



Shortgrass Clippings

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Message from the CEO

And just like that, we're into fall! I have heard a lot of people grumbling about the cooler weather, but I, for one, am very happy to say farewell to the heat and hello to sweaters, scarves and perfect dog-walking weather.

Since the last issue of the newsletter, we have said farewell to our three summer students, Richard, Amanda and Bailey. They have all returned to their respective universities, and we wish them all the best in their studies.

Our office was painted over the summer and we are about to embark on a flooring replacement for the whole building, which should prove to be interesting and probably a bit messy and noisy. I cannot wait to see the final results!

On August 15th, a new Exchange Student Librarian from Germany, Luisa Konstanzer, joined our team. Welcome, Luisa, we hope you have a great time during your six months at Shortgrass. Luisa will be accompanying Rei on library visits and working on a few projects in the office, as well. Read more about Luisa on page 3.

We also welcomed a new Processing Clerk, Shelley Grisonich. Shelley joined us in late August and we are very pleased to have her as part of our team. You can find out more about Shelley on page 3.

The Bibliographic Services Team has continued to make huge strides in improving turnaround times for any new items and donations coming through our building and we hope that this has resulted in noticeable changes in your community libraries! Check out the graph charting their progress on page 2.

As always, we welcome your feedback on anything you read in this newsletter. Happy fall and I hope all of you get a chance to curl up with a good book on a chilly day!

Petra

Shortgrass Library System // w: shortgrass.ca // p: 403.529.0550 // f: 403.528.2473

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Alcoma Community Library | • Gem Jubilee Library | • Redcliff Public Library |
| • Bassano Memorial Library | • Graham Community Library | • Rolling Hills Public Library |
| • Brooks Public Library | • Irvine Library Association | • Rosemary Community Library |
| • Duchess & District Public Library | • Medicine Hat Public Library | • Susan Andersen Library |
| • Foremost Municipal Library | | • Tilley & District Public Library |

News in Brief

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News from Member Libraries

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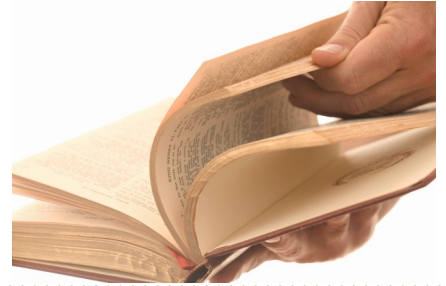
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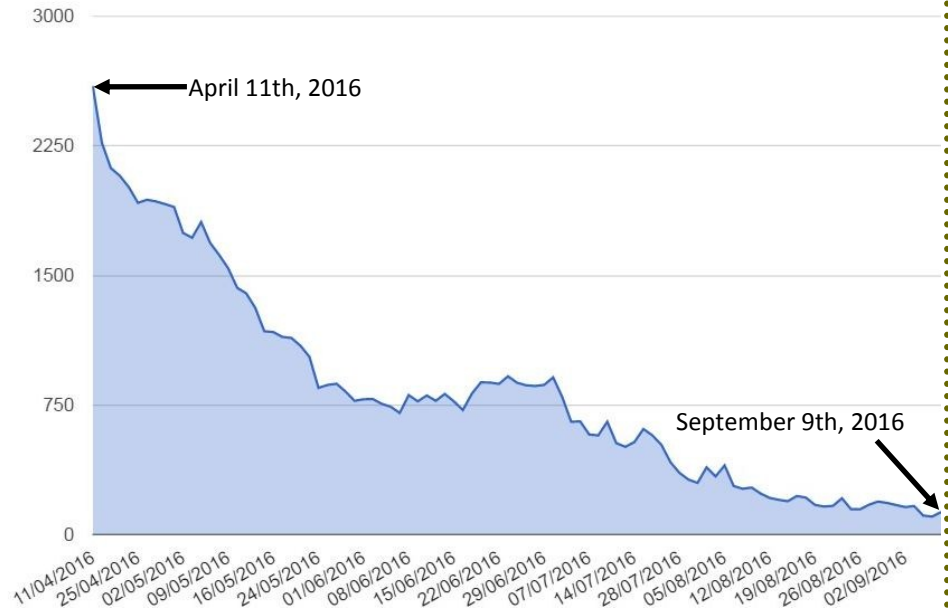
Shortgrass Updates



Cataloguing update

The chart to the right illustrates the total number of items in the Shortgrass building on a weekly time frame between April 11 to September 9th, 2016. The items include orders and donations received for member libraries.

