



NEWS & Notes

PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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SPRING 2017

Free library cards?

A number of libraries in Peace Library System have announced in recent months that they are moving to offer free local library cards, part of a growing trend in Alberta.

Last summer, the Public Library Services Branch did a survey of Alberta libraries that were then offering free library cards. They found that, as of June 2, 2016, 88 public libraries and 61 library boards were offering free library cards—and over the recent autumn and winter, you have likely seen the announcements on social media and listservs as more libraries and boards have begun to move in that direction. In our own region, Beaverlodge Public Library, Peace River Municipal Library, and Grande Prairie Public Library are just a few of those that have eliminated memberships fees in the past few months.

As we're often told, Alberta is the only province in Canada (apart from some jurisdictions in Quebec) where public libraries are allowed to charge for library cards. According to the PLSB, in Alberta, public library service includes the following services **at no charge**: access to library facilities; use of library resources in the library; borrowing library resources, in any format; acquiring library resources through interlibrary loan; consultation by library staff; and/or basic information service. However, public libraries **may** charge for: penalties for overdue materials; library cards; meeting rooms; photocopying; downloading onto disk or paper in the library; and/or contracted services.

Many library boards find that they rely on the revenue from their card fees to keep operating and, on a more abstract level, find that the fees help instill a sense of value in the services and collections they offer their patrons. However, it has become apparent that for many people in any given community, requiring that they pay to access all the benefits of library membership is a significant barrier, even if the fee is seemingly low. Making our libraries accessible to everyone is always something we need to be thinking about, and financial accessibility is part of that.

This issue is certainly something that we will continue to keep an eye on as things progress. In the meantime, congratulations to those of our libraries who have been able to eliminate card fees for their patrons!



>> From the Director



Linda Duplessis

It's hard to believe that the first two months of 2017 are almost gone! Here at PLS we have been busy with performance appraisals, the 2016 audit and our Annual Report to PLSB.

We continue to implement strategies from our 2016-2018 Plan of Service to provide support in key areas. Samm Mercer, Digital Trainer and Outreach Librarian, will continue on with us at

least until the end of 2017. She'll be coming out to visit each of you to discuss digital resources and offer training where you need it. We plan to hire a summer student to assemble storytime kits for 2-3 year olds, and hope that these will be a good resource to help you with library programming. We sent out board development packages to member library boards and look forward to meeting with boards over the coming months.

It's going to be a busy year, but we look forward to working with you to keep library services in our region strong and vital.

New Municipal Affairs Minister

On January 19, 2017, Shaye Anderson was appointed Minister of Municipal Affairs. Former Minister Danielle Larivee took on the new role of Minister of Children's Services. Mr. Anderson is the MLA for the constituency of Leduc-Beaumont.

New eResources for 2017

PLS's budget for eResources has increased by almost \$60,000 for 2017. This includes the cost of adding new resources such as Consumer Reports and lyndaLibrary, as well as a top-up for hoopla and a \$20,000 allocation for eBooks.

The Public Library Services Branch will continue to fund hoopla (a base amount), Mango, Press Reader and Zinio (platform fee only). PLS will continue to offer Ancestry Library Edition, Auto Repair Reference Center, Cypress Resume, Grant Connect, Library Aware, NoveList, Small Engine Repair Reference Center, Tumble Books Premium (K-6), and World Book Online.

Indigenous Populations Grant

A number of activities have taken place to support the expansion of library services to on-reserve and on-settlement Indigenous people. These included a meeting with library managers, five cultural awareness sessions at Friendship Centres across the region, a fall marketing campaign, creation of special

bibliographies, and the purchase of eBooks and other digital resources. PLS staff created an application process for libraries to request funds for local activities to support relationship building and outreach, offer special programs and events, build library collections, upgrade technology, and make facility improvements. Upcoming activities related to the grant include attendance at the provincial Public Library Services for Indigenous Communities Symposium, the creation of storytime kits, and more library projects. Fifteen libraries will be sending staff and/or board members to the symposium on February 23-24. We are very pleased that so many libraries will be participating!

Of the \$208,034 grant, \$97,000 was spent by the end of 2016. A further \$80,000 is expected to be spent by the end of March, leaving about \$31,000 to carry over. We have been advised by the Public Library Services Branch that we are not to return any of the unspent funds, and don't have to ask for an extension. PLS staff, in consultation with member libraries, will be looking at other possible expenditures using the grant funds. These will be incorporated into the final report that must be submitted to the Public Library Services Branch by June 30, 2017.

