

shortgrass clippings

volume xiv, issue 2
april, may, june 2014



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message from the ceo

news in brief

bloomin' good ideas

Goodbye cold and snow, hello sunshine and flowers! Take a look at some of the spring-like things that have been going on around the system. It's all on **page 3**.

"hello, my name is..."

Meet our new Systems Administrator, Aaron Dalla-Longa. He installed his first video card when he was eleven. Yes, eleven! Oh, and he knows Taekwondo. Check out the full interview on **page 5**.

alberta library conference

Shortgrass sent a strong contingent into the mountains and they all made it back to tell the tale. Read their highlights from ALC 2014 and see what fresh ideas they brought back. You'll find it on **pages 6 + 7**.

celebrating 60 years of service

On May 23rd, the Graham Community Library celebrated their 60th anniversary. This impressive milestone was met with strong community support. Read the whole story on **page 8**.

school's out for summer!

The final bell has rung and the children are running wild! Let's use the TD Summer Reading Club 2014 to channel that energy into something creative. Check out our statistics from last year, learn more about this year's theme, and get your resource hook-up—all on **page 9**.

It's that time of year again, when our communities anxiously watch the rivers, streams and creeks rise, while keeping all fingers and toes crossed that we won't see too much flooding.

Mother Nature isn't the only one creating excitement around here, though. On June 16th, we welcomed our newest addition to the family of Shortgrass online resources: hoopla is here! Library users can now stream videos, music and audiobooks on their tablets, phones or computers. With the ability to have simultaneous usage on items and over 130,000 items available, there is an abundance of choices. The rainy days of June provide the perfect opportunity to check out what's available and curl up under a cozy blanket to watch or listen to hoopla! The availability of hoopla at Shortgrass was made possible by generous funding from the Public Library Services Branch.

We are also very grateful to the Public Library Services Branch for an increase in SuperNet bandwidth. You can read more about this on **page 10**.

In addition to enhancing services for our member libraries, we have also been busy making some much needed changes in infrastructure. With a generous CIP grant, we have fortunately been able to replace two of our delivery/passenger vehicles: a new white Chevrolet Express cargo van, which you will see in a few months, and a new silver Grand Caravan, which you may have already seen zipping around Southeastern Alberta, sporting the Shortgrass logo.

Our two summer students, Hayley Herman and Ada Loewen, created beautiful decorations displaying the summer reading theme, Eureka!, for one of our vehicles. Look for our float in our member communities' parades throughout the summer.

As the libraries gear up for Summer Reading Program activities and the schools gear down for the summer months, we are ready to welcome summer temperatures and plenty of sunshine here in Southeastern Alberta.

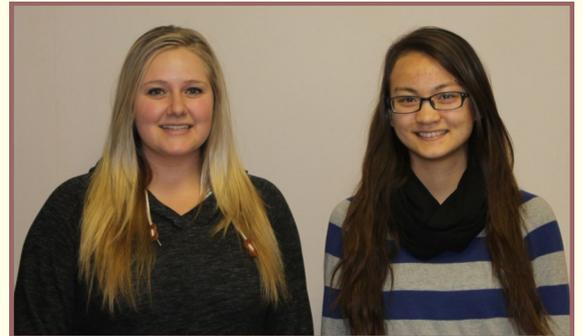
Petra

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
- Tilley & District Public Library
- Graham Community Library
- Redcliff Public Library
- Rolling Hills Public Library
- Rosemary Community Library

Shortgrass welcomes two new summer students

Introducing our new summer students, Haley Herman and Ada Loewen! Haley (Left) grew up in Schuler, AB, and will be taking Psychology at Medicine Hat College this year. Ada (Right) is a Medicine Hat native and studies Biology and Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of Victoria. We're excited to have them and hope they enjoy their time at Shortgrass.



Auf wiedersehen to our international exchange librarian



In June, we said goodbye to our exchange student librarian, Dörte Maasch. During her time with Shortgrass, Dörte worked on a number of projects, like an eMagazine marketing campaign, "Why I love my library" YouTube videos, and promotional materials for national poetry month, just to name a few. Despite arriving when the temperature was -30°C , Dörte enjoyed her time in Medicine Hat and says she will miss Canada for "the friendly people, beautiful and varied landscapes, and the opportunity to practice English every day." We know we'll definitely miss her!

