

NEWS & Notes

PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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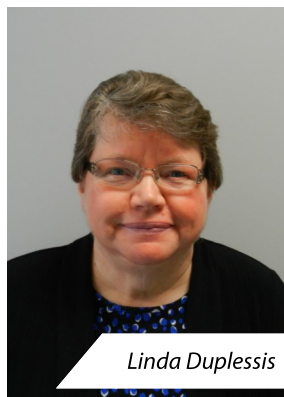
Happy Holidays

From Your PLS Headquarters Staff!



Standing (left to right): Samantha Mercer; Dennis Sheppard; Emma Stewart; Karen Van der Woerd; Tora Volkers; Janet Schultz;
Janet Ayles; Sheri Goff; Rae Weniger; Cliff Lesh; Katherine Wiebe; Fred Richard; Wendy Hodges.
Seated (left to right): Dorothy Tay-Ellingboe; Rose-Marie Finch; Linda Duplessis; Alrene Dempster; Carol Downing.
Absent: Julia Little.

>> From the Director



Linda Duplessis

It was great to see so many of you at the Rural Libraries Conference (RLC) in September. We had a great turn-out, inspiring keynote speakers and many excellent workshops. I hope that you tried something new and interesting when you got back to your library! Thanks to Emma Stewart for coordinating such a successful conference. And thanks to those of you who gave us valuable RLC feedback.

We're already planning for next year!

Fall Membership Drive

This fall, PLS sponsored a membership drive to attract people to the library. September focused on "back-to-school", with an emphasis on getting students into the library. Moving into October, the key theme was "savings" with a focus on money saved because of library use. PLS supported radio and newspaper ads, put messages on social media, and provided you with training to create customized posters and brochures using Library Aware.

Thank you for promoting your services locally so the membership drive had the biggest impact. Remember that Library Aware is available to you year-round to help you promote your services.

Downsizing the PLS Collection

As part of the implementation of PLS's 2016-2018 Plan of Service, the size of the PLS core collection (items received in 1985-86 from the University of Alberta Extension Collection) has been reduced by about half in order to expand the Technical Services area. The collection was examined for age, condition and usage. Those items that were circulating and/or were the last available copy in TRACpac were kept for the collection. Most of the weeded items were picked up by a local organization called ANSO that works with the Grande Prairie Rotary Club to take books and supplies to schools, colleges and public libraries in Ethiopia. The next step is to review Technical Services activities and work flow, and develop a plan to reconfigure the area.

Indigenous Populations Grant

We have been busy planning ways to reach out to the 18 First Nations bands and three unserved Métis settlements in the

region. Letters have been sent to each community inviting their residents to visit a public library near them. Six cultural awareness training sessions for library staff and board members have taken place at Friendship Centres in the region. PLS staff created a bibliography and order form for books, DVDs and graphic novels. We are in the process of selecting eBooks and other digital resources.

The libraries closest to the 21 communities are planning a number of activities and events in the next few months, including Indigenous artwork displays and art shows; special author readings; new internal and external signage; new technology to assist with outreach; and early literacy initiatives. It is exciting to see all of the planning unfolding, as we seek to attract these new patrons to the library.

New National Library Organization

With the dissolution of the Canadian Library Association (CLA), the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA) has been formed to replace CLA as the national voice for Canadian libraries. Fourteen public and academic library associations, including the Library Association of Alberta, are currently members.

Linda Duplessis
Director

Submit to News & Notes!

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

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

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

What's trending in books

2016 CANADIAN CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTRE AWARDS

The Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC) announced the winners of its seven English-language children's book awards in November:

Missing Nimâmâ, written by Melanie Florence and illustrated by François Thisdale, won the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award

Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox by Danielle Daniel won the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award

Sex Is a Funny Word: A Book About Bodies, Feelings, and You, written by Cory Silverberg and illustrated by Fiona Smyth, won the Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-Fiction

Uncertain Soldier by Karen Bass won the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction For Young People

The Blackthorn Key by Kevin Sands won the John Spray Mystery Award

The Scorpion Rules by Erin Bow won the Monica Hughes Award for Science Fiction and Fantasy

