



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

Welcome to the spring edition of *Shortgrass Clippings*!

As we anticipate the first signs of spring, the early months of 2011 are bringing renewed energy to Shortgrass.

This is my first time writing for the *Clippings* newsletter and I am pleased to share with you the happenings in our Library System.

Our Technology Services Department has seen many changes in the past three months. Cecilia Hui and Sean Seitz left Shortgrass and accepted positions elsewhere. With Bob as the sole staff member of the Technology department, several projects have been put on hold until the hiring process is completed. While we are still working on staffing Cecilia's position, we have been fortunate to find an excellent candidate for Sean's position.

Levi Millington has accepted the position of Technology Services Assistant, previously held by Sean. He will be starting on Friday, April 1st, 2011. You can find more information about Levi in the pages of this newsletter.

Plans for the Jasper 2011 Alberta Library Conference charter bus are well under way. We still have seats available, so if you require transportation contact Linda Kozakewich at 403.529.0550 ext 6 for a reservation. Or send her an email at <linda@shortgrass.ca>.

With the third month of my tenure at Shortgrass coming to an end, I must comment on how happy I am to be part of such a well-functioning system with dedicated staff and an enthusiastic board of trustees.

Winter weather put library visits on hold temporarily, but I am still planning on visiting all of the member libraries. I am looking forward to seeing all library location in person, experiencing first-hand how services are provided at the local level and gaining a broader understanding of our system.

As I continue to familiarize myself with Shortgrass operations, policies and procedures are being reviewed to ensure that the support services provided to our libraries and contract partners continue to be efficient and relevant.

Submitted by Petra Mauerhoff, 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

Virtual Ink! (Writer-in-Residence via Videoconference)

Southern Alberta writers will get guidance, encouragement and training from J. Jill Robinson, a successful, published author through Virtual Ink! – a Writer-in-Residence program provided through the RISE Network.



In addition to numerous articles, poems, plays, and short stories, J. Jill Robinson has published four books: *Residual Desire* [2003], *Eggplant Wife* [1995], *Lovely in Her Bones* [1993], and

Saltwater Trees [1991]. Her work, which has appeared in many Canadian literary journals, has won numerous awards.

Born in Langley B.C., Jill has served as a Writer-in-Residence at the Saskatoon Public Library, Red Deer College and the Alexandra Writing Centre. She has taught Composition, English Literature and Creative Writing at several colleges and universities.



J. Jill Robinson

Jill is based at Canmore Public Library and will be hosting five workshops:

Saturday, April 2 - Introduction

Saturday, April 9 - To Begin To Begin

Saturday, April 30 - Whose Story Is It? (Point of View in Writing)

Saturday, May 7 - Writing Your Family

Saturday, May 14 - The Nuts and Bolts of Writing

She will also be available for one hour one-on-one consultations with writers who want to discuss their work. The complete schedule of workshops and instructions on how to participate in the consultations is posted on the RISE Network website: <www.risenetwork.ca>.

With traditional Writer-in-Residence programs, aspiring writers had to travel to a central point to receive coaching and guidance. With Virtual Ink!, the Writer-in-Residence is as close as your local RISE Network public library.

Virtual Ink! is supported by a grant from the Library Association of Alberta.

Read-alikes for fans of Ken Follett

Edward Rutherfurd is a renowned writer for his richly detailed landscapes and mix of historical and fictional details. Try his *Dublin Saga* series set in Ireland, which begins with *The Princes of Ireland*.

Edith Pargeter's historical fiction skillfully combines characters and fascinating descriptions of the times to create powerful tales of British history. Her *The Heaven Tree Trilogy* (*The Heaven Tree*, *The Green Branch*, and *The Scarlet Seed*) takes readers to 13th century England and follows a family of master stone carvers helping build a cathedral.

Intricate, cinematic storylines, fascinating details and intriguing characters fill Frederick Forsyth's intelligent suspense stories. He excels at playing with historical figures and events. Try *The Day of the Jackal*, which offers the kind of detail-rich, suspenseful story Follett fans value.

Want more? NoveList has read-alikes for hundreds of well-known authors.

2011 TD Summer Reading Club

With the theme "Splash! Celebrate Summer," the TD Summer Reading Club returns for 2011.

As in previous years, a live performer will be visiting Shortgrass member libraries to encourage and entertain children participating in this fun program. This year, the performer is Andrew Plait, a staff member of Medicine Hat Public Library. The performance schedule is yet to be finalized.



Funding Available for Alberta Arts Days!

The fourth annual Alberta Arts Days will occur from September 30th to October 2nd, 2011, in celebration of National Culture Days. The goal is to ensure all Albertans have access to a wide range of cultural experiences and encourage greater love and appreciation of the arts.

To help expand this worthwhile initiative and encourage broader participation throughout the province, the Government of Alberta will be offering funding to those wishing to plan Alberta Arts Days 2011 events and activities.

