

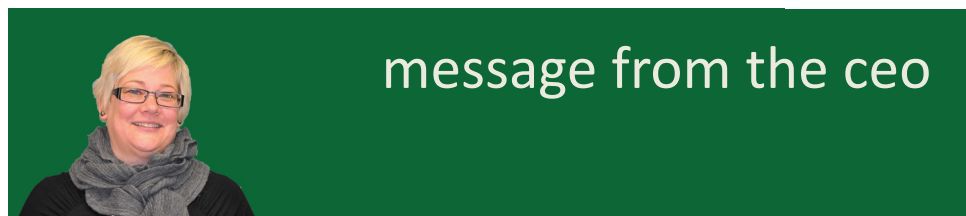


volume xii, issue 4, october, november, december 2012



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news in brief

the mitten tree

Brooks Public and Medicine Hat Public have both set up mitten trees. Inspired by the popular children's story, each tree collects new donated mittens and gloves to give to children in need. What a great way to spread holiday cheer.

medicine hat public book sale

The Society of Friends of the Medicine Hat Public Library held their annual book sale on November 26. Once again, it was a successful fundraiser and popular draw for holiday shoppers. The annual event is held as a part of 'Midnight Madness,' the annual downtown holiday shopping night.

foremost public library pumpkin auction

Foremost's annual fundraiser marked its 25th anniversary. This annual event has a high level of local support and is a great example to other rural communities.

feliciter

The Canadian Library Association's main publication featured a story, by Shelley Ross, Keith Walker & Petra Mauerhoff about Medicine Hat's shared library intern program. The same issue also ran an article by Valerie Westers, from Vera Bracken Library, about the interesting events going on at the Medicine Hat College Libraries including the One Community One Card and the high school reading initiative, Top Hat Teen Reads. Good exposure for our neck of the woods.

THE last quarter of 2012 has passed very quickly. Although passing by in the blink of an eye, October, November and December have marked some important happenings. Most visible of the changes was the launch of the new Shortgrass websites. The new Shortgrass HQ site launched on October 29 with a much needed makeover. The Medicine Hat Public Library followed soon afterward, launching on November 7. The new websites for Graham, Duchess, Brooks, Bow Island, Alcoma, Bassano, Redcliff, Rolling Hills, Rosemary, and Tilley are also live, and Foremost will join them very soon.

In addition to the overhaul of our overall online presence, there have been smaller changes we hope will have a positive impact on library users' experiences. For example, the electronic resources page was redesigned. The list of databases is now represented with app icons. The new page is visually appealing and easier to navigate than the previous, text-heavy, page.

October was National Library Month and Shortgrass libraries used the extra attention to increase our visibility in our communities. At the tail end of the month, October 30, Shortgrass Library System officially launched One

Community One Card, our new partnership with Medicine Hat College. One Community One Card allows Shortgrass library users and Medicine Hat College staff and students to use their library cards interchangeably at the Medicine Hat College Libraries and the 12 Shortgrass Libraries. This new service has received extensive coverage from the local press and further eliminates barriers to library use.

With the end of the year approaching it's natural to look back and reflect. All of us throughout the system have worked hard to serve our communities. We at Shortgrass HQ would like to hear from you about our service to you. Early in the upcoming new year we will be distributing our annual satisfaction survey. Gathering feedback is an important mechanism to ensure the staff at Shortgrass Library System Headquarters are serving Shortgrass member libraries effectively. Although feedback flows informally throughout the year, the annual satisfaction survey is distributed to gather feedback formally. Shortgrass HQ respectfully asks Shortgrass library managers to begin considering comments and suggestions to help our system improve processes.

shortgrass library system // w: shortgrass.ca // p: 403.529.0550 // f: 403.528.2473

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

CLOUD BURST

google: DOCS

YOU'VE heard of "the cloud", but what is it, exactly? It's nothing to shy away from. In fact, cloud services not only make your digital life simpler, but also help protect you from data loss.

