



# NEWS & Notes

PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## ALTA Award Winners

### Fox Creek Municipal Library Board, Ray Skrepnek Win Major Awards

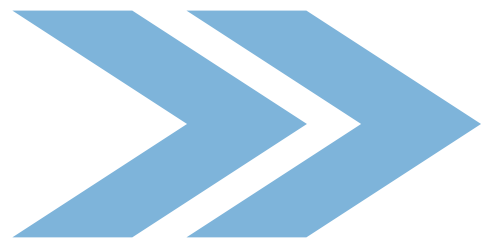
Peace Library System is pleased to announce that the winners of this year's Alberta Library Trustees' Association awards come from our very own Peace region.

The winner of this year's **ALTA Award of Excellence** for libraries serving populations of less than 20,000 was **Fox Creek Municipal Library Board** for such accomplishments as winning the 2014 Minister's Award for their "Times for Tots" webisodes, their innovative and creative programming for children, youth, and families, and their fundraising initiatives and community partnerships. ALTA honoured the Fox Creek Municipal Library Board for "their dedicated and long-standing commitment to outstanding service and support of their library and the Fox Creek community over the past 40 years".

The **Lois Hole Lifetime Achievement Award** went to **Ray Skrepnek** of the Peace Library System Board. The ALTA website says that "Ray has exemplified outstanding service and leadership

in the Fairview library community over the past 16 years" and cites some of his accomplishments over those 16 years as, among many others, being a member of the Peace Library System for 15 years, serving on the ALTA Board of Directors from 2007-2010, and being an active supporter of trustee workshops and presenting workshops at the Rural Libraries Conference.

Congratulations to Fox Creek Municipal Library Board and Ray Skrepnek for their impressive achievements. We are always happy to see your hard work recognized; thank you for your service to Peace libraries!>>



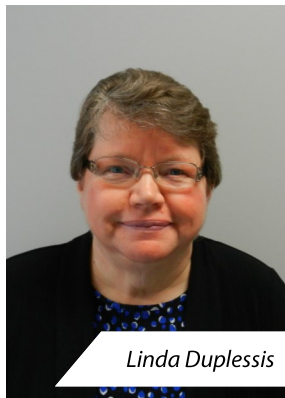
## PLS welcomes Emma Stewart, Library Consultant



Peace Library System is very pleased to announce that we have brought **Emma Stewart** on board as the new Library Consultant at Peace Library System. Emma earned her Masters of Library and Information Studies at Dalhousie University in Halifax in 2014 and has spent the last year in Medicine Hat as Intern Librarian for Shortgrass Library System, Medicine Hat Public Library, and Medicine Hat College.

Emma will become the Library Consultant for Bear Point, Beaverlodge, Calling Lake, DeBolt, Eaglesham, Elmworth, Flatbush, High Prairie, Hythe, Kinuso, La Glace, Menno-Simons, Red Earth, Sexsmith, Slave Lake, Smith, Tangent, Valhalla, Valleyview, Wabasca, Wembley, and Worsley public libraries. She is looking forward to meeting everyone and seeing the libraries! In the meantime, feel free to contact her with any questions or concerns by phone at PLS Headquarters or by email at [estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca). >>

# >> From the Director



Linda Duplessis

It's back to school and back to routine for many of us who have been on holidays. I hope that the **"Play" summer program** was a big hit with kids around the region. As you start planning your fall programs and activities, don't forget to schedule in attendance at our annual **Rural Libraries Conference** on September 24 and 25. It is a fantastic opportunity to network and learn something new, and I am very impressed with the line-up of sessions and speakers. Please come and say hello to Emma Stewart, our new consultant and conference coordinator. You won't want to miss the great things she has planned!

## Planning for the Future

Here at PLS we have been busy consulting with councils, library boards, public library staff and PLS staff in order to develop a **2016-2018 Plan of Service**. (Please note that we will be consulting with schools separately.)

Thank you very much for your input. From what you told us, member libraries and boards need PLS support more than ever! Library managers told us they need more training (especially relating to new technologies), help to market library services in their communities, support for early literacy (preschool) services, and help to find relevant grants. Library boards identified training (on board roles and responsibilities) and assistance with board recruitment, retention and orientation as their areas of greatest need. We're working on a plan and a realistic budget that will allow us to best support member libraries and boards.

## New Government Officials

Since Premier Rachel Notley and her cabinet have been sworn in, we have a new Minister and a number of new MLAs in our region.

