

# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



*Since 1928, the Camden Public Library has provided essential services to our community.  
We do it because reading is, and always will be, an essential skill.  
We are funded through private foundations, the Town of Camden, and people like you.*



*The Camden Public Library is an anchor for the community.  
We bring people together to Read, Connect, and Discover.*

*Cover: Camden Public Library c.1928.  
All historic images can be accessed through the library's Walsh History Center.*

## A Word from the Director

Every great town deserves a great library.

**Why? It's the center of the community in the truest sense of the word. It's the place where you can engage your mind and get materials and information, but also meet other people and engage in discussion. It's more intellectual community center than just repository of books. It's the place where you can listen to a story, hear live music, or watch an outdoor movie. It's also the place where community groups come together to meet and share their ideas.**

**The library is neutral. It's not political; it's not religious; it's not commercial. Everybody can come and use it; it doesn't matter what your philosophy is. It's a place you can go and have your educational, informational and recreational needs met.**

So how is it that libraries manage to remain relevant in an era when research is as close as the home computer and books and magazines can be downloaded in mere seconds? The phenomenon is attributable to a mixture of evolution and forward thinking.

We live in a time that is experiencing a resurgence of desire for community. We live in a time that yearns for that which is tangible. We are all looking for a place to come together. And in Camden, that place is the library.

In other words, a town with a great library is a great town. We help make it so.

Nikki Maounis  
Camden Public Library, Director

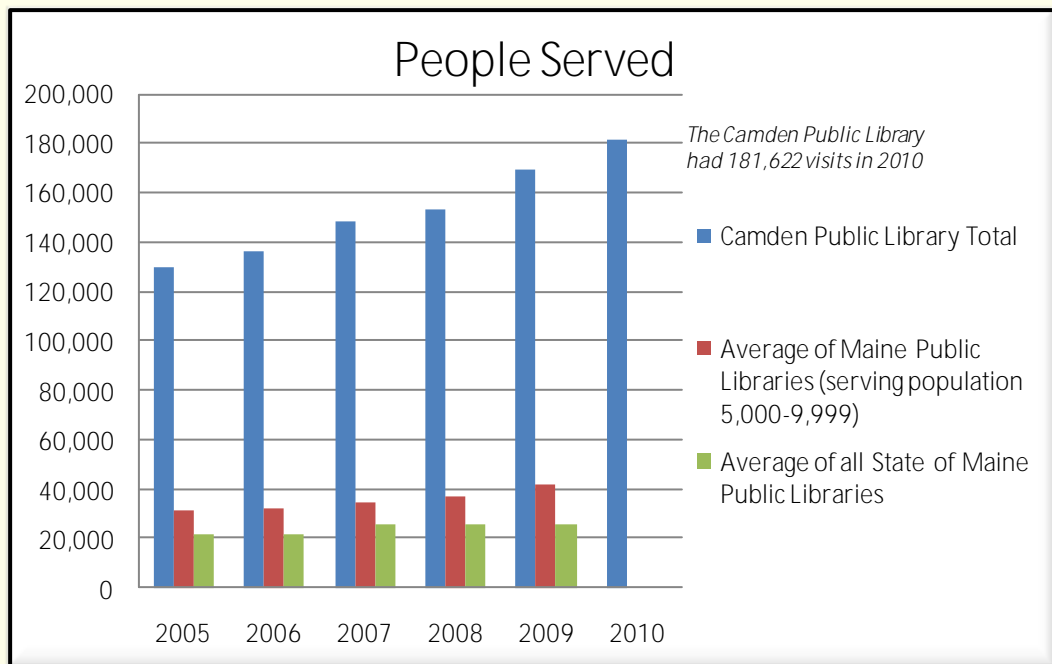


## Camden's downtown anchor since 1928

*The Library has been providing essential services to the Camden community for many decades — we are the heart of the community — we are Camden's downtown anchor.*

*We have served our community through all kinds of economic circumstances—through the Great Depression and 'Great Recession' and through the times when the economy was the least of our worries. We are proud to be a part of Camden's rich history.*

*Each year gives us another reason to celebrate our role in making Camden a vibrant destination—in 2010, we had more than 180,000 people through our doors!*





*Then and Now: From our "Winter Carnival" in 1932 (Winter queen and court pictured left), to our current Winterfest event held each year since 2003, the library continues to be a downtown destination each winter !*

