

Hamburg Public Library

Report to the Community

2015

2015 was one of the most eventful years on record for the Hamburg Public Library. We worked through April to complete the \$3.1M construction project that added about 6,000 square feet to our library making it a jewel in the Town of Hamburg.

When we re-opened the HPL on April 26, our patrons expressed nothing short of awe when they experienced the beautiful space with the indoor ramp, fireplace, coffee shop, skylight, modern art mural, beautiful new furnishings and vibrant color scheme.

We held two special events to celebrate the expansion project; a Champagne Reception and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on, respectively, September 16 and 17. The festivities were spectacular and they showed how much our community loves libraries and reading.

The Lake Shore Public Library was quite busy during the months that the Hamburg Public Library was closed, from December 15, 2014 to April 15, 2015. We kept LSH open a full schedule to offer books and library service during the construction period. We were very grateful that we had another library to offer for almost four months.

Our output measures are strong, but they will certainly require some understanding of the unusual circumstances of the construction period. Book and film circulation is strong at both libraries. Our library users love books whether they are in print form, recordings or electronic media. The use of computers in our libraries is constant and we are happy to provide many more computers for our patrons now that construction is completed. Particularly at HAM, we have very high usage of Wi-Fi as our patrons connect to the internet using their own devices. We count the number of visitors who come through our doors and we had more visitors in 2015 than we had in 2014, even though we were closed for almost four months of 2015. People find the new library addition to be very appealing and it has increased visits to the library and has fostered a strong sense of community pride in Hamburg.

The output measures are fine, but we are really looking for “outcomes” from the public library nowadays. We are not just counting the books that are borrowed, or the times someone surfed the internet in the library. We are always trying to provide better outcomes in peoples’ lives as a result of using the library. For example, how did the information that the library provided make your life better? Did our resume’ book help you land a better job? Did the fiction book you read help you understand another person’s life and increase the amount of empathy that you have? Did you become closer to your grandchild after reading a Christmas story with them? Often, we do not know about the many outcomes that people receive from using the library. We know that these things happen and that we have a responsibility to help make them happen.

I wish to end this brief Report to the Community by thanking the many people and groups who worked together to make our Building Expansion Project such a success. I thank our Hamburg Town Supervisor,

Steven J. Walters, the Hamburg Town Board, the Hamburg Public Library Board of Trustees, the library staff, Architect Doug Hutter, Kurt Allen, NYS Assemblyman Sean Ryan, The Albright Knox Art Gallery public art program and Aaron Ott, artist Charles Clough, our many volunteers, our generous donors, the New York State Library Construction Grant Program and our numerous library users. Each of you played such an important role in this project and I appreciate each of you very much.

Sincerely,

Jack Edson

Director

Output Measures for 2015

	Library	2014	2015	Change
Circulation	Hamburg	126,996	136,246	+7.3%
	Lakeshore	96,528	100,647	+4.3%
Computer Use	Hamburg	11,743	13,390	+14.0%
	Lakeshore	5,667	6,897	+21.7%
Wi-Fi	Hamburg	4,051	6,787	+67.5%
	Lakeshore	1,484	2,330	+57.0%
Door Count	Hamburg	82,307	88,411	+7.4%
	Lakeshore	60,322	61,828	+2.5%
