



# Talking Points

UPDATES ON OUR PETERBOROUGH LIBRARY PROJECT

## Patrons Look Forward to the New Library

Stephanie, her husband and two young daughters moved to Peterborough a year ago. The library was one of the first places she visited because she knew it was a space where children would be welcome. “We go to both the pre-school and the big kid Storytime and also rely on the library during school vacations and some weekends,” says Stephanie. “It’s a space where we can all be together, but each connecting with our own individual interests.” One of the reasons the family chose Peterborough was that it felt like a place where people were civically engaged and community mattered. The library plays a key role in helping patrons make connections to people, local organizations, and to events happening around town.

While Stephanie loves the library services available today, she also struggles with some aspects of the facility. “My sense is that the staff

**To learn more** about the library project, please visit [PeterboroughTownLibrary.org/Project/](http://PeterboroughTownLibrary.org/Project/), or stop by the Peterborough Town Library at 2 Concord Street. *The 1833 Society is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit. All gifts to the Peterborough Library Campaign are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.*



Stephanie, her two daughters, and friend at Storytime

is doing the best with what they have, but while the library meets our intellectual needs, it doesn’t allow for the physicality of my children,” says Stephanie. “We have to worry about noise and the current program room is actually a closet. We don’t feel connected to the rest of the library when we are in the closet for Storytime.”

In the new library, the children’s area will be much larger, enclosed, and connected to the river terrace. Families will be able to flow between the outdoors and inside spaces, which will allow for the little ones to run around *or* sit quietly. Stephanie points to the lack of technology for youth and the importance of technology as a draw for older kids. In

the new library, computers will be available for kids and teens and integrated into Makerspace projects.

“I’m excited for the project because I know the new building has a floorplan that makes sense, as well as an expanded young adult area,” notes Stephanie. “It means my kids’ needs will be met by the library as they grow. A space that makes sense visually and spatially is important to children even if they don’t articulate those needs. Accessibility is another important factor for myself and my friends. I know people who cannot visit the library now because of inaccessibility, and I hope the library continues to think about smart spaces and furniture for people with different abilities.”

## Important 1833/ Library Project Milestones

**Mar. 2011**

1833 Society Founded

**Feb. 2012**

IRS approves 501 (c)(3) status

**Feb. 2013**

Community Forum on Future Library attended by 100 people

**Oct. 2014**

Centerline Architects completes preliminary Program Design

**Sept. 2015**

FairPoint land sale closes

**Fall 2015**

Peterborough Library Campaign Launch

**Fall 2016**

Anne Beha Architects contract signed

**Fall 2017**

Construction Documents completed and project bid by Harvey Construction

**May 2018**

Town voters approve \$3 million bond

**Dec. 2018**

Campaign goes public and contributions reach \$2,532,868

**Dec. 2019**

Contributions exceed \$1.3 million for the year

**Jan. 2020**

Project Finance Model approved by Town



Check out the colorful new library card designed by recent Conval Graduate Sunny Badrawy. The library had 4,028 active card holders in 2019.

## Work Behind the Scenes

### *Creating a Financial Model for a Public/Private Partnership*

The Town of Peterborough and the 1833 Society have agreed upon a model to facilitate the flow of private and public funds. The model required the 1833 Society to secure guaranteed financing for the pledged funds and monies left to raise. The 1833 Society identified NBT Bank, of Keene, as a key partner and is in the final stages of arranging the guaranteed loan. Mike Morison, an 1833 member, has been coordinating efforts between the Town Administrator, Finance Director, Library Director, and 1833 Society to approve the project management structure and enable construction to begin as soon as possible. Select Board member and liaison to the Library Trustees Board, Bill Taylor, has also been instrumental in these efforts.



## A Year in Review

In 2019, the 1833 Society raised over \$1.3 million. Personal visits, grant applications, matching donation challenges, and events are just some of the strategies employed to raise the necessary funds. The Capital Campaign Cabinet includes ten volunteers who have met every Thursday since the fall of 2015. They are tireless in their efforts and positivity.

Funds raised to date: **\$5,036,313**