

Annual Report 2005



Farmers' Library Company of the Town of Ogden, New York



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Message from the Director

Looking back on everything that happened in the library during the previous year is something like watching a movie on fast forward. So much happens during each year that I am simply surprised that we managed to pack so much into such a short time. The major events of 2005 are detailed in the “Highlights” section of this report, and will give you a good idea of what the library delivered to the community during the year.

It would be impossible for the library to deliver the quality service our residents have come to expect without the skilled and dedicated staff members who regularly give 110% to their jobs. I am often told by our users that they truly appreciate walking into a public facility where they are known by name and treated with respect. I am fully aware of the value of each and every library clerk, page and librarian and would like to thank them publicly for all that they do.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn’t also recognize the tremendous support the library receives from the Town of Ogden. The Supervisor and Town Board continue to provide the library with operating funds as well as with encouragement and approval of our mission. Without that support we would not be able to provide the services our residents have come to value.

Patricia Uttaro

February 2006

On the Cover (Top) Librarian Roberta Voelkl poses with a BOCES 2 class after leading the class in a discussion of the book Because of Winn Dixie. (Bottom) Connor Domingo models his “Born to Read” hat. These hats are given to newborn “readers” whose parents register for the library’s “Books For Babies” program.

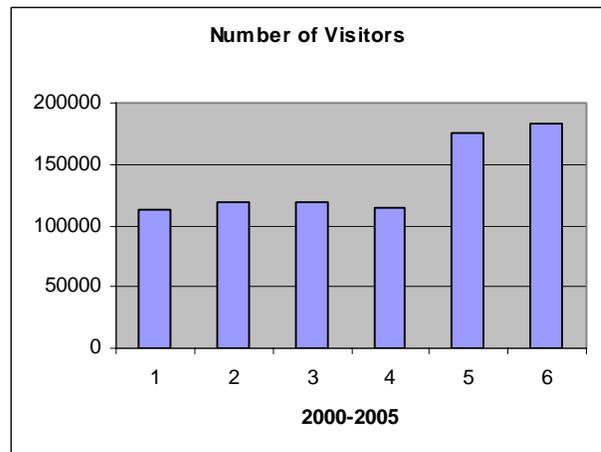
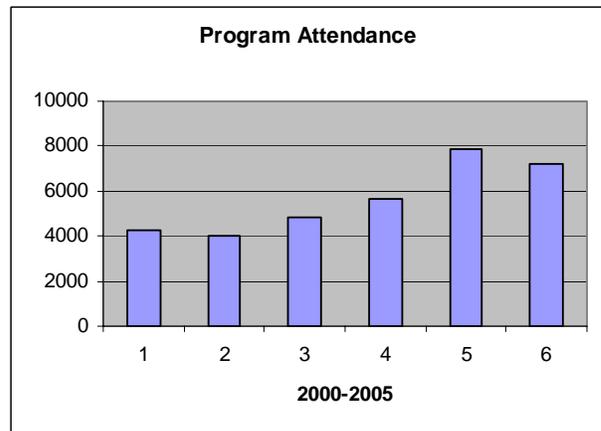
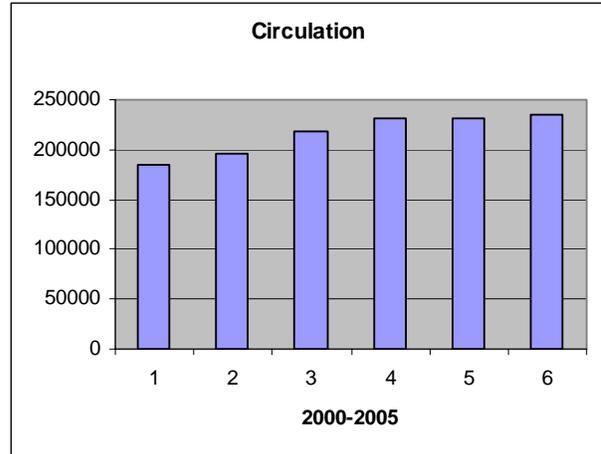
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Statistics

Population Served: 18,492
Collection Size: 68,285 (67,445)
Circulation: 235,103 (230,718)
Total Members: 12,041 (11,332)
Days Open: 286.5 (289)
Visitors: 183,080 (175,907)
New Books: 3,993 (2,732)
New Videos: 137 (313)
New Music CDs: 246 (373)
New Recorded Books: 166 (151)
New DVDs: 422 (177)
Children's Program Attendance: 6216 (6,200)
Teen Program Attendance: 340 (826)
Adult Program Attendance: 657 (918)



Local children pick up their certificates of achievement after completing the library's summer reading program.



