



# SHORTGRASS CLIPPINGS

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Medicine Hat, Alta., T1A 4J6  
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## MEDICINE HAT & BOW ISLAND SAY 'YES'



The Shortgrass Library Project is well on its way to becoming a System in 1988. The city of Medicine Hat council approved the commitment of funds to the Shortgrass System at its regular meeting on February 2nd. Prior to making the decision to join, the Medicine Hat Library board made a presentation to the Finance Committee of city council to explain the cost breakdown and budget that the board had established for inclusion in the Shortgrass System.

With the recommendation from the Finance Committee the city council complied and is now prepared to appoint a representative on the Shortgrass interim board.



Not to be outdone, the Bow Island Library board made presentations to the town council late in 1986 and again on February 16th, 1987. The presentation to the council on that date resulted in the Shortgrass System gaining another member for the interim board. The Bow Island town council will shortly be appointing a representative to the Shortgrass interim board. This added membership will enable the interim board members to begin considering the needs of the System in the way of headquarters facility and location, the personnel within the System and the contract between the members and the Shortgrass Library System.

With the addition of two new members to the System, this brings to four the municipalities that have joined Shortgrass. The Steering Committee is continuing to work with the library boards in the area to assist those boards in their council presentations in the near future. The Shortgrass Steering Committee and staff are available to all boards and interested persons to explain the System's Plan of Service and the benefits that each and every citizen can receive. The Committee is encouraged by the support it has received from the boards and councils.

The library boards in Brooks, Redcliff, Medicine Hat and Bow Island are to be commended on their individual presentations that have been made to their respective councils. This teamwork has resulted in the realization that the Shortgrass Library System can become operational next year.

### PLAN OF SERVICE TO BE CREATED FOR SCHOOLS.

Although the Plan of Service for the Shortgrass Project did not include the involvement of school libraries, the Steering Committee has always indicated that school libraries would eventually be part of the System.

Over the past few months a committee consisting of Arne Handley, Sue Andersen and Nanko Dubbleboer has been meeting to formulate plans for the inclusion of school libraries in the System. After meeting with School Superintendents in the Shortgrass area, Project staff were encouraged by the response. As schools in Medicine Hat School District #76 each have school librarians, a meeting was arranged with the librarians to get their input. This meeting also resulted in an interest in the System.

With this support Project staff will draft a Plan of Service for review with the schools. School representatives that have expressed an interest and which will be asked for input include those in the County of 40 Mile District #8, Cypress Division #4, Ralston, Redcliff, Medicine Hat #76 and the County of Newell District #4. They serve an approximate school population of 12,500 pupils.

The necessary information will be gathered and ready for presentation in early spring when all interested parties will be asked for response to the proposal.

### BUDGETS NOW BEING SET FOR 1987

As is the case with any organization or business, a budget must be prepared for the next operating year. The Budget Committee of Shortgrass has been working on the three year System budget making a few minor changes but keeping the per capita levy at the original \$5.00 for year one and \$6.00 per capita for the next two years, 1989 & 1990. This information is to be included in the operational grant application that the Shortgrass Steering Committee must

prepare for presentation to Alberta Culture in April.

Along with the above budget, the Committee is also calculating the cost of establishing the System. This budget covers the costs either for the construction or rental of a headquarters. These figures too will be included in the grant application that Shortgrass will be presenting to Alberta Culture.

The funding for the establishment grant will be calculated on the present population figures for those municipalities approving the Shortgrass System, for example, the population of the four municipalities now participating is 56,983, Alberta Culture will pay an establishment grant of \$10.27 per capita allowing a total expected grant of \$585,215.00. This money would be used for the construction or rental of a headquarters facility, the furnishings for the building, and start-up costs. On the other hand, if an expected capital project grant is received for the headquarters in the near future, the added savings would be used to provide more service to participating libraries and better improve the headquarters facility.

The Shortgrass Steering Committee has been encouraging all library boards to lobby their respective MLAs and the Minister of Culture to consider providing a capital facilities grant for Systems. The established Systems are all in need of financial assistance to improve and upgrade their headquarters. This, in turn would allow these Systems to make great inroads in providing added services to the libraries.

Without comments from library boards, the need for financial assistance will go unnoticed, leaving the Alberta library system in a position where services could be cut-back. We urge you to lobby your MLA and the Minister in order to make the Shortgrass Library System and other Systems successful within the province.

MEDICINE HAT & BROOKS TO BE FIRST TO  
CREATE A DATA BASE.