The Truth Commission by Susan Juby won the Amy Mathers Teen Book Award



THE NEW YORK TIMES BEST ILLUSTRATED CHILDREN'S BOOKS OF 2016

A Voyage in the Clouds by Matthew Olshan, illustrated by Sophie Blackall

Freedom in Congo Square by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

Little Red by Bethan Woollvin

Preaching to the Chickens by Jabari Asim, illustrated by E. B. Lewis

The Cat from Hunger Mountain by Ed Young

The Dead Bird by Margaret Wise Brown, illustrated by Christian Robinson

The White Cat and the Monk by Jo Ellen Bogart, illustrated by Sydney Smith

The Polar Bear by Jenni Desmond

The Princess and the Warrior by Duncan Tonatui

The Tree in the Courtyard by Jeff Gottesfeld, illustrated by Peter McCarty



>> Consulting Corner



News & Notes

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

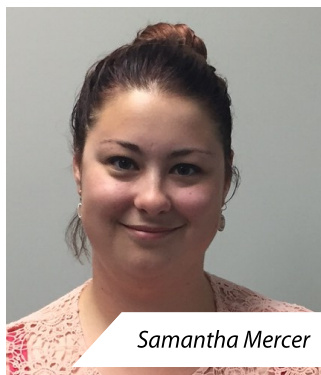
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Samantha Mercer

This month's Consulting Corner features an article by Digital Trainer and IT Assistant Samantha Mercer! She'll let you know all about what she's been up to and what's new, below.

Digital Training Update

The last few months have been busy, to say the very least! In addition to the Rural Libraries Conference, the Fall Author Tour and the Marketing Membership Drive, almost half of our eResources have performed upgrades or have informed us of upcoming changes. Training resources have been made available online and webinars are running regularly on specific eResources and themes.

eResource Update

Everyone is updating!

Hoopla digital offers us access to an unlimited number of copies of eBooks, audiobooks, comics, music, movies and TV shows. In September, they gave their website a big facelift and now they have a more modern look. The site is brighter, a lot less cluttered, and still user-friendly! A new feature is the red circle on the top left that will follow you around the website and tell you how many more items you can borrow.

Alongside hoopla, September also brought change for cloudLibrary. Formerly known as 3M Cloud Library, cloudLibrary is one of our eBook and audiobook platforms. They slowly transitioned to the new name and logo. One great change is the digital library card! Download the app onto your smart phone or tablet, login and go to "Settings" to get a virtual library card—great for those forgetful patrons!

OverDrive changed a lot in mid-November. After offering a preview of the new site for a few weeks, our eBook and audiobook platform changed its look and a lot of its features. The site is now much brighter and modern looking but the biggest and best change is the new prompts. When patrons borrow a book and try to launch it, OverDrive will now tell them what program they need to use—Adobe Digital

Editions for eBooks and OverDrive desktop app for audiobooks.

You can also look forward to a new app for Zinio sometime in the new year; also, watch out for changes coming to our World Book products. Some are getting facelifts and name changes while keeping the same great features.

Training Material

We all know how busy our libraries and their staff are so our training material has been created with this in mind. On the Peace Library System website, you are now able to go to the "Training Toolkit" page to find lots of help. Each of our eResources have received a manual, presentation slides, relevant help links, marketing material on LibraryAware, and many have video tutorials. Offering a wide range of formats to train everyone makes it convenient for everyone!

Marketing and Social Media

With everything our Marketing Associate, Zoe Vatter, did this summer, we wanted to keep everyone on track. To offer continuous support, webinars have been offered on how to use social media and LibraryAware independently and together. We want to continue supporting our libraries in this area so you will notice webinars focused on LibraryAware and social media being offered every other month or so.

Some of our libraries have been doing amazing jobs with LibraryAware and social media so take a look at their Facebook and Twitter pages!

Webinars

Training webinars are being run more often and at additional times now to offer greater support to our libraries. Webinar recordings will be added to the "Training Toolkit" once all the scheduled webinars for that topic are done. The presentation slides and a detailed handout will also accompany the videos. September focused on our eBooks platforms, October looked at our resources for teachers and students, November is looking at graphic novels and coding and December will look at our health resources, holiday devices and refreshers for our recently updated eResources.

As always, everyone is welcome to offer ideas for webinars or request a one-on-one webinar at a more convenient time to me at sm Mercer@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

>> Minister's Awards 2017

The Public Library Services Branch is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the annual Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Library Service. These awards formally recognize great services at public libraries and promote knowledge-sharing within Alberta's library community.

The YOU Libraries Award will continue in 2017. This award is adjudicated by a popular vote open to all Albertans. A jury will select up to four winning submissions that demonstrate excellence and/or innovation in library service to receive the Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Library Service. All nominations that meet the Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Library Service criteria will be automatically eligible for the YOU Libraries Award.

