



NEWS & Notes

PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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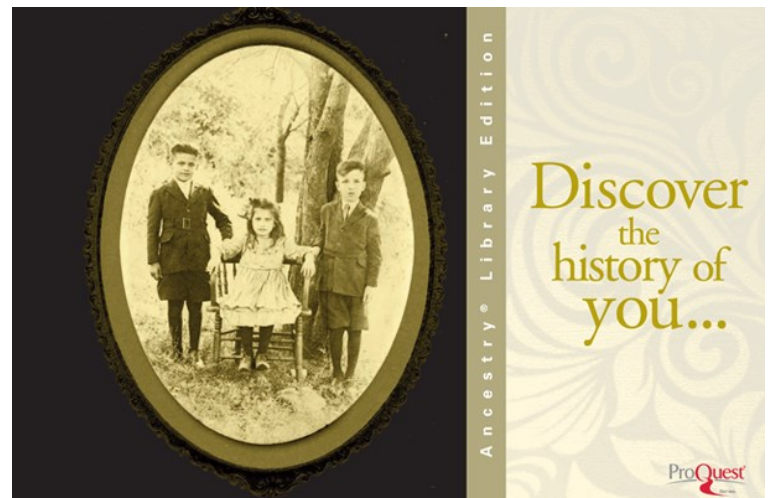
SPRING 2015

Discover your past at the library

Ancestry Library Edition available at Peace Library System libraries

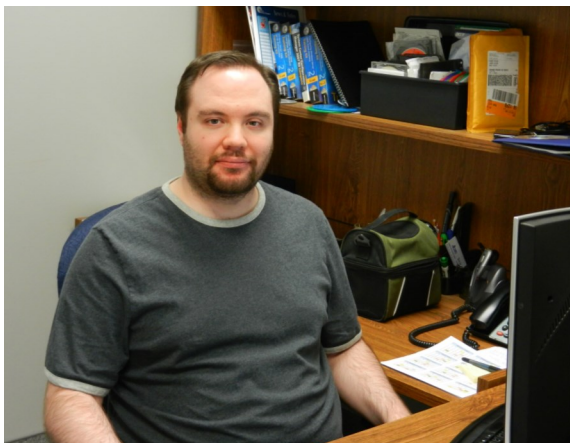
Peace Library System is pleased to announce that Ancestry Library Edition, a top-rated genealogical online resource, is now available at member libraries across the Peace region. Valuable for hobbyists and professionals alike, with Ancestry Library Edition, anyone can dive into their past and learn about their ancestors. Library users now have easy access to billions of records, including over 60 million Canadian records such as censuses, military records, birth, marriage and death records, immigration records and more.

Ancestry Library Edition is powered by Ancestry.com and brings the world's most popular consumer online genealogy resource to the library, for library patrons to use for free. To access Ancestry Library Edition, patrons must be in the library, either using a library computer or a personal device connected to library wi-fi. Once in the library, users click on the Ancestry link on their library's website to be taken directly to Ancestry Library Edition, which features an intuitive search interface, a Learning Center, and downloadable charts and forms to help get users started with



genealogical research. Links to training materials for library staff, including a LibGuide, videos, and brochures are available at www.proquest.com/customer-care/tools-resources/. >>

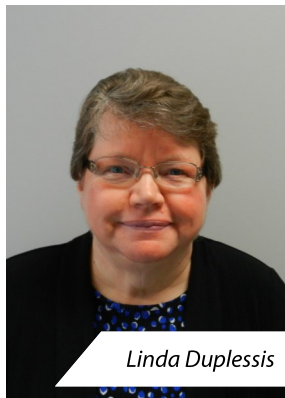
PLS welcomes Brad Keefe, Network Administrator



Peace Library System is very pleased to announce that we have brought Brad Keefe on board as the new Desktop and Network Administrator at Peace Library System. Brad spent several years with Peace Country Health/Alberta Health Services providing desktop support, network maintenance and Windows server support. His experience with Windows servers will be critical as PLS replaces its SCCM server and domain servers in 2015.

Brad brings a wealth of hardware and software experience, and is keenly interested in working with libraries across the region. He has travelled extensively across the region and knows many of the communities well. We know that you'll enjoy meeting him when he visits your library. In the meantime, feel free to contact him with IT questions and concerns. Brad can be reached by phone at PLS Headquarters or by email at bkeefe@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca. >>

>> From the Director



Linda Duplessis

It's hard to believe that the first two months of 2015 are almost gone! Here at PLS we have been busy with performance appraisals, the 2014 audit and our Annual Report to the PLSB. This year we will be consulting with councils, library boards, library staff, and PLS staff in order to develop a 2016-2018 Plan of Service. Our goal is always to provide support and services that benefit member libraries and keep library

services in our region strong and vital. We look forward to getting your input.

Finally—Wallet-sized Cards

Now that you've got the new plastic wallet-sized cards, we hope that your patrons will like them. Our apologies to the Smith Library for a minor glitch. Please give your consultant any feedback you may have about the new cards.