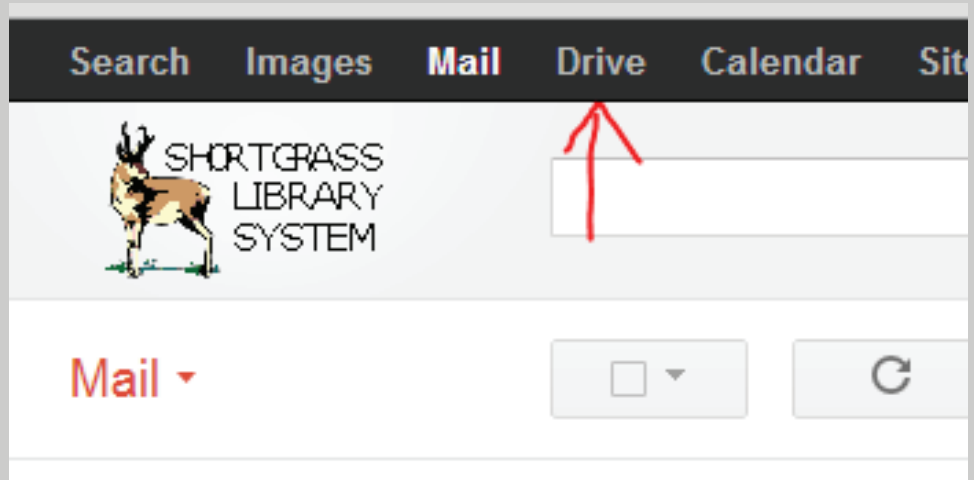
Google Drive is a cloud storage service that is provided for free to every Gmail user. This includes anyone with an "@shortgrass.ca" email address.

Accessing Google Drive is easy. From your Gmail interface, just click

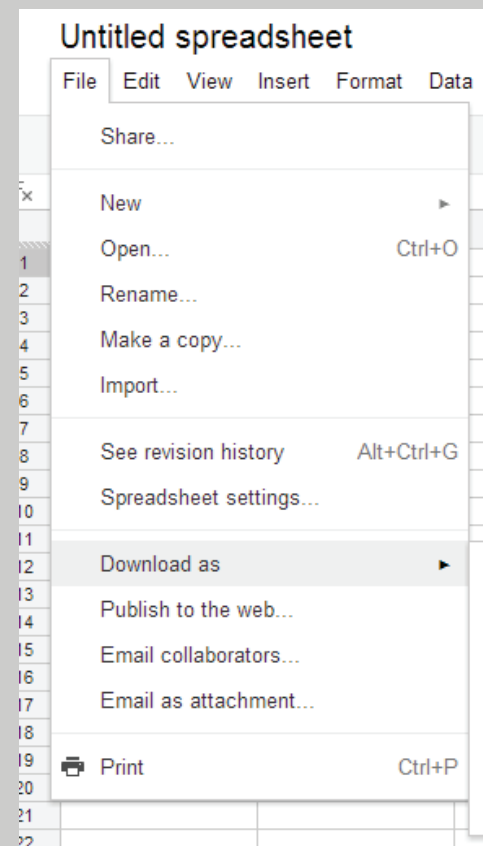
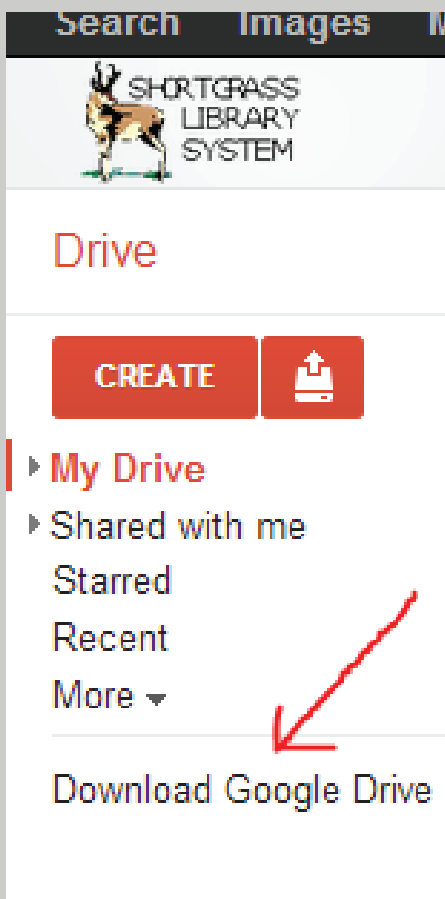
Drive at the top of the screen. This will take you to the web interface for your Google Drive. You can upload and manage your files directly from the web interface. Google Drive also has a handy tool that you can download and install on your computer. By installing Google Drive on your computer, you'll get access to your cloud storage right on your desktop! From the web interface, just click Download Google Drive on the left-side of your screen.

Follow the setup instructions, then sign-in with your email address to get desktop access to your cloud-based files.

