

**Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
August 19, 2021**

We had a very good Old Home Week. We had 96 people at Wildlife Encounters which was held at the school. This location was an improvement over the Town Hall because there was more room to spread out and the acoustics were better. No stairs and more parking too. The Pet Show that Friday was sweet. The 63 people who came seemed charmed by the event. We had a number of dogs and Louie made an appearance. We also had rats, snakes, a tegu lizard, a cockatoo, a duck, a tortoise, and a bull calf!

It's a good thing that storytime is outside because we wouldn't have room otherwise. Week before last there were 24 kids and 11 adults. I had to cancel storytime this week and now there is just one more. The six-week Writing Workshop ended last week with 3-4 participating each week, a small but dedicated group of kids. Cindy Fleming is a master at coming up with interesting, engaging projects.

Many people have said that the summer reading program has motivated them to read more. We had 183 total participants which is 60 more than participated last year and 16 fewer than 2019. There was an increase in participation among children of all ages over 2019.

Our new items for our Library of Things have been circulating well and I am gathering feedback from participants to use in the final report I'll need to submit before I leave. I had to jump through some more hoops for grant reimbursement, involving the Town Clerk, but that's all taken care of now.

The "people counter" that keeps our patron statistics is acting up. It doesn't seem to be a battery issue because it is working, but with intermittent counting issues including on our biggest patron day of the summer – the day of the bake sale and pet show! I've gotten a quote of \$573 to replace our people counter. I have a few questions about if internet issues could be the culprit ... we have had a number of outages. If not, I recommend we purchase a new one. If we don't end up having the money in our budget, we can use the Librarian's Discretionary account with the FOL.

Don't forget the FOL volunteer event at the Cunninghams on Sunday at 5:30.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director