Legacy
by Scott McFarland, Principal of Mount Desert Elementary School and Library Board Member

How do you want to be remembered? What will your legacy be? What will be that lasting memory that people have when someone speaks your name years from now?

These are questions I ask myself all of the time and help me to be the architect and planner of my path through life. I believe we all have a responsibility to make a difference in this world and that is why I personally take such an active role in our community on many different levels. Not many people stop and take the time to ask these questions, but perhaps now is a good time to do so. Do you wish to leave shallow footprints that are quickly washed away with the tide or do we wish to forge deep and distinct footprints that will remain visible for years to come? We all have the potential to do so, we just need to commit.

For some it may mean providing financial support that makes it possible for a needy child to go to camp or that provides support for a program that will benefit the young, or perhaps assisting an organization that supports its community. For others it may be putting the time in to coach or volunteer at events or assisting their neighbors or the elderly. These are all noble deeds and one is no greater than another, yet they are all the building blocks for building that legacy.

The Northeast Harbor Library has been fortunate to be the recipient of this type of legacy building. As you walk through the halls and browse through our collection, or attend a special event, listen carefully and you will hear the whispers of those who will be remembered forever. Let us help be your legacy builder…

Looking for an easy way to support the work of the Northeast Harbor Library? Sign up for our monthly giving program! For more information, contact Jean Rappaport at jrappaport@nehlibrary.org or 207-276-3333.
Library presents Coates Award to Kathryn Suminsby

On Friday, September 13 the Northeast Harbor Library presented Kathryn Suminsby the Don E. Coates Distinguished Service Award. The award was presented by Bob Pyle, last year’s recipient.

Kathryn Suminsby has served the communities of Mount Desert for many years and embodies the criteria for the award, demonstrating a willingness to go above and beyond in service to the community.

She has been a Girl Scout leader, a board member of the Mount Desert Land and Garden Preserve, and a long time member of the Northeast Harbor Ambulance Service. Mrs. Suminsby is active in St. Mary’s By-The-Sea and St. Jude’s church and was instrumental in planning and leading services at Sonogee Rehabilitation and Living Center. She is also a former member of the American Association of University Women.

Kathryn Suminsby has a special connection to the library as she is the granddaughter of Belle Smallidge Knowles, the first librarian of the Northeast Harbor Library. Kathryn is also known for her famous Halloween caramel apples, which she been making and giving to trick-or-treaters for over 50 years.

The Northeast Harbor Library created the Don E. Coates Distinguished Service Award in 2010 to honor community members who have lived lives of service. The award was inspired by its namesake, Mr. Don Coates. Mr. Coates served as a teacher, coach and principal at the old Mount Desert High School in Northeast Harbor from 1951 through 1963. He went on to be a superintendent of schools in Orono and Old Town, then to the University of Maine where he served as professor and dean. Mr. Coates and his wife, Alida, have long maintained a summer residence in Hall Quarry on Mount Desert Island.

Northeast Harbor Library receives $1 million bequest from Kathryn Wasserman Davis

The library has received a $1 million bequest from the late Kathryn Wasserman Davis who died on April 23, 2013. Mrs. Davis supported many organizations on Mount Desert Island and the library is extremely grateful for this generous gift. This gift completes the library’s capital campaign, launched in 2002. The gift went straight to the library’s endowment and helps to ensure financial security for the library for many years to come. We are so thankful to Mrs. Davis and her children, Shelby M.C. Davis and Diana Davis Spencer, for their support of the library and its role in this community.
Library welcomes two new members to the Board of Directors

Kyle Avila was raised in Wilton, New Hampshire. He attended University of New Hampshire in Durham, attaining a degree in Wetland Ecology and Water Resources. He moved to Mount Desert Island year-round after spending several summers on the Island, working as a cartographer for a mapping company, and later as a municipal assessor.

Kyle now lives in Northeast Harbor, with his wife of 15 years and two children, ages 13 and 9, who are regular visitors to the library. Kyle brings a multitude of technical skills, both in computer technology and accounting, which he hopes to share as a library board member.

Carol Malone lives in New York City. She holds a doctorate in clinical psychology and currently works as a guide at the Metropolitan Museum. She and her family have spent the past 27 summers in Northeast Harbor. Carol is privileged to be a member of the board of trustees at the New York Society Library and the Victoria Mansion in Portland, Maine.

Of her use of the Northeast Harbor Library, Carol says, “I delight in recognizing with each visit the breadth and depth of the collection, whether I am looking for the latest British mystery novel or for scholarly materials about Buddhism or some other academic subject. I enjoy talking to the staff whose competence, friendliness and varied interests bring the library to life. In addition, whenever I pop in, something from the DVD or spoken word collections piques my curiosity.”

2013-2014 Northeast Harbor Library Board of Directors

From the President of the Board…
October 2013

This year we lost three good friends, but their memory lives on in many generous gifts to the Northeast Harbor Library that we have received in their honor.

Kathryn Davis left a $1 million bequest in a grant from the Diana Davis Spencer and the Shelby Cullom Davis Foundations. This gift has gone directly to our endowment fund, ensuring a secure future for our library and completing the Northeast Harbor Library Capital Campaign, launched by Chairman O.P. Jackson, Jr. in 2002 to build and endow a new library building. We are very grateful for this gift, and glad that Mrs. Davis was able to see our new library when it was completed. She spoke at our dedication ceremony in 2009, expressing her deep love of libraries, books, and learning.

Dan Kimball, who grew up in Northeast Harbor, was a long-time Library Trustee, and former Chairman. He loved this village and he loved this library, and I know that he would be pleased to know of the many contributions given in his memory.

And, of course, we all remember Trishie Scull, who was such a wonderful, lively, gracious – and sometimes impish – part of the fabric of our town. Trishie was another good friend to our library, and, over the past months, we have received many donations in her name.

We are fortunate to live in a town where people care about one another, understand the importance of a strong library, and are willing to support it, so that it will continue to serve our children, and their children, for years to come.