

Sharon Public Library

Why Are Libraries Important

One of Sharon's richest traditions is its belief in the importance of literacy and education. Sharon's forebears were a God-fearing faith, dedicated to human rights and the dignity of man. They were an industrious people who educated their children, and established their occupations. They forged ahead setting up sawmills, cornmills, and ironworks, shoemaking, tanning, farming and forging businesses.

With the help and support of many educationally minded members of the Town, such as; G.M. Gay, C. T. Howard, J. M. Bullard, C.D. Hixon, H. A. Lothrop, L.H. Monk, H.V. Butler, A. Wood, G.M. Cooledge, R. Drake, E. Perkins, E. Baker, O. Haydn, I. Paine, J.E. Griffith, Dr. George A. Dennett and with funding from Andrew Carnegie, the library was secured without expense to the Town.

Ever since the Sharon Public Library's inception in 1877, the library collection and services have grown exponentially. In order to keep up with the growing population and collection and space demands, the building acquired two additions, one in 1960 and the last in 1979. Even though repairs continue to be made to keep the building safe and useable, the population of 19,000 has stretched this library thin since 1979.

Today, libraries serve as educational and community centers for all ages. Libraries provide information, regardless of the format. Libraries are used as meeting space tutors, English as a second language and citizenship classes, computer technology training, early literacy and school readiness skills, (STEAM) Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math educational support. They are the information centers for the local, state and federal government as well as local business. Libraries offer life-long learning and enrichment opportunities for adults and seniors, including job skills training for those who are seeking employment to supplement their income.

Many libraries also serve as warming and cooling centers during emergency situations. The Sharon Public Library is one of those centers for Sharon.

A library is an investment for the future!