



shortgrass clippings

table of contents

pd day wrap-up	2
cloudburst	4
library snapshot day	6
technology feature	9
news and events	10



message from the ceo

news in brief

we get by...

Read about the latest efforts by some of our Friends organizations. From fundraising to event planning, they can help us achieve goals and reach out to the community. Speaking of community, check out the latest *Little Free Library*. More on **page 3**.

your library is cultural space

Over the past few months, some of our library spaces have been transformed into art galleries. Read about travelling art exhibitions and the libraries that hosted them. Check out the pictures on **page 5**.

"hello, my name is..."

Get to know your colleagues from around the system with our newest interview feature. In this edition, meet Phyllis Worrall, Manager of Bibliographic Services and 25-year Shortgrass employee. Read all about it on **page 7**.

halloween round-up

We've got Halloween spirit! Check out pictures of library staff, and patrons, in costume on **page 8**.

what's new in anton's world?

Learn all about our newest electronic resource, Zinio, and what it means for your library. Anton outlines the potential of this product and what you can do to help make it successful. Full story on **page 11**.

Just like that, it seems, 2013 is coming to a close. It was the year of Shortgrass' 25th anniversary and we honoured the past 25 years of our regional library system with a celebration at one of Medicine Hat's most beautiful historic venues.

2013 was a year of great library initiatives all across the province. One of the most recent projects, which is expected to be fully implemented by May 2014, is the Alberta-Wide Borrowing initiative. Complete with a new borrowing card, called the "Me Card," this initiative will allow Albertans to borrow from any public library in the province, making more materials accessible to library patrons and meeting Albertans' needs. Stay tuned for more info as it is rolled out into the Shortgrass region in early 2014.

As a library user, I am currently most excited about the addition of Zinio.

Having over 50 magazine titles available for borrowing online INSTANTLY, and being able to keep the downloaded issues forever is such an amazing service that I have been finding myself telling EVERYONE about it. Read more about this on page 11.

On December 4th, we will have our first board meeting since the municipal election and during that meeting a new executive will be elected by board members. We will feature the new board in the next newsletter and you will have several chances to get to know them in person over the next few months, as they get settled in their new roles.

I hope all of you get a chance for some peaceful time with loved ones over the holidays, to reminisce about 2013 and welcome the new year.

Thank you for another great year and I look forward to seeing you all in 2014.

Petra

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

Shortgrass PD Day 2013

Team-building with Peggy Gizen

Our morning started with an energetic keynote session by local consultant Peggy Gizen. Working through the five common dysfunctions of a team, everyone had the opportunity to learn something about themselves and their coworkers.

The various break-out activities provided the perfect forum to discuss important issues and strengthen relationships within our teams.

Thanks for a great session, Peggy!



Peggy Gizen
pgizen@memlane.com
403.504.7825

Cloud Burst goes live!

Levi Millington took his show on the road and delivered a session on the benefits of cloud computing with Google Drive. With the ability to access documents from any device, share them easily, and edit collaboratively, Google Drive is loaded with potential. If you're not already on board, give it a try and get sharing!

A cure for the eHeadache

Jordan DeSousa, aka "The Intern," took a shot at simplifying the crowded eReader landscape. Devices were divided into three types, each with its own set-up process. Hopefully it relieved some of the tension.

PLSB Update

Thanks to Kerry Anderson who brought us up to speed on the recent developments at the PLSB and what it all means for Alberta libraries.

Readers' advisory

We were pleased to have Stephanie Foremsky from Edmonton Public lead a session on readers' advisory via video conference. Thanks for sharing your expertise!



Valarie Westers
Interlibrary Loans &
Archives Technician
Medicine Hat College

For those who missed it...a book repair recap!

I was pleased to attend and present at the recent Shortgrass Library System Professional Development Day. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet with colleagues and learn about our professional styles, discuss the future of libraries, and enjoy great conversation.

The session I delivered was a very informal workshop

on book repair. We began with how to determine if and how an item should be repaired. The key points to be considered at that stage are reversibility, the "do no harm" principle, and expediency. Next, we covered the requirements for a basic book repair kit and discussed some simple repair techniques. The best part of the session was the hands-on repairing of books that participants brought. It was a great opportunity to share ideas and learn from each other.

If anyone would like a copy of the book repair guide I created, please send me an email (vwesters@mhc.ab.ca) and I will pass it along.

