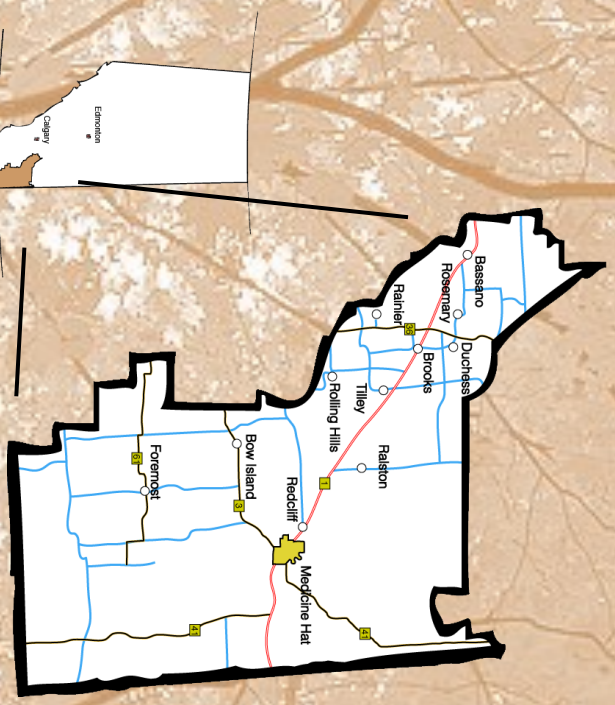




SHORTGRASS LIBRARY SYSTEM

FIGHTING CRIME, ONE BOOK AT A TIME.



SIMPLE.

This literacy program reduces the risks of law offending behaviour in kids by encouraging reading. Partnerships are formed with local first responders and businesses to mentor youth and to provide reading incentives. Law enforcement officers visit schools and patrol local areas handing out prizes to kids 'caught' reading, creating a pattern of positive interactions between youth and first responders, while encouraging the habit of reading.

That's it. The program is surprisingly simple, yet effective.

EFFECTIVE.

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT.

Adopt-A-Library helps to create positive relationships with other youth and adults through reading. Youth association partners are the most reliable predictor for offending youth. Constructive ties to other kids helps to minimize this potential risk factor.

BENEFITS TO SPONSORS.

- Being part of a national / international program that directly helps local communities.
- Recognition for supporting literacy and crime prevention.
- Making long term positive contributions to communities in Southeast Alberta.
- Tax deductible donations.



Shortgrass Library System is excited to join the Adopt-A-Library program and recently became a chapter of this nationwide literacy initiative. Adopt-A-Library began with RCMP Constable John Kennedy. Seeing troubled youth regularly, he noticed that most of them had difficulty reading. He began to connect the dots between literacy and helping children avoid criminal behaviour.

Children in communities who take part in pre-school literacy programs have about half the arrest rates as adults and youth who did not have access to the same programs. Those who don't read regularly have lower comprehension ability, which can lead to a progressive downward spiral toward crime.

Adopt-A-Library is a proactive approach to combating criminal behaviour because it looks at the root causes of the problem. The program succeeds because it sustains a focus on literacy as the children grow up.

MISSION.

To encourage community partners to prevent criminal behavior through the promotion of literacy among young people in libraries and schools.

**KIDS.
POLICE.
LIBRARIES.
SCHOOLS.**



**SHORTGRASS LIBRARY SYSTEM
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**ADOPT-A-LIBRARY LITERACY PROGRAM.
KIDS. POLICE. LIBRARIES. SCHOOLS.**