









## ***Durham Public Library is On the Move!***

After more than a decade in what was intended to be a “temporary” storefront location at the Mill Plaza, the Durham Public Library is about to make the long-awaited move to a facility that more appropriately reflects our citizens’ values and needs. The former home of Dr. Arthur DiMambro at 49 Madbury Road will be adapted and an addition will be constructed to create a facility that will significantly increase the library’s contributions to the quality of life in our community.

**The new library project, including improvements to the existing house on the site and construction of an attached two-story addition, will create a total 10,500 square feet of space, with off-street parking for up to 50 vehicles.**

-  The addition will be compatible with the existing building’s style and brick façade and there is **room on the property for future expansion.**
-  The building is designed for a 100-year life span and **incorporates many “green” elements equivalent to LEED standards**, including energy-efficient mechanical and lighting systems and windows, durable exterior finishes and a highly insulated envelope to hold down operating and maintenance costs.
-  **Large windows will provide abundant natural light as well as views** of the beautiful grounds. An attractive courtyard will be a pleasant area on nice days for reading, conversation and outdoor activities. The building also has been carefully sited to preserve the small historic graveyard on the property. **A Rain Garden will also provide a buffer to protect the wetlands.**
-  The new building will create a more efficient and comfortable experience for patrons, and will enable the library to offer a wider array of materials, services and programs for all ages and segments of the community.
-  The library will continue to provide traditional programs and services in the future, and will also offer access to the very latest technological tools to help citizens keep pace with constantly evolving innovation.
-  The larger facility will be a lively center of learning and enrichment. Best of all, the new library will bring the community together to enjoy an array of wholesome educational, cultural and social activities.
-  In many ways, the new library will contribute significantly to Durham’s *sense of community*, cited as a key element of the town’s vision in the Master Plan approved in 2000. “Sense of community can be defined as a combination of identity, image, and connections and sense of belonging. *Identity* is how we see ourselves as a community, who we are, and what is important and valuable to us. *Image* is how we are seen as a Town, how we look, and how we are remembered.


*Connections and sense of belonging* is an awareness of, involvement in, and understanding of the community in which we live.” (Durham Master Plan, Chapter 2.2)


 The design has been carefully chiseled to reduce the overall size of the new building, while providing for the range of space needs identified in the detailed library space program that was developed in detail last fall with community input, and guidance from an experienced library planning consultant. Many new or expanded libraries have been built in other small towns across New Hampshire over the past decade. The size and functions proposed in this design are in keeping with the successes in these communities, where huge increases in patronage have typically occurred.


## ***The New Library is Overdue!***









**The limited size and wide-open layout of the current storefront location are severely restricting the Library’s ability to meet the diverse needs and interests of our dynamic community. Furthermore, the annual rent of \$56,500 is 21% of the operating budget and could be better used to support services and programs.**

Since the move to the Mill Plaza in 1997, the Library has experienced tremendous growth. In just the past five years, for example, patron visits are up by 77% and loaned materials have increased by 65%. During the same period, computers, copiers and a large collection of audio books, videos, DVDs, periodicals and the like have been added, but the size of the space – only 3,000 square feet - has not expanded accordingly!

 *Shelf space is extremely limited, with no room for more. Even allowing for possible conversion of some materials to electronic formats in the future, one-third of the new library will be required for the collection. Two-thirds will be “people space” underscoring the vision of the new library as a primary gathering place for the community.*

 Presently there is no meeting room for larger groups, only a grouping of chairs at the front window and a table at the back of the building. Activities are limited to fewer than 30 people. **The new library will feature a Community Program Room with a seating capacity of up to 100 people.** It will be used for library events such as lectures, discussion groups, larger children’s programs, films, exhibits and recitals, and will be available for activities of other community groups. The Community Program Room can be partitioned to create an extra meeting space. It will have access to a range of audio-visual equipment, a kitchen, restrooms and can be used even when the library is closed.

 Within the current building there are only 10 chairs where people may sit and read. **There will be a designated Durham Heritage Reading Room** (with a fireplace) and several groupings of comfortable seating throughout the new library.

