1986 - 2011

25

Years of EXCELLENCE

Peace Library System

Rebuilding Slave Lake's Library - One Donation at a Time

On May 15, the public library in the Town of Slave Lake was completely destroyed by a huge forest fire. The beautiful new **Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library** had just opened on December 11, 2009.

Peace Library System (PLS) has been working behind the scenes to coordinate donations for the Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library. We have fielded dozens of phone calls and e-mails from individuals, libraries, Publishers and other organizations in Alberta and across the country. We have advised people to make cash donations via the Slave Lake library's website and have accepted donations of library books and other materials at PLS headquarters. In order to prevent the library from receiving old and tattered items, we asked that donations be new or nearly items – no more than two years old.

The response has been astounding! Almost 7,000 items have been received to date and there is more on the way. PLS will catalogue and process the items over the next few months, and store them until the library opens up a temporary location. This should give the library a good start-up collection.

If libraries or other organizations still want to donate, we suggest that you make a cash donation via the Slave Lake library website, keeping in mind that a $20 donation will buy about one book. You may still send in donated items as long as they are no more than two years old (i.e. purchased within the last two years), regardless of publication date (within reason!).

So far, there have been over 90 different organizations, vendors, libraries, authors (some from as far away as England!), publishers and individuals from across the country who have donated money or materials to help rebuild the Slave Lake library. Here's just a sampling of some who have contributed. We'll publish the complete list at a later date.

- Random House Canada
- Athabasca University Press
- Company's Coming Publishing
- Marigold Library System
- Fox Creek Municipal Library
- St. Thomas More Catholic School
- E. E. Oliver Students Union
- Peace River Municipal Library

- McClelland & Stewart
- HarperCollins Canada
- Grande Prairie Public Library
- University of Alberta Press
- Medicine Hat College
- St. Albert Public Library
- Fairview Public Library
- Lethbridge Public Library

- Coles (Fort McMurray)
- Oyen Municipal Library
- Nampa Municipal Library
- High Prairie Municipal Library
- Stony Plain Public Library
- High Level Municipal Library
- Worsley & District Library Society
- Chapters/Indigo

From the Director

By Linda Duplessis, Director, Peace Library System

This issue of *News 'N' Notes* celebrates **Peace Library System's 25th anniversary**, so I thought I'd share some of my memories.

How technology has changed...

When I started at PLS in 1993, staff at the back still used a card catalogue to file at least some of the workslips. (I think they were phasing this out when I started, but some slips were still filed.) Libraries sent in orders on quadruplicate slips – one title per slip, so at least one of the slips was filed to monitor the progress of the order. I can't remember what happened to the rest of the slips!

For interlibrary loans, PLS and the libraries used a microfiche union catalogue to check what other libraries in the region had, and then called to request an item. By 1995, PLS was part of the Focus union catalogue on CD-ROM. It listed collections from most of the library systems and could be search via computer. But, like the microfiche, it was outdated as soon as it was produced, as it just listed items at a point in time.

Libraries that were automated used different programs. **Grande Prairie Public Library** and **PLS** were on Dynix; some libraries were on Columbia; some were on Winnebago. It wasn't until 1999 that other libraries came onto Dynix. This happened because provincial money was made available to create the **Alberta Public Library Electronic Network** (APLEN). It took a few years to get most libraries onto Dynix and the union catalogue.

How my job has changed...

When I started as a school/public consultant, I visited more school libraries than public libraries because we provided full consulting services to several school divisions. Two of us shared the consulting duties. We consulted with 21 public libraries and over 100 schools and some of the schools could only be reached by small plane. We spent a lot of time on the road!

In 1994, provincial funding was cut to schools. Schools in the region moved to service contracts and fewer schools received consulting services. I became the only consultant and my duties focused mainly on public libraries. After I became Director in 2001, I spent more time visiting library boards and attending provincial meetings. One thing that hasn't changed is the amount of travelling that I do, but now I do less driving and more flying.

My most memorable moments...

Becoming Director in 2001 was memorable. It provided a set of new challenges and responsibilities but solidified my commitment to regional library services. It was at that point that I realized that PLS truly makes a real difference for small libraries.

Over the years we have brought in some well-known keynote speakers to the Rural Libraries Conference – **Roch Carrier** (National Librarian), **Lois Hole** (Lieutenant Governor of Alberta), **Mel Hurtig** (publisher), to name a few.

I drove so many interesting authors around the region. I recall **Tololwa Mollel,** in 1995, asking if he could drive – he's the only one who's ever done so. He crested a hill on the way to **Slave Lake** and had to stop for a longer look because the view was so breathtaking. Driving authors was one of the highlights for me every year. Such fantastic people and stimulating conversations!

Sharon Siga and I missed the turn-off to **Zama City** and almost reached the **Northwest Territories** border before realizing we had to turn around and go back. The sign was down on the northern route (which is why we missed the turn-off) but was there on the southern route.
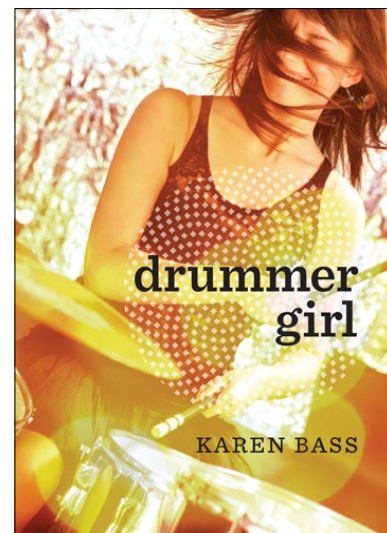
Linda representing Peace Library System at the **Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention,** 1995.

System News Bits

♦ In March, **Jennifer Chenard** was hired as the new library manager for **Tangent Community Library.**

♦ Congratulations to **Lori Wanuch**, acting Library Manager of **Paddle Prairie Public Library**, who had a baby boy on Mother's Day!

♦ In May, **Lori Jackson** was officially hired as the new library manager at **Manning Municipal Library**. Lori was previously responsible for the library's programs.

♦ **Peace River Municipal Library** will be closed from June 8 until July 11 while they move into their brand new library. The library will reopen on July 12 and resume ILL procedures on July 13.

♦ **Chloe Almberg** has stepped down as library manager for **Rainbow Lake Municipal Library**. **Michael Drury** will be managing the library for the summer.

♦ **Karen Bass** announced at the Public Library Meeting in May that she was resigning from **Hythe Municipal Library** to focus on her writing. **Christa Issac**, Hythe's Library Assistant, has been hired as the new library manager and will begin her duties in June.

♦ Congratulations to Peace Library System's **Danielle Bendtsen** and her husband, who are expecting their first child this fall!

♦ **Alison Wiebe** of **Savanna Municipal Library**, is a new Grandma! Her daughter had a baby girl, named Erienna Kinsley Woods, 7 lbs 9 1/2 oz 20 inches long.

Karen's third YA novel, Drummer Girl, will be available from Coteau Books in September, 2011. Congratulations, Karen!
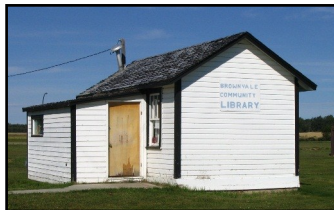
Brownvale Community Library Celebrates Grand Re-Opening

Original board members (from left to right) **Eleanor Coates**, **Pete Keillor**, and **Doris Eastman.**

On March 19 the **Brownvale Community Library** celebrated their Grand Re-Opening after moving to a new location at the **Community Club**. On hand to cut the ribbon were several original and long-serving board members from when the library first opened on January 18, 1958. The library joined Peace Library System in 2001.