- Hon, Deron Bilous, Minister of Municipal Affairs (MLA, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview)
- Wayne Drysdale, MLA, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (the only returning MLA in our region)
- Debbie Jabbour, MLA, Peace River
- Danielle Larivee, MLA, Lesser Slave Lake
- Todd Loewen, MLA, Grande Prairie-Smoky
- Hon. Margaret McCuaig-Boyd, MLA, Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley; Minister of Energy

- Colin Piquette, MLA, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater

Please keep in touch with those in your area to keep them informed about the value of public library services to your residents.

## Provincial Operating Grants

There was concern that provincial library operating grants would be delayed until the new NDP provincial budget is passed, which would severely hamper library services in some communities. However, Municipal Affairs has paid out the grants at 75% of the amount proposed in the Progressive Conservative's 2015 Budget (based on 2014 official population and a \$0.10 per capita increase). The remaining grant funds will be paid once Budget 2015 has been approved.

## GST Status

PLS has received municipal status for GST purposes and will **no longer be charging GST** on invoicing to municipalities or libraries. We will be making changes to Polaris statements and accounts and to other internal accounting processes.

Linda Duplessis  
Director

## Submit to News & Notes!

Submissions are welcome at any time and will be in the next newsletter. **Submissions from public and school libraries welcome!**

Please send photos and articles to Emma Stewart at [estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca).

Please note: PLS email inboxes can only receive emails less than 10 MB in size. If you do not receive an email acknowledging that your submission was received, delivery may have been prevented due to file size. Please contact Emma Stewart.

# What's trending in books

## ALBERTA READER'S CHOICE AWARD FINALISTS 2015

Sponsored by Edmonton Public Library, the Alberta Readers' Choice Award is decided by popular vote. This year's \$10 000 prize will be awarded on September 18, 2015 at the Alberta Book Awards. The nominees are:

**The Social Life of Ink** by Ted Bishop  
**Winterkill** by Kate Boorman  
**Thief of Glory** by Sigmund Brower  
**Who by Fire** by Fred Stenson  
**Come Back** by Rudy Wiebe



## HUGO AWARD FINALISTS 2015



The Hugo Awards celebrate the best works of science fiction and fantasy. This year's nominees for best novel are:

**The Goblin Emperor** by Katherine Addison  
**The Dark Between the Stars** by Kevin J. Anderson  
**Skin Game** by Jim Butcher  
**Ancillary Sword** by Ann Leckie  
**The Three-Body Problem** by Cixin Liu

## AUDIE AWARDS 2015

The Audie Awards honour the best in audiobooks and spoken word content. The winner for best audiobook in 2015 was **Mandela: An Audio History**. The other finalists were:

**The Bully Pulpit**  
**The Graveyard Book**  
**What I Know For Sure**  
**Yes Please**





# >> Consulting Corner



## News & Notes

News & Notes is your quarterly professional guide to news, services and connection with the staff at PLS.

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Katherine Wiebe and Emma Stewart

How fast the summer is flying by! The Consulting Department doubled its staff in May with the arrival of new library consultant Emma Stewart. Needless to say, Katherine is over the moon to have Emma here! Emma's libraries are meeting her throughout the summer and fall consulting visits, and you will all get to meet her at the Rural Libraries Conference, September 24 & 25.

### New Library Managers

We'd like to welcome five new library managers to Peace Library System: **Véronique Lavoie** at Bibliothèque de St. Isidore, **Anna Wade** at Hines Creek Municipal Library, **Sara Lowe** at Rainbow Lake Municipal Library, **Susan Podl** at Tangent Community Library, and **Heather Rideout** at the Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library. Welcome!

### Recent Retirements

We congratulate library managers **Marie Lavoie** of Bibliothèque de St. Isidore, **Sharon Nazarko** of Hines Creek Municipal Library, and **Betty Hasenack** of Keg River Community Library on their recent retirements from the libraries and wish you all the best in your next endeavours! You have given so much to your libraries and your communities.

### Rural Libraries Conference

We hope you're all taking a good look at the conference registration brochure and deciding which sessions you'd like to attend, and whether you'd like to enter a poster to highlight your library. We have quite a line-up

of sessions for public libraries, library trustees, and school library staff.

### Summer Reading Clubs

We trust you had a wonderful summer with many successful summer reading clubs. Thirty-five libraries participated in the TD Summer Reading Club, which will be winding up soon, and three more libraries ran independent summer reading programs. We're excited to find out how many children participated and how many books and/or minutes were read. For the libraries doing the TD Summer Reading Club, please remember the September 15 deadline to return your completed Statistics and Evaluation form to Rae Weniger. Rae will compile the results and make one submission to Harris/Decima research, the company producing the national report this year.

