

# shortgrass clippings



volume xv issue 1  
january, february, march 2015

## news in brief

### winter at SLS

See what's been happening at SLS libraries over the past few months, from fundraisers to author talks, on **pages 2 and 3**.

### cloud burst

Updates from Shortgrass Systems Administrator Aaron are on **page 4**.

### tech talk

Chris, Manager of Library Technology Services at Shortgrass, discusses PressDisplay and PressReader on **page 5**.

### social media shakedown

Get all the latest tips on social media and see how your fellow libraries are using it on **pages 6 and 7**.

### new and hot

Find info on Lakeside Leisure Centre passes and the new TAL CEO on **page 8**.

### coming soon

Check out this spring's hottest book releases on **page 9**.

### board leadership

Find out more about the Board Leadership Southeast Alberta training event on **page 10**.

### jasper bus

See all the details on **page 11**.



## message from the ceo

Although spring has not yet arrived, it is easy to tell that we don't have long to go before the weather gets warmer, the days get noticeably longer and we see the first intrepid plants make their way to the surface.

As always, things at Shortgrass have been busy. During the last week of January, we welcomed the audit team from Meyers Norris Penny to our offices, and they conducted their annual financial audit of our records. We look forward to hearing a presentation of their findings during the April Board of Trustees meeting.

Manager of Bibliographic Services, Phyllis Worrall is currently on a Leave of Absence until the end of 2015. Her duties have been divided up among Bibliographic Services staff and Manager of Library Technology Services, Chris. It has been wonderful to see the Bibliographic Services Team and Chris work together to make this leave possible for Phyllis, while ensuring that service levels remain the same and nothing falls through the cracks. Kudos and many thanks to them all!

Medicine Hat Public Library is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and held its first major fundraising event on February 13th. The library was transformed into a beautiful Gala venue and guests were able to bid on silent and live auction items, participate in a variety of activities, and enjoy some delicious hors-d'oeuvres.

The Bow Island Municipal Library is celebrating its 40th anniversary and kicked off their anniversary year with a wine and cheese event at the library. Check out the photos from Bow Island and MHPL on page 2.

Spring is also the time of year when thoughts turn to the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper. As in past years, Shortgrass is offering a charter bus service from Medicine Hat to Jasper and we'd love to have you join us on board. See page 11 for details on reserving a seat.

Later this year, representatives from Public Library Services Branch will be visiting each public library that is situated in a school, to evaluate the different models for service delivery in school-housed public libraries. Their plan is to develop a toolkit to assist library boards that are considering a school-housed public library option.

With all these events going on, it has been a busy winter and promises to be an eventful spring!

shortgrass library system // w: [shortgrass.ca](http://shortgrass.ca) // p: 403.529.0550 // f: 403.528.2473

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

# Winter at SLS



## Bow Island Municipal Library Celebrates 40 Years

Congrats to Bow Island Municipal Library on 40 years of service! The ruby-themed anniversary celebration was held on February 19th at the library and showcased a special anniversary logo designed by local arts students. With delicious wine and cheese to enjoy and the local photography of the talented Fred Monk to admire, many community members and partners attended the celebration, including Mayor Gordon and MLA Drew Barnes.



## Library Love

Just in time for Valentine's Day, Medicine Hat Public Library hosted their 'Lovin' the Library' fundraiser on February 13th. Attendees enjoyed a silent and live auction, as well as live entertainment, which included Adult Storytime with former MHPL Board Chair Karen Cunningham (pictured right). With a great turnout of library stakeholders and community partners, such as local MLAs Blake Pedersen and Drew Barnes, as well as various City Councillors, MHPL staff reported that the funds raised from the auctions exceeded all expectations.



## Minecraft at Graham Community Library

In November the Graham Community Library hosted a Minecraft paper craft session for the first time. The program was a massive success, with close to 75 kids participating! The kids arrived right after school to cut out printed Minecraft ornaments and glue them together. They finished the ornament off with a big paperclip to hang on the Christmas tree.





### Author Visit at Redcliff Public Library

On February 25th the Redcliff Public Library had a visit from author Sigmund Brouwer who stopped by to do his Rock & Roll Literacy program with a group of homeschooled children ages 9 -14. It was great to meet him and the visit was enjoyed by all!



### Cataloguing Update

School Cataloguer Val Ogden is VERY busy cataloguing over 360 items for the READ 180 reading program for Medicine Hat School District libraries. We see you working diligently behind those boxes and carts, Val!