Above: The interior of the bright and spacious new library.

Left: The exterior of the previous library location.

Savanna Municipal Library Celebrates Grand Opening

Savanna Municipal Library, the first of three libraries to be opened in **Saddle Hills County,** celebrated its grand opening on May 6, 2011.

Numerous members of the community, of all age ranges, came to watch as Municipal Affairs Minister **Hector Goudreau** cut the ribbon, officially opening the new library, which is located in the **Savanna School**.

Savanna Municipal Library is Peace Library System's 43rd public library. Preparation and planning continues for the upcoming **Woking** and **Bonanza** public libraries, which will also be located in their respective communities' schools.

Left: Saddle Hills County Library Board chairperson **Cindy Clarke** speaks with **Minister Goudreau** at the celebration.

Peace Library System is pleased to welcome new Network Analyst, **John Evans**. John, who grew up in the Peace region, started on April 8th so keep sending in those helpdesk requests!

From May 2nd to 5th, **Linda Bailey** (author of the popular Stanley series) shared her writing talents, enthusiasm and imagination with 12 different schools and libraries in the Peace region, presenting to over 450 participants. She visited the communities of Berwyn, Bonanza, Cleardale, Fairview, Grimshaw (pictured above), Hines Creek, Rycroft, Silver Valley (Savanna), Spirit River, Woking, and Worsley.

Happy 25th Anniversary, Peace Library System!

By Sharon Siga, Former Director, Peace Library System

I am looking forward to the 25th anniversary celebrations in September as a chance to reconnect with Peace Library System (PLS) staff as well as member library staff and board members. When you have worked in an organization during its early days, it is a great pleasure to see that organization grow and bloom. It is a wonderful thing to celebrate 25 years of service to Peace region member libraries.

My view of PLS history starts in 1988 when, as a new graduate from the Faculty of Library Science, I was hired on contract to coordinate the conversion of information held on catalogue cards into computer records. In 2000, I left the position of PLS Director to move to **Strathcona County Library**.

Above: **Sharon** at her desk as the newly appointed Director, 1995.

Working for Peace Library System was a fantastic experience for a new library graduate. PLS was a young organization growing in leap and bounds. There was so much to be done, which meant so many opportunities to start new things.

In a very short space of time, Peace Library System automated its operations with Dynix software, started cataloguing materials being shipped to member libraries, and assisted member libraries to automate themselves by converting their catalogue card information into computer records. It was also during this time that the System headquarters was designed and built.

Looking back at the years 1988 to 2000, and I see a series of transformations within Peace Library System itself, but also within member libraries. Peace Library System grew from a fledgling organization with few staff and a handful of services - the fourth regional system to come on stream in Alberta – to become a leader in the province.

Above: **Sharon** and **Carmelle Lizee**, former **St. Andrew's R.C. Separate School** librarian, prepare to present the Blue Chicken Award and the Elvis Shrine at RLC 1995.

Through that same period of time, member libraries grew and bloomed in their communities. There is quite a contrast between the libraries of 1988 and the libraries of 2000. Think of one aspect alone: public libraries went from paper-based to computer-based in a short period of time, offering their patrons greater access to resources across the region and then across the province. One thing hasn't changed, through. Libraries continue to play a central role in their communities. Imagine all the lives transformed by member libraries in the past 25 years!

Looking back, I also remember that the hard work was frequently punctuated by laughter. I look forward to reliving the fun we had at Rural Libraries Conferences past involving the Elvis Shrine and the Blue Chicken Award.

See you in September!

Peace Library System was officially established in June of 1986... what other things happened that year?

- The space shuttle *Challenger* exploded
- The first computer virus began to spread
- *Out of Africa* won the best picture Oscar
- Halley's Comet returned
- The Chernobyl disaster took over 4,000 lives
- Geraldo Rivera opened Al Capone's secret vault

- Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson married
- Mike Tyson won his first world boxing title
- *Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry won the Pulitzer Prize
- *The Progress of Love* by Alice Munro won the Governor General's Award
- The Montreal Canadians won the Stanley Cup

From the Archives...
Published in the Grande Prairie Daily Herald Tribune, 1988

Library system resource centre

By KEVIN PILLING
Herald-Tribune staff

Since it's inception in June of 1986, the Peace Library System has been working towards bringing Peace Country libraries, both large and small, together into a state-of-the-art, user-friendly network that's able to enter the 1990s as one of the most advanced library systems in Alberta.

In 1986, after five years of work by the Peace Area Steering Committee, various municipal governments in the Peace Country, along with the provincial government, gave the go-ahead for the establishment of the Peace Library System.

Less than three years later, the system serves as the core resource centre for libraries in 20 municipalities and 108 schools. Their boundary spans the width of Alberta from the Saskatchewan border in the east, to the B.C. border west and from Fox Creek south to the N.W.T. border in the north.

The Peace Library System is one of five regional library systems in Alberta. Working together with the other four systems – Shortgrass, Marigold, Yellowhead and Parkland – residents of the Peace Region will have access to more resources than ever before.

Ian Ferguson, director of the Peace Library System, explains what a regional library system means.

"Think of a regional library system as a whole series of branches tied into one, big, central catalogue," Ferguson said.

Ferguson is excited about what's in store for the head office of the Peace Library System, located in Grande Prairie.

"We've been awarded $1.62 million from the Lotteries Foundation for the construction or renovation of a facility to fit our needs," Ferguson said. "We are working very closely with the Alberta Public Works Supply and Services in their capacity as project managers to assure we get good value for our dollars."

The Peace Library System received a tremendous boost a year ago when the University of Alberta donated 92,000 books to the system after closing down its own extension library.

Pat Jobb, public service consultant for the system, welcomed the donation – even though it meant a tremendous amount of work would be required to process the books.

"We packed every one of those 92,000 books up and brought them to the Peace Country," she said. "Through the Peace River School Division we were able to gain the use of the school at Brownvale. At the present time about six rooms are full of boxes of books."

Moving the books (it took three semi-trailers to transport them from Edmonton) and finding somewhere to store the collection was a huge task, but it's just the tip of the iceberg for the 27 Peace Library System employees before the entire task is completed.

The system plans to catalogue all the books onto a database they are creating. This is called retrospective conversion, or "recon" as it's referred to in library circles.

PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM

"One of the biggest projects we are involved in now is taking the information off the old-style filing cards that accompany the book and putting that information into a machine-readable database," Ferguson said. "This will eventually create a central catalogue which, no matter where you are in the Peace Country, will allow you to access materials no matter where they are in the region.

"We're always interested in the development of automation because automation makes library work much easier."

The system is planning to eventually "recon" all the library books and materials in the Peace Country. That would mean a central catalogue containing some 800,000 items available to the interested user.

Through computer links to the database, users in member libraries will be able to find the whereabouts of the material they are interested in, the availability of such materials and, if need be, order the materials to be delivered to the most convenient outlet in the user's area.

"It won't spell the end of the Dewey decimal system, but it might spell the end of some cards," Ferguson said.

Grande Prairie county school superintendent Jock MacNeil is ecstatic about the work the system is doing.

"Under the Peace Library System we are getting far better service for our county schools," MacNeil said. "When it is catalogued and controlled by one central agency everything works more efficiently.

"I really feel the concept behind it is excellent."

Evelyn Vardalas, head librarian at the Grande Prairie Public Library, welcomes the Peace Library System's decision to create a database for regional libraries.

"Right now we don't know what the other libraries have in their collections," Vardalas said. "When all the collections are put in the database it will be great. We will be able to know what other libraries have and they will be able to know what we have."

