



2008 ANNUAL REPORT

To The Partners





Message from the Chair of the SLS Board of Trustees



I am pleased to present the Shortgrass Library System 2008 Annual Report to our partners. Our Board, which is composed of representatives from our member municipalities, the MHPL Resource Centre, as well as a Ministerial Representative, has established a business plan (Plan of Service) to direct the collective work of the Board and staff in accomplishing what our member municipalities and member libraries want and need from SLS.

On behalf of the Board, I can confidently assure our partners that Shortgrass is successfully fulfilling the

Mission Statement, Key Directions and Key Results, as detailed in the 2008-2010 Plan of Service.

Shortgrass continues to develop and enhance its services. During the spring of 2008 a complete migration to a new automated library system took place to facilitate better service to the communities within SLS.

Also, a major project involving a partnership between the Chinook Arch Regional Library System, the Marigold Regional Library and the Shortgrass Library System was embarked upon. RISE or the Rural Information Services initiative began in May 2008 and involves the development of a videoconferencing network. This will encompass eighty public libraries and three library system headquarters by the time it is complete in May 2011. Once established, the network will give libraries additional tools to provide enhanced services to their users, in areas such as programming and user training just to name a few.

With the strong support from our partners, Shortgrass is a healthy corporation that provides an outstanding library and information support service to the libraries and their patrons in Southeastern Alberta.

Dwight Nagel,
Chair, SLS Board of Trustees





Board of Trustees

The Shortgrass Library System is governed by a Board of Trustees composed of appointed representatives of each member municipality plus a Ministerial appointment.

During 2008 the Trustees were:

Dwight Nagel - *Chair*

Martin Shields - *Vice-Chair*

Kathi Herman - *Chair, Programs & Services Committee*

Rosalie Stromsmoe - *Chair, Finance & Personnel Committee*

John Brocklesby

Wayne Daniels

Larry Jaspersen

Brent Burton

Doug Henderson

Les Schmidt

Ted Clugston

Marj James

Vivian Wiebe



Leadership Team

The implementation of the Board of Trustees Plan of Service and the Board's policies that establish the direction and goals for SLS are the responsibility of the leadership team:

Harold Storlien - *CEO/Director (January to July 2008)*

Julia Reinhart - *Assistant Director, Public Library Services
(CEO/Director, August 2008 and onward)*

Bob Batchelder - *Assistant Director, Technical Services*

This team is supported by a capable staff of 15.4 FTE members.





“Sharing is our Game”

The Shortgrass Library System works for member municipalities to:

- **Improve resources available to municipal residents through sharing**
 - **Make cost-effective use of community resources by sharing**
 - **Reduce duplication of services by sharing**
 - **Help rural municipalities have access to information services equal to their large urban counterparts by sharing**
 - **Support individuals, communities, economic growth and quality of life by sharing**

Who Do We Serve?

Member Municipalities (11)

- Town of Bassano
- Town of Bow Island
- City of Brooks
- County of Forty Mile No. 8
- Cypress County
- Village of Foremost
- City of Medicine Hat
- Town of Redcliff
- Village of Rosemary
- Village of Tilley
- County of Newell No. 4

Other Contracted Partners

- Medicine Hat School District No. 76
- Prairie Rose School Division No. 8

Population Served:

100,958 of the population in the SLS region is now served by Shortgrass Library System

Plan of Service

The Plan of Service for 2008-2010 details the Key Directions for Shortgrass Library System. The key directions define the most important actions the System must accomplish in order to be successful in fulfilling its Mission. Key Directions focus the resources of the Shortgrass Library System on doing the right things at the right time, and doing them well.

- Leadership and Governance
- Advocacy and Public Relations
- Member Services
- Staff Development and Training
- Service Expansion





Key Happenings in 2008

1. Prepared for the migration from Dynix to Unicorn integrated library hardware and software along with our SAILS (Southern Alberta Integrated Library System) partner, Chinook Arch Regional Library System. This involved intensive training of SLS staff and library employees at both member and contracted partner libraries. The migration was completed in March when all SLS libraries went live on the new system.
2. Utilized CIP (Community Initiatives Program) grant funds to purchase and install stationary videoconferencing equipment in the boardroom of System headquarters. Also upgraded all staff workstations for use with the new integrated library software.