Resource Sharing Statistics

In 2016, items loaned by member libraries to patrons from other libraries stayed steady at 191,439, less than a 1 per cent increase. However, there was a substantial increase in interlibrary loan items borrowed by member library patrons. Borrowing jumped over 36 per cent to 224,140 items. This is a trend in libraries across the province. Possible reasons include the high unemployment rates; free memberships in some libraries; and the user-friendliness of TAL Online.

Netspeed

After a two year hiatus, The Alberta Library (TAL) is planning another Netspeed Conference. Several members and prior attendees expressed interest in reinstating the conference. It will be held October 3-4, 2017, at Lister Hall on the University of Alberta campus.

Linda Duplessis
Director



What's trending in books

CBC CANADA READS FINALISTS 2017

This year's Canadian Battle of the Books is taking place between these 5 novels:

The Right to Be Cold by Sheila Watt-Cloutier
Fifteen Dogs by André Alexis
Company Town by Madeline Ashby
The Break by Katherine Vermette
Nostalgia by M.G. Vassanji



EDGAR AWARD FINALISTS 2017



The Edgar Awards celebrate the best works of mystery and suspense fiction. This year's nominees for best novel are:

Before the Fall by Noah Hawley
The Ex by Alafair Burke
Jane Steele by Lyndsay Faye
What Remains of Me by Alison Gaylin
Where It Hurts by Reed Farrel Coleman

NEBULA AWARD FINALISTS 2017

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America announced their nominees for this year's best SFF novel:

All the Birds in the Sky by Charlie Jane Anders
Borderline by Mishell Baker
The Obelisk Gate by N.K. Jemisin
Ninefox Gambit by Yoon Ha Lee
Everfair by Nisi Shawl



>> Consulting Corner



News & Notes

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

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Katherine Wiebe and Emma Stewart

Summer Reading Club

It's hard to believe we're already talking about the summer! As Peace Library System is the coordinator of the TD-Summer Reading Club for the province this year, we've been hard at work behind the scenes selecting the prizes to be offered and getting the orders prepared. Many thanks to Rae at PLS for her superb assistance. Also many thanks to our Prizes Committee – Vivianne at Grimshaw, Bevonna at Woking, Tracy at Beaverlodge, Sheryl at Sexsmith, and Rae at PLS! We're excited about the prizes being offered this year and I hope your libraries are, too. We've included lots of Canadiana to help celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary, as well as many of the tried and true doodads of previous years.

Speaking of Canada's 150th, the Library Toolshed has some excellent suggestions for celebrating; just search 'canada 150' at librarytoolshed.ca/. You're encouraged to submit your own ideas to the Library Toolshed to share with others, as well.

Digital Training and Outreach Librarian

We're very pleased to announce that Samm (Samantha) Mercer's contract, which was to end in May, has been extended through December. We're hopeful of funding to make it a permanent position in 2018. Samm's job description has changed somewhat from the previous Digital Trainer and IT Assistant and she is now our Digital Learning and Outreach Librarian. Samm will continue to provide all

her great assistance and training on our many eResources, and starting in the spring she will be making consulting visits out to each library to provide specific in-person digital training! Please do check out all of the fantastic training materials Samm has already created, including powerpoints, recorded webinars, and other training resources that are up in the PLS Training Toolkit at www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/trainingandresources.

New eResources

We are happy to announce that there are two new eResources for you and your patrons to explore!

The first is Newspaper Source Plus, a new EBSCO database which supplements Pressreader as a source of news. It includes millions of articles from newspapers, newswires and news magazines. In addition, it offers television and radio news transcripts and ongoing daily updates from popular news sources.

The second is Consumer Reports, which many of you are likely already familiar with in its magazine form. Consumer Reports is a nonprofit organization providing unbiased product ratings and reviews since 1936. They put over 4000 products through rigorous testing each year, and are a great source if you're looking to make a big vehicle or appliance purchase or just trying to figure out a good gift for a loved one.

LibPAS Annual Reports and 2017 Operating Grant Applications

You've all likely submitted your LibPAS annual report to the Public Library Services Branch by now; the deadline is February 28. Once your library board has had its 2016 financials reviewed, it's time to work on the library's 2017 Operating Grant application to the Public Library Services Branch. The deadline is

June 15, but you'll want to submit it before then – the sooner it's submitted, the sooner you get your money! Please find the necessary forms and submission information at www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/plsb_funding_and_grants and let us know if you have any questions.