-  The existing children's "room" is a tiny 16x20 square foot area enclosed by shelving. The area is too small for the number of children who would like to participate in activities such as the popular Story Time and Summer Reading Program. **The new building will include a designated 2,900 square-foot Children's Room with a separate Activities & Story Room** and an adjacent family-friendly restroom.
-  In the current library, there are no rooms or areas for quiet study or small group meetings. The one table at the back serves as the staff work space, lunch table and for small group gatherings. **The new building will include two Quiet Study/Small Group Meeting Rooms.**
-  Currently there is no area designated for middle and high school students working on homework or research projects. The Library is an important complement to the classroom experience and is the only resource for students in the afternoon, evenings, on weekends and during the summer when the schools are closed. **The new building will have an area specifically for Young Adults.**
-  There are only eight computers with public access in the current space, all placed at the same table with no privacy. **There will be 24 computer stations in the new building and wireless access throughout.** All citizens – regardless of their ability to afford costly equipment and connections – can have access to the internet and an assortment of useful and informative software programs as well as guidance and assistance by the staff.
-  The storefront space is so small and open that noise travels throughout the library from children's activities or people chatting at the front desk. Areas in the new library have been **carefully located to minimize noise and maximize supervision by a small staff.**
-  Currently, there is no work or office space for the staff which makes it difficult for them to catalogue and process materials efficiently (the present work area is the same single table). What functions as an "office" is a shared grouping of chairs and desks clustered against the back wall. **The new library will provide offices for the Director, Assistant Director and Children's Librarian as well as a designated work area.**
-  It is difficult for individuals with mobility challenges and parents with children in strollers to maneuver through the front doors of the current space and past the jam-packed shelves and furniture. **All public areas of the new library will be universally accessible and an elevator will provide convenient access to the second floor.**
-  Today, in the current building, there is only one uni-sex restroom which doubles as storage. **Restrooms in the new building will be located on the main level, in the children's area and adjacent to the Community Program Room.**

📖 Currently, folding chairs, seasonal decorations, program supplies and other items must be stored in a small shed behind the building. **The new library will have ample, easily accessible storage space.**

📖 And, responding to citizens' requests, **cookies will continue to be available as well as light snacks and beverages in the Café Reading Rooms which also house the current magazines and newspapers.**

## ***The public-private partnership with the Town***

**The new Durham Public Library is an investment in the quality of life in our town – and a gift to future generations.**

The estimated cost of the project is \$4,800,000 including purchase of the property, site development, construction of the addition, improvements to the existing building, furnishings, equipment, design fees, moving costs and contingency. The property already has been purchased by the town for \$600,000 from \$1.2 million in non-taxpayer funds donated to the library Trustees over the years for a new building. The goal of the Board of Trustees' present fundraising effort is to raise an additional \$900,000 in donations as the private portion of our partnership with the Town. With a successful campaign, all told, the Trustees and gifts from the community will have provided \$2.1 million. The Trustees will be seeking a bond of \$2.7 million as the public share of the project costs. Although only recently begun, gifts and pledges to the New Library Campaign currently exceed \$200,000. We will regularly provide updates on the progress of fundraising over the next year.

## ***A Day in the Near Future***

Outside, a troop of cub scouts and their leaders are studying plants at the edge of the wetlands on the library property. A couple is chatting on a bench on the porch. Inside the house, several retired people are enjoying a cup of coffee and a homemade cookie in the Café Reading Rooms. Others are settled into easy chairs at the fireplace reading newspapers and magazines in the adjacent Durham Heritage Reading Room. In the new addition, two local quilters are mounting a display of their creations in the Adult Wing. Volunteers are beginning to set up chairs in the Community Program Room for an evening lecture while a book discussion group is underway in the partitioned section of the room.

A local business owner is leafing through *Forbes* and the *NH Business Review*. At a nearby computer station, a do-it-yourselfer is on the internet studying instructions on how to hang wallpaper. A cluster of teens (they really are at the library, Mom) is taking notes from reference books and online databases for a science project. In one of the Quiet Study Rooms, a young man is improving his reading skills with the help of a tutor.

We can hear giggles as young children arrive for Story Hour in their very own Activities and Story Room. There is a small gathering of patrons chatting at the circulation desk as they check out books (One comments, "I saw this at the bookstore, for \$28!"). A young couple is signing up for a home improvement

workshop series. In the audio-video section, a mother and her two girls are choosing a DVD for their family movie night. There is a steady flow of visitors, people of all ages and interests.

