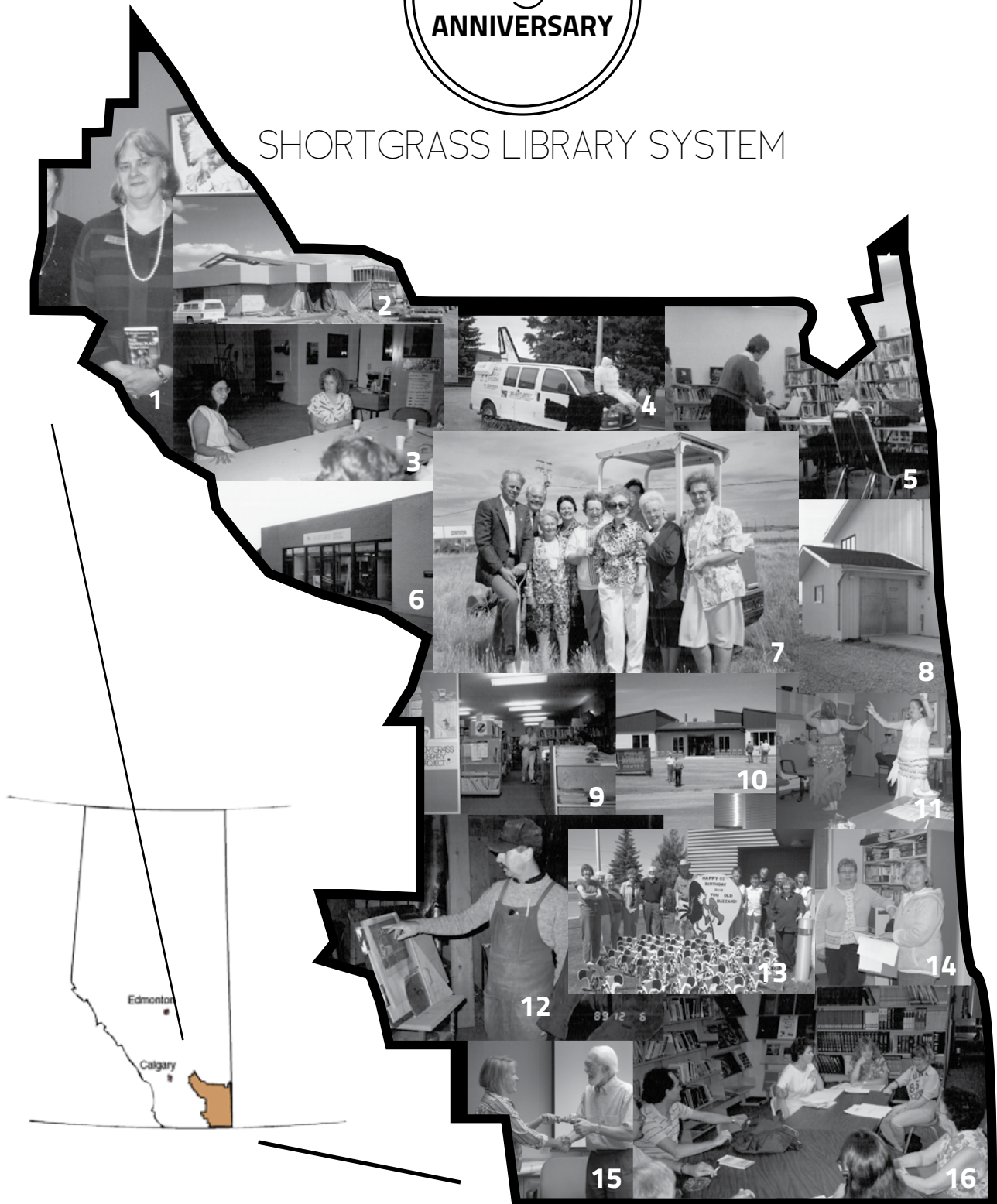






SHORTGRASS LIBRARY SYSTEM



1. Hilary Munro at MHPL in 1998.
2. The present Shortgrass HQ building under construction.
3. Rolling Hills Library Board meeting — June 17, 1986.
4. The SLS Space Shuttle Van!
5. The opening of the Bassano Library.

6. The old Shortgrass HQ.
7. Sod turning for the present SLS HQ.
8. The Duchess Library.
9. Graham Memorial Library — 1986.
10. The opening of the Foremost Library — 1987.
11. Belly dancing at the SLS HQ.

12. Jim Marshall builds the SLS mural.
13. Bob Batchelder's 65th birthday.
14. Eileen Davis and Joanne Davies at SLS HQ.
15. Julia Reinhart and Harold Storlien.
16. Bow Island Library Board Meeting — June 2, 1986.



volume xiii, issue 2, april, may, june 2013



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news in brief

retirement party for hilary munro

Please join us at MHPL to celebrate Hilary Munro's retirement after more than 20 years of service to the Medicine Hat community. The reception will be in the Honor Currie room downstairs at MHPL on June 23 from 2-4 p.m. See page 9 for more on Hilary Munro's 20 years of service.

next shared intern librarian hired

Jordan DeSousa is a recent graduate of Western University's Library and Information Science program where he took many courses in academic librarianship. He has been a volunteer technology tutor at the London Public Library. His other work experience includes tutoring in high schools as well as experience at Lowe's Canada, in construction, and at a provincial park. Jordan's first day is July 1, 2013.

pda through shortgrass' old opac

Anton Chuppin, SLS HQ, created an innovative way to give new life to our former catalog. The old catalog can now be used by Shortgrass customers to suggest titles for purchase to their home libraries. Anton has travelled to the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper, the Customers of SirsiDynix Users Group Conference in Salt Lake City and the Alberta Association of Library Technicians Conference in Canmore to share his work.

pronghorn photo credit: hamilton greenwood
layout & design: kris samraj, intern librarian



Welcome to the anniversary edition of the Shortgrass Clippings! We are celebrating Shortgrass Library System's 25th anniversary this month and have put together a special anniversary edition of this newsletter to celebrate and thank our member municipalities, libraries and partners who make our system successful.