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2005 Highlights

January

- The Library received more than \$2500 in donations in memory of Ogden resident Robert Hewitt, who passed away this month. The money was used to refurbish a portion of the children's area and to fund the painting of a colorful mural in that area.

February

- The Friends Garage Sale earned nearly \$1000 for programs.

March-April

- We held our fourth annual Silent Auction in cooperation with the Spencerport Kiwanis and raised over \$2500 from the sale of items donated by local businesses and artists.
- All the libraries in Monroe County underwent a major software upgrade which dramatically increased the speed of our computers.
- The Library was honored by the Spencerport Lions Club with the Robert Uplinger Award for Outstanding Community Service.

May

- The Spencerport trolley depot was moved from the end of Amity Street to its current location at 16 East Avenue on May 23. Also in May, the Village of Spencerport received word that they had won a grant from New York State for the restoration of the trolley depot, which will open in July 2006 with a new seasonal library branch staffed entirely by volunteers.

June-July

- The third installment of the "Pathways to the Past" walking tour was put up in the Village and received warm reviews before it had to be taken down due to problems with leaking frames and fading images.
- The library recorded several days during July when more than 2000 people visited us between 9 am and 9 pm!

August

- Members of the Teen Chess Club played their second game of human chess in the library meeting room. More than 60 teens played chess at the library each week during the summer.
- Members of the Junior Friends of the Library presented their first "Murder Mystery Night" in the library, which was attended by more than 20 families.

November-December

- Oasis Edging installed lovely molded concrete edging around the library's memorial garden and the community center sign by the road. The Spencerport Chamber of Commerce covered the cost of the work.
- The Sickelco Family donated \$5,000 in memory of their parents, Bob and Carolyn. The money was used to purchase books and DVDs, four leather armchairs for our adult reading area, and a digital DVD projector that will be used for several film series programs throughout the coming year.
- The Library held a Christmas Tree and Wreath decorating contest in December, in place of the Gingerbread House contest done in past years. The trees and wreaths were provided by the Friends of the Library, decorated by volunteers, and auctioned to raise more than \$500 for library materials.
- Library Trustee Russ Ruhl donated a framed photo of the Ogden Police Department, which will be hung in the library.

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Library Materials

The library provides access to a wide variety of materials, from books to DVDs. Library users can browse the shelves, or place holds on materials using either the library computers or their own Internet computers at home. As a member of the Monroe County Library System, the Ogden Library gives our users access not only to our own collections, but to those of every other public library in the county. Ogden library cards can be used at any other public library in Monroe County, and our users can request delivery of items from other libraries.

Our librarians work hard to keep our collection current. OFL annually spends 25-30% of its total budget on materials, compared to other, larger libraries that spend an average of 13-15% on materials.

OFL is known throughout Monroe County for our comprehensive collections of fabric and textile books, particularly those on the topic of quilting, and our collection of jazz and blues music on CD. Our local history and genealogy collection is second only to the Rochester Public Library among public libraries in the county.

In 2006, OFL will convene a Collection Advisory Team made up of our librarians, staff and community residents who will advise us on materials to add to our collection.



Supervisor Gay Lenhard, Police Chief Doug Nordquist, Library Director Patty Uttaro and former Chief and Library Trustee Russ Ruhl with Ruhl's donated photograph of the Ogden Police Department.

Sandy Liebow's entry in the Library's Wreath & Tree contest & auction.



