

## **Our library is in jeopardy of closing!**

On Saturday I attended a meeting of the Owls Head Village Library Association to hear about the challenges faced by the library's board of trustees.

With declining use, and after several years of weighing the merits of continuing the project, the trustees are forced to make a decision about the future of the library, its collection, the building, and its cash assets.

The volunteer trustees and the long-serving librarian are ready to step away from the management of the association after being involved for the better part of two decades, and there is no one to replace them.

It's time for others to step onto the board of trustees, and to identify a new librarian. In the absence of enough people to continue operations, the trustees will be forced to dissolve the association and the library will be closed.

Another meeting of the board of trustees will occur within a month's time, and I will post that information as soon as the date is confirmed.

In the meantime, if you feel strongly about this matter, reach out to the members of the library's board of trustees or the librarian. They're not looking for money; the budget is very small and manageable. They are seeking people who have an interest in keeping the doors open, and without a small group of dedicated citizens who are willing to help, we will lose this asset.

Below is the text from the town website, <https://www.owlshead.maine.gov/community/history/> regarding the history of the library:

### **Village Library**

On the evening of October 10, 1927 a meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Joseph G. Maddocks for the purpose of forming a library association. Officers chosen to serve for a term of five years were: president, Mrs. Bertha Borgerson; vice-president, Henry E. White; secretary-treasurer, Miss Ella L. Maddocks and trustees, Vinal B. Perry, Allan B. Borgerson, and Parker S. Merriam. First Librarian was Mrs. Celia Leadbetter (mother of Wendell Leadbetter).

It was voted to name the association the Owls Head Village Library Association. Land was purchased from Henry E. White, pastor of the Baptist Church, for the sum of \$50.00 with Vinal Perry chairman of the building committee and Mr. White as boss carpenter.

The building was constructed by the men of the community and contained a community room and kitchen as well as the library section. Funds for the construction were raised through sales and suppers with many generous gifts of money also contributed by friends.

On February 4, 1928 the first library books were given out from the library building. Previously books had been distributed from what is now the Owls Head Post Office.

Miss Winifred Fitch served about 18 years as librarian retiring in 1967. Mrs. Alfred (Julie) Hill of Ash Point replaced Miss Fitch in 1968. Mary Dyer replaced Mrs. Hill as librarian. Mary Dyer, to whom the Children's Room is dedicated, took over the running of the library until around 1998. At that point the reins were given to Deena Carafelli as librarian, who maintains that position today.

The library is open Saturdays (9am-5pm)

The Owls Head Village Library continues to be a volunteer organization with a self checkout system. They carry many Maine books, children's books, DVD's, large print books and biographies. They do not charge late fees but ask that people respect the library materials and return them in a timely and good condition.