*"The Camden Public Library is one of the things that made this such an inviting community to move to. I love living in a town where the library is such a social and cultural hub that offers all sorts of programming and services. My wife has had exams proctored there, and I have had the opportunity to do many poetry readings. It's a great place."*

*—2010 survey feedback from library customer*



*Then and Now: From the library occupying only a single building (Reading Room c.1928), to an updated floor plan in 2010 which helped us create a "Teen Zone" and some additional reading areas — all made possible due to our Centennial Wing expansion in 1996.*

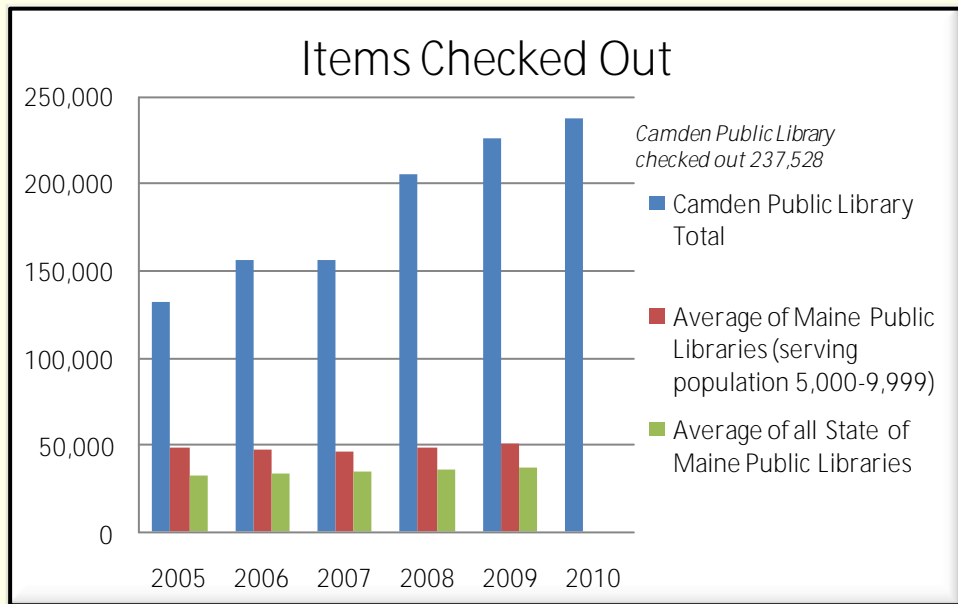
# READ

## because reading is an essential skill



*Above:* Down East author Karel Hayes and her dog Snowflake read to children during the 5th Annual Children's Book Fair By the Sea.

*Opposite:* Nancy smiles as she gets to choose a new book from one of our many prizes associated with the Summer Reading program for adults. In the upper right corner, two young readers take in a great book on one of our comfortable bean bags!



# items checked out up 52% in five years



- ### 2010 Achievements
- ◇ Visited local schools to share books and news with over 700 students!
  - ◇ Began a “Stock the Stacks” campaign that helped raise \$25,000 for books!
  - ◇ Were part of a successful grant that awarded library books as part of an “early reader” program.

*“We’re a three person family — dad, mom, and son ... there has not been a week in years when the three of us haven’t all had our own books on loan from the library.*

*...Dad loves mysteries and has expanded his “favorite authors list” ... mom loves cooking, and through the remarkable statewide book lending system, has found the familiar and obscure in every corner of the state — delivered to us right in Camden!*

*... and the library is a home away from home for our son... every night when he goes to bed we read from the latest of his books on loan from the library.*

*The only place in town the three of us spend more time together is at home, and that doesn’t feel much different than the library because we’re surrounded by all the books we have on loan!”*

