

Shortgrass Clippings



Volume VII
Issue 1
Spring 2017

Table of Contents

2016 At A Glance	2
Get To Know SLS Staff	3
Professional Development Opportunities	4-7
News from Member Libraries	8-9
CloudBurst	10
Programming Info	11
2017 Calendar	12
Animal Corner	12

NEWS IN BRIEF

2016 At A Glance 2

Synopsis of 2016 stats

Professional Development Opportunities 4-7

Training opportunities for the months of March, April, and May.

Learn more about the AALT Conference and the Alberta Library Conference

Member Libraries 8-9

See the latest and greatest from around our system

2017 Calendar 12



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

I am pleased to present a newly designed version of the Shortgrass Clippings, fresh for 2017.

As always, spring brings a fresh start to Shortgrass. Gale Courses, the newest online resource available in Shortgrass member libraries since January 2017, has received a fantastic response in our communities, with more library card holders signing up for online courses on everything from digital photography to accounting and sign language. This new resource allows libraries to make their mark in communities as not only a place for recreational resources, but as a provider of educational resources for truly EVERYONE.

Shortgrass was, once again, part of the planning committee for the Board Leadership South event and it was great seeing board members from public libraries, learning about effective board governance together.

We are happy to report that we have maintained a zero-backlog environment in the Bibliographic Services department for several months, with most items being catalogued and shipped to member libraries either the same day or within a few days of arriving at Shortgrass. This has freed up time for Shortgrass cataloguers to undertake a number of database cleanup projects. See the chart illustrating the number of items in the cataloguing queue on page 2.

We were sad to say farewell to Luisa Konstanzer, our second-ever German exchange student intern. Luisa provided us with assistance on everything from preparing the poems for the Poetry Month "flower pots," to helping Chris with statistical analysis and spreadsheets, and beating Shortgrass staff members during raucous rounds of board games at break times. She will be missed.

On October 16th, 2017, Shortgrass will hold another Professional Development Day for member library staff and board members. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to summer.

In the fall, Executive Assistant Janice planted some special edition Canada 150 tulips, the official tulip of Canada's 150th anniversary, around the Shortgrass property. I can't wait to see them bloom later this spring, to help us celebrate our country's special birthday.

With warm wishes,

Petra

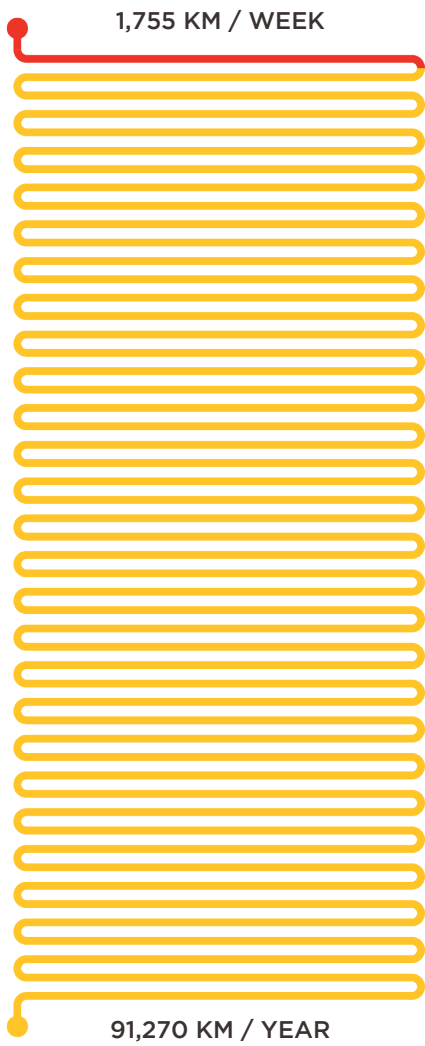
SHORTGRASS LIBRARY SYSTEM | W: SHORTGRASS.CA | P: 403.529.0550 | F: 403.528.2473

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

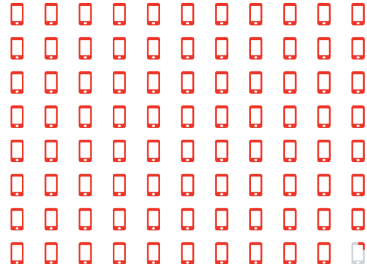


2016 At A Glance

Our vans had 3,168 delivery stops over the year, which was 91,270 km and approximately 1,755 km per week.