3. Experienced a number of significant changes to the SLS staff including the retirement of the CEO, Dr. Harold Storlien, who began his work with the System in the spring of 2001. Julia Rienhart (who held the position of Public Services Librarian, Assistant Director) became CEO designate in the spring and assumed the role of CEO upon Dr. Storlien's retirement at the beginning of August.



Dr. Harold Storlien



Julia Reinhart

4. In May, we received word that the request for the bulk of the funding required for the three year RISE (Rural Information Services initiative) project was approved by the RADF (Rural Alberta Development Fund). Previous funding requests to APLEN (Alberta Public Library Electronic Network) and PLDI (Public Library Electronic Network) were approved at the end of 2007.
5. Hired Jim Dunbar, in September, as the RISE Consultant Librarian responsible for the SLS portion of the RISE project. Jim and the rest of the RISE team – Wendy Merkley (RISE Project Manager), Heather Sentes, and Art Knight (RISE Consultant Librarians for partners Chinook Arch and Marigold respectively) – worked together to establish the first phase of RISE video conferencing network.

6. Extended library services to Cypress County residents with the placement of a SLS book drop bin in Dunmore.

7. Organized professional development activities for SLS staff, member public libraries' staff, as well as contracted members which focused attention on improving services to library users.

8. Emphasized awareness by participating in various advocacy and public relations activities. Included were five parades in four of our member municipalities.



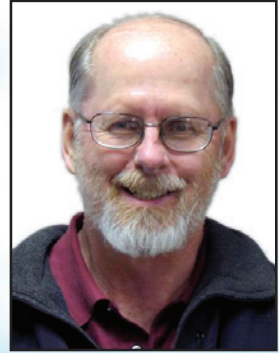
SLS 2008 Parade Float



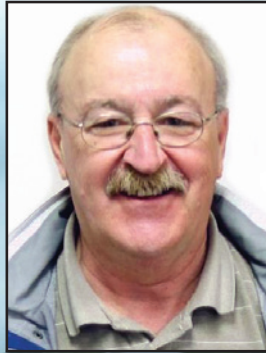
Thanks to Our Drivers



Larry Dye



Chris Massini



John Barrie



Bob Townsend

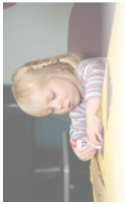


Jerry Smith

“ Libraries are the same size when connected. ”

Key Statistics for Public Libraries

- *Items purchased for libraries:* 17,278
- *Items catalogued and processed for libraries (inc. donated items):* 16,007
- *Total items in system catalogue:* 415,899
- *Annual per capita materials allotment:* \$4.13
- *Total items circulated:* 755,042
- *Total items moved among libraries:* 126,790
- *Total virtual visits to SLS website and catalogue:* 897,542
- *Total holds placed:* 82,646
- *Electronic database resources:* 40