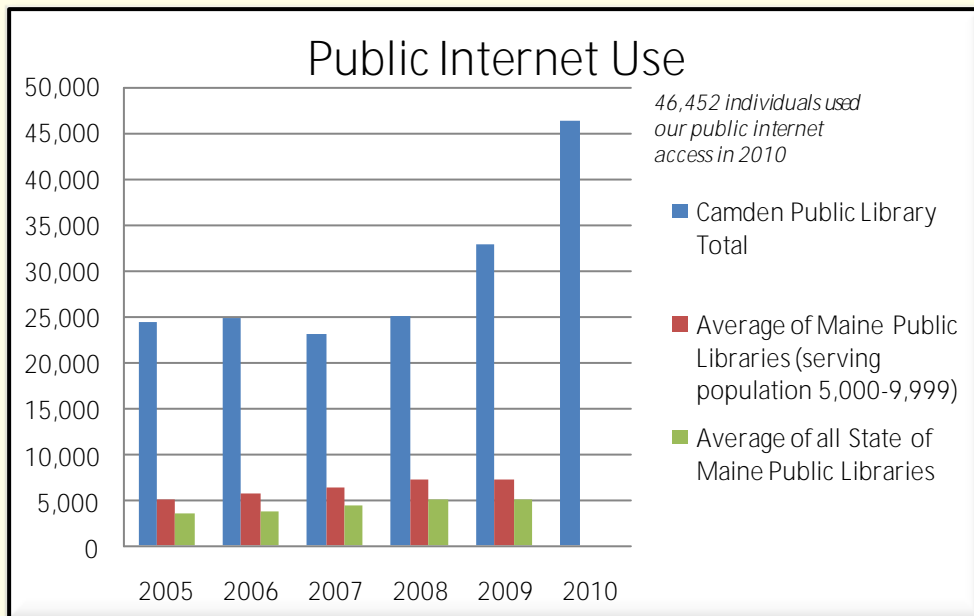
—2010 survey feedback from library customer

## to technology that is essential to your life



**Above:** One of our teen customers tries out the new Apple iPad while relaxing in our TeenZone.

**Opposite:** Lots of young library users are checking out the children's computers! In the upper right corner, volunteer Bob Carter (volunteering to do help people with their taxes for more than 20 years) uses the library's wireless internet access as he prepares to meet a customer and help them file their income taxes on line.



# computer use up 100% in five years



## 2010 Achievements

- ◇ A modest space remodeling project allowed us to offer more available computers for public use.
- ◇ Over 2,000 E-books available for the first time to library users. The collection includes best-selling fiction and non-fiction and can be downloaded for use on a computer or on most portable e-reader devices.

*"I recently became unemployed, and the library has been a lifesaver! Effective job searching requires Internet access, and because we have a dial-up connection at home, nearly every day I come to the library with my laptop in order to take advantage of the WiFi connection, which makes the hunting for and responding to job postings fast and efficient."*

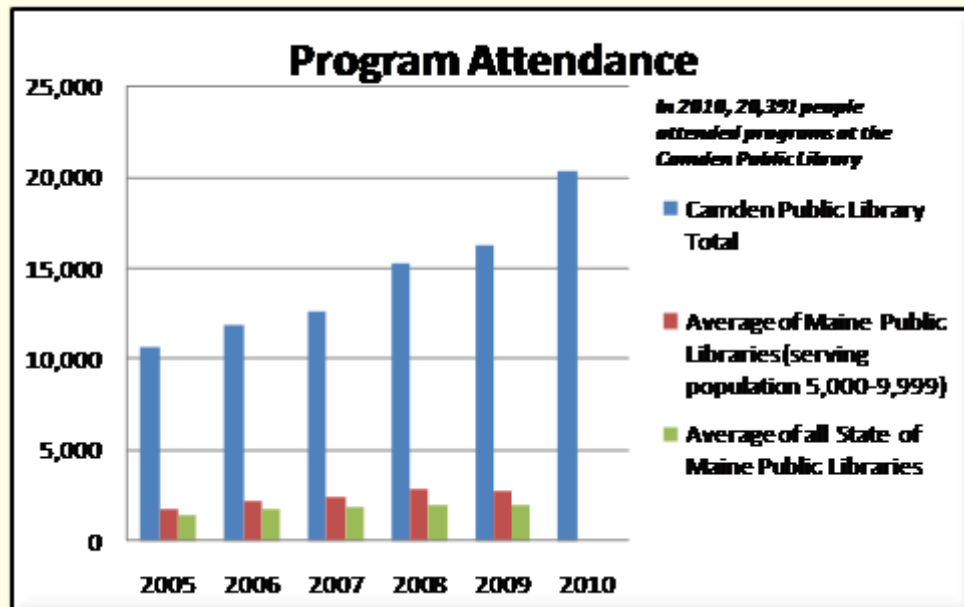
–2010 survey feedback from library customer

## that knowledge is essential



*Above: Hank Lunn in character as Abiel Briggs, who accompanied Benedict Arnold on his trip through Maine in 1775.*

*Opposite: A large crowd admires a traditionally-built Birch Bark Canoe which was on loan from the Penobscot Marine Museum during Maritime Month. In the upper right corner, a young child spreads the wings of a Gypsy Moth tricycle as part of a program on Gypsy Moths!*



# program attendance up 61% in five years



## 2010 Achievements

- ◇ Won 2nd prize in a History Channel contest for our Maritime Month programs!
- ◇ Approximately 900 people attended the 2010 Winterfest celebration!
- ◇ Theme month, "Is Maine Going Anywhere," featured speakers like Hannah Pingree to talk about the current economic climate.