The nominations will open on December 1, 2016, and the submission deadline is February 24, 2017. Nomination forms and additional details will be available at www.albertalibraries.ca. Winners will be notified by early April 2017 and announced at the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper from April 27 - 30, 2017.

If you have any questions on the awards program, please contact Karen Petch, Branch Information Co-ordinator, Public Library Services Branch, toll-free at 310-0000, then 780-427-9709, or at libraries@gov.ab.ca.



YOU PEOPLE'S
Libraries CHOICE
AWARD

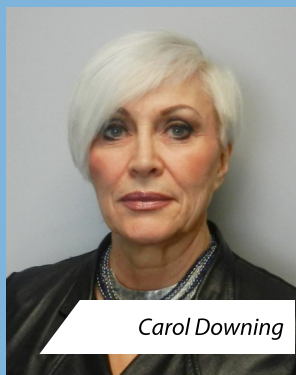
Tips for Submissions

Below are some points to consider when submitting a nomination package for the Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Library Service.

- ✓ Identification of partners in the service.
 - ⇒ What was their role, how did they participate?
 - ⇒ How did all partners benefit?
- ✓ What community need did this service meet? How was need determined?
 - ⇒ Evidence from plan of service/needs assessment.
 - ⇒ Usage or uptake of the new service.
 - ◆ How were library users made aware of the new service?
 - ◆ Statistics: number of users and who they are.
 - ◆ Did this service attract new library users?
- ✓ How could this service work in other libraries?
 - ⇒ Are you able to share this service with other libraries?
- ✓ What were the lessons learned in developing this service?
 - ⇒ If you were to do it again, what changes would you make, in approach or in implementation?
- ✓ The nomination may be accompanied by other supporting materials relating directly to the service under consideration. These documents can be attached separately.
- ✓ Attach any photos in a jpeg format.
- ✓ Nomination packages will only be accepted in electronic format.

You can find a complete list of rules as well as nomination forms at www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/plsb_ministers_awards.

>> Tech Services Tidbits



Carol Downing

Preparations for year-end rollover (CULC) took over the administration of the Library Shipping Tool. procedures are underway in The new website hosting the tool is www.libraryshippingtool.ca. If Acquisitions. Library staff have been any libraries are still experiencing difficulties using the new tool, notified that the last day for orders to please contact Peace Library System.

arrive at Peace Library System is November 29 and the last day for vouchers to be entered is December 12 at 12:00 noon. Any orders or vouchers arriving after those dates will not be processed until January 2017. All Acquisition activity will halt by 4:00 p.m.

on December 12 so that year-end reports can be run.

Cataloguing is not affected by rollover and will continue as normal. Julia Little remains off work on EI sick leave benefits. We will be extending Dennis Sheppard's contract to cover the position. We are happy to report that Cataloguing is current at Peace Library System.

2016 saw a change to the Library Shipping Tool, which had been administered for years by the Canadian Library Association (CLA). With CLA's dissolution, the Canadian Urban Libraries Council

Title Source III (TS3) is in the process of migrating to TS360. The new website is www.ts360.baker-taylor.com. A user guide to the upgrade will be sent out to the public libraries. Your user name will remain the same. Peace Library System will send out a new password when everything has been migrated over. If you are looking for an item, including Canadian titles, but can't find it on TS360, you may request the item by emailing the order desk at ordering@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

The Tech Services Department wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Carol Downing
Assistant Director and Tech Services Manager



Fred Richard

>> Faster than a speeding bullet...

Okay, maybe not a bullet, but things have greatly improved here after our internet service provider changeover at PLS headquarters. It took some collaboration, and trial and error, but we were finally able to get things switched over. What that means is that things should get faster all around with more bandwidth to work with than previously. There are still a couple things we need to look into with regards to port settings, but for the most part we are working with more speed. Streaming should become much more seamless and the typical afternoon "slow time" should greatly improve. The company we have switched to is a not-for-profit company that works with other libraries and schools in Alberta, so they were the front-runner when making a decision.

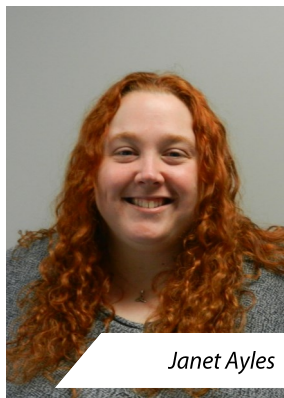
Along with the ISP changeover, I have also been working on getting everything backed up in the case of an event or failures. Our web-server is now being backed up daily to a company we previously used, so we have a failover in place. Our other servers have been backed up for some time, and we are ready to have them backed up to the cloud as well, for an offsite backup solution. That way, if there was a disaster that affected headquarters, all of the server information such as users, computers, and files will all be backed up to the cloud and will remain intact. It is always good to have backup, especially when we all work so hard on creating and managing all of our work.