Storytime Kits for Ages 2-3

We have a really fun project on the go this year to build 15-20 storytime kits geared to ages 2-3. Your libraries will be able to borrow them for your programming in the same way you already access the storytime kits for ages 4-6. We've submitted two grant applications for a summer student to help us assemble the kits and create activities, while PLS staff are busy selecting themes, ordering books, and deciding on fun toys, puppets, and other supplementary materials to include. Look for these new kits in the fall!

Indigenous Services Symposium

Congratulations to all of you who attended the Public Library Services for Indigenous Communities Symposium on February 22-24. We're looking forward to hearing all the innovative ideas that PLS libraries may put into action in 2017.

Consulting Visits

Emma and Katherine, and Samm, are looking forward to our visits out to your libraries starting in the spring. Give us a call or drop us an email if you need anything.

Have a great year!

Katherine Wiebe and Emma Stewart
Consulting Services Department

>> Rural Libraries Conference

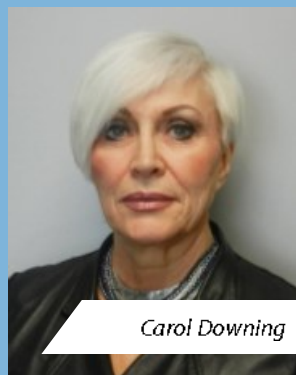
Though it feels like 2017 has only just begun, planning is already well underway for this year's Rural Libraries Conference. The theme for this year's conference will be **Celebrating the Canadian Spirit: Diversity in Our Libraries**. The conference website has been updated to reflect the new theme; check it out at www.rurallibrariesconference.com, and check out the logo for this year's conference below!



If you have an idea for a session you'd like to present at the conference, email Emma at estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca before March 10th.

We look forward to seeing you all at the 2017 Rural Libraries Conference on September 21 and 22 at the Pomeroy Hotel & Conference Centre! Stay tuned for registration later this spring.

>> Tech Services Tidbits



Carol Downing

On January 16, 2017, Canada Post Adele Bonetti of Concetto Interior Design Ltd. met with staff at Peace Library System to discuss the reconfiguration of the Technical Services area. The renovation will utilize the space created when the collection was weeded and provide a larger work area for staff. Once specifications are in place, the renovations will begin.

Even with the increase, the rates continue to be substantially lower than our most discounted commercial parcel rates. A 1.28 kg package mailed at the Library Materials rate rose from \$1.18 to send and return the parcel, to \$1.24 in January. The same service would cost approximately \$27.88 if mailed at the post office. Canada Post does not receive government compensation for this service.

Carol Downing

Assistant Director and Technical Services Manager

>> Spring is in the air...



Fred Richard

Being from the east coast, I have experienced my fair share of snow. The last couple winters have been especially harsh on the east coast, so when I am driving out to a library in early February and the temperature here is around plus 10 with clear roads and sun, I have to admit it makes me smile.

Usually I am not on the road for site visits until a little later in the year; however, in the last couple weeks I have had to get the internet back up at three different sites. One was due to renovations inside the library where everything was moved; however, two visits may have been power related. It is always a great thing to have a backup battery source hooked up to important equipment as some technology can be compromised by a power outage and might cost quite a bit of money to replace or repair. Luckily thus far I have been able to assist with no cost or long term affects, however, that may not always be the case. If anyone ever has any questions about getting a UPS backup supply, please reach out to me. In some cases it may be just a matter of getting a new battery for a device—something that can save money in the long run.

Also with a new year often come new computers. I am always here via HelpDesk ticket, email or call to offer advice and guidance on what type of computer would work best with our system requirements. Of course, speed is always important, and things have greatly improved since the internet changeover. That being said, it is always best to go with the recommendations we provide. We run into issues sometimes where a different version of Windows either cannot be imaged or there may be additional costs after the computer purchase in order to get it synced up with the needed version of Windows. At HQ we know what works best on our network and will always guide you in the right direction as we want our fellow staff and patrons to be happy with what they are using.

Have a great 2017, and I am sure I will be seeing many of you in the near future with my site visits coming sooner than later if this beautiful weather continues...