The system also offers many other services for its member libraries. Two toll-free 1-800 numbers, one for public and one for school libraries, allow for assistance in tracing hard to locate materials. Technical services like laminating books, "reconning" them to the central database and the purchase of new books and materials fall into the Peace Library System's hands.

"We're in the business of providing services to libraries," Jobb said.

One service Jobb is involved with is a program offered to librarians themselves, called the Rural Libraries Workshop.

"The last one we offered in October of 1988 was attended by 110 librarians from across the Peace Region," she said. "Workshops were put on over the weekend covering topics like weeding of your collection, collection development, budgeting for a public library, accessing grants and even general care and repair of library materials."

The Peace Library System plans to keep growing and adapting to try and best fit the needs of its member libraries and the public. Ferguson feels they have been successful so far in meeting that challenge.

"I think one of the most important things that has happened since we started is a new awareness of what libraries are all about," he said. "They are starting to come of age and I think that part of this increased awareness about libraries is because the Peace Library System came into being."

(reprinted with permission)

When **Wabasca Public Library** first joined the system (in 2002/2003) the Board at the time did all the cataloguing of the donated books. Lots of sniffing to make sure they weren't mouldy! They also spent hours and hours photocopying the covers and the inside information of each book to be sent to Peace to be imputed into Dynix! So several lifetimes later (according to my brother Ian who was Chair at the time) the Peace representative told them there was an easier way! They were over half done copying! This taught them to ask more questions! Thank you Peace Library System for all your help in keeping our library running smoothly!
~ **Joy Grant** at the **Wabasca Public Library**

Peace Library System Directors

Ian Ferguson

Pat Jobb

Sharon Siga

Linda Duplessis

1987 - 1989

1989- 1995

1995 - 2001

2001 -

The Many Faces of Peace Library System... Past

Philip Burry

Lane Jackson

Corinne Heartt

Asif Ahmed

Debbie Was

Wayne Wedman

Liz Varty
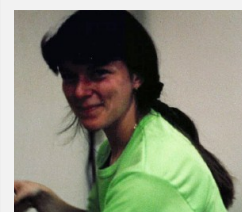
Jean Nelson

Judy Musselman

Darla McKeil

Laurie Harrison

A Roster of Previous Employees...

Asif Ahmed	Ian Ferguson	Pat Jobb	Tracy Pike	Mary-Ann Thurber
Edna Ashford	Pat Francis	Joanne Kimble	Padmini Ramaswamy	Liz Varty
Isobel Beal	Ivan Gaetz	Jocelyn Larkin	Laura Reilly	Bruce Venne
Lyn Bjerke	Ann Gish	Sheri Leeson	Michelle Rempel	Elizabeth Walker
Janna Bradley	Ryan Goff	Leslie L'Hirondelle	Fred Robertson	Dianne Walters
Philip Burry	Margaret Harris	Peter Marshall	Aina Rudman	Debbie Was
Fred Charchuk	Laurie Harrison	Darla McKeil	Tina Russell	Wayne Wedman
Cory Chernuka	Corinne Heartt	Elaine Medin	Pat Seymour	Debbie Whetstone
Rosemary Coyle	Theresa Hrab	Michelle Mills	Sharon Siga	Robert Willson
Traci Dirom	Susan Hubert	Judy Musselman	John Snow	Val Wold
Colleen Doerksen	Joy Huebert	Jean Nelson	Lenda St. John	
Leslie Elliot	Kathy Irwin	Sharon Nuttycome	Renee Thibault	
Kathy Farrell	Lane Jackson	Kristine Peterson	Heather Thiessen	

...And the Many Faces of Peace Library System... Present

Peace Library System's newest employees...all hired within the last five years. *Front row, from left to right:* Danielle Bendtsen, Rae Weniger, Julia Dion. *Back row, from left to right*: John Evans, Jen Anderson, Karen Van der Woerd, Penny Flower, Cliff Lesh.

The inbetweeners, who have been with Peace for more than five but less than 15 years . *Front row, from left to right:* Carol Downing, Tora Volkers, Janet Schultz. *Back row, from left to right:* Rose Crerar, Rose-Marie Finch. *Inset:* Katherine Wiebe.

Peace Library System veterans, who have over 15 years of dedicated service. *Front row, from left to right*: Wendy Hodges, Dorothy Tay-Ellingboe. *Back Row, from left to right:* Linda Duplessis, Alrene Dempster. *Inset:* Meera Mittra.

Tech Services Tidbits

By Carol Downing, Assistant Director & Technical Services Manager, Peace Library System

Peace Library System welcomes **Alyssa Linssen** for the summer to work on the 25th Anniversary Scrapbook and assist in Technical Services. Alyssa is a third year education student at Grande Prairie Regional College. **Sheri Leeson** has left Peace Library System to pursue other ventures and **Karen Van der Woerd** has joined the Cataloguing team. We also welcomed **Rose Crerar** back to the order desk after an extended vacation to Australia and Thailand. **Meera Mittra** is presently away on a trip overseas.

Alyssa Linssen

The retrospective conversion (recon) for **Savanna Municipal Library** has been completed and the library is up and running. Their grand opening was held on May 6.

Interlibrary loan pick-up and delivery for libraries on the Tuesday and Thursday van runs is being done via Peace Library System Van. Special Arrangements have been made for libraries with heavy interlibrary loan volume.

Many changes have occurred in Technical Services during the five and a half years I have been at Peace Library System. Ordering has been made easier with the advent of Title Source 3. The move from Dynix to Polaris was a big hurdle to overcome at first, but now we have a truly Windows-based system. A big round of applause goes out to the staff who adapted their workflow and survived the changeover. In the Cataloguing Department, the ordering of MARC records and external database searching to retrieve records has enhanced the cataloguing process by making it quicker. Instead of searching the Dewey Decimal System by book, it is now available online through Web Dewey. New formats have arisen, such as Blu-ray, Playaway, audiobooks and eBooks, and DAISY books. We are now looking forward to RDA, the new guidelines for catalogue records, which will change everything.

In the last 25 years, before my time here, Technical Services has progressed from catalogue cards to electronic MARC records, from manual orders on the typewriter to data entry on the computer, from mailing orders to vendors to sending orders electronically, from searching for records on microfiche or CD-ROM to online database searching, and from Dewey via book to Web Dewey. I am sure there are many more changes to come and it should be interesting to see what they are.

Above: **Wendy Smith** unloading the PLS van in 1995. She has been with Peace Library System since June 13, 1988.

Reminiscences From a Long-Serving Employee

By Dorothy Tay-Ellingboe, Accounting Administrator, Peace Library System

Back in 1988 when I first joined PLS much of the administrative work was done manually - from the recording of cheque payments to vendors and to writing out the cheques and using a typewriter!

A year or two later, computers came on board and what a great feeling it was – although many of us were not familiar with "modern" technology, we were really pleased and we all learned fast with the various programs that suited our various jobs and in 1989 PLS became fully automated.

From manually recording vendors and check payments in a binder, the computer was a God-send! It certainly makes my job easier after learning the accounting software which was a DOS-based program then and now we've come to use a Windows-based accounting software - and it is great.

RLC 1996

Back then payroll was outsourced to a company and was processed by a firm in High Prairie. This was brought back in-house in the early 1990's using a software program called "HELP." Years later, around 2001, we switched to another payroll software now called "Easy Pay" and it's a great program. I also recall back then, when we all first started in 1986, there were three personnel in the then Finance Department with a Finance Manager! Ten years later it was down to two and now it's one - me.