The new library will be a central place that fosters cultural awareness and intellectual discovery. Where young children are introduced to the joy of reading. Where older kids develop lifelong skills to succeed in school, their future careers – and in life. Where all citizens have access to information and opportunities to enrich their lives and realize their greatest potential.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **General**

#### **Why build a new library?**

The new Durham Public Library will be an active, vibrant cultural center connecting the people of our community to information, resources, enriching activities, and each other. The current Durham Public Library, located in a storefront in the Mill Plaza, was always intended to be temporary rental space that would be replaced by a standalone facility owned by the Town. After years of research into a permanent site, Dr. Arthur DiMambro's property at 49 Madbury Rd was selected. An addition attached to the existing house, with its 2.8 acres of land, will meet the growing library needs of Durham residents and address many of the deficiencies of the Mill Plaza location such as lack of children's and young adult areas, reading rooms, meeting, study, and conference rooms, space for collection growth, and workspace. In addition the library pays \$56,000/year for rent and related charges that will be better invested in library operations.

#### **What is the vision for the library?**

The vision for the Durham Public Library is to provide a cultural and social center for the community, offering access to ideas, information, programs and each other by encouraging exploration, discovery, and engagement for people of all ages through all forms of expression.

#### **Isn't the current library sufficient, given the other available libraries, like UNH and the school libraries?**

Durham Public Library serves the citizenry of Durham in ways that academic and school libraries can't. A public library provides a broad spectrum of materials in a variety of formats – bestsellers, DVDs, books on CD, eBooks – to meet the needs of the general public, and offers programming for children, young adults, and adults. The extensive range of materials and services the library offers has been possible only by the staff's inventive utilization of virtually every inch of space. There is not enough room to store the books and materials needed by our growing community, let alone to provide the kinds of educational and cultural events requested by our residents and visitors. The library has been a vital part of the community and will play an even greater role in the years ahead. As such, the library must keep pace with the intellectual, cultural, and social needs of our diverse and dynamic community.

## **Why not rely on e-books and interlibrary loan for expansion?**

E-books and audiobooks are great tools that will impact our future, but books in print will be with us for quite some time. Book sales and book circulations are up nationally, and since 2005, materials loaned by the Durham Public Library increased 65%. This much growth requires collection, processing, storage, and service space. Many towns throughout New Hampshire have recently expanded or built new libraries. Each one experienced significant growth in use, the ability to provide more activities and programs, and created an active center for community engagement – something eBooks and interlibrary loan cannot accomplish. Interlibrary loan is a reciprocal arrangement between libraries to share materials; a library can't rely on other towns to provide books if it's not willing to do the same.

## **Didn't the town used to have access to the UNH library? What happened?**

Yes. Prior to moving into the Mill Plaza building in 1997, Durham residents used Dimond Library at UNH for their library needs. Both parties decided fourteen years ago, and voters agreed, that the Town needed its own library to meet the growing intellectual and social needs of residents who were not adequately served by the small inaccessible space they were allotted. Durham residents continue to have free access to the UNH library, but their services are focused toward research and the curriculum, not the interests of the adults, families, and seniors in our community.

How are the Town residents being kept informed about the progress of the new library?

Residents have been consulted at each step of the library building project, and continue to remain vital partners in the process. Nolan Lushington, our library consultant, met with members of various community constituencies in late fall 2010, including representatives from the Town Council, Durham Historic Association, Oyster River Parents and Preschoolers, citizens with an interest in the library, and library staff and Trustees. Citizens have also been involved in the design/build process since the fall as part of the Citizens Library Building Review Committee. Project news, events, designs, and documents are posted on the library's website, and residents can read them in print at the library.

## **How can residents express their views about the library and its design, before everything has been decided?**

We have engaged our Citizens Library Building Review Committee, a group of twenty-five people of various backgrounds, ages, and perspectives, since the fall. We hold open public sessions to update the community and get further feedback, and we'll keep the Town Council updated as we move forward. In addition, our Building Committee will be working regularly with the design/build team to provide detailed guidance. Residents may submit suggestions regarding the building project in the drop box by the library's front entrance, or via email.

