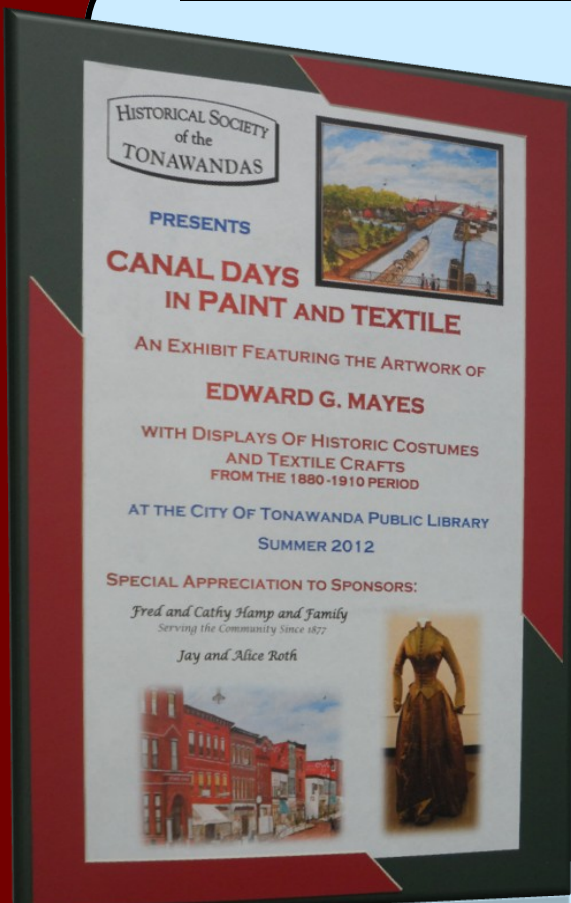
A young patron enjoys taking command of the fire hose from the City Firefighters, who brought out fire trucks for kids to explore.

Youngsters enjoying a hoedown with Charlie and Checkers at the annual End of Summer Picnic. The kids enjoyed the clowning around, as well as hotdogs from volunteers of the Kiwanis Club of the Tonawandas.



Carmen Presti showcasing one of the monkeys from the Primary Sanctuary in Niagara Falls, NY.

Special Events



A poster advertising the on-going display.

A partnership between the Library and the Historical Society of the Tonawandas resulted in an exhibit, "Canal Days in Paint and Textile", featuring the artwork of Edward G. Mayes. The artwork and some accompanying clothing from the 1880-1910 period was presented at an opening in June 2012. The garments remained for

public viewing throughout the summer, while the artwork remains as an on-going display in the building. These pieces help bring the history of this area to life, and have been greatly enjoyed by all.

Some of Edward G. Mayes' artwork.



Vincent O'Neill and Lorna C. Hill during filming of Give & Take

When Gail Golden and The Wondermakers came to the City of Tonawanda Library with their summer program, *Dream On*, she knew immediately that our com-

some scenes in a screenplay she had written. The movie is titled Give & Take, and it is a full length coming of age comedy set in the children's theatre and theme park

munity

room was just what she had been looking for. It would be the perfect setting for

communities. The entire production is being filmed at various Western New York locations. Our one day shoot featured some well-known local actors, Vincent O'Neill, Co-Founder & Artistic Director of the Irish Classical Theatre Company, and Lorna C Hill, founder of Ujima Company. Our library is thrilled to have had a small part in this production!

In 2012, the Library teamed up in another exciting collaboration, this time with the Art Department of the Tonawanda City Schools. During the end of year district-wide art show in June, 12 works were chosen as Library Art Award winners. Each of these artists received a certificate, and have had their work displayed at the Library into 2013. This wonderful partnership brings color and visual interest to our building, allows library patrons to enjoy the work of some talented young people, and offers the students the pleasure of seeing their work displayed in a public setting. The

pieces will be returned to the artists in June 2013, when new selections will be chosen and installed at the Library. Additionally, we have been given the opportunity to keep the large mobile on permanent display. This collective piece was inspired by well-known glass sculptor Dale Chihuly. Our staff has received many compliments on this piece and we are pleased that it will remain on exhibit at the Library.



Two of the 12 art pieces that hang in the Library, including the Chihuly-inspired mobile, lower right.

