



SHORTGRASS CLIPPINGS

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

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

www.shortgrass.ca

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Message from the CEO

The past few months at Shortgrass have been filled with a number of changes, both with the



**Dwight Nagel,
Outgoing Shortgrass
Board Chair**

SLS Board and with member libraries. After five years of acting as Chair of the SLS Board, Dwight Nagel resigned from his post, as he and his wife are relocating to their new home in central Alberta. Dwight's ability to connect with others and his excellent, in-depth, knowledge of the system will be greatly missed.

Taking on the role of Board Chair will be Kathi Herman, a resident of Medicine Hat who has served as a ministerial appointment on the Shortgrass Board for the past 5 years. Kathi brings much board experience with her as she has held the position of Programs & Services Committee Chair since January 2008. On this committee, she will be replaced by County of Newell representative, Wayne Daniels.

Rosalie Stromsmoe, Chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee, and long time member of the Shortgrass Library System and Foremost Library Boards, resigned her position on April 20th for personal reasons. Her attention to detail and ability to work with numbers have been great assets to SLS. Cypress County representative, Doug Henderson, has been elected to replace Rosalie as Chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee.

After 10 years as the manager of the Foremost Municipal Library, Joanne Harty left her position on June 25th to relocate to Fort McMurray. Alongside her board, Joanne helped to turn the Foremost Library into a vibrant information hub and community meeting place. Her dedication and down to earth nature will be missed.



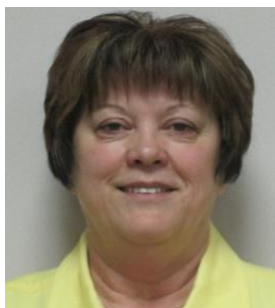
**Kathi Herman,
New Shortgrass
Board Chair**



**Wayne Daniels,
New Program &
Services Chair**



**Rosalie Stromsmoe,
Outgoing Finance &
Personnel Chair**



**Joanne Harty, Outgoing
Foremost Municipal
Library Manager**



**Doug Henderson,
New Finance &
Personnel Chair**

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

Shortgrass Parade Float

Jillian and Danielle, our summer students, have again done a masterful job of turning the Ford van into a visually attractive parade float. This year's TD Summer Reading Club theme is *Destination Jungle*.

It has won second place ribbons at the Brooks Kinsmen Rodeo parade and Bassano Amateur Rodeo Parade. On July 1st, our float will be in the Rosemary Canada Day parade. The van will finish its parade season in the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede Parade on July 29th, and the 50th annual Medicine Hat Kiddies Parade on July 30th, as in previous years.



Don't forget the following dates!

- Aug 25 **Program & Services Committee Meeting**
(Note: 4th Wednesday)
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM
- Aug 25 **Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting**
(Note: 4th Wednesday)
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 3:00 PM
- Sept 15 **SLS Board Meeting**
Bassano Memorial Library - 12:00 PM
- Sept 20 **Library Managers' Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 10:00 AM
- Oct 20 **Program & Services Committee Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM
- Oct 20 **Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 3:00 PM
- Oct 20-22 **NEXT: A Library Futures Symposium**
Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe Hotel, Edmonton
- Nov 17 **SLS Board Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 12:30 PM
- Nov 22 **Library Managers' Meeting**
(Note: 4th Monday)
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 10:00 AM
- Dec 8 **SLS Christmas Dinner and Social**
Medicine Hat Golf and Country Club - 6:00 PM

Interesting Websites for Library Staff

Books can be valuable collector's items, and sometimes these rare books are in library collections. For example, Margin of Safety by Seth Klarman was in the Vancouver, Edmonton and Toronto Public Library collections. It is now valued at more than \$1,500 US. To see if you have a rare book in your collection, check this AbeBooks listing of Most Collectible Books of the Decade (2000-2009), available at <http://bit.ly/7AgsH1>.

Staying informed about library issues, including technology and marketing, can be a challenge. Library blogs (think of a newspaper columnist writing online) can be a useful tool. LISNews published the 10 Library Blogs to Read in 2010 and the posting, along with links to the blogs, is available at <http://bit.ly/5RAp8G>.

Brooks wins 2010 Minister's Award for Excellence

The City of Brooks Public Library Board (BPLB) was awarded the 2010 Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Library Service at the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper on April 30th!

The BPLB was honoured with this award for responding to documented community needs with *Project Connect*, which continues and expands services and programs specifically developed for the needs of new Canadians, establishing the library as a central information hub for new Canadians.

The award was one of five granted for either excellence in service delivery (doing something traditional in the best way) or innovation in service delivery (doing something new, or doing it in a new way).



The Ministerial Award for Excellence in Public Library Service 2010



From the left: Municipal Affairs Minister Hector Goudreau, Brooks Mayor Martin Shields, Acting Head Librarian of Brooks Public Library Mark Huff and MLA Manmeet Bhullar.