Intern Librarian program set to continue in July

Shortgrass Library System, in partnership with Medicine Hat College and Medicine Hat Public Library, is pleased to announce that the Intern Librarian for 2014-15 has been hired. Emma Stewart, a New Brunswick native and recent MLIS graduate of Dalhousie University, is keen and thrilled to have been offered this opportunity—and we're happy to have her! With experience in creative writing and a passion for libraries, we know she will be a valuable asset to all three organizations.

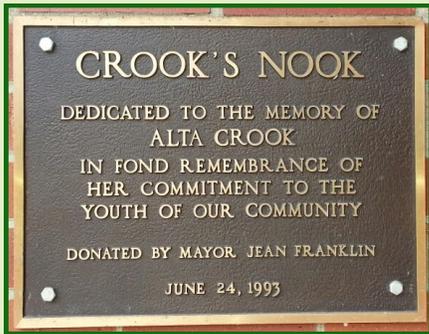
Emma is set to start on July 2nd and will spend the majority of the summer at SLS HQ before shifting her focus to MHC and MHPL for the school year. Shortgrass is excited to continue support for this unique program and hopes that Emma finds it as valuable an experience as our previous interns have.

Kathi Herman leaves Shortgrass Board after 9 years of service

Appointed as a Ministerial Representative to the Shortgrass Library System Board in 2005, Kathi Herman has been a cherished and invaluable member of the Shortgrass community. Serving on the Finance and Personnel Committee, as well as the Programs and Services Committee, and starting in the summer of 2010 as Chair of the Board, Kathi has made significant contributions to Shortgrass. During her time on the board, Kathi worked with three different CEOs and was part of the hiring committee for Petra Mauerhoff. We wish Kathi all the best in her "retirement" from our board. Her input during board and provincial library meetings will be missed.



Spring Fever at SLIS



Communities in bloom at the Brooks Public Library

Have you ever visited the courtyard behind Brooks Public Library? It's quite the spot, especially in the spring and summer. Originally created in 1993, the "Crook's Nook" has received some significant upgrades to make it a more vibrant community space. The revitalization started two years ago, when the overgrown trees (which enclosed the courtyard) were removed. This created a brighter and more inviting open space.

Last year, some of the flowerbed space was used to create community gardens—one for vegetables and the other for irises. This year, beans, carrots, celery, and zucchini are just a few of the things growing in the vegetable garden. The irises are grown and donated by Ronnie Adams, a BPL staff member of 10 years.



Library patrons are encouraged to help plant and maintain the gardens. And of course, when it comes time to harvest the vegetables, all are welcome to a share. The gardens have had an inspiring effect on many community members, encouraging them to explore the library's excellent collection of how-to gardening books and learn more about the intricacies of gardening in our Southeastern Alberta climate. What a great way to build community—way to go, Brooks!

Roses are red, violets are blue...

April was national poetry month, but we're sure you knew. And who could forget these adorable little flower pots? Filled with poems on miniature scrolls, library patrons were encouraged to take one and inspire their poetic spirit. They also made the perfect centerpiece for poetry-themed displays. Thanks to Dörte for dreaming up this creative idea and bringing some much needed colour to our libraries after a long winter!



Creature crafting

With March being national craft month, there were all kinds of fun activities going on at Medicine Hat Public Library. One program, specifically for "tweens," showcased some very creative uses for pop can tabs. You'd be surprised at all

the cool things you can make: pictures, jewelry, or even a snake! For more pictures, check out the full album on MHPL's Facebook page, goo.gl/neFOOE.

The program was a big hit and is a great example of creative programming that can be run with inexpensive materials. If you want more information, or instructions for this craft and others, contact Mary Ellen or Andrea at MHPL.



Cloud Burst

Farewell, Levi!

In this final edition of Cloud Burst, we must bid farewell to our much loved and respected Systems Administrator, Levi Millington. With his can-do attitude and commitment to customer service, both HQ and member library staff knew they could count on him for timely IT solutions.

In his three years at Shortgrass, Levi was truly instrumental in modernizing our technology and



processes. He took the lead in moving Shortgrass away from its old email system and into the Google ecosystem. Using cloud-based services, like Google Drive, collaboration within our system is easier than ever. Levi also implemented a new telephone system, which uses VoIP technology, and swipe card security at SLS HQ.