There were just 131 items in the building on September 9th, whereas there were 2,595 items in the building on April 11th.



Bow Island Library renamed 'Susan Andersen Library'



What a great tribute to Sue!

Gem Jubilee Library

On August 13th, we celebrated Gem Jubilee Library's Grand re-opening as an active library member of the Shortgrass Library System!



Welcome Gem Jubilee Library
- we look forward to working with you!

Comings

Shortgrass welcomed two new members:

Shelley Grisonich and Luisa Konstanzer

Shelley has recently joined us as processing clerk.

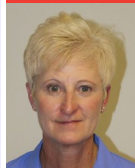
Luisa is with us for 6 months to complete her practicum.



Goings

At the end of August, we said goodbye to our Summer Students, **Amanda, Bailey and Richard**. They helped kick off the summer by decorating the Shortgrass car in the summer reading program theme 'Wild' and also assisted with interlibrary loans, expanding our programming kits, and processing items! Most of all, they were cornerstones for the Gem Jubilee Library recon project. We are grateful for their help and wish them well!

Hello
my name is



Shelley

I am thrilled to be the new Processing Clerk at Shortgrass Library System.

I have a Bachelor's degree from the University of Lethbridge, majoring in Science and Physical

Education. I also have a French Diploma from the University of St. Anne in Churchpoint, Nova Scotia.

Prior to Shortgrass, I spent 34 rewarding years in the teaching profession with the Prairie Rose School Division at Margaret Wooding School in Redcliff, as well as at Irvine School. I also taught within School District 76 at the Southview Community School.

My husband and I are proud owners of 'Rolo,' our beloved chocolate Cocker Spaniel who is training us well! I love to read, sew, make crafts, and complete puzzles. My other interests include gardening, running, hiking, and yoga. We are looking forward to pursuing the sport of kayaking next summer. I also volunteer my services to many organizations throughout the city.

I simply love books and value the importance of libraries. As an educator, I always hoped to instill the love of reading in my students and the power that books have to transmit knowledge, transform ideas and transport the reader to another time and place.

I look forward to working with the helpful, friendly Shortgrass Library team and providing service to the various libraries within our system.

Hello
my name is



Luisa

I am originally from Ravensburg, a town near Lake Constance, but when I'm in Germany, I live in Stuttgart where I study "Library and Information Management" at Stuttgart Media University.

It is very different from Medicine Hat, especially the landscape and the population is much larger. Most people live in flats instead of houses and our cars are smaller. The biggest adjustment I've had, living in Canada, is the eight hour time difference between Canada and Germany, so I'm unable to talk to my family and friends whenever I want.

I have always been interested in getting international work experience and practicing my English skills, so I asked one of my professors if she knew of any opportunities for an internship in Canada. She put me in contact with Petra. I sent her my resume and we emailed and Skyped back and forth. In July, when Petra was in Germany, we met in person and talked more about the position.

I hope to gain new experiences, exchange ideas and improve my English skills.

In my leisure time, I like meeting and talking with new people, sightseeing, hiking, yoga, taking photos, and riding my bike. I really like the books "Game of Thrones - a song of Ice and Fire." I always wear different socks, so you will never see me wearing matching socks.

I am so excited to go to the Library Conference in Grande Prairie. I also want to go to Vancouver, Toronto, Edmonton, Banff, Calgary, and maybe Anchorage, too. Everyone I have met has been very nice and friendly, so I think I will enjoy my time here!