We added **8,730** OverDrive eBooks to the collection.



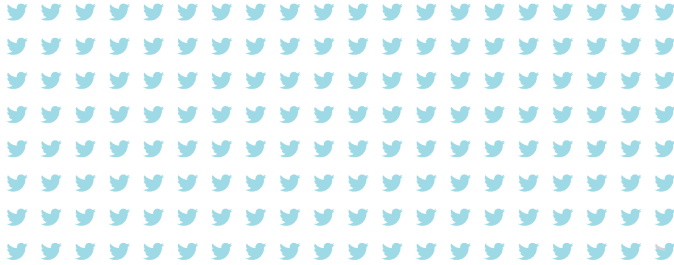
We ordered **14,682** items in 2016.



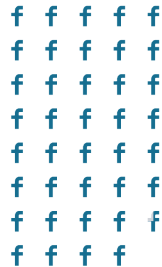
66,737 items were added to the collection.



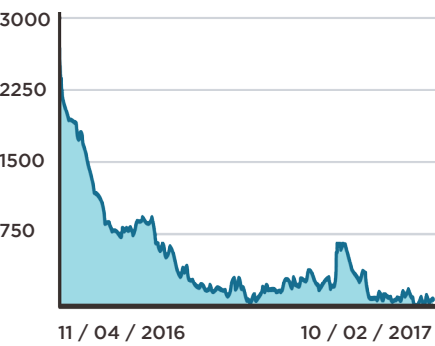
Our Twitter account had approximately **159,699** tweet impressions.



3,769 daily engaged users on Facebook.



ITEMS IN CATALOGUING QUEUE SINCE APRIL 2016



CATEGORY	2016 COUNT	INCREASE OVER 2015
Number of items processed (including records)	34,745	13.37%
Total physical items circulated (public libraries only)	746,450	3.51%
Total eBooks circulated	60,346	9.49%
hoopla checkouts	13,328	41.72%
Zinio checkouts	12,594	2.67%

GET TO KNOW THE SCHOOL CATALOGUER AND ACQUISITIONS OFFICER



Meet Val

Meet Keltie

Hi I'm Val (Valerie) Ogden and I'm the cataloguer for both the Medicine Hat School District #76 and the Prairie Rose School Division.

I have been with Shortgrass for 12 years but have been in the library world for a total of 35 years.

I have worked in every department a library has to offer. I remember typing catalogue cards and now enter everything on the computer.

I received my education from SAIT through correspondence and web classes.

I really enjoy cataloguing for the schools. There is always something new to learn. The challenge is keeping up with 34 schools and all of their different collection codes.

I have seen many changes. The future holds many new challenges, especially with technology and how we catalogue.

In my downtime, I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, camping, crocheting, gardening, and baking.

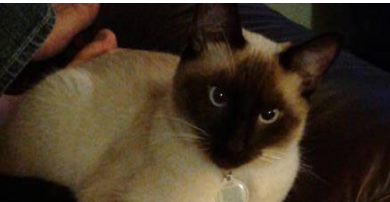
Hello, I'm Keltie Turner. I am in charge of Acquisitions for the public libraries. I order, receive and invoice the items that come through Shortgrass.

I started at Shortgrass four and a half years ago as a part time processor. I slowly learned more about library systems and the different jobs within them. Acquisitions tasks were my favourite, but I could fill in for the cataloguers in a pinch if needed. I was excited to take on the full responsibility of Acquisitions Officer, when the opportunity arose last June.