Equip yourself! The essential items:

- White glue
- Rubber cement
- Acid-free tape
 - 1 roll of 1/2"
 - 1 roll of 2/3"
- Cloth book repair tape
- Document repair tape
- Waxed paper—cereal box liners work great, too!
- Artist eraser
- Bone folder
- Sharp scissors
- Utility knife
- Paper towel



With a Little Help from our Friends



One of the book houses that will be set-up around Bassano.

Bassano Memorial Library to take part in worldwide literacy movement

Borrowing the idea from our friendly American neighbours, Bassano Memorial Library is set to bring the “Little Free Library” to southeastern Alberta.

The *book house* or *little free library*, which originated in Wisconsin, is actually quite simple—just a box with some books in it! However, it’s the power of community that makes it special. The houses are placed in public locations and people are encouraged to take a book and leave a book. This creative idea brings the library out into the community and fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility.

Bassano’s book houses are being built locally by a library patron with a talent for woodworking. Talk about community spirit!

In addition to promoting literacy, the book houses will also help market the library. Each book will be equipped with a small note that encourages people to stop by the library for an even greater selection of materials.

Redcliff Friends of the Library making a big impact

The Redcliff Friends of the Library have been very active over the past several months, running numerous fundraising initiatives and hosting community events.

Most notably, they were able to present the library with a cheque in the amount of \$700 this past October. The money was raised primarily through a raffle that took place in June—contestants had a chance to win gift cards that were donated by local businesses.



New table and chairs purchased with the donated funds. Looks great!

The donation couldn’t have come at a better time, with the library’s children’s area in need of refreshing. In order to address this need, a portion of the money was used to purchase a new table and chairs.

In addition to their fundraising efforts, the Friends of the Library also organized a highly successful board gaming event at the library in November. The event celebrated International Gaming Day and brought families together over classic games such as Scrabble and Snakes & Ladders. Well done and keep up the good work!

Midnight Madness Book Sale at MHPL

On November 28th, the MHPL Friends of the Library held their annual holiday book sale. Coinciding with the downtown Medicine Hat *Midnight Madness* shopping event, the book sale benefits from the increased foot traffic in the area. The event is one of many put on by the Friends throughout the year—funds go towards programming and various library improvements.

Thanks to all the volunteers who make these events possible.

Midnight Madness shoppers peruse the great selection of books, magazines, and movies.



Cloud Burst

Google Chrome Browser

Many people believe that the web browser included with their computer is the best browser to use. You may never have considered using anything but Internet Explorer, but until you try a different browser, you don't know what you're missing!



Google Chrome is a web browser that is very fast, easy to use, and is tied to the Cloud. Chrome stores your bookmarks (favourites), history, and even passwords if you want it to, in the Cloud. That means that no matter where you use Chrome, all your stuff is there. Use Chrome on your computer at home, at work, on your phone, or on your tablet. Your bookmarks and browser settings are synced across all of your devices.

Not only are your settings synced, but so are your current browsing sessions. Say you're reading a news article on your computer, but want to switch to your tablet. Using Chrome's *Recent Tabs* feature, you can pick up on your tablet right where you left off on your computer with a couple of taps.

The best way to learn about Chrome is to try it. You can download Chrome on your computer by going to <http://www.google.com/chrome>. You can also get Chrome on your phone or tablet by visiting the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

Learn about the benefits of Chrome and how to make it work for you, here: <http://goo.gl/oLsxJJ>

Thank you, MHC!

This fall, we received a very generous donation from our friends at Medicine Hat College: nine PCs and six Mac computers! On behalf of Shortgrass, and our member libraries, I would like to extend our sincerest thanks. These computers will be put to excellent use in our communities.

Levi Millington

SLS System
Administrator



On those cold nights...curl up with a good book!

Looking for something to read in front of the fireplace? Try one of these titles, recommended by the friendly people at Shortgrass HQ.

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer—Jordan

Handle With Care by Jodi Picoult—Dyan

A Game of Thrones by George R.R. Martin—Val

And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini—Petra

The Mirror of the Sea by Joseph Conrad—Anton

The Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum—Liz

Mrs. Jeffries and the Merry Gentlemen by Emily
Brightwell—Keltie

Saints of the Shadow Bible by Ian Rankin—Peggy

The Hockey Sweater by Roch Carrier—Norman

†Yuletide tip: If you don't have a fireplace, YouTube offers numerous video simulations!