A note from the ILL team:

Here's a shout out for filling holds in such a timely manner!

Patrons in other systems are getting these items more quickly.

An extra thank you to those libraries that have been noting down each of the items' designated destinations!



Interested in a VDX refresher?

Come to our training session—see Page 11.

News: Summer Reading Program

From 'Monoporead' to Reading Bingo, an eye-spy wall to sidewalk chalk art, we saw many inspirational ideas around the System! Best of all, you helped create many happy memories for everyone who visited your library and participated in your programs! ***Bravo!!***



Bassano Memorial Library had families on their toes looking for items with their 'Look & Find' board



The Ernestine Hatpin Show starring Sheila and Tim Gibbs was great entertainment!

Creativity in action!



Above: Glue yarn ball crafts at Alcoma Community Library



Above: Reading cave in the ‘Jungle’ at Foremost Municipal Library



Above: Sand and chalk art at Susan Andersen Library



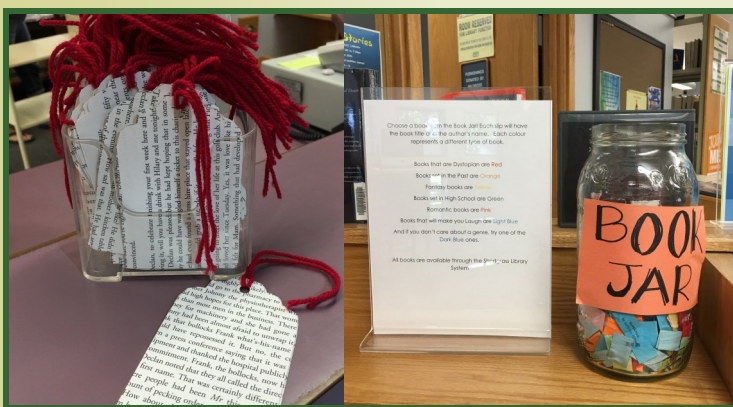
illustrators show attendees how to write &
illustrate a book at Redcliff Public Library



Tumblebook reading and sing alongs were part of the fun at Rosemary Community Library



'Monoporead' and Teen games night at Medicine Hat Public Library



Bookmarks using discarded material at the Circ Desk and the Book Jar in the Teen Area encourage reading at Brooks Public Library



Susan Andersen Library and the local newsletter engaged their community with a 'Find the Cheetah' contest over the summer

To support our member libraries and their staff ,

Shortgrass has ready-to-go programming kits!

There are three new kits this Fall!

- Learner's License Prep
- Farm Animals
- Candy Sushi

More info at:

www.shortgrass.ca/programming-kits



A kit in action!

'Read Alberta Books' kit on display at the Medicine Hat Public Library

Libraries in the Spotlight

Discover some examples of how libraries in our system are advocating for their library by connecting with their community.

“Give people, library staff, patrons, family and community decision makers a reason to talk about the services your library offers.”

-The Library Effect

Anita at Tilley & District Public Library is excited to have two regular storytimes this fall, presented by a community member and education representative.

On the ground level, she also seizes opportunities in the grocery line to talk about access to free magazines through the library!

Kathryn at Susan Andersen Library places ads in the community booklet and creates opportunities to spread the word through partnerships and outreach. A book exchange every third week, at an in-town Seniors Assisted Living community, has expanded the reach of the library beyond its walls!

Lisa at Brooks Public Library has been going to City Council meetings and familiarizing herself with key issues in and around the city. She uses this opportunity to learn about other community groups' priorities, concerns and issues and then creates opportunities for the library to offer informational assistance.

She's also been out for radio spots, showcasing weekly events happening at the library!

From: **Tracy at Redcliff Library:**

“When I asked our student clerk, David Leist, what he thought a good selling point for our library would be, he replied that when we offer children's programming, such as the SRP, the children can get out in the community and are able to ride bikes or walk to our library instead of being stuck at home while the parents work all day. It's a benefit of being in a small community.”

