

SHORTGRASS CLIPPINGS

2375—10TH AVENUE S.W. MEDICINE HAT, AB T1A 8G2
P: 403.529.0550 F: 403.528.2473 E: info@shortgrass.ca
W: www.shortgrass.ca VOL. XII, ISSUE 2 — APRIL/MAY/JUNE '12

Spring has Sprung!

A MESSAGE FROM PETRA MAUERHOFF
CEO SHORTGRASS

Spring is traditionally the busiest time at Shortgrass and this year has been no exception. We had another successful trip to Jasper and the Alberta Library Conference (ALC). We travelled on a full "Shortgrass bus" this year. We reconnected with Alberta library colleagues and learned about new research and programs from across the province. The biggest buzz at the ALC was related to the possible movement of the Public Library Services Branch portfolio. A flurry of advocacy activity immediately followed the ALC to let elected officials know how much we appreciate Municipal Affairs, our current department. It

appears our efforts have paid off, as Public Libraries remain within the Department of Municipal Affairs.

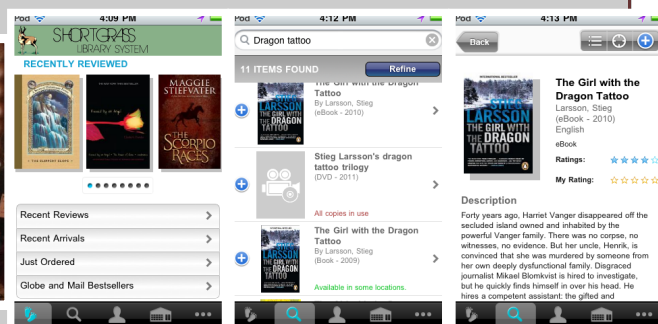
During the ALC, regional library system directors and board chairs met with Paul Whittaker, the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs. The open conversation was much appreciated and gave us a chance to reiterate our appreciation for the Department.

Most of June was spent preparing for the joint meeting between the Shortgrass Board of Trustees, Staff, and the Member Library Managers and Board Chairs. We look forward to this event because it of the opportunity to meet our colleagues socially,

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SLS BOARD CHAIR KATHI HERMAN SPEAKS WITH DEPUTY MINISTER PAUL WHITTAKER.



SCREENSHOTS FROM SHORTGRASS' MOBILE APPS.

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MESSAGE FROM CEO cont.

hear the news from our partner libraries, and address any concerns that might come up.

We are excited to have found an Intern Librarian. This position is shared between Shortgrass, Medicine Hat Public Library, and the Medicine Hat College Library. Kris Samraj started with us only a week ago, but has already hit the ground running. We're excited about this new shared internship program!

This June is especially exciting because Shortgrass recently became a chapter of the Adopt-a-Library-Literacy Program. RCMP Constable John Kennedy began this innovative program that prevents criminal behaviour through a sustained focus on literacy for youth.

Wishing you all a great summer filled with vacations and outdoor adventures.

PETRA MAUERHOFF
SHORTGRASS CEO

SLS 'LIBRARY INVENTORY KIT'

LEVI MILLINGTON

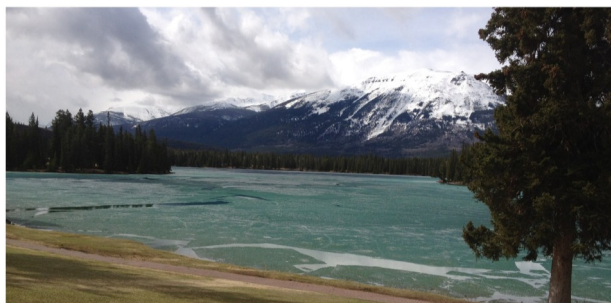
The Library Inventory Kit gives Shortgrass member libraries an easy way to perform an inventory count of their collection(s). The kit consists of



one laptop, one wireless router, one barcode scanner, and easy-to-follow setup instructions. The inventory kit is easily scalable, with the ability to add more laptops and barcode scanners if required.

The laptop and wireless router are preconfigured to connect wirelessly when turned on. This gives library staff the freedom to scan each item while it is on the shelf, instead of lugging inventory items to the nearest workstation to be scanned.

The inventory kit is owned, maintained, and supported by the Shortgrass Library System.