ART IN THE LIBRARY

Since 1980, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) has supported a provincial Travelling Exhibition (TREX) program. The TREX program strives to ensure every Albertan is provided with an opportunity to enjoy fully developed exhibitions in schools, libraries, health care centres, and smaller rural institutions and galleries throughout the province. For more information, visit <http://goo.gl/FhLsP6>. Over the past few months, these travelling exhibitions made stops at some of our member libraries. Take a look below!



This September, Medicine Hat Public Library hosted the travelling exhibition *Tom Willock: Immersed in Waterton*. The exhibit features eighteen traditional gelatin silver black-and-white prints which showcase the vastness and beauty of the Waterton Lakes National Park. On September 29th, MHPL hosted an afternoon artist talk, with a presentation by Willock and two lucky individuals won copies of the catalogue produced for the exhibition.

[Above & Below] Duchess and District Public Library hosted the 6 *Points of Resilience* exhibition in November. Here are two of the six mixed media drawings.



[Above] This November, Foremost Municipal Library hosted the *New Visions* exhibition, an eclectic group of mixed media pieces. It serves as a tribute to the growth of the TREX program.



[Left] In November, it was Bow Island Municipal Library's turn to host *Tom Willock: Immersed in Waterton*. In order to promote the exhibition, an art viewing reception was held—the event was very well received and drew a diverse crowd. Attendees sipped wine, mingled, and admired the breathtaking photographs.



In celebration of Canadian Library Month (October), libraries across Alberta participated in *Library Snapshot Day*. On this day, statistics, stories, and photographs are collected and put together to provide a “snapshot” of what a typical day in the library looks like. While all of this information can be useful in advocating for the library, the pictures and stories, in particular, give a human face to what we do.

At Medicine Hat Public Library, a small photo area was set-up to capture the smiles of library users as they came and went. Looking through all the pictures, it’s great to see such a diverse bunch of people using the library. The kids, especially, loved dressing up with the props and showing off their favourite books! To see more of the pictures, head over to <http://goo.gl/50whg9>



LIBRARY SNAPSHOT DAY

Hello, my name is...

Phyllis Worrall — Bibliographic Services Manager



Tell us a little about yourself.

I was born and raised in Ste. Rose du Lac, Manitoba, the youngest of three children and sort of an 'oops.' My parents didn't know which way to go with me, as they already had a son who worked in the family business and a daughter who liked to wear dresses and makeup. I was a tomboy, who probably greyed both parents' hair, and I know my dad lost his hair, raising me. In 1981, I graduated from high school and in August, I arrived in Medicine Hat by train. I have two children, Candice (31) and Derek (27), and two granddaughters, Kittanna (9) and Kamea (7).

How long have you been working in the library world?

In 1988, I was hired for a 6 month data entry clerk position doing a recon project at Medicine Hat Public Library. When the original contract came to an end, Eileen Davis, the coordinator, asked if I would consider working on contract for another year. That contract ended in September 1989. I then applied for the position of Eileen's assistant, was hired in October and have been here since.

With all the parties and get-togethers over the holidays, you're bound to get the question, "What do you do?" How do you describe your job to someone you've just met?

As Manager of Bibliographic Services, I oversee the acquisitions, cataloguing and processing team at Shortgrass, as well as work directly with our libraries to meet their specific needs and provide training. If someone asks me what I do, I usually discuss Shortgrass as a whole, the services we provide, and how the partnerships with our libraries benefits all members in Shortgrass Library System.

What part of your job do you find the most challenging? The most enjoyable?

The most challenging area of my job for me is keeping up with evolving technology. Today's world seems to be moving so quickly, but nothing beats the satisfying feeling of conquering a new change in technology. The most enjoyable aspect of my job is the people I work with at Headquarters and in the libraries. Not a day goes by without at least two or three people making me smile.

Since you've been working in this position, what has been the biggest change?

In my 25 years with Shortgrass, there have been many changes, but the past couple of years in particular have been full of change. Some of the more challenging changes include cataloguing Brooks' and Rosemary's materials using BISAC subject headings and our switchover to cataloguing using RDA (Resource Description and Access) in March.

Is there anything in particular that you're hoping Santa leaves under your tree this year?

I don't have a particular wish for anything left under my tree this year, but I do hope my new pup leaves me with a tree that is still standing.

For the last question, let's go off the library map: Calgary Flames or Edmonton Oilers?

