

City of Tonawanda
Public Library



Annual Report

2013

333 Main Street
Tonawanda NY
14150

Director
GlennLuba
Phone: 716-693-5043

2013 At a Glance

Collection size

- 30,458

Computer Use Sessions

- 16,496

Circulation

- 125,569

Library Visits

- 113,877

Children's and YA

Programs

- 155 with an attendance of 2,678

Adult Programs

- 45 with an attendance of 424

Celebration of the Library



2013 was a new beginning for children's services and a more welcoming library building. Part of this change is the addition of a new Children's Librarian; Michelle Hurley has taken over the task of youth programming at the City of Tonawanda Library. Additionally, many visual elements have been added to

the children's area of the building: figures of children who are kite flying, swinging and skateboarding, clouds to create an 'open air' feel, and a rainbow to bring color and a smile! Exterior improvements include a beautiful new sign as well as decorative landscaping, creating a more welcoming and

Library patrons gathered near the library's new landscaping around the front sign to give three cheers of support for the library.

well-labeled landmark for new patrons and those already familiar with our location. Staff members have received many positive comments on these improvements.

For Children

Children's programming is a continuing attraction for the library. Preschool and Toddler story hours bring in local families to weekly programs, and the Lego Club always has a waiting list!

Our first ever Beach Party Bash was a rousing success, as a full house enjoyed snow cones and was entertained by the Magic of Mr. J.

The 2013 NYS summer reading theme was *Dig into Reading!* and was a great jumping off point for many interesting programs and activities. Groups ranged in age from 2 year old toddlers and 3-5 year old preschoolers, to the 5-9 year old school age group.

Charlie & Checkers brought their magic and humor to open our summer reading session, and the Wondermakers, Nature Ed-Ventures and the Tonawanda firefighters helped round out summer programming. We capped everything off with an end of summer picnic, featuring a Kiwanis Club of the Tonawandas Hot Dog Cookout, face painting by Tonawanda YES and the music of Nan Hoffman.

Annemarie Jason and her Not-So-Spooky stories joined us in October, and the holiday season saw a terrific turnout for Santa and Mrs. Claus and the graham cracker house program, brought to us by Ex-

plore and More.

Some numbers:

Beach Party Bash

- 55 children, 15 adults

Charlie & Checkers

- 28 children, 18 adults

The Wondermakers

- 26 children, 14 adults

Nature Ed-Ventures

- 17 children

End of Summer Picnic

- 85 attendees

Not-So-Spooky Stories

- 24 children, 20 adults

Santa's Visit

- 38 children, 50 adults

Graham Cracker Houses

- 42 children, 34 adults

Battle of the Books



Team members from left to right: Aaliyah B., Fiona R., Alyssa C., Stacy W., Brian L., Jacob N. and Declan R.

The 15th annual Battle of the Books was held at ECC in August, and Tonawanda sent a team of 7 teens to the competition. They fought hard and finished in a three way tie for fifth place out of 29 teams county-wide. Congratulations to them on their great showing!

The City of Tonawanda Fire Department brought five fire fighting vehicles to the City of Tonawanda Library on August 8, 2013 for a Show and Tell for approximately eighty parents and children. All had fun trying on fire equipment, spraying a fire hose, being lifted 45ft in the Ladder truck, and touring the inside of all vehicles. Li-ana (left) tries to fit in to her role as a firefighter, and Ca- den (right) helps out Fire- fighter Denny Angelo.



Families enjoyed creating graham cracker houses with the always popular Explore & More program. Dylan, left, puts the final touches on his creation.

