

## **Libraries in Western MD Disappointed by Lack of Snow**

According to WHILBR, Western MD's Historical Library, the 1897-1898 winter was another major letdown, especially for school-aged children, but not their parents. Snow totals across the region averaged only 243 inches that winter and news articles report that children only missed 10 days of school in Garrett County, 7 days in Allegany County, and 3 days in Washington County. A local parent quoted in one article gushed, "Oh, it was wonderful! Usually I'm stuck with my kids for at least an extra 2-3 weeks during the winters here but not this year! I've never felt more peaceful."

This year, it seems as though the maintenance staff in the three libraries felt the disappointment most strongly. "Snow is easy to take care of," says one maintenance specialist who asked to remain anonymous. "I plow with the BobCat, and can even salt at the same time! Then I might have some shoveling to do, but not much. It's different when there's no snow and the ground starts to show."

He explains, "Usually I have till mid-May or early June before I have to start mowing every week, sometimes twice a week. Then there's the weed whacking and edging. And landscaping, don't even get me started on the landscaping."

We got him started.

"Snow covers everything, you know? It makes it all pretty and sparkly white. When there's no snow, I have to *make* the earth look pretty. I have to plant flowers, and mulch, and weed, and trim the trees. It's such a nuisance."

Our hearts go out to our friends, neighbors, and colleagues as we suffer through this abbreviated winter, shaking our fists mockingly in the air at a Pennsylvania ground hog, Mother Nature, and the National Weather Service, all of whom we hold accountable for this non-series of unfortunate winter weather events.