Fred Richard
Desktop & Network Administrator

>> From the IT Desk



Janet Ayles

Keeping Your Library Technology Current

It is not just your groceries that have a shelf life. The technology in your library has an expected life span. As your technology reaches its end of life, it gets slower and less responsive and the warranty has likely long since expired. Once technology is out of warranty, repairs can be costly. The lifespan will vary depending on the type of technology. Computers should be

replaced every 3-4 years and are standing on their last legs if they reach 5 years old. Printers can be expected to last for 5-7 years. Other devices like the Fortigate CEDs and wireless access points are on a schedule set by the IT Department. So we will let you know when it is time to replace those. For everything else (printers, computers, etc.), ask Fred and I if you have any questions. We are here to help.

I know that for most libraries, a lack of available funds for technology is why you try and squeeze every last bit of life out of those devices. I get it, I really do, but that does not make it the best idea. Old technology is not as efficient, it is not working at an optimum level, and it certainly does not have all the features and power of newer technology. This is why creating a Technology Plan is a smart idea. Everything gets replaced on a schedule and you do not end up in a bind when your computer or printer unexpectedly stops working and needs replacing.

When it comes to funding, you only have so much available from your library board or municipality and it does not always stretch as far as a new computer, so you make do. Fear not, there are plenty of grants available to you out there. PLS has Grant Connect, a huge database just full of grant information. The Community Initiatives Program (CIP) through the provincial government is another great resource for funding; it provides matching funds, so your library would have to pay half the cost of the new technologies with the grant covering the other half. Libraries are permitted to apply for one capital grant a year. If you need new computers, a printer, monitors, or anything along those lines, applying for this grant should be automatic. It costs you nothing to apply and could supplement your existing funds. Information on the Community Initiatives Program can be found on the Government of Alberta website at culture.alberta.ca/community/community-grants/community-initiatives-program/.

Deep Freeze

We will be in touch soon regarding the installation of Deep Freeze on your public computers. The plan is to wipe your public computers and start from scratch. This will ensure that they are all standardized and will clean up any changes that have been made.

Like all software licensing, we will take care of ordering the licenses (and we have gotten a fabulous deal on a three-year license!) and will send you a bill, just like we do for the Antivirus and Microsoft licensing.

Inventorying Your Collection

We all do our best to keep on top of our collection and make sure that all of our items are where they should be, but sometimes it gets away from us. This is why conducting an inventory is a great idea. Conducting an inventory lets you discover what should be on your shelf but is missing. It also lets you see what items are on your shelf but show as missing, lost, or sometimes even checked out to a patron. PLS has a travelling laptop with inventory software available to our member public libraries for a month at a time. To borrow the inventory computer, just send me an email at jayles@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

HelpDesk

Always remember that our HelpDesk is available to you for technical support 24/7. You can reach the helpdesk at help.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca or by email at helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca. The Helpdesk is the best place to submit technical problems, questions, or non-urgent requests for assistance.

If you are experiencing a critical problem (for instance, you are unable to search TRACpac; unable to login to Polaris; unable to check items out to a patron; or you cannot connect to the Internet), please call us directly (after office hours, please reach out to the Afterhours support at YRL).

Did You Know?

Ever wonder how much your collection is worth? It could be something your board wants to know for insurance purposes or even just general stats gathering. Inventory can give you how many items you have, but that does not tell you how much those items are worth. Fortunately, Polaris has a report for that. Reports and Notices is the home for all the reports in Polaris. In Cataloguing > Item, there is a report called Collection Value By Organization. The collection is broken down by Collection Code, giving you a subtotal for each as well as an overall total for everything. This report will also tell you how many of your Item Records have no price on record. For On Order items, this is normal as prices are not added until the item is catalogued. However, items on your shelves should have prices. So this report can give you an idea of how many items need the prices fixed. Simply Reports can tell you which of those item records are missing prices. If you have any questions or need any assistance, just let me know.

Janet Ayles
IT Services Manager

>> From Grande Prairie Public Library

by Charlotte Anderson, Emerging Technologies Librarian, Grande Prairie Public Library

Our best databases (and when to recommend them to patrons at the Information Desk)

We have access to some fantastic databases through the TAL Core, PLSB, and PLS that can really go far in supplementing our physical collection, but unless you spend a lot of time on them, it's sometimes difficult to know when to recommend them to the public. Knowing and understanding how each one of them works is a noble goal we all strive for, but sometimes we just need a cheat sheet.

Your eResources page is already divided into categories for Children, Teens and Students, and Teachers and Educators, so let's take a look at what else the general public might ask for.