And of course, there's Cloudburst. His recurring feature shared a wealth of practical tech tips. We will certainly miss all of his contributions and wish him nothing but the best for the future.

Me Card update

The Me Card initiative, featured in the March 2014 issue of Clippings, lets users from across Alberta borrow from any participating library with their home library card! The process is simple—just sign-up at melibraries.ca, indicate the libraries you'd like to borrow from, and you're all set.

You may have already experienced the Me Card in your library, since the service is now live in the Shortgrass system and over 100 libraries in total!

For additional information, such as FAQs, a list of participating libraries, and more, make sure to check out melibraries.ca

What's all the hoopla about our newest database?

Hoopla is a streaming service that gives library users immediate access to thousands of movies, television series, full music albums, and e-audiobooks. And now, thanks to generous support from the Public Library Services Branch, Shortgrass cardholders have access to this fantastic resource!

With more than 8,000 movie and television titles, 10,500 e-audiobooks, and over 120,000 full music albums—always available and ready to stream immediately—the collection is impressive. Users will be able to stream up to 4 items per month.

Titles can be streamed on Mac or PC through a web browser—after installing the Widevine plugin, no additional software is required. Tablet users can also download the mobile app for iOS and Android and enjoy content while offline.

If you haven't already checked it out, the folks at hoopla have put together some outstanding training videos that can be accessed on Vimeo and YouTube: just search for the channel "hoopladigital."

Promotional materials have been sent out to member libraries to help you spread the word and get patrons excited about this great resource. Happy streaming!



Have you considered using our Inventory Kit?

Do you remember the last time your library completed an inventory? Performing inventory lets you see how the catalogue records (what's *supposed* to be on the shelf) compare to what you actually have. This leads to more accurate records, which is great for staff and patrons—because nothing is more frustrating than searching for something that's not there! Since inventory requires going out and physically scanning each item, it's also a good time to assess the condition of materials and potentially identify any gaps in your collection.

While inventory can be a daunting and time-consuming process, it's well worth the effort. And to make things a little easier, Shortgrass has put together a bookable Inventory Kit. It contains everything you need: a laptop, wireless router, portable scanner, as well as detailed instructions to walk you through the process. If you'd like to book the kit and get started on your inventory, contact Aaron.

HELLO
my name is

Aaron



Shortgrass is very pleased to introduce Aaron Dalla-Longa, our new Systems Administrator. We asked Aaron a few questions so you could learn more about the newest member of the SLS team.

Where are you from?

I am from Medicine Hat, born and raised. I went to school and did my tech certification here in town, as well.

How long have you been working in IT? Any particular reason you chose this field?

I have been working professionally in IT since 2008. Before that, I had always worked with computers as a hobby, which started when I was around 11 years old. A new computer game came out and I couldn't run it on my current system, so I purchased and installed a 2MB video card (which was quite powerful back then). I enjoyed installing that hardware so, from then on, I started experimenting with other things like advanced settings in Windows. If I ended up breaking something, I spent time learning how to fix what I had broken. Shortly after high school I got my CompTIA A+ and here I am!

What attracted you to this position? What part of the job are you most looking forward to?

A System Administrator is considered one of several specializations in the computer world. After being a general computer tech for five years, I did some heavy thinking last year as to what I wanted to start specializing in and decided that a Sys Admin would be the perfect fit. We get to experiment with the new technology and deploy new services and hardware for people, which goes back to that first video card I installed when I was 11. I get to research all the up-and-coming and fun stuff in the tech world and actually get to use it.

In the library world we like to try and stay on top of technology—in your opinion, what's the "next big thing"?

The next big thing in tech that we will be seeing a lot of in the next couple years is "wearable technology." This, partnered with more and more publicly accessible WiFi hotspots and many more cloud services, will keep us connected to the internet better than ever. It reminds me of an article by the editor of MaximumPC magazine that I read not too long ago. He said that, if asked what his super-power could be, it would be the power of Google—the power to know pretty much anything within a few seconds of searching his mind. With upcoming wearable smart-glasses and smart-watches, that "super-power" isn't too far off.

What are some of your interests outside of work?

My family, PC gaming, and Taekwondo. I also played a lot of soccer in high school, so I am looking forward to getting back into that.

Without offending one side or the other: PC or Mac?