### Professional Collection

PLS has recently added several titles to our professional collection:

- **The Library Marketing Toolkit**
- **Including Families of Children with Special Needs: a How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians**
- **Community Library Programs That Work: Building Youth and Family Literacy**
- **Travel the Globe: Story Times, Activities, and Crafts for Children**
- **Writing for the World of Work**

These titles are housed at PLS headquarters but are available for you to borrow through the TRAC catalogue at anytime.

See you at the Conference!

Katherine Wiebe and Emma Stewart  
Consulting Services Department



# >> Spotlight on Programming

## Valleyview Municipal Library

by Kerri Danner, Valleyview Municipal Library

Our Summer Reading Club Programming has been going very well. Our highest attendance per class so far has been 25 kids, which is pretty good for Valleyview and has us at full capacity space-wise. We are allowing the kids to borrow a book each week (without a library card) and when they return the book, they can borrow a new one. We are asking them how many books they are reading each week. For the Chicken craft pictures (**below**), the story we read was 'The Buk Buk Buk Festival' by Mary Jane Auch, and 'Is Everyone Ready for Fun' by Jan Thomas.



Another day we did a Treasure Hunt/Library orientation. The kids were given a clue sheet that took them all around the library to discover library treasures. They then built their own treasure/keepsake boxes with popsicle sticks and other decorative beads, buttons, shells, etc. We've made a shadow puppet theater and read 'Shadow Chasers' by Ellie McKay. Last week we read, 'Romping Monsters, Stomping Monsters' by Jan Yolen and 'Robot, Zombie, Frankenstein' by Annette Simon and they made Soap Monsters (**right**) and a monster pop-up card. This week we learned about Optical Illusions and created a Butterfly in a Jar Thaumatrope and an optical illusion drawing of the children's hands and shared some neat books about optical illusions. It's been a blast so far and the kids really seem to be enjoying themselves and are excited about taking home a book each week.



We are also starting an Adult Colouring Corner. I'd been following the rise in popularity of the adult colouring books, and how they allow people to de-stress, connect with others, etc. I'd read about how the publishers are rushing to get them into bookstores and how bookstores are finding a high demand for them. Recently, my mom was diagnosed with a brain tumour and had to have surgery in Edmonton. While she was at the Royal Alex Hospital, I noticed that they gave colouring books and wax crayons to people who have had brain surgery or brain injuries as a form of physiotherapy, but I also noticed how it was calming and therapeutic for some of the patients. Many visitors would sit and colour quietly next to their loved ones. It really touched me. At the same time, I read about Audrey's Books in Edmonton having Adult Coloring parties that were so popular they had to begin using a registration system to avoid over-crowding. I follow Halifax Public Library, and they are doing something similar. We have purchased an assortment of adult colouring books, markers and crayons and we've set up an area in our coffee corner (**right**) for adults to drop in and re-discover the joy of colouring.



# >> Tech Services Tidbits



Carol Downing

The Cataloguing Department welcomed Dennis Sheppard back on May 11, 2015. Dennis is replacing Sheri Goff while she is on maternity leave looking after her new baby girl, Elliot Star, born in May.

Technical Services is working with a skeleton crew while many of the staff

enjoy much needed summer vacations. Freight has been slow during the summer months.

We hope everyone has enjoyed the beautiful weather this summer and are hopeful that it continues into the fall.