I completed all of my site visits at the start of November and I took great pleasure in meeting everyone and answering questions when I could. Sometimes it's easier when you physically see what's going on to help understand what the issue is or how to solve it. I hear from many libraries but it is always nice to put faces to those calls and emails, plus I had great driving weather for almost every site visit. I am always just a phone call or email away and look forward to meeting everyone again!

Fred Richard
Desktop & Network Administrator



>> From the IT Desk



Janet Ayles

Christmas is Coming!

So the temperatures are starting to drop and we have already seen some snow. Yup, Christmas is right around the corner. Christmas often means that your library may be changing up the hours or closing for a few days. If you are going to take some time away for yourself, please make sure you let us know. It's important that we know if your library will be closed so Polaris can calculate

proper due dates and any relevant fines. Please send any dates that you will be closed to helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

Deep Freeze

We have decided to bring back Deep Freeze to the public computers. We had opted out of using Deep Freeze back in 2012 as we had a different idea in mind. Recently, we have re-evaluated this plan and decided that returning to Deep Freeze is a better idea. Deep Freeze will make your public computers virtually indestructible. They won't be quite bullet-proof, but they will be close. Deep Freeze creates a restore point on your public computer so anything done by a patron (who is unlikely to be causing willful damage, but mistakes happen) can be immediately erased by rebooting the computer. Deep Freeze will be coming to a public computer near you in early 2017. If you have any questions about this, please let me know.



FARONICS
DEEPFREEZE™

Software Licensing

PLS takes care of the licensing for your staff and public computers (including the new Deep Freeze software). We order licenses and bill you based on the number of computers our system shows that you have in your library. Any new computers for your library come through our office for setup, so we know about those. However, when you remove a computer, unless you send it to us for recycling, we don't know and your workstation count ends up

wrong. When you retire workstations, please let us know so we can keep your software licensing costs correct. This will help us keep an accurate count of how many licenses to order and help you so you aren't billed for licenses you don't need.

New Hardware

On the very, very long list of things we in the IT Department will help you with, you will find help with new hardware. We (and by that, I mean mostly Fred) know what works best on our network when it comes to new computers, printers, and even barcode scanners. If you are thinking about new hardware, definitely reach out to us at helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca. We have a number of vendors that we work with and can help you find hardware that meets your needs.

Help Desk

As always, the best way to reach the IT Department is our helpdesk. You can reach the helpdesk at help.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca or by email at helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca. Reaching out to the helpdesk is always the best idea as the first staff member available will respond. If you are experiencing a critical problem, please call us directly. So if you are unable to search TRACpac, login to Polaris, check items out to a patron, or cannot connect to the Internet, please call immediately.

Did You Know?

Are you aware that patrons can sign up for eReceipts? Rather than just having to rely on printed receipts, patrons are able to get checkout or fine receipts by text or email. Sometimes you can't help but lose the piece of paper with your due dates on them, but patrons always know where their phones are! In order to turn on eReceipts for a patron, all you have to do is choose TXT Messaging, Email Address, or All (just to cover every mode of communication) from the drop down menu. The eReceipt drop down menu is helpfully located right below the notification option area on the Patron Registration screen.

A screenshot of a web form titled "Patron Registration". It contains three dropdown menus: "Notices address:" with "Home" selected, "Notification option:" with "Email Address" selected, and "eReceipt option:" with "TXT Messaging" selected. The "eReceipt option:" dropdown is highlighted with a red rectangular box. There is also an unchecked checkbox labeled "Additional TXT notice".