RLC 1997

Memorable moments – gosh – what can I say? It's been two and a half decades of service that we have provided to our member libraries which keeps us going. I remembered once, years ago, we had a huge donation of books from the University of Alberta and since there was no room at our previous location on 108 Street, so the books were housed at **Brownvale School** which was not operational then. When those items were brought into Grande Prairie, we had to hire project staff and we had a huge book sale at the Old Provincial Building downtown.

Penny for Your Thoughts

By Penny Flower, IT Services Manager, Peace Library System

The Past...

My interest in computers stemmed from some experience with programmable calculators back in the early 80s. I actually programmed in VAX Basic and Cobol and probably none of you even remember or know what Cobol was (an old programming language). I was working at Red Deer College in their IT department when PCs became popular. What a time I had trying to use the mouse! I was fast on the keyboard but was forced to play many games of solitaire before I became comfortable with Windows and with using a mouse. When working in Polaris, I use the mouse so much that I get "mouse thumb syndrome".

When I started at Peace Library System, TRAC had only been "live" on Polaris for a couple of months, and there were many issues. At that time, none of our member libraries (except for GPPL) could access TRACpac (well actually they could see it but could not get any response from it). The **Beaverlodge Public Library** SuperNet connection went down around that time and our network partners ACSI helped me to get them up and running and fix the access problem with TRACpac at the same time. Shelly, do you remember me using your telephone all afternoon and running up a big phone bill? That was my first hurdle. The second was trying to remember library and library managers' names!

The Present...

As far as Polaris goes, I have found that system administration is very labor intensive. There are no bulk updates in sysadmin and we have added new members; **Rycroft**, **Dixonville**, **Eaglesham**, **Tangent**, **Savanna**, **Woking** and **Bonanza**. I created these branches in Polaris and while the work was tedious it was a great learning opportunity. PLS has added many related services such as Telephony, Polaris Inventory, Overdrive, Title Source 3, and the iPhone app and have upgraded Polaris several times. The current version offers some social networking links, and provides text messaging as a notification option for patrons. I continue to learn something new about Polaris each and every day.

The Future...

We recently had a preview of future Polaris developments that will help libraries work with community groups by sharing links and web content through the PAC.

Left: PLS staff learn Windows 95 at a training session in 1997.

John's Favourites...

By John Evans, Network Analyst, Peace Library System

Each newsletter I'll take time to share some of my favourites programs and hardware. This issue it's all about the programs.

OpenDNS

OpenDNS is the leading provider of free security and infrastructure services that make the Internet safer through integrated Web content filtering, anti-phishing and DNS. OpenDNS services enable home users to reduce online threats, and help secure children from accessing sites which you have decided they shouldn't have access to. OpenDNS is used today by millions of users and organizations around the world.

Dropbox

I LOVE Dropbox. It is the one Internet application I can't live without. If you use it like I do, eventually you subscribe to have more storage space and pay a nominal yearly fee, but initially when you sign up you get 2GB of Dropbox for free! Imagine if you took pictures of all your valuables and stored them in dropbox... your house catches fire, your safe melts and destroys your receipts - but because there is a copy of your pictures and important documents in a virtual safe on the internet, your pictures are safe. If you're interested in a trial type in your web browser http://dropbox.askme.ca.

At PLS one thing is certain - you never have to go long without a cake or a special treat!

Left: **Linda Duplessis** and **Minister Ray Danyluk** share a laugh as they cut a cake celebrating 100 years of the Alberta Library Act at RLC 1997.

Right: Staff carefully choosing their desserts at **Liz Varty's** retirement party, 1997.

Peace Library Board Chairs

Glenn Walmsley
1986 - 1988

E. May Rowe
1988 - 1992

Irene Salisbury
1992

Sherrill Robinson
1992 - 1997

Jane Bourlon
1997 - 2000

Michael Weidlich
2000 - 2001

Derek Taylor
2001 - 2003

Rennie Cauchie
2003 - 2010

Veronica Bliska
2011 -

Plans for a library system had been floating around for years but it wasn't until 1980 that a group of interested citizens got together to form a steering committee to make the idea a reality. Having watched the successful creation of three other library systems in Alberta - Yellowhead, Parkland and Marigold - the committee began traveling through the Peace region meeting with library boards and town councils to get endorsements for the idea of a Peace-area System.

In 1984, the steering committee moved to the project development phase, opened an office in the Provincial building in **Peace River** and hired a staff of three to get the System off the ground. A great deal of time and effort went into the planning of the System. The steering committee and the staff had to create a Plan of Service and create goals for the proposed System. They needed to determine what kinds of services the System would offer and how they would be delivered to member libraries. Once these documents were created, they had to be taken to library boards, town councils and school district offices for their endorsement.

At the end of 1985, the first meeting of the interim Board of Directors of the Peace Region Co-Operative Library Project was held in Falher. Board members at the time included **Reg Bouchard** (Peace River), **Denise R. Lepchuck** (Fort Vermillion School Division #52), **Glenn Walmsley** (High Level), **Morag Mochan** (Grande Prairie), **May Rowe** (Berwyn), **Laurie Nason** (Grimshaw), **Rose Hayden** (Rainbow Lake), **Bob Zahara** (Sexsmith), **Jean Lewis** (High Prairie), and **Sam Drader** (Grande Prairie). At that time, Beaverlodge, McLennan and Nampa were without representatives.

In December, 1985, 11 municipalities and two school divisions agreed to commit funds for a three year period for the establishment of a library system. These agreements meant that the project could finally move out of the Project Development Stage and into the Interim Board Stage. In March, 1986, the **County of Grande Prairie** voted to join the System which provided the population base needed to begin receiving per capita funding from the Province. By the end of 1986, 21 towns, municipalities and villages and 13 school divisions had joined the System.

In June, 1986, Peace Library System was officially established with a service population of 73,003. The first meeting of the official Peace Library System Board was held in **Grimshaw** that month.

~ Excerpt taken from *The First 20 Years: The History of Peace Library System and Its Member Public Libraries*, pages 62 & 63.

Peace Library System Participating Members, 2011

Date Joined	Municipality
1986	Clear Hills County
1986	City of Grande Prairie
1986	County of Grande Prairie
1986	Town of Beaverlodge
1986	Town of Fairview
1986	Town of Falher
1986	Town of Grimshaw
1986	Town of High Level
1986	Town of High Prairie
1986	Town of Manning
1986	Town of McLennan
1986	Town of Peace River
1986	Town of Rainbow Lake
1986	Town of Sexsmith
1986	Town of Spirit River
1986	Town of Valleyview
1986	Village of Berwyn
1986	Village of Hines Creek
1986	Village of Hythe
1986	Village of Kinuso
1986	Village of Nampa
1998	County of Northern Lights
1999	Municipal District of Fairview
1999	Municipal District of Greenview
1999	Municipal District of Lesser Slave River
1999	Northern Sunrise County
1999	Town of Slave Lake

Date Joined	Municipality
2001	Municipal District of Peace
2001	Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement
2002	Municipal District of Opportunity
2002	Town of Fox Creek
2004	Municipal District of Smoky River
2004	Municipal District of Spirit River
2005	Municipal District of Big Lakes
2008	Town of Wembley
2009	Village of Rycroft
2010	Birch Hills County
2010	Saddle Hills County
2010	Village of Donnelly

Municipal Members: 38
Total Population: 149,820 (as of 2010)
Member Libraries: 45

Participating School Divisions, 2011

Driftpile Cree Nation
Driftpile Community School

Grande Prairie & District RCSSD #28
École St. Gerard
Holy Cross Catholic School
Kateri Mission Catholic School
Mother Teresa Catholic School
St. Clement Catholic School
St. Joseph Catholic High School
St. Mary School (Beaverlodge)
St. Mary's School (Sexsmith)
St. Patrick Catholic School
St. Thomas More Catholic School
Ste. Marie's Catholic School