Spring is always one of the busiest seasons at our office, and this spring was no different. Between the preparations for the 25th anniversary celebration, catching up with our partners at various meetings throughout the province, working on annual reports, presenting sessions at several conferences, and finding a new Shared Intern Librarian for 2013/14, the time has flown by.

We are pleased to have two summer students, Megan and Caitlin, working with us this year. They have been instrumental in helping plan for our anniversary celebration and we are all very grateful for their enthusiasm and support! They also designed the vehicle decorations for the parade float representing several communities this summer. The float placed 1st in the non-commercial category at Brooks Rodeo parade on June 8th!

Shortgrass is grateful for a special one-time Resource Sharing and Network Grant we received earlier this spring, made available from the 2012/13 budget by Alberta Municipal Affairs. Shortgrass has always been committed to resource sharing with

key library network partners across the province and this grant will enable us to continue to share effectively.

Since the beginning of 2013, our partners at APLEN have been engaged in a consultation process with various representatives from the public library network to ensure their services are relevant to the public library community in Alberta. As a result of this consultation, APLEN published an e-Content Strategy for 2014-2016 that outlines how their licensing activity will strive to support the following priorities:

1. Early Literacy: Creating Young Readers; 2. Stimulate Imagination: Reading, Viewing, and Listening for Pleasure; 3. Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning; 4. Services for New Immigrants (especially ESL services and resources); 5. Succeed in School: Homework Help; 6. Accessible formats for the print disabled. The Shortgrass staff and board feel that these priorities are in line with the priorities of our system and member libraries and look forward to working with APLEN on creating resources that support making these priorities available to the public.

We are sad to say good-bye to a long-term colleague, Hilary Munro, who will be retiring at the end of June. Read more about Hilary and her plans as she begins a new chapter in her life inside this edition of the newsletter.

I hope you enjoy this special anniversary edition of the Shortgrass Clippings. Wishing you a great summer.

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

- 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)
- Tilley Public Library
- Graham Community Library (Ralston)
- Redcliff Public Library
- Rolling Hills Public Library
- Rosemary Community Library

What was the highlight of the Alberta Library Conference 2013?



Petra Mauerhoff
SLS HQ

For me, the highlight of the conference was doing the presentation about the various collaborations we have between library organizations in SE Alberta. I enjoyed presenting with my partners, Leigh from MHC and Kris, our Intern Librarian.

While we only ended up with a small audience, they were all very interested and it was a relatively informal setting that allowed for questions to be asked and answered easily. This was my first time participating in presentations at ALC and it was a very positive experience.



Della Kirkham
MHPL Board

My highlight was the Ken Roberts session "Facing the Future." It left me thinking a lot about the coming challenges and opportunities! His report commissioned by the BC government should be essential reading for anyone in the public library world.



Mara Nesbitt
SLS Board

The highlight of the Alberta Library Conference for me was the energy from the speakers, board members and attendees. From everyone I spoke to and overheard as they spoke to others it was very evident they are very dedicated to their libraries and are working hard to ensure libraries continue to be an integral part of their communities. Great programs and supports available, along with great suggestions during the sessions. I can't say that any one session was better than the next as they were all excellent. I would recommend this conference and I would like to see more funding supports available to send librarians from the small libraries to this conference. I think they would benefit the most from these sessions.



Tracy Weinrauch
Redcliff

By far my favourite was the motivational speaker on Saturday morning, Yvonne Camus. She has such energy during her talk and her story was amazing. However, the best part was when she said she felt like giving up and quitting the race. Her teammate and now husband, said that was fine, she could give up, but let's just make it to the next goal and then you can be done. Needless to say, she made it to the next checkpoint and never did give up. I think that is so valuable in everyone's life. Don't always look at how far you have to go to the big one, just make it to the next smaller one you've set for yourself. Eventually all those small ones get you where you're supposed to be.



Sheila Drummond
MHPL

Not one highlight but several highlights: the drive through the Icefields Parkway; author talks by Lev Grossman and Todd Babiak, and Yvonne Camus on her successful Eco-Challenge.



Leigh Cunningham
MHC Library

My favorite thing about ALC was presenting with my colleagues.



Andrea Meerstra
MHPL

The highlight of the ALC for me was presenting about our tween programming. I loved being able to both share our ideas and receive some insight from other library workers.



Anton Chuppin
SLS HQ

For me, the highlight was the opportunity to meet and talk shop with people from other regions and libraries who I usually don't meet anywhere else during the year.

Did you know?

SHORTGRASS LIBRARY SYSTEM IS THE SMALLEST REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM IN ALBERTA WITH ONLY 12 LIBRARIES. HOWEVER, SHORTGRASS MEMBER LIBRARY STAFF PRESENTED FIVE SESSIONS AT ALC 2013 — PUNCHING FAR ABOVE OUR WEIGHT!

1. *Just Tween-ing Around*
Michelle Ashanti
Camelford & Andrea
Meerstra, MHPL

Medicine Hat Public Library Tween Organizers shared their experiences from their TIC-TAC tween group program. Participants learned of the successes and lessons learnt thus far, tips to help them start their own tween library program, as well, as a few low cost, fun program ideas.

2. *PREZI - Your Virtual Tour (Presentation) Tool*
Lisa Weekes & Michelle
Camelford, MHPL

Michelle Acadia Camelford and Lisa Weekes shared the design and implementation process for their Virtual Tour project using PREZI. Virtual tours provide effective on-line exposure for current audiences and attracting potential users.

3. *Effective Team Transitions*
Sarah McCormack &
Tamara Van Horne, BPL

Over the past year the Brooks Public Library has undergone a considerable transition. Brooks Public staff discussed experiences dealing with key staff transitions, change management, and shared effective strategies for your own workplace.

4. *New Wine into Old Wineskins: Re-purposing OPAC for Patron-Driven Acquisitions*
Anton Chuppin, SLS HQ

The concept of patron-driven acquisitions promises to be of great help in library collection development. Public libraries could benefit from it by establishing a closer collaboration with their patrons on the one hand and with their vendors on the other. In Shortgrass Library System, our old OPAC was used to create an online interface through which our patrons can submit their suggestions for purchase based on the titles in our vendors' catalogues.