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Library Materials, continued

The library acquires around 6,000 new items per year through our own purchasing and through donations. Our book buyers purchase fiction and non-fiction for adults, children and teens. In addition to books, the library also provides:

- Recorded books on cassette and on CD, are purchased monthly. Based on input from our users, the library purchases unabridged versions of recorded books, which provide the listener with a recording of the book in its' entirety. Popular fiction titles are purchased as well as classics, radio shows, and non-fiction. We are slowly shifting our buying focus to Books on CD due to patron demand, although Books on Tape continue to be popular. In 2005, we will be offering access to digital audio book files that can be downloaded to portable listening devices, and will likely be offering devices such as iPod Shuffles for borrowing.
- Music CDs are also purchased monthly and cover all types of music, from rock and pop to blues, jazz, soundtracks, country, gospel and children's tunes.
- The DVD collection is added to on a regular basis. During 2005, in response to patron demand, we decided to stop purchasing VHS videotapes in favor of purchasing more titles on DVD. Videos are still occasionally added to the collection through donations.
- Large print books are available for people who prefer a larger type when reading.
- The library carries more than 100 subscriptions to magazines and newspapers that range in topic from dirt bike racing to cooking, to fishing. In 2005, Nothnagle Home Properties Spencerport office donated 9 subscriptions to the library.

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Donations & Grants

The library is often remembered by people wishing to make donations in honor of or in memory of a special person. Very often, our visitors will show their appreciation for services they have received by offering a cash donation. In 2005, the library received more than \$9300 in cash donations, and even more in materials donations.

Donations in 2005

Ginny, Gary & Dori Swarhout

TOPS Club

Scott McGurrin (in memory of Clara & Claude Wilder)

Florence Wright Chapter of the Historical Society of Early American Decoration

Maier's Farm Markets

Jack Crooks

Junior Friends of the Library

Frank & Karen Rakoski

Ogden Quilt Club

Barb Riley

84 donations in memory of Robert Hewitt

Robert Ralph

Ogden Senior Center Wednesday Group

Anonymous

Sickelco Family

Mary Watkins (Texas)

Friends of the Ogden Library

Susan Henderson

James & Corinne Goeke

Westside Single Parents

Linda & Lyle Tague

Grants in 2005

New York State Education Department



The Hewitt Family standing behind the furniture and below the mural purchased in memory of Robert Hewitt. An image of Bob Hewitt as a child is incorporated into the mural.

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Library Services

Many people are surprised by the range of services we offer, which include:

- Storytimes for children are offered four times a week on Tuesday and Friday mornings, and Thursday evenings. The storytimes are conducted by Mrs Rosalind Krebs, Mrs. Anne Strang.
- Craft programs for all ages are offered seasonally. In 2005, participants made paper, learned to crochet and knit, sewed tote bags and much more.
- Tax forms are provided annually from the end of January through April 16. After April 16, forms are available for copying from a master form book provided by the IRS and New York State. The library also provides access to the IRS and NYS websites where forms can be downloaded and printed.
- Interlibrary loan services provide access to materials from all over the world for the small cost of \$5.00 per item.
- Tours are always available upon request. In 2005, tours were provided to BOCES classes, scout groups, homeschooled families, preschool and elementary classes, daycare groups and other community groups.
- Internet access is provided on all public computers in the library. Users have unlimited time to use the Internet at 12 workstations.
- Reference service is provided in person, by phone and by email. In 2005, library staff answered more than 22,000 questions.
- Classroom and community group visits are provided by the Director and other librarians. In 2005, we visited more than 50 classrooms, spoke to the Spencerport Lions, the Rochester Genealogical Society, Ogden Seniors, and the New York Library Association.
- In addition to the services listed above, the library also provides access to a 24-hour book drop, readers' advisory, faxing, copying, job information, and access to a microfilm reader/printer.



A member of the Junior Friends helps some younger children figure out a science experiment using Legos and bricks during a program presented by staff from the Rochester Museum and Science Center.

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Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library volunteer their time to support the library in a variety of ways. Some of their activities for 2005 include:

- The 5th Annual Indoor Garage Sale was held in February 2005 and raised more than \$1600 for library programs.
- The Friends hold an annual book sale in May that traditionally raises more than \$1000 for the library. This is perhaps the most challenging event the Friends tackle each year. They organize thousands of donated books in just a few days, and run the sale for one night and three full days. The energy and devotion of the Friends who run the book sale is amazing.
- The Friends also provided the funds for most of our childrens and teen programs throughout the year.