Holy Family Catholic Regional Division #37
École Providence
Glenmary School
Good Shepherd School
Holy Family School
Rosary School
St. Andrew's R.C. Separate School
St. Stephen's Catholic School

Living Waters Catholic Regional Div. #42
St. Mary of the Lake School

Northern Gateway Regional Division #10
Fox Creek School
Harry Gray Elementary School
Hillside Jr./Sr. High School
Oscar Adolphson Primary School
Sunset House School
Twilight Colony School
Valleyview Ranches Colony School

Peace River School Division #10
Dixonville School
E. E. Oliver Elementary School
Eaglesham School
Fairview High School
Grimshaw Jr./Sr. High School
Hines Creek Composite School
Kennedy Elementary School
Lloyd Garrison School
Manning Elementary School
Menno Simons Community School
Nampa Public School

Paul Rowe Jr./Sr. High School
Peace River High School
Springfield Elementary School
T. A. Norris Middle School
Whitelaw Academy
Worsley Central School

Peace Wapiti School Division #76
Birch Hills Hutterite School
Bonanza School
Helen E. Taylor School
Ridgevalley Elementary School
Ridgevalley Secondary School

Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation
Sturgeon Lake Band School

School Divisions: 8
Schools: 50

Peace Library System: Then and Now

By Padmini Ramaswamy, Former IT Services Manager, Peace Library System

Above: Grand opening of the Peace Library System offices on 108 St in Grande Prairie, April 23, 1989.

Two and half decades have gone and it is fascinating looking back how things have evolved in Peace Library System. It is a warm feeling to think some staff members have been there for the most part with the exception of me. I left in 2009 after serving 21 years. Looking back brings lot of memories. PLS was located in the centre of town, 108 Avenue and 100 Street, with few staff members.   Quite a few staff members were added in 1988. From drop shipment to regular ordering, receiving and cataloguing was definitely a progress even though the methods were archaic according to current day standards. The librarians were provided with five part order forms and they had to manually fill one form per book and send in their orders. The ordering staff at PLS would search for the information by using *Books in Print* etc. and publishers' catalogues (a precious commodity). Vendors were marked in each order form. One copy of the order form was sent out by regular mail with a purchase order request. This information was logged with date vendor, library, date sent etc. When the books were received, the slips needed to be pulled out and each order slip had to be verified for the details and each slip needed to be stamped with a received stamp and the book with the Peace Library System stamp.   Then, painstakingly, the staff had to handwrite the list of books shipped to each library and 2 copies needed to go with each book, one copy to accounting with the invoice for payment and another to file. You had to press hard to go through all the copies.

Then came the fun part. Each receiving staff had a filing box. On Friday afternoon, all the staff members will sit around a large table including Technical Services Coordinator (**Sharon Siga**) and file back the order slips pulled out for receiving. Lot of laughs and jokes around the table. What camaraderie! This was the perk for doing everything manually. Who said filing is a boring job? When you think nothing can top this, imagine how the follow-up of the orders was done. The staff had to go through the log book, pick out orders that had numbers not received after the cancellation period, then pull out the filed order slips, make copies and send it out to the vendors with a form letter. So, with so much workflow needed, boxes were always stacked up everywhere in the receiving area. The staff had a lot of fun moving furniture around to accommodate something or someone's wish. No one would believe with what ease they hauled everything around. At the same time, on the other side of the building cataloguing staff were getting trained all through the day with Bibliofile - with cold air blowing from the vents above cooling the overheated brain. The ordering area had a similar problem. Keeping cool with hairdo? I think not. **Lyn Bjerke**, who was ordering supervisor then, was not only proficient in ordering books but knew how to effectively block the air vents. She used to climb up and close the air vents that blew cold air. When you sat at her desk, you could feel the order log book and everything else on her desk was piping hot.

One fine day, the world suddenly changed for the staff. The Director came in and said the staff were going to get COMPUTERS. The staff shouted out with glee. The staff were ecstatic that they could type the list of books in a spreadsheet instead of laborious writing. That was the first baby step towards technology in Peace Library System. Compare 256K memory, Intel 8088 processor with 12" monochrome monitor with the current setup. From then on gradual evolution of technology started slowly but steadily. In 1989 the automation to Dynix was achieved. What a difference it made in the Peace Library System's day-to-day operations. For example, when **Colleen Brown** from Dynix came to train us, she pulled the outstanding orders in a flourish, and made the follow-up clerk look obsolete. All the disciplines related to day-to-day routine were automated. That day relief was spelled "Dynix".

Above: Mayor **Dwight Logan** and **May Rowe**, PLS Board Chair at the sod turning ceremony, November 18, 1989.

Then came the big move of Peace Library System to the current location. The staff were asked to provide input in the design of their own work areas. There were so many blueprints to go through and the end result was a beautiful building with a nice staff room. What a difference from staff going to "Mixing Bowl Bakery", "Taco Time" and "Kentucky Fried Chicken" for each coffee break and lunch - to bringing lunches to the office. Healthy Choices by lack of eating places nearby resulted in planning lunches like nachos, chow mein salad etc. PLS staff are known to be excellent organizers of such lunches with great attention to details. That tradition has not died down even with so many staff turnovers. Nobody will be turned away hungry from PLS doors. The lunch breaks were time for interesting conversations, not just library related but everything from politics to figure skating and other sports.

Above: Padmini hard at work in the Acquisitions department in 1992/1993. This was before she became the IT Services Manager.

Between 1991 and 2003, PLS had seen so many changes in every way: staff changes, changing to Windows from DOS, establishing emails, CAP programs and becoming part of APLEN. LAN was established and regular Dynix software upgrades were done. All of our network was behind the famous Borderware firewall. Backup and security were foremost in System Administrators' minds. Quite a few staff were involved in the backup schedule, taking turns on Saturdays sitting in the office changing tapes every hour on the hour, for up to four to five hours, giving the staff some banked time.

Things started happening in leaps and bounds. In 1997, **Grande Prairie Public Library's** database was merged to Peace Library System's and their staff began using the hardware, software and regional database housed at headquarters for their day-to-day library operations. Later that year, Alberta Community Development (ACD) announced funding for a networking project that would link all public libraries electronically by 2001. Peace Library System and Grande Prairie Public Library were two of the 16 nodes.

In 1999, APLEN and Industry Canada announced a Community Access Program (CAP) that put computers in all participating libraries. Also, a phone line and Internet access were provided. From then on CAP has been around.

The circulation module was not fully functional until 2000, when the first 7 libraries went live on Dynix. Before that they were using various library software. A tremendous amount of effort went into extracting their records from their old system and with Dynix's help, creating loading profiles, performing test loads, testing the records loaded and final loading were done. Dynix staff came to train the library staff. This was followed by another batch of libraries. The staff faced so many challenges with all the libraries' staff coming through the firewall.

Provincial initiatives increased, particularly the development of SuperNet, and we were involved in discussions with other library systems to form a partnership. After going over pros and cons and with valuable input from our library managers, PLS decided to join The Regional Automated Consortium (TRAC). After regular meetings our databases were merged with the TRAC database in the spring of 2004.

Peace Library System did not slow down, but picked up pace. During 2004/05 the rollout of SuperNet was completed and PLS became the Internet gateway for member libraries. PLS became self-sufficient by implementing the mobile computer lab. Compared to the hauling of computer carts with PCs this was a breeze setting up. This helped training in the comfort of our own building. During the fall workshop the computer sessions were being done in Peace Library System. What a change from us getting the very first computers.

