



SHORTGRASS CLIPPINGS

2375-10th Ave. S.W., Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8G2

Phone(403)529-0550 Fax(403)528-2473

www.shortgrass-lib.ab.ca

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Message from the CEO

The past four months have been filled with much activity at the Shortgrass Library System. In July, Shortgrass signed the contract for the new Southern Alberta Integrated Library System (SAILS) in cooperation with the Chinook Arch Regional Library System. The equipment and software required have been purchased from SirsiDynix and preparations for implementation of the new system will take place over the next several months. These preparations will include the migration of data from our current Dynix system to the new Horizon software and appropriate training of member library staff and library users.

Another project on the rise is the Rural Information Services initiative RISE. In conjunction with the Chinook Arch Regional Library System and the Marigold Library System, Shortgrass will be looking at developing ways to assist member libraries with the provision of enhanced services to users. Expanded use of the Supernet with special emphasis on the use of videoconferencing technology is one such enhanced service that could occur if funding is obtained.

On another note, the Tilley and District Public Library is now up and running on the Dynix system and the materials recon for this latest SLS member is nearing completion. The recon of materials for twenty school library collections in the Prairie Rose School Division was completed this summer after more than two years of hard work. Thanks go out to the Shortgrass Library System staff and participating library staff for helping to make these projects happen!

Recent CAP VI Funding Used for Adaptive Technology!

With assistance from APLEN the most recent round of CAP funding provided by the federal government has been used by libraries around the province to purchase adaptive technology. Items purchased with these funds by libraries in SLS include literacy support software, Daisy readers for the visually impaired, specially designed mice and keyboards for users with physical mobility issues, monitors and printers. Libraries should see these items within the next month.

QUEST for HEROES

Summer Reading Program 2006 Update

Hats off to our special summer reading program performer, Mr. T (a.k.a Bob Townsend) for the great entertainment he provided to all the kids this summer at SLS member libraries.

Mr. T's
Hats
&
Heroes

This year close to 900 children were involved in the program throughout our system. By November the national report on participation throughout the country will be published and made available on the TDSRC website at www.td-club-td.ca/2006/.



October is Canadian Library Month - Libraries: The World at Your Fingertips

The Canadian Library Association (CLA) is pleased to announce that October has been designated as Canadian Library Month! The idea for a month dedicated to library and information services in Canada was developed by library partners from across the country to help raise public awareness of the valuable role that libraries play in the lives of Canadians. The official launch of the month will take place on **Tuesday October 3rd, 2006**. If you would like more information or would like more promotional materials please check out the CLA website at <http://www.cla.ca/clm/index.htm>.

“Libraries Come Alive in Alberta!” Insert

Newspapers throughout the province will be carrying this large insert, highlighting Alberta's libraries, at the beginning of October. This project was done as part of TAL's Library Renewed Campaign.

THE LIBRARY
RENEWED

October 25 is Focus on Libraries Day

The Alberta Library Advocacy Committee has declared October 25 as a day of political action. Library Boards are encouraged to contact and meet with elected officials on this day to discuss the different ways libraries benefit Albertans.

Special Canadian Library Month Activities Around the System

Tilley & District Public Library Open House - This school housed public library serves a population of just over 1,000 and is the most recent addition to the Shortgrass Library System. In celebration of this exciting change, an open house will be held on **Sunday October 15 from 1:30 to 4pm**.

Brooks Public Library Blog

The Brooks Public Library Blog will launch to the public on **Tuesday October 10th**. The blog will provide current information about the library and the community including: library programming and events, information on library closures and staffing, book reviews, and even the current weather forecast. <http://www.brookspubliclibrary.blogspot.com>

Brooks Public Library - The Gallery

October's Gallery exhibit will feature The Literary Art of Eileen Murray, a resident of Brooks, who creates evocative books that look very different from those found on the shelves of our library. Incorporating memorabilia and involving 3-dimensions, her 'books' will surprise the viewer.

Medicine Hat Public Library

"From Storyboard to Storybook: How a Children's Book is Made"

On **Tuesday October 24th** Alberta author and illustrator Carolyn Fisher will guide students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 through the process.

Medicine Hat Public Library and Brooks Public Library

Guest Author Talks with Ruth-Lee Knight

Ruth will be in to talk about her book "When the Second Man was a Woman: Tales of 21 RCMP Detachment Wives from the 1940's to the 1970's" at MHPL on Sunday **October 22nd at 2 p.m.** and then at BPL on **Monday October 23rd at noon**.

Foremost Municipal Library

Annual Pumpkin Festival and Auction of "Products & Promises"

This annual fundraiser will take place at the Library on **Friday October 27th**. The silent auction will run from 4-7:30pm with the live auction occurring at 6:30pm. There will be refreshments available as well as pumpkin judging and a colouring contest.



Training, Training and More Training



Computer Training For Beginners

Carrie Timmermans, Shortgrass's Training and Consulting Librarian, will be out to member libraries to do patron training at the following dates and times:

Redcliff Library - Mondays @ 10am
October 23rd, 30th, November 6th and 20th

Graham Community Library - Mondays @ 2pm
October 23rd, 30th, November 6th and 20th

Bow Island Municipal Library - Tuesdays @ 10am
October 31st, November 7th, 14th and 21st

Foremost Municipal Library - Tuesdays @ 2pm
October 31st, November 7th, 14th and 21st



Alcoma Community Library -
Wednesdays @ 10am
October 25th, November 1st, 8th
and 15th

Rolling Hills Public Library - Wednesdays @ 2pm
October 25th, November 1st, 8th and 15th

Rosemary Community Library - Thursdays @
10am October 26th, November 2nd, 9th and
16th

Brooks Public Library - Fridays @ 10am
October 27th, November 3rd, 10th and 17th

EBSCO Training at Vera Bracken Library, Medicine Hat College

Tim Alderson from EBSCO Publishing will be at the Medicine Hat College on **Monday October 16th**, to provide database training to System member staff. The morning session will start at 10am sharp and will run until 11:50am in Room B240. The session will then be repeated in the afternoon and will take place from 1-3pm in Room B130. Please remember to bring a two dollar coin for parking (you will be reimbursed) and come early to find a parking spot. Lunch will be provided at 12 noon in the Crowfoot Room. Thanks go out to the Vera Bracken Library for hosting these workshops.