5. *Stronger Together - The Power of Three*
Petra Mauerhoff, SLS HQ,
Leigh Cunningham, MHC
Library & Kris Samraj,
Shared Intern

Libraries in Southeastern Alberta have a history of working well together. Over the past year, the library directors of Medicine Hat College, Medicine Hat Public Library and Shortgrass Library System took their relationship to the next level and started partnering on several new initiatives that benefited their communities such as One Community One Card.

CREATE VIRTUAL TOURS OF YOUR LIBRARY WITH PREZI

Lisa Weekes &
Michelle Antoinette Camelford

check out the tour of mhpl we created here:
<http://mhpl.shortgrass.ca/about-us/virtual-tour>

In an environmental scan of public and academic libraries across North America, virtual library tours are rarely present. Those that are available for user introduction and orientation to facilities, collections, programs, and services often involve external project development and production where photography and film crews, scripts, and producers are contracted and coordinated at considerable cost and time to the libraries. The static nature of these finished products can be outdated quickly in terms of content and character style or presentation.

Virtual tours provide effective online exposure to libraries for their audiences and attracting potential new users. With current trends, especially in the case of Canadians, time spent on the Internet is at unprecedented levels. Virtual tours offer new ways to share information with and reach out to the public audience.

A successful project with Medicine Hat Public Library has proven that a virtual tour can be easily produced in-house through the open source presentation program PREZI, at no program or contract expense:

- relatively minimal staff wage time for design and production
- available online at no cost
- effective presentation style and the technology trend today's online consumer expects

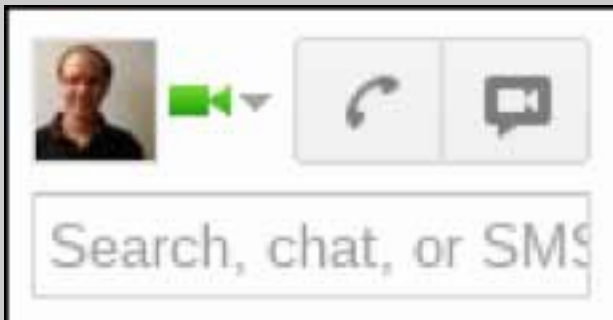
A modern, clean and organic presentation is customizable and easily updateable by library staff. User experience and engagement are key components offering the ability for the public to leave comments. The MHPL Project Team of Michelle Camelford and Lisa Weekes shared with participants the design and implementation process for their project, inspiring participants to design their own library virtual tours using this free web tool. Tips and suggestions on additional uses of PREZI for library programs and events were also provided.

CLOUD BURST

NO PHONE NEEDED: PLACE CALLS FROM GMAIL

Not only can you chat from your Gmail, but your account also allows you to call any local or long-distance, Canadian or U.S. phone number for free. All you need is a computer, Internet access, a microphone, and speakers. Placing a call from your Gmail account takes just three steps:

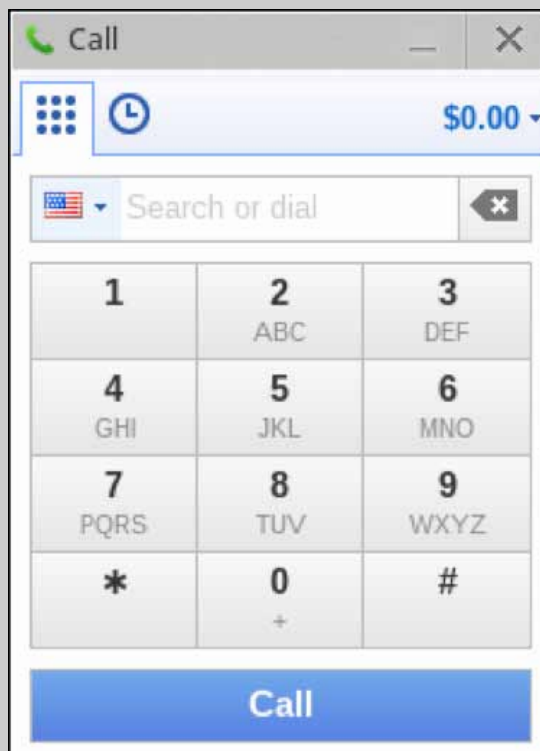
1. Click the "Call Phone" icon in the Chat window displayed in Gmail.



2. Type the 10-digit U.S. or Canadian number to call in the "Search or Dial" box.

3. Click "Call".

Keep in mind that calls you place from Gmail are sent over the internet, and the quality of the call can be affected greatly by the quality of your internet connection. Try it out - you might just save yourself some long-distance charges!



BY LEVI MILLINGTON

GOOGLE APPS LEARNING CENTER

If you're interested in learning more about what you can do with your Gmail account, check out the Google Apps Learning Center - learn.googleapps.com

There are a variety of guides, tutorials, and videos that will help you make the most of your Google account. You can learn more about creating documents and spreadsheets in Google Docs, or learn about managing and sharing files in Google Drive. You may even want to try out the Google Chrome browser, or set up your Google account on your smartphone or tablet. The Google Apps Learning Center is your guide to the Cloud!

Learn by app



Mail



Contacts



Chat



Calendar



Documents



Drive

Change Management

Tamara Van Horne, Brooks Public Library

starting from scratch!

Over the past 24 months, the Brooks Public Library has experienced many changes from staff, to collections, to the library building itself. At the Alberta Library Conference this year, Head Librarian Sarah McCormack and Library Assistant Tamara Van Horne had the opportunity to share these experiences at their session entitled Effective Team Transitions.