Read-alikes for fans of Robert B. Parker

Parker often said he was inspired by hard-boiled writer Raymond Chandler. Chandler novels are a good choice for readers interested in the development of the mystery genre. To chart the changes, try Chandler's *The Big Sleep*.

Although not a mystery, Stephen Cannell's *The Tin Collectors* shares many of the characteristics of Parker's novels: a likable protagonist who must operate according to his own moral code, corruption, strong female characters, and humor.

Robert Crais writes character-centered and often humorous mysteries that, like Parker's, feature long-term relationships. Elvis Cole, is Crais's wise-cracking but caring P.I. and *Indigo Slam* is a good introduction to the series.

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

The RISE Network and Your Community

The applications for the first installment of the 2010 RISE Capacity Grants are currently being prepared, so you can expect them soon at your library. One of the questions that may be on this year's application form is 'how have individuals and organizations in your community used the equipment?'

Local newspapers provide numerous suggestions for organizations that could benefit from using the RISE equipment. For example, a recent issue of the Brooks Bulletin had information on the EID Historical Park, the Alberta Senior Advisory Council and the Brooks Red Cross (talking about water safety). The EID Historical Park might like to present a session talking about their history. The Alberta Senior Advisory Council might like to reduce travel time and costs when meeting regionally or provincially. The Red Cross could use the equipment to extend their reach on educational programs. If you'd like assistance in working with local groups, give Jim Dunbar a call at Shortgrass, 403.529.0550 ext 9, or email him at <jim@shortgrass.ca>.



Annual Shortgrass Barbeque

On a blustery June 16th, the Shortgrass Library System community got together socially over beef on a bun to say good-bye to individuals retiring from member libraries of Shortgrass, and to celebrate recent achievements.

Dwight Nagel and Julia Reinhart welcomed special guests from the Public Library Services Branch of Alberta Municipal Affairs; the Director, Dr. Diana Davidson and Library Consultant Kerry Anderson.



**Diana Davidson, Director,
Public Library Services Branch**



**Julia Reinhart and Patti Ambrosio,
who is retiring from her teacher-
librarian position at Medicine Hat SD
#76 at the end of this school year.**



**Shannon Vossepoel and Mark
Huff of the Brooks Public
Library with their
Ministerial Award**



TD Summer Reading Club - Destination Jungle

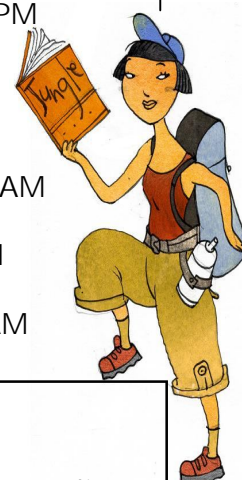
With promotional materials in hand, the Shortgrass libraries are gearing up for the TD Summer Reading Club and the 2010 theme, *Destination Jungle*.

Children are encouraged to contact their local library to participate in this great summer event.

Bob Townsend as "Safari Sam" will be visiting each public library in the Shortgrass Library System as part of their TD Summer Reading Club programming.

Here is Safari Sam's schedule:

July 6 - Medicine Hat 10:30 AM
July 6 - Medicine Hat 2:00 PM
July 7 - Rolling Hills 10:30 AM
July 7 - Medicine Hat 2:00 PM
July 8 - Redcliff 10:30 AM
July 8 - Redcliff 2:00 PM
July 19 - Alcoma 10:30 AM
July 19 - Brooks 2:00 PM
July 20 - Bow Island 10:30 AM
July 20 - Foremost 2:00 PM
July 21 - Graham 10:30 AM
July 21 - Tilley 2:00 PM
July 22 - Rosemary 10:30 AM
July 22 - Bassano 2:00 PM



Launch of OverDrive a Huge Success!

On June 1st, member libraries quietly made the Shortgrass OverDrive e-book and e-audio book collection available to patrons. This 'soft' launch was intended to allow staff to become familiar with the service before promoting it heavily. Even with the soft launch, more than 250 items have been borrowed by patrons during the first fifteen days of the service.



On Thursday, June 10th, CHAT-TV interviewed Julia Reinhart about the service and ran the story in their evening newscast.

Perhaps the most exciting result of adding OverDrive has been that community members who were not library patrons have been coming into member libraries and signing up for library cards, just so they can access the e-book and e-audio book OverDrive collection!

The Shortgrass OverDrive website is available 24/7 at <<http://librarytogo.shortgrass.ca>>. A complete list of compatible devices is available at <<http://www.overdrive.com/resources/drc>>.

Library quote for this issue

When you are growing up there are two institutional places that affect you most powerfully: the church, which belongs to God, and the public library, which belongs to you.

The public library is a great equalizer.

- Keith Richards (of the Rolling Stones)