The most challenging and most fun part of my job is when librarians send in requests for hard-to-find items. I enjoy doing some "detective work" to help them find what their patrons are looking for.

In my free time, I enjoy reading, but that was probably a given. Mystery novels are my favourite and playing board games.

I also have two pugs at home, Meeko and Percy, and I love them to pieces.



Top: Val's cat
Middle: Val's dog and cat
Bottom: Keltie's pugs Meeko and Percy

Professional Development

NEW YEAR, NEW SKILLS!

Make 2017 the year you and your staff enhance your skills! Register for one of these many continuing education opportunities. Many of them are free!

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN MARCH

MARCH 9TH	Stop Nonprofit Workplace Bullying!	Webinar	http://bit.ly/2gJGN2P
MARCH 9TH	CELA: Frontline Staff Training	Webinar	http://bit.ly/2iWeoeQ
MARCH 9TH	Historypin: Using Local History for Community Engagement	Webinar	http://bit.ly/2jZFfHx
MARCH 9TH	Build Staff Buy-In for Volunteer Engagement	Webinar	http://bit.ly/1rqFxFI
MARCH 10TH	Bridging Cultural Diversity Workshop	Webinar	http://bit.ly/2io3nyw
MARCH 15TH	Using MBTI to Understand & Appreciate Workplace Differences (\$80)	In Person	http://bit.ly/2hyWEBu
MARCH 15TH	Marketing Your Nonprofit	In Person	http://bit.ly/2ivXRdF
MARCH 15TH	Writing Effective Grant Proposals	In Person	http://bit.ly/2iVXtYY
MARCH 15TH	Nonprofit Fundraising Essentials	Online Course	http://bit.ly/2ivWhrS
MARCH 15TH	A to Z Grant Writing	Online Course	http://bit.ly/2i6fHI0
MARCH 15TH	Get Grants!	Online Course	http://bit.ly/2j9Nmx4
MARCH 15TH	Using Social Media in Business	Online Course	http://bit.ly/2ivTeAh
MARCH 15TH	Achieving Success with Difficult People	Online Course	http://bit.ly/2iaSDWL
MARCH 15TH	Keyboarding	Online Course	http://bit.ly/2iwwqMq
MARCH 16TH	Educator Access	Webinar	http://bit.ly/2iWeoeQ
MARCH 16TH	Managing Difficult Volunteer Transitions	Webinar	http://bit.ly/1Hjlo5A
MARCH 23RD	What's New in Children's Literature 2017	Webinar	http://bit.ly/2jYZr7H



How To Organize Your Desk

No matter how clean you are, somehow your desk just gains clutter over time, like moss growing on a rock. My desk at home is scattered with trinkets, cables, and errant soy sauce packets from past lunches, which all just get in the way. Tossing the clutter and getting organized can help you focus on your work.

