

2023 Annual Report

William B. Ogden Free Library



Message From the Director	2
By the Numbers	3
Program Highlights	4
From the Trustees	5

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Walton Community,

What a whirlwind of a year! As I sit down to write this annual report, I can hardly believe that a full year has already passed. Yet at the same time, it feels like far more than twelve months have gone by. While this has certainly been a year of challenges, it has also been one of great growth. I am very proud of what has been accomplished at the William B. Ogden Free Library this year.

Board development has been one of my main focuses in the past couple of years. I am thrilled that our Board has grown and developed exponentially this year. The implementation of functioning committees has resulted in many goals being accomplished, including the review of library policies, the creation of written procedures, the formation of financial controls, building assessment, and a formal orientation process for new board members. Board members are excited to learn and grow in their role of trustee as evidenced by the collective hours put into participating in educational webinars and lectures. As we said good-bye to trustees who have served for decades, we also welcomed new members who have fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

The board and staff came together this year to fulfill one of the goals of our long-range plan, to be more present in community events. From the elementary open house to two trunk-or-treat events and from the Fall Market to the Walton Holiday Parade, our effort at making the library more visible to the community was not only received positively, it also served to build comradery amongst our trustees. True, these efforts have been a lot of work, but they have also been a lot of fun and time well spent!

Grant funding enhanced our program offering this year. These programs targeted specific demographics of our community and were some of the best events we've offered to date. "HOME: An Altered Book Project" allowed area seniors to come together to creatively express their love of home while at the same time learn about topics of local history through a series of mini-lectures given by area historians. The two-part program, "Safer and Seen: How to Support Your LGBTQ+ Family and Friends," as well as "Conversations with Caleb," brought community members together in a safe place to learn and ask questions. All programs successfully achieved their goal to help participants form bridges with others in attendance and with members of the greater community.

The Library Road Trip, sponsored by the Four County Library System was another highlight of the year. Patrons, staff, and several board members enthusiastically participated, many visiting all 42 libraries in our system. This exercise helped to reinforce all the good work that is being done here in Walton, gave us ideas for how to do better, and allowed us to form connections with our library colleagues across the system.

This year marked my fifth year as director of the William B. Ogden Free Library. It has been and is my joy and privilege to fill this role.

~Heather Johnson, *Director*

BY THE NUMBERS



11,563
VISITORS TO THE
LIBRARY

This is a 31% increase over 2022 and the second year in a row to see a similar increase in library visits.



1,267
REGISTERED
BORROWERS

This is a 6% increase over 2022.

MATERIALS CIRCULATED

14,740

Our circulation of physical materials was down 14% over 2022, but the number of digital materials that circulated remained consistent.

LIBRARY COLLECTION

The library has a total collection of **28,954** items. This year there were **6,007** new items added, including an increase of **4,378** digital items.



INTERLIBRARY LOAN

4,030

Materials Borrowed

1,282

Materials Loaned

As a member of the Four County Library System, we have access to the materials from the other 42 libraries in the system.

In addition, if a desired item is not available, we are able to search and request items from outside our system through the Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3). This year we received items for our patrons from libraries as far away as Wyoming!

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

- The number of programs offered increased by 47% over 2022.
- Program attendance increased by over 30% for the second year in a row.



419

Total Programs Offered

4,044

Program Attendance

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our apple pie making event was a multi-generational program that saw grandparents and grandchildren, moms and teenagers, married couples, and several others, come together to work on building a pie. Patrons learned new skills such as peeling and paring an apple, making and rolling a crust, and creating a lattice top.

Not only did the library smell amazing from all the apples, but the atmosphere was heart-warming; full of smiles and laughter. It was special to witness the bonds strengthening between participants and the beginnings form of what might be a tradition of enjoying one another around baking.



Two other favorites among participants this year were our Creepy Doll Head Planter and our Charcuter-TREE workshops. These programs were a little outside of the box, but ones that have generated a lot of conversation and enthusiasm throughout the year.

We thank those who helped to make these programs a success, including the Walton Big M, Netty's Flowers, and Jessica Backus-Foster.