For the software compatibility, upgradeability, and cost of ownership, as well as personal preference, I would say PC.

What game was it you were trying to play back when you were 11? What games are you playing today?

It was Star Wars Episode 1 Racer. It may be nostalgia talking, but to this day I feel it was the most fun racing game I ever played. I recently finished WATCH_DOGS, I just picked up Mario Kart 8 for the Wii-U, and I play a lot of DOTA 2 on the PC.

It's rumoured that Google asks some pretty challenging interview questions. For example, "Explain a database in three sentences to your 8 year-old nephew." How would you handle that one?

Think of a big box of information. Anyone with access to the box can go and ask for information from it. Anyone with access can go and put information into the box for others to see, as well.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ALBERTA LIBRARY CONFERENCE

JASPER 2014



Tracy Weinrauch, Redcliff Public Library — The best session I attended was Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity for Libraries presented by Grant Tolley. His presentation could have easily gone on longer with all the situations he's dealt with and it made me think about situations that here in Redcliff we've never considered, such as lockdowns. He is available to do his presentation and workshops to help Library Boards create the beginnings of their own emergency plan.

Shannon Vanderloh, Duchess & District Public Library — After 8 years as Library Manager and 3 years with the Shortgrass Library System, it was a huge thrill for me to attend my very first ever ALC at the Jasper Park Lodge! The chance to network with other library staff, trustees, and presenters was a huge learning experience, as was just getting to know my colleagues better. The variety and expert presentation of sessions was excellent and well thought out. I look forward to many more trips to the ALC!!



Jordan DeSousa, Intern Librarian — As the first library conference I've ever attended, ALC in Jasper definitely set the bar high. I was enchanted by the beautiful scenery and enlightened by the sessions and keynote speakers. My favourite session was one on makerspaces—the presenter had such enthusiasm and passion, it was really inspiring! It was also neat to run into some of my classmates from library school and spend some time catching up with them. I had no idea I'd see them there!

Susan Anderson, Bow Island Municipal Library — I had a wonderful conference in Jasper this year. The sessions that I attended will be very helpful in adding some programming, as well as getting new ideas for my board. I had a great time networking with other delegates and it was also fun meeting some Shortgrass staff "away from the office." The highlight of the conference for me, personally, was being the big prize winner at the closing night banquet: two nights of bed & breakfast for two at the Jasper Park Lodge, wahoo!! I can't wait to go back.



Petra Mauerhoff, SLS — The 2014 Alberta Library Conference was another great success and Shortgrass is pleased to have been a part of it! Together, with our partners from Marigold Library System, we hosted the annual "Systems Reception" at Outlook Cabin. It was a great opportunity to connect with new and

old friends and partners in an informal, cozy cabin setting. Thanks to everyone who joined us for conversation, networking and refreshments.

SLS Vice Chair Kevin Jones and I had the opportunity to be part of an informal meeting of key public library stakeholders with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Greg Weadick. We are grateful to Minister Weadick for taking the time to meet with us and look forward to working with him to ensure libraries can continue to play a vital role in their communities.

Celina Symmonds, SLS and MHPL Boards — I would like to thank both SLS and MHPL for the opportunity to attend ALC 2014. This conference gave me the chance to network with colleagues, fellow trustees, and library staff from all over the province. It provided me with many tools and ideas that I am excited share with the other trustees in our area. One highlight was the inspirational keynote delivered by Neil Parischa.



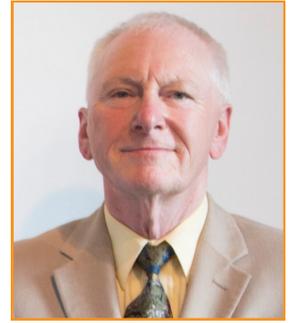


Raj Sritharan, SLS — As a first timer to ALC, I didn't quite know what to expect or believe from all the extravagant stories I'd heard about the conference. It turns out putting people who love libraries together in the mountains is a recipe for awesomeness. The entire experience was great, especially the brilliant sessions filled with fresh ideas, putting friendly faces to names in library land, conversations about library technology challenges, and figuring out how best to avoid walking into elk in the dark. I'm already looking forward to next year!