<http://lifehacker.com/how-to-declutter-your-desk-and-get-organized-1757126328>

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN APRIL

APRIL 4TH	Developing A Strategic Plan For Volunteer Engagement	Webinar	http://bit.ly/1lxYxB
APRIL 6TH	Successfully Implementing Volunteer Engagement	Webinar	http://bit.ly/2aHFyks
APRIL 12TH	Becoming an Employer of Choice - Human Resources Skills Essentials (\$80)	In Person	http://bit.ly/2hQnLuQ
APRIL 12TH	Marketing Your Nonprofit	Online Course	http://bit.ly/2ivXRdF
APRIL 12TH	Writing Effective Grant Proposals	Online Course	http://bit.ly/2iVXtYY
APRIL 12TH	Nonprofit Fundraising Essentials	Online Course	http://bit.ly/2ivWhrS
APRIL 12TH	A to Z Grant Writing	Online Course	http://bit.ly/2i6fHI0
APRIL 12TH	Get Grants!	Online Course	http://bit.ly/2j9Nmx4
APRIL 12TH	Using Social Media in Business	Online Course	http://bit.ly/2ivTeAh
APRIL 12TH	Achieving Success with Difficult People	Online Course	http://bit.ly/2iaSDWL
APRIL 12TH	Keyboarding	Online Course	http://bit.ly/2iwwqMq
APRIL 18TH	Understanding Soft Risk in Volunteer Engagement	Webinar	http://bit.ly/28K54qA
APRIL 20TH	Engaging Pro Bono and Skills-Based Volunteers	Webinar	http://bit.ly/1TF4FTi
APRIL 25TH	Re-Energizing Your Volunteer Program by Designing Mission-Driven Opportunities	Webinar	http://bit.ly/2aZW8hg
APRIL 27TH	Supercharge Your Listening Skills	Webinar	http://bit.ly/2hnALJ6
APRIL 27TH - 30TH	Collection Development (Jasper)	Conference	
APRIL 27TH - 30TH	Smartphone / Tablets (Jasper)	Conference	
APRIL 27TH - 30TH	Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest (Jasper)	Conference	
APRIL 27TH - 30TH	Teen Programming (Jasper)	Conference	
APRIL 27TH - 30TH	Human Library Experience (Jasper)	Conference	
APRIL 27TH - 30TH	How To Communicate More Effectively and Achieve Better Results (Jasper)	Conference	

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN MAY

MAY 9TH - 10TH	Now We Are Stronger Conference	Conference	
MAY 23RD - 24TH	Working Stronger	Conference	http://bit.ly/2lrYHd2
MAY 26TH - 28TH	Cypress Hills AB Photography Workshop	In Person	http://bit.ly/2hQlwrK

Upcoming Library Conferences

43rd ANNUAL AALT CONFERENCE

April 20-23, Banff Park Lodge Resort Hotel & Conference Centre

The following sessions may be of particular interest to Shortgrass member library staff or board members:

THE LEAN LIBRARY
Friday, 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Corporate libraries, including law libraries, are under pressure to be better, faster, and cheaper (BFC). How can we achieve BFC while maintaining high quality services to our appreciative clients? This session will reveal how using the lens of Lean Six Sigma to review law library operations can build BFC opportunities that will also delight library customers and stakeholders.

3FS OF A LIBRARY AFTER-SCHOOL SNACK PROGRAM
Friday, 1:15PM - 2:00PM

Do you have hungry kids in your library? Providing the occasional snack for children attending library programs is great, but what about the kids who use our libraries every day and in other ways? Delve into the developmental, behavioral, and social benefits of running an after-school snack program, and discover resources for possible funding and program partners.

SOCIAL MEDIA, MARKETING AND PROMOTION
Friday, 2:00PM - 3:00PM

This session will enlighten participants on the opportunities as well as tips and techniques of customer engagement using social media. You will learn some strategies in engaging and marketing library services using the various social media platforms, as well as making use of the best platform to meet your needs.

FEELING RACI?
Friday, 3:45PM - 4:30PM

Project planning can sound really daunting and overwhelming. This session will help de-mystify the process so that participants can feel confident becoming a project planner or project manager.

FAN FICTION IN THE LIBRARY
Saturday, 10:45AM - 11:45AM

Join library tech and author Judith Graves in this introduction to Fan Fiction, or fanfic. Fanfic consists of writing stories with already established characters from pop culture (TV shows, movies, gaming, the classics, etc). Judith was recently hired (along with several other writers) to beta test a new fanfic collaborative writing community and has learned how this format can be used to generate interest in writing – especially for those who struggle with traditional creative writing assignments. If you're looking for a way to promote writing within your school or public library / learning commons - or you just want to WRITE – this session is for you.