Adopt-A-Library



RCMP CONSTABLE JOHN KENNEDY



Shortgrass is excited to join the Adopt-A-Library program and recently became a chapter of this nationwide literacy program. Adopt-A-Library began with RCMP Constable John Kennedy. Seeing troubled youth regularly, he noticed that most of them had difficulty reading. He began to connect the dots between literacy and helping children avoid criminal behavior.

Children in high-risk communities who take part in pre-school literacy programs have about half the arrest rates as adults and youth who did not have access to the same programs. Those who don't read regularly have lower comprehension ability, which can lead to a progressive downward spiral toward crime.

Adopt-A-Library is a proactive approach to combating criminal behaviour be-

cause it looks at the root causes of the problem. The program succeeds because it sustains a focus on literacy as the children grow up.

Adopt-A-Library's mission is to encourage community partners to prevent criminal behavior through the promotion of literacy among young people via libraries and schools. In other words, we are "fighting crime, one book at a time."

It seems so simple, almost too simple. Yet the facts are undeniable. Adopt-A-Library acts as an umbrella, a stepping stone by providing resources, but the rest is decided by the individual communities. Every community is different and will need different strategies. Adopt-A-Library works with different community groups strengthening relationships and helping kids.

ADOPT-A-LIBRARY'S MISSION

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NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR OLD NEWSPAPERS

SHEILA DRUMMOND

“I am glad about the new digital scanner for MHPL! It does help a great deal for finding information. It is FANTASTIC!!!!”



MHPL'S SCANPRO 2000 MICROFILM SCANNER

So said one satisfied library user after staff used our new ScanPro 2000 microfilm scanner to locate and scan many obituaries in support of her genealogical research.

Prior to our purchase of this state-of-the-art equipment, staff and patrons made daily use of two microfilm scanners for which parts and compatible printers were no longer available. Following research into the new scanner, MHPL applied for and received generous donations from the Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta, the Friends of the Medicine Hat Public Library, and the Medicine Hat Genealogical Society. The Medicine Hat News supports public access to the entire run of its newspaper by providing us with the News on microfilm, from its beginnings in 1885 to the present. Pa-

trons can also order microfilm through interlibrary loan to support their genealogical research.

So what's the difference between our old scanners purchased in the 90's and the ScanPro 2000? The latter is much more compact. Its software is a Windows application that is easy to learn and use. High resolution scans at a variety of magnifications are accomplished in – no exaggeration – one second. It's now possible to easily and effectively improve difficult-to-view articles and photos, and to scan and print entire pages of the newspaper. Looking for a fun way to commemorate a special birthday or anniversary? Patrons are enjoying being able to print entire pages of the newspaper on tabloid-size paper. Images can also be saved as PDF files and attached to emails.



THE C.O.W. BUS! (CLASSROOM ON WHEELS) BRINGS FAMILY LITERACY SUPPORT AND AWARENESS TO RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES IN ALBERTA.



SHORTGRASS LIBRARY APPS

The mobile suite for the Shortgrass online catalogue includes mobile applications for iPhone and Android-based smart phones. The apps have full support of online catalogue functionality (searching for items, placing holds, renewing borrowed materials, etc.) and some geospatial features (such as the SLS library closest to your current location, or the driving directions based on the library address). Shortgrass.bibliocommons.com is a general mobile website that supports all tablet computers and smart phones.

SHORTGRASS LIBRARY SYSTEM, together with the MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC LIBRARY & the MHC VERA BRACKEN LIBRARY, are pleased to welcome KRIS SAMRAJ to SOUTHEASTERN ALBERTA.

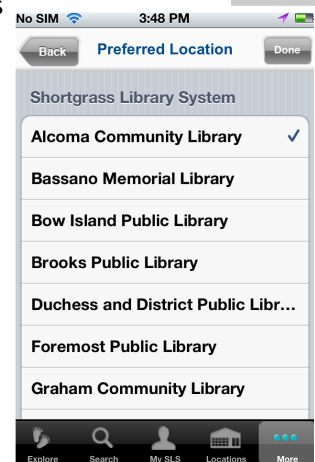
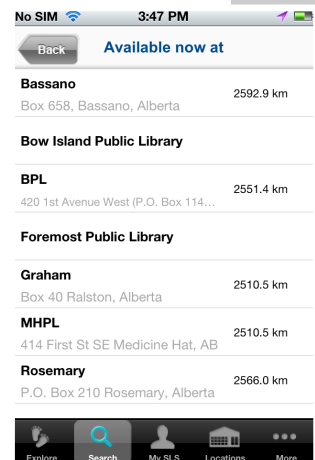
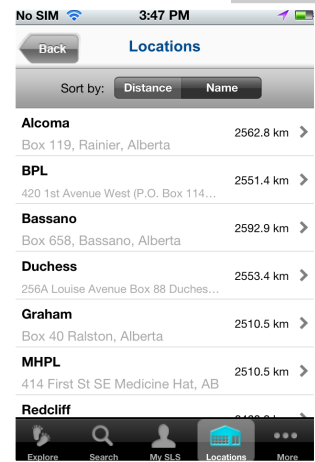
We're trying something new with this internship position. KRIS will move between all three to increase collaboration and shared knowledge between our academic, public and regional libraries.

