



## SHORTGRASS CLIPPINGS

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*Volume X, Issue III – January, February, March 2010*

### Message from the CEO

Greetings everyone! It feels like March is going out like a lamb and spring is on its way in southeastern Alberta.

The past few months have been, like always, busy and full. Recently, the focus has been on technology, from our Integrated Library System (ILS) to e-books to BookMyne.

Shortgrass was the first library system in western Canada to have their ILS configured to work with the BookMyne App. With BookMyne, a patron with an iPhone or iPod Touch can access the library catalogue and manage their account. For more details see the article on the back of this newsletter.

The foundation is being laid for adding OverDrive e-books and e-audio books to the Shortgrass collection. The OverDrive website is being developed and it should be available just in time for summer vacation reading. More information about OverDrive is provided in an article on the back of this newsletter.

The RISE Project is maturing and attracting interest and use from a wide variety of local, provincial and national groups. The directors of RISE have established a RISE Advisory Committee with the stated goal of "facilitating a culture of videoconferencing usage." This committee will be developing best practices for using and promoting the service, as well as looking at means to sustain the project after the initial funding period.

At Shortgrass headquarters, there has been a reorganization of the server room, making it easier to upgrade, modify equipment and diagnose problems.

Two Shortgrass staff members were able to attend the annual COSUGI (Customers of SirsiDynix User Group) conference. They learned a great deal about the ILS, which will benefit Shortgrass libraries in the months ahead.

Looking ahead, Shortgrass has applied for summer student grants from both the provincial and federal governments. As in past years, if we are awarded the grants, the funds will permit us to hire students for the summer. They will be working on a variety of projects, including the TD Summer Reading Program (TD SRP) and some RISE programming.

Speaking of the TD SRP, the 2010 theme is *Destination Jungle*. Our own Bob Townsend will be visiting each Shortgrass Public Library over the summer as "Safari Sam" in conjunction with the SRP.