Janet Ayles
IT Services Manager

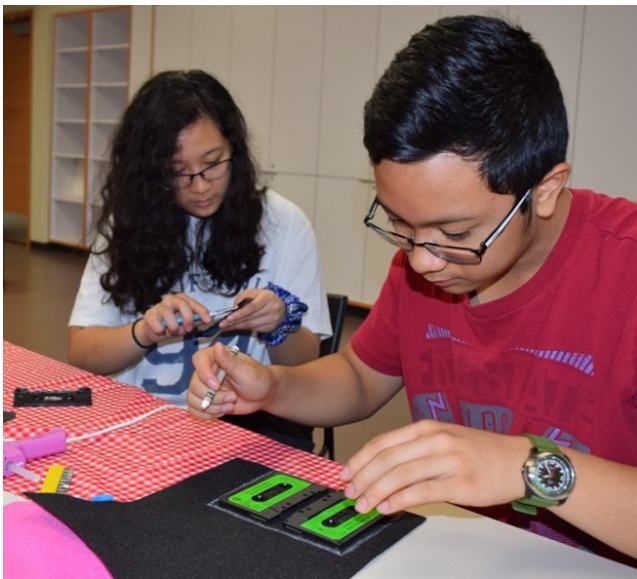
>> From Grande Prairie Public Library

Bringing Back the Classics

by Bailey Randolph, Teen Services, Materials & Programs, Grande Prairie Public Library

This summer was a blast from the past at the Grande Prairie Public Library, with our old school-themed Teen Summer Reading Game, Retro Rewind. This spring I was sitting at my desk trying to come up with a theme, when I received an e-mail about our pilot vinyl collection, and the idea hit me: retro. I didn't anticipate the overwhelmingly positive response that I got from the teens.

Our weekly summer craft programs, Throwback Thursdays, were also retro-themed. I don't think I have ever seen teens so excited to do crafts; they could not get enough of the retro items we were using in the programs. The only downside to the programs was when we made cassette tape wallets and some of the teens had never seen a cassette tape before. That was the first time I have truly felt old. While all of the crafts were surprisingly popular, the ones that generated the best response from the teens were our board game journals and vinyl bookends.



In our board game journals program, teens were each given a notebook to construct a personalized journal using pieces from retro board games. We provided games like Monopoly, Candy Land, and Checkers, and teens used whatever they liked to decorate their notebooks. While some chose to use the game boards themselves, others wove together Monopoly money, or used the dice and game pieces. The teens loved that they had a chance to be creative, and every journal was unique.

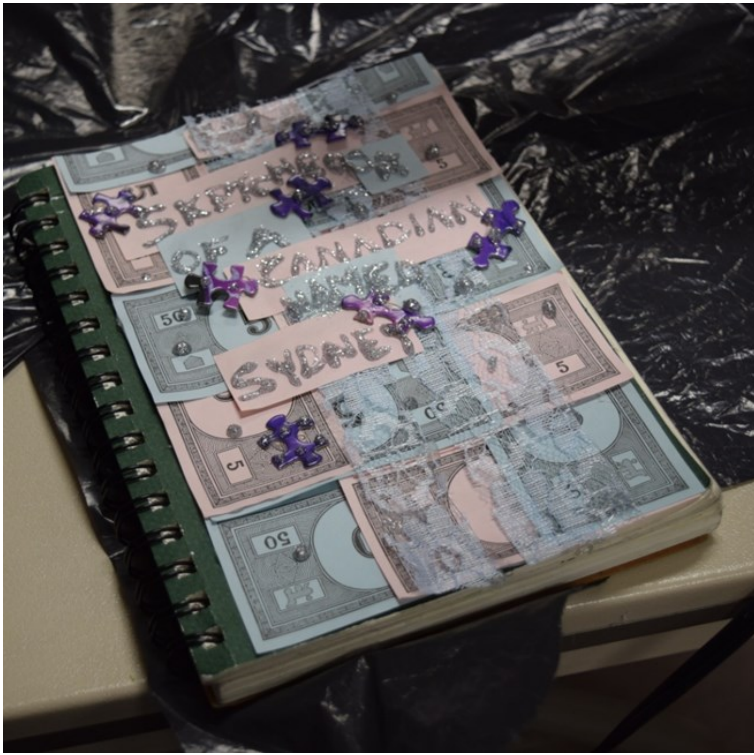
The best program from our Throwback Thursdays was definitely our vinyl bookend program. Even the boys loved it, and for those

of you who work with teens, you know that that is an accomplishment. Teens were each given two vinyl records, and used boiling, salty water to melt one end of the record. Then using some old discarded hardcover books, the teens bent the records into place. Once cooled, they were left with two awesome retro bookends. I gave the teens acrylic paint and nail polish, and they really got into decorating their bookends.

All of the Throwback Thursday programs were very well attended for teen programs, and teens still talk about them and come into the library wearing the things they made this summer, like tie-dye shoes, or perler bead hair clips.



