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Shortgrass Clippings

Message from the CEO

Spring is here, and with it comes a whole new look for our Shortgrass Clippings. We were lucky to snag a Public Services Librarian Intern for about 10 days in March and she beautifully re-designed this newsletter for us. We hope you like the new look and I encourage you to submit news items and articles about what's been happening at your library for the June 2012 issue.



Winter has been a very busy time here at Shortgrass Library System. Staff met with our partners from both the MHS 76 and PRSD school libraries and we are pleased to see how well these partnerships are working out for everyone. We met with our member library managers in January and will be seeing them again for a meeting in March. In February, Brooks Public Library welcomed new Chief Librarian Sarah McCormack and we were pleased to provide her with an "orientation" about our Shortgrass services at our office. Look for Sarah's introductory profile on page 3 of this newsletter to learn more about her.

Shortgrass is also continuing to foster the great partnership we have with the Medicine Hat College Library. Keith Walker, Director of College Library Services and I meet regularly and are working on some projects that would bring further collaboration between the public, school and college library services in southeastern Alberta. Stay tuned for more over the next few months.

Alberta Municipal Affairs, through Public Library Services Branch, recently released information about 2012 funding for public library services which included increases in operating grants for municipal library boards and funding for library system boards. You can find more information at: <http://albertalibraries.ca/funding/>. We continue to be very grateful to the Department of Municipal Affairs for being great supporters of public libraries in our province.

I hope you enjoy the new look of our newsletter (as well as the content of course).

Petra Mauerhoff, CEO
Shortgrass Library System

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DON'T MISS:

- Looking for some read-alikes? Check out page 4 to see how you can use Novelist Recommendations from the Bibliocommons catalogue!
- Is your library using Twitter or Facebook? See page 6 for details and tell us about it!



CHARTER BUS TO ALBERTA LIBRARY CONFERENCE FROM SOUTHERN ALBERTA

From the Alberta Library Conference website: www.albertalibraryconference.com
The most fun way to get to the conference is on the charter bus run by the Shortgrass Library System. Imagine a bus full of library people, with snacks and general conviviality. You don't need to be worried about unreliable weather or the stress of driving. The bus leaves from Medicine Hat and has pickup points in Calgary, Canmore and Banff and at arranged points along the Trans Canada Highway. The \$250 or \$175 cost includes the return journey as well as park fees and light refreshments. For more information and booking instructions see the Shortgrass website at: www.shortgrass.ca/2012_ALC_Charter.htm

The Alberta Library Conference takes place April 26-29, 2012, in Jasper.

"Libraries are places where the imagination begins."

*Heather Barbieri
Author*

ALBERTA LIBRARY TRUSTEE'S ASSOCIATION

The Alberta Library Trustees' Association (ALTA) recently held their board elections and former Shortgrass Board Chairperson Dwight Nagel is now the President-elect. He will be sworn in at the ALTA Annual General Meeting taking place at the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper in late April.

Congratulations Dwight, we wish you the best!



ALBERTA LIBRARY
TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION

ALBERTA PUBLIC LIBRARY ADMINISTRATORS COUNCIL

The Alberta Public Library Administrator's Council (APLAC) is an incorporated not-for-profit group that works to connect the people who manage Alberta's public libraries. Membership privileges include access to two listservs that allow members to discuss the issues, and potential solutions, that they are currently facing. APLAC also holds meetings twice a year which gives members the chance to gather in person, listen to guest speakers and share what's happening in their own libraries. Membership is only \$35/year and is open to any manager of an Alberta public library. The next APLAC meeting will be the Annual General Meeting held on April 19 at the Saddletowne branch of the Calgary Public Library.

For more information, please contact Kathy Conn (Chair) at kathy@yrl.ab.ca, Angela (Membership Coordinator) at akublik@fspl.ca, or visit the APLAC website at www.aplac.ca.

KALEIDOSCOPE CONFERENCE

The Kaleidoscope Conference celebrates the literature written for children and young adults and the ways it is interpreted and presented through media, performance and illustration. If you work with children and young adults then this might be the conference for you!