Author Tours Are Back

Alex Daum is busy finding authors, applying for grants and setting up author tour schedules. We will be offering two tours this fall, which should cover about half of our region. In the fall of 2016, we will be bringing in two authors to cover the other half of the region. With only one reading every other year, we encourage you

to make a "big deal" about it and really promote it to your community. Of course, if you like, you can organize your own author reading in the in-between years by getting in touch with the Young Alberta Book Society. Author readings are a great opportunity to promote reading and literacy. Read more about our 2015 tours on page six.

New Genealogy and Early Literacy Resources

Peace Library System has signed an agreement to subscribe to Ancestry Library Edition. This has been requested by a number of libraries over the years and should be a very valuable resource for genealogy research in the library. In addition, we have added a new World Book resource called Early World of Learning to support early literacy for preschoolers. This is available to patrons in the library or remotely.

PLSB Review of Public Libraries in Schools

In 2015, a representative from the Public Library Services Branch will be visiting each public library that is situated in a school. This follows up from a mail survey conducted in 2013. The goal is to evaluate the different models of service delivery in school-housed public libraries, and then put together a toolkit to help library boards that may be considering partnership with a school.

Linda Duplessis
Director

From Collections to Community



Rural Libraries Conference
September 24 & 25, 2015
Grande Prairie, AB
www.rurallibrariesconference.com

What's trending in books

TOP BOOKS IN TRAC



Top circulated books in TRAC for January and February 2015.

Gray Mountain, by John Grisham (259 circs)
Gone Girl, by Gillian Flynn (197 circs)
Blood Magick, by Nora Roberts (192 circs)
Hope to Die, by James Patterson (181 circs)
Edge of Eternity, by Ken Follett (179 circs)
Leaving Time, by Jodi Picoult (179 circs)
The Escape, by David Baldacci (175 circs)
The Maze Runner, by James Dashner (173 circs)
The Burning Room, by Michael Connelly (158 circs)
The Rosie Project, by Graeme Simsion (158 circs)

TOP MOVIES IN TRAC

Top circulated movies in TRAC for January and February 2015.

Frozen (269 circs)
Maleficent (186 circs)
Divergent (184 circs)
The Book Thief (184 circs)
Despicable Me 2 (182 circs)



CANADA READS 2015



Canada Reads 2015, hosted by Wab Kinew, will take place on March 16-19, 2015. The theme is about books that break barriers, change perspectives and challenge stereotypes. These are this year's finalists.

And the Birds Rained Down, by Jocelyne Saucier
Intolerable: A Memoir of Extremes, by Kamal Al-Solayle
Ru, by Kim Thúy
The Inconvenient Indian, by Thomas King
When Everything Feels like the Movies, by Raziel Reid

>> Consulting Corner



News & Notes

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

How to contact us:

adaum@
peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca

Editor/Design:
Alex Daum

Contributors in this issue:

Janet Ayles

Alex Daum

Carol Downing

Linda Duplessis

Vivianne Gayton

Amber Jacobsen

Barb Johnson

Véronique Lavoie

Bevonna Livingston

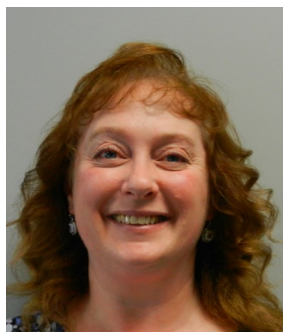
Cari Lynn Postnikoff

Tracy Roberts

Leslie Ann Sharkey

Raylene Snider

Katherine Wiebe



Katherine Wiebe

We're heading into an exciting year as we **welcome nine new library managers** to the Peace Library System: DeBolt Public Library, Rachel Stoesz; Elmworth Community Library, Barb Johnson; Manning Municipal Library, Amber

Jacobsen; Paddle Prairie Public Library, Dawn Cardinal; Rainbow Lake Municipal Library, Frankie Williams-Atkinson; Rycroft Municipal Library, Barb Greenough; Woking Municipal Library, Bevonna Livingston; Wabasca Public Library, position vacant; and Tangent Community Library, Amanda Howard (interim staff).

On May 11, we look forward to having the public library staff gather at our **annual Public Library Meeting**, and we hope you'll get a chance to meet all our new library managers—it's a great time to network!

LibPAS Annual Reports

Remember that February 28 is the deadline to complete your LibPAS Annual Report to the Public Library Services Branch. Give me a call if you have questions about how to fill in your online form. Once the annual report has been submitted, your board can complete its application for this year's operating grant, with a deadline of June 15 to the Branch—but don't leave it that long! The sooner the Branch receives your board's application, the sooner your library will receive its grant.

Plan of Service Workshops

A Plan of Service is due to the Branch every five years—for more information about the Plan of Service please visit the Branch's website at www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/plsb_plan_of_service.cfm. Several of our libraries will have a Plan of Service due to the Public Library Services Branch by January 1, 2016, and to that end I will be in contact with

those libraries and their boards to arrange a workshop this spring offered by Carol Downing and myself to prepare for the Strategic Planning for Results process of Plan of Service development.

