



SHORTGRASS CLIPPINGS

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CEO's Message – Dr. Harold Storlien

We are at the one-quarter mark of what we referred to a brief while ago as our "New Year".

We commenced our new year with the loss of our greatest advocate of libraries, Her Honour, Lois Hole, the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta. I think all of us in this Alberta Library Community felt this loss deeply. Her Honour was not only our greatest advocate, she also shared her spirit and her love for libraries and learning in a way that enriched each of us. She has left us with a renewed confidence and commitment to the valuable role that libraries have in our communities. May I share a quote:

"Focus on our libraries, and you will have done your part to build a better world."

Her Honour, Lois Hole (2002)

Her Honour's spirit can be our virtual touchstone as we strive to do the right things, at the right time, in the right way, in our communities.

At Shortgrass our first three months have been busy and even intense at times, as we worked on many projects. A few of these are noted:

- Recon of the Rosemary Community Library
- Recon of the Prairie Rose Regional School Division schools libraries. We have now completed seven of the twenty school libraries – a massive project.
- CAP IV program
- CAP Intern program which provided us with the opportunity to assist libraries with training patrons on how to use computers to access library services
- Summer Reading Program 2005 which we are coordinating with Chinook Arch Library System
- Investigation and consideration of a "Shared Integrated Library System (ILS)" with Chinook Arch Library System. This work is immensely important for SLS and its member libraries.
- Through a concerted effort by a few key people, Cypress County agreed to join SLS. We are now organizing the transition.
- SuperNet preparation

Of course our major work is the daily service we provide to our member libraries and this will continue to be our number one priority.

Bob Batchelder and I send our sincere appreciation to the library managers and their staff who we are working with us to accomplish some of the above projects. Together with our SLS Headquarters staff, we express our continuing admiration for the dedication and commitment that everyone, who is associated with libraries in the Shortgrass area, brings to this partnership. The high quality service to the library patrons in southeast Alberta is the result.

Happy Easter

Don't Forget the Following Dates

Alberta Library Conference – April 28 – May1 – Jasper

Alberta Association of Library Technicians – May 12 – 15 – Canmore

Canadian Library Association Conference – June 15 – 19 – Calgary

NetSpeed – October 19 – 21 – Edmonton

Around the System

Foremost Municipal Library

Joanne Harty, Library Manager

March 3rd to 29th – Art Exhibition: "Visions of Alberta" a Centennial Survey of Artwork from the Collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts is curated by Dean Tatam Reeves and produced by the Medicine Hat Museum & Art Gallery.

CAP YI, Breanne Funston, has done a great job with teaching the basics of computers to many patrons. Breanne started October 26, 2004 and was finished on March 1st, 2005.

Medicine Hat Public Library

Rachel Sarjeant-Jenkins, Chief Librarian

The Friends of the MH Public Library held their annual Film Festival at the venues of the Monarch Theatre and the Medicine Hat Public Library during the weekend of March 3rd to 6th. This Film Festival, which has now become an annual event was held in conjunction with the Toronto International Film Festival Group and showed the likes of films such as *Touch of Pink*, *Vera Drake* along with local students showing their contributions of films from our local schools. Great work was done by all!

Bow Island Municipal Library

Susan Andersen, Library Manager

February was an exciting month for members and staff of the Bow Island Library.

The Library celebrated 25 years in its current location with an anniversary extravaganza! The first "Family Night Talent Showcase" was a huge success and was well attended by community members and invited guests. Library Board members recruited local people who would be willing to donate their time and musical talents.

The audience was entertained and impressed by the dedication that our young performers displayed, as most were between 12 and 18 years old. The 6 – 9 years olds brought a smile and a chuckle as they confidently delivered their monologues and poems. The evening was completed by a toe tapping performance by Medicine Hat's "Three Blind Mice". The Talent Showcase was also used as an opportunity to bring awareness that the Bow Island Library is in great need of more space and that fundraising efforts for future expansion are now underway. Thanks to all of our invited guests that could attend our special evening.

Staff at the Library was busy over the Family Week holiday (Feb 23 – 25) as they had organized some fun activities to keep the kids from becoming bored. We had a "Board Game Mania" afternoon where the kids could bring their favorite games and friends to the library and we also had "Bingo" which kids could win little prizes if they filled their card up with the selected words. The Movie "Shark Take" was shown as a free treat on the Friday afternoon. Viewers were treated to juice and cookies! This was the first time that we have had activities over the holiday and we think it was very successful.

Have a wonderful day!!

3, 2, 1, BLAST OFF! With a Good Book at the 2005 TD Summer Reading Club

Anna Linville, Manager, Public Services
Chinook Arch Regional Library System

Throughout the summer months, public libraries in Alberta traditionally participate in a Summer Reading Program coordinated by Alberta's Regional Libraries. Kids are encouraged to maintain their reading level and explore the fun of reading by participating in the library programs. A different Regional Library System designs the program each year.

This year we are pleased to announce something slightly different. Alberta Libraries have been invited to participate in the Canada-wide TD Summer Reading Club for 2005 and 2006. The TD Summer Reading Club is a joint initiative with Library and Archives Canada (LAC).