The Kaleidoscope Children's Literature Conference will take place from November 1-3, 2012 in Calgary and you can register by visiting the website at www.kaleidoscopeconference.ca



Sarah McCormack, Chief Librarian at Brooks Public Library

NEW CHIEF LIBRARIAN AT BROOKS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Sarah McCormack grew up in Sarnia, Ontario and graduated from Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario with an Honours B.A. in History, and a minor in Classical Archaeology. She then went to Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia to complete her MLIS. Graduating in 2009, Sarah decided to make the leap to Western Canada accepting a Maternity Leave position at Medicine Hat Public Library as Acting Head of Children's Services. After that 6-month contract, MHPL was able to create a grant-funded Community Liaison Librarian position. She remained there until being recruited by Regina Public Libraries. She began at RPL as Manager, Public Service Units overseeing 5 library branches May, 2011. When the Brooks Public Library posted their Head Librarian position, she wasn't able to resist and applied immediately. She began working there February 27, 2012 and it has been a whirlwind since. She is very happy to be back with her Shortgrass colleagues and is very excited about the potential of the library and library system.

Some Fun Questions:

Q. If you hadn't become a librarian, what other career would you have chosen?

A. Going into University, I was convinced I was going to be the next Indiana Jones. Then, during the MLIS program, I was sure I would be a medieval archivist.

Q. If you could live in any book which would it be? And why?

A. This is a tough one. I love a wide variety of books, but most of them I wouldn't actually want to live in. Some sort of Harlequin romance? They always end happy!

Q. What three items would you want to have with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

A. My super handy boyfriend Dave, a machete, a tarp.

NEW TO THE PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION

The Shortgrass Library System has two new DVD courses that you can borrow. While these items aren't licensed for public viewing, they would be perfect for staff, board meetings and municipal council workshops.

The Art of Conflict Management: Achieving Solutions for Life, Work, and Beyond **By: Professor Michael Dues**

Conflict is an inescapable fact of life and when handled poorly it can cause a great deal of trouble and stress for all of those involved. This series of 24 lectures (30 minutes per lecture) focuses on the nature of conflict and how best to solve it within personal and work relationships. The course DVDs are also accompanied by a guidebook that provides follow up questions and supplementary readings.

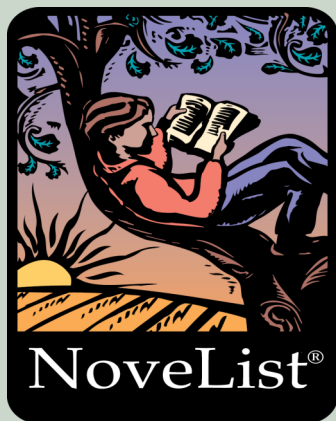
The Art of Critical Decision Making

By: Professor Michael A. Roberto

Poor decision making is often dismissed as a result of incompetence or a lack of intelligence, but the topic is more complicated than that. This series of 24 lectures (30 minutes per lecture) looks at why people make poor decisions, examines case studies of different types of decision making, and finally gives some practical advice on how leaders can make better decisions. The course DVDs are also accompanied by a guidebook that provides follow up questions and supplementary readings.

NOVELIST SELECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Normally we include a section in the newsletter highlighting some read-alikes for a popular author, but did you know that you can now access NoveList Select Recommendations from within the Bibliocommons catalogue? When you bring up the Bibliocommons entry for a book that you or your patrons have enjoyed, you are able to select "Get NoveList Reading Recommendations" from the list of options on the right hand side of the page. Doing so will bring up a list of books with similar themes and plot elements, as well as a list of similar authors. Perhaps the best part of this new feature is that when you click on the link for one of the recommended titles or authors, it will bring up relevant entries from the Bibliocommons catalogue. Discovering new titles and authors has never been easier!



REDCLIFF PUBLIC LIBRARY

Recently the Redcliff Public Library entered the Big Valley Jamboree and Travel Alberta's *Small Town Saturday Night* contest. The grand prize, which would have benefitted the library, was a fundraising concert in Redcliff starring Dean Brody, Aaron Lines, Duane Steele and more. In order to enter the contest, the library had to submit a two-minute video that showcased their town. Organizers wanted to include as many community members as possible, and thanks to a lot of hard work and promotion over 100 people showed up to be in the last shot of the video. While Redcliff wasn't chosen to make it into the voting round, it was still a great opportunity to draw the community together and celebrate what they loved about their town.