Before 2005, one of the staff members needed to travel to libraries to resolve computer problems or to train them to use programs like VDX. But the implementation of GoToAssist gave them the ability to troubleshoot or train by remote access to the library computers.

In 2007 Peace Library System climbed the technology ladder by setting up Videoconferencing followed by Wireless in 2008. With all the amenities in place it was time to move on. After the excruciating pain of evaluating various automation software, TRAC decided to go with Polaris. We went live on January

Above: Two beaming new Canadian citizens (**Meera Mittra**, left and **Padmini**, right) and a pillar of strength (**Sharon Nuttycombe**) in

8, 2009. This is one of our greatest achievements as a result of the hard work by the staff members.

Throughout the last two and a half decades, service to the member libraries was the main focus. During the early years when everything was done manually, or now as everything is so automated, the dedication to provide the best service has not suffered. Peace Library System has always been very fortunate to have such dedicated staff who go that extra mile to help the library managers. The majority of the staff always accepted the changes and adapted to new things. The challenges were met head on and I might add there were quite a few along the way.

Above: **Padmini** and **Ryan Goff** give the thumbs up after Polaris went live on January 8, 2009.

It was not always work and no play. Staff participated in The Reading Network's first-ever Spelling Bee. The team name opted for was Alpha Busters. The fashion show was another highlight during the Rural Libraries Workshop. These are just two examples. The sense of humour has been a strong suit in PLS. Laughter helped then and continues to help. Staff were appreciated and recognized appropriately. PLS is an extended family for all the staff members, for better or worse.

Looking back is like looking through a kaleidoscope with so many colours, images and memories. Judging by the amount of growth in the last 25 years, Peace Library System will keep moving forward and will never look back. Growth is inevitable. After all it is the Android age, is it not?

Growth, you can not live without it, and you wouldn't want to anyway.

Left: **Padmini** on moving day to the new PLS headquarters, 1990.

Below, left to right: **Janna (Strikwerda) Bradley**, **Padmini**, and **Janet Schultz,** representing the Materials Purchasing Department, 1999.

Above: Final touch-ups before the Rural Libraries Conference "971.231 History Revisited" event, 1996. From left to right: **Edna Ashford**, **Dorothy Tay-Ellingboe**, **Lyn Bjerke**, **Meera Mittra**, **Padmini**, **Sharon Siga**.

Congratulations Peace Library on your 25ᵗʰ Anniversary!

As a member of PLS for many years, I feel very fortunate to have access to this wonderful resource center to assist me in my daily work as school librarian, at **St. Stephen's Catholic School** in **Valleyview**. The knowledgeable, kind, courteous and helpful staff is to be congratulated for their outstanding service for the past 25 years. Anytime I have needed assistance there has always been someone willing to take the time to help even if it has involved some extensive research to find a needed item or answer a question. **Linda Duplessis**, **Meera**, and **Rose** have been like dear friends at the other end of my many emails. I really can't thank each of you enough for your professionalism, friendship, and willingness to go the extra mile to assist me with my many requests.

I have truly enjoyed attending the Rural Libraries Conferences. It is a refreshing way to start each new school year. I have attended many wonderful sessions, all very informative and some quite entertaining. I think the session that resonates with me most was when **Lois Hole**, then Governor General of Alberta, was the conference's guest speaker. I was so inspired by her gentle presence, her pure love for humanity and her exquisite presentation and passion for literacy. I remember being moved by the fact that at the end of her sessions she took the time to greet each of us personally, offering a few words of encouragement, a gentle hand shake, and a warm hug. Lois Hole truly has inspired me in my work as a school librarian and as an advocate for children's literacy.

Thank you Peace Library System for 25 years of outstanding service and partnership!

Ann Marie Brezovski

Above, from left to right: Peace Library Board Chair **Derek Taylor**, The Honorable **Lois Hole,** Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, and PLS Director **Linda Duplessis**, Rural Libraries Conference, 2001.

When I started at **Hythe Public Library**, over sixteen years ago, I came to the job with no library experience. After two short weeks of training (six days), my predecessor left to go on a cruise and made it very clear that she was not interested in being a resource for me. I didn't see her in the library again for two years.

So what was a girl to do? What I did was phone Peace Library System. Every day. Sometimes more than once. I'm pretty sure this went on for years. In fact, I still prefer to pick up the phone and talk to someone at PLS rather than fire emails back and forth. Without PLS, I would have floundered around like a bass on dry land. Time and again they clarified what was standard library practise for whatever I was calling about.

Through the years, PLS has given me advice and support as the library migrated from handwritten records to computerized, and from manually checking books out with cards to checking out with a stand-alone library program, then with Dynix, then Polaris. It feels like the library world has advanced in leaps and bounds in those sixteen years, and technology is pushing everyone forward at breakneck speeds whether we want to go or not.

Karen at **Hythe Public Library**, 1998.

That makes me sound like a regular Luddite. I'm not, really. I love many of the advances. But what I love most of all is that PLS has always been there, showing us how to implement changes, use that new technology, train our patrons, navigate this exasperating, exhilarating new world.
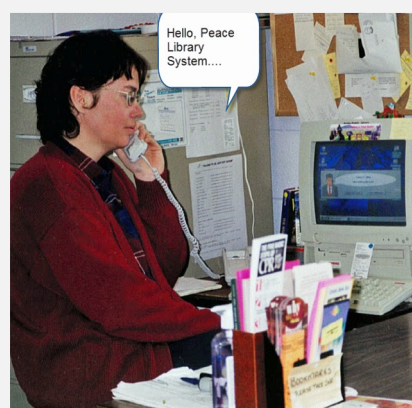
I'm not sure what the library of the future will look like, but I am sure that PLS will be there, lending support to those future libraries and helping them deliver services to their communities in the best ways possible.

Four years after I started working at the library, I became interested in writing (all because of those books I was shelving, some of which had me convinced "I could write better than that"). Now as I leave to pursue my writing career, one thing is certain: I will continue to use and treasure my library, and will doubtless be a "wandering patron" in many other libraries. And I will be a resource for my successor, though I wouldn't blame her if she tells me she'd rather get her advice from PLS, thanks anyway.

Karen Bass

From the Information Desk

By Pam Chislett, Deputy Director, Grande Prairie Public Library

My memories of **Peace Library System** go back to the very beginning. I remember the discussions, meetings, proposals, etc. I remember the initial set up of two offices: one in **Peace River** and the other in **Grande Prairie**. I remember looking for a building in Grande Prairie and the issues with asbestos. All of this initial set-up was being lead by **Pat Jobb**. Her vision and drive provided Peace Library System with very good "bones" to grow and develop on.

For many of the initial years, the location of the annual librarian's conference was varied. It was held several times in Peace River and I think also in **Fairview**. At these conferences I would usually have a session on either interlibrary loan or some aspect of reference work. When one thinks back about the development of Interlibrary Loan from the teletype days to now where it is virtually seamless, it is all quite amazing.

Our catalogues have undergone many changes as well. We have moved from 3 by 5 inch cards to computers. I remember the big deal of having the union catalogue on microfiche. I believe this was one of **Sharon Siga**'s projects.

Sharon Nuttycombe also had her hand in many projects related to the implementation of **Dynix** but **Margaret Harris** was involved in the first installation. If I remember correctly, **Grande Prairie Public Library** purchased the Dynix system first and then Peace Library System moved to adopt it afterwards. The next phases involved upgrades, changing systems and then finally amalgamation with **TRAC**. **Padmini Ramaswamy** had an enormous role to play in this final phase of our "union catalogue" development.