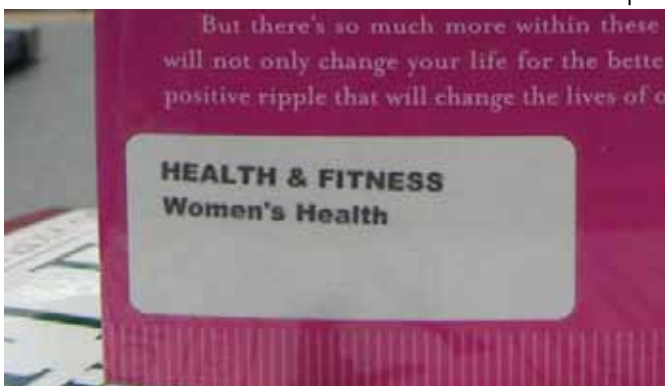
One of the first transition challenges the staff of the Brooks Public Library faced was the departure of their Head Librarian. Staff had become accustomed to a certain routine within the library structure but with the Head Librarian departure, the staff was faced with learning how to share and deal with challenges as a team.

Once the team had come together, the next transition the team encountered was learning how to follow the new Head Librarian's lead. As Sarah explained, it was important for her to set the stage with the team to help transition the work environment into the ideal team driven collective. During this time everyone faced challenges from learning new leadership styles and expectations, to learning that "it's okay to fail, – so long as you learn from it." Through this transition, the team began to grow and to take on new leadership opportunities within the library.

With the team cohesion getting stronger and stronger, the staff at the library was faced with the monumental task of overhauling the library's spaces and collection organization. In October 2013, the Brooks Public Library closed its doors for two weeks while the City of Brooks installed new carpeting. At the same time, the library's children and teen spaces were expanded and staff began the task of changing over the adult non-fiction section from the Dewey classification system to BISAC (Book Industry Standards and Communications).

While all these changes may seem overwhelming, the Brooks Public Library staff came together to support one another and to meet these challenges head on. The result is a library that is now ready to reach further and to meet greater challenges.

BISAC label example



raising the new and improved children's areas



all done and beautiful!



the beginnings of SHORTGRASS LIBRARY SYSTEM

Discussion of a library system in Southeast Alberta began in 1977. Four years later, a meeting of library staff and trustees from the Southeast area was held at the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper in 1981. As a result, an organizational meeting was held a few months later on June 13, 1981 in Redcliff. This group applied for assistance from the Alberta Library Trustees Association and obtained \$5,000 in seed money. Two more meetings were held that year with representatives from Brooks, Bassano and Burdett attending. Three meetings were held in 1982 and representatives came from Duchess as well. At the final meeting of 1982, the name "Shortgrass" was chosen and the boundaries of the area (Area 6) were approved. In 1983, the Committee was restructured. The restructuring provided for increased representation from councils that did not have library boards and also improved communication. Three full committee meetings were held in 1983, with area meetings in Newell County, Forty Mile County and in the Medicine Hat area to discuss service



priorities in addition to several executive meetings. The Committee obtained letters of support from participating library boards and councils representing 89% of the area's population. The Committee then applied for a grant of \$5,000 from Alberta Culture in November 1983.

In 1984, there were three full committee meetings, including a board development workshop, monthly executive meetings, conference calls, and visits to all supporting libraries. Two libraries that had not yet endorsed the system concept were also visited. Surveys were completed on technical services and audiovisual service requirements. Representatives from the Committee visited the system headquarters of Parkland, Chinook and Marigold Library Systems to obtain information on the structure of each of these systems. A logo was approved and the Executive agreed that a proposal for service be prepared and promoted to all boards and ultimately to all councils by early 1986. A communications sub-committee was also named. Support in principle was agreed upon from all the original boards. In March 1988, after many years of work, the Shortgrass Library Project became the fifth regional library system established in Alberta.

I originally came to MHPL when the addition was being built and my predecessor was on temporary sick leave. It was supposed to be for "three to five months max!" That time stretched to 21 years and has encompassed 5 Chief Librarians, 5 Shortgrass Directors, numerous staff coming and going, two circulation systems, the introduction of technology and more. These years have been very fulfilling and rewarding for me in so many ways. I've had the privilege of working with committed and generous staff, diverse people and groups in the community and library field, and my horizons have expanded immeasurably.

HILARY ON HER FIRST DAY.

The first day was a bit of a blur, what with meeting many people, learning the layout of the library, and so on. I worked the 12.30 – 9 shift, and in the evening I introduced myself to another staff member only to be told that we had already met. She was wearing a blue dress in the afternoon, and then went home and changed at her meal break. I've always remembered that as my first day at the library.

HILARY ON HER FAVORITE STAFF MEMORY.

Being part of the Christmas Toy Run from Irvine to the Hat as John's passenger on his motorcycle. I later attempted motorcycle lessons and came to grief but I still am glad to have had the passenger experience.

HILARY ON HER FAVORITE PATRON MEMORY.

We have wonderful library borrowers and it's hard to single any one out. I do remember a member who was in her mid-90s and who was an avid reader. When she went off to the hospital for the last time and was asked her age, she told the paramedics she was 49! I hope I can show as much spunk at that age.

HILARY ON SERVING THE PUBLIC.

MHPL has the best supporters in the world and I feel very fortunate in having had the opportunity to get to know so many of them. Occasionally one of them can be cranky but it's usually because they are having a bad day: we don't take it personally. When I'm out in the community, both for work and pleasure, I often hear about what a wonderful and caring staff we have and how much they are appreciated. We do have the best staff in the world. As our board chair quoted at the last board meeting: "A library's best asset goes home at night: the library staff." This is so true.

HILARY ON HER FUTURE PLANS.

I'm going home to Calgary after 21 years. First plan is a quick road trip to Prince George to visit a cousin, then a longer trip to Iceland, a driving trip to the west coast to visit friends in Sechelt, Texada Island and Vancouver Island. My husband and I are driving east to Quebec in September. So the reality of retirement probably won't really hit me until October!



Hilary Munro



ALCOMA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Alcoma Community Library is located in the Alcoma School in Rainier. It serves the students within the school and the wider local community. Alcoma recently completed an extensive renovation of its interior spaces. Along with new inviting furniture, shelving and lighting the library also acquired new computers. The Alcoma Community Library has been a member of the Shortgrass Library System since 2003.



