



SHORTGRASS CLIPPINGS

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Message from the CEO

Well, we've had many reasons to celebrate at SLS this spring. Things started off with a bang back in April when Premier Stelmach announced additional funding for public libraries and library systems. This came as a result of findings from the MLA task force established during the summer of 2008 by Alberta Municipal Affairs Minister, Ray Danyluk and culminated into a report on public libraries entitled "Framework for the Future: Positioning Alberta Libraries for the 21st Century." (A PDF copy of this report is available at <<http://snipurl.com/17k8o>>.) The extra financial support will be used to enhance the services already provided to our member libraries as well as create some flexibility for additional projects we can now embark on.

SLS also celebrated some special events this spring including the awarding of the Alberta Library Association of Trustees' Award of Excellence to the Brooks Library Board and the presentation of the Library Association of Alberta President's award to Shortgrass' Assistant Director, Technical Services, Bob Batchelder. Peggy Curthoys, long time employee of SLS also received the 20 Year Service Award. This was given to her at our annual system barbeque held in June. Thanks go out to Peggy for her welcoming attitude and commitment to SLS through the years!

Submitted by Julia Reinhart, CEO

Shortgrass Parade Float

Summer fairs and parades are being celebrated throughout the Shortgrass region and we have been fortunate to be able to enter our float in six parades this summer. The Shortgrass float has attended parades in Brooks, Foremost, and Bassano.

On July 1st our float will be in the Tilley parade. Then it will be in the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede Parade on July 23rd and Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede Kiddies Parade on July 24th. Come out to these parades and give us a wave!

Thank you to our summer students, Danielle Sali and Jillian Bocking, who designed and built the float decorations, and Neleh Bryksa who designed and created float decorations for the Kiddies Parade. She'll be riding in our float on July 24th.

To date the float has been awarded three ribbons, one for first prize, one for third prize, and one just for participating!



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

Shortgrass Clippings is published four times annually

TD Summer Reading Club – Agent 009

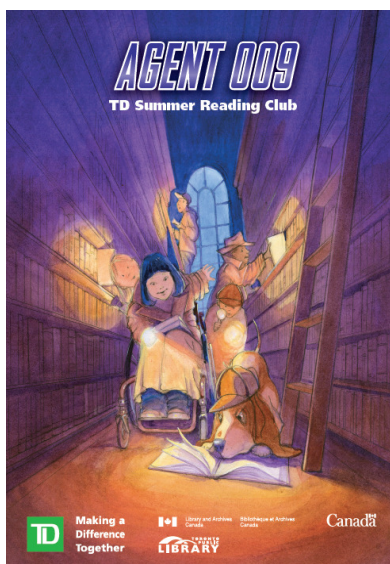
Summer is the time for barbequing, gardening, and the TD Summer Reading Club. The theme this year is Agent 009.

Promotional materials related to the TD Summer Reading Club are already showing up in Shortgrass libraries. Children and teens are encouraged to contact their local library to participate in this great summer event.

As in previous years, a performer will be visiting each public library in the Shortgrass Library System in conjunction with their TD Summer Reading Club programming. This year the performer is Larry Dye and he is already hard at work creating his show. The only hint he is willing to share is that you can expect an appearance by “Inspector Jacques Clueless.”

Larry and the “Inspector” will be visiting your library soon:

July 13 Medicine Hat 2:00 PM
July 14 Medicine Hat 10:30 AM
July 14 Medicine Hat 2:00 PM
July 15 Rolling Hills 10:30 AM
July 15 Tilley 2:00 PM
July 16 Rosemary 10:30 AM
July 16 Bassano 2:00 PM
July 20 Alcoma 10:30 AM
July 20 Brooks 2:00 PM
July 21 Foremost 10:30 AM
July 21 Bow Island 2:00 PM
July 22 Graham 10:30 AM
July 22 Redcliff 2:00 PM



Blogs on Library Topics

A blog is an online collection of reflections, thoughts, critiques and comments (often with links to other information) written by one writer, or a small collection of writers. Here are three blogs you might find interesting:

The Swiss Army Librarian

<www.swissarmylibrarian.net>

Written by Brian Herzog, reference librarian at Chelmsford (Mass.) Public Library, about technology, libraries and reference services, this blog posts an answer to a reference question of the week. These questions are interesting and often thought provoking.

Stephen's Lighthouse

<stephenslighthouse.sirsidynix.com>

Written by Stephen Abram, the VP of Innovation at SirsiDynix and former President of CLA, this blog looks at trends and technology and their impact on libraries.

Fans of the TPL

<tplfans.wordpress.com>

Written by Joe Clark, a patron of the Toronto Public Library, this blog looks at the TPL from the point of view of a patron.



Symphony Workflow Tips - Using Configure Search Options in Item Search

(Editor's note: with the most recent upgrade to the Shortgrass ILS, the name of the program has changed from Unicorn to Symphony.)

Searches can be narrowed by using the Configure Search Options – Click on Item Search or F4 and then click on the small icon at the top with the “tools”. Choose which options you want to use for your search.

For example, you might want to find which titles the library system has in large print by Danielle Steel. In the Configure Search Options screen, click the down arrow in Item Category 1 and choose LP. Type in Steel, Danielle in the Search for box and choose the Author Index and Shortgrass as the library to search. Choose the keyword search button to broaden your search further and click the Search button. Your results should be limited to large print titles.

If you just want the Danielle Steel books in large print in a particular library, choose that library for the search library - for example SGBRO for Brooks.