### Facilitation Skills Workshop

In January, Shortgrass was excited to host the first ever 3-day Facilitation Skills workshop outside of Calgary and Edmonton. The workshop was led by the Alberta Community Development Unit and we were pleased to host participants from member libraries, Marigold Library System, the City of Brooks, and many local not-for-profits. Participants had an opportunity to practice a variety of facilitation techniques and the 3 days flew by, amid much learning and laughter.



# Cloud Burst

By Aaron Dalla-Longa

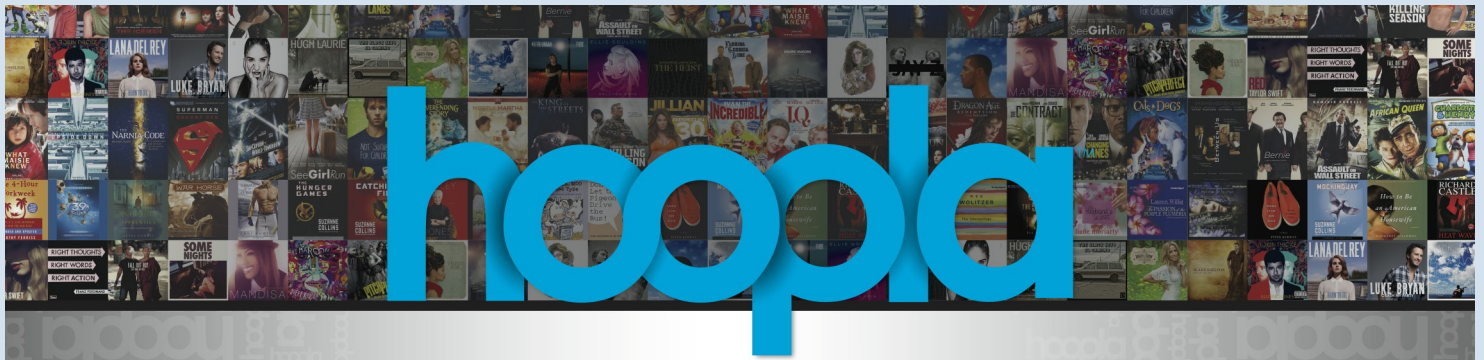
## Announcing Network-Attached Storage

Hello, everyone! It is an exciting time for IT here at Shortgrass Headquarters. In January, we procured a Network-Attached Storage (NAS) module for our server room, which provides us with additional storage space for servers, backups, and for future growth (pictured right).



## And in the near future, faster internet service!

Additionally, in the coming months, Shortgrass HQ will be upgrading our internet connection to a gigabit fibre line, which means faster access to our servers and services for all Shortgrass member libraries. This upgrade is expected to be completed sometime around May.



## Hoopla Update

You may have noticed that hoopla recently got a new look. Fear not! The same great movie, TV, music, and audiobook titles are still instantly available for streaming or download!

Currently, the most popular title in hoopla is the Oscar-nominated film *Boyhood*, directed by Richard Linklater. Visit [shortgrass.ca/hoopla](http://shortgrass.ca/hoopla) to watch *Boyhood* and find other great content without waiting in line.







# Tech Talk

## E-Resource Update

By Chris Field

### Free Newspapers on your Mobile Device

When viewed on a computer, Library PressDisplay does a great job of reproducing more than 3000 newspapers and magazines, in a large format, on your monitor. A more convenient way to access PressDisplay, however, is via one of the two mobile options: the PressDisplay mobile site or the PressReader app.

### PressDisplay Mobile Site

Accessible from anywhere with your library barcode and PIN, the PressDisplay mobile site automatically loads when you access PressDisplay on your smartphone or tablet via the Shortgrass website:

[shortgrass.ca/newspapers](http://shortgrass.ca/newspapers)

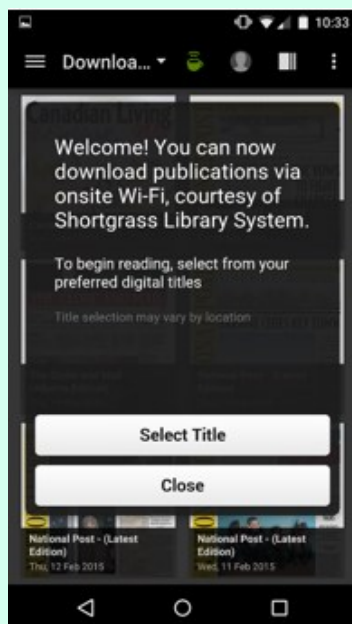
The mobile site gives you access to the same titles available on the full PressDisplay site, but in a simplified interface with touchscreen-friendly navigation buttons. Many titles also offer a text-only viewing mode – tapping an article title will reformat the text so that it is larger and easier to read on a small screen.