KRIS recently graduated from the UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA and moved to MEDICINE HAT from rainy VANCOUVER and is enjoying the change of weather in sunny ALBERTA!

INTERN LIBRARIAN
KRIS SAMRAJ



SCREENSHOTS
FROM
SHORTGRASS'
MOBILE
APPS.



INSIDE THE COW BUS WITH KATHI HERMAN (LEFT), ANTON CHUPPIN AND TRACY WEINRAUCH (ABOVE).



MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC LIBRARY IS CALLING ALL BOOK CLUBS!

Trying to decide which book to discuss next? Medicine Hat Public Library has suggestions for you. The library's 'Who Picked *This Book?*' discussion group has just wound up its second year. Meeting monthly on the second Wednesday of the month, September to May, the group has discussed an eclectic collection of books ranging from new and older fiction to non-fiction to classics, often with lively results.

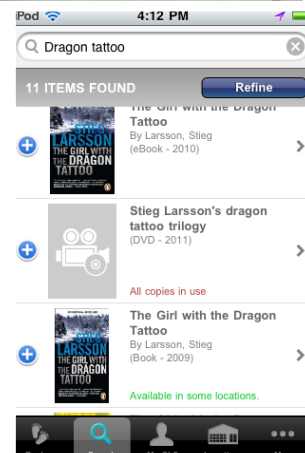
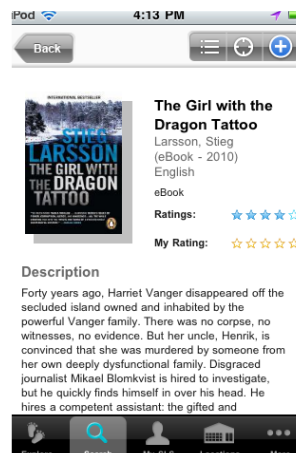
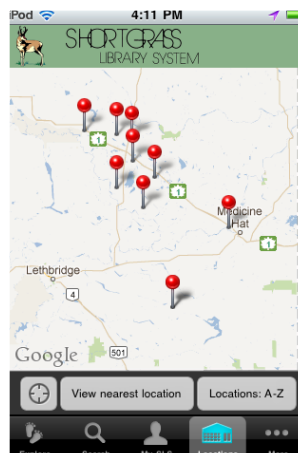
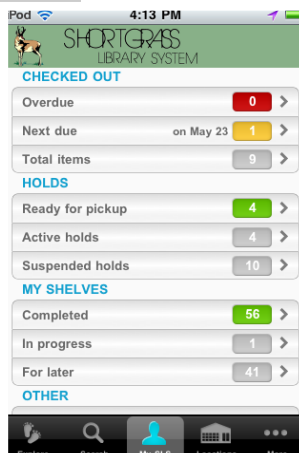
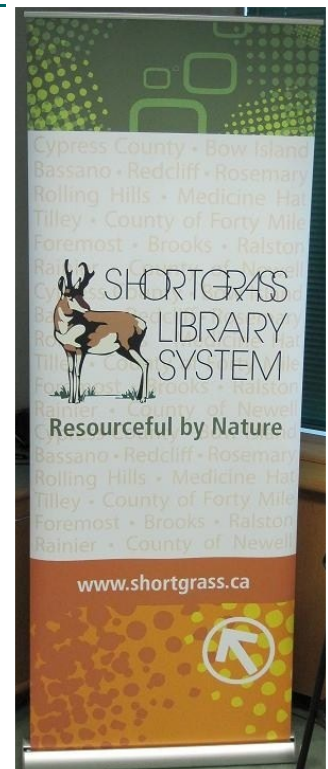
The books discussed have now been assembled into kits for book club groups in the Shortgrass Library System lending area. Each kit includes up to ten books and a reading guide with background information and suggested discussion topics. The kits may be borrowed for a six week loan period and a handy brochure, listing the book titles, is available in each Shortgrass library. The brochure is also available online at www.mhpl.info on the revolving banner of the Medicine Hat Public Library home page. An updated version of the brochure will be available in August.

