



SHORTGRASS CLIPPINGS

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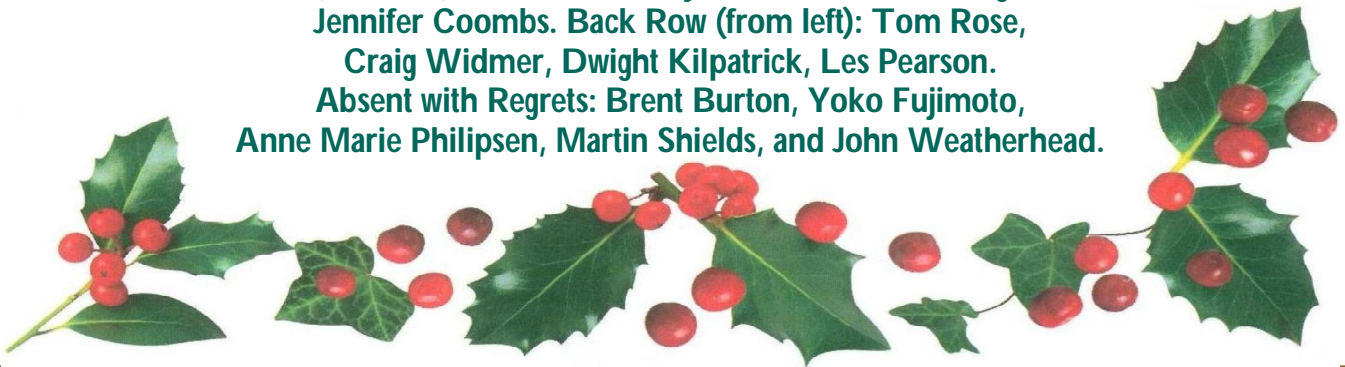
www.shortgrass.ca

Volume XI, Issue II – October, November, December 2010

Happy Holidays from the Board of the Shortgrass Library System



Front Row (from left): John Brocklesby, Kathi Herman, Doug Henderson, Jennifer Coombs. Back Row (from left): Tom Rose, Craig Widmer, Dwight Kilpatrick, Les Pearson. Absent with Regrets: Brent Burton, Yoko Fujimoto, Anne Marie Philipsen, Martin Shields, and John Weatherhead.



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

Read-alikes for fans of Agatha Christie

Agatha Christie is known for her complex plots and for mysteries written to the rules of fair play. That is, no clues are hidden from the reader.

Margery Allingham, a Golden Age mystery writer, whose work compares favorably to Christie, is noted for careful plotting and memorable secondary characters. Her protagonist, Albert Campion, is from the eccentric nobility school of detection. Start with *Mystery Mile*.

Readers looking for Miss Marple read-alikes could try contemporary mystery novelist M. C. Beaton, who has written a series of cozy mysteries featuring a middle-aged amateur detective, Agatha Raisin. While not as sweet-tempered as Jane Marple, Raisin uses her intellect and common sense to solve crimes. The series begins with *The Quiche of Death*.

For readers willing to move from England to the U.S., Carolyn G. Hart has created an updated American Miss Marple in the character of Henrietta O'Dwyer Collins, a retired journalist. She finds mysteries falling into her lap, and solves these puzzles with wit and intelligence. Like Miss Marple, O'Dwyer Collins uses charm and homespun wisdom to unravel crimes. Start with *Dead Man's Island*.

Want more? NovelList has author read-alikes for 315 well-known authors.



Don't forget the following dates!

- Jan 17 **Library Managers' Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 10:00 AM
- Jan 19 **Program & Services Committee Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM
- Jan 19 **Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 3:00 PM
- Jan 29 **Shortgrass Library Board Trustee Orientation with Patricia McNamee**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Feb 16 **SLS Board Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM
- Mar 4-5 **Southern Alberta Library Conference 2011**
Coast Lethbridge Hotel & Conference Centre
- Mar 16 **Program & Services Committee Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM
- Mar 16 **Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 3:00 PM
- Mar 21 **Library Managers' Meeting**
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 10:00 AM

Job Interviews and Videoconferencing

Bringing a candidate in for a job interview can be expensive and time consuming. Further, there are times when the candidate isn't available to travel to the interview.

Videoconferencing can help with both of these situations.

Maria Zavala, Human Resources Officer for the City of Brooks, conducted a videoconference job interview via the RISE Network with a candidate in Ontario. About the experience she wrote: "We have recently done our first videoconference interview [and] the interview went off without a hitch. It was like the interviewee was in the room with us and it was very user-friendly. This technology will come in very handy for us with future recruiting possibilities!"

Businesses and organizations can use the videoconferencing services of the RISE Network without cost until at least April 30th, 2011. So, try a videoconference job interview the next time you're recruiting for a position!

Call Jim Dunbar at 403.529.0550 ext. 9 for more information.



Best Wishes for Happy Holidays from the Shortgrass Library Managers



Front Row (from left): Bob Batchelder, Stefanie Schranz, Shannon Vossepoel, Sheila Drummond, Hilary Munro, Jennifer Antill. Back Row (from left): Tracy Weinrauch, Bonnie Bennett, Carol Ann Cross-Roen, Joan Beutler, Anita Chappell.

Absent with Regrets: Johnene Amulung, Susan Andersen, Donna Janzen and Shelley Ross.

Community Spirit Donation Grant Program

Under this program, the Alberta Government provides funds to registered charities based on the value of eligible cash donations. While a minimum of \$1,000 in cash donations is required to apply for a grant, it is possible to combine donations from up to three previous years to make the minimum.

The maximum donation grant available is \$25,000 annually, with total donation grants not exceeding \$50,000 over three years.

The government has changed the forms from previous years and is introducing an online application process. The deadline for 2010-2011 grants is December 31st, 2010. For more information visit the Community Spirit Program website at <http://culture.alberta.ca/communityspirit/default.aspx>.

Library quote for this issue

In the non-stop tsunami of global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us to swim.

- Linton Weeks

Donation grants can be used for programs and capital projects, to support operations, or for endowments.

New Shortgrass CEO

Shortgrass welcomes Petra Mauerhoff as the new CEO for Shortgrass effective January 3rd, 2011.



Petra brings to Shortgrass experience from a variety of libraries across Canada, including public libraries.

As Chief Librarian/CEO for Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) in Nova Scotia, she was responsible for overseeing all library operations for the geographically largest library region in Nova Scotia. ECRL serves a population of approximately 42,000, spread throughout many small communities; 80 percent of which have populations fewer than 200 people. Just like the libraries within Alberta's library regions, Nova Scotia public libraries work collaboratively in many areas.

In addition to her time spent in public libraries, Petra also has experience working in academic libraries, most recently as Manager of College Library Services for the College of the Rockies in Cranbrook, British Columbia.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from the Shortgrass Library System Staff*



**Front Row (from left): Bob Batchelder, Larry Dye, Jim Dunbar, Chris Massini, Sean Seitz.
Middle Row (from left): Peggy Curthoys, Liz Alexander, Phyllis Worrall, Eileen Davis,
Blaine Heglund. Back Row (from left): Jackie Hope-Hammel, Linda Kozakewich,
Dyan Bryksa, Val Ogden, Norman Stewart.
Absent with Regrets: John Barrie, Cecilia Hui, Jerry Smith, and Bob Townsend.**