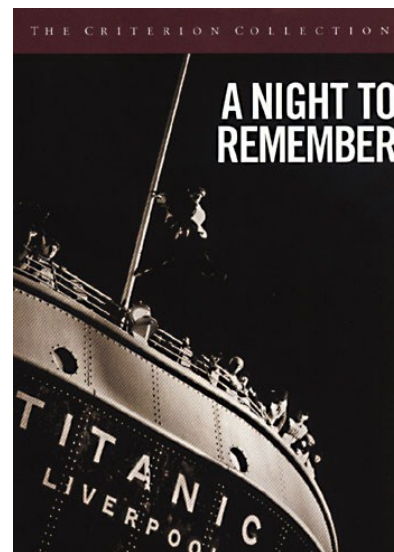
Participants in Redcliff Public Library's Small Town Saturday Night Contest Video Submission.

MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Medicine Hat Public Library has been unofficially notified that it will be the recipient of a \$50,000 grant from the Enabling Accessibility grant program to assist in adding an accessible washroom to the lower floor of the library. Be on the lookout for an official announcement by MP LaVar Payne. Congratulations and we look forward to hearing more about it!

In other MHPL news, the airport paperback rack at the Medicine Hat Airport has continued to see a great deal of use. Between 2010 and 2011, over 2,000 books were placed there, a number of books were added by people passing through the airport, and almost \$200 was donated. All of these books, mostly donations, would otherwise be discarded or set aside for the Friends of the Library book sale and then discarded if unused.

Programming wise, Tic-Tac will be hosting a Harry Potter Night on Friday, April 13th for interested teens from 7:00-9:30 pm. For those more interested in historical events, the library will be holding a Titanic Night on Saturday, April 14th at 7:00 pm. The 100th anniversary of the Titanic's sinking will be commemorated by a showing of *A Night to Remember* (1958) in the library's theatre.



DUCHESS & DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Throughout the month of April, the Duchess & District Public Library will be offering an art display from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibition Program called "Along the River Road". This always proves to be a very popular event and library staff invite the public to stop in and enjoy the wonderful works of art! Duchess & District are also starting to plan for their annual "Family Fun Night". This is also the kick off for the summer reading program and is tentatively scheduled for July 6, 2012. It is an evening for the whole family with games, races, prizes, and face painting followed by popcorn and an outdoor movie on a very large screen.

To find out more information about what's happening at Duchess & District, and to confirm dates and times, please call (403) 378-4369 or visit www.duchesspubliclibrary.ca



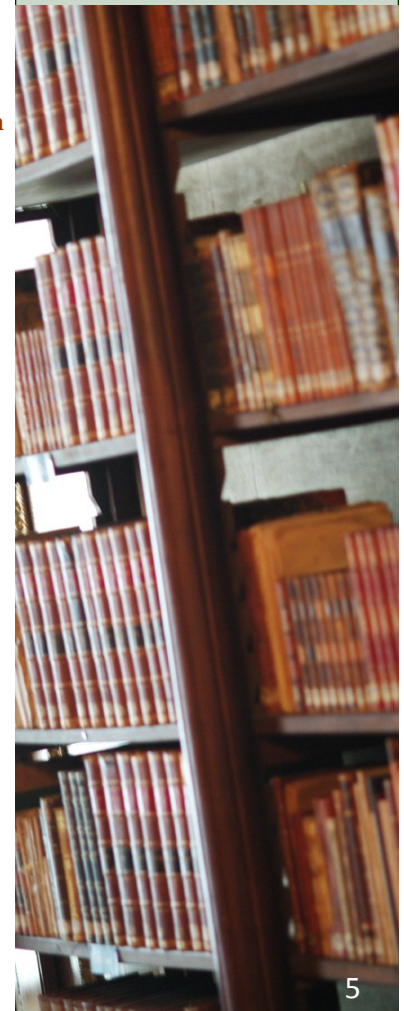
From the
Along the River Road
Exhibit
Katherine Braid
Buffalo, 2007-2008
Crayon and acrylic wash on
Masonite
Courtesy of the artist

BOOK REPAIR VIDEO CONFERENCE SERIES

Throughout the months of April and May, Medicine Hat Public Library will be offering a series of 6 video conference sessions on the topic of book repair. The first two sessions, Introduction Part 1 and 2, will run on April 5th and 12th from 9:00 am—10:00 am. The remaining four sessions, Intermediate 1-4 will run on April 19th, 26th, May 3rd and 10th from 9:00 am—10:00 am. These sessions are free for anyone interested in attending, no pre-registration is required, and it you can attend as many of them as you like. All of the sessions will be in the Legion Room at the Medicine Hat Public Library and because they are being held before the library opens, participants are asked to ring the doorbell by the staff entrance near First Street. For more information you can call 403-502-8525.