Your patron needs help with:

Car/SUV/Pickup Truck/etc repair. Recommend **Auto Repair Reference Center**: a resource with records going back (in some cases) to 1954. The site will prompt them to supply the year, make and model of their vehicle.

Tips: Keep in mind that this is not an exhaustive source, so they might not find what they need. Also keep in mind that this demographic can be reluctant computer users.



Small engine repair – including lawnmowers, generators, tractors, ATVs, motorcycles, etc. Recommend **Small Engine Repair Reference Center**. They can browse through the categories or search for something specific.



Tips: This resource is fantastic because small engine repair manuals in paper copy can be difficult to locate, but again it's not an exhaustive resource.

Creating a resume. Recommend **Cypress Resume**. Using Cypress Resume is as simple as filling out fields and selecting from drop-down menus to create a professional-looking resume. Cypress Resume can also create Cover Letters and Reference Sheets. After signing in using their library card number, they can create an account that allows them to store their resume for up to a year on the site, or they can download it in .DOC format.



Tips: Remind them to always proofread the document before submitting it to an employer as the process of selecting from multiple choice options can cause repetition.

Newspapers from around the world. Recommend **PressReader**. PressReader has over 5000 newspapers in almost 60 languages. This is a great resource, not only for people who want access to newspapers from Australia, China, or Romania, but also for people who want access to Canadian newspapers as well.

Tips: While your library is set up to be a 'hot spot' so patrons can access PressReader without signing in, they will have to sign in from home by clicking on the Sign In button on the PressReader website. Also keep watch for updates on the app, which is currently being a pain to use so it's recommended having them use the website instead.



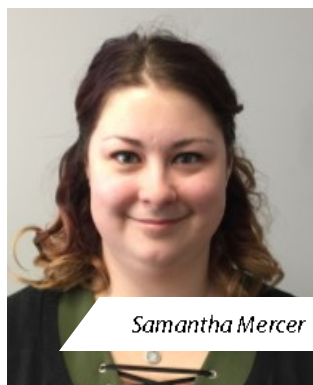
Computer help. Currently, there aren't any resources for computer help, but keep an eye out for **lynda.com** later in the year. For free online resources, there are two that I recommend for patrons looking to learn more about computers:

- www.gcflearnfree.org
- techboomers.com

Please remember that even though these are fantastic resources, they aren't affiliated with us in any way. They are free online resources, aren't Canadian-specific, and possibly have advertisements. That said, they're incredibly helpful to point people towards. GPPL uses videos from gcfllearnfree.org in our 'Computer Basics' classes.



>> Read Alberta eBooks



Samantha Mercer

After lots of planning and work, the Read Alberta eBooks platform was launched and made available to the public on February 16th! The new eBook platform was created out of the Read Alberta eBooks initiative that seeks to promote books published in Alberta. Supported by the Public Library Services Branch, Read Alberta eBooks launched on Cantook Station with over 1,000 fiction and non-fiction titles that were published by Alberta publishers.

Read Alberta eBooks is exclusive to library cardholders and is compatible on computers, eReaders, tablets and smartphones to ensure all of our patrons can read at home and on the go! All you need to read on your computer is to download Adobe Digital Editions and authorize it with an Adobe ID. To read on your smartphone or tablet, just download one of these 3 apps and authorize it with an Adobe ID:



Aldiko



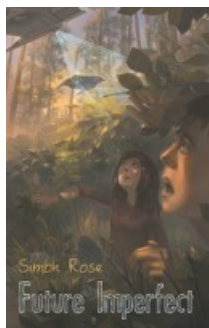
Bluefire



Bookari

The great thing about Read Alberta eBooks is the simultaneous borrowing feature. Each title in the catalogue can be borrowed up to 50 times before needing to be repurchased by PLSB. Instead of having a waitlist, 50 users can borrow the same book at the exact same time!

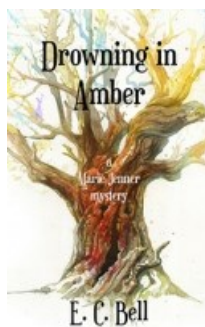
These are just a couple of the titles available in the catalogue:



Future Imperfect

By Simon Rose

Alex and Stephanie embark on a terrifying journey in a desperate bid to save the future from the sinister Veronica Castlewood.



