

## LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

*Ann E. McLaughlin, DIRECTOR*



### ANNUAL REPORT FY2007



**Stuart Highland Pipe Band 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert**

In May 2007 the Thomas Crane Public Library celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a concert on the lawn by the Stuart Highland Pipe Band and a public celebration with refreshments in the library. The event was reminiscent of the day in May of 1882 when a large crowd gathered on the library lawn to view a parade and hear Charles Francis Adams, Jr. dedicate the new library, a gift of the Crane family to Quincy “to be held in trust forever...for free use of the town as a Public Library building”. Starting with a collection of 12,000 books in 1881, the city’s library has grown to over 600,000 items including books, magazines, audio books and DVDs. Each year library usage continues to grow.

In FY 2007:

- 740,158 people came to the main library and branches, up 18%
- the library’s 110 public computers were upgraded, and wireless Internet access installed at all library locations
- public computers were used an average of 7,617 times per week
- 648,692 library materials were borrowed

- 761 programs were held attended by 18,237 people
- the library website **thomascranelibrary.org** had 10,060,145 hits
- the staff answered 55,481 reference questions
- the library's monthly e-newsletter was sent to over 9000 people
- staff created *What to Read Next*, a customized reading list service for readers
- the library website added several new databases including *Learning Express Library*, an interactive online test practice and tutorial, *Qikan Library*, an online collection of 100 popular Chinese magazines, and *Rosetta Stone*, an online language learning program.

Staff offered a variety of computer classes: basic Internet searching, online shopping, genealogy resources, how to buy a new computer, storing and editing digital images, and a parent's guide to resources for kids online.

A number of bilingual programs were offered in Chinese and English: a monthly story hour, monthly library tours, and a series of health programs for elders.

The library collaborated with a variety of community organizations including Quincy Access Television, the Quincy Environmental Network, Quincy Asian Resources, Inc., South Shore Elder Services, Quincy Community Action Program, the Quincy Recreation Department, South Shore YMCA and the Quincy Public Schools.

### **Grants**

The library received several grants:

- \$10,000 **Fit for Life** grant from Libraries for the Future to fund teen health programs
- \$13,896 basic literacy funding from the Mass. Department of Education to fund the library's Literacy Volunteers program
- \$5000 from the Marjorie Harris Reynolds Fund to support literacy student and tutor training
- \$2500 Quincy Arts Lottery grant to fund the Summer Storytelling Festival
- \$1100 Quincy Rotary funds to purchase children's books in honor of Rotary speakers.

### **Friends of the Library**

The Friends of the Thomas Crane Public Library raised over \$30,000 to fund 19 museum passes and over 100 programs for people all ages from cooking demonstrations, magic and puppet shows, storytellers, author readings, monthly concerts, Mad Science programs, a live owl program, a film and discussion series on World War I and monthly feature film screenings.

The dedicated Friends group was led by Harold S. Crowley, Jr., President, Eunice Charles, Vice-president, Alicia Coletti, Treasurer, Ann Yeomans, Secretary, and members-at-Large Bonnie Ashworth, Jennifer Bell, Peggy Doyle, Betty Molloy, Jennifer Smith, Geraldine Storella, and Susie Wilkening.

### **Library Trustees**

The Mayor appoints six trustees to one year terms to oversee library services. For 2007 – 2008 the Mayor appointed Alicia Coletti, Harold S. Crowley, Jr., Harold DiMattio, Larry Falvey, Sandra McCauley and Carol Lee Griffin, who resigned due to health reasons in September 2007 and was replaced by Janet DiTullio. The Quincy Trustees are among the oldest in Massachusetts, created by the Acts of 1880, and have responsibility for the library buildings as well as oversight of library services.

We appreciate the hard work of these wonderful groups.

**Library Locations:**

Thomas Crane Public Library, 40 Washington St., Adams Shore Branch, 519 Sea St., North Quincy Branch, 381 Hancock St., and Wollaston Branch, 41 Beale St.

Library website: [thomascranelibrary.org](http://thomascranelibrary.org)