*"I love the Camden Public Library. The people are friendly and helpful. The events and artwork in the Picker Room are a wonderful boon to the culture of Camden — 'Random Acts of Culture' is a term I just saw on Facebook and is appropriate here!"*

*"This past August, my son (junior at CHRHS) got some musical friends together to perform a benefit concert at the library. They worked closely with library staff and spent a beautiful Saturday jamming in the library's Amphitheatre. Books and music have always gone hand and hand in my life, and what better way to illustrate this than with this summer concert!"*

—2010 survey feedback from library customers

# how we're funded

*The library is funded through individuals, the Town of Camden, and private foundations.*

*Each year, the Town of Camden provides financial support that ranges from 46 to 48% of our total budget. The remaining funding comes from individuals and private foundations.*

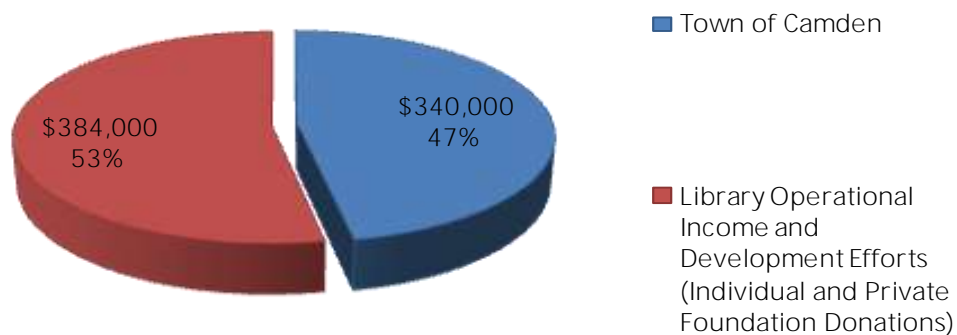
*In all, the library raises well over 50% of its needed funding each fiscal year.*

*As a library supporter, please consider donating to the library through our Annual Giving Campaign. Or make a donation to our Stock the Stacks campaign, which is specifically used to purchase books and other materials.*

*Also, please consider the library as you plan your large bequests and estate gifts — we can use funds in your honor to help our operation for years to come!*

*You may make a donation year-round at the library or through the library's website at [www.librarycamden.org](http://www.librarycamden.org). To discuss bequests, estate gifts, and gifts in memoriam, please contact Nikki Maounis or Jamie Ritter at 236-3440.*

**Fiscal Year 2010 Funding Allocation**



*Using your money wisely, we have maintained a 100% ROC (Return on Community). For every \$1.00 in town funding, we match it at a level of \$1.13 in private funding.*

Volunteers: Hundreds of volunteers offer thousands of hours of support to the library – their time is invaluable! From running and managing our Book Sales, to helping to sort and shelve books, we depend on the time and commitment of all those who give selflessly to help advance the mission of their library.

Millay Society Members: The Millay Society at the Camden Public Library was founded in 2006. Its purpose is to attract individual donors who give more than \$1,000 per year to their library. **These individual donors'** contributions are unrestricted and allow the library to dedicate funding to any aspect of our core operations. Many donors have chosen to renew their membership in the Millay Society each year since its founding, and this continued support is both greatly appreciated and invaluable to sustaining essential services.

## our supporters

Annual Giving Campaign Contributors: Our Annual Giving Campaign began in November 2010 and ends June 30, 2011. Each year this campaign **helps to fund items that are critical to our library's operations** — items such as books, materials, programs, and so much more.

Corporate and Foundation Partners: We are fortunate that members of our business community feel the library is a valuable resource and wish to contribute to its operations and special events. Finding unique and meaningful ways to partner is always important, and we appreciate developing such relationships with businesses in our community.

Community Partners: Over the years we have developed special and long-lasting partnerships with key organizations in the community. Assisting each other to promote events of mutual interest, collaborating in an effort to share resources, or working with other organizations for the benefit of our community is important.