Carol Downing  
Assistant Director and Technical Services Manager

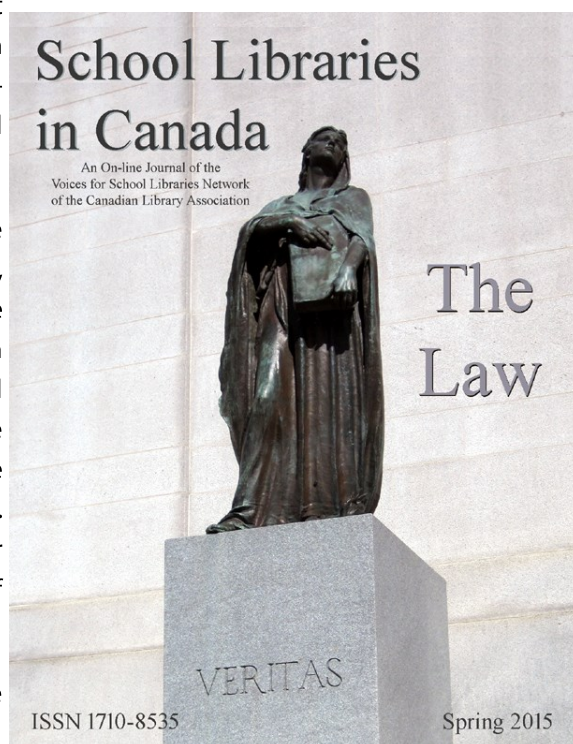


## School Libraries in Canada Journal

The *School Libraries in Canada* Journal is a great resource full of material that will be helpful to school library staff in Canada. It is produced by the Canadian Association for School Libraries, whose mission it is to "provide national support for the development and maintenance of excellence in Canada's school libraries, media centres, and school library personnel".

The SLIC has a long history of quality content, having been published for more than thirty years, with its first issue coming out in 1980. Since volume 23, however, they have moved the journal exclusively online, where it can be accessed free of charge by school library staff. Most issues are themed, with the most recent issue (**right**) focusing on learning about the law in school libraries, but the SLIC publishes a broad range of useful material. Some of the latest articles discuss "balance in the digital age", preparing students for the online world, and articles focusing on the "learning commons" approach. Bilingual content is included in most issues. SLIC is also always looking for contributions, so if you are interested in publishing an article on the subject of Canadian school libraries, you can contact their editor for more information.

To access this resource and explore the most recent issues as well as the archive of past issues, go to [www.clatoolbox.ca/casl/slic](http://www.clatoolbox.ca/casl/slic)

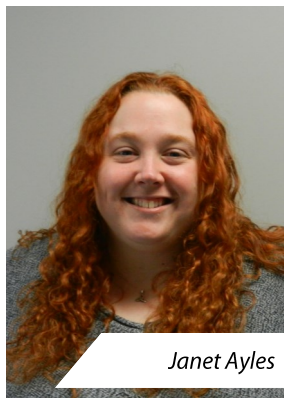


SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN CANADA

A Journal of the Canadian Library Association  
Supporting School Libraries



# >> From the IT Desk



Janet Ayles

## IT Staffing

Sometimes people stay forever, sometimes they stay only a short time. It is with great regret that I have to say that Brad was one of those people who would stay for only a short time. Brad, who has recently graduated from art school, has left PLS to pursue a career as a Junior Conceptual Artist. We will certainly miss him and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

## Help Desk

Given that I am currently flying solo in the IT Department, it is more important than ever to log any problems, questions, or request into the **HelpDesk**. Once something has been logged in the HelpDesk, you are assured that it won't get lost in the shuffle and will be dealt with soon. Items for the HelpDesk can be submitted via webform at [help.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](http://help.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca) or via email to [helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca)

## Polaris Upgrade

Just when you were getting comfortable with this version of Polaris, TRAC is about to give you another one. The upgrade to Polaris 5.0 is scheduled for October 5, 2015. I will be sending out more information the closer we get to the upgrade date.



Polaris 5.0 comes with some new features, the biggest of which is **Leap**. Leap is a web-based circulation tool, which will allow you to step out from behind the circ desk and interact with patrons in new ways. It is not meant to replace the staff client, so don't plan on ditching those circ computers yet! But Leap does allow you to bring circulation out into the community. I'll be presenting on Leap at this year's Rural Libraries Conference.