*"We all love to hear
a good story. We
save our stories in
books. We save our
books in libraries.
Libraries are the
storehouses full of
all those stories
and secrets."*

Kathy Bates, Actor





SOCIAL MEDIA SIGHTINGS

Does your library have a blog? Maybe you use Twitter or Facebook to keep your patrons up to date on what's happening in the library? Let us know how you're using social media to promote your library or reach your patrons and we can share your stories in upcoming editions of *Shortgrass Clippings*. Don't be afraid to tell us what has, and hasn't, worked for your library and you just might inspire someone else to do the same!

To submit stories for *Shortgrass Clippings*, email them to: petra@shortgrass.ca



USE SKYPE WITH RISE VIDEO CONFERENCING

Library patrons can now connect to the RISE video conferencing equipment via Skype! Skype, the program you may already be using at home to connect your kids with grandma or to stay in touch with your loved one overseas, can now be used to connect to any video conference going on at your local library.

For example, organizations wishing to conduct job interviews with candidates outside their immediate vicinity can use their video conferencing equipment to connect with the candidate's Skype account. Conducting a board meeting in a location with video conferencing abilities and one of your board members is stuck at home and can't make it? No problem. They can connect to your meeting via Skype from their home computer and certain mobile devices.

Library programming delivered on the RISE equipment via video conference can now add in one Skype user at a time to participate in the video conference.

To find out more about this exciting new service please contact your local public library or rise@shortgrass.ca.

Are you following us on Twitter?

Check out www.twitter.com/shortgrassnews to see library updates, news, funny stories, and even crafts that we find interesting!



HIRING LIBRARIANS: THE BLOG

www.hiringlibrarians.wordpress.com

Anyone who has ever looked for a job knows that it can be difficult to know what is being asked of you in the hiring process. It can also be hard to be the manager or on a hiring committee looking for anyway? A recent MLIS graduate, Emily Weak, decided to start a blog that would "allow people who make hiring decisions to explain their enigmatic thinking" because "we need more opportunities where people on both sides of the hiring process can communicate without fear or pressure." In order to do this she created a survey, which may be completed anonymously, to be filled out by those who hire information professionals.

The site is worth taking a look at to see the ways that others go about the hiring process, and on **May 14th** it will feature an interview with Petra Mauerhoff, CEO of the Shortgrass Library System.

SUMMER READING CLUB: *IMAGINE!*

The theme for this year's TD Summer Reading Club is *Imagine*. Participants will be encouraged to dream big and to explore different worlds and will be introduced to different types of fantasy literature, including classic myths, epic quests, and even steampunk. Along the way, kids will encounter magic, fantastical machines, mythical creatures, animals, time travel, and maybe even a few scary stories too.

The TD Summer Reading Club website should be updated soon to reflect the new theme, so be sure to keep an eye on www.td-club-td.ca. Promotional materials and prizes are being coordinated by Shortgrass and there are also plans to have a live performer visit the libraries in the system as an added feature.

If you have any questions about the TD Summer Reading Club, you can call Dyan at Shortgrass at 403-529-0550

Pinterest

One of the newer, most popular, websites being used today is Pinterest (www.pinterest.com). Acting as a virtual bulletin board, Pinterest allows its users to "pin" photos of items they find interesting like recipes, outfits, crafts, books, and photos. Each photo is then linked to an original post elsewhere on the web that gives the details on how to achieve what was in the photo. Depending on how heavily they use the site, users can use one board and just pin everything in one spot, or they can use different boards for different topics as a way to keep things more organized. Users can also follow others with | similar interests and create a customized feed of the types of things they are seeing.

While many Pinterest users are just private individuals, this is one social media site that seems to be gathering more steam with libraries as well. Library staff are using Pinterest to share book covers, literary quotes, photos of libraries around the world, and local items that might interest their patrons. Most of these items could then be tied back to an area of a library's collection which makes Pinterest a useful marketing tool.