For Adults

In addition to programming for the younger set, our Library had many opportunities for adult learning as well. Our patrons continue to take advantage of our free computer training and attended various classes including Introduction to Internet Basics, email Basics, Twitter, Downloads2Go, Family History Research and a class on navigating the Library's website. An eReader open

lab allowed patrons to bring their eReaders and their questions to personnel who assisted them with some one-on-one attention. The Training Lab staff continues to keep our users current by developing relevant classes and bringing the lab right to our door.

In February, we offered our patrons a workshop on Handling Job Search Stress with local author Frances R. Schmidt.

The Swiftwater Reading Club met once a month to discuss both new and classic books. This book club generates some interesting discussions, and is a welcome presence in Tonawanda.

Local yarn enthusiasts know as the "Ravel Rousers" gather at the library on Friday mornings. They offer friendship and assistance for anyone interested in stopping by to join them.

You can always learn something new from our Training Lab staff.



Patron Updates

In an effort to better serve our patrons, the Library Board and Director decided to modify our open hours schedule. We consistently had people waiting in the morning for us to open at 10 am, so we decided to move our opening time up by a half hour, to 9:30 am each day. We also chose to eliminate the change from Winter to Summer hours in exchange for one consistent schedule which included keeping Saturday hours.

New outlets for patrons in front foyer.



Thanks to new staff area computer equipment, patrons are now able to directly retrieve hold requests from the open shelf.

The new year round hours are:

MON 9:30am to 8pm

TUES 9:30am to 8pm

WED Closed

THUR 9:30am to 8pm

FRI 9:30am to 4pm

SAT 9:30am to 2pm

SUN Closed

Thanks to Central System funding, new staff area computer equipment was purchased. This purchase included four computers, three receipt printers, three barcode readers, and one printer. The new computers are towerless, which means less wasted space at each work sta-

tion. These computers let us fully utilize the staff-based Sirsi software, providing us with patron request receipts and allowing staff to place requests on the open shelf. Additionally, the new printer saves space, as both patrons and staff are now able to print in both B&W and color from one station.

Conveniently placed electrical outlets have been installed on the tables in the front foyer. These units also include USB outlets for electronic devices.



Building Improvements

This was the third year in a row that the library was the recipient of a NYS Construction Grant. The focus of this year's grant was water and energy upgrades. The men's and women's public restrooms and staff restroom all benefitted from new water conserving commodes and sinks. New motion sensor energy efficient lights were also installed in each room and tile replaced water damaged decorative press board on the sink walls.

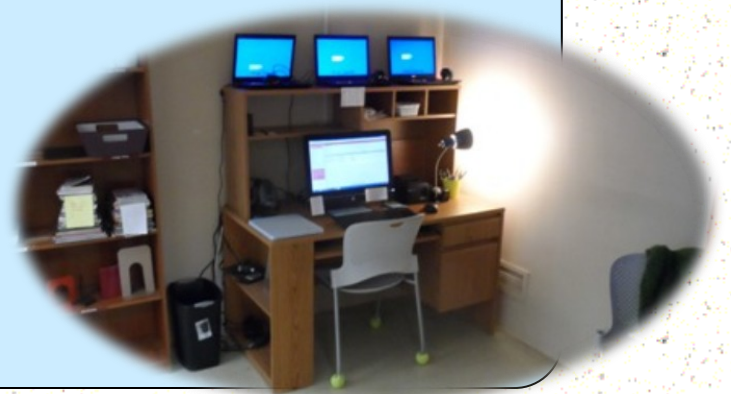
In addition to the restroom work, all indoor recessed lights and exit signs were

replaced with highly efficient LED fixtures.

On the outside, all existing building lights were replaced with LED fixtures. One additional light was installed on the backside of the building for security, the flag pole light was upgraded to LED and repositioned to shine towards the building with additional lights for landscaping. Lights were also added to the new yard sign.

Landscaping projects continue to evolve thanks to a generous donation of landscape stone from the Wacker Family and

landscape material from our Friends group. Special thanks goes to John Wacker for laying out the donated stone along the shadow garden fence, in addition to his time in extending and maintaining the landscape. Both John and Caretaker Karen Wiles have been instrumental in keeping the library exterior looking good. Karen also keeps our interior very presentable.



New computer equipment allowed for the staff area to be upgraded to a more efficient layout.