Dörte Maasch, SLS — I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend the 2014 Alberta Library Conference in Jasper. It was a great opportunity for me to connect with other people in the same profession. I attended really interesting sessions and obtained lots of new and inspiring ideas, which I will take home to Germany. Apart from the sessions, my highlight of this trip was the beautiful area where we stayed. I will never forget the mountains, lakes, and wildlife. Jasper is awesome! All in all it was a thrilling experience.



Kevin Jones, SLS Board — I went to ALC with the hope of engaging in information exchange with like-minded individuals, most of which I found is done informally at mealtimes or during other social events. The formal workshops were excellent, too, with many concluding in lively discussion. One that stands out for me was Emergency Preparedness & Business Continuity for Libraries. Understanding how important a library is to a community during a time of stress, and having a plan to minimize service interruption, is crucial. I also enjoyed the keynote speakers, particularly Tonya Surman. Her work with non-profit organizations truly demonstrates the power of collaboration.



Shelley Ross, Medicine Hat Public Library — My favourite part of Jasper was getting to visit with Anton [former SLS Manager of Technology Services] on the bus ride home. The sessions were all good, too, especially the one about leadership that reminded us to take care of ourselves mentally and physically so we can be our best selves when handling problems at work.

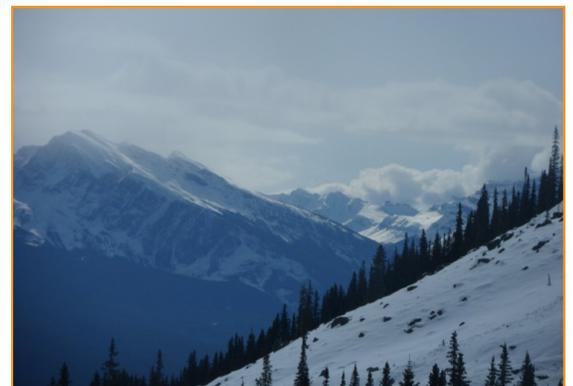
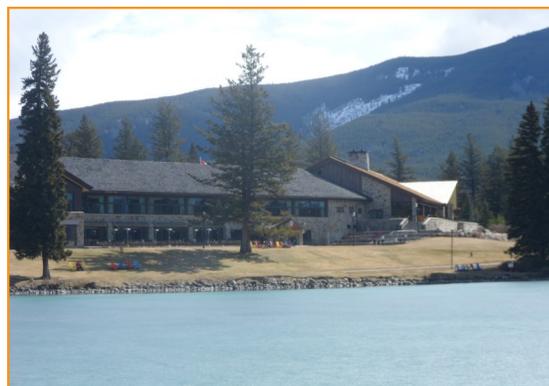


...WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS



Left: An elk grazing; a common sight around the Jasper Park Lodge.
Right: The magnificent emerald-coloured lakes are truly something to behold. A morning walk around the peaceful lake was a great way to begin the busy day.

Left: A view of the main lodge from across Lake Beauvert. The surface was still largely covered in ice.
Right: A gondola ride to the top of the mountain made this spectacular view possible.



WE SALUTE 60 YEARS OF LIBRARY SERVICE

Graham Community Library celebrates 60th anniversary

May 23rd marked an important milestone for the community of Ralston, Alberta, as they celebrated their library's 60th anniversary. Founded in 1954, the Graham Community Library serves as a central hub of activity in Ralston and as an invaluable support to its residents, especially new Canadians and military families stationed at CFB Suffield. To celebrate the occasion, the library hosted a full day of family friendly activities, presentations, and entertainment. It was amazing to see the level of community support for this special occasion.



A full day event commemorated the occasion



The day began with school children coming to tour the facility, see the history boards that they created on display, and participate in the “Guess how many books are in the library?” contest. The younger children, who came dressed as characters from their favourite books, enjoyed a visit from the Fairy Godmother who entertained them with stories and games. Many of the kids also wore crowns, which they made as part of the “create a crown” contest. Winners of the contest were chosen by a visiting British Brigadier—how exciting!

The activities weren't just for kids, though. There was also the “Diamond Hunt,” a scavenger hunt, which sent people out into the community. Teams had to use clues to locate the homes of 7 key library volunteers, which had been marked with diamonds.