You can also do the same search in the library catalogue. Clicking on More Search Options, fill in the author box, choose Shortgrass Public Library Consortium and Large Print materials from Item Category 1 and click the search button.



Shortgrass Library System Award Winners

At the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper (April 24th to 26th, 2009) the City of Brooks Library Board and Bob Batchelder were both presented with awards.

The Alberta Library Trustees Association (ALTA) Award of Excellence was presented to the City of Brooks Library Board. This award recognizes Library Boards who have enabled and supported their libraries in providing on-going excellent service to their communities over a five-year time period.

Bob Batchelder, Assistant Director-Technical Services, was presented with the Library Association of Alberta (LAA) 2009 President's Award. Bob was honoured with this prestigious award for his innovation and willingness to share his knowledge and experience.

For more details about either of these award winners visit the [News and Upcoming Events for Shortgrass Member Libraries](#) page on the Shortgrass Library System website <www.shortgrass.ca>.



Brooks Mayor Martin Shields presents the ALTA 2009 Award of Excellence to Dino Champelone, Chair of the Brooks Library Board, and Gloria Evans, Secretary of the Brooks Library Board



Julia Reinhart, CEO of the Shortgrass Library System, presenting the LAA's 2009 President's Award to Bob Batchelder

RISE
Rural Information Services initiative

Chinook Arch Regional Library System
Shortgrass Library System
Marigold Library System



The past few months have been very busy ones for the RISE Team. The team has been planning for Phase II installations and negotiating the purchase of required equipment. There were also a number of sessions and workshops delivered by video conference during May and June. These included workshops for the public on retirement planning and using Facebook, and staff training on databases from EBSCO and The Cochrane Library (a great medical database). In addition, the equipment has been used to allow community partners to attend meetings outside of their communities and to conduct job interviews with applicants from other parts of Canada.

The URL for the RISE Wiki has changed. There is an automatic redirect in place so you likely won't notice the change. Still, it would be best if you bookmark the new URL for the wiki. It is <<http://wikirise.pbworks.com>>.

Lauren Jessop has been hired as the new RISE Consultant Librarian for the Chinook Arch Regional Library System. Lauren is a recent graduate of the University of Western Ontario where she earned her Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree. Please welcome Lauren and her husband as they relocate from Ontario to Lethbridge.

At the end of June we will be saying goodbye to Wendy Merkley, RISE Project Manager, who is leaving the RISE Project to join the University of Lethbridge as the Associate University Librarian for Information Systems and Technical Services. We wish Wendy well in her exciting new position!



Alberta Arts Days - September 18th to 20th, 2009

Alberta Arts Days is intended to bring families and all Albertans together while demonstrating our provincial pride and showcasing the amazing talent that exists in our province.

"Artistic expression brings out the best in our society and our communities," said Ray Danyluk, Minister of Municipal Affairs. The goal is to have arts activities in 100 libraries during Arts Days. These arts-related activities could include: partnerships with arts organizations resulting in events, traditional-style library programs with an arts focus, art exhibits in library gallery spaces, displays of Alberta books and materials, author readings, or storytelling events.

The Esplanade, in Medicine Hat, is one of the five flagship celebration sites hosting Arts Days 2009 celebrations. Planned events include an Artisan Fair, artist guided exhibition tour, a variety of arts workshops and demonstrations, and a dynamic and ethereal musical arts experience.

To assist communities, libraries, schools and individual Albertans get started in planning their own events and celebrations, there is the online Arts Days hub <www.AlbertaArtsDays.ca> which features celebration ideas, a step-by-step guide to hosting an event, an Idea File for teachers, posters and ads, and much more. Communities are also encouraged to advertise their local Arts Days events via the online calendar at the Arts Days hub.

LIBRARY QUOTE FOR THIS ISSUE

Fairy Tales are more than true;
not because they tell us that dragons
exist, but because they tell us
that dragons can be beaten.

- G. K. Chesterton

Ken Feser at Alberta Municipal Affairs is responsible for communicate ideas and plans, while also tracking planned activities and recording results. Please send any information about your Arts Days plans to him at <ken.feser@gov.ab.ca> or call him at 780.415.0296.



Don't forget the following dates!

- Aug 26 **Program & Services Committee Meeting**
(Note: 4th Wednesday)
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM
- Aug 26 **Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting**
(Note: 4th Wednesday)
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 3:00 PM
- Sep 16 **SLS Board Meeting (Note: This meeting is at the Foremost Municipal Library)**
Foremost Municipal Library - 12:30 PM
- Sep 21 **Library Managers' Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 10:00 AM
- Oct 21 **Program & Services Committee Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM
- Oct 21 **Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 3:00 PM
- Oct 21-23 **NetSpeed Conference**
Carriage House Inn - Calgary, AB
- Oct 26 **SLS Professional Development Day**
Medicine Hat Public Library - 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Read-alikes for fans of Larry McMurtry

Ivan Doig might appeal to those who appreciate McMurtry's realistic vision of the West. Try his Montana trilogy, *English Creek*, *Dancing at the Rascal Fair*, and *Ride with Me*, *Mariah Montana*.

Those who prefer the New West of McMurtry's *The Last Picture Show* or *Texasville*, could try Cormac McCarthy's Border Trilogy -- *All the Pretty Horses*, *The Crossing*, and *Cities of the Plain*. He shares McMurtry's sense of loss and feelings of confinement, while serving up humor alongside tragedy.

Want more? The **NoveList** database provides author read-alikes for more than 280 well known authors.