



SHORTGRASS CLIPPINGS

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Message from the CEO

This summer issue of Shortgrass Clippings will highlight some of the events keeping Shortgrass Library System staff very busy. We welcomed new staff members, celebrated successes and are saying farewell to other staff.

Most recently, we held the annual joint meeting between Shortgrass Library System trustees, library managers and board chairs of our member libraries. We got together for a traditional Alberta luncheon of beef on a bun.

It was a great opportunity to welcome our newest member library on board. As of May 13th, 2011, Duchess & District Public Library is officially a member of the Shortgrass Library System, making us the first complete library system in the province. Welcome to the staff and board of the Duchess & District Public Library. Shortgrass staff and trustees look forward to working with DDPL and the village council.

In addition, planning for the joint SLS/MHPL Professional Development Day is going well. We have lined up some great speakers and this year we have invited library staff from Medicine Hat College, as well as other library staff from around Medicine Hat to join us. I look forward to sharing a day at this mini-conference with library staff from around the area.

The past few months were busy with various meetings and conferences. This year was the first time I attended the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper and I was impressed by this well-run conference, jam-packed with interesting sessions and plenty of opportunities for networking. Several of the Shortgrass trustees were able to attend and everyone had a great time and gain knowledge about the library world in Alberta.

Shortgrass member libraries will be receiving Kill-A-Watts Energy Meters from Fortis Alberta. These meters will be catalogued like any other library item and patrons can check them out to measure the energy usage of various appliances around their homes. I am looking forward to seeing these meters in the libraries, as they are a great example of libraries being about more than just books.

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, Duchess, 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

RISE Network Awarded Provincial and International Honours

The RISE videoconference network has recently been honoured, both provincially and internationally, for its innovative approach to providing public library services.



From the left: Kathi Herman, Chair of Shortgrass Board; Petra Mauerhoff, CEO of Shortgrass; Lynda Lyster, Chair of Marigold Board; Honourable Hector Goudreau, Minister of Municipal Affairs; Michelle Toombs, Director of Marigold; Maggie Macdonald, CEO of Chinook Arch; Laura Ross-Giroux, Chair of Chinook Arch

On April 29th, 2011, during the Alberta Library Conference at Jasper, the Honourable Hector Goudreau, Minister of Municipal Affairs, presented RISE with the Minister's Award for Innovation in Public Library Service. The award, juried by the staff at the Public Library Services Branch of Municipal Affairs, recognizes those libraries and library systems that deliver innovatively designed programs and services that meet community needs.

During the Alberta Library Conference opening reception, on April 29th and in front of hundreds of librarians and trustees, American Library Association (ALA) President, Roberta Stevens, announced that the RISE Network had been awarded the ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects. It was a proud moment, not only for the RISE Network partners, but also for the staff who provide the videoconference service from their libraries.

Since 2009, residents of Southern Alberta have successfully used the RISE videoconference network for meetings, medical consultations, distance education, as well as personal growth and lifelong learning opportunities; all from their local libraries. The information and programming distributed over the network is provided by a wide range of community partners.

The RISE Network was created and is managed by a partnership between the Chinook Arch, Marigold and Shortgrass Library Systems. Through RISE, 79 public libraries throughout Southern Alberta are connected with videoconferencing equipment. The network links 90 villages, towns, small cities, and counties in a partnership that reaches more than half a million people.

RISE is proud to have received recognition for these innovative practices both provincially and internationally.



Read-alikes for fans of Kathy Reichs

For readers who like strong female protagonists try Tess Gerritsen. Her Jane Rizzoli and Maura Isles mysteries feature a police detective and doctor team. Like Tempe Brennan, Rizzoli and Isles immerse themselves in their work to escape from personal demons and Gerritsen's books rival those of Reichs' for gory details. Start with *The Sinner*. In earlier books Rizzoli stars without Isles.

Robert W. Walker's *Instinct* series is another strong possibility for Tempe Brennan fans. Jessica Coran is an FBI medical examiner. The first book, *Killer Instinct*, is set in Wisconsin, but Walker lets Jessica travel the country in his subsequent titles. Walker emphasizes medical details like Reichs and features strong, recurring characters in the novels.

For fans of Reichs the most obvious read-alike is Patricia Cornwell. Her Kay Scarpetta mysteries feature a strong female scientist (Chief Medical Examiner for the State of Virginia) who often finds her own life in peril and who uses detailed scientific evidence to solve cases. It is imperative to read Cornwell's Scarpetta novels in order, since there are spoilers for earlier books in the later ones. The first in the series is *Postmortem*.

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

TD Summer Reading Club

With promotional materials in hand, Shortgrass libraries are gearing up for the TD Summer Reading Club and the 2011 theme, *Splash! Celebrate Summer*. Children are encouraged to contact their local library to participate in this great summer event.

Andrew Plait as "*Dude, Surfer Dude*" will be visiting each of the Shortgrass member libraries as part of their TD Summer Reading Club programming. See the full schedule of *Dude, Surfer Dude* performances listed below.



Research indicates that "overall, students experience significant learning losses over the summer, most notably in the areas of reading and math."¹ This same research concluded that "summer reading clubs were effective tools for keeping summer learning loss at bay and improving children's reading performance."