Financial Summary

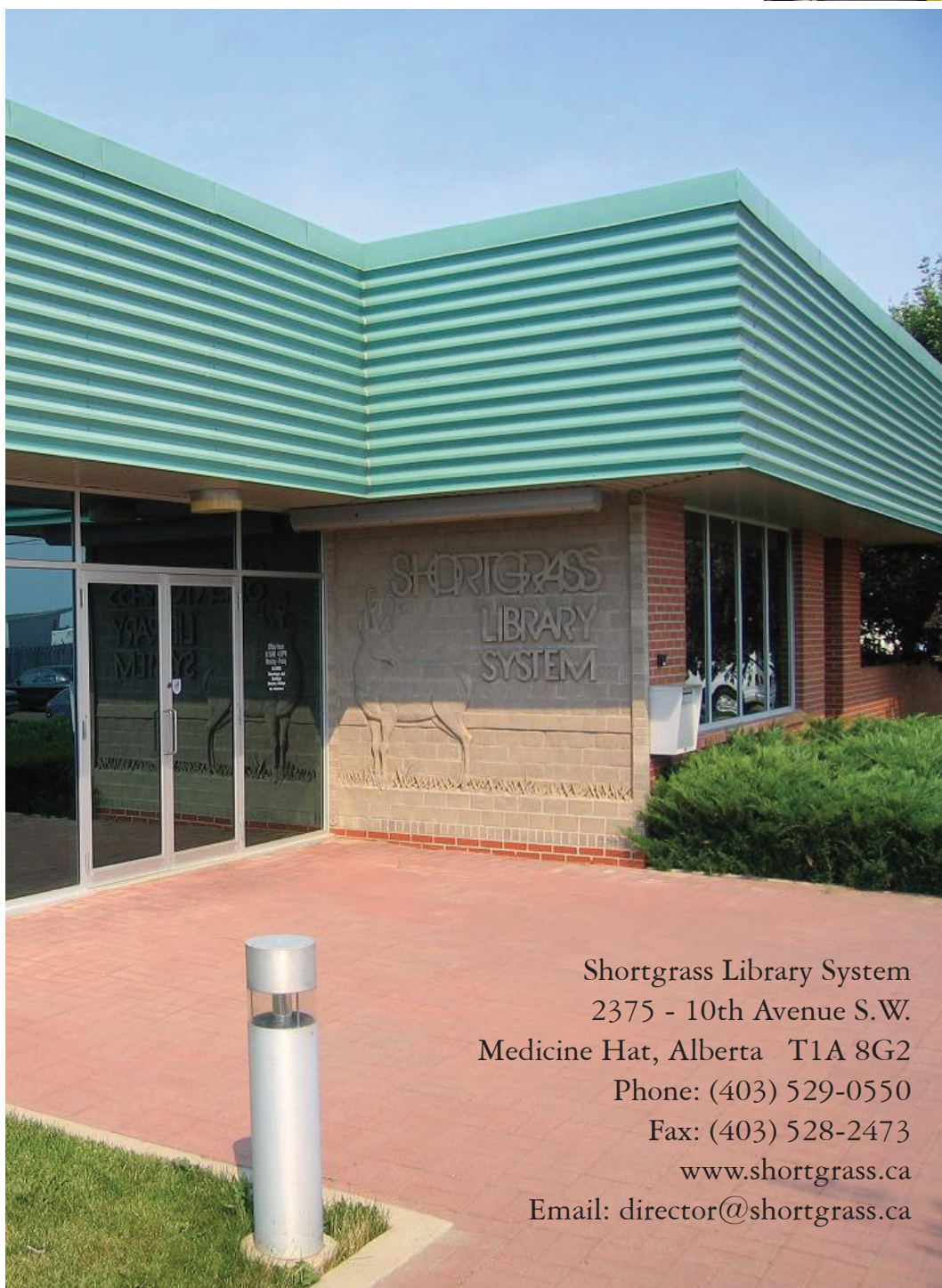
HOW ARE WE FUNDED?

	Year 2008	Year 2008	Year 2007	Year 2007
Provincial Grants	\$366,884	26.56%	\$334,262	21.75%
Municipalities/ Member Libraries	684,921	49.59%	734,186	47.78%
Contract Revenue	118,569	8.59%	121,968	7.94%
ILS/Data Communications Reimbursement	18,305	1.33%	18,268	1.19%
Special Grants	129,217	9.36%	229,163	14.92%
Establishment Grants	280	0.01%	15,065	0.98%
APLEN Grants	31,847	2.31%	35,103	0.28%
Other Revenue	31,089	2.25%	48,568	3.16%
TOTAL	1,381,112	100%	1,536,583	100%

HOW DO WE DIRECT OUR FUNDS?

	Year 2008	Year 2008	Year 2007	Year 2007
Purchase of Library Materials	\$280,750	20.32%	\$368,054	23.95%
SLS Services to Member Libraries	676,693	49.00%	658,700	42.87%
Resource Sharing / Rural Services Payment	46,402	3.36%	44,000	2.86%
Advertising / Promotion	10,868	0.79%	15,885	1.03%
Board Services	16,689	1.21%	12,240	0.80%
Contract Expenses	118,569	8.59%	121,968	7.94%
Building Expenses	60,866	4.40%	67,060	4.36%
Capital Expenditures	88,856	6.43%	174,568	11.36%
Other	81,348	5.89%	76,778	5.00%
Excess / Deficit	71	0.01	<2,670>	<0.17%>
TOTAL	1,381,112	100%	1,536,583	100%

“ Libraries build communities ”



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