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STRATEGIC PLAN
FOR THE YEAR 1995 - 2000

OUR HERITAGE

The desire to establish a library in the village of Ticonderoga was being promoted during the last two years of the nineteenth century. A prominent supporter of the project was Rev. Joseph Cook. On September 5, 1900 he delivered one of his famous lectures at the Union Opera House and donated the entire proceeds "to the benefit of the Ticonderoga Public Library".

Certification of establishment as a public library by the village of Ticonderoga and the appointment of five (5) trustees by action of the village board allowed for the issuing of a provisional charter by the University of the State of New York to the Ticonderoga Public Library on March 29, 1900.

The trustees were: Frank B. Wickes, Pres.; Mervin R. Hack, Sec'y & Treas.; Dorus C. Bascom; Lyman Malcolm; and Patrick W. Barry. Anna L. Wheeler was the first librarian.

In June 1901 the entire first floor of the Buskirk Block on the south side of Main Street in the village of Ticonderoga, N.Y. was leased for use as a library. Tradition has it that the core collection of the first library was the personal library of Lyman Malcolm. On July 20, 1901 his daughter Mabel F. Malcolm was appointed librarian to succeed Miss Wheeler.

The matter of accepting the offered gift of Andrew Carnegie of \$5,000 to erect a library building and the pledge to support a library with \$500 a year and the agreement to spend \$1,000 to purchase and grade the site was submitted to the people of the town by a ballot on September 7, 1904. The proposition was approved.

It soon became apparent that the library should be put in a position to supply the needs of the entire town and receive the advantage to be obtained from a wider range of taxation. On March 5, 1901 the question of transfer of ownership and control of the village library to ownership and support by the town was submitted for a public referendum. The transfer was approved and a charter was issued to the Town of Ticonderoga, December 14, 1905.

The new building was named "Black Watch Memorial Library" in honor of The Black Watch Royal Highland Regiment (The 42nd Highlanders) who had fought at Fort Ticonderoga. At the dedication ceremonies the parade was led by Major D.L. Wilson Farquharson of Scotland and a kilted Black Watch Regiment accompanied by pipers.

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In 1956 the library joined the Clinton Essex County Library Service System. This provides an inter-library loan of books and research materials and brings to the area the services of a book-mobile. Over the years many more services have been offered and a close relationship with the system has proved a great advantage. Membership in the system keeps us current in library practices and materials.

An active Friends of the Library organization started in 1987 has spear-headed a project to expand the library facilities with a refurbishing of the present building and the proposed addition of a wing with handicapped access.

The Mission

The people of Ticonderoga have a valuable source of information and pleasure provided by the Black Watch Memorial Library. It is our desire to improve the facility as much as possible.

The strategic plan for the next five (5) years will consist of an effort to meet the requirements of the minimum basic standards as set forth in the draft document prepared by the Committee on Minimum Public Library Standards for New York State as we update, refurbish, and expand our facilities.

During the period the library will continue to improve the quality of the collection and give it proper care, maintain the building, gradually increase the budget requests from the Town, increase the number of borrowers, and institute a building program to provide additional space with access to the handicapped.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Library

Collections -

1995-2000 It is our goal to continue to expand the Adirondack Collection through gift and purchase.

Books -

1995-2000 Annual weeding of Collection.
1995 Ongoing Inventory & Checking of Catalog Cards.

Periodicals -

1995 Add Financial Magazine to the list of subscriptions.

Children's Room -

1995 Upgrading Children's Collection with emphasis on Newberry & Caldecott Books.

Audio Tapes -

1996 Purchase audio tapes for loan.
1996 Purchase spinner holder for tapes.

Classification and Arrangement -

1996 Investigate new system of labeling shelves.
1998 Mysteries can be shelved in a special section if desired.
Their spine labels may be color coded for ease in shelving.

Develop acquisition guidelines -

1995-1996 Implementing new policies for material selection, collection development and handling complaints.

Video Collection -

1996-2000 Purchase video tapes for loan.

Services to the Public

Increase readership.-

- 1995 Accept all reasonable requests for membership cards.
- 1998 Research borrower's card system.

Information -

- 1995 Prepare an annual report for the public.
- 1997 Establish newsletter.

Friends of the Library -

- 1995 - 2000
 Promote Friends of the Library Program.
- 1995 Director attends Friends of the Library meetings.
- 1995 Use their volunteer help for library projects.

Winter Programs -

- 1995 - 2000
 Humanities lecture series programs.
- Visits of school groups during the school year.

Summer Programs -

- 1995 - 1996 Summer reading programs.
- 1995 - 2000 Story hours.

Physical Plant

- 1995 Installing Air-Conditioning System for summer of 1995
- 1996 - 1997
 Update lighting.

Building Program

The possibility of building an annex to match and compliment the building and to use the basement as a public assembly room was researched with the assistance of an architect.

It is his recommendation that neither plan would be practical. The land available for expansion is not adequate. To match the quality and architectural style of the present building would be far too expensive. The basement does not provide the headroom required by law for public use and there is no suitable exit.

We have acquired the building just behind the library. It will be the decision of the taxpayers whether the building be remodeled for use as an annex or demolished to provide space for a new building. Either choice would necessitate incorporating access for the handicapped and make toilet facilities available to the public.

The entire project would be put to a public referendum and securing grant money to aid in the financing and soliciting public support for the project could be a support project for the Friends of the Library.

Personnel

- 1995 Written Board-approved personnel policy being developed.
- 1996 Provide staff training on use of computer.
- 1996 Hire a third person to substitute when library assistant is unavailable.

- 1995 - 1996
Plan a written evaluation program of personnel.
- 1996 - 1997
Provide staff attendance at workshops and conventions when possible.

- 1995 - 2000
Review annually compensation levels and make comparable to state standards.

Fiscal

- 1995 - 2000
Maintain an accounting system.
Gradually update budget requests to more nearly meet basic standards.