Get some tips on how your library can effectively use Pinterest by visiting these links:

Pinterest for Libraries—What We're Doing

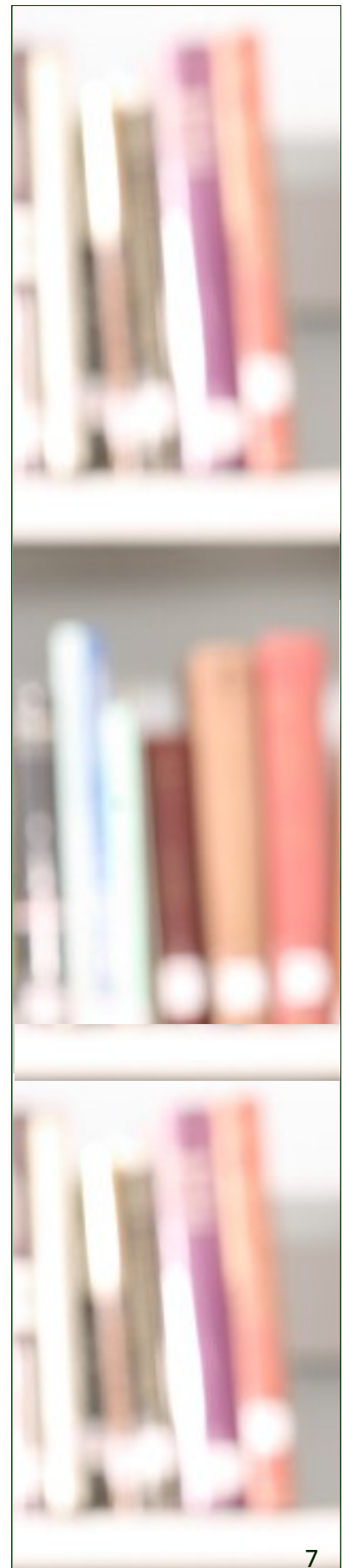
<http://bit.ly/GBjYZr>

20 Ways Libraries are Using Pinterest Right Now

<http://bit.ly/xLHqMQ>

Pinterest: A New Social Media Opportunity for Libraries

<http://bit.ly/yCiT4N>



Dates to Remember

March	26	Shortgrass Library Managers meeting
April	1-30	"Along the River Road" Travelling Art Display at Duchess & District
	5	Book Repair Introduction Pt. 1 (videoconference) at Medicine Hat
	6	Good Friday - Shortgrass office closed, NO DELIVERIES
	9	Easter Monday - Shortgrass office closed, NO DELIVERIES
	10	Deliveries resume, make-up deliveries from Monday, April 9th made today
	12	Book Repair Introduction Pt. 2 (videoconference) at Medicine Hat
	14	<i>A Night to Remember</i> 100 th Anniversary of Titanic at Medicine Hat
	18	SLS Board meeting (includes auditor's review for 2011 fiscal year)
	19	APLAC (Alberta Public Library Administrator's Council) meeting
	19	Intermediate Book Repair Pt. 1 (videoconference) at Medicine Hat
	20	Alberta Library Board of Directors meeting, Calgary
	20-21	Bow Island/Burdett & District Chamber of Commerce Trade Show
	20-22	Brooks & District Chamber of Commerce Spring Tradeshow
	26	Shortgrass Bus leaves for the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper
	26	Intermediate Book Repair Pt. 2 (videoconference) at Medicine Hat
	27-28	Alberta Library Conference, Jasper Park Lodge
	29	Shortgrass bus returns from Jasper
May	3	Intermediate Book Repair Pt. 3 (videoconference) at Medicine Hat
	9	Marigold Library System Member Libraries Workshop, Strathmore
	10	Intermediate Book Repair Pt. 4 (videoconference) at Medicine Hat
	14	Shortgrass Library Managers meeting
	16	SLS Board Committee meetings
	21	Victoria Day - Shortgrass office closed, NO DELIVERIES
	22	Deliveries resume, make-up deliveries from Monday, May 21st made today
June	7-9	Alberta's Regional Library Systems Booth at the Vitalize 2012 Provincial Voluntary Sector Conference



SHORTGRASS LIBRARY SYSTEM

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 & District, 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.