BASSANO MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Bassano Memorial Library opened its doors on September 20, 1986 in the same location that it still occupies. Over the last few years the library has acquired new shelving, flooring and new outdoor furniture that makes the library all the more appealing. The Bassano Memorial Library has been a member of the Shortgrass Library System since 2003.



BOW ISLAND MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

Bow Island Library was born on January 27, 1975. It occupied a store front in Bow Island until 1979 when the current library was built. Susan Andersen started at Bow Island just a year afterwards in 1980. Bow Island Library is a founding member of Shortgrass Library System. It survived a roof disaster in 1998 when a storm overwhelmed the roof and drained right down the walls. All the drywall had to be replaced, but the books persevered. After 38 years the library has become an integral part of the local community.



GRAHAM COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Graham Community Library opened its doors on May 25, 1954. The library serves the community of Ralston and the military personnel and their families from CFB Suffield. The library moved from the Recreation Centre to its present location in 1997. The Graham Community Library has a beautiful space with an upstairs reading gallery and a great view. Graham Community Library joined the Shortgrass Library System in 2005.



MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Medicine Hat Public Library was established in 1915 and is the largest library in Shortgrass Library System. The library serves the 61,000 residents of Medicine Hat and occupies a large two floor building on the scenic South Saskatchewan river. Renovated in 2008 the library features a 180 seat theatre and dedicated children's and teen libraries. Medicine Hat Public Library was a founding member of Shortgrass Library System.



REDCLIFF PUBLIC LIBRARY

Redcliff Public Library was born on October 14, 1967 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Confederation of Canada. Redcliff was a founding member of Shortgrass Library System. It has occupied its current location on Main Street since 1983 moving just a couple of blocks from its previous location on 115 Broadway NE. RPL is vibrant part of their community providing innovative services like Lego Time and a year round Food-For-Fines program.



BROOKS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Brooks Public Library opened its doors for the first time on March 10, 1951. The library initially had a budget of \$300 and was located in the basement of the County Rest Room and had a collection of 2000 books supplied by Mrs. Bolton, the first librarian. In 1993, the library moved to Evergreen Park after the Brooks Library Foundation raised \$300,000. Brooks Public Library was a founding member of Shortgrass Library System.



DUCHESS & DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Duchess & District Public Library is the newest member of the Shortgrass Library System, joining on May 13, 2011. Duchess originally opened in November 1978 and was initially housed in the Duchess School Library. In 1987 the library was moved into a new joint use building that also houses the local curling rink. Duchess Public Library is proudly a no-fee library.



FOREMOST MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

Foremost Municipal Library originally opened its doors in June 1987 to serve the village of Foremost and the surrounding area in the County of Forty Mile. Every year in October the Foremost library hosts their extremely successful fundraiser, the Pumpkin Festival and Auction. The event brings the whole town out with activities for children and adults. The festival raises important funds for the library and is a great example to other libraries. Foremost was one of the founding members of Shortgrass Library System.



ROLLING HILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Rolling Hills Public Library is a full service member of the Shortgrass Library System. Located in the Rolling Hills School, the library has a beautiful space that houses all types of materials for the local community. The library is set up with colourful child-friendly furniture arranged to allow children easy access to materials. Rolling Hills joined Shortgrass in 2003.



ROSEMARY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

In 1957, the Alberta Library Board approved the establishment of the Rosemary Community Library. Rosemary joined the Shortgrass Library System in 2004. The library is located at the main northeast entrance to the Rosemary School and serves its students along with the 421 residents of Rosemary. As of this date the Rosemary Public Library remains a quiet lovely library with little to no dramatic events.



TILLEY & DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tilley and District Public Library is a comprehensive library located in the basement of the Tilley School. Tilley Public Library joined the Shortgrass Library System in 2005. The library is helped run by a variety of volunteers who are deeply committed to their library and community.



Adopt-A-Library Literacy Program shortgrass reading challenge



Mayor Gordon Reynolds of Bow Island presents Timmy Heide with the grand prize!

DEC. 2 2012 marked the beginning of Shortgrass Library System's first Adopt-A-Library Reading Challenge. This year the challenge was open to students in Grades 1-6. The Ross Glen School competed against other school across the country and internationally. Additionally any Shortgrass patrons attending Grades 1-6 could register at their home library and participate individually. There were two grand prizes up for grabs for the top two most time read – two Nintendo DS' courtesy of ULS. All participants received participation certificates. The mayors of Bow Island and Duchess were on hand to deliver the grand prizes to the two overall winners. As you can see by the smiles this was a great way to encourage reading from a young age. All the participants should be proud of their commitment and dedication in this challenge!

2012-2013 SLS READING CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS

1. Timmy Heide (age 12) Bow Island: 9,053 mins
2. Dillon Mitchell (age 9) Duchess: 7,658 mins
3. Jeffery Heide (age 10) Bow Island: 6,956 mins
4. Andrew Dyck (age 13) Bow Island: 2,398 mins
5. Aaron Bruce (age 7) Bassano: 2,251 mins
6. Isaiah Sehn (age 8) Medicine Hat: 1,770 mins
7. Kayley Cervo (age 6) Bow Island: 1,195 mins
8. Samantha Mitchell (age 7) Duchess: 665 mins
9. Bobbie Sumner (age 8) Graham: 394 mins
10. Darrel Drake (age 8) Graham: 143 mins
11. Holly Johnson (age 8) Graham: 94 mins
12. Emily Sweetland (age 8) Graham: 81 mins



Bow Island participants from top left: Andrew Dyck, Timmy Heide, Jeffery Heide, and Kayley Cervo.



Bow Island Librarian Susan Andersen with Andrew Dyck.



Bow Island Librarian Susan Andersen with Kayley Cervo.