COMMUNITY INCLUSION

The library went outside its doors and into the community this year. We were able to engage with people about how they use the library and to talk with them about the many resources the library has to offer.

SEPTEMBER

Elementary Open House

- Brought library information and applications. Engaged kids and their families with a fun dice game of library trivia questions.



OCTOBER

Fall Market & Trunk-or-Treat

- The library won awards of best trunk with our pirate themed, "walk-the-plank" activity.



NOVEMBER

Walton's Holiday Parade

- Displayed a three-tiered birthday cake float in honor of the library's upcoming 125th anniversary celebration.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMING



Over 75 kids & teens were able to choose a brand new, free book during our summer reading sign-up event through the generosity of local author, Tracey West and her Dragon Wagon Book Bus.

We held a weekly "Touch-A-Truck" event during the summer that was a hit with many aspiring heavy equipment operators. A big thanks to those who brought equipment and who interacted with families, including our local Fire, Ambulance, & Police Departments, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Ogden family, and The Four County Library System.



Kids participated in programs like Dinovember, Talk Like A Pirate Day, Chess & Game Days, musical performances, story times, and crafting events.

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear Community Members,

2023 has come and gone. The years do seem to fly by faster and faster. I hope the past year has been one of good health and few struggles.

Wm .B. Ogden Library has had a very busy and productive 12 months. As always, excellent programs were offered. The programs are geared toward something for all ages and interests. The Library staff are exemplary in their dedication and pursuit of providing outstanding services to our patrons. The book collections continue to grow and staff members are always happy to assist with finding just the right read for you.

The Library Board has focused on community engagement; getting ourselves involved with community events such as Open School Night, Trunk and Treat and the Holiday Parade. We have been enjoying these opportunities to promote the Library and meet more community members.

In 2024 the Library Board of Trustees, Heather Johnson, library director and all of the wonderful staff are looking forward to another successful year of providing excellent service and programs to this community.

Thank you and please continue to support Wm. B. Ogden Library.

~Mary Doig, Board President

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mary Doig
President

Vicki O'Brien
Vice President

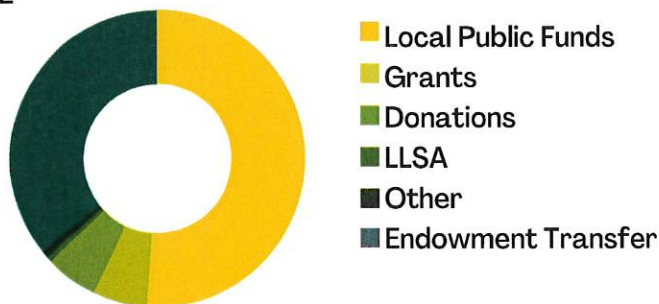
Thomas Austin
Finance Officer

Jessica Reed
Secretary

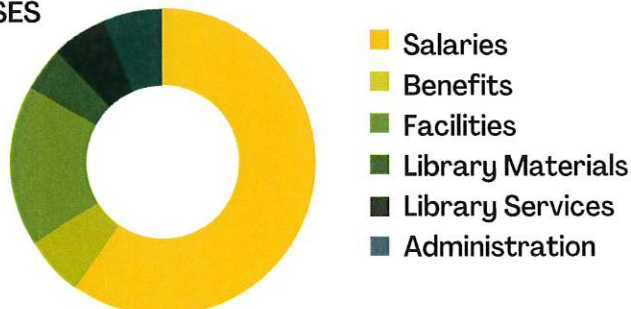
Hoss Banaja
Natalie Cramer
Oliver Fassler
Meredith Hammerslag
Rachel James
Chris Ogden
One Vacant Seat

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

INCOME



EXPENSES



GIVING BACK

We partnered with the Walton Toy Bank, in an effort to give back to the community this year. Stocked with fifty skeins of donated yarn, we called upon our talented knitting and crocheting patrons to make hats for local infants and children.

We filled three baskets with hats of all colors, patterns, and styles, collecting over 100 handmade items.

We trust that those who received these gifts will not only feel warm and protected from the elements but will see their local library as a place that is safe, friendly, and welcoming.