Training for Library Staff

Training is a focus for the Consulting Department this year with a schedule of video tutorials being created and rolled out through the year. We are focusing on Polaris tutorials first. Please remember to take a look at our webinar training calendar on our website at www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca. We update the training calendar quarterly; in March, sessions for basic Outlook Email and Simply Reports are on offer.

TD Summer Reading Club

The TD Summer Reading Club "Play" is gearing up for July and August, and prizes orders are due to Rae Weniger by March 4; promotional materials have already been ordered. The images, activities, programs, and booklists (all formerly called the Staff Manual) are now available on the Summer Reading Club website at www.tdsummerreadingclub.ca/.

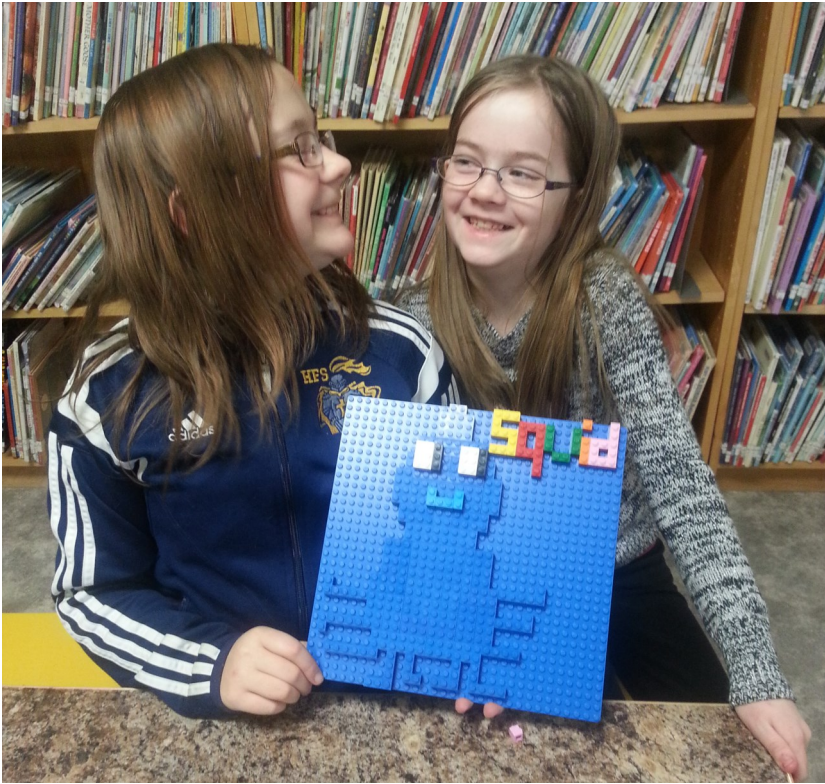
Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation

A new piece of federal legislation came into effect July 1, 2014 called Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL), which will affect public libraries in their electronic communications to patrons, businesses, and the community. Please have a look at the short TRAC Statement regarding CASL, created by the TRAC Public Services Group to assist our public libraries in complying with the new legislation. This is available on the Peace Library System site at www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/policies-legislation.

Have a lovely spring!

Katherine Wiebe
Consulting Services Manager

>> Spotlight on Programming



Building Readers, One Block at a Time

By Vivianne Gayton, Grimshaw Municipal Library

The possibilities are endless when you bring kids and stories together, and Lego is a great complement to that mix. At the Grimshaw Municipal Library, we have been developing Lego programming, including Block Parties. Here's how we run our Lego Block Parties—maybe you can start running your own!

Most of our Block Parties follow a similar format. They are drop-in programs and no more than 90 minutes long. Each Block Party has a theme, which could be seasonal (ie. winter, Halloween, the Olympics) or based on a subject (ie. underwater, sports, animals). The participants build alone or in groups, depending on the numbers. One of the keys to drop-in programs is flexibility.

We have 10 kits of Lego, each with two large base plates and about 1,300 pieces per kit. Everyone starts with the same blocks, and kids seem to appreciate knowing that “all the good pieces” aren't in another kit. We don't have any franchised Lego kits (not even Harry Potter!) as we wanted to make sure kids didn't approach the Lego with the attitude that their creation had to be a specific building or vehicle.

Once the kids and families are settled with their kit, they hear a story. No shuffling the blocks while the story is being read! When the story is finished, they get their assignment or challenge. Our Block Party in January had an ocean theme. After hearing *I'm*

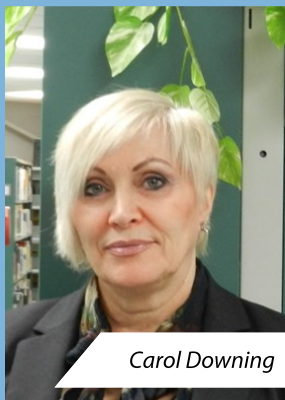
the Biggest Thing in the Ocean! by Kevin Sherry, they were asked to dig through the bins, find all the blue pieces and build a giant squid. A challenge like that is usually completed in about 20 to 25 minutes, depending on the ages.