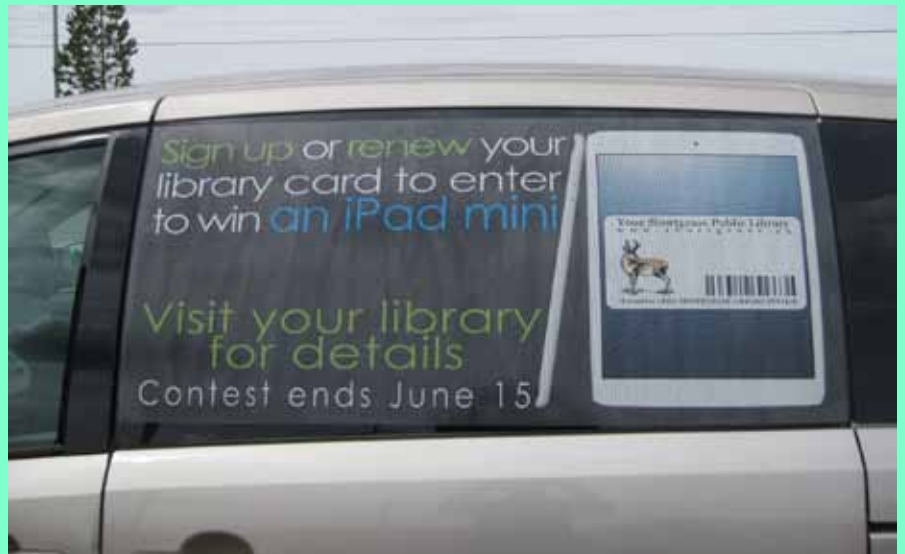
A. Chuppin & S. Andersen congratulate grand prize winner Tim Heide.



A photograph of two children, a boy and a girl, standing in a library. The boy on the left is wearing a blue t-shirt and holding a certificate. The girl on the right is wearing a green dress with a colorful pattern and also holding a certificate. Behind them is a large banner for the "SHORTGRASS LIBRARY SYSTEM" featuring a silhouette of a pronghorn. The banner also includes the text "Presented by National" and "Library of Congress". The background shows bookshelves filled with books.

[illegible]

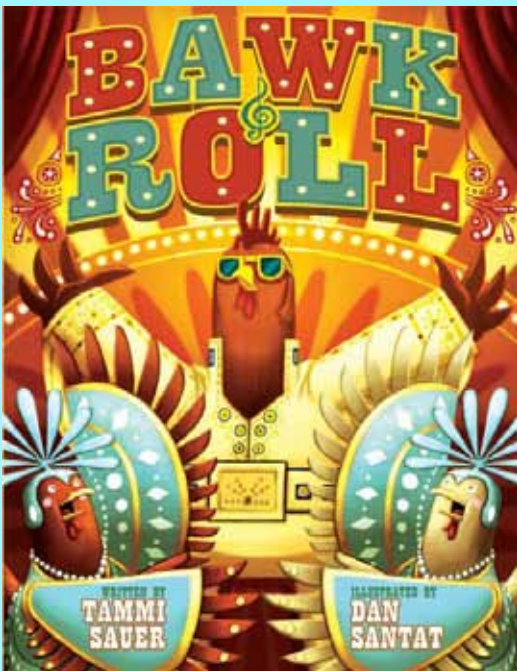
VAN ADS FOR THE SLS iPad CONTEST!



stories for storytime

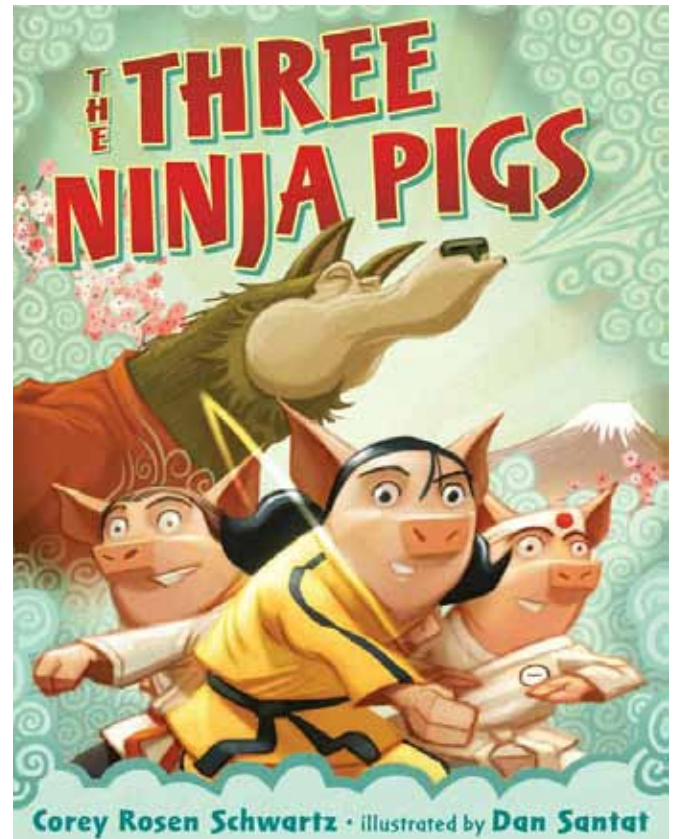


Mary
Ellen
Packer,
MHPL



Meet Elvis Poultry and the Chicken Dancers, one of the most “bawking” barnyard bands around. They leave Dale’s Dairy Farm to go on tour, but these are two “chicken” chickens with a terrible case of stage fright! After fainting twice in a row when the curtain goes up (THUNK!), Marge and Lola try every relaxation technique they can think of, from bubble baths to imagining the audience in their “tighty-whities,” but nothing works – until they hatch a brilliant plan, that is!

With plenty of parent-pleasing puns and “extras” on every page, Bawwk and Roll is a delightful and hilarious sequel to Chicken Dance (2009). It’s great for those ages 4 and up, but grown-up Elvis fans will appreciate the silly references too!



Everyone knows the story of the Three Little Pigs, but this version is a little bit different. The Three Ninja Pigs aren’t afraid of the big bad wolf! Aikido, jujitsu and karate lessons transform these pigs into fearless fighters, but are these two brothers and their sister prepared to defend their houses from the wolf’s huffing and puffing? As it turns out, only one pig has stuck with her studies long enough to perform the “perfect pork chop” and frighten the villain away for good!

