

**Gardiner Public Library  
152 Water Street  
Gardiner, ME 04345  
582-3312**

**MEMO**

**Date: July 25, 2008  
To: Jeff Kobrock, City Manager  
From: Anne Davis, Director of Library and Information Services  
Re.: Library services**

Jeff,

Recently I have met with the directors of the Lithgow Library in Augusta and the Waterville Public Library to determine how we might offer better services to our community. Between our 3 libraries, we serve most of the lower Kennebec Valley. We also have collections unique to our areas with our own particular expertise. We identified the fact that many of our citizens commute between our 3 cities each day. Another common denominator for all of these libraries is that we all belong to the MINERVA library system, a statewide system that allows access to the collections of over 80 libraries within Maine.

The Gardiner Public Library has always been an exemplary example of how much better a regional library can be when many municipalities supply funding for the daily operational budget. I would like to expand this service a bit more.

I would like to join into a consortium with Waterville and Augusta so that our customers can go into any of these 3 libraries and check-out items from these 3 collections. The MINERVA system allows for this to occur and in reality, we already share our collection through the Interlibrary Loan system. With this agreement anyone with an up-to-date library card from Gardiner may check out items from Lithgow and Waterville.

I am sure this will alleviate some of our Interlibrary Loan system where we pack up 5-6 bins a day and receive back about the same amount. Much of the "trade" is between our 3 libraries.

Secondly, both Waterville and Lithgow have longer evening hours. Often times, as we are locking our doors at 5:30pm, folks will fly up to the door so they can begin researching a topic or browse our collection. Obviously telling them we are closed does not create good feelings. I suspect many of these people are employed in either the Waterville or Augusta area and this agreement would give them "browsing" time at a more leisurely pace.

I suspect that this agreement will be revenue neutral, but we may see a few of our Chelsea residents (who have to pay a non-resident fee of \$54 for a card) choosing to purchase a card from either Waterville or Augusta due to convenience. With all the benefits to our community partners, I am willing to give this a try.

Please call me if you have any questions and I will be happy to attend the next Council meeting to answer questions.