The next book was *The Shark Who was Afraid of Everything!* by Brian James. The challenge afterwards was to build something the shark in the story was afraid of on one base plate, and then on the other, participants built something they were afraid of. Tar monsters! Needles! Zombies! Our last story that day was *Only One You*, by Linda Kranz, and from that came the challenge to build a fishy self-portrait.

We did have other books prepared for this party, too, but they were geared to an older group of readers than the one we had attending. If older kids would've attended, we would have used passages from one of the Jack Sparrow books, *Billy Twitters and His Blue Whale Problem*, by Mac Barnett, and some non-fiction books about sea monsters. When it is an all ages, drop-in program, you do need to be flexible!

Our Lego programming at the Grimshaw Municipal Library has been so educational for the staff and we are regularly surprised by the combinations the kids come up with. Hopefully your patrons will surprise you too! >>

>> Tech Services Tidbits



We are very excited to welcome **Julia Little** back to the Cataloguing Department after a lengthy medical leave. Tech Services will once again be back to normal.

Year-end rollover activities went smoothly. Thank you for all your cooperation in getting your orders and vouchers in on time. It helped us to get rollover activities accomplished in a timely manner.

Both school and public libraries are sending in orders regularly, keeping our Tech Services staff busy ordering, cataloguing, and delivering.

French language material ordered by the French Language Resource Centre is arriving steadily and as always will be available to borrow through TRACpac.

We are all looking forward to spring and trying to be optimistic that it is coming early.

Carol Downing
Assistant Director and Technical Services Manager



Authors chosen for fall tours

Peace Library System is pleased to announce that author tours will be reinstated in 2015. Two of four regions will receive a tour this year: the Central and Eastern regions. In 2016, the Northern and Local regions will receive a tour. The yearly tours will take place in the fall.

The **Eastern** region includes: Calling Lake, Flatbush, High Prairie, Kinuso, Red Earth, Slave Lake, Smith and Wabasca.

The **Central** region includes Berwyn, Bonanza, Fairview, Grimshaw, Hines Creek, Menno-Simons, Rycroft, Savanna, Spirit River, Woking, and Worsley.

The author tours can have a great impact on your community. They have the ability to inspire children to read and explore books by Canadian authors. The tours also draw people to your library. By hosting an event such as an author tour, your library can showcase the services you offer and demonstrate that you are a welcoming, affordable, and safe place for families to spend time together. We hope you'll be excited to promote these authors in your communities.

The libraries on the 2015 tour will receive more information in the spring. Questions can be directed to Alex Daum: [<adaum@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca>](mailto:adaum@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca)

Eastern: Gerry Rasmussen



The **Eastern** region will host **Gerry Rasmussen**, an internationally-syndicated cartoonist and children's book illustrator. Gerry has been drawing the comic strip *Betty* since 1991, and it is now distributed worldwide. He is also a children's book illustrator who has been working with Loris Lesynski for the past several years to create a new series of picture books called *Crazy about Soccer!* and *Crazy About Basketball!* They are published by Annick Press in Toronto. Gerry and Loris recently released *Crazy About Hockey!* Gerry presents on drawing and bringing characters to life.

Central: Joan Marie Galat

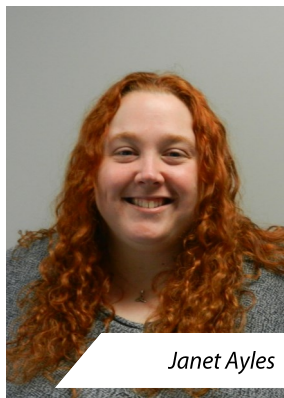


The **Central** region will host **Joan Marie Galat**, an award-winning author whose presentations combine her love of writing, storytelling, and astronomy to inspire people of all ages.

Joan is well known for her *Dot to Dot in the Sky* books, a series that has won numerous awards and has been endorsed by astronauts such as Chris Hadfield and Julie Payette. She is now the author of eight books for children, two books for adults, and countless magazine articles.

Joan loves to share her passion for non-fiction, fiction, and storytelling by telling anyone who will listen about how hard she had to work to make her writing dreams come true. Her presentations will be about writing, storytelling, and astronomy.

>> From the IT Desk



Janet Ayles

IT Staffing

As you've all heard, Andrew Tejero has left Peace Library System to focus on other ventures. We wish Andrew the best of luck.

Our new Desktop and Network Administrator is Brad Keefe. Brad comes to PLS with lots of experience providing desktop support, network maintenance and all-round troubleshooting. We are very pleased to have Brad join the IT

department here at PLS! With any transition, it is very easy for things to get lost in the shuffle. If you have an outstanding issue and I have not contacted you regarding it, please reach out to Brad and me by emailing the Peace Library System helpdesk (helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca) to remind us of the situation.