Membership in the Friends has grown tremendously over the last two years, with membership peaking in 2005 at 355 people. Members of the Friends are exempt from the \$.50 fee for holds, and are also allowed to make up to 25 free copies on the library copier. By extending these new benefits, the library has increased its pool of volunteers and created a core group of loyal library supporters in the community. Information on joining the Friends is available in the library.



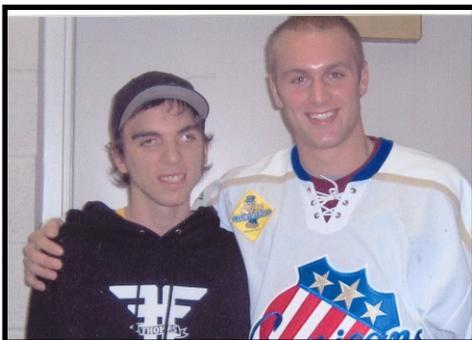
Volunteers Mary Gerew and Ruth Statt enjoy good food and friends at the Library's annual volunteer luncheon in May 2005.

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Library Programs

The Library offers free programming to the community throughout the year. Programs for children are coordinated by Anne Strang; those for Teens are planned by Roberta Voelkl; and those for adults are planned by Kate Vreeland and Patty Uttaro. Funding for most of our programs is provided by the Friends of the Library. Programs offered in 2005 included:

- Pumpkin Carving, presented by the Spencerport Lions Club. This annual program teaches kids and parents how to design and carve some very fancy pumpkins. In 2005, 30 families participated; pumpkins were donated by Maier Farms and Jack Crooks. The program has become a model for other Lions Clubs in the area, with the Spencerport Lions teaching other groups how to present the program.
- Family Bingo nights have become very popular with our residents. More than 200 people attended Bingo Nights throughout the year. Everyone wins, and most prizes are books, so not only does everyone have a great time, we also further our mission to foster literacy in the community.
- Other programs offered throughout 2005 included a monthly book discussion for adults, seasonal reading programs for all ages, travelogues, Breakfast with Santa, and balloon sculpting.
- The Library participated in a county-wide reading program sponsored by the Amerks. In November 2005, we were visited by a member of the Amerks, who read several stories to a whole lot of kids, passed out t-shirts & hats, and signed lots of autographs.



A member of the Amerks poses with Steven Voelkl at the library.



Moms & Dads hard at work helping their kids carve pumpkins during the Lions Club Pumpkin Carving program in October.

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Library Trustees

- James Sickelco, President
- Doreen Castano, Vice-President
- Suzanne Goetz, Treasurer
- Sheryle Walker, Secretary
- C. Roger Ressman
- Corinne Goeke
- Lori Murtaugh
- Tom Cole, Town Board Liaison

Library Staff

- Patricia Uttaro, Director
- Anne Strang, Librarian
- Kate Vreeland, Librarian
- Roberta Voelkl, Library Assistant
- Cindy Lott, Bookkeeper
- Mary Ann Saeva, Clerk
- Mary Conjerti, Clerk
- Anne Basile, Clerk
- Kate Boggs, Clerk
- Lauren Sochia, Clerk
- Amanda Vargas, Clerk
- Pat Leiston, Clerk
- Bob McDonald, Clerk
- J.J. Liebow, Page
- Phillip Koyoumjian, Page
- Pat Cieslinski, Page

Library Hours & Contacts

The library is open 65 hours a week September-May, and 56 hours a week during June, July & August. NYS minimum standards for libraries require our library to be open at least 40 hours per week for a community the size of Ogden.

Weekly hours are: Monday-Thursday 9 am to 9 pm; Fridays 9 am to 5 pm, and Saturdays 9 am to 5 pm. During June-August, the library is open 9 am to 5 pm on Friday and is closed Saturday.

You can reach the library by phone at 585-352-2141, or by email to uttaro@ogdenny.com. The library website is available at www.ogdenny.com/library

**Visit the Monroe County
Library System online at
www.libraryweb.org.**