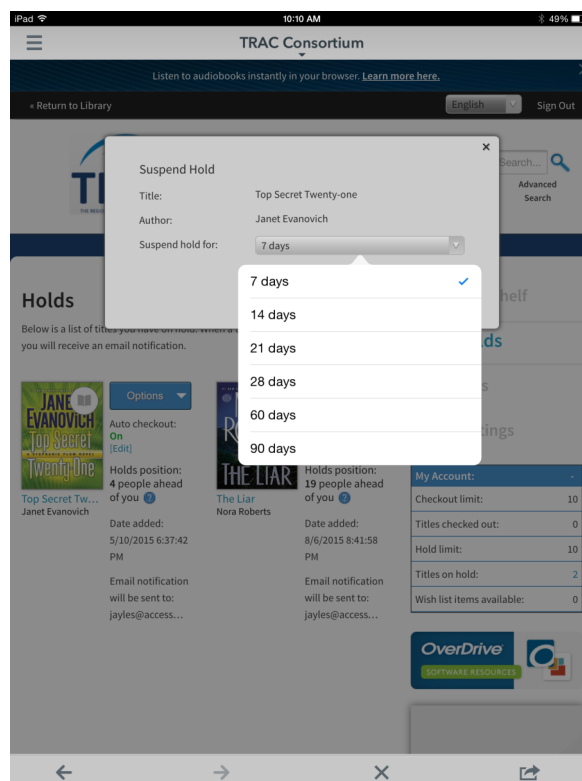
## Patron Cross Borrowing

Have you ever been curious which patrons come into your library? Odds are, you're familiar with your regular patrons, but what about patrons who come into your library from other branches? The **Patron Cross Borrowing report** in Polaris (Reports and Notices > Circulation) allows you to see just which other branches your visitors are coming from. This report doesn't include items that you send out to other libraries as hold requests, but only transactions where another branch's patron has walked through your front door and checked out an item.

## Overdrive Holds

We've all had that patron (in fact, some of us have been that patron) who wants to put a hold on a book, but might not be ready to read it. In my case, I don't want to forget about the book, but I've got too many books sitting on my to-read shelf already. So I put a hold on a book and make it inactive until a future date when I'll have more time to read. That's been a great option for physical items, but what about eBooks? In fact, OverDrive does allow patrons to **suspend their holds**. It can be done via the app or the web interface. Your hold can be suspended for up to 90 days. Why risk not being able to read your borrowed book when you want, when you can wait for a better time?

Janet Ayles  
IT Services Manager





# >> From the Information Desk

by Serena Boyte-Hawryluk, Head of Children's and Youth Services, Grande Prairie Public Library



I do a lot of weird things as a children's librarian. I sing songs, make animal sounds, and wear colourful shoes and silly hats. But my favourite part of working in the children's library is the variety of weird and wonderful questions that children ask. In the library context, we should not consider kids to be just smaller versions of adults. They have unique information needs that often require special treatment by librarians.

As a case in point, I was once approached by a young girl who asked me "Do you have any movies about songs?" I didn't know what she meant by that, so I said, "Tell me more about what you want to watch." She told me about a movie they had started watching in class, but not finished, and it had a lady singing on a mountain, and lots of kids.... Her eyes lit right up when I showed her *The Sound of Music* and she cried out "Librarians are the best!"

You can see how working at the Children's Desk sometimes resembles detective work. This is the core challenge of working with kids; they are still developing their communication skills. Sometimes they don't have the vocabulary to tell you exactly what they want. Often they leave out important bits of information due to forgetfulness or embarrassment. They are also frequently subject to the "imposed query", which is what happens when there is conflict between what children want and what teachers or parents

have told them they want.

Of course, some adults have similar communication issues, but children can be more sensitive. Ultimately, we want to send them away happy, and it's important to remember that the kids who have a positive library experience today will be our biggest library supporters tomorrow. The following are a few simple tips for making sure that kids in your community are comfortable asking for help at your library.

1. **Be approachable.** It really does help children feel comfortable when you make eye-contact and smile. Then, once a child has approached with a question, make sure your body language and tone convey your interest and sincerity. Don't be the grouchy, uptight librarian they expect you to be.

2. **Try to determine the "real" question.** Strangely enough, kids seldom ask for what they actually want. A common issue arises when kids overgeneralize their inquiry, for example by asking for "books about dinosaurs" when they actually have one particular book in mind. The key here is to never make assumptions, even when a question seems straightforward. In general, the more you allow children to explain things in their own words, the closer you can get to figuring out what they really want. A great way to do

this is by asking open-ended questions (questions that require more than a one word answer) and by being a good listener.

3. **Be aware and respectful of the influence of adults.** When working with kids, we often have to consider two sets of needs: the child's and the adult's. Parents may have rules about the content of books their children read or expect their child to read books at a particular level. Teachers often suggest guidelines for what kind of books kids can use for homework assignments. Unfortunately, kids are not always going to agree with the reading requirements imposed upon them. In these situations, you'll get the best results if you can find a way to put the child's reading needs first while still taking input from the adult and obliging her requirements. It can be tricky. There are no set guidelines on how to navigate these situations, as each is unique, but sensitivity and respect towards both parties will go a long way.

4. **Exploit teachable moments.** Make the most of your

interactions with children by including library lessons. Show them the features of the catalogue while you are searching or explain how the books are organized while you lead them to the shelves. Awareness of the library and its systems can greatly improve their access and enjoyment.

5. **Make sure you got it right.** It doesn't matter if the question was super simple or very convoluted, always ask, "Is this the kind of thing you were looking for?" This gives a kid the chance to refine his request and make sure his information need has been met. Before walking away, always close with an invitation: "Please let me know if you need help with anything else."

