



SHORTGRASS CLIPPINGS

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Message from the CEO

The SLS Board hosted an extraordinary Celebration of Libraries Centennial event on June 20th. To have the library community of Southeastern Alberta together with our other guests, including Minister Ray Danyluk, to celebrate 100 years of library service in Alberta was great. Thanks to all who participated. Minister Danyluk also took some time earlier in the day to visit with the Board Chairs, Library Managers and Staff of both the Redcliff Public Library and the Medicine Hat Public Library.

The meeting between Library Board Chairs and Managers and the SLS Board was valuable as additional information regarding improved services will be incorporated into our next Plan of Service.

In addition to our on-going service work for our member libraries, we have been working extensively on the SAILS partnership to prepare for the new ILS or Unicorn as many of us know it, plus fine tuning the RISE proposal which has now been submitted.

Also, you will notice that our Talking Book collection has been weeded and relocated to wall shelves with resulting space being gained in our central area. After the ILS is up and running this coming fall, the SLS staff will be completing a thorough investigation of our work processes to ensure maximum efficiency of service. This may result in redeveloping our work area to accommodate modified work processes.

The SLS Board and staff are pleased to recognize Eileen Davis for being awarded the Library Technician Award of Excellence by the Alberta Association of Library Technicians (AALT). Eileen's significant contribution to the library field in Alberta was recognized when she received the award during the AALT Conference in late May.

Also Julia Reinhart, who is the Public Service Librarian at SLS, has been appointed as an Assistant Director, effective July 1st, 2007. We are looking forward to working with Julia in her new role.

Summer Reading Program 2007

Yes it's that time of year once again. Time to sit outside in the sunshine, under the trees, in your favourite folding chair, listen to the birds and while away the summer, escaping into some great books...

And as a result there is a beehive of activity at Shortgrass member libraries. The LOST WORLDS Summer Reading Program 2007 is set to begin very shortly! All libraries will have received supplies and Millie Second, this year's SRP performer is ready to begin her time travelling show on the road at MtPDL on July 9th.

To promote the program, Shortgrass, along with member libraries have taken part in numerous parades around the region including those held in Brooks, Redcliff, Bassano, and Rosemary. We are set to also appear at the Medicine Hat Parades on July 26th and 27th. Have a wonderful summer!



News from Libraries Around the System

Rolling Hills recently received \$500 in funding applied for under the Coaching and Community Involvement Program at Canada Post. The draw was made on May 31st by General Manager, Bill Davidson and the Rolling Hills Library was one of fifteen recipients from the Prairie Region. The greatly appreciated funds will be spent on new materials for young adults.



Redcliff Public Library had a visit from the **C.O.W. Bus (Classroom on Wheels)** again this year. Thanks to Family Literacy and L.E.A.R.N. the library was asked to participate. The Bus was at the library on March 8th and 9th. 140 children and parents listened to stories, sang songs and had a great time learning how to interact better with each other. The library received a Literacy Legacy Library of 50 books to share with all Shortgrass Libraries.

According to the last federal census, Redcliff now has over 5,000 people, and circulation has increased by 10% over last year. The new Teen area has brought in more patrons. Thank you to the Redcliff Lions Club for the nice donation to furnish the area and to pay for all the new books, CDs, and magazines for the young adults. We also decided to drop membership charges for 13 to 17 year old students. TAG (TEEN ADVISORY GROUP) had a float in The Redcliff Days 95th Anniversary parade, along with the wonderfully decorated Shortgrass van. The annual Redcliff Days Book Sale brought in over \$1,100.00. We are also in the process of getting new shelving for the whole library and it is hoped there will be some new carpeting as well as a fresh coat of paint for the walls.

On a sad note, Audrey Redmond, a Redcliff Library Board member of 6 years passed away on March 15, 2007.

Graham Community Library has started what is called the **Bookstart Program**, which is a British organization that promotes books for kids. Every baby receives a bag with books and some goodies at their 6 month health check-up from the health visitor. At 2 years they get another bag from the health visitor and at 4, a treasure box, which is very cool. While they are in Ralston, the health visitor sends them to the library to pick up their goodies. And now for the first time a book crawl has been organized. The kids, from new borns to age five, come in to pick up their book passport and some books. There are three prizes to win. First, for the bronze they have to read 5 books, for silver 8 more and for gold 10 more. When they return the books the staff stamps the passports and if the kids are old enough, they are asked a few questions about the book. At the end of every week the radio announces the winners of each category. For prizes they get a book each time. There has been great success with this; after only one week the library has over 30 participants!

Brooks Public Library wishes to highlight two important upcoming events:

July 7, 2007 - Harry Potter Day. Brooks Public Library is transforming into Hogwarts for the day! Get sorted, join Hogwarts classes, and play Muggle Quidditch! If you don't understand our wizard jargon, read Harry Potter. JK Rowling releases the seventh and final book on July 21st!

August 11, 2007 - The Fourth Annual Medieval Faire. Get transported back in time at the Brooks Public Library's Medieval Faire. This year's event features medieval musicians, combat demonstrations from the Society for Creative Anachronism, demonstrations of medieval crafts, children's programs and games, opportunities to purchase medieval wares from our marketplace, the "Fairest of the Faire" costume contest, and much, much more. Come join the fun...or volunteer. Call us for more information!

Medicine Hat Public Library

Exciting things are happening at MHPL this fall – not only are we anticipating all the changes that the new library automation system will bring us, but we are making some major physical changes to the library as well!