Kind words and strong community support

There was a strong turn out for the afternoon ceremony, with many notable community leaders in attendance. There were presentations given by Drew Barnes, MLA for Cypress-Medicine Hat; Bob Olson, Reeve for Cypress County; and Phyllis Worrall, Bibliographic Services Manager for SLS. The biggest news came from Cenovus, as they announced that they would be making a \$5,000 donation to the library in honour of the anniversary. The money will go towards new audio/visual equipment for the library. Long-time staff members and volunteers, like Memory Myers, who has volunteered for over 33 years, were also honored as part of the ceremony.

Many took the time to express just how much the library means to the community. The CFB Suffield Commander, Lt. Col. Sean Hackett, said that “a library is such a bridging-the-gap facility.” Others like Lt. Col. Stephen Nevin, of the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS), echoed similar sentiments. He told a story about how he once asked his 5-year old daughter why she thought the library was important. She said, “when new people come to Canada, the library is a place to go and get information when they don't know anything about the country.” Smart words, from a 5-year old, and Lt. Col. Nevin agreed, emphasizing the importance of the library for newcomers to Ralston.

In the evening, a community celebration supper was served to approximately 90 guests. And after dinner, guests enjoyed music from the Wagner Duet, a group from nearby Redcliff.

...and many more!

On behalf of all the member libraries, Shortgrass would like to congratulate the Graham Community Library on reaching such a milestone—60 years of service is no small achievement. We wish for continued success in the future and another 60 years of outstanding library service!



Eureka!

TD Summer Reading Club 2014

On June 4th, at the Ottawa Public Library, representatives from TD Bank Group, the Toronto Public Library, Library & Archives Canada, and the CNIB officially kicked off the TD Summer Reading Club (TDSRC) 2014. The goal of the program is to engage school-aged children with literacy during the summer months, a crucial time for development when many kids can fall behind. TDSRC provides libraries with the resources, program ideas, and free materials necessary to help kids continue learning and have fun.

If your library hasn't participated in the past, consider giving it a try this summer. The materials are free and the TDSRC theme gives you plenty to work with when planning your activities. The only requirement is that you keep some statistics on how many activities you run and how many kids participate.

School's out for summer!

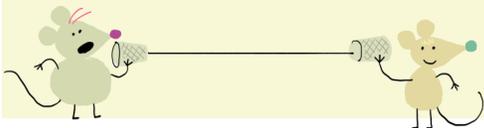
At the end of June, school will be done for the summer—but does that mean learning is done, too? Studies have shown that summer reading programs lessen the effects of “summer learning loss,” have a positive impact on literacy, and help foster a love of reading and learning. As the facilitator of summer reading programs, libraries play a crucial role in ensuring that learning *isn't* out for summer. And when it's done in a way that is fun and engaging, the kids actually enjoy it! So while our colleagues in the academic world get ready to experience some downtime, public libraries are entering one of the busiest and most important times of the year.



Statistics from last year

Looking back at Shortgrass' participation in TDSRC 2013, the numbers are certainly worth celebrating! We received statistics from nine of our member libraries and, across the system, we had 824 registrants (not including drop-ins), ran 238 individual activities, and distributed nearly 2,300 materials (including books, stickers, etc.). Overall, a great showing for a small system. But why not challenge ourselves and see if we can't surpass those numbers

this year? Come on, let's do it for the children!



Eureka! This year it's all about *making*

One of the benefits of being part of the TDSRC is having a theme—it gives you something to work with, but also allows for flexibility. We did some pretty creative things with last year's travel theme, “Go!,” including an *Amazing Race* type game at Redcliff Public Library and time-travel inspired activities at Brooks Public Library.

This year's theme, “Eureka!,” is all about *making*. Think of all the different things you can make—crafts, experiments, gardens, tools, a delicious meal, or a giant ice cream cone—the possibilities are endless! So what will you make?

Although the theme is open to interpretation, we should be mindful of the true goal: to inspire creativity, encourage some risk-taking, and empower imagination.

Resources for staff

Make sure to take advantage of all the great resources available on the TDSRC website, tdsummerreadingclub.ca/staff/resources. With lists of theme-appropriate books, fun images (including those displayed on this page), and detailed guides for individual activities and full programs, you have everything you need to make your summer reading program a success.

The activity and program guides are especially useful, as each includes a description (required time, age group, etc.), materials list, detailed instructions, and book suggestions. Whether you run the program exactly as suggested or just use the guides for inspiration, they're definitely worth checking out.



Around Shortgrass...



Snakes, why'd it have to be snakes!?

