

# Durham Public Library is on the Move!



## Trustees Purchase Property at 49 Madbury Rd.

Have you heard the news? After fourteen years of searching for an appropriate space, the Durham Public Library Trustees have secured an outstanding property in a prime location with the capacity to meet the needs of the Durham community for decades to come.

When the town voted in 1997 to move the Durham Public Library from UNH's Dimond Library to a storefront at the Mill Plaza, it was intended to be a short-term solution until a more suitable location could be found. More than 20 potential sites were researched, but had insurmountable obstacles.

Finally, with non-taxpayer funds acquired by the Library Trustees over the years specifically for a new library — and with the unanimous endorsement of the Town Council — the town purchased the handsome home of Dr. Arthur DiMambro along with 2.8 acres of land in early September. Located at 49 Madbury Rd., the attractive brick building and its park-like setting are conveniently situated near the middle and high schools and a short distance from the downtown business area. Most importantly, the property is large enough for the house, an addition, parking, and will address the many deficiencies of the Mill Plaza location.

## Library Use Grows Dramatically

Since moving to the Mill Plaza, the Durham Public Library has experienced tremendous growth making the present facility increasingly inadequate. Today 30,000 items are squeezed into a facility of only 3,000 square feet. The building lacks meeting rooms, a reading room, children's and young adult rooms, and workspace, among other things.

The new Durham Public Library will be an active, vibrant cultural center that connects the people of our community to information, resources, enriching activities — and each other. In the past six months, the Trustees have worked

with a library consultant, a design-build team, an all-volunteer Citizens Review Committee, and the town's elected leadership to plan for the new library. Citizen input has been sought at every step, and continues to be vital to the project. The new library design will be available in the next few weeks, and can be viewed, along with a full description of the steps the Trustees have taken thus far, at the library or on the library's new web site: [www.durhampubliclibrary.org](http://www.durhampubliclibrary.org)

## The Future of the Library

The Durham Public Library is a vital part of the community and will play an even greater role in the years ahead promoting learning and enriching experiences for all residents. As such, the library must be able to keep pace with the intellectual, cultural, and social needs of our diverse and dynamic community. It must be able to offer residents of all ages access to current information, the best literature, our rich history, inspiring educational opportunities, and wholesome leisure activities.

A new, larger library has been a widely recognized Town need for many years, and is an essential investment in the future. Certainly, fourteen years after moving into "temporary" quarters at the Mill Plaza, a proper new library is long "overdue." If all proceeds as planned, the new Durham Public Library will open in the spring or summer of 2013.

## See How Library Use Has Grown in Just Five Years!

- Patron visits are up by **77%**
- Materials loaned expanded by **65%**
- Library membership has grown by **74%**
- Participation in Children's Programs increased by **35%**



**"This could be the center of town. The importance of having a facility that brings people together is as important as access to the printed word."**  
— Durham Resident