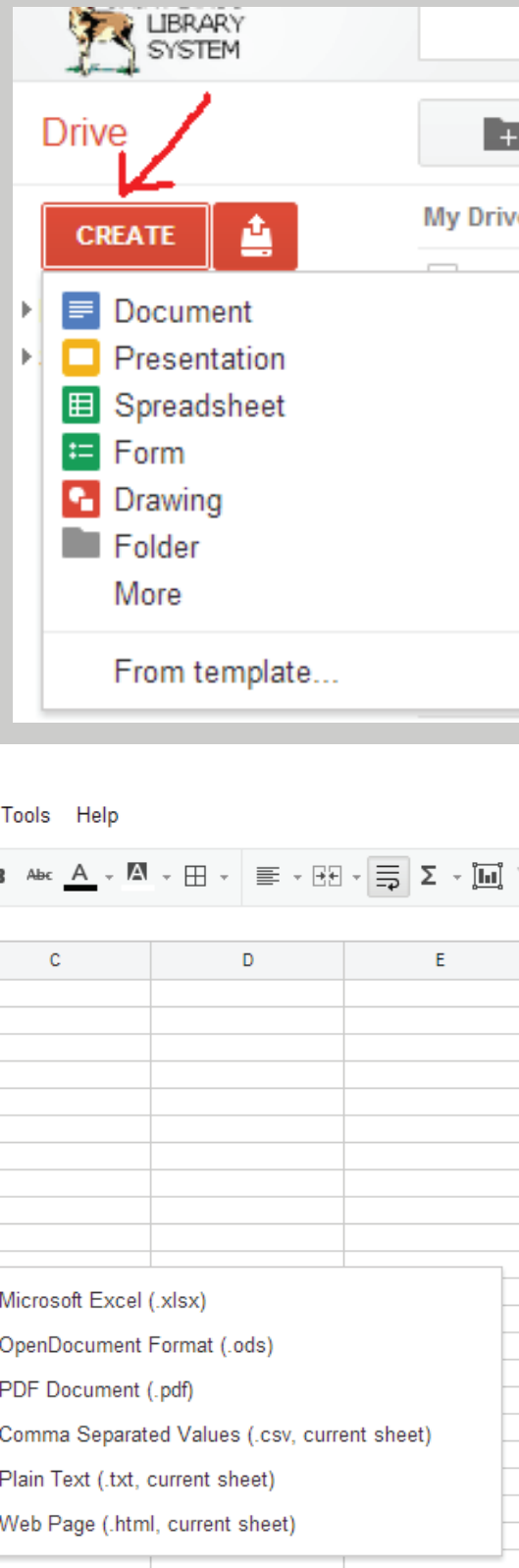
Files saved in your Google Drive are stored safely in the cloud, the same as your email. You can access your Google Drive from any computer, laptop or mobile device. Get used to using Google Drive, and your files will be automatically backed up, and accessible from home, work or on the go. No need for that pesky USB flash drive!



LEVI MILLINGTON,
SLS SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATOR



google: DRIVE



INCLUDED with your Gmail account is Google Docs, a cloud-based suite of document editing tools, right inside your Google Drive. Google Docs allows you to create and edit documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and more. With friendly, familiar interfaces, Google Docs can be a close companion or even a replacement for Microsoft Office.

Google Docs is accessible directly from your Google Drive web interface. Just click the Create button, and choose from the list.

All of the tools you're used to using are available to you just the same in Google Docs. You'll be surprised at how easy it is to use! Anything you create in Google Docs is automatically saved in your Google Drive. Google Docs even makes it easy to convert your Microsoft Office files into Google Docs files, and vice versa. For example, if you create a spreadsheet in Google Docs, you can simply download it as a Microsoft Excel file, PDF, etc.

We encourage you to give Google Docs a try. Even though you may have Microsoft Office available to you, Google Docs is free and accessible from any computer.

By familiarizing yourself with Gmail, Google Drive and Google Docs, you can create an online work space that isn't limited to any one computer or device. Create, edit and share your files from anywhere that you can access the Internet.



book sales, trade shows, crafts, parades and more. all in a year for the bow island library.



2012. The Year in Pictures.



the SHORT GRA



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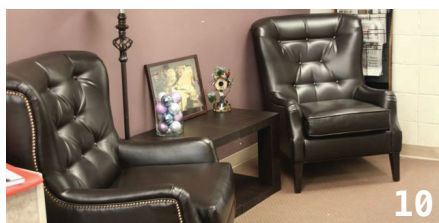
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9

ASS LIBRARY SYSTEM

alcoma library comes to life



Last issue we ran pictures of the new Alcoma Community Library. Now we are pleased to show you those new spaces filled with library users.



OVERDRIVE

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

SHORTGRASS will be buying OverDrive materials on behalf of the member libraries as agreed upon at the last Managers' Meeting. We will be using the money freed from our online database cancellations for this purpose.