In May, Redcliff bylaw officers captured and relocated the first rattlesnake of the season.



Crikey, look at the size of that fella!
Thank goodness for the robotic arm.

And, wow, what a way to start— this one must be at least 5 or 6 feet long! The snake was found in a residential area not far from the Redcliff Public Library. Thankfully, it was relocated before endangering itself or any residents.

Has your library or town had any close encounters with wildlife? Send in your pictures and story! It could be featured in an upcoming issue of Clippings.

Increased access to resources for the print disabled

Thanks to support from the provincial government, Albertans will soon have access to a much improved collection of resources for the print disabled. PLSB has recently subscribed to the Canadian Accessible Library Service (CALs), a repository of nearly 10,000 alternative format materials. This growing collection was launched by the National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS).



In addition to the province-wide subscription to CALs, there have been other developments that will improve access to resources for the print disabled. The CNIB Library Partners Program, a popular service that provided public libraries with access to print-alternative formats, has ceased to exist in favour of a new national service: the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA).

PLSB upgrades SuperNet bandwidth

Due to increased user and stakeholder demand, the PLSB has increased SuperNet funding across the province. All libraries serving a population of 3,400 or greater will be receiving a bandwidth upgrade. The upgrades will follow this criteria:

7 library system headquarters and EPL/CPL central branches	40mbps → GigE (100mbps)
Main branches of the 6 mid-sized nodes (includes MHPL)	20mbps → 40mbps
Public libraries serving 3,400+	5mbps → 20mbps
All other libraries	Stay at basic 5mbps

For SLS, this means upgrades for SLS HQ, Medicine Hat Public Library, Brooks Public Library, and Redcliff Public Library.

Refer-a-friend statistics are in...

And we had a total of 84 new registrations—the exact same result as our previous contest! This time, however, there was a greater spread in participation among our libraries, which is great to see. And someone referred five friends! Look for a picture of the winners in the next issue of Clippings. Thanks for all your hard work in promoting this initiative!



Through CELA, public library patrons will have access to a large collection of DAISY books, eText (which can be read with adaptive technologies), Braille, PrintBraille, and Described Movies. Perhaps the most exciting part of the CELA partnership is access to the “Bookshare” service, a new digital-only collection. Bookshare will provide access to over 150,000 titles in DAISY (text and audio), MP3, and Braille Ready formats.



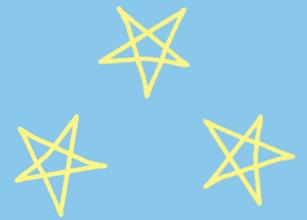
CELA is now live in Alberta public libraries. The main difference from the old system is that patrons are registered in their library rather than at the CNIB. While this may require additional training for library staff, it means a more convenient experience for patrons. CALs has not yet been implemented in our system, but stay tuned for more information!



Shortgrass is grateful to have access to these important collections. With over three million Canadians who have a print disability, equitable access to print-alternative formats is more important than ever and this is a step in the right direction.



This & That



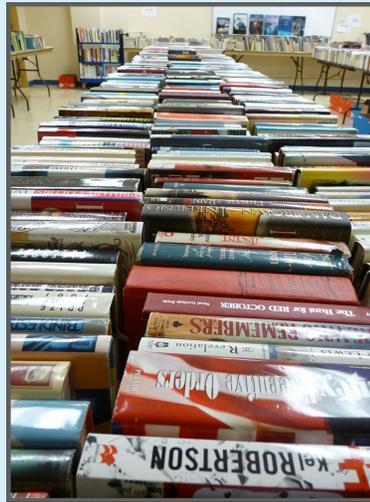
Creativity on display at MHC

Below: Our friends over at Medicine Hat College designed this cheeky display with an important message: put a stop to book cruelty! Using actual victims from their collection, the display highlighted many different offenders—the “unruly underliner,” “coffee drinking klutz,” and “snack attack bandit,” to name a few. For the love of books, save the cheesies for after studying!



SRP performance schedule all set

This year we're happy to announce Lee and Sandy Paley as our summer reading program performers. The Paley's have been entertaining kids and families across Canada for over 30 years. With a catalogue of over 200 songs, they have something to engage any group. You may also recognize them from their long-running television series *Balloon Landing*. For a full performance schedule, please see the calendar on page 12.