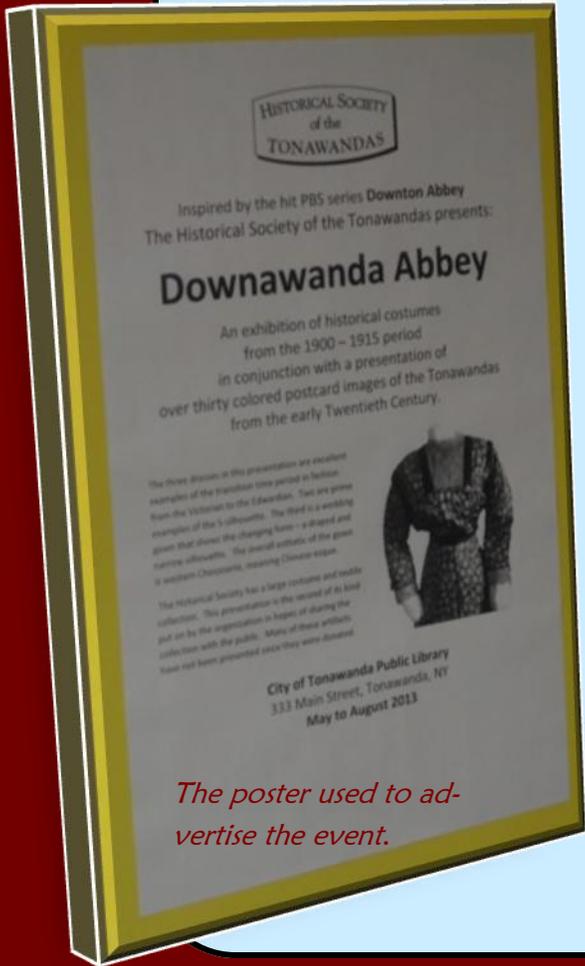
Lego Club continues to be extremely popular, with lots of creativity on display in the colorful creations.



Beach Party Bash with the Magic of Mr. J.



Historical Society of the Tonawandas Partnership



The poster used to advertise the event.

The Historical Society of the Tonawandas created an exhibit showcasing a few pieces of early 1900's clothing fashion and postcards. The title for the exhibit "Downawanda Abbey" was a takeoff from the popular PBS series "Downton Abbey" which takes place during this same time pe-

riod. A presentation by Historical Society volunteers Benjamin Streeter and Ned Schimminger discussed what life was like in the Tonawanda area during this era. Three authentic dresses were placed on display in our building for the first time since being donated to the Historical Society some time



A few of the postcard images (above right) on display in the library entrance.

Benjamin Streeter (below) from the Historical Society discussing the finer details of early 20th century fashion design.



In 2013, the Library continued its partnership with the Art Department of the Tonawanda City Schools, as 12 works of art from the district's end of the year art show were chosen for display in our building. The artists were awarded a Library Art Award certificate, and their work is now on display at the Library. These unique and inspiring pieces bring color and visual interest to our building, and showcase some of the talent that is here in our city. The pieces will be

returned to the artists in June 2014, when new selections will be made. We are thrilled that this year's group piece, the Chihuly-inspired chandelier, has been donated to us as a permanent display. This is in addition to the Chihuly-inspired mobile from last year's collection. These bold pieces add a three dimensional element to our front foyer area, and are often mentioned by patrons who visit the library.

Below, two of the 12 art pieces that hang in the Library, as well as the Chihuly-inspired chandelier, right.



Schools continued

Art was not the only area of collaboration between the library and the Tona-wanda School District. Gineen Frenning and her Tona-wanda Service Club donated many hours of time to us. Some of the jobs they performed took place outdoors: raking, mulching, bulb planting and general clean up. They also assisted inside with book sale preparation and setup.

Children's Librarian Michelle Hurley participated in the District's Literacy Night at Fletcher School in March. This gave her the opportunity to meet and talk to many parents and children, and to pass out information about the library. In addition, June saw the first ever Pink Warrior Wellness Night at Clinton Small Stadium, another district event designed to get health information into the hands of stu-

dents and their parents. 43 children and 38 adults stopped by the library's table to pick up information and to do a simple craft based on the importance of exercise in staying healthy.

Below, Gineen Frenning and the Tona-wanda Service Club helps with organization and setup of the book sale.