In the "olden" days, I also did road trips. I remember a long, long, long trip to **Rainbow Lake** and **High Level** bouncing along the road in the System vehicle with **John Snow**. **Lane Jackson** and I did a few road trips, as well. It was always enjoyable visiting these libraries at the edge of PLS borders.
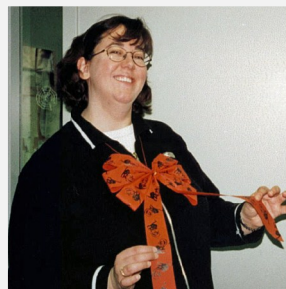
Many of the staff of Peace Library System provided numerous pleasurable memories because of their particular extracurricular interests. We had our Elvis Presley phase, **Sharon Nuttycombe**'s

plays – always fun to plan and perform plus being effective fundraisers for Grande Prairie Public Library, **Padmini**'s tenacity, **Meera Mittra**'s attention to detail for cataloguing, **Pat Jobb**'s futuristic vision for libraries (her telescope at home was not only aimed at the stars but helped aim her library vision for better libraries in Alberta), **Sharon Siga**'s quiet but effective manner sprinkled with her welcoming laughter at the best times brightening those more serious moments of organization, plans or whatever was being discussed at the moment. All of these staff plus the support staff have added positively to the develop of library service to northwestern Alberta.

It was an enormous challenge to amalgamate the initial communities in this region of the province spread across miles and miles with a sparse population. It was a struggle but one that has born fruition with the present staff carrying on - promising another 25 years of exemplary service.

In 2004, **Pam** (left, pictured with **Linda Duplessis**) received the **Excellence in Librarianship** award for public libraries. She was recognized for her then 22 years of dedicated service with **Grande Prairie Public Library** and her commitment to providing outstanding library service. Pam advocated for GPPL joining Peace Library System and has since worked very closely with PLS as an advisor and liaison on a variety of matters, such as resource sharing.

Above: **Mary-Ann** modeling her Halloween bow

I've always considered Peace Library System as my first "professional" job. It really wasn't since I was a reporter for three years but walking into that nice building and seeing my very own office (!) made me think I'd finally arrived somewhere. I was first hired part-time as a Project Assistant and later became the System's first Communications Coordinator.

Over my 10 years with PLS my professional capabilities increased and improved (no comment **Alrene**!) and are a major reason that I am now employed as a Communications Officer with the City of Edmonton. Of course the fantastic people I worked with – especially the ever-patient **Linda Duplessis** with her wonderful eye for editing – were instrumental in any success I had.

Above: **Mary–Ann** with **Roch Carrier**, National Librarian of Canada from 1999—2004, and author of *The Hockey Sweater*. Mr. Carrier spoke at the 2002 Rural Libraries Conference.

My favourite memories are of the author tours I organized and carried out. They gave me the chance to meet some of Alberta's (and Canada's) greatest children's authors and to see a major portion of beautiful northern Alberta. Of course there were downsides – hitting a deer with our brand-new Honda CRV outside of **High Prairie** and getting hopelessly lost on the way to **Wabasca** – but it was an honour to bring such talented people to these small communities and introduce their work to a new generation of audiences.

Congratulations to Peace Library System on its 25th anniversary and best wishes for many more successful years of service to libraries.

Mary-Ann Thurber

First of all 'Happy 25th birthday' to Peace Library System.

It's hard to believe that so many years have gone by. **McLennan Municipal Library** has been a member for those entire 25 years - in fact we were also part of the Steering Committee in 1983 back in the 'pre technical' era - in the time of manual cataloguing by the husband of our 'volunteer' librarian! Joining the PLS has meant that we have benefited greatly from the expansion of resources and what we can offer our patrons - a library membership in 2011 goes a long way!

Philippa O'Mahony, Board Chair for McLennan and Town Rep on the PLS Board.

May Rowe (left) presents **Philippa** (right) with her certificate marking 10 years of service on the Peace Library Board, 1996.

I joined Peace Library System in March of 1988. There were only seven employees when I joined and over time all seven moved on. Now I am the oldest PLS employee, both in age and service!

The day I was interviewed was really interesting because there were boxes all over the office floor as the headquarters of the PLS had just moved from Peace River to Grande Prairie. I thought that I would be sitting on a box for the interview! Fortunately there were some offices with chairs and tables.

I started in acquisitions, and then moved to receiving and with the introduction of cataloguing moved into that position. What a learning experience! From Card-Prep to Bibliofile, Dynix to Polaris, especially for the girl who never knew anything about typing let alone computers. It has been a very rewarding 23 years. I am very happy to be the part of PLS community.

Meera Mittra, Cataloguing Supervisor, Peace Library System

Above: **Meera** hard at work cataloguing, 1999.

Left: **Meera** during her RLC 1999 session "Getting to Know MARC."

Do you remember when messages were written on a piece of paper and put in an employee's pigeon hole? Or when you wanted to talk to someone you actually had to pick up a phone and call – no e-mail or voicemail back then!

What about the typewriter – now it is just used for those annoying forms that are not in changeable PDF files – oh how things have changed!

Do you remember when you called a business and you talked to a real person not one that said please press 1, please press 4, please press 7, or stay on the line and an operator will be with you. Then three minutes later you end up at their voice mail!

Photocopiers have come a long way - there was a time when you had to manually colour something to say you had a "colour" copy. Now they can do everything, but I haven't found the Tim Hortons request button yet!
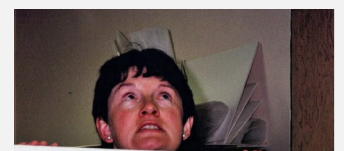
My first experience with PLS was actually before I was even employed here. Those were the days when the courier service took two days, which meant an overnight in **Peace River** was required. My sister-in-law (no need to mention names) was courier then and said she needed company for the two day trip – I wasn't doing anything so I said sure – only to find out she just needed someone to sleep in the bed closest to the door in case someone decided to come in when not invited. Well much to our surprise – someone did try to enter the room but lucky his key was for a different room and was given the wrong room number by the front desk, needless to say there was not much sleep happening that night. She was on her own from then on.

She was also the person responsible for me applying to PLS for a term position. First I had to find out what PLS was and decided it might be interesting. Oh my goodness – if I only had known what was about to happen. All the books that had been donated to PLS when the U of A Extension Library closed where being stored at the "Old" provincial building (now the site of the Credit Union downtown). Another person was hired at the same time and our "project" was to sit there and sell as many books as possible with the understanding that what was left would be moved into the new building. That old building was not very secure, it was creepy, it was stinky, the elevator didn't work and yes we had books in the basement too. I could go on forever but you get the picture. It seems like years had passed but I think it was only a couple months before that project ended and all the books not sold were moved to the new, beautiful building. That was 21 years ago and as the saying goes – the rest is history.

Alrene Dempster, Executive Assistant, Peace Library System

Above: **Alrene** representing PLS at the Canada Day Parade, 1994.

Above: **Alrene** in 1999, preparing to be beamed up The Starship APLEN at RLC 1999.

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HITHER and YON
NEWS FROM PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM MEMBERS

HIGH LEVEL MUNICIPAL

During the recent author tour, the library hosted *Expresso with an Author*. Lyle Weis provided engaging storytelling while the public sipped in style.

BEAR CANYON COMMUNITY

See letters printed elsewhere in this issue from students responding to the recent author tour.

FAIRVIEW MUNICIPAL

The 3rd Annual Book Fair was a great success: more than $4,500 worth of books were sold.

BEAVERLODGE R.C.M.P. MUNICIPAL

Bar coding is complete and automation is progressing well.