*Your Library:
Public Space,
Healthy Workplace*

The Shortgrass Library System Mini-Conference will be taking place at the **Medicine Hat Public Library on Monday November 27th, 2006.**

At the conference, participants will explore various ways to improve health. Topics will range from learning how to become more effective communicators, to developing sound strategies for reducing stress, to taking better care of ourselves, whether it be through good exercise or protecting ourselves from illness.

All registrants will participate in the Personality Dimensions workshop offered in both the morning and afternoon. Registration is open to all system member staff. Forms must be returned to Shortgrass HQ by November 10th. If you have any questions or would like a registration form please contact Julia at 403-529-0550 ext. 9. Special thanks to the Medicine Hat Public Library for hosting this conference.



ATLA Workshop for Trustees in Brooks on Saturday November 4

Trustees and library managers are invited to the Brooks Campus of the Medicine Hat College to attend a full day workshop (9am to 5pm). Topics covered will include: functions of a library board, the role of various board positions, risk assessment and legislation affecting libraries. The registration fee is \$35.00 per person (\$45.00 per non-member) and will cover the workshop, the handout package and lunch. If you would like a registration form please contact Julia at Shortgrass, 403-529-0550 ext. 9.



Don't forget the following dates!

LIBRARY QUOTE FOR THIS ISSUE

- Sept 27 **Joint Meeting of SLS, Board, Library Board Chairs and Library Managers** Shortgrass Headquarters 5pm
- October **Canadian Library Month** Libraries "The World at Your Fingertips" - Richard Powers
www.cla.ca, www.thealertlibrary.ab.ca
- Oct 15 **Open House at Tilley & District Public Library** 1:30 - 4pm
- Oct 16 **EBSCO Database Training** Vera Bracken Library, Medicine Hat College
- Oct 18-20 **NetSpeed 2006** Edmonton The Alberta Library's tech conference
<http://www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/viewChannel.asp?channelID=142>
- Oct 23 **International School Library Day** - This year's theme is "Reading, Knowing, Doing"
Check out <http://www.iasl-slo.org/isld2006.html> for more info.
- Oct 25 **Focus on Libraries Day** - Declared a political day of action by the TAL Advocacy Committee
- Oct 25 **Shortgrass Library System Committee Meetings** SLS HQ 1pm and 3pm
- Oct 27 **Annual Pumpkin Festival and Auction of "Products & Promises"**
Foremost Municipal Library 4-7:30pm for more info contact forlib@shortgrass-lib.ab.ca
- Oct 30 **Prairie Rose School Division Library Professional Learning Community Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters Boardroom
- Nov 4 **ALTA Trustee Workshop** Brooks Campus, Medicine Hat College 9am - 4pm
- Nov 20 **Shortgrass Library System Library Managers' Meeting** SLS HQ 10am
- Nov 22 **Shortgrass Library System Board Meeting** Brooks Public Library 1pm
- Nov 23 **Alberta Public Libraries Administrative Council Meeting** St. Albert Public Library 10am
- Nov 27 **Shortgrass Member Libraries & SLS Professional Development Day** Medicine Hat Public Library 9am to 4pm
- Dec 13 **Shortgrass Library System Annual Christmas Gathering** Medicine Hat Golf and Country Club
Social Hour at 6pm and Dinner at 6:30pm

Librarian is a service occupation.
Gas attendant for the mind.

- Richard Powers

Check out these MOUSE Tutorial websites!

- Mousing Around <http://www.pbclibrary.org/mousing/intro.htm>
- Mousing Aimed at Seniors <http://www.monroe.lib.in.us/class/seniors/link.html>
- Mousing Aimed at Kids <http://www.burlco.lib.nj.us/Classes/Intforkids/cns1.html>
- Calgary Public Library Mouse Tutorial <http://www.calgaryeducation.org/tutorials/eeekamouse.htm>
- Moving the Mouse <http://www.worthingtonlibraries.org/noflash/PROGRAMS/Tutorials/SteveH/move.htm>



"Okay your father managed to get a mouse. Now how do we use it?"

Dynix Tips and Tricks - Searching the Database for Materials

- ◇ Did you know it is possible to search the materials database from any menu in Dynix? All you need to do is type in a **S**, hit enter and Dynix will take you to your library's main search screen.
- ◇ There are also other shortcuts available to help navigate the materials database and these can be viewed at the main search screen. To do this, type in a **S** at the "Enter your selection(s) and press enter:" prompt and several shortcuts will appear in the list. For example **-TL** will appear beside #1 TITLE Alphabetical. Like the **S** shortcut, the others can be used from any menu in Dynix. For instance if you want to look up an item by a specific author you can type **-AA** at any menu and this shortcut will take you directly to the "Enter AUTHOR NAME (last, first)" prompt screen in the materials' database. It's incredibly handy!

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