

## **REPORT OF THE HAMPDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY** ***Opened 1891 – Closed 2005***

The Library Trustees have discovered there is a lot of truth in the old adage - in times of trouble you find out just who your true friends are. Since the failure of the May 16<sup>th</sup> override, the zero funding of the library and the subsequent closing of the Hampden Free Public Library on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005, we have heard from many of our fellow citizens. Your concern and kind words have kept us going in our challenge to obtain funding for fiscal year 2006/2007 and reopen the Library.

The Hampden Free Public Library has the dubious distinction of being the first public library in the nation to be closed for more than six months. We respectfully request your support in our efforts to turn this situation around and reopen Hampden's Public Library and allow us to continue to be the vital town resource it has been for the past 114 years.

The Trustees continue to meet on a monthly basis and monitor the library weekly to protect the collection that is the property of the Town of Hampden. The roof has leaked and is being watched closely and there has been no damage to the materials.

Special thanks to the newly elected Co-Presidents of the Friends - Patty Ehlers and Cynthia Bailey who have been tireless in their efforts to maintain some library functions for Hampden.

The Friends of the Hampden Public Library have enriched the library in so many ways over the past 19 years. Their fundraising has provided materials and programs not financed by the town budget. We thank all of the members of the Friends who have offered their assistance in our goal of again offering library services to all Hampden citizens.

We would like to stress that all of the activities that the Friends of the Hampden Library sponsor, during this trying year, are funded by private donations.

The Friends initiated a monthly Book Swap for all citizens along with a story time for the children. Many fundraisers are on-going to fund their activities and to assist in supporting the library when it reopens. Please offer them your support whenever and however you can.

The mission of the Hampden Free Public Library is to provide materials of popular interest to our adult and juvenile patrons, and to provide materials and services to help local residents satisfy their informational, entertainment and educational needs.

We stand ready, with your support, to again fulfill this mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth E. Burger, Trustee Chair, Kathy Hutchinson, Elaine Kingsbury,

***“Aside from our schools, we have learned to look upon the Public Library as one of the greatest and best factors in the education of our people”*** John N. Isham, Library Trustee, March 20, 1900