MHPL in the community

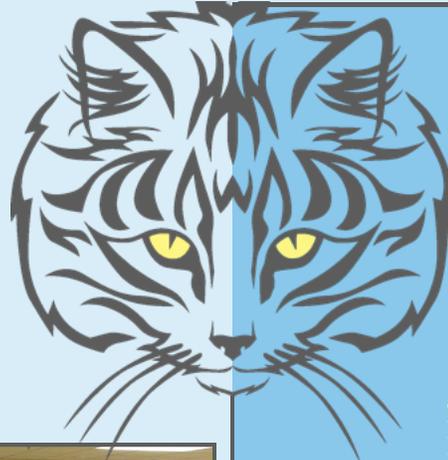
Left: Some of the materials available at this year's Spectrum book sale. Hosted by MHPL's Friends of the Library, the annual sale raises money for both materials and programming.

Below: Andrea and Joleen at the Medicine Hat farmers market. This mobile branch allows community members to sign-up for a library card and even check out materials.



They say laughter is the best medicine...

Below: Another great turn-out for MHPL's “human book of the month.” June's feature was Laughter Yoga, a practice that was popularized by Indian physician Madan Kataria and his book *Laugh for No Reason*. Participants had a great time engaging in silly activities and sharing some hearty laughs.

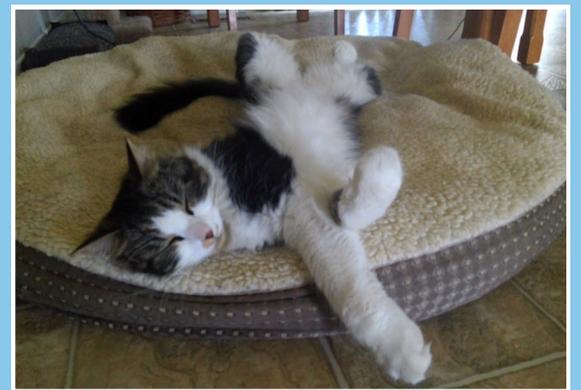


Cat Corner featuring Shlomo!

I simply can't resist a cat, particularly a purring one. They are the cleanest, cunningest, and most intelligent things I know, outside of the girl you love, of course. —Mark Twain



Look at little Shlomo, isn't he cute? Thanks to Stefanie Schranz (GRA) for sending in this picture! Would you like your cat featured in the next issue of Clippings? Send your pictures to Dyan right meow!





On April 7th, MHPL hosted one of its most popular craft programs, "Duct Tape Night," for tweens. With many different colours and patterns of duct tape, and instructions for numerous crafts, the tweens worked busily for hours.



Left: A sample of the different colours and patterns of duct tape available. Plain old silver just looks boring next to zebra print, don't you think? **Right:** There is no shortage of fun and goofing around when it comes to tween programs. Maybe this "craft" could be used to help you get away with sleeping through class...not that we'd encourage such a thing!



The program was well attended by both boys and girls. What kinds of things can you make with duct tape? Wallets, tote bags, iPhone cases, and coasters, to name a few. Maybe Red Green was right, you really can use duct tape for everything.

June

- 4th:** TDSRC 2014 official launch
- 7th:** Brooks parade
- 16th:** SLS official hoopla launch
- 17th and 18th:** Library system consultants meeting in Lacombe, AB
- 18th:** SLS board meeting & BBQ
- 21st:** Bassano parade
- 28th:** Tilley parade

July

- 2nd:** Welcome new intern librarian, Emma Stewart!
- 9th:** SRP performance, Tilley (2pm)
- 10th:** SRP performance, MHPL (10am and 2pm)
- 24th:** Medicine Hat parade
- 29th:** SRP performance, Foremost (2pm)
- 31st:** SRP performance, Rosemary (11am) and Alcoma (2pm)

August

- 5th:** SRP performance, Redcliff (1:30pm)
- 7th:** SRP performance, Graham (10am) and Bassano (2pm)
- 13th to 15th:** Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) conference in Helena, MT
- 19th:** SRP performance, Duchess (10am and 2pm)
- 20th:** SRP performance, Rolling Hills (10am) and Brooks (2pm)
- 21st:** SRP performance, Bow Island (1:30pm)

September

- 20th:** Deadline to submit TDSRC 2014 statistics
- 26th to 28th:** Alberta Culture Days

