

Groton Public Library ENDOWMENT TRUST

a report and appeal to the community ♦ November 2004

Dear Neighbor,

We, the Trustees of the Groton Public Library Endowment Trust are pleased to present our seventh annual report on the Trust's activities. The Audited Financial Statement of the Trust as of December 31, 2003, shows assets totaling \$1,320,519 after expenditures of \$17,176 on behalf of the Library in 2003.

During the course of 2004, the Trustees voted to fund twelve projects totaling just over \$31,000 for the current year. In this report, you will find details about these projects as well as news about Library projects funded by the Endowment in 2003.

The Endowment Fund was established in the late 1990's by a community-wide campaign. The Fund is invested with the goal of providing income to enhance the programs and offerings of the Groton Public Library. The Trustees, again, thank all who have contributed to the Fund since its inception. We invite newcomers and others to add their contribution as they may wish. We deeply appreciate your generosity and pledge to manager the fund responsibly on behalf of the Library.

This newsletter includes an envelope designed to transmit your thoughtful year-end gift. Your gift will help us in our efforts to continue making the Groton Public Library the best it can be.

Sincerely,
the Groton Public Library Endowment
Trustees

Albert Stone, Chairman
Joan Glutting
Edward Strachan, Treasurer
Owen Smith Shuman, Library Director
Robert Weber

LIBRARY CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

On October 2nd over 100 townspeople gathered to celebrate the 150th birthday of the Groton Public Library. The Trustees and staff were excited to host a birthday party for the Library, and requested that the GPL Endowment Trust fund a historical booklet and a town-wide mailer to promote the Library and the event. The historical booklet, written by 150th committee member Kathleen O'Conner, gives a complete history of the library since its inception in 1854. It includes numerous photographs, including that of Miss Emma Blood—the librarian who skewed the statistics due to her prodigious 57 year service to the town!

In conjunction with the 150th celebration, the Library hosted a town-wide read "One Book, One Groton." This special event featured the distribution of 150 free copies of *To Kill a Mockingbird* donated by Groton School. There were four area discussion groups led by community leaders held at various locations around town. The event culminated in the showing of the movie at Groton School on Halloween afternoon. The Library is the center of the community and this event promoted community and a



Partygoers of all ages were encouraged to join in during the performance by Yankee Notions.

coming together to talk about a great book, and the characters and ideas that it addresses.

The Library and the 150th Celebration Committee are grateful to the generosity of the Endowment Trust in funding these activities and materials. The Groton Public Library is the eighth oldest public library in Massachusetts with a long and interesting history that deserves recognition. The earliest Library supporters like Abbott Lawrence, who gave the initial \$500 to establish a free public library in 1854, and Charlotte Sibley, who donated the land and half the cost of the building in 1891, would be pleased to know that their initial investment has grown and that Groton's Library is a beloved and well-used part of the community.