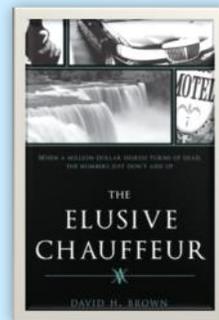
For Adults

In addition to children's programming, the City of Tonawanda Library brought in classes for our adult patrons whenever possible. The free computer training classes continued to be popular, and included such classes as *Internet Basics*, *Word*, *Excel*, *Twitter*, *eMail Basics*, *iPad Basics*, *Free Stuff Online*, *eBooks & eReaders* and *Introduction to Facebook*. The Tech-Know Lab staff continues to develop classes that explore current trends and topics, and adds the con-

venience of bringing the lab right to us!

The Swiftwater Reading Club met on a monthly basis to discuss titles both old and new. Participants continue to welcome this opportunity for discussion and camaraderie while delving deeper into the selected books.

Father Ryszard Biernat (below, left) showing a comb from one of the bee hives that he manages. Honey is harvested and jarred for later sale (right).



December brought local writer David H. Brown to our branch. He is the author of The Elusive Chauffeur, and he talked to patrons about his book as well as the writing process.



A number of computer classes (above) are offered free of charge throughout the year by the library system's TechKnow Lab team of specialists.

Adults continued

In November, the Knitting Club (known as the Ravel Rousers) Yarn Bombed a tree for the library. At a time of year when beautiful colored leaves disappear into a bland winterscape, one tree stood out along Main Street. The Ravel Rousers concluded their summer/fall art project that they conceived earlier in the spring by winding knitted pieces around the curving branches of a crabapple tree. The group of dedicated knitters consistently meet at the library on Friday mornings to socialize, knit, and help each

other hone their skills. Newcomers are always welcome to join this happy bunch of handcrafters.

The art project they completed at the library is a form of street art but is nonpermanent and non-damaging. The members used scrap yarn to create various items (scarves, mittens, blankets, etc) that can then be used to dress up almost any type of public structure, such as a sign, a bench, a bus stop, and in our case, a tree.

Last spring, the original intent of the project was to draw awareness to the reasons that libraries are important to communities. The artfully clad tree branches will serve as a colorful beacon through the cold bland days of winter and then be joined by the beautiful pink blossoms of this crabapple tree during spring, serving as a year round art display. The group was also very generous in creating many pieces of baby clothing and other items for our Friends of the Library annual basket raffle.



Above, some of the items the knitters created for the annual basket raffle.



The library art tree will add color to Main Street. Some members of the local knitting group are pictured with the yarn bombed tree. From left to right, Lorna J., Maggie D., Laura C., Linda T., Rosalie K., Joan M., Joan F., and Betty J.

Patron Updates

Access to computer technology remains important to users of the library. In an effort to better serve our patrons, the Library was able to purchase new computer equipment thanks to funding from Senator Grisanti (\$3,000 in 'Bullet Aid') and from the library system. All existing computers were upgraded to space saving

models which allowed us to add two new children's computers and create space for a few more adult computers. Additionally, two new laptops were added to the three existing ones as well as five 'child resistant' pairs of headphones for the children's computers.

Shelf markers were added to both the adult and children's collections so the more popular topics can be quickly and easily located.



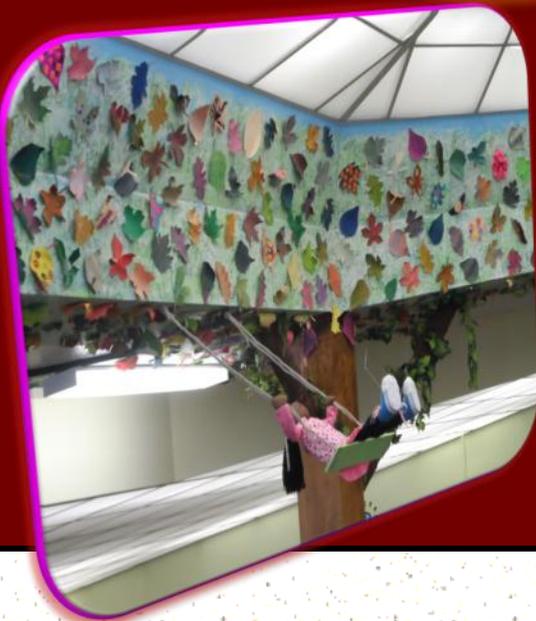
Thanks to funding from Senator Grisanti, the library purchased two new laptops (above), two new children's computers and 'child resistant' headphones (below) for all five of the children's computers.