## **The Building and Land Purchase**

### **Why the property at 49 Madbury Road for a new library? Weren't there better sites closer to the center of town?**

Library Trustees sought a suitable site for the Durham Public Library since before the split from UNH. More than 20 sites were considered over the years, but none was more suitable than the DiMambro property. It is close to the central business core, the middle school, and a number of neighborhoods. At nearly three acres the site is large enough to contain a library and off-street parking lot. The house, which would be incorporated into the design of the facility, presents a beautiful façade for a library.

### **How much did the property cost and who paid for it?**

The \$600,000 transaction was paid with private donations raised by the Durham Public Library Board of Trustees specifically for a new library. The money paid for the site includes \$100,000 from an anonymous donor who wanted to ensure that this purchase occurred. No taxpayer funds were used for this acquisition. The Town of Durham and Dr. Arthur DiMambro entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement (P&S Agreement) for the property at 49 Madbury Road as the potential future site for the Durham Public Library. The P&S Agreement was contingent upon a thorough due diligence analysis by the Town. The Town took ownership of the property on September 3, 2010.

### **Design of the Library**

#### **How big will the library be? Why that size? Can't it be smaller?**

Determination of library size is based on the building program developed by Lushington Associates as well as comparisons to recently built New Hampshire libraries in communities demographically similar to Durham. We are striving to keep the total amount of assignable space to a size adequate to meet the needs of the residents of Durham. Approximately one-third of this space would house the collection, two-thirds would be “people space” for patrons and staff, underscoring our vision for the library as community space.

We have been careful in establishing the size of the building by creating a library space program that is in keeping with other moderately sized libraries in New Hampshire. The building program is consistent with many other New Hampshire towns with recently built libraries. The size will adequately address community needs with the flexibility to adapt as those needs change over time. We have been very conscientious in avoiding excess, but also in not being short-sighted which could result in an expansion project in the near future.

#### **How long will the library last?**

The library is being planned as a 100-year building. It is our intention that the building will last for generations as a testament to Durham's dedication to higher learning, community togetherness, and access to information.

#### **How “green” will the library be?**

We are seeking to build a LEED level facility, whether or not we apply for certification. We will investigate such “green” systems as energy-efficient digitally controlled mechanical systems, lighting systems with occupancy and day lighting sensors, full audio/visual capability in the meeting rooms. Maintenance costs can be kept to a

minimum with durable exterior finishes that are easy to maintain and a highly insulated building envelope. Well insulated windows will provide abundant natural light and views to the surrounding landscape.

### **How long before the new library will be ready to use?**

The present timeline projects a possible opening date in the spring of 2013, but there is much to be done before then and multiple variables to account for. Regardless, the Building Committee will work assiduously to provide a suitable, sustainable library for the people of Durham.

### **Why Support your Local Library? – A Note from the American Library Association**

- \* In a world where knowledge is power, libraries make everyone more powerful.
- \* Libraries bring people and ideas together. Think of the library as the living room of your community.
- \* Libraries are unique. Where else can you have access to nearly anything on CD, DVD, the Web or in print – as well as personal service and assistance in finding it?
- \* Libraries help bridge the divide between those who have access to information and those who do not. Families making less than \$15,000 annually are two to three times more likely to rely on library computers than those earning more than \$75,000.
- \* Nearly 73% of libraries are their communities' only source of free computer and Internet access- which rises to 82% in rural areas.
- \* Libraries don't just offer the hardware, but also offer the expertise of librarians in helping teach people how to use the Internet and find the information they need quickly. While Google can give you 50,000 responses to your inquiry, your librarian can help you find the one answer you need.
- \* Libraries are part of the American Dream. They offer free access to all. They bring opportunity to all.
- \* Libraries and librarians provide free and equal access to information for people of all ages and backgrounds – in schools, on college and university campuses and in communities large and small.
- \* Libraries are for everyone, everywhere.

*The vision for the new Durham Public Library is to provide a cultural and social center for the community, offering access to ideas, information, programs and each other by encouraging exploration, discovery, and engagement for people of all ages through all forms of expression.*