Viewing a title in the PressDisplay mobile site



Text-only viewing mode



PressReader App Welcome Screen



Downloading a newspaper via PressReader App

### PressReader App

Accessible only when you are connected to Wi-Fi at a Shortgrass library, the PressReader App is a free download from the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store. Just like the PressDisplay mobile site, you can access all PressDisplay titles from a mobile-friendly interface and view articles in text-only mode where supported.

The big advantage of the PressReader app is that titles are downloaded directly to your device and can be read again and again, even when you are offline. However, keep in mind that you must be connected to Wi-Fi at a Shortgrass library in order to download new titles.

# SOCIAL MEDIA

Are you and your library making full use of social media? Social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter can be powerful outreach tools and provide useful new methods for reaching people in your community who might not stay in the loop about your library through traditional outreach methods. Here are some things to keep in mind:

## Where do you post?

According to a Pew Research report called “Social Media Update 2014,” Facebook remains the dominant social media platform. The next most popular platforms are LinkedIn, Pinterest, Instagram, and of course Twitter, and they are quickly catching up to Facebook in usage. However, more and more people are using more than one social media platform simultaneously for information and entertainment, so in order to maintain a presence across multiple social media sites, it’s important to be part of them all, while tailoring unique posts to each platform to avoid repetition and maintain user interest.

To read more from the Pew report, go to [tinyurl.com/mfpxtcv](http://tinyurl.com/mfpxtcv).

## When do you post?

Did you know that there are certain periods of the day when you’re more likely to snag the biggest audience on different social media platforms? For instance, more people check Twitter over lunch during the work week, so make sure you have some tweets ready to go for noon. On the other hand, people are more likely to click through your posts on Facebook later in the afternoon, from 1-4 PM. You can use social media management tools, like Hootsuite, to queue up content to post at designated times of the day.

To explore this topic further, visit the article “The Best (And Worst) Times to Post on Social Media” by Rachel Gillett at [tinyurl.com/krh7xzy](http://tinyurl.com/krh7xzy).



**We boosted this post for only \$25 and received great exposure for it.**



# SHAKEDOWN!

Support your fellow Shortgrass Member Libraries by liking them on Facebook, following them on Twitter and sharing their content on all social media platforms!

## Twitter

**Bow Island:** [twitter.com/BI\\_Library](https://twitter.com/BI_Library)

**Brooks:** [twitter.com/brookslibrary](https://twitter.com/brookslibrary)

**Graham:** [twitter.com/Grahamlib](https://twitter.com/Grahamlib)

**Medicine Hat:** [twitter.com/MHPublicLibrary](https://twitter.com/MHPublicLibrary)

**Redcliff:** [twitter.com/RedcliffLibrary](https://twitter.com/RedcliffLibrary)

**Rosemary:** [twitter.com/RosemaryLibrary](https://twitter.com/RosemaryLibrary)



## Facebook

**Bassano:** [tinyurl.com/BassanoFB](https://tinyurl.com/BassanoFB)

**Bow Island:** [tinyurl.com/BILibraryFB](https://tinyurl.com/BILibraryFB)

**Brooks:** [tinyurl.com/BrooksLibraryFB](https://tinyurl.com/BrooksLibraryFB)

**Duchess:** [tinyurl.com/DuchessFB](https://tinyurl.com/DuchessFB)

**Foremost:** [tinyurl.com/ForemostLibraryFB](https://tinyurl.com/ForemostLibraryFB)

**Graham:** [tinyurl.com/GrahamCommunityLibraryFB](https://tinyurl.com/GrahamCommunityLibraryFB)

**Medicine Hat:** [tinyurl.com/MedicineHatFB](https://tinyurl.com/MedicineHatFB)

**Redcliff:** [tinyurl.com/RedcliffLibraryFB](https://tinyurl.com/RedcliffLibraryFB)

**Rosemary:** [tinyurl.com/RosemaryLibraryFB](https://tinyurl.com/RosemaryLibraryFB)



## Youtube

**Brooks:** [tinyurl.com/BrooksYoutube](https://tinyurl.com/BrooksYoutube)

**Medicine Hat:** [tinyurl.com/MHPLYoutube](https://tinyurl.com/MHPLYoutube)



Did we miss you? Email Emma or Petra to be added to this list.