I have received numerous requests to repeat many of the summer programs, because they were so popular. The nice thing that I found about doing retro-themed programs, aside from the positive response from the teens, is that they are incredibly easy on the budget. I was able to do most of my supplies shopping at second hand stores, and was able to put together some amazing crafts using very little of my budget. For example, my vinyl bookends were my most popular program, and I was able to purchase the records for 25 cents each. Other materials were eagerly donated by coworkers who were cleaning out old stuff from their houses. So if you are looking for some super cheap, super easy crafts that teens will enjoy, I highly recommend trying some retro crafts.



Board game journal



Tie dye mug



Teens at work on their vinyl bookends

Around the System...

In the words of Ned Stark, winter is coming... so here's your update on what's been going on around Peace Library System over the fall! 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!

Peace River Municipal Library

Halloween is always a busy time at the Peace River Municipal Library. On Saturday, October 29th, we had family activities including pumpkin decorating! Everyone who wore a costume got a goody bag. We are usually closed on Mondays, but on October 31st this year we had special hours so that Trick-or-Treaters could visit the annual Haunted House held at the Library by the Peace River Interact Club. This year, they were helped by the Peace River High School drama class and the League of Leadership.

We are now looking forward to upcoming Christmas events such as Trim the Tree, Teen Trim the Tree, and Breakfast with Santa.

—Submitted by Beverly Shewchuk, Peace River Municipal Library



Grande Prairie Public Library

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at GPPL!

—Submitted by Heather Willner, Grande Prairie Public Library



Beaverlodge Public Library

We've had an extremely busy fall! After hiring a Program Coordinator, our library is bursting with programming. For young people we've now got everything from Teddy Tuesday (a storytime program) to after-school art programs, Mad Science (who doesn't like to make a mess with chemical reactions?), and our Lego program has continued. We've also started an evening adult program where knitting and crochet enthusiasts have been meeting up and exchanging ideas, techniques, and good conversation.

We are also very proud to be able to offer Good Puppy! Reading Buddy! On Saturday afternoons. We have access to a (retired) therapy dog and his replacement-in-training, and they've been happily listening to children read to them.



We've had several well-attended movie nights, but our premiere event (under the "Loud! At the Library!" banner) took place on Saturday Nov. 5th. We invited the Grain Bin Brewing Company from Grande Prairie to present a craft beer education and tasting night. We held two sessions, with the first one featuring child care in our programs room while young parents got a much-appreciated date night. The second session featured more attendees enjoying an extra pint or two of their favourites after the formal tasting.

—Submitted by Tracy Deets, Beaverlodge Public Library

Smith Community Library

Smith held a Halloween haunted house! I decorated the library and on October 31st invited the school children over for a spooky visit. They loved it! I have been keeping busy and interest is growing in our little library.

—Submitted by Ruth Reay, Smith Community Library



More from around the *System*...

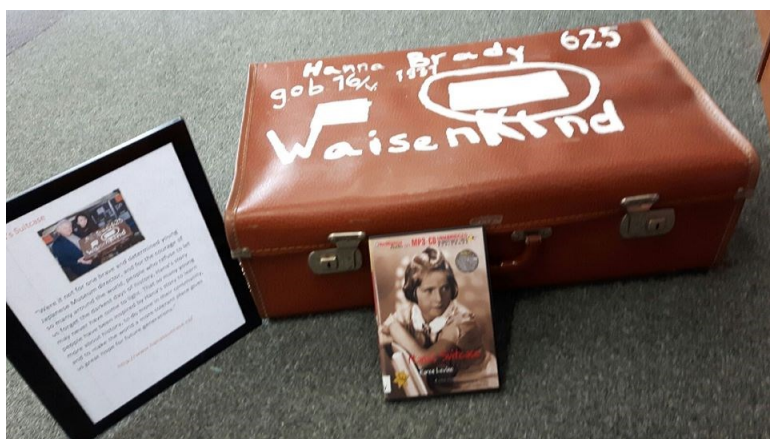
Elmworth Community Library

We remember!

Our young patrons enjoyed the brilliant audio production of Hana's Suitcase, an extraordinary true story of a young girl at the time of the occupation of Poland by Nazi Germany. Local Astrid Wenigerova-Noga then visited the group to share her personal experience and knowledge of those dark days in history. A replica of Hana's Suitcase was also made available to view and the events were very well liked by all!

We love our local talent! Local artist Janet Enfield visited the Library where patrons enjoyed an abstract art Lesson. It was so popular we plan to have her back again in January for a Sunflower Art Workshop!