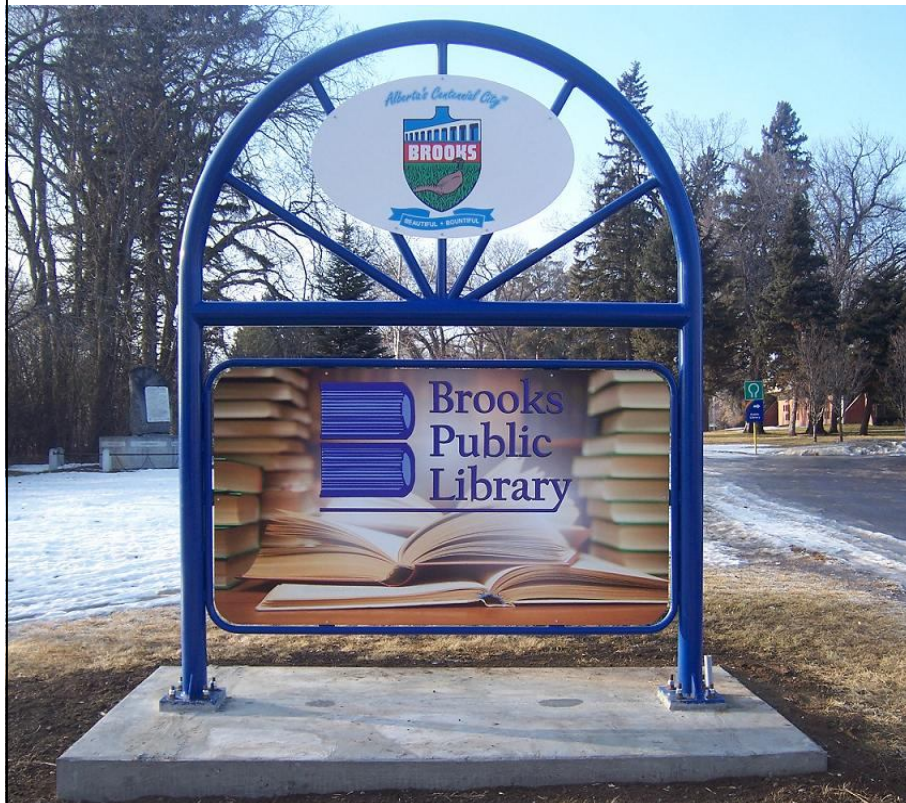
Submitted by Julia Reinhart, CEO

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

## New Sign for the Brooks Public Library

The Brooks Public Library building is located in a park. While it makes for a beautiful setting, it can be challenging to find the library. In order to give the library greater visibility, the City of Brooks has erected a new sign at the entrance to the park, beside the road that leads to the library. It looks great!



## New Shortgrass Van

A new 2010 GMC Savana 2500 extended wheelbase cargo van (similar to the van in the photo above) has just arrived for the Shortgrass Library System.

Ordered just before Christmas, this van is currently getting dressed up in the Shortgrass logos and is having some extra safety features installed. Watch for it to be on the road by late April or early May 2010.

The purchase of this van was made possible by a CIP grant.

Shortgrass thanks Don Nunweiler and Davis Pontiac Buick GMC for all of their efforts, ensuring that the van was exactly what we needed.

## New Look for the RISE Network

Through the assistance of a New Media practicum student from the University of Lethbridge, Elisa Wonnacott, the RISE team has designed a new RISE logo. With a bright blue dot over the "i" and a ribbon of blue extending behind the word RISE, this logo represents the idea of the RISE Network embracing communities served and bringing people closer together. Blue was chosen as the colour of the ribbon to represent the big blue southern Alberta sky.

The most exciting recent development with the RISE Network is the addition of Movi software. When Movi is installed on a desktop or laptop computer and is combined with a webcam and high speed Internet access, the computer becomes a RISE site.

For best results with Movi, TANDBERG provides an online list of recommended webcams at <http://bit.ly/aMiIhK>. Movi will allow greater flexibility for presenters and for participants. In the coming weeks, a video showing how to download, install and use Movi will be made available. If you would like more information about Movi please contact the Shortgrass RISE Consultant Librarian, Jim Dunbar by phone at 403.529.0550 ext 9 or by email at [rise@shortgrass.ca](mailto:rise@shortgrass.ca).



Another exciting development is the establishment and the first two meetings of the RISE Advisory Committee. Shortgrass Library Managers can expect to hear more about the work of this committee at the next Library Managers' Meeting on May 17th.

## Win-A-Literary-Artist with the Young Alberta Book Society (YABS)

Between May 1st and June 15th, your library or school may enter to win a visit from an Alberta literary artist from YABS through the annual Dr. Charles Allard Win-A-Literary-Artist Contest.

A panel of judges will select 10 winners, and YABS will pay each winner \$250.00 towards the professional half-day fee charged by a presenter of the winner's choice. As well, transportation and accommodation costs will be covered by YABS as part of the TaleBlazers Festival.

To enter, teachers or library managers must fill out an online Win-A-Literary-Artist form by describing the challenges they face in encouraging literacy and promoting Canadian Literature. In addition, they must explain how a TaleBlazers presenter will complement their reading program. Presenters could be an author, illustrator, storyteller, poet or playwright. Entries must be submitted to YABS no later than June 15th, 2010. The online entry form can be found at <http://www.yabs.ab.ca/Allard-Contest-Entry.asp>.

From October 4th to 24th, 2010, the 28th Annual YABS TaleBlazers Festival will tour the province, giving hundreds of literary presentations to children in communities large and small. The goals of TaleBlazers include raising awareness about literacy, sparking imaginations and cultivating the joy of reading in children. For more information about TaleBlazers, visit [www.yabs.ab.ca/TaleBlazers.asp](http://www.yabs.ab.ca/TaleBlazers.asp).



