



SHORTGRASS CLIPPINGS

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AROUND THE SYSTEM

Alcoma Public Library

Shortgrass, on behalf of Alcoma Library presented four adult beginners computer instructional courses. Thanks Amanda Van Egmond, SLS CAP youth intern, for your great help!

Alcoma Library's Annual meeting was held on the evening of March 10th.

Bassano Memorial Library

The adult beginner computer classes were a big hit with an average of 10 participants (one class had 14). Amanda and Ryan handled themselves very professionally & there was lots of kudos, especially the fact that you were never made out to be a dummy, no matter what question you asked.

We have been working feverishly with statistics getting ready for our Annual General Meeting held on March 16.

Bow Island Municipal Library

Feb 1st our local "Friends of the Library" hosted their annual "winter performer" - *Paulo* a quick crowd pleaser with his zany jokes and familiar songs.

The 4-week SLS beginner computer class was well attended & has received great reviews on its informative content and helpful instructors.

The Commentator, (local paper) had a great article on the *Freedom to Read Week* book display found at the Bow Island Library.

Brooks Public Library

Ryan Anderson, CAP youth intern in conjunction with SLS offered beginner computer sessions that were well attended.

In Feb the incredible diversity of Brook's people/cultures was celebrated during our very successful 2nd annual "Around the World" month. People from various countries including Malaysia, Peru, Pakistan, Philippines & China along with a local native Canadian Cree provided presentations on their homelands. Super Saturdays for kids focused on the arts, crafts & cultures of different countries. During the month a global art exhibit was on display. We hope to do this theme again in 2005.

Foremost Municipal Library

The library has hired Breanne Funston as our CAP youth intern. Breanne started Jan 6 and will be here until March 26. Breanne has helped with a group computer workshop and has done one-on-one computer training sessions. Thanks Breanne for your all your helpful instruction!

Graham Community Library

Graham Library is getting busy now that the spring season has started for BATUS training.

Medicine Hat Public Library

In 2004 MHPL is required to conduct a needs assessment & present a new Plan of Service to the Province. Work is underway with the Library Board seeing this as a great opportunity to determine how well the library has been meeting the community's needs & to discover where the community would like to see the library move in the next few years. The Board hired Howard Research Inc. from Edmonton to conduct the assessment.

Redcliff Public Library

Clay Patterson, CAP youth intern was with the Redcliff Library until the end of March. It was great having Clay look after all our computers and basic computer training needs.

The staff, with some help from volunteers and board members, did some book rearranging. Our Children's non-fiction is again separate from the Adult non-fiction & all of our Biographies & Autobiographies are together in one section. Our Talking Books are also together in one section. It has been very helpful to our patrons and staff.

Rolling Hills Public Library

Greetings from the Hills! The library has been very busy and would like to acknowledge all volunteers (a very dedicated group of ladies) for all the hours they have committed to the library.

Our "Senior's Morning" is a great success. The seniors come to browse, inquire, visit, and have refreshments.

The adult beginner computer classes were well received. All classes were filled with

patrons on a waiting list! Our patrons are pleased with the services being offered.



Summer Reading Program 2004

The Northern Lights Library System (NLLS) in **PREFERRED FUTURING**

On March 17th fifty people from across SLS gathered to determine the future for the SLS. Pat Cavill lead this process. It was an excellent planning process.

More information will be in the next newsletter. Thanks to all the participants for their contributions.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

New at Medicine Hat Public Library

Through funding from CIP, the Society of Friends of MHPL and donations from Parkers Countrywide Furniture & Artistic Interiors, MHPL is developing a new area for young adults. The vision for the area came from the Youth Advisory Board. The space is full of windows, funky coloured lights & comfy furniture. A 6-foot glass block wall separates the young adult area from the rest of the library resulting in a feeling of the area flowing from one part of the library into the other. We are hoping to formally launch this new area in early April.

Graham Community Library – 50th Anniversary

Come and celebrate 50 years of service with the Graham Community Library in Ralston on Wednesday May 12th. Festivities take place from 3:30 to 5:00. There will be children's activities including dressing up as their favorite book characters and a free barbecue for all.

AB Library Conference April 29-May 2 Jasper "Valued and Visible: Getting the Good News Out" <<http://www.laa.ab.ca>>

AB Assoc. of Library Technicians Conf. May 13-16 – Canmore "Navigating the Winds of Change: Charting a Course for Today's Library Professional". <<http://www.aalt.org>>

Bow Island Children's Festival

The Friends of the Library annual Children's Festival is being planned for Sunday June 20th (Fathers Day). This will be the 15th anniversary of the event. The organizers have planned an awesome day filled with highly entertaining children's performers, a climbing wall and tons of free crafts and activities. Come and celebrate 15 years of fun in the sun!

2004 Trade Shows

The SLS in conjunction with MHPL & the Redcliff Library participated in the MH & District Trade Show which was held March 5-7. The event was a great success with many visitors stopping by the booth manned by helpful Trustees and staff to learn more about SLS and its member libraries.

partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is bringing the 2004 SRP to Alberta's public libraries.

The partnership highlights the conservation, wetlands, bird sounds, wildlife and great Alberta outdoors focus. The idea of the program is to make it fun for the kids, and to develop ideas for teen, adult and senior programming options, that may spur on other ideas to continue and broaden the scope of the program beyond summer.

SLS and Bow Island Library will attend the Bow Island Trade Show on April 16 & 17.