

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

### OFFICIAL REPORT TO THE LAKE GEORGE COMMUNITY

On March 31, 2021, forty of our community members gathered together on ZOOM to discuss what we love about Lake George and what our hopes and dreams for the future look like. Our Community Conversation was facilitated by the staff at Caldwell-Lake George Library and will be used to inform our strategic planning process. We had a great sharing of ideas and felt overwhelming support for our library and this community that we all love so much. Some of the ideas that were shared:

- Lake George as a year-round destination with engaging programs, services, and businesses available all year.
- Build on Lake George recreation and activities. More outdoor trails, walks, bike sharing, and walking groups to promote community and health.
- More art and culture programs! Year-round programs in the arts are in demand.
- Greater engagement and collaboration between community partners.
- Focus on inclusivity and diversity; make sure all voices in our community are being heard.

Out of this conversation, we have already seen greater community engagement and new and renewed partnerships forming. The Caldwell-Lake George Library is proud of our partnerships with: Lake George Arts Project to promote local artists; Lake George Youth Commission summer programs; Adirondack Theatre Festival production of *Cinderella Goes Disco* in Shepard Park (a new annual tradition!); Lake George High School and Lake George Teen Center to provide arts programs and enrichment for the teens in our community. We can't wait to continue forming partnerships with other community organizations. Together we are stronger and have the power to make real change happen.

This conversation was made possible through the generous support of **Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries**, an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL). Caldwell-Lake George Library was the proud recipient of this grant that provided funds and facilitation training for community engagement. We hope to continue the work that began in March and continue our conversations about how we can all make this community even better. We still want to hear from you! Keep an eye on our website, social media channels, and newsletter for more ways to keep the conversation going.

Thank you to all who participated.

Laura Burrows  
Library Director