Hidden changes include the removal and replacement of an old boiler and some of the cooling systems and fans; parts of the original 1960s building that are no longer the most efficient or effective means of cooling and heating our building. There are major changes happening in the public areas too. The current circulation area will change to focus more on assisting users to find the resources they are looking for – this includes a new circulation counter, a central 'information' desk, and changing the entrance into the children's department. A secondary entrance/exit will be established on the lower floor and all the public internet computers will come together in one area. Along with the renovations, of course, some collections will move, staff work areas will be altered, and we might even see some slight changes in décor. It will be an exciting, challenging time, and we hope to be open to the public – albeit with restricted services – for the majority of the time.

News from Libraries Around the System Continued

3

Bow Island

A lot has been happening at the Bow Island Library during the past couple of months. The month of May had us hauling all of our old books out and having a huge book sale that seemed to grow as community members donated used books too. Our Young Adult area has been enhanced by a new space saving paperback rack which was donated by our local Elks Club. We have moved a few other racks and shelves around to create a new space for teens to sit.

The Library has been planning an expansion for the past few years and we have moved closer to this goal with the addition of new automatic doors and a grant (CFEP) of \$59,000 presented by our MLA, Len Mitzel. This grant will enable the Library and the Town of Bow Island to commence with the project in the very near future!

The 18th annual Bow Island Library Children's Festival was held on June 17th and the weather did not dampen the fun as we moved indoors to the arena. This has been only the 2nd time in 18 years that the festival had to be held indoors. Participants were treated to some very good performers and tons of free activities, face painting and stilt walkers. The Friends of the Library Society once again planned a great day for local families.



We will be soon kicking off our Summer Reading Program. We are very excited for the theme this year. Since it is "Lost Worlds" we plan to transform the library into a vessel for learning. We will be going on pirate treasure hunts, making our own dinosaur fossils, building time machines, mummifying apples, hosting the Bow Island Library Summer Reading Program Olympics, and many other fantastic adventures. We are also proud to say The Town of Bow Island has also embraced this theme for all parade participants during the Bean Pot Festival on June 23, 2007.

NEW FINES STRUCTURE FOR SYSTEM LIBRARIES

Over the past few months all of Shortgrass member library boards passed resolutions to go with a consistent fines structure for the entire system. These new rates had been discussed by the library managers in the early spring. The new fines agreed upon are:

Adult Materials: \$ 0.25/day, max: \$5.00

Children's Materials: \$0.10/day, max: \$2.00

The Graham Community Library and the Redcliff Public Library implemented the new fines structure on June 1st, while the other libraries will be following suit in September.



SLS Talking Book Collection sees Big Changes!

With the approval of the Alberta Libraries Branch, The System Directors, and the SLS library managers, Shortgrass Library System completed the task of weeding the Talking Books held at its headquarters. Due to the fact that tape technology is outdated and obsolete, the collection was not being added to by the province or the Systems for some time.

Following the lead of the Canadian Institute for the Blind we have weeded down the collection to make room for new and more accessible technology. The goal of the weeding project was to reduce the collection to a viable and usable collection. We started this project with a Talking Book Collection of 9,788 and reduced it to a collection of 1,372.

The collection was cut in half by removing all duplicate copies. We further reduced the collection by removing out-of-date and inaccurate non-fiction materials. A report of everything that had circulated in the last five years was run and reviewed for potential use by two professional librarians. A report of everything that had circulated in the past three years was also run, keeping everything that had a circulation history of 3 or more circulations. The result of this weeding is a viable collection of 1,372.

If there are any questions about these changes please contact Carrie at Shortgrass.



Don't forget the following dates!

- Aug 29 **Shortgrass Library System Committee Meetings**
Shortgrass Library System Headquarters 1pm and 3pm
- Sept 17 **Shortgrass Library System Library Managers' Meeting**
SLS HQ 10am
- Sept 19 **Shortgrass Library System Board Meeting**
SLS HQ 1pm
- Oct 17 **Shortgrass Library System Committee Meetings**
Shortgrass Library System Headquarters 1pm and 3pm
- Oct 17-19 **Netspeed 2007**
Carriage House Inn, Calgary
- Nov 15 Unicorn "GO LIVE"**
- Nov 19 **Shortgrass Library System Library Managers' Meeting**
SLS HQ 10am
- Nov 21 **Shortgrass Library System Board Meeting**
Location To be Announced 1pm
- Dec 3 **"Growing Through Change" SLS System Wide Professional Development Day**
MHPL 9am-4pm
- May 21-24 **Canadian Library Association National Conference and Trade Show**
2008 Delta St. John's and Mile One Centre, St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador
2007/index.shtml

**LIBRARY QUOTE
FOR THIS ISSUE**

Books are the quietest and most constant of friends: they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers.
- Charles W. Eliot

2007 SLS Mini-Conference

The PD Day Committee would like to announce the theme for this year's mini-conference. "GROWING THROUGH CHANGE" was chosen to reflect the changes taking place in several system libraries as well as the migration to the new integrated library software to come late this fall.

The mini-conference will be held at the Medicine Hat Public Library on MONDAY DECEMBER 3rd, 2007.

The committee has booked several guest speakers including Keith Walker from the Vera Bracken Library, MHC, and Chair of The Alberta Library (TAL) to talk about change within TAL and the Alberta Public Library Electronic Network (APLEN); Heather Baun from Southeastern Alberta Racial and Community Harmony, who will be discussing cultural sensitivity in a public service environment; and Evelyn Kleis, who will be giving a presentation on how using humor can reduce the negative effects of stress often brought about by big changes.



More information will be available in September when the program brochure is published!

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