New meeting room wall layout showcasing the repositioned carousel horses and panels loaned from the Historical Society of the Tonawandas.

Friends of the Library

True friends are so important, and our Friends are here for us constantly! They continue to support the library in a variety of ways and 2012 was an exceptional year indeed.

Fundraising events this year included the annual Book/Bake Sale in January, an election day bake sale, a Gift Baskets raffle of 15 donated baskets during the Holiday season, and a quilt raffle. The quilt had a western theme, and was hand made by Friend member Joan Heath. Coupled with a hundred dollars cash, this fall raffle was popular indeed!

The Friends continued their support of programming by sponsoring an always popular Antique Appraisal in September, calming harpist Beth Anne Breneman in December, and ongoing support of our Battle of the Books team which tied for third place in 2012.

Our Friends group funds provide a variety of ongoing support including: being the primary donor for our new outside lawn sign, professional cleaning of the main library carpet, purchasing a carpet cleaning machine, new carpet vacuum, landscaping material, Chamber of Commerce

membership, office supplies, Lego Kits, and a donation to "Books for Kids" specifically for our library location.

Some numbers:

- **Antique Appraisal,** 80 patrons (30 seeking an appraisal)
- **Harpist Beth Anne Breneman,** 75 patrons
- **Magazines** 11 subscriptions including the popular Book Page.

Thank you Friends!

Erie County Legislator Kevin Hardwick and Friends President Laura Marohn next to the new sign in front of the library that was possible thanks to funds donated by Mr Hardwick and the Friends of the Library.



Library Board

Bonnie Bugbee, President

Sylvia Barry

Jay Holler

Kathy Reitz

Susan Tirone

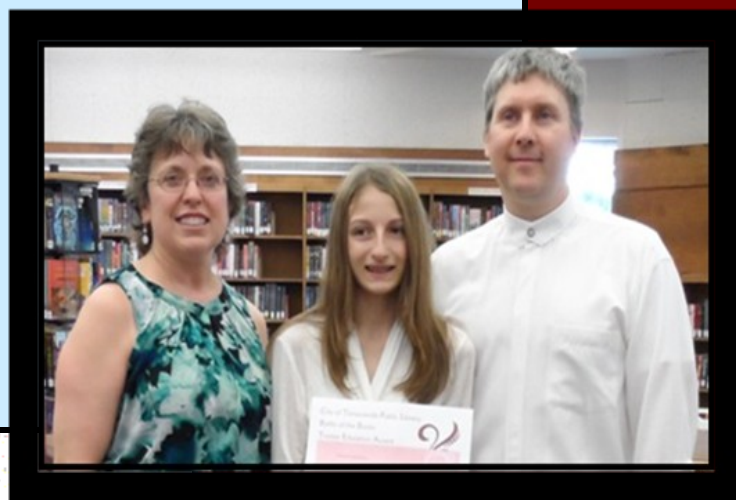


Board President, Bonnie Bugbee (right, with Legislator Kevin Hardwick, center) honors Carol Veach with one of her favorite books. The Library Board purchased four childrens books and bookplated them with her name before adding them to the library's childrens collection .

Alexis Gallup was the winner of the Education Scholarship Award from the City of Tonawanda Library Board of Trustees. In her winning essay she expressed her passion for animals and her interest in pursuing a career as a veterinarian.

Good Luck Alexis!

Pictured from left to right:
Board Member Susan
Tirone, Award Winner
Alexis Gallup, and Library
Director Glenn Luba



Staff

Glenn Luba	Director
Betsey Higgins	Librarian
Michelle Hurley	Children's Librarian
Sue Schmitz	Librarian
Marsha Wacker	Senior Clerk
Laura Marohn	Clerk
Karen Tauriello	Clerk
Karen Wiles	Caretaker
Lisa Ermer	Senior Page
Amber Ryals	Senior Page
Chantal Sukel	Senior Page
Nick Turton	Senior Page
John Wacker	Senior Page
Ryan Waite	Senior Page
John Lordi	Page
James Siepel	Page
Mary Smith	Volunteer
Bethany Howell	Volunteer



LIBRARY HOURS

(Year Round)

Monday 9:30-8p

Tuesday 9:30-8p

Wednesday CLOSED

Thursday 9:30-8p

Friday 9:30-4p

Saturday 9:30-2p

Sunday CLOSED