I DIDN'T KNOW LIBRARIES DID THAT!
Saturday, 1:45PM - 2:45PM

Libraries are constantly evolving organizations but a perception that they should only do certain things persists among funders and community stakeholders. Libraries have potential to be more to our communities than what we currently are. This session will provide a rationale for providing “non-traditional” programming, what those programs look like in other libraries, how to put on those programs and a rationale for impact/outcome based evaluation of those programs. Discover how to get other people to do your programming for you and how to re-evaluate evaluation so you can recognize “unintended successes.”

PREPARING LIBRARY TECHNICIANS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
Saturday, 3:15PM - 4:30PM

The library is rapidly shifting from its collections-oriented roots to becoming a vibrant, socially-focused place of learning, technology and community. The challenge in education is to prepare new library technicians for the demands of a complex career. As one recent MacEwan graduate said, “I want to do all the things!” Are library education programs preparing technicians to do ‘all the things’? Using the findings from our environmental scan of Canadian library technician diploma programs, we will highlight some current developments in education and try ‘bringing it all together’ and show that indeed, we can do all, and then some!



ALBERTA LIBRARY CONFERENCE

April 27-30, Jasper, Alberta



The Alberta Library Conference (ALC) is the premier annual conference hosted by Library Association of Alberta (LAA) & Alberta Library Trustees Association (ALTA).

The conference is attended by library staff, library trustees, and library school students, as well as representatives of library-related businesses and organizations. ALC is held in the beautiful location of Jasper, Alberta, in the Canadian Rockies. It provides a unique combination of learning and connections with others in libraries, in a unique, secluded setting that creates a sense of community.

For more information, visit www.albertalibraryconference.com.



DID YOU KNOW THAT A 2016 VERSION OF THE ALBERTA PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORY IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES BRANCH?

The directory includes all provincial public libraries and their boards. A print version of the directory is published each year in July. The online version of the directory and mailing labels are updated on a consistent basis.

Visit www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/plsb_directory for more information!



LEARN SPANISH IN YOUR UNDERWEAR.

Or German, French or even Icelandic.

Learn over 60 languages online for free with Mango Languages.

Visit the library's website, or ask your librarian how to get started.

shortgrass.ca/languages

News from Member Libraries

There is always something happening in SE Alberta’s public libraries!

WOOL PAINTING

Alcoma Community Library

Seventeen ladies were signed up for the “Wool Painting Night” at Alcoma Community Library.

Library Manager Janet Wagner said, “It was a great night and we had a wonderful response. It was lots of fun and an interesting art project.”



CANDY SUSHI EVENING

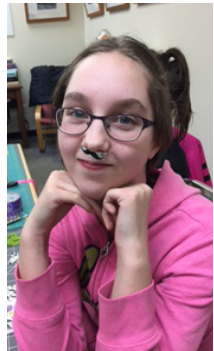
Bassano Memorial Library

The Bassano Memorial Library had two successful evenings with their kids and youth. They had a Candy Sushi evening, as part of their Chinese New Year program. The library also did stories, origami and sushi. It was a big hit with the kids!

DUCT TAPE EVENING

Bassano Memorial Library

The Bassano Memorial Library hosted a Duct Tape evening and it was a success! They had 8 or 9 youth out, which was great, as historically it hasn’t been easy to get this age group out to events. The attendees enjoyed this evening so much, they asked for more events in the future.



MINI GOLF AT THE LIBRARY

Redcliff Public Library

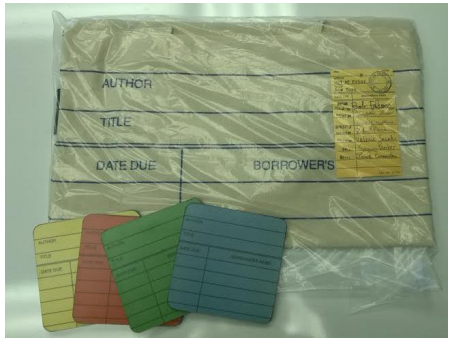
Friends of the Redcliff Library Society are hosting mini golf in the library again on Friday, March 24th.