I'm not a fan of watching sports, as I hate seeing people lose. I empathize with the effort and time put into winning and the disappointment they must feel when they lose. Even when I play a board game, I don't mind losing.



Halloween Fun



Top Left: The staff at Medicine Hat Public Library—the brides are just stunning, don't you think? | **Top Right:** Our friends at Medicine Hat College had a "Hell's Kitchen" theme. | **Middle Left:** The staff at Rolling Hills Public Library got in the spirit—witches, wizards, and Batman...oh my! | **Middle Right:** A Halloween themed bulletin board at Foremost Municipal Library—looks great! | **Bottom Left:** Group shot at MHPL's annual "Hallow'tween" night—with so many great costumes it's hard to pick a favourite.

Brooks gets their game on

Since August 2013, Brooks Public Library has been circulating Nintendo DS, Wii, Xbox 360, and PlayStation 3 video games. The collection has been very well received and is increasing in popularity as patrons discover that the library has more to offer than just books!

The next steps? BPL manager Sarah McCormack hopes to continue updating the collection, acquiring new titles and potentially adding gaming devices.

eBook night at the library

On November 20th, Bow Island Municipal Library hosted an eBook information night and the turn out was great! Patrons brought all kinds of devices, including iPads, Kobos, and Sony Readers.

Program attendees learned how to set-up their devices for borrowing and are now prepared to get even more out of their library membership!

Wii love the library!

Christmas came early at Medicine Hat Public Library when they purchased two brand new Wii U videogame consoles. This innovative system, with its tablet-like controller, has been a big hit with the teen groups.

Gaming nights are a great way to generate interest in the library. Those who participate often discover many of the other reasons to love their library. Give it a try and have some fun!

Embrace the Future

Making our workplace safer

by Levi Millington

In an effort to enhance employee safety in the event of a fire or other emergency, Shortgrass Library System has implemented card-based employee IDs. In the event of an emergency, these ID cards enable us to quickly confirm that all employees are safely outside of the building. Employees swipe their ID card at the door upon entering the building, and swipe it again if they leave the building for any reason. To account for guests, we have implemented a manual sign-in sheet at the reception desk. All guests must sign in upon arrival, and sign out upon departing from Shortgrass HQ.

Shortgrass has also taken measures to ensure the safety of employees working alone in the building. In addition to swiping their ID card, employees working alone in the building are required to carry a wireless key fob on their person. In the event of personal injury or other emergency, the key fob allows the lone employee to activate the building's alarm system remotely. Once the alarm is activated, calls are placed to management personnel who may escalate the matter to emergency services or authorities if necessary.



Area where employees swipe in and out;
Wireless key fob hanging beside cards.

BYOD, or Bring Your Own Device, is an appointment-based program at MHPL that aims to address patrons' needs for in-depth help with their portable electronics. While such questions have traditionally been handled by the Information Desk, the ever-growing variety of devices and issues has made it increasingly difficult.

With BYOD, staff help patrons with their devices in a dedicated one-on-one

environment. The format benefits both parties. Patrons get the extra attention that is often necessary to solve uncommon problems and staff can take the time to provide superior service without worrying about line-ups forming at the Information Desk.

Patron response has been overwhelmingly positive, with all appointment times booked until Christmas. The program will continue in the New Year, a time of special need, as many people learn to use their new toys!



BYOD

Bring Your Own Device

Around Shortgrass...



Alberta Library Conference 2014 Coach Bus

April 24 to April 27, 2014

Route

The bus leaves Medicine Hat at 6:30AM on Thursday, April 24; pick up locations along the Trans-Canada Highway can be arranged through Dyan Bryksa.

Bus pick-up in Calgary will be at approximately 10:30AM, then on to Canmore, followed by a stop in Banff for lunch (1 hour sharp), and finally arriving at Jasper Park Lodge at approximately 4:30PM. We will return on Sunday, April 27 at approximately 9:30AM.

Cost

Medicine Hat to Bassano pick-up — \$250 return

Strathmore to Canmore pick-up — \$175 return

Please Note: In order to hold a seat, a non-refundable payment in full will be required at the time of booking.

Receipts will be issued.

Cost includes: Coach, Parks Canada entrance fee, driver costs, refreshments and light snacks.

Booking Deadline

Tuesday, April 4, 2014 — Book early, seats will sell out quickly!