## our volunteers



*Book Sale volunteers sorting and pricing books. From left to right are Chris Litzenberg, Brenda Sullivan, Kate Bates, and Audrey Moody.*

Joelle Albury  
 Olaf and Judy Andersen  
 Karl and Kristen Andersen  
 Ray and Wendy Andresen  
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 Kim Eggen  
 Richard Eichacker  
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 Rita and Jim Elliott  
 Sophie Emmett  
 John Enright  
 Chelsea Ettinger  
 Lynn Feldborg  
 Patty Frederick  
 Maxine and Jay Freedman  
 John Fitzgerald  
 Jane Fuller

Karen Furlong  
 Dora Galitzki  
 Carrick Gamble  
 John and Kathy Gass  
 Lillian Gaudette  
 Dick Gilchrist  
 Joy Glock  
 Judy Godwin  
 Ryan Goggans  
 Ken Gross  
 Peter and Rachel Gross  
 Ned and Terry Gruener  
 Chris and Tarah Hall  
 Jonette Hardester  
 Bob Harlow  
 Roberta Heald  
 Barbara Healy  
 Dustin Hickey  
 Ryan Hill  
 Julie Holz  
 Jeff Howland  
 Becky Huckle  
 Dave and Nancy Jackson  
 Zoe Jones  
 Debbie Jordan  
 Hope Kassen  
 Ann Keefe  
 Cathy Kinsella  
 Wendy and Arthur Kirklian

# thank you!

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Pat Guala—*Special thanks to Pat who volunteered for the library up until the time of her passing in late 2010. She will be missed by all of us.*



*In 2010, we had numerous volunteers help in so many ways. Many of our volunteers assist with our used book sales. This enormous undertaking could not be accomplished without their assistance and the leadership of volunteer Don White who oversees the Book Sales. Each year, our used book sales raise about \$25,000 to support library operations. In 2010, we also held a special sale that benefited our "Stock the Stacks" campaign, which raised funds to buy new books.*



## donors, sponsors and partners

*Thank you to the numerous individuals and businesses who made donations to the Camden Public Library in 2010 and to our 2010-11 Annual Giving Campaign (up to the date of this publication).*

*We thank you for the genuine love of, and support for, the Camden Public Library.*

*Note: an asterisk (\*) denotes a Millay Society donor.*

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## unique and special partnerships



The Bank of America Charitable Foundation has made generous contributions (a ten-year grant ending in 2010) to help fund a portion of **our Children's Services staff and operations**. This grant enables the Camden Public Library to continue a tradition of offering superior programs and support for young people who enjoy the library.



The Centennial Fund manages trusts and funds specifically designated to support the library. Each year the Centennial Fund, in accordance with its sole purpose and mission, **helps to fund essential services within the library's core operating budget**.



Camden National Bank has partnered with the Camden Public Library for multiple years to **support the library's reading programs for local youth**. The awarded funds are used to **enhance the library's numerous programs and activities for children and to encourage an awareness of, and appreciation for, reading as a lifetime pursuit**.



The First National Bank of Damariscotta (The First) has been a sponsor of the Winterfest Celebration held in the Camden Public Library's Amphitheatre for the past few years, and was once again a sponsor in 2010.



The Penobscot Marine Museum partnered with the Camden Public Library to bring maritime-related exhibits and educational programs to the library during April 2010's "Maritime Month." **Our collaborations with the museum have been so successful that we will be bringing Maritime Month to the library again in April 2011.**



For many years the Camden Rotary Club has been a terrific community partner. Rotary Club grants have been used to sponsor **the library's Summer Reading Program**. In 2010 the library was a grant recipient of the Rotary Club.



The Town of Camden has been a continuous supporter of the library. Nearly one-half of **the library's operating support comes directly from the Town to support the essential services the library offers, and helps to support both the Amphitheatre and Harbor Park.**



### Friends of the Rink

While this special undertaking just occurred at the **beginning of 2011, it's an event and partnership that needs special mention**. The Library, volunteers from **Winterfest, and volunteers calling themselves "Friends of the Rink" all worked together to bring a skating rink to our Amphitheatre in 2011**. To say this has been well-received in our community is a vast understatement — it has been a phenomenal success! Thank you to all who made this possible.

This effort underscores the types of partnerships that exist *because* of the library. It is an example of our Mission in action: An anchor for downtown Camden — bringing people together to Read, Connect, and Discover!

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