LITERACY DAY

Tilley and District Public Library

On Friday, January 27th, the Tilley and District Public Library partnered with the Newell Further Education Council and the Tilley School to celebrate Literacy Day.

NFEd provided door prizes and snacks, TDPL provided the books and volunteer readers and the school provided 37 students from K-2 and some of their siblings.



THE OUT OF PRINT FUNDRAISER

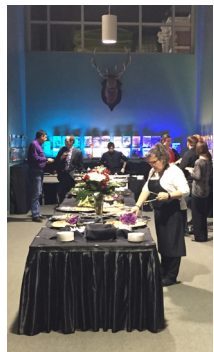
Redcliff Public Library

Friends of the Redcliff Public Library hosted an “Out of Print” fundraiser, raising a total of \$368.00, which they are very pleased about. Redcliff Public Library has worked with many domestic and international libraries and schools over the years to help raise money for their programs.

LOVIN’ THE LIBRARY

Medicine Hat Public Library

MHPL held its second Lovin’ the Library fundraiser on Friday, February 10th, 2017. The library was transformed into an amazing venue for the over 150 people in attendance. The ‘experiential’ auction items were a big hit, as well as the adult storytime held in the castle and the local historian author talk in the theatre. It was the last time the theatre will be used until after the renovation is complete.



LOVIN’ THE LIBRARY


Duchess & District Library

The Duchess & District Library had a Valentine’s draw for a preschool boy and girl, with the prize being a balloon containing a book and goodies. They had a very talented lady in their area make these up for them.



CloudBurst

By Aaron Dalla-Longa



Hello everyone, and welcome to the latest edition of CloudBurst!

This quarter, I would like to once again highlight the IP phone system that is available through Shortgrass Library System. Below are the costs associated with the transfer. In most cases, this is more economical than a traditional phone line.

Entry costs for the Phone System

One time fees:

- \$100 pilot number and set-up fee
- \$25 to port up to 6 numbers, \$4 per number thereafter
- approx \$250 per phone

Monthly fees:

- \$30 per channel (line)
- \$2 per ported number
- \$0.75 per number 911 fee
- \$3 channel burst on day it was used*
- \$0.25/minute long distance NA

*A channel is synonymous to a line in traditional telephony. If you pay for 2 channels a month (\$60), and on any given day, you use a third channel, you pay \$3 for that additional channel for that day. This charge is only applied once per day per channel burst (I.E. if you burst up to 3 channels a few times a day, the extra charge is \$3 total for that day).

NEWSPAPER SOURCE PLUS

The Public Library Services Branch is funding a new e-Resource for public libraries: **Newspaper Source Plus** from EBSCO.

Newspaper Source Plus provides a full-text digital collection of major news content from around the world. It includes nearly 67 million full-text articles from more than 1,200 newspapers, newswires and news magazines. In addition, it offers television and radio news transcripts.

The interface for Newspaper Source Plus is very similar to the MasterFile product that we had a few years ago. The vendor does not have any dedicated training material, but I found an excellent video produced by the Folsom Lake College Library which reviews the basics. It is just under 3 minutes long and is accessible here:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljojZbkaDzE>
- Newspaper Source Plus is now accessible on our website. You can find it in the following places:
- eNewspapers: <http://shortgrass.ca/resources/enewspapers>
 - eResources by Category: <http://shortgrass.ca/database/all>



READ ALBERTA BOOKS

Read eBooks written by fellow Albertans!

Over 1,100 Award-winning, all engaging Alberta-published eBooks from 24 publishers. Titles cover a range of genres including literary fiction, graphic novels, poetry, mystery, memoir, biography, self-help, humour, scholarly, young adult and speculative fiction.

Read Alberta eBooks is made available through the generous support of Public Library Services Branch (Alberta Municipal Affairs) and the Book Publishers Association of Alberta (BPAA).