If a library or library system is paying your fare, please let Dyan know at the time of booking.

Booking and Paying

Dyan Bryksa

e: dyan@shortgrass.ca / p: 403.529.0550 x 100 / f: 403.528.2473

Cheques payable to: **Shortgrass Library System**
2375—10th Avenue SW
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8G2



Farewell, Alicia!

Medicine Hat Public Library had to say

goodbye to an enthusiastic and valuable team member this November as Alicia McDonald relocated to the Calgary area for personal reasons.

You probably remember Alicia as the outgoing Reading Program performer who visited your libraries in the summer months and put on memorable shows.

It's never easy saying goodbye but we wish her all the best in this exciting new adventure. Remember to stay in touch with all your friends in the Shortgrass Library System!

Refer-a-Friend promotion proving a success

Unlike past contests that only rewarded those who signed-up or renewed a library card, this new

promotion aims to generate even more interest by offering two prizes!

So far it's been a hit, generating many new card holders. And it's no wonder—the Nexus 7 is a powerful and well-supported device. As the flagship Google tablet, it runs a pure version of the Android operating system. That means simplicity for the average user and a high-level of customization for the more tech-savvy.

With only a couple weeks left before the contest closes, let's keep promoting and see how many more sign-ups we can get!





Anton's World

Introducing Zinio by Anton Chuppín

Shortgrass Library System is very excited to provide our patrons access to the top 50 most popular magazines from the Zinio collection. No current electronic resource offered has as much potential to attract new patrons as online magazines.

However, offering patrons content they enjoy does not automatically guarantee its popularity, which is why I encourage you to make the public aware of Zinio, by personally engaging with your communities, friends and acquaintances to spread the word. I continue to be amazed at how many people I encounter who have no idea about

even the most basic services our libraries provide.

Shortgrass is working to promote the Zinio collection across the system and in our communities by advertising in virtually all regional newspapers and newsletters, as well as updating the decals on our new van. Zinio posters have also been distributed to our member libraries to ensure patrons become more aware.

Still, no formal advertising can substitute the personal engagement with your community by word of mouth and through your libraries, so we encourage you to become familiar with the magazines offered and ask that you keep Zinio in mind when talking to patrons, community organizations and friends.

I'm certain that Zinio will be a huge success if we all become enthusiastic champions of this wonderful resource in our communities. And remember, our technology support team is always ready to assist you in making the Zinio experience as smooth and easy for your patrons as possible!



January is "Train Your Dog" month!

Did you know that January 2014 will be the fourth annual "Train Your Dog Month?" Supported by the Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT), the month is intended to raise awareness of the importance of dog training—because nobody likes a misbehaved or, even worse, aggressive dog.

While the APDT provides a number of resources on their website (trainyourdogmonth.com), the library is also a great place to get started. With a variety of obedience training books and DVDs, you can discover your inner dog-whisperer in no time!

You could observe this "Train Your Dog Month" by putting up a display. Head over to 636.7 on your shelves, grab some materials, and show your patrons that there is more to dog training than Cesar Milan!

DOG CORNER



FEATURING
DEXTER



The *mitten tree* tradition continues this holiday season at MHPL. The tree, which started out completely bare, is decorated with mittens, scarves, and hats that are brought in by library patrons. In the New Year, all items are donated to local children in need. It's a great example of community spirit!



More trees at MHPL! On the left is an *up-cycled* book tree. Who says there's no use for outdated reference books?! On the right is the *Izzy Doll* tree. The cute little knit dolls will be used as packing material in medical supply shipments made by ICROSS Canada. Learn more about it here: <http://goo.gl/KMEIxe>



It's starting to look a lot like Christmas...and a holiday-themed display certainly helps. With countless books, DVDs, and CDs available at the library, it shouldn't be hard to get into the Christmas spirit!



December

Wednesday, **4th**: Christmas Dinner & Social

Thursday, **25th**, to Friday, **26th**: SLS Office Closed — **Merry Christmas!**

January

Wednesday, **1st**: SLS Office Closed — **Happy New Year!**

Monday, **20th**: Library Managers Meeting

Wednesday, **22nd**: Board Committee Meeting

Monday, **27th**: Family Literacy Day

February

Wednesday, **19th**: SLS Board Meeting

March

Friday, **7th**, to Saturday, **8th**: Southern Alberta Library Conference in Lethbridge

SHORTGRASS WINTER CALENDAR