Drowning in Amber

By E.C. Bell

Marie thinks solving Eddie's murder will be a piece of cake. All she has to do is ask him who killed him, but he isn't at his murder site. Of course. There's never a ghost around when you want one.



Around the System...

Here's what's been going on around Peace Library System this winter! Remember, you can send your own photos and articles at any time to estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca and they will be included in the next newsletter. We'd love to hear from you!

Fox Creek Municipal Library

The Fox Creek Municipal Library STEAM Centre has been busy. Snap Circuits is very popular as is Cardboard Virtual Reality and the electronic microscope. Several after-school patrons have been enjoying the K'nex and we now have a huge, nearly completed "Big Ball Factory" on display along with several other creations. Our Grade 2 class came in for a couple of hours and rotated through card making, puzzles, magnets, Lego and gears. They had a lot of fun and were very creative.

On Family Literacy Day on January 27 we gave out Baskets of Books prizes to 5 individuals in different age groups. For every book read patrons were able to put in an entry. With over 1000 entries it was an exciting contest. We also celebrated each of our Grade Four students by presenting them all with their own copy of Canadian Geographic The Biggest and Best of Canada in return for a literacy project from them.

—Submitted by Leslie Ann Sharkey, Fox Creek Municipal Library





Elmworth Community Library

The Elmworth Community Library's Local Artist & Craftsman Display began the New Year featuring the works of Rio Grande Artist Dale Lawton. Dale is self-taught, explaining that as a young boy he frequented the local library and read everything he could find to satisfy his love of drawing. He certainly has inspired many of our patrons, we hope to have him teach a Beginner's Art class in the near future.

Our Sunflower Art Workshop was held in January with Artist & Author Janet Enfield. The workshop was fully attended and we all had a great time! We look forward to a Sculpting Workshop with Janet this spring.

—Submitted by Barb Johnson, Elmworth Community Library



Flatbush Community Library

Our library did a massive weeding last year. We have been placing the weeded books in selected sites around Flatbush and call it a "Walkabout Library" where people can take these books and not worry about bringing them back.

Flatbush also had a visit from Santa at Christmas!

—Submitted by Rose Herdman, Flatbush Community Library



More from around the *System*...

Wembley Public Library

Wembley Public Library has been busy offering new programs to the people in the community; all of which have been incredibly well received. We had a huge turnout for our first few Lego Club Meetings and our Sculpting Class was booked full within 2 hours of posting it on Facebook. We had a mixed media day, book clubs, crochet class, 0 – 5 Groups, and many more. Literacy Week was celebrated with a visit from Jaxson the Therapy Dog, life size games of Bananagrams, Karaoke, Buddy Reading & tea parties. Plus the added bonus of Green Eggs & Ham for breakfast & Alphabet Soup for lunch on January 27th.

We were excited to continue organizing programs for the spring & are hoping to offer many new experiences to our community starting with the installation of our new Vive HTC Virtual Reality System that should be up and running just after the Family Day Weekend!

—Submitted by Anna Underwood, Wembley Public Library



Shannon Municipal Library

Shannon Library in Sexsmith hosted staff members from Grande Prairie Public Library on Friday, February 3, 2017. The visit had been long discussed between Heather Willner of GPPL and Sheryl Pelletier of ASSM. Now that this first field trip has been completed, the world is their oyster and only Heather knows where they may show up next!

Standing: Sexsmith staff: Kathy Black, Sheryl Pelletier.

Seated: Grande Prairie staff: Linnea Fletcher, Fran Bartolotta, Sam King, Heather Willner, Belinda Blackburn, Lisa Clarke, Maureen Curry.

—Submitted by Sheryl Pelletier, Sexsmith Municipal Library



Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library

Every year around this time our Town of Slave Lake does a week long family event called Frost Fest, and this year our Library held 3 programs for the event. The first program we did was Frosting for Frost Fest cookie decorating, and it was also our biggest turn out! Probably because there were cookies involved, and who doesn't love cookies! The following day we showed Disney's *Frozen*, because it goes with the theme Frost Fest! And the final program we did had a great turn out, and also a noisy one. Snowflake string art was a super fun and different craft for kids to enjoy, using hammers and nails to make snowflake designs on blocks of wood followed by using coloured yarn to complete it. We enjoy participating in Frost Fest every year; it is always fun to see families get together and have fun!

