





DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

ast summer three young girls, fourth graders, perhaps, strode through the Athenaeum in a bubbly scrum of youthful exuberance. I was the gallery docent that day and couldn't help but notice their approach through the fiction room. I assumed they were on their way to the Children's Room to see Mrs. W, Adele West-Fisher, our Youth Services Librarian. At the threshold of the gallery two of the three carried on in stride and conversation. The third girl froze, apparently afraid to proceed into this adult sanctum. The first two, noticing their companion stock still in the door way, looked to her...then looked to me...and turned back to their friend and said loudly, c'mon in, we know that guy!

And they did, indeed, know me. We had painted pages and made books, and written stories, and assembled puzzles of the paintings several summers before in the gallery as part of the St. Johnsbury Rec Department's Kamp Iwannahavfun. They took their friend by the hand and brought her into the gallery. They talked about what they liked in the painting collection, sophisticated beyond anything I could imagine, and had a merry time.

Talk about mission accomplished, at least in one small way. The girls didn't necessarily know or care that I was the Director. I was just that guy who had provided a positive experience for them. As they grow up the gallery will always be a part of their lives.

This is what we intend to achieve for all visitors: to feel welcomed, responded to, and impressed. A few statistics speak to our successes. Last year nearly 25,000 people visited the Athenaeum. More than 42,000 items circulated. We presented well over 100 free programs for adults, young adults, and children. We visited 14 daycares on a weekly basis to read stories and circulate books, and supplied five free-book stations around town to reinforce early literacy practices with mothers and fathers and their children.

People from St. Johnsbury and surrounding towns come for mystery novels and picture books, to use computers, to read the papers, to be impressed and challenged with free public lectures, to view the permanent collection and temporary exhibits, to see their friends. People from all over the world come to see the art collection and marvel at the building, and ask how it all came to be in this small town.

It came to be with the vision of the Fairbanks family, and the tradition of innovation and renewal practiced by staff and trustees through the years. The Athenaeum will be 145 years young this November. Please stop in for a visit.

Bob Joly Athenaeum Director

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

hanks to the many people who supported the Athenaeum with their time, money, and in-kind contributions during 2015. Most of our donors are local, but some live at great distance. Some of these were originally local, some attended the Academy at one time, and some merely visited the Athenaeum while passing through St. Johnsbury and were struck by its unique beauty.

We are very grateful to have Bob Joly, Athenaeum Director, as our partner, along with an outstanding staff. Our goals include preserving our heritage while also keeping current, and moving ever closer to sustainability. Our short term plans include improving library resources, continuing to produce engaging programs and exhibits, and increasing utilization of our space to serve the community. With help from volunteers, we are hoping to extend our Tuesday and Thursday hours.

A large and immediate project is to have the *Domes of Yosemite* painting examined to determine what needs to be done to remove the sag at its upper left corner. The first step involved moving the enormous painting away from the wall so that conservators will be able to view the back of the painting to discover the cause of the sag. We are expecting this evaluation to cost approximately \$20,000 and take about a month. Once the painting is stabilized, visitors to the gallery will also have the rare opportunity to view the painting's back. The cost of restoring the painting will remain a mystery until we can figure out what needs to be done. We expect to write grants to cover a substantial part of the cost.

Even with generous community support, our budget remains very tight. Operational costs leave little funding for even routine maintenance. There are many projects on hold waiting for funding. The long term solution is to increase our endowment with bequests and major gifts. Scott Davis, our Development Officer, has been developing materials to encourage such donations.

We also need donors who are interested in supporting our programs and funding projects to restore and improve our facilities. Some of my favorite projects include making the first floor balconies and winding staircases structurally safe and sound, making our historic books and photographs more accessible, and restoring many of the picture frames that need work. We would be happy to discuss these or other projects with anyone who is interested. We expect to apply for more grants in the future, but many grants require matching funds.

We hope to speak with our supporters starting in 2016 to find out your thoughts on everything from what genre of books you think we need more of, to what you see as the most important services to provide and the most urgent projects to pursue. Thank you for your interest in this amazing national treasure.

Elinor Levy Chair











THE YEAR IN REVIEW

first drove to St. Johnsbury in February 2015 from New Haven, Connecticut on an overcast, unseasonably warm February afternoon. The instant I spotted the Athenaeum, the clouds parted and sunlight streamed across Main Street. I knew I had found my new home.

One of my first acts as development officer here was to work with the staff and Board of Trustees to find out what regular patrons thought of the Athenaeum. I knew what I thought: a great place to work, a historic masterpiece, a haven for education and entertainment in a town seemingly preserved in the Victorian era. But what did the everyday library users, local art enthusiasts, and out-of-town tourists feel were the strengths and challenges faced by the Athenaeum? To find out, we conducted a patron survey online and through printed surveys distributed at the Athenaeum. More than 120 people responded and gave us plenty to consider.

The major issues identified were a strong desire for more new books, especially fiction; the need for faster, newer computers; longer hours open to the public; and a different use of space. We immediately went to work making improvements based on the survey.

Brighter lighting was installed throughout the Athenaeum, especially in the Children's Library, which immediately made the Athenaeum more welcoming. More new books were purchased and moved to the reading room in the front, so patrons see them as soon as they enter. Four new computers were installed, with more coming soon. Volunteers are being lined up so we can increase our hours open to the public. We moved furniture around to create more private reading areas. We're looking into ways to create quiet spaces, as well as spaces where small groups can work quietly.