As you can probably tell, helping kids at the information desk can be time-consuming and challenging. However, I have found that sending a kid away with a perfect book and an enormous smile on her face is the most rewarding part of my job.

# GREAT WEBSITES FOR KIDS

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), which is a division of the American Library Association (ALA), has added more sites to Great Websites for Kids, its online resource featuring hundreds of links to great websites for children aged 14 years and younger. The full list can be found at <http://gws.ala.org/> and sorts websites into eight categories: **Animals, The Arts, History & Biography; Literature & Languages; Mathematics & Computers; Reference Desk; Sciences; and Social Sciences.** It is a great resource for homework help as well as providing interesting sites for kids to explore just for fun.

The new additions to the Great Websites for Kids list are:

**Ask a Biologist** - <http://askabiologist.asu.edu/>

**Bug Guide** - <http://bugguide.net/node/view/15740>

**Code Monster** - <http://www.crunchzilla.com/code-monster>

**CSI: Web Adventures** - <http://forensics.rice.edu/>

**I Was Wondering** - <http://iwaswondering.org/>

**Middle Shelf** - <http://issuu.com/middlesshelf/docs/>

**San Diego Zoo Kids** - <http://kids.sandiegozoo.org/>

**Smithsonian Tween Tribune** - <http://tweentribune.com/>



The GWS list is constantly checked and reevaluated to make sure the links still work and that the websites in question provide reliable content. There is also a special page with useful sites for parents, caregivers, and teachers at <http://gws.ala.org/category/sites-parents-caregivers-teachers-others>.



GREAT  
WEBSITES  
FOR KIDS

*Sponsored by the*  
ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY  
SERVICE TO CHILDREN  
*a division of the*  
American Library Association

# Around the System...

Libraries around Peace Library System have had a busy spring and summer, from summer reading programs to carnivals! Here's what's been going on around the system. Remember, you can send your own photos and articles at any time to [estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca) and they will be included in the next newsletter. We'd love to hear from you!



## Grimshaw Municipal Library

There is always something to celebrate at the Grimshaw Municipal Library, and on Thursday, July 23 we invited the community to join us for National Hotdog Day! We set out our tables on the front lawn, dressed our SRP staff in a hotdog costume (thank you Shavonne!) and brought out many boxes of discarded or donated books that needed to find new homes.

Local businesses (Johnny's Sausage & Meats, Canadian Silica Industries, Super A Foods and The Store) sponsored the hotdogs, buns, condiments and tableware, and LaPrairie Works even brought over the big BBQ and two smiling cooks to grill over 200 hotdogs for us.

Even with grey skies, and the occasional drizzle, we were fortunate to have a great crowd come through for the event. We even had a birthday party stop by! Many visitors were surprised to learn that National Hotdog Day existed, and some even questioned whether it was a "real thing." Luckily for us, it had been discussed on morning television just hours earlier, so our credibility was maintained. An event like a free BBQ to celebrate National Hotdog Day is a valuable opportunity for our library to showcase itself as an inviting, relaxed place for the community to gather. Next year, National Hotdog Day is on a Saturday. We may need more hotdogs.....

—Submitted by Vivianne Gayton, Grimshaw Municipal Library



## Woking Municipal Library

With Peter Pan as the classic choice of the summer, Woking has been overtaken by pirates and fairies. Fairy houses (also known as pirate shacks) , origami pirate ships, and amazing newspaper swords (aka fairy wands) have been only some of the Saturday morning crafts created this summer. A pirate scavenger hunt with lots of treasures and fun had everyone outside following clues and acting out instructions everyone was having a blast! More to come next month learning Pirate on Mango, flag making and more! A reading contest is also underway, all books must relate to Peter Pan. Entrants have been creative in linking their books, for example, crocheting instructions have a "hook" as does Peter Pan have a "Hook".

—Submitted by Bevonna Livingston, Woking Municipal Library





# More from around the *System*...

## High Prairie Municipal Library

The Penny Carnival at High Prairie Municipal Library was started after the Rodeo in 1993 by summer students at the library to give young children the opportunity to play carnival games at an affordable price. The Penny Carnival is a fun event to put on for our community and we could not put this event on without the help from our volunteers and the support from the local businesses. We are now in our 23rd year of the Penny Carnival and we are going stronger than ever. We hosted the Carnival this year on August 5th but the rain caused us to shut down only half hour into the event! Regardless, we were happy to still have had 129 participants take part in that short amount of time and no one wanted to quit.