Share with us:

What's **neat/interesting/worthwhile to you** about your library? Is it the variety of services offered? The moment of connection when you're on the same page with a patron? Please share your stories with Shortgrass.



Advocacy That Matters With Colleen Schalm

We were pleased to have Colleen Schalm from Parkland Regional Library, present on Advocacy at the May Library Managers meeting. Discussion on 'The Library Effect,' its urgency, overviews, and practical steps for how libraries can argue their impact and value to decision-makers were brought to the table.

Key takeaways:

What is advocacy?

Advocacy is the planned, deliberate, sustained effort to raise awareness of an issue and create conditions to allow others to act on your behalf.

How libraries and their supporters can demonstrate the value they provide to the community:

- Advocacy
(see more in **Libraries in the Spotlight**)
- Build relationships with stakeholders
 - Attend council meetings and listen to/offer ways of tackling issues that are being brought to the table;
 - Find out who the community leaders and influencers are and familiarize yourself with the priority of the persons and/or groups. Offer ideas/assistance where appropriate;
 - Build direct personal and continuing contact. Regularly send updates, invite stakeholders to storytimes, author readings, etc. to see tax dollars in action.
- Connect with members in the community
 - Be a guest on the local radio and promote your library events/programs;
 - Invite members of the community to be guest presenters.

Get more ideas and resources (including templates) from the Parkland Regional Library Advocacy Toolkit

(<http://support.prl.ab.ca/advocacy-toolkit>)

Stronger together

Working cooperatively to develop or provide programs or services, while meeting shared visions, goals and responsibilities with other groups or institutions
= a great strategic tool!

Within our system, many libraries work cooperatively with other governing bodies for a variety of reasons, including collaboratively building upon resources, knowledge, expertise, and skills that enhance the customer experience that the library alone might not possess.

COMMON PARTNERSHIPS:

While each library has unique connections within their community, one of the more common partnerships noted system-wide was inviting members and groups within the community to take part in regular library storytimes and programs. Examples include: Early Childhood Development (ECD) community coalitions and Lifelong Education And Resource Network (LEARN). Special guest visits from groups, such as the fire and police departments, and programming with community services and foundations (ie. Alberta Health Services, Alberta Law Foundation and Horticultural Society) were utilized, as well.

PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS:

Three libraries indicated that they partner with the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) to jointly fulfill their mandates. Movie nights are an example of a joint event—FCSS has the rights to show newly released feature films and the library, the space to host. Together they offer the community a great service!

Three of the libraries established connections with their Further Education Council (Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE) Program and Newell Further Education) and hosted various literacy programs within the library space, as well.

We'd love to hear from you!

What tips do you have for developing and maintaining successful partnerships?

Library Display Ideas for Fall

Capture your patrons' attention with eye-catching displays showcasing your collections! New books, community celebrations and monthly themes, for example, are great places to start.

Here are some ideas:

September



Some notable days/weeks in this month include:

- International Day of Peace (Sept. 21st)
- Banned Books Week (Sept. 25-Oct. 1st)
- Alberta Culture Days (Sept. 30-Oct. 2nd)

October

With fall in full swing and Thanksgiving around the corner, the Internet and Pinterest, in particular, have great Harvesting, Thanksgiving and Halloween display ideas, including this one!



Picture from: <https://librarydisplays.org/2012/11/12/thanksgiving-tree/>

November

What would you do with extra money?

- ☐ Buy a new cell phone
- ☐ Take a vacation
- ☐ Save for retirement

Managing your money can be a snap.

Visit MoneyMattersCanada.ca for free budgeting and savings tools to help you take charge of your money.