—Submitted by Lindsay Rosentreter, Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library



McLennan Municipal Library

December was party time at McLennan Municipal Library! We threw a surprise party for library board chairperson, Philippa O'Mahony, in recognition of 30 years of service to Peace Library System. As well as her service to PLS, Philippa has been one of the driving forces of our library for close to 40 years. That is definitely worthy of celebration!

In an effort to promote early literacy, we kicked off our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program with a Christmas party in December. This program challenges parents to read 1000 books to their child before they enter kindergarten. Little prizes are given for every 100 books read. Parents have the option to use an app to keep a list of the books read, but many are choosing old-fashioned pen and paper copies to include in baby scrapbooks.

—Maureen Fisher, McLennan Municipal Library



>> 2016 eResource Checkouts

Overdrive

Total checkouts: 65,884

eBooks: 51,848

eAudiobooks: 14,036



Hoopla!

Total checkouts: 8875

eAudiobooks: 3552

eBooks: 1495

Comics: 585

Movies: 1759

Music: 1088

TV episodes: 396

Zinio eMagazines

Total checkouts: 7,670



3M Cloud Library

Total checkouts: 4,707

TumbleBooks

Total checkouts: 5,387



>> Media and Information Literacy

You've probably heard the term "fake news" bandied about in the past couple months. Most people today have the media constantly in front of their eyes, whether it's on the TV or on their social media feeds, and it is increasingly becoming harder to figure out what news is reliable and what is sensationalised or misleading.

Information literacy—being able to distinguish what is real and what is false in media reports, and to detect media bias—is a critical skill for the public to be able to wield, and when it comes to teaching that skill, both school and public libraries can play an important role in supporting the great work educators are already doing.

Think about adding titles that discuss the media and how it works to your shelves. There are lots of books that teach basic media literacy to kids—it's important to start young! Check out these great additions to your collection: mediaedlab.com/2016/06/11/great-media-literacy-books-for-every-learner.

Put up posters around your library and especially near the computers to remind users to think critically about their reading material. Try the ones available at longlivekids.ca/media-literacy or www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/Events/mil_five_laws_english.png or make your own on Library Aware.

Try hosting workshops and programs in your library that share strategies for dissecting media and the news. School Library Journal has a great news literacy toolkit to help guide you: www.slj.com/2016/11/industry-news/teaching-media-literacy-now.

When your patrons come to you with questions about what they're reading, point them to sources that help them fact-check the media like snopes.com, politifact.com, and factcheck.org. All of those sites are American and thus tend to focus on American news stories, but they also provide really great fact checking on the kind of entertainment and health and human interest stories that tend to dominate everyone's Facebook feed. For Canadian political fact-checking, try factscan.com.

>> Long Service Awards

Congratulations to Brenda Kerr (left) and Dollie Anderson (right) for their five years of service with the Peace Library Board!





Freedom to Read Week

Each year near the end of February Canada honours Freedom to Read Week, our equivalent of the American Banned Books Week. During this time, the reading community celebrates the intellectual freedom we are granted in Canada due to our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This year's Freedom to Read Week is being celebrated from February 26 to March 4, 2017.

Access to information is a cornerstone of library service. Because of this, it's important that we stay aware of the debates and controversies happening around freedom of information. In Canada, we tend to get complacent when it comes to intellectual freedom issues, since we think of our country as one that celebrates diverse opinions and beliefs. However, challenges and censorship, even self-censorship, of reading material happens all the time in public and school libraries, which makes Freedom to Read Week a critical time for us to think about these issues and what they mean to us and our communities.

Check out freedomtoread.ca for more information and ideas for celebrating Freedom to Read Week in your library.

Submit to News & Notes!

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

Please send photos and articles to Emma Stewart at estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

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

Peace Library System's events calendar

peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/calendar

PLS Board Meeting

PLS Headquarters
March 25, 2017, 10:30 am

Library Managers' Council Meeting

PLS Headquarters
April 10, 2017 10:30 am

PLS Executive Committee Meeting

Hythe
April 22, 2017, 10:30 am

Alberta Library Conference

Jasper Park Lodge
April 27-30, 2017

Public Library Meeting

PLS Headquarters
May 8, 2017, 10:00 am

PLS AGM and Board Meeting

PLS Headquarters
May 13, 2017, 10:30 am

County of Northern Lights Advisory Committee Meeting

Dixonville Community Library
May 15, 2017, 11:00 a.m.

Clear Hills County Advisory Committee Meeting

Worsley and District Library
May 17, 2017, 5:30 p.m.