SPIRIT RIVER MUNICIPAL

The MacDonald's reading program is continuing this winter. If you are interested in the details, please contact *Beth Davis* at 864-4038

MANNING MUNICIPAL

With Manning Elementary School students using the library during the school's renovations, the circulation in October doubled ... to 2,000!

PEACE RIVER MUNICIPAL

For Christmas, the library is offering stocking stuffers and will be participating in the Crafts Fair.

NAMPA MUNICIPAL

Welcome to new librarian, *Brenda Bielopotocky*. She's maintaining a family tradition (her mother, Roseanne Bielopotocky, was librarian some years ago). Brenda replaces *Nina Screpnek*.

HIGH PRAIRIE MUNICIPAL

Automation continues to progress at a good pace.

BIBLIOTHEQUE DENTINGER (FALHER)

Rita Brodeur will soon be taking over from Cecile Johnson (they share the position of librarian), as once again Cecile straps on her skis.

N◉TES & NEWS
A NEWSLETTER OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM

From the PLS Newsletter Archives....

Left: Reprinted from *Notes & News*, December, 1992.

Below: Reprinted from *Notes & News*, December, 1993.

HITHER and YON
NEWS FROM PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM PUBLIC LIBRARIES

PEACE RIVER MUNICIPAL

Peace River Municipal Library has received the go-ahead from the Town to continue its membership in the Peace Library System. A new "Friends of the Library" group has been working very hard to promote the library and to update policies and programs. Everyone is feeling quite positive about the future.

FAIRVIEW MUNICIPAL

Last month Fairview Public Library celebrated its 55th anniversary. See page 7 for highlights

BERWYN LIBRARY

Welcome to the new librarian, Kirsten Betterson, who many of us had an opportunity to meet at the Rural Libraries Conference. Kirsten is also the librarian of Brownvale Community Library.

HIGH LEVEL MUNICIPAL

High Level Municipal has just formed a "Friends of the Library" Group. Seventeen people, including four high school students, attended the formative meeting held on November 30. Projects which the Friends group plan to undertake include a quarterly newsletter, Expresso Evenings (with an author or storyteller), fundraising activities, and special promotional events.

MANNING MUNICIPAL

The Library underwent some minor renovations this fall. it is hoped that by recovering the stairs and building some cupboards in the basement, better use will be made of the downstairs space.

VALLEYVIEW MUNICIPAL

Librarians Sophie Major and Shelley McCullough have completed a University of Alberta course entitled *Canadian Literature for Young People in Schools and Libraries*.   Congratulations!

RAINBOW LAKE MUNICIPAL

Rainbow Lake Municipal recently received a generous donation from the Oilman's Association towards the purchase of a computer system for the library.

Future looks bright for libraries

As we approach the new century we thought it would be fun to try and determine the future for libraries. We had our professional librarians here at Peace Library System look into a crystal ball and try to pull some predictions out of the mists. Thanks to the prognosticating abilities of Sharon Siga, Linda Duplessis and Sharon Nuttycombe, here's a glimpse at what the future might hold for our profession and for books in general.

◉ People will continue to read books in the bathtub. (All the more reason why computers will never replace books.)

◉ The first interplanetary public library (the human version that is) will open on the planet Mars on June 6th, 2052. (Interlibrary loans will take five years to arrive.)

◉ Books will never go out of style but a new polymer/paper compound will eradicate the paper cut forever.

◉ The amount of information to navigate will be so astronomical that information navigators (librarians) will be the most highly paid professionals on the planet.

◉ There will never be a "paper-less" society (unless we run out of trees!).

◉ After first contact with an alien species, Sharon Nuttycombe will be connecting their libraries to Dynix within a year.

◉ An inventory of all the library materials in the world will be held in a single database creating the world's largest public library. (This idea was proposed by Steve Coffman at Netspeed '99.)

◉ Computers will never be "fast enough".

◉ No one will ever be able to catalogue and index the Internet.

◉ Instead of simple audio books we'll have holograph books where the actor will sit on our living room couch to read to us. (Those read by Denzel Washington and Harrison Ford will be the most popular.)

Left: Some interesting predictions from PLS staff members **Sharon Nuttycombe**, **Sharon Siga** and **Linda Duplessis**! Reprinted from *News 'N' Notes*, December 1999.

They were right - computers will never be fast enough and the amount of information available is certainly astronomical. However, we'll have to wait and see if June 6, 2052 brings us an interplanetary library and if holographic books are on the horizon - perhaps eBooks are just the stepping stones!

RETROSPECTIVE CONVERSION:
WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE'RE HEADED

(Second in a series)   By Sharon Siga, Recon Co-ordinator

To date 6,000 records have created during the Peace Library System recon project.

1. Information taken from catalogue cards ...

2. ... is entered on microcomputers.
   The brief records retrieve ...

3. ... full MARC records
   which will create a ...

4. ... Peace Library System
   computer database
   which can produce either ...

PLS

4.b. ... individual databases
     for member libraries.

4.a. ... a union catalogue of all the
     books in the member libraries.

Some Things Have Changed Dramatically....

Then

Now

Cataloguing, Meera, Late 1980s

Cataloguing, Julia Dion, 2011

CAP training, March 18, 1999

Title Source 3 Training, May 7, 2010

...while others not so much!

Wendy Smith, 1999

Wendy Hodges, 2011

Can You Guess the Library?

Above is a picture of a Peace Library System member public library - <u>as it appeared in 1996</u> - can you guess which one it is? **Clue**: The Library Manager was the recipient of the 2002 Excellence in Librarianship award. The answer will be revealed in the fall edition of *News 'N' Notes*.

The answer from the previous issue:
McLennan Municipal Library

Left: **Pat Seymour** filing acquisition slips, as described in **Padmini**'s article on page 12.

Below: **Sharon Nuttycombe** at RLC 1996.

Upcoming Events

Northern Sunrise County Advisory Committee Meeting
TBA

PLS Executive Meeting
Location TBA
August 20, 2011

PLS Board Meeting
High Prairie, AB
September 17, 2011

PLS' 25th Anniversary Reception
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Grande Prairie, AB
September 21, 7:00 pm

Rural Libraries Conference
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Grande Prairie, AB
September 22 - 23, 2011

Alberta Arts Days
September 30 - October 2, 2011

Fall Author Tours
October 2011

Canadian Library Month
October 2011

Paddle Prairie Advisory Committee Meeting
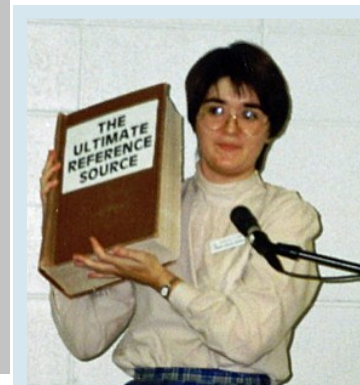Paddle Prairie Public Library
October 5, 2011, 3:30 pm

Clear Hills County Advisory Committee Meeting
Worsley, AB
October 12, 2011, 5:30 pm

Library Managers' Council Meeting
PLS Headquarters
October 17, 2011, 10:30 am

Netspeed
Calgary, AB
October 19 - 21, 2011

PLS Executive Meeting
Location TBA
October 22, 2011

County of Northern Lights Advisory Committee Meeting
Grimshaw Municipal Library
October 24, 2011, 11:30 am

MD of Spirit River Advisory Committee Meeting
Rycroft Municipal Library
October 26, 2011, 6:15 pm

MD of Greenview Advisory Committee Meeting
Grande Prairie Public Library
November 2, 2011, 6:00 pm

PLS Board Meeting
PLS Headquarters
November 20, 2011