# Don't forget the following dates!

- Apr 12     **Special Meeting of Library Managers**  
(Re: Shortgrass 2010 - 2013 Plan of Service)  
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 10:00 AM
- Apr 21     **SLS Board Meeting**  
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 12:30 PM
- Apr 29-  
May 2     **Alberta Library Conference - 2010**  
Jasper Park Lodge - Jasper, AB
- May 17     **Library Managers' Meeting**  
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 10:00 AM
- May 19     **Program & Services Committee Meeting (1 PM)**  
**Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting (3 PM)**  
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom
- May 27-30 **AALT Conference (36th Annual)**  
Carriage House Inn - Calgary, AB
- Jun 2-5     **Canadian Library Association National Conference**  
Shaw Conference Centre - Edmonton, AB
- Jun 16     **Joint Meeting (Library Board Chairs, Library**  
**Managers and the SLS Board of Trustees)**  
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 2:30 PM  
Barbeque and Presentations - 5:00 to 7:00 PM
- Aug 25     **Program & Services Committee Meeting (1 PM)**  
**Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting (3 PM)**  
(Note: 4th Wednesday)  
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom

### Read-alikes for fans of Dick Francis

In novels of murder and intrigue such as *Dead Reckoning*, Sam Llewellyn pushes his capable male leads to the limit and beyond. His novels feature appealing resilient heroes, intricate plotting, family dynamics, romance, and lucid prose.

For thrillers packed with authentic details about the race world, try the dashing John Francome. He relies less on character than on the rapid progress of multiple storylines with many surprising revelations, reversals, and spicy romantic interludes.

Francis's protagonists are reminiscent of heroic men of honor created by the great adventure writers of the previous generation, such as Nevil Shute. Many of Shute's heroes bring integrity and expertise to the fight against desperate odds.

Want more? The **NoveList** database provides author read-alikes for more than **315** well known authors.



## iPhone, BookMyne and the Shortgrass Libraries

Got an iPhone? Search your local library with the BookMyne iPhone App! By downloading the BookMyne App, which is free from the Apple Store, southeastern Alberta residents can now use their iPhone or iPod Touch devices to search their local public libraries for items. Patrons of Shortgrass Library System member libraries no longer need to be in front of a computer to find resources, place holds or check their accounts. Now, whenever a movie, song, magazine, or book catches your attention you can check the library catalogue instantly with a flick of a touch on your iPhone or iPod Touch.

Shortgrass was the first library system in western Canada to offer this service!

***Your library is now available on your iPhone®!***

***Download BookMyne from the Apple Store today so you can:***

- Search our catalogue
- Find available materials and put them on hold
- Log into your account and renew items you have checked out
- Check your account information



SirsiDynix® BookMyne



Shortgrass  
Library System

## e-Books and e-Audio Books via OverDrive

Not only can you check your library account with your iPhone, soon you will be able to borrow e-books and e-audio books that will work with your iPhone, iPod or MP3 player.



The member libraries of Shortgrass are just weeks away from launching their OverDrive website, which allows patrons to borrow electronic books from their library 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The OverDrive collection contains both e-books (with text appearing on the screen of your iPhone, Blackberry or Sony Reader) and e-audio books (which will play on iPods or MP3 players). For a full list of compatible devices go to <http://www.overdrive.com/resources/drc>.

Another advantage of OverDrive is that you get to choose your borrowing period. With e-books and e-audio books, you won't ever worry about fines for damages or overdues again!

Library quote for this issue

**I was late in discovering the magic of books.  
Of all my many mistakes that I want  
my children to avoid, I put that  
one near the top of the list.**

- Andre Agassi

The collection will contain both fiction and non-fiction selections, including travel books. Here are some of the titles that will be available: *Frommer's France 2010*; *"U" is for Undertow*; *The 8th Confession*; and, *Why My Third Husband Will Be a Dog*. Available authors include: Stephenie Meyer, Malcolm Gladwell, Karen Kingsbury, Dean Koontz, Tami Hoag, and Terry Pratchett.