Complete with a glossary of martial arts terms at the end, like “dojo” and “gi,” The Three Ninja Pigs is a lesson in perseverance as well as great fun. It is great for older children who love to learn new words, and the sister pig is an excellent role model for girls and boys alike, inspiring her brothers to stick with their programs and earn all their belts too in the end. I’d recommend it for ages 5 and up.



bookcrossing.com™

As part of the 25th Anniversary celebrations for Shortgrass Library System we released 25 books into the wild through bookcrossing.com. Bookcrossing.com helps people track books that they've shared. Finders simply input the code on the book and enter where they found it and where they're taking it. It's a great way to share the joy of reading! Here are where ours ended up.



Those little books have so far made it to Cranbrook, Bellingham, WA, Victoria, Jasper, Canmore, Banff, Toronto, Halifax, Portland, OR, Sacramento, CA, Great Falls, Penticton, Swift Current and four to Calgary!

michelle ava camelford leaves mhpl for pentiction

Michelle Anastasia Camelford, MHPL, has accepted a position as the Teen Coordinator for the Penticton Public Library. The position is brand new, so Michelle will be able to use her creativity to launch many new programs. Michelle has worked at MHPL for almost five years and credits everyone at MHPL, but especially Michelle Bien for helping her grow as a librarian. We will miss having such a great staff member around and wish her much success in her new position!

Says MAC, "I've had lots of laughs over the years with both staff and patrons and I will miss everyone when I leave. MHPL has helped me become who I am today. Michelle Bien, in particular, has influenced me the most. Working with her and Tic-Tac is what inspired me to take this new job. I will take everything I have learnt from Michelle B. over the past few years and try to create teen program in Penticton that is just as open and inviting as Tic-Tac (not to mention fun!)"



michelle b. (left) and michelle c. (right)



Just Tweening Around

FOR THOSE WHO DIDN'T GET TO ATTEND ANDREA'S AND MICHELLE'S SESSION ON TWEEN PROGRAMMING HERE ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS.

Hallow'Tween



Old Skool Tech Crafts



Teen programs have not only sprouted, but blossomed across the country over the past few years. No exception to this is Medicine Hat Public Library's (MHPL) own teen group, TIC-TAC. With the teenaged programming a success, MHPL decided it was time to start focusing on the pre-teen age group: tweens. In July 2012, we launched a fun and successful tween program for MHPL.

In the presentation we started at the beginning: how the tween program started with required meetings, decisions to be made, etc. We then moved onto the fun part: program ideas! With the main focus on the low-cost programming (we also looked at the higher cost options), our presentation walked participants through where and how we got our ideas as well as shared tips and some humorous stories.

Please feel free to contact Andrea (andream@shortgrass.ca) or myself (michellc@shortgrass.ca) if you have any questions.

Michelle Annabelle Camelford

LOW COST TWEEN PROGRAM IDEAS

- Harry Potter night
- Movie nights
- Middle Earth (Lord of the Rings inspired activities)
- Old skool tech crafts
- Live Clue
- Hallow'Tween
- Duct Tape DIY projects

GENERAL TIPS

- Have staff to direct traffic, i.e. help tween and parents get to where they need to go
- Help parents say 'Bye'
- Be firm on the age range
- Ask for donations
- Plan the flow of the night
- Plan programs way ahead of time
- Promote future programs at each event



Andrea Meerstra (left) & Michelle Ashley Camelford (right)

SHORTGRASS SUMMER STUDENTS

CAITLIN SHARPE

Caitlin Sharpe is another summer student working at Shortgrass HQ. Caitlin is on a work placement as a graphic designer as part of her Bachelor of Applied Arts degree at Medicine Hat College. Caitlin will be going into her third year this fall. Caitlin is currently reading *Mockingjay*, the third book in the *Hunger Games* trilogy. Next book up for Caitlin? *Runaway Devil* which chronicles the Richardson family murders.

Some of the projects Caitlin is working on include designing the invitations for the Shortgrass 25th Anniversary celebration, making the 25th Anniversary canvas guest book, designing a new Rosemary logo, van decals promoting the Shortgrass iPad mini contest, assisting with the parade van design, and making banner slides for member library websites. If you have any ideas for new designs for your library don't hesitate to email Petra (petra@shortgrass.ca).



MEGAN GRIMM

Megan Grimm is back for a third turn as a Shortgrass HQ summer student. In September, Megan will be entering her fourth and final year for a Bachelor of Science specializing in Immunology and Infection. She likes reading books about crime and science and is currently making her way through *the Complete Sherlock Holmes* by Arthur Conan Doyle. Her favorite memory of working at Shortgrass? Megan says there are too many after two years of working here. "Everyday is the best day ever."

Megan began work at Shortgrass HQ in May 2011.

This year some of her projects include decorating the Shortgrass parade van, assisting with the 25th Anniversary celebrations, organizing summer reading program materials, and some cataloging tasks, of which cataloging DVDs are her favorite.

ADDITIONAL GRANT FROM AB PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

A one-time \$400,000 grant from the Alberta Government will help public libraries with the costs of sharing resources. The funding to the 16 key library access points in the province-wide public library network will help offset operational costs, such as staffing, technology and courier distribution, as resource-sharing expands across the province.

"The funding helps support what libraries are already doing. We want to put more books and resources in the hands of families and other library users no matter where they live in the province," said Doug Griffiths, Minister of Municipal Affairs. The grant provides \$25,000 to Shortgrass Library System.

The provincial library network currently makes available over 40 million print and digital resources across 316 library access points to offer a greater variety of materials through municipal libraries. The grant was made available with funds from the 2012-13 provincial budget.

Anfon's Cat's Corner



when it gets cold out, you've got to bundle up.



SLS AWARD WINNING PARADE FLOAT

Megan Grimm & Caitlin Sharpe designed the Shortgrass parade van this year. The van participated in the Brooks parade on June 8 taking first place in the non-commercial category. The Brooks parade team included Sarah McCormack, Kayley Skriver and Kris Samraj.