Highlight your library collection with book displays and downloadable resources or, sign your library up for Free Financial

Literacy workshops for Financial Literacy Month—hosted through ABC Life Literacy Canada. (<http://abclifeliteracy.ca/mm/november-financial-literacy-month>)

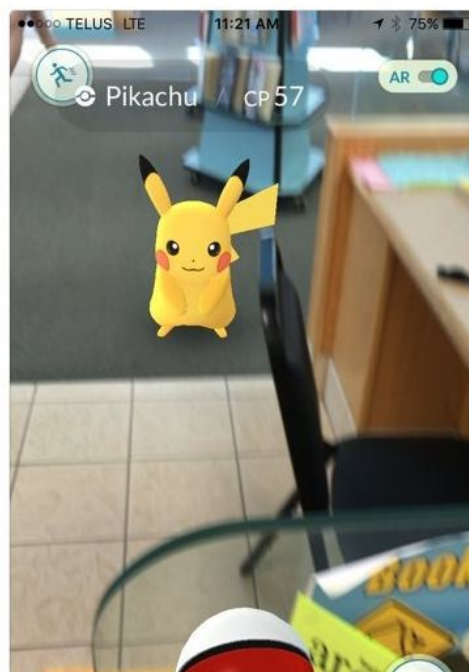
Pokémon Go!

The Pokémon Go phenomenon has caught the attention of businesses and libraries alike! The August edition of **PC Magazine***, available via **Zinio** gives details on how lures and social media have brought about business. Locally, our member libraries have taken this opportunity to interact with their communities via their social media. Take a look!

* Marvin, Rob. (2016, August). How the Pokeconomy is changing business, one lure at a time. *PC Magazine Digital Edition*, 13-18.



Medicine Hat Library @MHPLPublicLibrary · Aug 29
Pikachu was caught at #MHPL this weekend along with many others. Check 'em out here: goo.gl/HUyJsZ #medhat



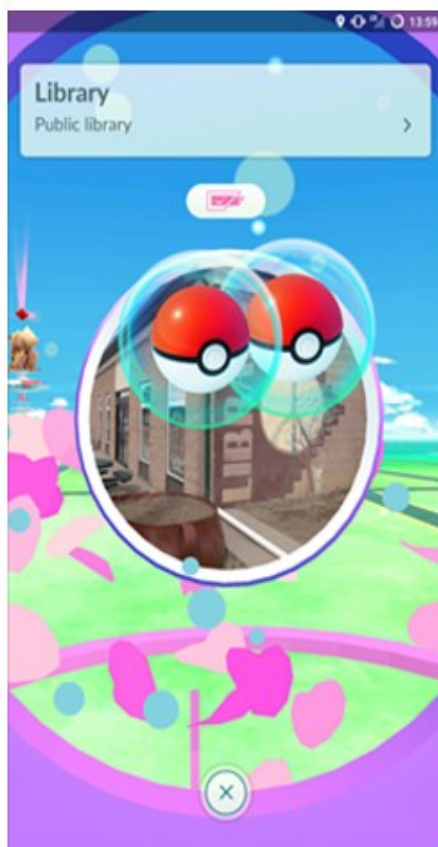
1 ❤️ ...



Susan Andersen Library/ Bow Island Library

July 22 · 🌐

Right now! #pokemongo #pokestop



👍 Like 💬 Comment



Brooks Public Library

August 11 at 4:11pm · 🌐

Let us know what Pokémon you catch when you're at the library! Also when your team takes the gym! What team are you on?



👍 Like 💬 Comment

Cloud Burst

Aaron Dalla-Longa

Systems Administrator



Hello everyone and welcome to another edition of Cloud Burst!

The seasons are starting to change and so are some of the back-end systems that keep you connected!

The Next Generation Network (NGN) Upgrade at Shortgrass took place on August 24th and, after some minor growing pains, is now rolled out and stable. This upgrade is paving the way for future Internet enhancements at your community libraries.

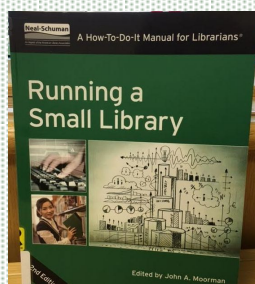
While we are on the subject of tech upgrades, a list of recommended computer hardware, at a good price, is available on our wiki* (<http://bit.ly/2ceDKjv>). If you are looking to replace or add computers to your library, I recommend you take a quick peek at that page, to see if the prices are better than other vendors you may currently be looking at.



