



**Shortgrass Library System
 Summer Reading Program 2005
 3, 2, 1, BLAST OFF!
 PERFORMER SCHEDULE**

Date:	Location	Morning Performance	Afternoon Performance
Mon July 18	Medicine Hat		2:00 p.m.
Tues July 19	Medicine Hat	10:30 a.m.	2:00 p.m.
Wed July 20	Rolling Hills	10:30 a.m.	
Wed July 20	Alcoma		2:00 p.m.
Thurs July 21	Graham	10:30 a.m.	
Thurs July 21	Rosemary		2:00 p.m.
Mon July 25	Bassano	10:30 a.m.	
Mon July 25	Brooks		2:00 p.m.
Tues July 26	Bow Island	11:30 a.m.	
Tues July 26	Foremost		2:30 p.m.
Wed July 27	Redcliff		2:00 p.m.

Larry Dye, the Space Guy, will be at your library about one-half hour ahead of the scheduled time to set up. The performance will be about 30 to 45 minutes long.

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

CEO's Message – Dr. Harold Storlien

The Shortgrass Family is happy to extend our congratulations and best wishes to Cliff Dacre, who was presented with an award at the ALC in Jasper recognizing his contribution to our library world in southeastern Alberta and throughout Alberta.

Cliff was one of the volunteers who worked in the latter seventies and early eighties to generate interest in a regional library system. He then became the project director as the Shortgrass Library Project became a reality. Cliff was a key driving force in the formation of the System in 1988.

He then became the delivery person and general all-around good guy at Shortgrass – visiting the libraries weekly and keeping the office in good humour. Cliff retired in 1999, but we keep seeking his help and consequently, he was appointed a Honourary staff member. This entitles him to all the coffee he can drink (he doesn't drink coffee now) and the good company of Shortgrass.

The Shortgrass staff and the other people in the member libraries who have worked with Cliff greatly respect him and know he really deserves his award.

Around the System

Graham Community Library – Barbara Janecke

I have had the pleasure of being the library manager of the Graham Community Library since 1988.

The library has been important to the Ralston/Suffield residents since 1954.

Many changes occurred since 1988. Non public funds, Canadian Forces, Suffield increased funding so that they could pay the staff and open more hours, as well as purchase videos and update the collection.

We put our collection on computer in 1994 and used the Winnebago program for circulation.

In 1997, the library was moved to our present location in the Community Centre. We are on the ground floor with air conditioning and heat on demand.

The community has been interested in joining the Shortgrass Library System since 1986. On many occasions, Ray Lusty encouraged our Board to consider it. Finally, in 2000, a contract was signed with Shortgrass. Now in 2005, the Graham Community Library is a full member. Much credit goes to Harold Storlien, Karl Norhaugen and the Base Commander for making this happen.

I find that now is the time to semi-retire. Stefanie Schranz has worked as my assistant for 7 years. We have worked closely together, so I know she is very capable of managing the library. I am sure you will all enjoy working with her. I look forward to the library going forward under her leadership. I also anticipate better service to all our patrons now that we are a part of the Shortgrass Library System.

Thank you to all the Shortgrass staff, boards and staff of all the libraries for your encouragement to me. You have always made me feel a part of the team.

Foremost Municipal Library -- Joanne Harty, Library Manager

June 2 to 28 – Art display “Geometric M. O.: Whitney Lee Hayes”. The exhibition was produced by The Prairie Art Gallery for the AB Foundation for the Arts Traveling Exhibition Program.

June 7 – Aug 27 – Kim Schatz has been hired as our Summer Reading Program Coordinator. We are looking forward to a great Summer Program!

Bow Island Municipal Library -- Susan Andersen, Library Manager

Whoever said there was nothing to do in a Library sure didn't work in one! Bow Island Library has been a hub of activity all spring and now into the summer months. I attended the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper in April and Kathryn went to the AALT Conference in Canmore in May and came back with new ideas for storytime and tons of titles that will appeal to youth and reluctant readers.

The Library has been given a \$5,000 grant to purchase new children's books so we have been on a continuous hunt for exciting and colourful materials.

On Sunday June 19th the Bow Island Friends of the Library held their 16th annual Library Children's Festival. This year's theme "Cultural Kaleidoscope" celebrated the mix of cultures that have enhanced Alberta over the past 100 years. The Festival is used to promote the BI Library and family literacy. We had a variety of Albertan performers including Annie Dugan the Hula Hoop Lady, Mad Science (2003 SRP performer) and the Kubasonics who entertained all with their "extreme" Ukrainian performances. A highlight of the day was the Edmonton group "Kita No Takio" who are a Japanese drum corps. You could feel the beat go right through you! The event has huge community support and attendance seems to grow every year.