There are two levels of funding. Up to five sites may be selected to become Feature Celebration Sites and receive a maximum \$20,000 grant. An additional 55 applicants may be eligible to become Host Celebration Sites and receive a maximum \$5,000 grant. Libraries are eligible for this funding and are encouraged to apply. Applicants are also encouraged to partner with local community organizations to present events, workshops and performances throughout the Alberta Arts Days 2011 weekend.

Alberta Arts Days
Sept 30 – Oct 2 AlbertaArtsDays.ca
Discover Experience Celebrate

Hosting an Alberta Arts Days event is a wonderful opportunity to foster relationships and develop new partnerships, strengthen community spirit and showcase local talents. It's also an opportunity to boost the impact and reach of audience engagement activities on a provincial level.

The deadline to apply for these grants is April 20th, 2011. For more information and to access the Request for Submission package, visit <<http://culture.alberta.ca/artsdays/rfs.aspx>>.

New Shortgrass Technology Services Assistant

Levi Millington will join Shortgrass on April 1st, 2011.

In addition to a Network Engineering Diploma from NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology) in Edmonton, Levi has an Information Technology Certificate from Medicine Hat College.

Levi has a variety of work experience. He has worked as an Internet Technician with the Eastern Irrigation



Levi Millington

District and has worked with ZedTeeEI Limited as a Network Engineer.



Don't forget the following dates!

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| April 20 | SLS Board Meeting
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM |
| April 28 -
May 1 | Alberta Library Conference
Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper
<i>There is still room on the Shortgrass Bus to Jasper.
Call Linda at 403.529.0550 ext 6 for details</i> |
| May 16 | Library Managers' Meeting
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 10:00 AM |
| May 18 | Program & Services Committee Meeting
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM |
| May 18 | Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 3:00 PM |
| May 26 -
May 29 | AALT Conference
(Alberta Association of Library Technicians)
Mayfield Inn and Suites, Edmonton |
| June 15 | SLS Board Meeting and Joint Meeting
(Library Board Chairs, Library Managers
and the SLS Board of Trustees)
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom
<i>Details to follow</i> |

60th Anniversary at Brooks Public Library (BPL)

March 10th, 2011 marked the 60th anniversary of the day that BPL first opened its doors. BPL has seen many changes over the years, including advances in technology, four different buildings, and many friendly faces coming through the door!

Although they've seen many changes in their community over the years, the one thing that hasn't changed is BPL's commitment to being a vibrant and inspiring resource that connects their diverse community to the world.

To mark this milestone, BPL held a birthday celebration! Guests included City of Brooks Councilors Kimberley Sharkey, Norman Gerestein, and Barry Morishita; Shortgrass CEO Petra Mauerhoff; and members of the Brooks media.

Door prize draws were held and Shortgrass members who "liked" the Brooks Public Library on Facebook were entered into a draw for a Kobo e-reader, which was won by BPL member Christi Brezinski.

The day's events also included a cake cutting ceremony, historical tour of the library, and birthday-party themed Wii Game Day for children, with goodie bags and treats for all gamers.



BPL will continue to celebrate its 60th this year; BPL staff are already planning a celebratory tea for Canadian Library Month in October!

Booklist Webinars

The American Library Association (ALA) offers webinars on a many topics related to collection development in libraries.

Upcoming sessions are on topics like: graphic novels, tackling tough topics in books for youth, and high demand mysteries.

These webinars are free of charge and are usually presented over the lunch hour in the Mountain time zone.

Listings of upcoming webinars are available on the *Booklist Online* website: <www.booklistonline.com/GeneralInfo.aspx?id=63>

In addition, ALA records these webinars and makes them available online at: <www.booklistonline.com/GeneralInfo.aspx?id=73>.

Booklist webinars are useful and packed with great information. Try one today!

Win-a-Literary Artist Contest



The Dr. Charles Allard Win-a-Literary Artist Contest is an annual contest for Alberta public libraries. Win one of ten half-day presentations by an author, illustrator, poet, playwright or storyteller of your choice during the 28th annual Taleblazers Festival in October. Applications will be accepted between May 1st and June 15th, 2011.

In order to win, a library manager needs to fill out a Win-An-Author form (available online at <www.yabs.ab.ca/Allard-Contest-Entry.asp>). Describe challenges faced in encouraging literacy and promoting Canadian Literature and explain how a Taleblazers presenter will complement your reading program. YABS (Young Alberta Book Society) pays \$250 towards the professional half-day fee charged by the presenter for the winning host. In most cases this award will cover the presenter's full fee. Cost for transportation and accommodation are covered by YABS as part of the Taleblazers Festival.

Library quote for this issue

The library connects us with the insight and knowledge, painfully extracted from Nature, of the greatest minds that ever were, with the best teachers, drawn from the entire planet and from all our history, to instruct us without tiring, and to inspire us to make our own contribution to the collective knowledge of the human species.

- Carl Sagan