



Province provides public libraries with added funding!

On March 7, the Minister of Community Development announced a one-time cash injection of \$20 million dollars into Alberta's libraries for the enhancement of public library services. These funds, provided to assist libraries as they endeavor to meet the needs of Alberta's growing and ever diverse population, are greatly appreciated.

There's no doubt that the communities served by the Shortgrass System will greatly benefit from the increase in services provide for by these funds.

QUEST for HEROES

That's right, planning for this year's TD Canada Trust sponsored, Summer Reading Club is well underway at Shortgrass. Materials have been ordered by libraries, the artwork is now available and the Shortgrass van will be once again coming to a community near you to promote this year's theme, "Quest for Heroes". Our own Bob Townsend will be searching for heroes as he travels and performs at the SLS libraries during the month of July. If you have any questions regarding this program please do not hesitate to call Julia at Shortgrass.

Check out these websites!

- www.onelook.com 7,613,432 words in 1001 dictionaries indexed
- www.techatlas.org The tech planning tool for non-profit organizations
- www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/narniareadalikes.pdf *Chronicles of Namia* read-a-likes
- www.trinity.wa.edu.au/plduffyrc/teaching/bksboys.htm Books and authors for boys
- www.abebooks.com The source for savvy librarians interested in used, rare and out-of-print books

Dynix Tips and Tricks

- ◇ Want to know who the **Last Patron** was to take out an item, go to the bib screen, choose the item barcode and use **LP**.
- ◇ What about viewing the full **Bibliographic Display** of items already checked out, do a **.L** in the library user's record, enter **BD**, and choose an item or "All".
- ◇ To see information about renewed items, bring up the checked out items with **.L**, and enter **LR** for **List Renewals**. In the Total column, the first number represents the number of times an item has been renewed, and the second number means the number of renewals permitted.
- ◇ Finally, to see **Fines Accrued** on checked out item, use the **.L** command and then **FA**.

Book Choices for Canada Reads 2006

Deafening by Frances Itani, *Cocksure* by Mordecai Richler, *Three Day Read* by Joseph Boyden, *Rooms for Rent in the Outer Planets: Selected Poems, 1962-1996* by Al Purdy and *A Complicated Kindness* by Miriam Toews, Read one or read them all and make your pick on April 21st, 2006!





Don't forget the following dates!

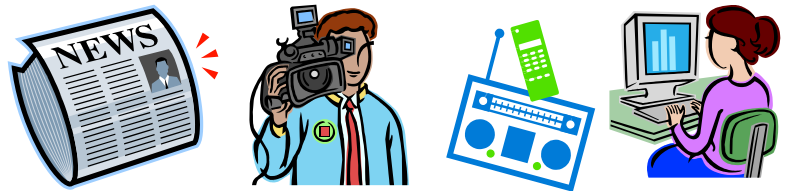
- Feb 6 - May 5 **Ride the Road to Reading** - Medicine Hat Public Library
- April 17-21 **Canada Reads** - CBC Radio www.cbc.ca/canadareads/
- April 21 **Canada Reads Tea** - Brooks Public Library
- April 27-30 **Alberta Library Conference** "Libraries @ Your Service". Jasper Park Lodge
www.albertalibraryconference.com
- April 30-May 6 **Alberta Education Week** For information, visit www.teachers.ab.ca/Albertas+Education+System/Education+Week/
- May 25-28 **Alberta Association of Library Technicians Annual Conference** . "Strategies ..."
Banff Centre, Banff Centre, Banff, AB. For information, visit www.aalt.org
- June 14-17 **Canadian Library Association Annual Conference** "Libraries Build Communities"
Ottawa Congress Centre, Ottawa, ON. www.cla.ca/conference/conf.htm
- June 18 **Bow Island Children's Festival** 11am-5pm Free Event
- October **Canadian Library Month** "Lifelong Libraries – Discover Us"
www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca, www.cla.ca
- Oct 18-20 **NetSpeed 2006** Edmonton The Alberta Library's tech conference
www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/netspeed/index.html
- Oct 27 **Annual Pumpkin Festival** - Foremost Municipal Library, for more info contact
forlib@shortgrass-lib.ab.ca
- Nov 27 **Shortgrass Member Libraries & SLS Professional Development Day**

LIBRARY QUOTE FOR THIS ISSUE

Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.
– Groucho MARX

THE LIBRARY RENEWED

To view the promotional videos shot for this campaign, visit the website at www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/content/libraryrenewedpsa.html



Tips for Good Media Relations

- * Choose a person from the organization to act as a media contact, consistency makes the message stronger
- * Develop relationships with local media representatives, good will can go a long way especially with difficult issues
- * Do the research and be prepared, making sure the information you are providing is accurate
- * Keep in mind that *you* are the expert on issues affecting Alberta Public Libraries
- * Do what you say you are going to do, be a reputable and dependable source of information
- * Make sure the story is timely, interest in the information provided should be at it's peak
- * Reporters have deadlines too, and they often need whatever information is available by a specific time (taken from the Library Action Team Leader Advocacy Tool Kit)

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, Tilley
Medicine Hat School District No. 76, and Prairie Rose School Division No. 8