For more information contact Hilary Munro, Head of Adult Services, MHPL at 403-502-8533 or hilmun@medicinehat.ca or talk to your local Library Manager.

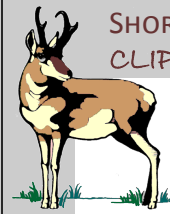


PROMOTION BANNERS!

THESE BANNERS ARE
AVAILABLE FOR MEMBER
LIBRARIES TO BORROW
—FOR SPECIAL EVENTS
OR TRADESHOWS — ANY
TIME YOU NEED A LITTLE
EXTRA SOMETHING.



SCREENSHOTS FROM SHORTGRASS' MOBILE APPS.



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Enter Keywords

Book Title



English



Home

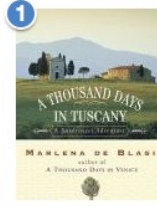
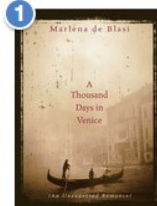
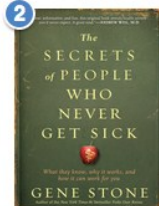
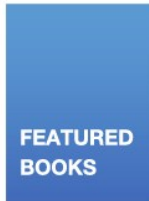
Top Downloads

New Arrivals

Categories

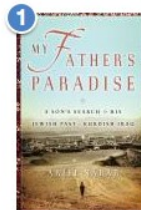
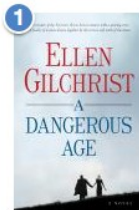
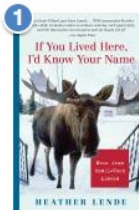
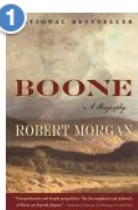
FAQ

Home



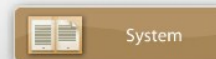
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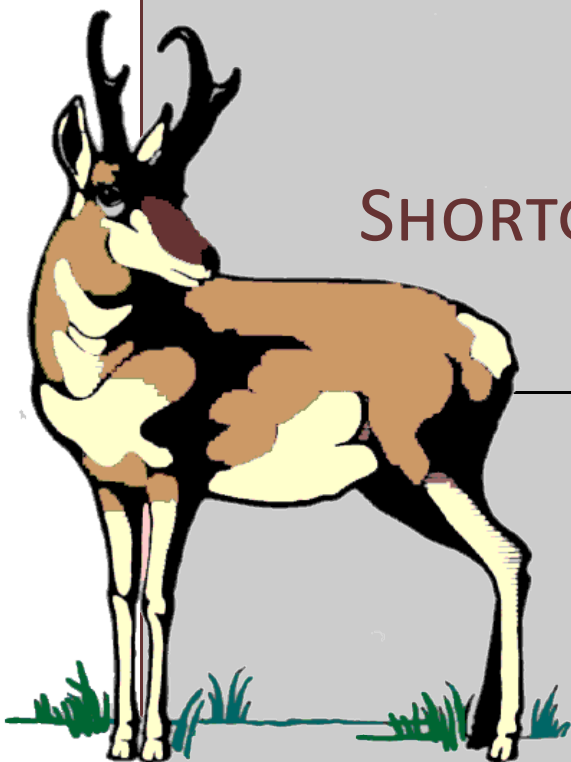


INSIDE THE COW BUS WITH KATHI HERMAN.



FROM LEFT LYNNE THORIMBERT,
ANTON CHUPPIN & BRIGITTE SAKALUK.

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SHORTGRASS.CA MEMBER LIBRARIES

Bassano Memorial Library
Bow Island Municipal Library
Brooks Public Library
Duchess & District Public Library
Foremost Municipal Library
Medicine Hat Public Library
Alcoma Community Library (Rainier)
Graham Community Library (Ralston)
Redcliff Public Library
Rolling Hills Public Library
Rosemary Community Library
Tilley Public Library

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