A few examples (above) of the new signs that will help patrons quickly locate popular topics in the stacks.

Building Improvements

Some of the upgrades made to the library in 2013 in the name of visual appeal as well as function.



Friends of the Library

The Friends of the City of Tonawanda Public Library recently held a food donation drive for Veterans and their families. First Sergeant David M. Kyzer, a member of the U.S. National Defense Force Support Command, approached Laura Marohn, President of the Friends group. He was wondering if the Friends had any unsold books from their ongoing sale that could be donated to the Veterans. This conversation about the needs of the local Veterans and their families led to the idea of doing a library-based food drive to support this worthy group.

The drive was in place at the library for about eight weeks and the equivalent of about five large boxes of food and personal care items were donated by generous patrons.

In addition to the donated items, the Friends also adopted this Veterans group as the recipient of their annual Holiday donation to a local cause. From this annual donation, the Veterans also received four \$15 gift cards and \$200 cash. The cash was generated from the Friends annual Holiday luncheon silent auction.

Some numbers:

- **Harpist** Beth Anne Breneman, 75 patrons

- **Magazines**

11 subscriptions including the popular Book Page.

Thank you Friends!

Below are some of the lovely items donated to the Friends' basket raffle, along with the always popular lottery tree (right).



The first ever "Bling Fling" jewelry sale, held in November, was a success.



Members of the US National Defense Force Support Command receiving donated food and personal care items at the library from the Friends of the City of Tonawanda Library. Pictured from left to right are GEN John D. Lugosz, LTC Ron Krowl, President of the Friends, Laura Marohn, CW/4 Richard T. Danahy Jr, CAPT Lawrence P Mascio, 1SGT David M. Kyzer



Friends
members
Ellie Flem-
ing and
Marie Hart-
man help
out at the
annual



bake sale. Every January, this fundraiser combines with the big
once a year book sale and is an important part of our tireless
Friends' support for the Library. *We appreciate your support!*



*Some ex-
amples of
generous
basket
raffle
items.*

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
John Wacker	Caretaker
Lisa Ermer	Senior Page
Chelsea Kerwin	Senior Page
Alyssa Murcin	Senior Page
Chantal Sukel	Senior Page
Ryan Waite	Senior Page
John Lordi	Page
James Siepel	Page
Mary Smith	Volunteer
Bethany Howell	Volunteer



LIBRARY HOURS

(Year Round)

Monday 9:30a-8p

Tuesday 9:30a-8p

Wednesday CLOSED

Thursday 9:30a-8p

Friday 9:30a-4p

Saturday 9:30a-2p

Sunday CLOSED

Library Board

Bonnie Bugbee, President

Sylvia Barry

Jay Holler

Kathy Reitz

Susan Tirone

Thank You!

A library becomes a community asset only through the generosity of time and funds via a team effort. In 2013, we would like to thank many who have contributed to making the library a value to this community...

Political Representatives (2013) (funding):

Mayor Ronald Pilozzi

Council President Carleton Zeisz

Councilmembers: Heather Little, Blake Boyle,
Richard Slisz, Tyler Kossow

NYS Senator Mark Grisanti

County Legislator Kevin Hardwick

City of Tonawanda Staff:

Treasurer Joe Hogenkamp

City Parks Department (Snowplowing, plumbing, tree trimming, equipment tune-ups, etc) Director
Amanda Lofft, Chris Foels and crew

Signal Department Supervisor Aaron Kisloski (electrical)
John Moderacki (floors)

The many members of the ***Friends of the City of Tonawanda Library*** (fundraising).

City of Tonawanda School District

Kiwanis Club of the Tonawandas

Historical Society of the Tonawandas

Garden Club of the Tonawandas