At the moment, we have the following OverDrive budget:

- CAD \$ 3261.45 freed from the Hobbies & Crafts cancellation
- CAD \$ 3261.45 freed from the Home Improvement Center cancellation
- CAD \$ 2794.80 freed from the Small Engine Repair Center Cancellation

This adds up to CAD \$ 9317.70 and amounts to approximately CAD \$ 180 per week for a period of one year. At the moment, we do not need any additional funds for the OverDrive purchase. We will make an evaluation of the project at the midpoint in June of 2013. If we are satisfied with it, we will continue until the end of the year and if we are dissatisfied we will re-evaluate our options. We will discuss as a group how this system-wide project is going in June of 2013. If, at that time, the general opinion is that the project is successful and we need to spend more money on it, we will look for additional sources of funding.

This means that the money freed now, from any other cancellations or from APLEN picking up the full price for some of our databases in 2013, will be available for you to spend on your own materials.

We wanted to set a very transparent acquisition policy and decided that the best way to

do it is by using eBook ratings as our only indicator of what to buy.

We will be buying the titles from the top 50 titles of the 'Amazon Kindle top 100 eBooks' list every week. If we can't find enough titles from the top 50 in OverDrive, we will be supplementing them from the OverDrive lists of NY Times and Globe and Mail bestsellers. If we can't spend the full weekly allotment on eBooks, we will buy some audiobooks. We will try to buy non-fiction and fiction titles in equal proportions, but this will depend on the ratings and availability in each category. We will not attempt to balance adult, young adult and children titles at all.

We will buy a second copy of the title if there are more than 8 holds on the first copy, and a third copy if there are more than 8 holds on each of the first two copies.

We will be doing our weekly OverDrive shopping every Thursday.

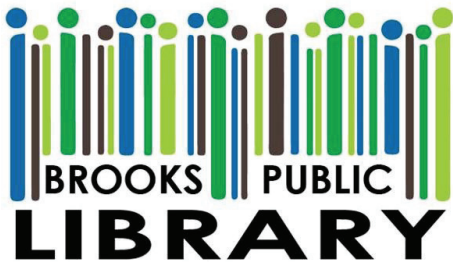
As mentioned before, all this does not mean that you can't buy any OverDrive materials on your own. If you want to buy something on top of the titles we will be buying, feel free to do so.

We will not be buying the OverDrive titles in response to any requests from member libraries.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

ANTON CHUPPIN
manager// technical services

the **new** BROOKS PUBLIC LIBRARY



WHEN Brooks residents entered the Brooks Public Library on October 9, they were greeted by a number of substantial changes to the venerable library. Renovations completed over the previous long weekend transformed the children's section, added a new holds pick-up area, a new logo, and a new classification system.

In perhaps the boldest move, books, DVDs, CDs, and other materials, are no longer classified according to the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC). Materials will be classified henceforth according to BISAC. The Book Industry Standards and Communication subject heading list is made up of 52 major areas, each with sub-topics for more detailed descriptions.

The new classification system brings together books that intuitively belong together, but that DDC would place apart from each other. The Library of Congress Classification (LCC) classifies materials similarly, however BISAC is non-linear, allowing Brooks Public to cross-merchandise. For example, the new children's area is more open and spacious. This strengthens service for a core user group and Brooks can now place materials of interest to parents and caregivers adjacent to the children's section. BISAC gives Brooks Public flexibility in showcasing their collections.

It will be interesting to see how this daring experiment plays out.

Kris Samraj

CONSUMER REPORTS

Petra Mauerhoff, CEO

It's the season to go shopping and many Albertans are planning major purchases around this time of year. Before you go out and spend a lot of money on something that you will have around for many years to come, be sure to do your homework, so you don't end up with a lemon! You might be familiar with the Consumer Reports publication in magazine format, but the same information is now available online, thanks to a database provided through your local public library.

Consumer Reports is an expert, independent non-profit organization that has been testing products since 1936. Their mission is to work for a fair, just and safe marketplace for all consumers, and to empower consumers to protect themselves.

Anyone living in southeast-

ern Alberta can access this valuable resource through their local public library to receive expert buying advice and see ratings on thousands of consumer products. You can log on here: www.consumerreports.shortgrass.ca before your next trip to the mall. Product categories include cars, appliances, health & fitness, home & garden, babies & kids, electronics, food, and more.

With the largest shopping season of the year in full swing, it only makes sense to check the ratings of a product before you head out to make your purchase. Get help distinguishing good products from bad ones and see through the hype created by advertisements, by knowing if you're really getting a good deal.

www.consumerreports.shortgrass.ca



BIG PURCHASE?

Your library can help!

Don't get hung out to dry.

Full access from your home or in your library.