Apps

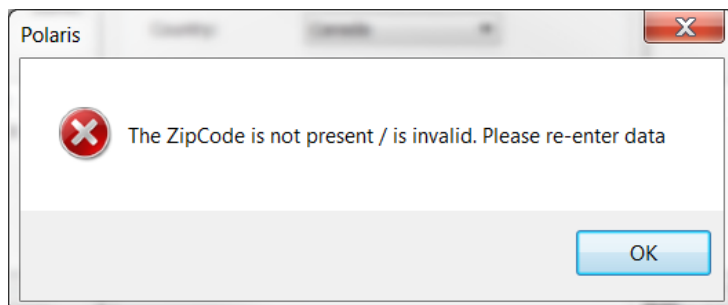
I am sure that most of you have heard from patrons (likely those who own iPhones, iPads, or other Apple devices) saying that their TRACpac app has stopped working. Sadly, one of the major iOS updates in the fall caused the TRACpac app to break; however, the app is still working for Android devices. The existing app is the final version being produced and has already been removed from the Apple store, so the problems will not be fixed. That being said, there is a shiny new app coming. TRAC is working with a vendor called Boopsie to create the new app. The new app will have more features and will be available for more devices—Blackberry users may now feel free to celebrate! The launch date of the new app has yet to be determined, but we will let you know more information as we have it.

Polaris Quirks & New Stuff

The Polaris upgrade has come and gone. To say that it could have gone smoother is a bit of an understatement. Unfortunately, we were plagued with some server issues which meant that the automatic distribution of the new software wasn't possible. Thank you to everyone for your patience. And I'm sure you will all join me in thanking the IT staff at Northern Lights Library System for helping with the manual installation of the new Polaris software!

With the new version of Polaris comes a small glitch regarding postal codes. It seems that Polaris has gotten a little confused when it comes to Canadian postal codes and is actually trying to read them as American zip codes. Any time you try to update an address, you will see an error saying "The ZipCode is not present/is invalid. Please re-enter data." Polaris has put an extra space at the end of the postal code, which is what is causing

the error. Just delete the extra space (or if you want to make absolutely sure, just delete the entire postal code and type it in again) and you'll be able to save with no problem.



The new version of Polaris comes with the highly anticipated OverDrive and 3M integration. What does this mean? It means awesome things! Previously, patrons have had to leave TRACpac to search for eBooks or audiobooks, check them out, or place holds on the OverDrive or 3M website or apps. With the new integration, all that will be able to be done through TRACpac. This feature is coming soon and keep an eye on Pecans for more information.

Helpdesk

As always, if you have any questions or non-emergency concerns please submit them to helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca. However, for emergencies (see the below definition), please call! Emergencies, also known as critical functions, are problems logging into Polaris, checking items in or out, patron registration, or searching in TRACpac.

Janet Ayles
IT Services Manager

Submit to News & Notes!

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

Please send photos and articles to Alex Daum at adaum@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 Alex Daum.

>> From the Information Desk

Family History Day a success at GPPL

By Cari Lynn Postnikoff, Community Services Librarian, Grande Prairie Public Library

On Saturday, February 14 we held a large Family History Day event at the Grande Prairie Public Library to celebrate the Family Day weekend and to promote genealogical research in Grande Prairie. The event was held with two of our library's partners: the Grande Prairie Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society and the South Peace Regional Archives. This was actually the second time that a Family History Day event like this was held, but it was the first time that our library had participated. The event went all day long and consisted of eight free workshops, a number of research stations, and a trade show.

We began planning about four months in advance, as coordinating an event with so much going on between three different groups requires a lot of preparation. Advertising for the event began six weeks prior, with mentions in our printed and email newsletters, posters in the library, a posting in our online calendar, flyers and bookmarks given to patrons, press releases, and paid newspaper advertisements. We wanted to reach a broad audience to try attract some new people to family history research, and so diversity was key to our advertising strategy. Between all of that, I think it is safe to say that the word got out there about our event.

The workshops were varied, with something to appeal to everybody—not just seasoned genealogists. Most workshops were centered on doing research to trace back family history, while others included information on preserving photos and documents and even scrapbooking, and one presentation was on improving family photography so that future generations will have great records of their history too. We were lucky to have



a lot of different spaces for programming as well as access to the large event venue, Teresa Sargent Hall. We held the workshops two at a time in our adjacent Rotary programming rooms, with the trade show in the Teresa Sargent Hall and our research stations spread between the Hall and our special Isabel Campbell Room, which is dedicated to local history and ancestral research. The trade show stayed open throughout the day, and people wandered through between sessions. The research stations were also manned throughout the day, and they were kept busy as participants learned more about how to find out about their pasts.

The event was a great success and participants left feeling that they had learned a lot and had a great time doing it. The biggest factor in accomplishing this event was our library's partnerships with other organizations in Grande Prairie. The Alberta Genealogical Society brought a wealth of knowledge on family history

research that takes years to learn, as well as a long list of contacts for potential speakers and volunteers. South Peace Regional Archives likewise brought years of knowledge and experience to the event. Libraries tend to do things a certain way, and even when trying to think outside of the box, old habits can be hard to break. Partnering with other groups in the community forces us out of our comfort zone to try something new, and the result, like this one, is often quite spectacular. >>



>> Introducing...