In December we hosted a presentation about these changes and others slated for the future. If you'd like to see an online presentation about this, visit our website at www.stjathenaeum.org.

Already the changes have made a difference in the satisfaction level of our patrons, but we still have much we'd like to do. In order to help us with our changes and upgrades, please support us during our upcoming fund-raising drive during National Library Week beginning April 10. You will have the opportunity to direct your support where you'd like: buying new adult books, adding children's materials, improving the technology, expanding our downloadable options, maintaining the art gallery, or just helping us pay the heating bills!

I am thankful to be here at the Athenaeum, and look forward to working with you and the Northeast Kingdom community to continue improving and promoting this wonderful National Historic Landmark.

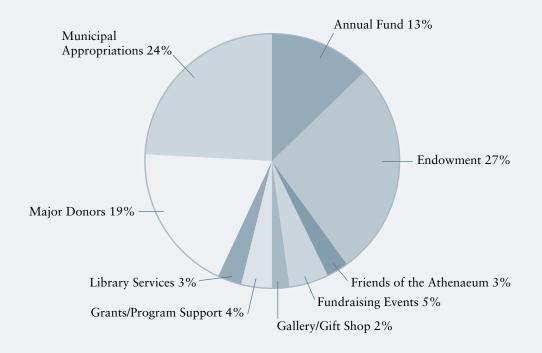
Scott Davis
Director of Development

2015 INCOME AND EXPENSES

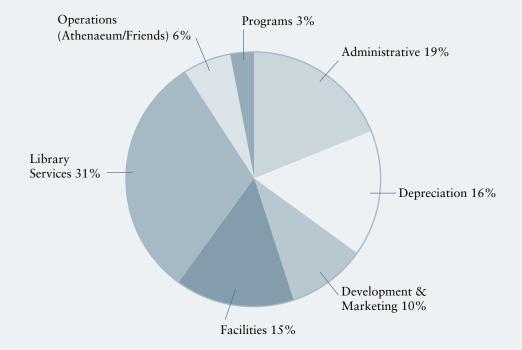
Unaudited Financial Statements

INCOME		
Annual Fund	\$ 61,303.00	13%
Endowment	\$ 125,000.00	27%
Friends of the Athenaeum	\$ 12,334.00	3%
Fundraising Events	\$ 25,591.00	5%
Gallery/Gift Shop	\$ 7,227.00	2%
Grants/Program Support	\$ 18,266.00	4%
Library Services	\$ 13,584.00	3%
Major Donors	\$ 91,391.00	19%
Municipal Appropriations	\$ 115,000.00	24%
Total Income	\$ 469,696.00\$	
EXPENSE		
Administrative	\$ 89,984.00	19%
Depreciation	\$ 75,000.00	16%
Development & Marketing	\$ 49,279.00	10%
Facilities	\$ 70,856.00	15%
Library Services	\$ 148,520.00	31%
Operations (Athenaeum/Friends)	\$ 30,313.00	6%
Programs	\$ 12,713.00	3%
Total Expense	\$ 476,665.00\$	
Net Operating Income	\$ (6,969.00)	
Balance Sheet 2015		
Cash	\$ 75,342.00	
Pledge Receivables	\$ 28,303.00	
Current Assets	\$ 9,764.00	
Fixed Assets, net of depreciation	\$ 2,153,795.00	
Beneficial Interest in Trust	\$ 1,587,244.00	
Vermont Community Foundation	\$ 23,363.00	
Unrestricted Investments	\$ 2,591,885.00	
Permanently Restricted Investments	\$ 326,644.00	
(Income Only)		
Total Assets	\$ 6,796,340.00	
Liabilities	\$ 19,746.00	
Equity	\$ 6,776,594.00	
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 6,796,340.00	

INCOME



EXPENSES



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Anonymous 6

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- Children/Young Adult Books
- First Wednesdays 5
- Gala
- GMBA Books
- Horace Fairbanks Society
- Poetry Fund
- 10 Skylight Fund
- 11 In Honor of Bob Joly
- 12 In Honor of Richard Lubot
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Sustained Giving is a great way to support the Athenaeum with monthly credit card gifts. Sustained Giving means the Athenaeum receives funding throughout the year, so we can put your gifts to use right away. And you have the satisfaction of knowing these small monthly gifts add up to big support for the Athenaeum!

Horace Fairbanks Society

The Horace Fairbanks Society honors those who have made a gift through their estate plans, or who have announced their intention to support the Athenaeum in their future plans. Supporting the Athenaeum in your estate plans is a wonderful way to leave a legacy and help ensure a strong future for the Athenaeum for another 150 years and more.



My husband and I started summering in Littleton almost 50 years ago, and quickly discovered the Athenaeum.
We delight in bring-

ing amazed friends to see the wonder of it. It is a privilege to think that our financial support will help to maintain what the we, the town, the board, supporters, and staff of the Athenaeum so value.

Where else can we find an institution that combines library, art, books, poetry, history, and architecture in a community far from urban life? We are grateful for having the Athenaeum in our neighborhood and gladly will include it in our wills to perpetuate its continued existence.

—Florence Fogelin

For more information on Sustained Giving or Planned Giving, please contact Development Officer Scott Davis at sdavis@ stjathenaeum.org or 802-748-8291.