Another possible technological upgrade that may save you money could be upgrading your library's phone system to Shortgrass' VoIP system. Pricing and details will be available in the very near future.

*Currently, our wiki is only accessible if you are in a Shortgrass Library System member library.

You can reach me at: aaron@shortgrass.ca or at [1-866-529-0550 ext 103](tel:1-866-529-0550)



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOOKS CORNER:

~Available to library staff on 3 week loan~

SPOTLIGHT:

Running a Small Library



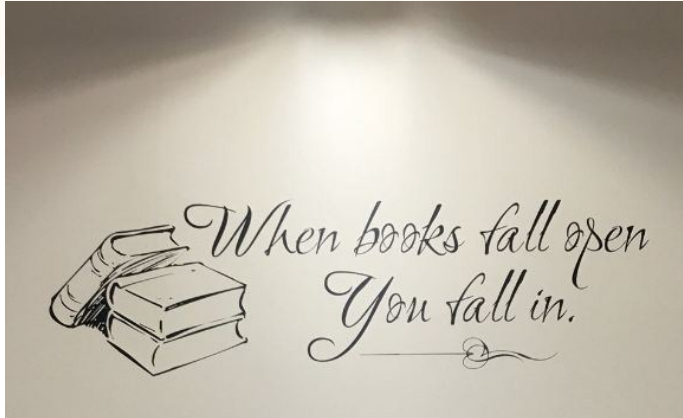
Running a Small Library provides a brief overview on everything from: **Library Administration** (policies and procedures, community partnership development) and **Collection Development** (tips on weeding and material selection) to **Library Services** (reader's advisory, social media and programming).

This is a great starter reference guide and was instrumental to developing the 'Stronger Together' and 'Display Ideas' section in this issue of the Clippings.

For more information and/or to access this and other resources, please contact Rei (rei@shortgrass.ca or 403-529-0550 – ext 104)



Notable Quote



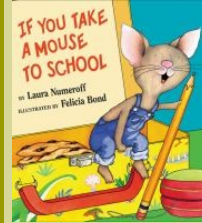
From: Rolling Hills Public Library



Storytime Corner

~Back to School~

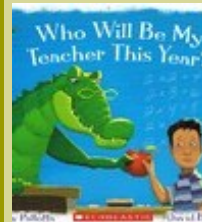
Fall brings the beginnings of a new storytime season! Shawna at Brooks Public Library tells us her favorite back to school books, rhymes and songs!



If You Take A Mouse to School

By: Laura Joffe Numeroff

Weblink to book: <http://bit.ly/2cFXhaW>



Who Will Be My Teacher This Year?

By: Jerry Pallotta

Weblink to book: <http://bit.ly/2cH1v4R>

~ A Rhyme I Love ~

Five Friends — counting play with magnets/felts:

Five good friends went out to play, It was a bright and sunny day, One good friend said, "I can't stay." Then there were four friends left to play.

"	"	"	three	"	"	"	"
"	"	"	two	"	"	"	"
"	"	"	one	"	"	"	"
"	"	"	No friends left to play."				

~ Songs I Love ~

I Made A New Friend

I made a new friend, a new friend, a new friend, I made a new friend and his/her name is _____!

(Comment: I love doing this with my class. It is a great way for them to get to know each other. Everyone sits in a circle, the teacher holds a ball and repeats this song as she rolls the ball to each member of the circle.)

The More We Get Together

Sung to the tune of : Did you ever see a Lassie?

The more we get together, together, together,
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be,
Because your friends are my friends
And my friends are your friends.
The more we get together, the happier we'll be.

(Additional/optional verses: The more we play together, dance together etc.)

Ideas and Resources

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORNER

VDX TRAINING:

Monday, October 17th at 1:00 pm

Location: Shortgrass Boardroom

Staff members from Chinook Arch will be delivering VDX training in person. Stay tuned for more information in October!