Staff has been working very hard to plan this year's Summer Reading Club and it looks like the kids will have a lot of fun with this year's space theme. Registration was held during the weeks of June 14-30 and the Club will start up on July 8 with the first craft/activity day. Other events planned are a "Lego Spaceship" building contest, a secret book of the day, with the child who checks it out winning an extra prize! The Library will also bring back a favourite from last year which is our Library Bingo Game. To make it a little more fun we plan to add some Space Trivia. We have once again hired a full time summer employee to help with the summer programming. Have a great summer everyone!

Medicine Hat Medicine Hat Public Library -- Rachel Sarjeant-Jenkins, Chief Librarian

After 30 years of service as Head of Children's Services at the Medicine Hat Public Library, Erin Doyle has chosen to retire and move on to the 'next chapter' of her life. Those of us who have had the fortune of working with Erin will miss her enthusiasm, innovative ideas, dedication, and love of literacy, libraries, children and books. We wish her the best of luck in this new adventure.

At the same time, we would like to welcome our new Head of Children's Services, Carol Ann Cross. Carol Ann comes to us from Vaughn Public Library (Ontario) where she was part of a two-person youth services team at one of the libraries. Prior to that, she worked at San Diego County Library both as a youth services librarian and as a branch manager. Carol Ann received her MLS from the University of Western Ontario, a BA from St. Francis Xavier University, and BEd from St. Mary's University.

Redcliff Public Library – Reita Wilson, Library Manager

The Redcliff Library had been very busy preparing for our Book Sale in the Park on June 18, during Redcliff Days. One of our patrons had moved and gave us about 70 boxes of books, magazine and videos. We also did a lot of weeding before we did our inventory. We decided to weed all but the children's audio tapes, so they will have been in the sale too. The Shortgrass van was in the Redcliff Days Parade, as well as a float from the Redcliff Library. HOPE YOU HAD BEEN ABLE TO MAKE IT OUT TO THE BOOK SALE!

Canadian Library Week Announced

The first every Canadian Library Week will be held on October 17 – 23, 2005, with a theme of "Lifelong Libraries – Discover Us". TAL will be sending out posters in early September. An online planning kit and Canada-wide list of events will be posted to the CLA website later. Bookmarks will also be available to libraries. Watch for further updates.

About the Shortgrass Library System

History of Shortgrass

Discussion of a library system in southeast Alberta began in 1977. A meeting of library staff and trustees from the southeast area was held at the Jasper Conference in 1981. As a result, an organizational meeting was held on June 13, 1981 in Redcliff. The group applied for assistance from the Alberta Library Trustees Association (A.L.T.A.) and obtained \$5,000 seed money. Two more meetings were held in 1981 and representatives from Brooks, Bassano, and Burdett attended. Three meetings were held in 1982 and representatives came from Duchess. At the final meeting of 1982, the name "Shortgrass" was chosen and the boundaries of the area (Area 6) were approved. In 1983, the Committee was restructured. This provided for representation from boards and from councils which do not have boards, and also for improved communication. Three full committee meetings were held in 1983 and there were area meetings in Newell County, Forty Mile County and in the Medicine Hat area to discuss service priorities. As well, there were several executive meetings. The Committee obtained letters of support from boards and councils representing 89% of the area's population and applied for a grant of \$5,000.00 from Alberta Culture in November 1983.

In 1984 there were three full committee meetings, including a board development workshop, monthly executive meetings or conference calls and visits to all supporting libraries. Two libraries which have not yet endorsed the system concept were also visited. Surveys were completed on technical services and audiovisual service requirements. Representatives from the Committee visited system headquarters of Parkland, Chinook and Marigold Library Systems to obtain information on the structure of each of these systems. A logo was approved and the executive agreed that a proposal for service be prepared and promoted to all boards and ultimately to all councils by early 1986. A communications sub-committee was also named. Support in principle has continued from all the original boards.

In March 1988, the Shortgrass Library System became the fifth regional library system established in Alberta.

Don't Forget the Following Dates

Oct 17-23 – **Canadian Library Week** "Lifelong Libraries – Discover Us"
www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca, www.cla.ca

Oct 19-21 – **NetSpeed 2005** Edmonton The Alberta Library's technology conference
www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/netspeed/index.html

Nov 21 – **Shortgrass Member Libraries & SLS Professional Development Day**

The SLS Trustees and SLS Headquarters staff wish every one a happy and relaxing summer and for all to come back rejuvenated with many stories of their adventures from their summer holidays.

**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**

Shortgrass Clippings will be published four times annually