

Caledonia Library Association
Report from the Library Board of Directors
June, 2019

Boy do we have some neat stuff to tell! The Caledonia Library is a topic about town as our Association membership grows, our board committees are accomplishing so much, a building Condition Survey was completed, we've held fundraisers and an open house, we are more active on social media, and we're moving forward on a major expansion and renovation project.

First, who are we? The Caledonia Library Association is currently made up by the following individuals; Gail Milner (President), Joanne Crosman (Vice President), Karen Yorks (Treasurer), Dallas Miller (Secretary), Joan Robinson (Correspondence Secretary), Cenna Clements, Don McKay, Dick Thomas, and our newest member, Quille Westbrook. Our Library Director is Renate Goff. Renate just passed the 10 year milestone as director and the board regularly looks to her because of her knowledge and experience. We are very proud of Renate for her dedication to the community. We are also delighted to have Candice Rogers on our team as the Library Clerk. Our board meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at the library at 6 PM. Association members and the public are welcome at the meetings. The individual committees chaired by board members include Fundraising, Finance, Building, Community Relations, and Grants. The Committees are also open to participation from volunteers from the community.

Now, a little about the Association. During this period of significant growth we would be like a ship on the rocks without the volunteer efforts of our Association members. Whether it be helping with our fundraising efforts, building and grounds maintenance, community relations efforts, or committee involvement, it's the dedication of our members that moves the library toward a bright future. And we could use a lot more members! A recent open house held at the library shows there is significant community interest in the library. The more community members are involved, the more support we will have for our mission. If you're not an Association member already, please consider joining. The annual membership fee remains only five dollars. But the experience of being part of something special is priceless!

We are pleased to tell you that our Finance Committee, headed by Karen York with assistance from several community members, has developed an investment strategy that is now generating larger returns than ever before. Joan Robinson and dedicated Association members have conducted successful fundraisers such as the lottery raffle, Petals, Pots and Pages book and plant sale, and our popular bake sale. Fundraising is critical for us, as the proceeds help us meet our operating budget needs each year. And, again this year Caledonia-Mumford Central School students worked on the landscaping around the library as part of their "Day of Caring" activities.

So what is this Expansion and Renovation Project everyone is talking about? The Caledonia Library is not only a state and federally recognized historic structure, but a pillar in the community. Unfortunately it is also the most antiquated library in the area. By "antiquated", we mean it is not capable of its full potential as a modern library because of space constraints. For many, many years the Caledonia Library Association Board, both past and present, have been working toward a necessary solution to make our library Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, more suitable for community activities and meetings, technologically advanced, and more desirable for people of all ages to spend time reading, researching, job searching, etc.

This board intends to carry out this mission to fruition. To date we've completed the Building Condition Survey, chosen an architectural firm after several interviews, received and reviewed numerous architectural plans, met with various contractors, submitted and received approval of our plans from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, attended meetings for potential grant opportunities, and began the grant writing process. If you would like to see our progress for yourself we've got just the opportunity! We are holding a public Information Meeting on June 13, 2019 at the library at 7 PM. Labella Associates will be providing a presentation on the plans for our library expansion and restoration.

Please get involved with your library. Join us on June 13th, become a member of our Association, help us with our fundraising efforts, and be a part of something special! Follow us on Facebook and our website, or better yet, visit the library!