Renovated St. Isidore Library re-opens

By Véronique Lavoie, Bibliothèque de St. Isidore

It is with great excitement that the new St. Isidore Library—housed in the newly renovated Cultural Centre—opened its doors for business once again to serve the francophone population of the region. After much anticipation, La Bibliothèque de St. Isidore opened its doors to its newly expanded library of 1,500 square feet in October 2014, becoming fully operational in December 2014. Our library hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 –4:30 pm and Tuesdays from 9:00-6:30 pm.

We are so fortunate that Northern Sunrise County was able to donate the funding to make this expansion possible. The friends of the library committee believe that the renovations will also have a positive impact on the St. Isidore area by offering a warm and friendly setting for a variety of educational and fun programs for children and adults of all ages. By expanding our collections and having access to other library collections in the province we feel this is very good, not only for the francophone culture, but for all other cultures as well.

A Brief History of Bibliothèque de St. Isidore

Thanks to the initiative of a small but dedicated group of women from the hamlet of St. Isidore, a committee was formed near the end of the 1970s to study the possibility of establishing a French library in the community. Serving on the newly formed committee were: Ann Medima-Lavoie, Marie Lavoie, Armande Bérubé-Lavoie and Susane Duchesne.

The library first opened its doors in 1981 in the loft of the St. Isidore Church with a small collection of old books from the school district and gifts and donations from ID #17 (our improvement district) Recreation Board. As the church loft quickly became too small, a decision was made to move the library to the new cultural centre in the spring of 1987.

New acquisitions quickly began to include CD-ROMS, CDs, videocassettes, as well as books on tape. In 1998 the library became a member of Peace Library System, providing members with access to the collections of other libraries in the region. From Dynix to Polaris in 2008, La Bibliothèque de St. Isidore has done its very best to keep up with the new technological advances available by offering a broader accessibility to computers, wireless, eBooks and many other services.

Marie Lavoie, our library chairperson, still serves on the committee after 30 years of devoted service. Other persons on the board include: Odile Allard, treasurer; Christine Nadeau, counsellor, volunteer, staff; Monique Bergeron, counsellor,



volunteer, staff; and Véronique Lavoie, staff, secretary. We are also thankful to have Suzanne Lambert who helps out as a volunteer when she gets some spare time.

Our goal to create a welcoming environment for residents to gather together to learn, celebrate and enjoy a variety of cultural events and activities in the community centre has always been at the forefront of our existence. In the future and with the continued support of Northern Sunrise County and Peace Library System, we hope to continue to offer services that reflect changing technologies, new knowledge and up-to-date and interesting collections for all ages. >>

"Introducing..." is a new feature in News & Notes that helps our readers get to know one of the libraries in Peace Library System. If you'd like your library to be featured as next issue's library for "Introducing..." please contact Alex Daum at adaum@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

Around the System...

Libraries around Peace Library System have had a busy winter, from programs to renovations to new staff members. Here's what's been going on around the system. Remember, you can send your own photos and articles at any time to adaum@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca and they will be included in the next newsletter. We'd love to hear from you!



Fox Creek Municipal Library

This has been a busy quarter for the Fox Creek Municipal Library. In November, the library participated in the Town's Festival of Trees with our **Leggo My Lego Tree** (left). It was decorated with hand-crafted wooden Lego heads, Lego kits, Lego books and Lego garlands on a bluetooth-lighted tree. It brought in lots of bids and was only outdone at the last minute by the Wine Bottle Tree. We had lots of fun making many of the decorations and displaying it.

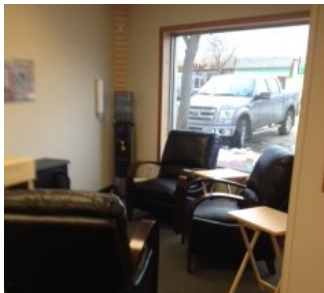
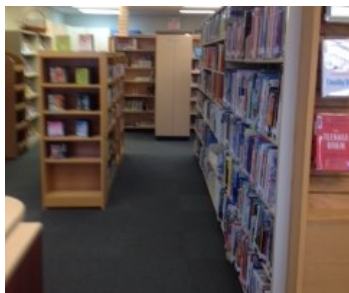
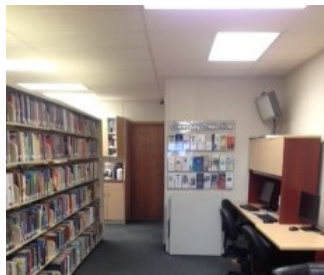
On Family Literacy Day, we partnered with our Community Resources Centre, Literacy with contests and promotions. We held our annual basket of books contests and saw 1,693 books read. Winners of the draws were thrilled with their prizes. Check out our **Literacy Ball we created using Makedo pieces** (centre top) that we learned about at the conference. We also brought in **Mary Ann Lippiatt of "Story in My Pocket"** for a day of school presentations for students from playschool through grade six and for an evening presentation for adults and child caregivers (right top and bottom). It was a lot of fun watching Mary Ann in her different costumes, telling and drawing stories, singing and acting a variety of activities. We all loved it.

We also presented 35 grade four students with their own hardcover copy of "Hey Canada" to encourage their use of the library and to acknowledge their Fractured Fairy Tale projects. This is the 13th year of this incentive program. The CIBC has sponsored this program for several years now.