—Submitted by Barb Johnson, Elmworth Library



Berwyn Municipal Library

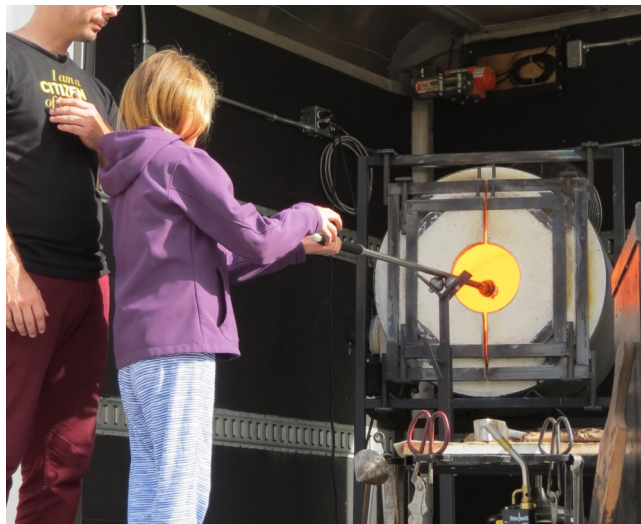
Check out these shots of the new stuff at Berwyn... new flooring, new shelving, new circ desk, new computer table, and new staff!

—Submitted by Laurie Crowder, Berwyn Municipal Library



Fox Creek Municipal Library

Our Creation Location: Assembly Required event was a huge success with the community of Fox Creek. In addition to having Canada's first mobile glass blowing studio, The Glass House Fine Arts Collective out of Calgary, demonstrating and teaching our students on Friday, they were part of our Saturday event which included community residents making art with local artists. Children and adults alike enjoyed making scarecrows and building with cardboard, working with slime, twisted paper trees, hula hoop weaving and painting activities. There was cartoon drawing, Zentangle, painting birch signs, acrylic painting, vellum forests, a scrapbooking project, crayon drip art, sketching, carving and making spring rolls. At least 350 people attended throughout the afternoon. A fund raising BBQ was busy all afternoon as people came and went through the halls of the school and the gym. It was exciting and when we realized we would be the recipients of all the glass pieces made we really were over the moon. They are currently on display in the library.



We have started accumulating items for our STEAM CENTRE, and have a dedicated area for storage. With a sponsorship we were able to purchase some electronic devices such as Snap Circuits, an electronic microscope, a Bridge Building set, K'nex, a Google cardboard virtual tour goggles, etc. We pulled out some scrapbooking and cardmaking materials and other art supplies as well as a magnet set and a gear set. Our evening patrons are making good use of these materials and we are finding that our students are starting to come in during the day to try things out.

We have set up an Instagram account and are putting up pictures almost daily. Instagram, our website, and our Facebook page keep us busy snapping photos and keeping up.

—Submitted by Leslie Ann Sharkey, Fox Creek Municipal Library



Hines Creek Municipal Library

Hines Creek Municipal Library has a fantastic new sign! The sign was created for the library by a Hines Creek high school student earning extra credits.

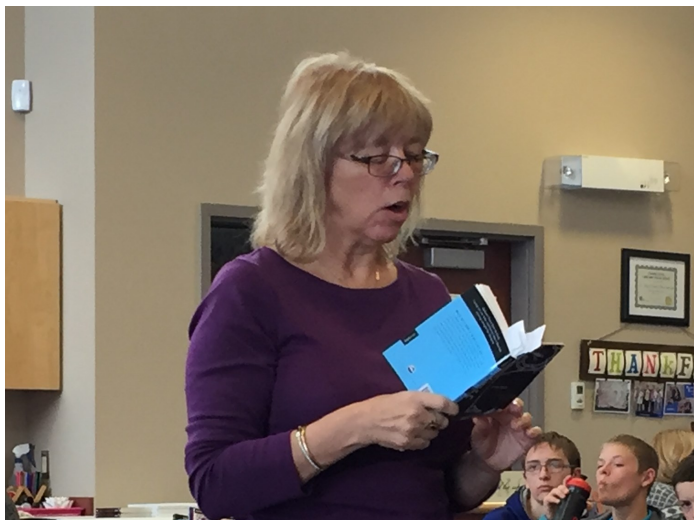
—Submitted by Anna Wade, Hines Creek Municipal Library

>> Author Tours

Local Tour

October 17-20, 2016

Emma drove author Rita Feutl through our Local region on the first author tour of the year. Rita talked about her books *Rescue at Fort Edmonton*, *Bike Thief*, and *Room Enough for Daisy*. Kids loved listening to her stories about her life and about the history of the province... particular the gory bits! Twelve sessions were presented at La Glace, Valhalla, Hythe, Beaverlodge, Elmworth, Sexsmith, Wembley, Grande Prairie, Debolt, Valleyview, and Fox Creek, to a total audience count of 770.