Don't forget to follow Shortgrass on **Facebook**

([tinyurl.com/ShortgrassFB](https://tinyurl.com/ShortgrassFB)), **Twitter** ([twitter.com/ShortgrassNews](https://twitter.com/ShortgrassNews)),

**Pinterest** ([pinterest.com/shortgrasslib](https://pinterest.com/shortgrasslib)), **Youtube**

([tinyurl.com/ShortgrassYoutube](https://tinyurl.com/ShortgrassYoutube)), and **Google Plus**

([tinyurl.com/ShortgrassGoogle](https://tinyurl.com/ShortgrassGoogle))!

# New and Hot

## FIND IT AT MY LIBRARY

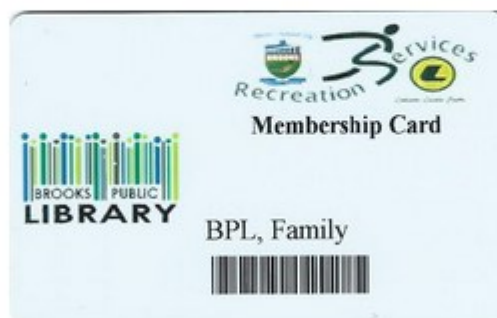
Total Copies: 3  
Available: 0  
Holds: 1

[Place a Hold](#)

[View Availability Details »](#)


## Lakeside Leisure Center Pass - Family

(Book)





My Rating 

 Print

 Add a Comment

 Add Tags

 Add Details ▾

 Save to a List ▾





### Lakeside Leisure Centre Passes

Thanks to Tara Vogt, a board member of Rosemary Community Library, all rural Shortgrass member libraries will soon each receive one pass for Lakeside Leisure Center in Brooks to circulate among their communities. Amenities at the Lakeside Leisure Center include a lane pool and leisure/wave pool, a sauna and steam room, a fitness centre, a gymnasium, and more. Shortgrass Library System thanks the City of Brooks for generously providing these passes for our libraries.

### New TAL CEO

Shortgrass Library System staff and trustees are pleased to welcome Grant Chaney as the new CEO for The Alberta Library (TAL) starting March 2, 2015.

He succeeds Clive Maishment, who has retired as of February 28, 2015.

Grant was most recently President of Strategic Technology Initiatives and has also served as Executive Director of the not-for-profit organization ApplyAlberta, as Chief Technology Officer for Alberta Innovation and Science, and as an Assistant Deputy Minister with Alberta Public Works.

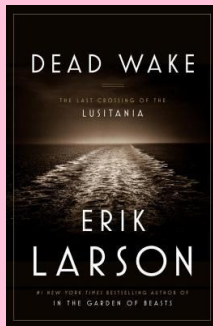
We look forward to working with Grant and TAL on continued cross-ministerial collaborations.





# Coming Soon

Keep an eye out for these 2015 spring releases!



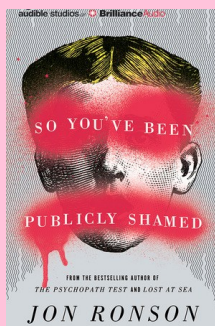
**Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson**  
**March 10**



**The Fifth Heart by Dan Simmons**  
**March 24**



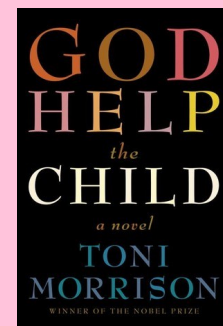
**At the Water's Edge by Sara Gruen**  
**March 31**



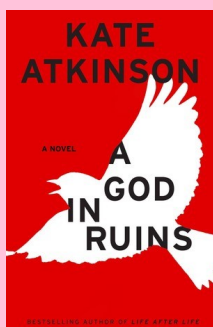
**So You've Been Publicly Shamed by Jon Ronson**  
**March 31**



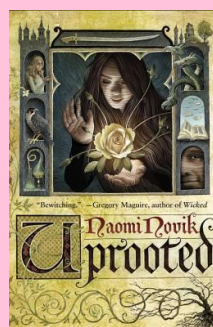
**The Royal We by Heather Cocks & Jessica Morgan**  
**April 7**



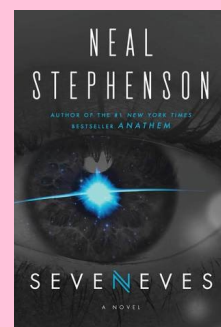
**God Help the Child by Toni Morrison**  
**April 21**



**A God in Ruins by Kate Atkinson**  
**May 5**



**Uprooted by Naomi Novik**  
**May 19**



**Seveneves by Neal Stephenson**  
**May 19**

# Board Leadership

Board Leadership Southeast Alberta is coming to Medicine Hat on March 21, 2015! A first of its kind for a city of this size in Alberta, this one-day training event will bring together board members—

and potential board members— from all over Southeastern Alberta for engaging and informative workshops on board governance.