ConsumerReports

www.consumerreports.shortgrass.ca



BIG PURCHASE?

Your library can help!

Don't get stuck with a lemon.

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ConsumerReports



shortgrass reading challenge

1. reading is exercise & playtime for your brain.
 2. we want you to read more.
 3. pick up your logbook at the library.
 4. track your time spent reading.
 5. get smarter, get prizes.
- * open to students up to gr. 6.
* Dec 3, 2012 - Apr 3, 2013.

adopt-a-library update

Shortgrass Library System is pleased to begin the Shortgrass Reading Challenge 2012 - 2013. The reading initiative will be limited to students up to Grade 6 for the first year. Participation is voluntary and each participating library will receive an allotment of prizes from Shortgrass HQ. Ross Glen School will be participating in the WOW Reading Challenge against schools across the country.



disc repair service update

Shortgrass HQ has changed the parameters of the disc repair service. We will no longer be visiting each library with the machine. Rather, every library will be encouraged to send in their damaged DVDs, CDs and Blu-Ray discs to HQ to be repaired.

Shortgrass Library System will still provide this service to the public. Each library has been sent a number of receipts to be completed upon receiving customer discs. The discs should be sent to HQ as well to be repaired. The cost remains the same -- free for member libraries, \$1/disc for library card holders, and \$2/disc for non-library card holders.

2012. Year In Pictures. Captions.

1. Googly eyes at Dutchess Public Library.
2. The Big Book Sale at MHPL.
3. The Mitten Tree at MHPL.
4. The new library rink ad at Tilley.
5. Linda's Storytime at Rolling Hills Public Library.
6. Balloon twisting class and the Summer Reading Program at Brooks Public Library.
7. Johnene Amulung cutting cake at the grand reopening of the Rolling Hills Public Library.
8. Dyan Bryksa surveys the landscaping project at Shortgrass HQ.
9. Halloween at Dutchess Public Library.
10. The new sitting area at Rosemary Community Library.
11. Shortgrass Library Managers. **VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE:** Anita Chappell (Tilley). **BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):** Kathryn Van Dorp (Bow Island), Tracy Weinrauch (Redcliff), Carol Ann Cross-Roen (MHPL), Annette Ziegler (MHPL), Shannon Vanderloh (Dutchess), Shelley Ross (MHPL), Joan Beutler (Foremost), Hilary Munroe (MHPL). **FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):** Stefanie Schranz (Ralston), Shelagh Bailey (Rolling Hills), Bonnie Bennett (Bassano), Petra Mauerhoff (Shortgrass), Vanessa Plett (Rosemary). **NOT PICTURED:** Janice Christensen (Rainier), Susan Andersen (Bow Island), Sarah McCormack (Brooks), Johnene Amulung (Rolling Hills).
12. The scary Halloween staff at MHPL!
13. Tug-of-War! Summer Fun at Dutchess Public Library.
14. Shannon Vanderloh at Dutchess Public Library.
15. Firefighter Storytime at Dutchess Public Library.
16. Photo contest winner for MHPL's Library Snapshot Day.
17. Balloons and kids and running at Dutchess Public Library. Not what you expect at a library!
18. The Shortgrass Van at the Bow Island Parade. Pilot: Phyllis Worrall, Manager Bibliographic Services (former demolition derby driver). Navigator: Susan Andersen, Bow Island.
19. Summer reading program at Rolling Hills Public Library.
20. Children's area at Rolling Hills Public Library.
21. Children watching a RISE event at Rolling Hills Public Library.
22. Local children reading at Rosemary Community Library.
23. Pauline Fitzgerald (MHPL) and John Kozakewich (MHPL) getting in the Halloween spirit!
24. All kinds of kids love to hang out at the library!
25. One for all and all for one! Shelley Ross (MHPL), Keith Walker (Vera Bracken Library), & Petra Mauerhoff (Shortgrass HQ).

did you know
scratched
dvds & cds can
be repaired?



make all
your discs
new again!

bring them into the
library and your discs
will be repolished and
made like new again.



- with a library card: \$1/disc
- without: \$2/disc
- turnaround time: 7-10 business days
- contact your library or click here for more information

"Library's Andrew a hit with kids, gramps"

So ran the headline of Medicine Hat News' letter to the Editor. The author had attended Storytime at MHPL and was impressed with Andrew Plait's performance. Andrew consistently draws rave reviews from children, indicated by the cheers and giggles coming from the children's section during Storytime. Andrew is by no means the only talent on the storytelling team. John, Pauline, Lisa, and Carol Ann comprise the current storytelling team line up.

ONE COMMUNITY ONE CARD