—Submitted by Tracy Roberts, High Prairie Municipal Library







### Fox Creek Municipal Library

Fox Creek Municipal Library held an Open House May 19 with over 60 present to see the Library Board receive the Alberta Library Trustee Association Award of Excellence and to celebrate our 10 new laptops, 8 of which have been funded by various companies working in or near Fox Creek. Our sponsors are Encana, Shell, Chevron, Talisman and Land Strategies.

Our new oak signs had been attached to our paperback racks and we received our new armchairs, coffee table and ottomans just in time for the Open House. Our Time for Tots worker read a story for the children in attendance and then they each made their own colourful, twisty snake to take home. And weren't we lucky that May is our quilt display month? Several businesses generously donated door prizes for adults and children and we all enjoyed home baked cupcakes and lemonade. Our cupcakes had small pictures of laptops on a toothpick and were displayed on a spread of books. Town Council sent a representative and Carol Downing from PLS was in attendance. We even had a visitor from Holland - mother of one of our library board members.

It was a great evening, and another chance to show off our library.

—Submitted by Leslie Ann Sharkey, Fox Creek Municipal Library



# >> Check It Out: [www.ecmap.ca](http://www.ecmap.ca)

## What is ECMAP?

ECMAP is the Early Child Development Mapping Project. Over the course of five years, they gathered and analyzed information about early childhood development in Alberta in order to figure out how are young children are doing in Alberta and improve community capacity to support families and young children. It's the first province-wide project of its kind in Alberta and was part of the provincial government's Early Child Development Mapping Initiative, led by the Community-University Partnership for the Study of Children, Youth and Families.

## What can I find on the website?

ECMAP produced a wealth of documents that explore early childhood development in Alberta: articles, reports, fact sheets, powerpoints and more. These are all available on the website for you to explore. However, the most directly useful information is likely going to be found in your individual community profile. ECMAP looked at early childhood development indicators on an Alberta-wide level but also broke the results down on a community-by-community basis, producing individual reports on over 100 different Albertan communities including those in the Peace region.

## What is in the community profiles?

Each community profile measures a number of EDIs, which are Early Development Instruments—tools that measure the wellbeing and development of populations of five-year-old children based on questionnaires filled out by kindergarten teachers. The five EDIs measured in these reports are physical health and well-being; social competence; emotional maturity; language and thinking skills; and communications and general knowledge. For each EDI, it is illustrated what percentage of children in the community are developing appropriately versus those who are experiencing difficulty or experiencing great difficulty. The profile points out particular areas where children are struggling or developing appropriately; indicates the general socioeconomic status of the community in question; and finally lists community resources that shape the environment in which children develop such as parks, recreation centres, family-serving agencies, health centres, and cultural institutions like libraries. The reports are all very clear and straightforward; the mapping format makes them visually interesting and provides a

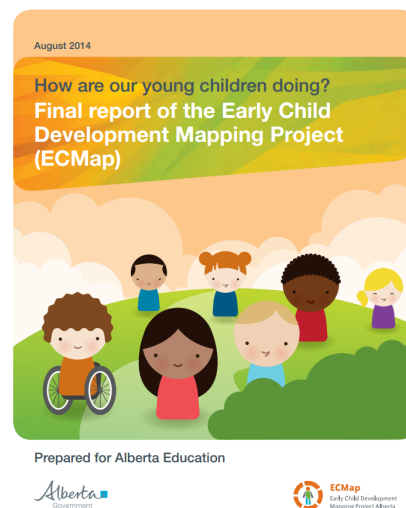
way to condense a lot of very complicated information into an easy-to-read visual format. To find your community profile, hover over the "Findings and Results" section on the home bar, go to "Community Results", and then select "Complete Community Results". You should be able to find your community on that page.

## How can this be useful to me?

Early literacy is a hugely important part of what libraries do. By better understanding the demographics, public and school libraries can really hone in on the areas where they can make a difference in their communities. They can better direct their collections, programs, and resources towards areas where children in their area are falling behind, or help boost areas where children are performing well. By mapping community resources, the community profiles also might provide ideas for library partnerships with other organizations that would benefit the local population.

Keep in mind that because this was a five-year project that ended at the end of 2014, the site hasn't been updated since January 2015, and won't be updated or edited in the future, though it will continue to be hosted online for as long as it contains useful information. However, as a foundational resource for understanding the demographics of your community and perhaps giving you a good launching-point for early literacy strategies targeted very specifically towards solving your patron needs in your community, it's an invaluable place to start.

Visit [www.ecmap.ca](http://www.ecmap.ca) to check it out!