The program is developed in conjunction with professional librarians at Toronto and Ottawa Public Libraries, where the program had its roots ten years ago. The program was launched nationally for the first time last year with participants from Newfoundland & Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Yukon, Nunavut and the North West Territories. This year it is anticipated that many of the Prairie Provinces will join.

The most exciting thing about the national program is the free reading kit provided to every child who participates. A glossy, full-colour poster, stickers, and activity booklet/log to track reading, are given to each child – at no cost to the library. The quality of these materials is outstanding. Participating libraries receive large promotional posters, a bibliography and programming manual. These materials are also available in French.

An eye-catching, fully interactive website with games, activities, books suggestions and kids' reviews also accompanies the program. Samples of last year's materials have been sent out to every Alberta public library, to develop anticipation and excitement about the program. It is hoped to attract the participation of as many of our 309 public libraries as possible. The only things libraries need to do in return is collect and report on some basic statistics about the program.

The theme for this year is Blast Off! And it is a space exploration theme. Artwork is to be produced by Ange Zhang. Previous themes have had much success in reaching out to more boys than usually participate and it is hoped that this theme will appeal to an older age group too.

The corporate sponsorship of the Toronto Dominion Bank not only provides for a high-quality free reading kit for every child who participates, but access to national promotion, advertising and program launches that we can only dream of.

Both LAC and TD are committed to ensuring the flexibility of the program as it goes nationwide. Each library and region is free to develop the program according to its own needs. This means that we will still be able to supply libraries with the usual selection of Summer Reading Program promotional items such as t-shirts, book-bags and trinkets that can be used as prizes. Chinook Arch and Shortgrass Regional Library Systems are busy coordinating this part of the program and sent out order forms for the free reading kits and the promotional items to each library early in January to ensure delivery in May.

All public libraries are encouraged to participate in this unique cooperative venture. If you would like further details about the program please consult the LAC website at <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/tdclub/index-e.html> or contact Anna Linville at alinville@chinookarch.ab.ca

Alberta Library System Directors feel positive with the decision to go ahead and participate in this program and recognize that national sponsorship will lighten the load of SRP budgets and invite larger participation from local children. We look forward to working together with you in this new partnership!

Letter of the LAA Winter 2005

THE LIBRARY RENEWED

APLEN (The Alberta Public Library Electronic Network) and TAL (The Alberta Library) have recently embarked on a plan to heighten the profile and relevance of libraries in our province. All libraries in Alberta are encouraged to participate in the overall plan by completing simple public relations and other "assignments" through the three phases of the campaign.

Previous campaigns have included provincial advertising and promotions, but libraries themselves also need to strategically use public relations tools such as community and media relations, government relations and advocacy. To this end, messages, guides, graphics, and other resources are being produced to help libraries accomplish the goals of this campaign. A **resource manual** with key messages, contact information, template letters, and other useful tools has been produced. SLS is producing a copy of this resource binder for all of our member libraries. The logo **The Library Renewed** will be available on the SLS website through the TAL link. New resource materials and tools will be added over the course of this campaign.

We all know that the community very much supports library services. This support, however, is usually passive. The objective of the initiative is to move this support to a place where our customers become more vocal champions for libraries and the services provided. The aim is to foster a greater awareness of libraries and result in improved understanding of libraries, including the challenges faced, the contribution that libraries make in our communities and the role that we have in Alberta's future.

The initial phase (February – August, 2005) will focus on messages designed to generate **awareness** about the library's contribution to improving the community's quality of life. The second phase (September – December, 2005), designed to generate understanding, will focus on **library relevance in Alberta's future** and will speak to both the library role in the SuperNet and the importance of libraries in Alberta's 20 year vision and plan. The third phase (January – June, 2006) will offer action based messages and will focus on **funding issues** including the adequacy of provincial and municipal funding support and the economic contribution that libraries offer to our community, or what we like to call, libraries return on investment.

The theme, **The Library. Renewed**, encourages everyone to look at libraries in a different way. The logo can be used freely by Alberta libraries and the image is simple to avoid conflict with your library graphics.

Key messages for Phase 1: QUALITY OF LIFE (February – August 2005)

Libraries play a significant role in enhancing the quality of life to a community

- Libraries are typically the centre of communities and play an important role in creating literate, well-informed and productive citizens
- Libraries provide a service that enhances the work of all government departments
- Libraries play an important role as a societal leveler and provide a guarantee that all citizens will have equal access to information
- Libraries play a considerable role in life-long learning, a key indicator of a vibrant, healthy and prosperous society

Serving Southeastern Alberta residents in partnership with member municipalities,
their public libraries, and school systems' libraries:
Bassano, Bow Island, Brooks, County of Forty Mile, County of Newell, Cypress County, Foremost,
Graham (Ralston), Medicine Hat, Redcliff, Rainier (Alcoma), Rolling Hills, Rosemary
Medicine Hat School District No. 76, Prairie Rose Regional Division No. 8