

# The Eastham Public Library

## *One Generation's Gift to the Next*

Your town library is a library with a rich past and the potential for a dynamic future. In 2008 the library marked its 130<sup>th</sup> year. Since it was founded in 1878, the library has grown from several shelves of books in George Clark's General Store to the busy library we have today at 190 Samoset Road.

In 2005 the Library Trustees began evaluating the current library facility in order to determine how the library building can be rejuvenated to meet the needs of the community and the next generation of library users. This meant evaluating current space and use of that space, counting traffic in and out of the library, studying population predictions for the town, and using library standards to determine the size and makeup of the library's collection for a town of our size with potential for future growth and intense seasonal fluctuations. In addition, they did surveys of residents and other library users to find out what the community values in its library and library services. This led to a plan to expand the library on its current site on Samoset Road overlooking Long Pond.

A town's library says a lot about its community. The Eastham Library is a warm, inviting place, as comfortable as a living room in a good friend's home. The Library Trustees recognize the qualities that make the Eastham Library special, and it is their goal to carry on the library's tradition in a new, updated facility.

## *The Eastham Library Legacy*

- ❖ 1878 – The Town appropriates \$175 for a Town Library.
- ❖ 1897 – The Village Improvement Society holds fundraising socials to raise money for a library building. The land was donated. The building cost \$885.35.
- ❖ 1898 – The new library on Samoset Road opens its doors.
- ❖ 1903 – The library building is raised and a basement built & furnace installed.
- ❖ For the next **30 years** there were library branches in private homes in north and south Eastham to which books were delivered every 2 weeks.
- ❖ 1907 – Water came to the library via a pump house next to the pond.
- ❖ 1916 – Well and pump installed in the building.
- ❖ 1927 – Library building wired for electricity.
- ❖ 1934 – Library gets its first toilet.
- ❖ 1961 – First library addition is built.

- ❖ 1972 – Trustees spend \$500 on plans for remodeling and expanding the library, but nothing comes of it as there is no project money available.
- ❖ 1977 – Renovation of the “Merrill Room” on the library’s ground floor, intended for “community gatherings.”
- ❖ 1980 – Merrill Room converted into a children’s room
- ❖ 1986 – Town Meeting votes \$695,000 to fund a library renovation despite Finance Committee vote against it.
- ❖ 1988 – Current library building opens.
- ❖ 1998 – Town purchases property next to the library for future expansion.
- ❖ 2005 – Library receives Planning and Design Grant from MA Board of Library Commissioners to plan for library renovation and expansion.
- ❖ 2006 Library Building Committee formed.

### ***The Future of the Eastham Library***

#### **Why are the Library Trustees planning for library expansion?**

The current library building (excluding the historic portion) is now more than 20 years old. Whether or not the Town decides to build a larger library, the building itself is in need of some major renovation. Current plans are to demolish all but the historic portion of the library and build an energy efficient structure with flexible spaces and accessibility to all that would serve as a cultural center for the Town and its visitors and provide the next generation with as fine a library as the earlier generations of Eastham have enjoyed.

#### **What is this going to cost?**

Construction costs are estimated to be \$7.5 million for a 16,800 square foot building. Cost to furnish will be extra.

#### **How are we going to pay for it?**

The Library Trustees will apply for a library construction grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, available in 2010. This could cover up to 50% of construction costs. The balance of construction costs will be voted on at Town Meeting. The Friends of the Eastham Library have pledged support for “soft” costs, and a major fundraising campaign will cover the remainder.

#### **I love my library the way it is. Why change?**

The current library was designed for the Eastham of 1985. Since then the population has grown and the needs and interests of the community have changed. The library has done its best to accommodate new technology and formats, but space for materials has taken over space for people.

Many upgrades are needed, from ADA compliance to exterior and interior systems. With these inevitable expenses on the horizon, now is the time to consider a major upgrade that will serve the community for the next 25 years.

***Your Library through the years...***

<b>Year</b>	<b>Volumes</b>	<b>Circulation</b>
1898	1,351	1,305
1908	2,709	3,401
1918	4,615	6,477
1928	6,262	8,071
1938	7,699	7,809
1948	7,125	4,264
1958	n/c	9,019
1968	n/c	25,329
1978	21,974	41,547
1988	* 17,534	61,658
1998	36,979	94,389
2008	48,860	107,897

***\* collection weeded for renovation***