RECORDED WEBINAR :

Managing Traditional & Social Media for Libraries
(<http://bit.ly/2bSfYuu>)

From: Public Library Association (65 min)

For public library staff, dealing with the media can sometimes be rewarding, sometimes frustrating, sometimes exciting, sometimes daunting... but always necessary. This on-demand webinar covers the fundamentals of media planning and outreach—including social media—to prepare you to work with the media and generate attention that will support your library's activities and advocacy efforts.



From 'Managing Traditional & Social Media for Libraries' Slideshow and PDF

Looking for information on a product (phone/car/washer/bed, etc.)?

Want unbiased reviews?

Check out:



ConsumerReports.org is one of our Online Resources. It's an independent, not-for-profit organization that provides objective, unbiased product testing, research, public education (links to news), reviews, and ratings — all advertisement free.

Product Reviews on:

- Cars (new, used, accessories...)
- Electronics (computers, tablets, TVs, phones...)
- Appliances (kitchen appliances, washing machines...)
- Home & Garden (mattresses, faucets, cookware...)
- Babies & Kids (diapers, food, carriers, strollers...)
- Money (banks, credit cards, shopping websites...)
- Health (food and personal care products, fitness...)

How to use ConsumerReports.org

- From the Shortgrass homepage, select **Resources** and click **Online Resources**. Under the heading "Featured eResources," click on **Consumer Reports.org**
- Login with your library card or access directly from the "**click here for access**" button.
- Search information in the Search bar or browse by product and/or Product Reviews. (Please see below)



ConsumerReports

PRODUCT REVIEWS ▾

ISSUES THAT MATTER ▾

ABOUT US



Hi - Library User ▾

Browse by
Product review here

Search for a item review here

Search

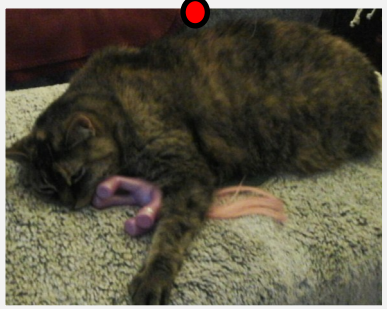
All Products A-Z

↑ Search by Category or Product

Animal Alley!

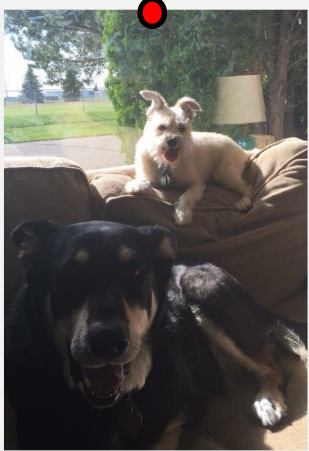
Meet: **Tika**

(She lives with Robin and Chris Cory, Redcliff Library Board Members)



Meet: **Sophie**

(She lives with Marlene Balser, Interlibrary Loans & Reference Staff at MHPL)



Meet : **Gabby & Cooper**

(They live with Gillian Reimer, Head of Marketing Services at MHPL)

September

September 19: Library Managers Meeting in Foremost

September 21: SLS Board Meeting in Redcliff

October

October 10: Thanksgiving -
SLS HQ Closed, no deliveries

October 11: Deliveries resume, missed deliveries made up

October 19: SLS Board Meeting

November

November 11: Remembrance Day -
SLS HQ Closed, no deliveries

November 12: Deliveries resume, missed deliveries made up

November 14: Library Managers Meeting

November 23: SLS Board meeting

November 25: Order cutoff date

December

December 7: Christmas Dinner & Social



Looking for feedback:

If you have suggestions, photos or stories that you'd like to share and/or ideas for a future issue, please contact Rei - Client Services Librarian at: rei@shortgrass.ca

NEXT EDITION OF SHORTGRASS CLIPPINGS: DECEMBER 2016