June 23rd: Hilary Munro's retirement party at MHPL's Honor Currie Room from 2-4 p.m.

July 1st: Tilley Parade

July 11th: Summer Reading Performer @ MHPL (both morning and afternoon)

July 18th: Summer Reading Performer @ 10 a.m. Tilley

July 18th: Summer Reading Performer @ 1:30 p.m. Redcliff

July 24th: Summer Reading Performer @ 10 a.m. Duchess

July 24th: Summer Reading Performer @ 1:30 p.m. Graham

July 25th: Medicine Hat Parade

July 30th: Summer Reading Performer @ 2 p.m. Foremost

August 1st: Summer Reading Performer @ 11 a.m. Rosemary

August 1st: Summer Reading Performer 2 p.m. Alcoma

August 3rd: Foremost Parade

August 8th: Summer Reading Performer @ 2 p.m. Bassano

August 13th: Summer Reading Performer @ 2 p.m. Brooks

August 15th: Summer Reading Performer @ 10 a.m. Redcliff

August 15th: Summer Reading Performer @ 1:30 p.m. Bow Island

August 21st: Summer Reading Performer @ 10 a.m. Rolling Hills

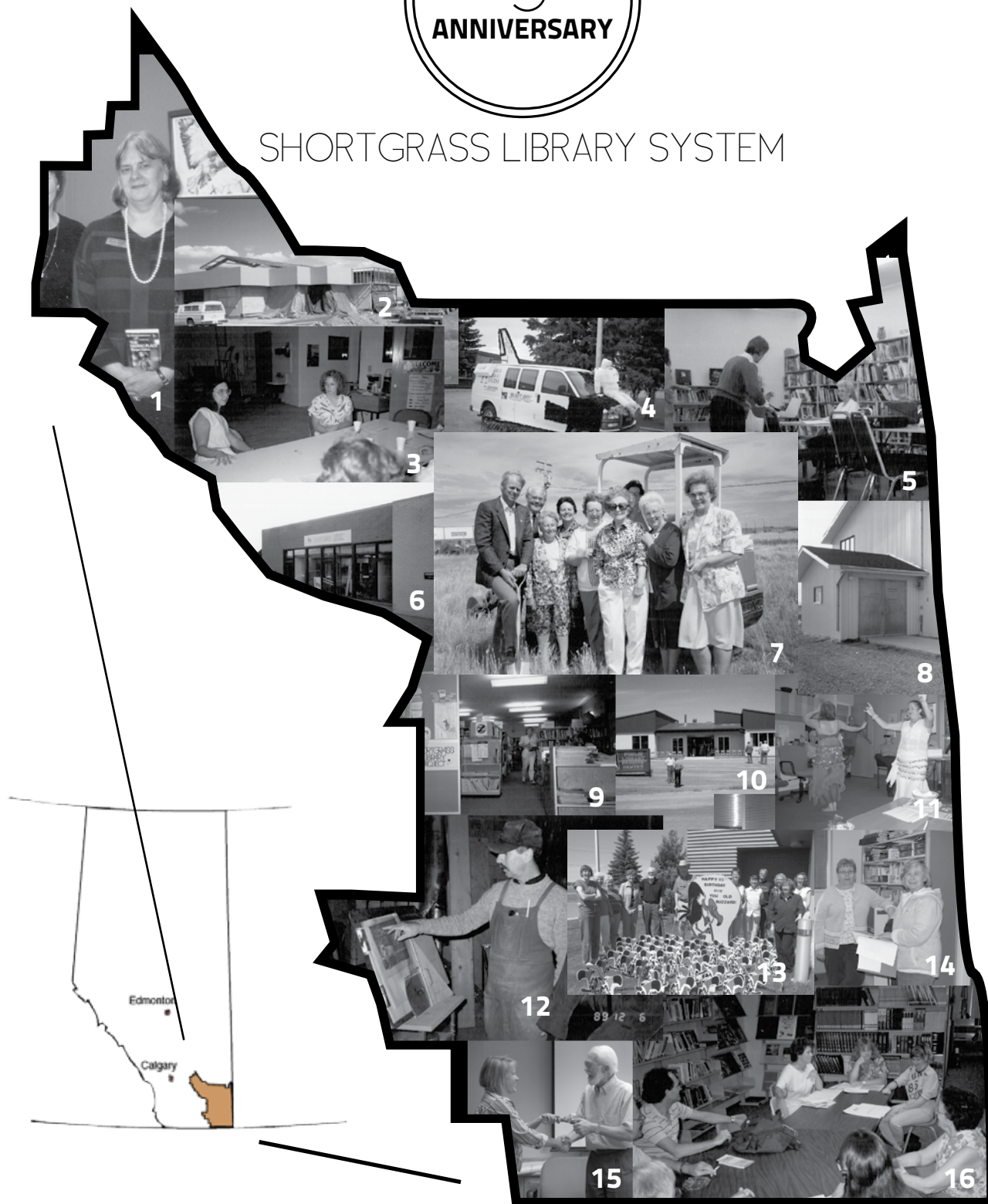
August 21st: Summer Reading Performer @ 2 p.m. Tilley

SUMMER CALENDAR





SHORTGRASS LIBRARY SYSTEM



1. Hilary Munro at MHPL in 1998.
2. The present Shortgrass HQ building under construction.
3. Rolling Hills Library Board meeting — June 17, 1986.
4. The SLS Space Shuttle Van!
5. The opening of the Bassano Library.

6. The old Shortgrass HQ.
7. Sod turning for the present SLS HQ.
8. The Duchess Library.
9. Graham Memorial Library — 1986.
10. The opening of the Foremost Library — 1987.
11. Belly dancing at the SLS HQ.

12. Jim Marshall builds the SLS mural.
13. Bob Batchelder's 65th birthday.
14. Eileen Davis and Joanne Davies at SLS HQ.
15. Julia Reinhart and Harold Storlien.
16. Bow Island Library Board Meeting — June 2, 1986.

SHORTGRASS LIBRARY SYSTEM IS

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