Focusing primarily on “basic” board fundamental topics, the workshops have been modeled after Board Leadership training events in Edmonton and Calgary. With the goal of enhancing board members’ understanding of their roles in their organizations, the sessions will also bring to light how boards function, various responsibilities of boards and how to stay motivated.

Board Leadership Southeast Alberta will be held at the Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre, located at 401 First St SE, Medicine Hat, Alberta, from **8AM-3PM** on **March 21**, and will cost **\$75.00** to attend.

To register, or to find out more, visit [boardleadershipsouth.com](http://boardleadershipsouth.com). Also check out the Facebook page at [facebook.com/boardleadershipsouth](https://facebook.com/boardleadershipsouth) and the Twitter at [twitter.com/blseab](https://twitter.com/blseab)!



## Program at a Glance

8:00-8:30 am	Registration & Continental Breakfast		
8:30-9:00 am	Conference Opening		
9:00-10:30 am	Making the most of your AGM	Board Governance Basics	Financial Responsibilities for Boards of Non-Profits
10:30 – 11:00 am	Coffee & Networking Break		
11:00– 12:30 pm	So You’re the Board Chair: Now What?	Board Recruitment, Orientation, Training, and Evaluation	Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures: What’s the Difference?
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch		
1:30-3:00 pm	Making Meetings Meaningful	Boards with Staff: Roles & Relationships	Liability and Risk Management for Boards



# All Aboard for ALC!



Hop on board the Shortgrass Bus to Jasper! The 2015 Alberta Library Conference is fast approaching, so reserve your seats today.

## Itinerary

Leaving Medicine Hat at **6:30am** on **Thursday, April 30th**, the bus will stop along the Trans-Canada Highway for pick-ups, which can be arranged in advance with Dyan Bryksa. We will stop in Calgary around **10:30 am** and then again in Banff for lunch, which will be a maximum of one hour. Weather permitting, arrival at Jasper Park Lodge will be around **4:30pm**. The bus will return to Medicine Hat on **Sunday, May 3rd**, with departure from Jasper Park Lodge at approximately **9:30am**.

## Cost

Pick-up from **Medicine Hat to Bassano** is **\$250.00** return, and from **Strathmore to Banff** is **\$175.00** return, which includes the coach, the Parks Canada entrance fee, driver costs, refreshments, and light snacks.

**PLEASE NOTE:** To reserve a seat, a non-refundable payment for the total amount per seat is required at the time of booking.

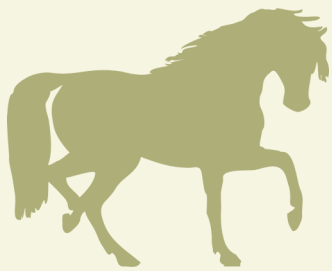
**Booking deadline:** Friday, April 3rd, 2015.

Contact Dyan Bryksa, by email at [dyan@shortgrass.ca](mailto:dyan@shortgrass.ca) or by phone at **(403) 529-0550 extension 100**, for more info or to book a seat.

You can make cheques payable to:

Shortgrass Library System  
2375 – 10th Avenue S.W.  
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8G2

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



# HORSE CORNER

In riding a horse, we borrow freedom.

—*Helen Thompson*



Lessard (Maeghan, MHPL)



Desdemona (Shelley, MHPL)

## March

**March 18:** Shortgrass Board of Trustees meeting

**March 20/21:** Southern Alberta Library Conference in Lethbridge

**March 21:** Board Leadership Southeast Alberta (see page 10)

**March 23:** Library Managers meeting

## April

**April 3:** Good Friday: SLS office closed (no deliveries)

**April 6:** Easter Monday: SLS office closed (no deliveries)

**April 7:** Deliveries resume, missed deliveries made up

**April 15:** Shortgrass Board of Trustees meeting

**April 30-May 3:** Alberta Library Conference in Jasper

## May

**May 11:** Library Managers meeting

**May 18:** Victoria Day: SLS office closed (no deliveries)

**May 19:** Deliveries resume, missed deliveries made up

**May 28-31:** AALT Conference in Canmore

## June

**June 3-6:** CLA Conference in Ottawa

# SHORTGRASS SPRING CALENDAR