The Shortgrass Steering Committee has obtained the services of a consultant to come up with a feasibility study for converting the card catalogues at the Medicine Hat and Brooks libraries. This process, called REtrospective CONversion or RECON will enable Shortgrass to obtain a union catalogue of all records converted and copies held, and separate catalogues of Brooks' and Medicine Hat's present holdings. It should also be possible to produce union and individual microform catalogues.

Although the process may take up to 2 years to complete, it will include the approximate 90,000 titles in the Medicine Hat library and the 28,000 in Brooks. To do this a number of decisions will have to be made by the Shortgrass Steering Committee: a project manager must be appointed; ample space for conversion must be allocated in the participating libraries; a standard form for recording call numbers and collection codes must be agreed upon; hardware must be selected and installed; staff hired and a training plan developed.

By the time the RECON is complete in Medicine Hat and Brooks, other participating member libraries should be ready to have their collections put on tape. It is therefore advisable for these libraries, at present Redcliff and Bow Island, to consider budgeting now for the required costs that may be incurred. The time factor and cost to do the RECON in other libraries should be less as most of the titles will already be entered from the Brooks and Medicine Hat collections.

Shortgrass is endeavouring to make every possible service available to the libraries and patrons in southeast Alberta. The RECON is another example of the many services and programmes that will become available through the Shortgrass Library System.

CONTRACT READY FOR INTERIM BOARD.

The fourth draft of the contract between the municipalities and the Shortgrass System was completed recently at a meeting in Brooks. Although the document is lengthy, it is quite straightforward. The contract will now be put in the hands of the Interim Board for its comments and input. The Interim Board is made up of representatives appointed by the municipal councils that have approved the Shortgrass System. Although the Interim Board has no authority to make final decisions regarding this contract, it will make recommendations to be acted upon once the System Board is formed.

The Interim Board will also establish the time frame for the completion of the signing of the contract, make sure the contract is signed by as many municipalities as possible and develop a contract for school authorities who may wish to receive services but who are not parties to the System contract.

Appointments to the Interim Board have been made by the councils in Brooks and Redcliff. The councils in Medicine Hat and Bow Island will be appointing members to the Board in the very near future.

The need to have the contract completed is essential as it must be included in the 1987 grant application to Alberta Culture. This grant is for the operation of the Shortgrass office for the remainder of this year, at which time the System Board will take over the responsibility of governing the System. These documents are a vital part of the preparations that go into the application for funding for the Shortgrass Project enabling us to provide pre-system service and programmes, thus giving participating members an opportunity to know what to expect when the System becomes operational in 1988.

During the Victorian era, "Lady Gough's Book of Etiquette" declared that putting books by male authors next to books by female authors was forbidden unless the authors were married.



### SHORTGRASS TO INCLUDE N.F.B. VIDEOCASSETTES.

In the near future participating libraries in Shortgrass will be able to take advantage of a videocassette loan programme. A contract is presently being drawn-up between the National Film Board and the Shortgrass Steering Committee, enabling Shortgrass to purchase a quantity of cassettes for distribution among the libraries. One hundred videocassettes will be purchased in the near future with another fifty being considered at a later date. Topics range from Fables & Fantasy to Fur & Feathers and lengths vary from 5 minutes to 30 minutes.

To familiarize participating librarians with video collection development, title selection and promotion procedures, Shortgrass will be conducting a workshop for librarians at the Medicine Hat Public Library on Monday, April 13th, 1987. The National Film Board Distribution Representative, Gary Reading will be present to conduct this portion of the workshop.

This service to member libraries is another example of the many services that can be made available through the System. When the videocassettes have been processed and are ready for distribution, librarians are encouraged to take advantage of this service and to participate in future Shortgrass programmes.

### SHORTGRASS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

One important change brought to the attention of the members who attended the Annual General Meeting of the Shortgrass Steering Committee on February 14, 1987 was the announcement that the start-up date for the Shortgrass System has been moved back to January 1, 1988. This extension of six months will allow the Steering Committee and Interim Board time to put together the necessary information and documents that are essential for the System to become operational in 1988. This extension will also lessen the burden of additional finances on boards and councils as the request for funding to operate the System will not be required until next year. The Steering Committee voted and accepted a motion to extend the start-up date to Jan. 1, 1988.

Written resolutions were requested from all library boards who support the Project, and in addition a request was made for those communities that have approved the joining of the System to send written resolutions to the Shortgrass office. This information is to be included in the Project's grant application which will be presented to Alberta Culture in April.

Pat Cavill, the Director of the Marigold System spoke to those present on the promotions and image of the System from its headquarters in Strathmore. Board members and staff from libraries in Shortgrass were encouraged to make arrangements to visit the Marigold headquarters to gain a better insight into that System's operation.