We lost our Time for Tots and evening shift librarian in October but have gained two others. We found a replacement for the Time for Tots program and will be training another for our evening/weekend shift. We are excited with the number of views our Time for Tots Webisodes are getting. YouTube views are up over 15,000 with more than 63 subscribers. Many of them seem to be using it as a method of learning English. We add an episode weekly and have still not run out of ideas.

If you have heard of Angry Birds, you might want to slip down (or up) to Fox Creek on March 12 for our annual Family Games Night. We are adding a life size Angry Birds game to our collection of giant games and other fun games and activities. With tons of prizes, hot chocolate and cookies, this continues to be an evening that most families in the community look forward to.

~ Submitted by Leslie Ann Sharkey, Fox Creek Municipal Library



Manning Municipal Library

The Manning Municipal Library is please to announce that we have **opened our doors!** With a lot of hard work and community support we were able to open on January 29, 2015 in a new home. Along with a new location, the library has a new manager, **Amber Jacobsen** and a new program coordinator, **Kim Sheehan**.

~ Submitted by Amber Jacobsen, Manning Municipal Library



High Prairie Municipal Library

In honour of Valentine's Day, the library held a **Blind Date with a Book** (right) from February 2 -13. We had patrons fill out a comment/rate your book card which gave them a chance to win a dinner for two on Valentine's Day. We also recently **completed our renovations**. We now have a new front circulation desk and our craft room had a makeover to provide kitchen and craft storage space.

~ Submitted by Tracy Roberts, High Prairie Municipal Library



More from around the *System*...



Peace River Municipal Library

We have been running a **“Learn by Doing” oil painting course** where beginner artists will try to copy their favorite painting. The class is being led by our own Library Director, Linda Prudholme-Warrior. Artists paid \$30 for a two hour per week class that runs for eight weeks. (Top photo courtesy of the *Peace River Record Gazette*).

For Valentine’s Day, we set up the **Book Crush booth** (bottom right). Patrons fill out a valentine for their favorite book crush and feed it to the monster for delivery. After Valentine’s Day, we’ll set up a display on who has a crush on who! The booth has been quite popular, and we are looking to create a similar one to use for Mother’s/Father’s Day, only change it to a create-a-card DIY station.

We also have our **“Blind Date with a Book”** set up for February. Books are wrapped and only have one sentence about what’s inside. The patrons don’t even get to know the genre. They check out the books and take it home to find out if they are meant for each other.

~ Submitted by Raylene Snider, Peace River Municipal Library



The Read Alberta Books Travelling Display

This display is available as a block of 20 award-winning Alberta books for Peace Library System libraries to borrow. Valleyview Municipal Library borrowed the block and created a great display with the books, which went out quickly (right). Book the display for your library by emailing rweniger@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.





Elmworth Community Library

The Elmworth Community Library hosted a visit from author Laural Randall of Echo Hills Publishers in February. Laural provided a number of presentations for various age groups at the Elmworth School. Kindergarten and preschool students received a storybook presentation featuring Laural's farm picture book series. Other presentations included the mechanics of writing and self-publishing and a fascinating introduction of her new juvenile historical fiction *More Than Cobwebs and Dust*. The new book is a commemorative of the 100-year anniversary of the Red Deer Community Library building. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed her visit!

~ Submitted by Barb Johnson, Elmworth Community Library



Woking Municipal Library

Bevonna Livingston is now the library manager at **Woking Municipal Library**. She took over from Annette Peacock. Welcome to Bevonna!

Rycroft Municipal Library

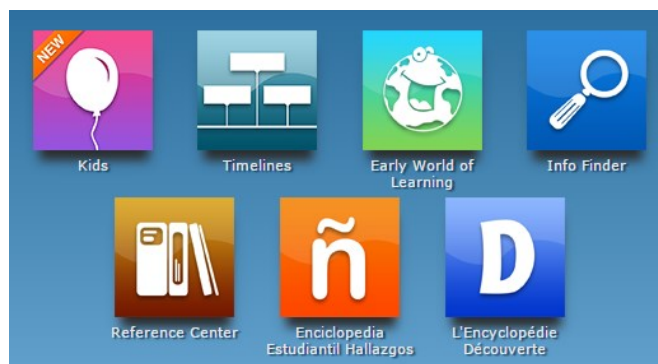
Barb Greenough is back as the library manager at the **Rycroft Municipal Library**. Welcome back, Barb!

Check out these eResources for children

Peace Library System member libraries have access to many valuable eResources (visit www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/e-Resources for a full list). Some of these eResources are great for children. Whether kids are looking for entertainment or homework help, these digital resources could be exactly what they need. To access these resources, visit the eResources tab on the PLS website or your library website.

World Book Online

World Book has something for kids of all ages. The new Early World of Learning is an early literacy portal for young children, with games and activities designed to stimulate learning. World Book Kids has encyclopedia information for kids, along with learning games and science projects. For older children, Info Finder is a great source for school research.