# *From Collections to Community*



*Rural Libraries Conference*  
*September 24 & 25, 2015*  
*Grande Prairie, AB*  
[www.rurallibrariesconference.com](http://www.rurallibrariesconference.com)

## >> Rural Libraries Conference

As we all know, this year's Rural Libraries Conference is fast approaching! Peace Library System hosts this conference every year as a continuing education event for library staff and trustees, and has been doing so for the past 29 years. It's a great opportunity to learn more about libraries and get some shiny new ideas while also getting to network and share time with other library staff and trustees in the region.

This year's theme is From Collections to Communities. Libraries are more than just warehouses for books. Contrary to the old traditional image of leather-bound tomes on dusty shelves, libraries play a pivotal role as a community builder and serve as a vibrant community space. This year's Rural Libraries Conference is going to be all about exploring that facet of libraries and the wide spectrum of services and resources that

libraries have to offer their patrons.

This year's keynote speakers are John Pateman and Karen Bass. John will be discussing "How To Build a Community-Lead Library" while Karen's talk is entitled "Please Don't Tell My Mother: Confessions of a Book Lover". They are going to offer some really fascinating insights into what libraries have to offer their communities, so make sure to register today for the conference so you don't miss your chance to hear them speak!

Registration is open until Friday, September 4th. If you have any questions about registration or the conference in general, contact Conference Coordinator Emma Stewart at [estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ca](mailto:estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ca) or visit our website at [www.rurallibrariesconference.com](http://www.rurallibrariesconference.com) for more info!





## Training Resources

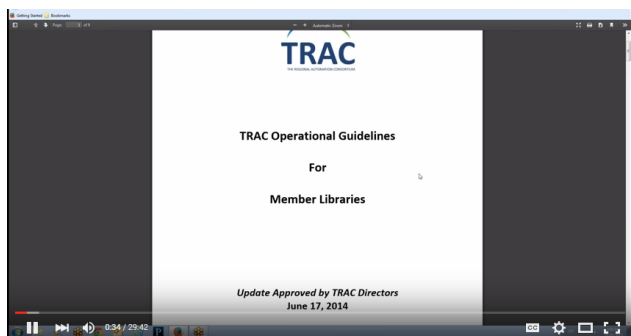
By now we hope you've had a chance to try out our new eResource, Cypress Resume. It is an intuitive product that builds a custom resume for users as they input information about themselves. Try it out under the eResources tab on your library's website and select the Business and Career category. A handout is available on the PLS website in the Training Toolkit under eResource Training.



Be sure to check out the training calendar on the PLS website for the September webinar sessions. Katherine will be offering Polaris Reports to Run Regularly, and Janet Ayles will be offering Simply Reports. More sessions will be posted soon for October-December at <http://www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/calendars-and-schedules>.

We're happy to announce that PLS acquired the ability to offer the audio portion of our training webinars via VoIP (through your computer speakers or a headset) or toll free (through a telephone line) so now participants can choose which method they prefer.

We've also posted our first recorded webinar to our website, a session on the TRAC Operational Guidelines, so new staff can now view it when the time suits them. Find it in the Training Toolkit under Video Tutorials.



TRAC Operational Guidelines

# Peace Library System's events calendar

[peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/calendar](http://peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/calendar)

## *PLS Board Meeting*

Sawridge Motor Inn, Peace River  
September 19, 2015; 10:30 am

## *Rural Libraries Conference*

Pomeroy Hotel and Conference Centre, Grande Prairie  
September 24 & 25, 2015

## *PLS Plan of Service, Personnel Committee Meetings*

Pomeroy Inn, Grimshaw  
October 3, 2015; 10:30 am

## *County of Northern Lights Advisory Committee Meeting*

Dixonville  
October 5, 2015; 11:00 a.m.

## *Clear Hills County Advisory Committee Meeting*

Bear Point  
October 7, 2015; 5:30 p.m.

## *MD of Spirit River Advisory Committee Meeting*

Spirit River  
October 14, 2015; 6:15 p.m.

## *MD of Greenview Advisory Committee Meeting*

Debolt  
October 22, 2015; 6:30 p.m.

## *PLS Executive Committee Meeting*

Rotary Room, Grande Prairie Public Library  
October 24 2015; 10:30 am

## *Northern Sunrise County Advisory Committee Meeting*

Peace River  
November 2, 2015; Peace River, 10:30 a.m.

## *PLS Board Meeting*

PLS Headquarters  
November 28, 2015; 10:30 am