The impact of participating in the TD Summer Reading Club isn't just about reading. It can also boost a child's confidence. The same report commented, "In a Canadian study, parents and teachers reported that there were significant educational and recreational benefits and that the summer reading club enhanced children's self-esteem and facilitated positive social interaction."

The TD Summer Reading Club is fun, engaging and beneficial to children. With the addition of e-books and *Tumblebooks* to the Shortgrass collection, this could be the best Summer Reading Club ever!



Dude, Surfer Dude Performance Schedule

Monday, July 4th

10:30 am MHPL

2:00 pm MHPL

Wednesday, July 6th

10:30 am Graham (Ralston)

2:00 pm Alcoma

(at Rainier Hall)

Monday, July 11th

10:30 am Redcliff

2:00 pm Rolling Hills

Tuesday, July 12th

10:30 am Tilley

2:00 pm Redcliff

Thursday, July 14th

10:30 am Rosemary

2:00 pm Bassano

Monday, July 18th

2:00 pm Brooks

Tuesday, July 19th

2:00 pm Foremost

Wednesday, July 20th

2:00 pm Duchess

Thursday, July 21st

2:00 pm Bow Island

Tuesday, July 26th

7:00 pm MHPL

Wednesday, August 17th

2:00 pm Tilley

Thursday, August 18th

7:00 pm MHPL

¹ [Literature Review on the Impact of Summer Reading Clubs](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/009003/f2/009003-06-040-e.pdf)
< www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/009003/f2/009003-06-040-e.pdf >



Don't forget the following dates!

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| Aug 24 | Program & Services Committee Meeting
(Note: 4th Wednesday)
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM |
| Aug 24 | Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting
(Note: 4th Wednesday)
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 3:00 PM |
| Sep 19 | Library Managers' Meeting
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 10:00 AM |
| Sep 21 | SLS Board Meeting
Bow Island Municipal Library - 1:00 PM |
| Oct 3 | Shortgrass Professional Development Day
Medicine Hat Public Library - 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM |
| Oct 28 | Foremost Municipal Library's Annual Pumpkin Festival & Auction of Products and Promises
Foremost Community Hall - 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM |
| Nov 16 | SLS Board Meeting (Elections)
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 1:00 PM |
| Nov 21 | Library Managers' Meeting
Shortgrass Headquarters' Boardroom - 10:00 AM |

Duchess and District Public Library Joins Shortgrass

Duchess and District Public Library (DDPL) made history on May 13th, 2011 when they agreed to become a partner with the Shortgrass Library System (SLS). With DDPL as a member, SLS is the first regional library system in Alberta to have all eligible municipalities as members!

Becoming a member library of SLS means that DDPL patrons now have a larger collection of materials to choose from. DDPL patrons may borrow from any Shortgrass member library, including Brooks and Medicine Hat without paying the non-resident fee. This will save some families up to \$80 per year. Plus, they can have their selections delivered right to DDPL for pickup, without charge. Not only will DDPL patrons have access to all Shortgrass materials, they will be able to borrow from any library in Alberta.



Inside DDPL looking east



Sandra Peers,
DDPL Board Chair

In joining SLS, Sandra Peers the DDPL Board Chair remarked, "Pooling resources makes sense. By entering this partnership, we just increased the collection available to local patrons by about 100 times."

"The expanded services for the library that come from being a part of Shortgrass are great for area residents," adds Wayne Dahl, Duchess Councilor and member of the DDPL Board. "Duchess is a growing community, convenient to Brooks, with several new businesses and a great selection of new lots for those wishing to live here!"

Shannon Vanderloh, the manager of the DDPL stated, "joining Shortgrass means that our Duchess and area members will have access to new services and materials. These include eBooks and online resources like the *Hobbies and Crafts Reference Center* and *Mango* language learning software, which gives our patrons the opportunity to learn over 20 different languages."



Manager of DDPL,
Shannon Vanderloh

Over the summer, DDPL and SLS staff will be working to bring all of the Shortgrass services to DDPL patrons.

Technology will be installed in DDPL to connect patrons to Shortgrass electronic resources. Materials in the DDPL collection will be listed in the Shortgrass catalogue. These are just two of the tasks already underway in order to make this partnership a reality.



Inside DDPL looking west

Kathi Herman, Chair of the Shortgrass Library Board, says, "We are very pleased to be able to welcome Duchess and District residents, and DDPL Board

in our partnership. Libraries are all the same size when connected. It is an important day because with DDPL joining SLS, our region is now complete."

Library quote for this issue

Libraries like all other institutions must grow and adapt to changing requirements and conditions. The rate of change in the world today and in our knowledge of it is incredibly fast. We cannot afford to let our libraries slip behind.

- John F. Kennedy

New Shortgrass Manager, Library Technology Services

Anton Chuppin joined Shortgrass on May 16th, 2011 as Manager, Library Technology Services.



Anton Chuppin

Anton brings a wealth of experience to this position, including working as the Resource Sharing and New Technologies Librarian for the Nova Scotia Provincial Library in Halifax. He assisted eight public library regions with maintenance and customization of a shared ILS. Further, he provided research support on information technology trends and managed all new technologies-based projects.

Most recently, he was the System and Emerging Technologies Librarian for the Knowledge and Research Program at the Canada Revenue Agency.

Anton's work experience also includes the National Center for Supercomputing Applications and the Digital Imaging Initiative at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as well as at the Cataloguing Department of the Russian State Library.

Anton earned his Masters degree from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.