Online Reference Centre

The Online Reference Centre is a collection of digital resources provided to K-12 students by The Alberta Library and Alberta Education. Resources on a variety of subjects and for a variety of age groups are available, including encyclopedias, science resources, and language learning.



Novelist Plus K-8

This is a tool for library staff and children alike. Use Novelist Plus K-8 as a readers' advisory tool when finding books for young patrons. You can search for specific types of stories, or find "read-alikes" based on any book. It also contains book lists and other professional tools that you may find very useful. Older children may like to use the resource themselves to find books and to learn more about titles they may be interested in.

Like these?



...try these read-alikes:

Thank you, Octopus »
Farrell, Darren

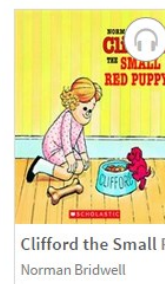
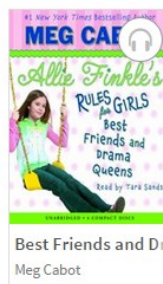
Donavan's double trouble »
DeGross, Monalisa

Nini lost and found »
Lobel, Anita

The Penderwicks »
Birdsall, Jeanne

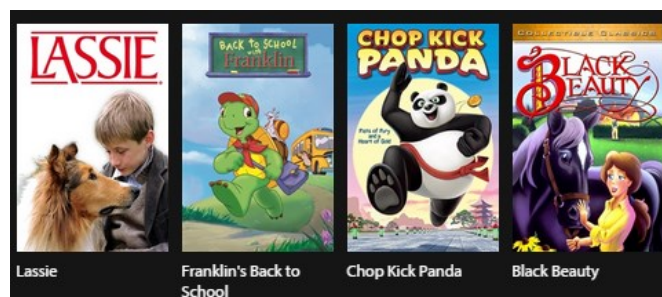
Overdrive

Overdrive offers audiobooks and eBooks for children, including classics like Curious George and newer favourites like Pete the Cat and Scaredy Squirrel. Sign up for an account with your library card and PIN and you can read and listen on your computer or on an eReader, tablet, or mobile device. If an item is out, place a hold and have it automatically download to your account once it becomes available.



Hoopla

Hoopla offers audiobooks, music, and movies for kids, including early literacy titles such as movies from the "Brainy Baby" series. Titles are available to stream online on a computer, or for temporary download on mobile devices and tablets. The best part is that there's no holds and no waiting—get instant access to the titles you want. Patrons can browse the collection and create an account at www.hoopladigital.com. >>



Peace Library Board members recognized for long service

At the Peace Library Board meeting on November 29, 2014, five trustees were recognized for their long service and dedication on the Peace Library Board. Peace Library Board Chair Veronica Bliska (MD of Peace) was on hand to present the awards.



Veronica Bliska (right)

*10 years of service
MD of Peace*



Reta Nooskey (left)

*10 years of service
Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement*



Elaine Garrow (left)

*10 years of service
MD of Spirit River*



Carolyn Kalebaba (left)

*15 years of service
Northern Sunrise County*



Ray Skrepnek (left)

*15 years of service
MD of Fairview*



Apply for the 2015 Minister's Awards

Do you have an outstanding library service? How about applying for the **2015 Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Library Service**.

In 2014, the library boards for Calgary, Fox Creek, Metro Federation (Edmonton, St. Albert, Strathcona County, Fort Saskatchewan) and Innisfail received awards for, respectively, the Grow a Reader mobile app, Time for Tots webisodes, Metro Edmonton ME Card service and Beginner Robotics program.

There are a few exciting changes to the awards for 2015. The categories have been simplified, making for easier applications, and there is a new YOU Libraries Award, to be adjudicated by a popular vote open to all Albertans. All applications/nominations that meet the Minister's Awards criteria will be automatically eligible for the YOU Libraries Award. A jury will continue to pick up to four winning submissions that demonstrate excellence and/or innovation in library service.

Submission forms and additional details are available online at www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/plsb_ministers_awards.cfm.

The submission deadline is **March 13, 2015**. Winners will be notified by the middle of April 2015 and announced at the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper (April 30 - May 2, 2015).

Peace Library System's events calendar

peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/calendar

PLS Board Meeting

PLS Headquarters
March 21, 2015; 10:30 am

PLS Executive Committee Meeting/Personnel Committee Meeting

Pomeroy Inn, Grimshaw
April 18, 2015; 10:30 am / 1:30 pm

Library Managers' Council Meeting

PLS Headquarters
April 20, 2015; 10:30 am

Alberta Library Conference

Jasper Park Lodge
April 30 - May 3, 2015

PLS AGM/PLS Board Meeting

PLS Headquarters
May 9, 2015; 10:30 am

Public Library Meeting

PLS Headquarters
May 11, 2015; 10 am

MD of Spirit River Advisory Committee Meeting

Rycroft Municipal Library
May 13, 2015; 6:15 pm

MD of Greenview Advisory Committee Meeting

Valleyview Municipal Library
May 14, 2015; 6:30 pm

County of Northern Lights Advisory Committee Meeting

Grimshaw Municipal Library
May 25, 2015; 11 am