Rita reads from *Bike Thief* in Sexsmith.



In Dixonville, Lorna reads one of her Puckster books.



La Glace students listen to Rita talk about pilot Wop May.

Northern Tour

October 24-27, 2016

Katherine drove author Lorna Schultz Nicholson on the Northern tour. Lorna is a very prolific author who writes a lot of childrens and YA books about sports, especially hockey—her Puckster books in particular were a big hit! Lorna presented eleven sessions at Eaglesham, Falher, McLennan, Nampa, Peace River, Dixonville, Rainbow Lake, High Level, Paddle Prairie, Keg River, and Manning, for a total audience count of 641.



Lorna shows Team Canada pride in Manning.

>> Rural Libraries Conference

Our annual conference took place at the Pomeroy Hotel and Conference Centre on September 22 and 23, 2016. We had a great turnout this year, with 153 registered delegates, up from 146 in 2015. Guests came all the way from the Northwest Territory to attend the conference—we were so happy to see such a diverse range of attendees! For more on who attended the conference, check out *By The Numbers*, below.

Keynote speakers Kathy Archer and Megan Hartline were very well received, and a number of helpful sessions were offered for public and school librarians and trustees. We also hosted a preconference session on human resources at PLS headquarters, which was very helpful for library staff. We hope that you learned a lot during the conference and you came away with a renewed sense of purpose and vision.

The Excellence in Library Service awards took a break this year; instead, Peace Library System director Linda Duplessis gave a special *Celebrating Our Libraries* presentation honouring all 45 of our member public libraries and all 50 of our member school libraries for their excellent library service with a certificate and gift.

The 2017 Rural Libraries Conference will take place on September 21 and 22 at the Pomeroy Hotel and Conference Centre in Grande Prairie. Save the date!



Delegates listen to Kathy Archer's keynote presentation on Thursday.



Megan Hartline talks about library leadership in her Friday keynote.



The food was a hit—thanks to the Pomeroy's staff for their hard work!

By the Numbers:

First Time Attendees:	55 of 153 delegates = 36%
School Library Staff:	16 of 153 delegates = 11%
Trustees & Councilors:	31 of 153 delegates = 20%
Public Library Staff:	101 of 153 delegates = 66%
Other:	5 of 153 delegates = 3%
PLS Member Libraries:	32 of 153 delegates = 86%
Non-Member Libraries:	21 of 153 delegates = 14%



#ReadFor15

Sylvan Lake Municipal Library has once again challenged Alberta libraries to a reading competition!

The 2017 #Readfor15 challenge is gearing up for its second year and is reaching out to public libraries across the country for Canada's 150th birthday. The idea is to get as many of your local population as possible to read for 15 minutes on Family Literacy Day, which is on January 27th, and to add up your numbers to become the winning reading community in 2017.

Your library will tally the people who've reported reading their fifteen minutes, divide that number by the population of your community, and multiply by 100 to get the percentage and report it via an online form which will be sent out in January. The community with the greatest percentage of population reading for 15 minutes on January 27 will be the winner.

Please consider using your social media accounts on platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with the hashtag #ReadFor15 followed by your community name, eg. #ReadFor15Hythe. That way we can watch the idea spread and trend throughout the province.

This is a great opportunity to engage your community in a reading challenge... and to show off what a great job your library does at promoting literacy! Libraries love a little healthy competition, after all.

For more ideas and to see what other libraries are doing with the #Readfor15 challenge, check out the Facebook page that's been set up at www.facebook.com/Readfor15Canada150. There, you can message the administrator for access to a Google Docs account where the organisers will be storing more info and various promotional materials.



Family Literacy Day
Inspiring families to learn together.

Peace Library System's events calendar

peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/calendar

Family Literacy Day

January 27, 2017

PLS Executive Committee Meeting

Fairview

February 25, 2017, 10:30 am

Freedom to Read Week

February 26-March 4, 2017

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, 2016, 10:30 am

Alberta Library Conference

Jasper Park Lodge

April 27-30, 2017

Public Library Meeting

PLS Headquarters

May 8, 2017, 10:00 am