In addition to Pat Cavill being in attendance from Marigold, Olga Gil from Alberta Culture Library Services was also present to talk to the members concerning the involvement of Alberta Culture in the System development in Alberta. She said that the extension of the time-frame to January, 1988 will allow Shortgrass to establish its identity in the community by providing pre-system services to Shortgrass region libraries.

It was further reported by Olga Gil that the Northeast Library Project is considering an extension of time to sometime in 1989. She said that the Peace Region Library System is at the stage where the headquarters site will be chosen in the very near future. Once this has been decided, the Peace System will be making arrangements for the move to new headquarters. The question is whether the Peace Region headquarters will be in Grande Prairie or in Peace River.

At the annual general meeting of the Shortgrass Steering Committee, Sue Andersen of Bow Island was elected to the position of Vice-Chairman. The other positions, that of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary were filled by acclamation. The members in those positions are: John Vandenburg, Wanda White and Vilma Brost respectively. The member from Duchess, Terry Wilson declined to allow his name

to stand for re-election to the Vice-Chairman's post. Terry will remain as the representative from A.L.T.A. and Duchess on the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to Terry for his contribution to the formation of the Project and in particular to the preparation of the presentation kits to boards and councils.

The Steering Committee regretfully received the resignation of Sandra Macdonell, the office secretary for Shortgrass. Sandra has been with us in the office in the Provincial Building since it opened in mid-1985, and has been of great assistance in our day-to-day operation and in the preparation of the many meetings and functions of the Steering Committee. We wish her well in her new job in Calgary.

Cliff Dacre,  
Development Officer.

#### GRANT MacEWAN TO VISIT SHORTGRASS REGION

Word has been received that Grant MacEwan has accepted the Shortgrass invitation to visit four communities in the Shortgrass region during the Author Tour. Mr. MacEwan has indicated that he is willing to read to audiences in Brooks, Rolling Hills, Ralston and Redcliff on April 22nd and 23rd. He has just completed another book that highlights the history of the heavy horse in Western Canada.

Grant MacEwan follows heavy horses in Canada from their ancient European roots to their early fortunes in the New World; from their crucial role in the frontier as a major source of farm power to their eventual decline with the advent of mechanization in his new book, "Heavy Horses".

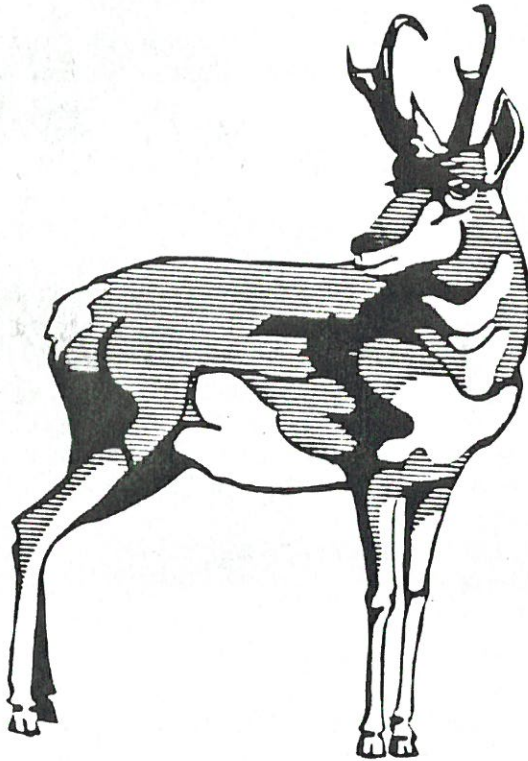
Although Shortgrass is unable to accommodate other libraries on Mr. MacEwan's tour, he will be asked to return in the Fall during the Alberta Book Festival Author Tour. In the meantime, another Alberta author is being considered for libraries in the Medicine Hat-Bow Island area at the same time that Mr. MacEwan is visiting the other area.

#### INFORMATION PLEASE -

Steering Committee member libraries are reminded that Shortgrass would like to up-date its files concerning representation on the Committee. If your board has not already done so, please forward to the Shortgrass office the two members who will be sitting on the Steering Committee for the next term. This is very important to the Shortgrass office as it enables us to distribute materials to the right people. If there are other interested people in your community who might be interested in receiving this Newsletter and other information concerning the Shortgrass Project, we would be pleased to include their name and address on our mailing list.







Libraries will get you through  
times of no money better than  
money will get you through  
times of no libraries.

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