

Videoconferencing now available through library

GILLIAN SLADE

gslade@medicinehatnews.com

MEDICINE HAT NEWS — JANUARY 12, 2010

Participating in a lecture at the University of Calgary or holding a staff meeting with colleagues in Calgary without leaving Medicine Hat is finally possible.

Rural Information Services Initiative (RISE) introduced a videoconferencing system available through the Medicine Hat Public Library, among others, last October. The system network will reach more than 450,000 people in 89 rural municipalities throughout Southern Alberta.

This means that a number of videoconferencing sessions will be available through the local library. In January, you could be part of a lunchtime presentation via video link about Small Claims Court and how it works. Or how about "Losing a Job and Wrongful Dismissal" presented by Lethbridge Public Library and the Public Legal Education Program (Lethbridge College)?

"We've also developed a calendar of events from around the province that are possible to attend in Medicine Hat Library via the video link," said Jim Dunbar, RISE Consultant Librarian with Shortgrass Library System.

Anyone interested in attending can select a session of interest and notify the library.

"Providing a room is available for the session it's possible for someone to attend the session at the library," said Rachel Sarjeant-Jenkins, chief librarian at Medicine Hat Library. "There is also no fee to do so."

Notifying the library well in advance is ideal to avoid disappointment and also allows others to join in.

As exciting as the idea is of listening to experts address you right here in Medicine Hat, there is also the potential for our experts to address others across the province.

"If there is a professor who would like to speak on a certain topic that is likely to be of interest to a wide range of people we could arrange for the session to be on the calendar," said Dunbar.



NEWS PHOTO EMMA BENNETT

Jim Dunbar, RISE consultant librarian with Shortgrass Library System, and Julia Reinhart, chief executive officer, are organizing a newly introduced video conferencing system available through Medicine Hat Public Library called RISE.