Find more information at www.shortgrass.ca/read-alberta-ebooks



Programming Info

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT: POLICYWISE & PLSB PARTNERSHIP

PLSB has entered into a working partnership with PolicyWise to review and describe potential outcomes and impact for public library services in Alberta to influence early childhood development. PolicyWise exists to improve child, family and community wellbeing by leading, creating, and mobilizing research for evidence-informed policy and practice. This work is a follow-up to our successful 2016 symposium on public library services to preschoolers and their families, Little Ones in Libraries.


If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact Kerry Anderson (kerry.anderson@gov.ab.ca) or Jen Anderson (jen.anderson@gov.ab.ca).

Or visit policywise.com for more information.



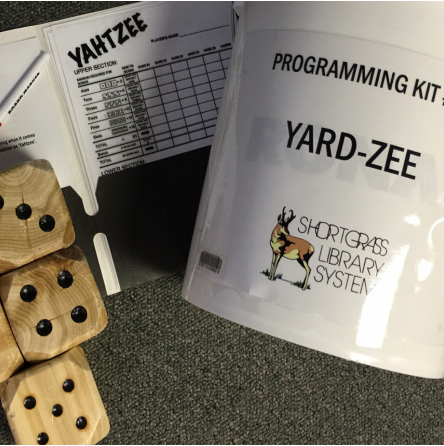
PROGRAMMING KITS

As spring and summer approach, these giant games, which can be played indoors and outdoors, may be just the thing for your young patrons.



GIANT JENGA

This is a taller version of the Jenga game. The wooden blocks are over 6 times the size of a classic Jenga. Perfect for outdoor and indoor activities.



YARDZEE

Yardzee is a giant Yahtzee game. Perfect for long winter days, this giant lawn dice set is sure to make spring break a blast.

THE ERNESTINE HATPIN SHOW & THE PRAIRIE DOGS



Sheila & Tim Gibbs are coming back this summer with their "The Ernestine Hatpin Show." If you want to have them in your library, please contact Janice (janice@shortgrass.ca) and let her know when you want the performers to come.

Find more information at www.hatpinmusic.com

Gardening, Photography, Accounting & more!

All subjects you can learn for free with Gale Courses.

Sign up today at shortgrass.ca/learning



Spring Calendar

2017 LIBRARY MANAGERS MEETING DATES & OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Please note: deliveries that are missed, due to a holiday or bad weather, are generally made up the following day.

DATE	MEETING
MARCH 13	Library Managers Meeting 10AM-3PM
APRIL 14	Good Friday - SLS Office Closed
APRIL 17	Easter Monday - SLS Office Closed
APRIL 19	SLS Board Meeting
MAY 15	Library Managers Meeting 10AM-3PM
MAY 17	SLS Board Meeting
MAY 22	Victoria Day - SLS Office Closed
JUNE 21	Board Meeting plus Joint Meeting of Library Board Chairs and Library Managers
JULY 3	In Lieu of Canada Day - SLS Office Closed
AUGUST 7	Heritage Day - SLS Office Closed
AUGUST 23	SLS Board Meeting
SEPTEMBER 18	Library Managers Meeting 10AM-3PM
SEPTEMBER 20	SLS Board Meeting Location TBD
OCTOBER 9	Thanksgiving - SLS Office Closed
OCTOBER 18	SLS Board Meeting
NOVEMBER 13	In Lieu of Remembrance Day - SLS Office Closed
NOVEMBER 15	SLS Board Meeting
NOVEMBER TBD	Library Managers Meeting 10AM-3PM
NOVEMBER 24	Order Cutoff Date
DECEMBER 6	Christmas Dinner & Social Medicine Hat Golf and Country Club 6PM Social, 6:30 Dinner



Animal Corner

Meet Tai

He is doted on by Petra Mauerhoff,
CEO at SLS

