



NEWS & Notes

PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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VOL. 29 ISS. 4

WINTER 2017

Merry Christmas

From Your PLS Headquarters Staff!



Standing (left to right): Dennis Sheppard; Rose-Marie Finch; Janet Ayles; Karen Van der Woerd; Dorothy Tay-Ellingboe; Fred Richard; Emma Stewart; Tora Volkers; Cliff Lesh; Samantha Mercer.

Seated (left to right): Linda Duplessis; Alrene Dempster; Rae Weniger; Katherine Wiebe; Janet Schultz.

Absent: Kim Byard; Sheri Goff; Wendy Hodges; Julia Little.



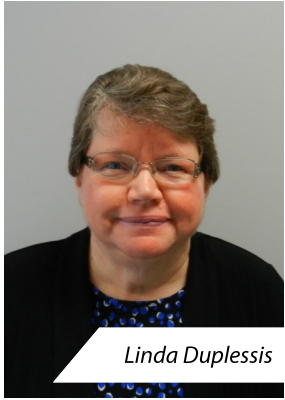
In Memoriam: Carol Downing

1948 – 2017

Carol was a dedicated teacher and teacher-librarian who joined PLS staff in 2005. She served as Technical Services Manager and later as Assistant Director until the time of her passing on May 15, 2017. Over the years, she made important contributions to PLS and to the Alberta library community. Carol was our valued friend and colleague, and we miss her.

Though she is missing from our 2017 staff photo, she is—and always will be—part of PLS.

>> 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. The pre-conference Blanket Exercise and the presentations by Richard Van Camp were thought-provoking and will help move us forward in the reconciliation process. Thanks to Emma Stewart for coordinating a great conference, and to other staff who helped make it a success.

Senior Manager Updates

I'm pleased to report two new appointments at the senior management level. Janet Ayles has been appointed to the new position of IT and Technical Services Manager effective November 1, 2017. She will oversee both the IT Services and Technical Services areas, which she has been doing in an acting capacity since May.

Katherine Wiebe, Consulting Services Manager, has been appointed as Assistant Director effective November 15, 2017. In this capacity, Katherine will take on responsibility for Peace Library System operations in the absence of the Director and will participate more fully in policy development, strategic planning, and the budgetary process.

I am pleased to have Janet and Katherine take on these new roles, and I know they will fulfill their new responsibilities extremely well.

General Library Awareness Marketing Campaign

Following the colorful and catchy back-to-school "Get Going at Your Local Library" campaign, we will be providing library staff with some general promotional images and ideas to be used year-round. These are now available on the PLS website for your use.

Early in 2018 we will roll out a new campaign where we will focus on the "library without walls" concept, and specific services you can get 24/7.

Library Services for Our Indigenous Neighbours

While the focus of last year's Indigenous Populations Grant funding was on general awareness, education, and region-wide initiatives, the focus of this year's grant has been on building collections and implementing library-specific initiatives to reach out to and attract Indigenous patrons. Libraries have spent about \$60,000 on excellent materials for their collections. This includes a wide range of titles for children, teens and adults. Seventeen libraries applied for funding for special projects or programs. These include special summer events, early literacy initiatives, Indigenous art work, Indigenous artifacts, books, recording elders' stories, and programs such as beading, hand drums, dream catchers, quilting and the blanket exercise. We funded readings by Métis author, storyteller and artist, Aaron Paquette in three locations across the region. We are in the process of building book blocks to lend to libraries and will be adding to our eBook collection.

Samm Mercer and Emma Stewart will be attending a meeting of Indigenous Liaison people from across the province in early December. A meeting of our own library advisory committee will be held in early 2018 to discuss progress and next steps.

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

2017 GILLER PRIZE SHORTLIST

These five novels made the 2017 Scotiabank Giller Prize shortlist and contended for the \$100,000 literary prize.

Transit by Rachel Cusk

Minds of Winter by Ed O'Loughlin

Bellevue Square by Michael Redhill

Son of a Trickster by Eden Robinson

I Am a Truck by Michelle Winters

This year's winner was **Bellevue Square**, announced at the gala on November 20.



THE NEW YORK TIMES BEST ILLUSTRATED CHILDREN'S BOOKS OF 2017

Muddy: The Story of Blues Legend Muddy Waters by Michael Mahin, illustrated by Evan Turk

Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos by Monica Brown, illustrated by John Parra

On a Magical Do-Nothing Day written and illustrated by Beatrice Alemagna

Plume written and illustrated by Isabelle Simler

Ruth Bader Ginsburg: The Case of R.B.G. vs. Inequality by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Stacy Innerst

The Way Home in the Night written and illustrated by Akiko Miyakoshi

Town Is By the Sea by Joanne Schwartz, illustrated by Sydney Smith

A River written and illustrated by Marc Martin

King of the Sky by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Laura Carlin

Feather written and illustrated by Rémi Courgeon



>> 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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Emma Stewart

Rae Weniger

Katherine Wiebe

"It is December, and nobody asked if I was ready." — Sarah Kay, poet

Or in the infamous words of Dr. Seuss, "How did it get so late so soon?"

December is upon us, and it does seem like the year has flown by! The Consulting Department has had a busy year.

Consulting Visits

Emma, Samm, and Katherine have completed annual consulting visits to our public libraries. Orientation visits to new school librarians and annual consulting visits to schools with the Core package have recently been added to the Consulting Department's duties. Katherine and Emma look forward to getting to know our school librarians better in the New Year!

Stats Gathering

If you haven't done so already, now is the time for public libraries to gather some "typical week" statistics for the annual report to the Public Services Branch. The Annual Report to the Branch is due the end of February, but you need to gather your statistics in the 2017 year. If you are uncertain what statistics you need to gather, give Katherine a call or drop her an email. Katherine will provide one-to-one webinar training for new library managers (and refreshers to others who want it) starting in late January and throughout February to walk you through accessing and completing the annual report form.

New Storytime Kits

We have brand new Storytime Kits (ages 2-3) ready for public library programmers to borrow! We've created 20 themed programs-in-a-box containing books, puppets, and various tactile objects (and some have storyboard flannels) that your little patrons will love. Each kit includes a binder of songs, rhymes, activities, crafts, and colouring pages to help staff coordinate several weeks of storytime on a theme. We also have Storytime Kits for ages 4-6 programming. For more information and to request a kit from Rae, check out our webpage at www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/storytimekits.

Christmas Blocks

If you haven't requested a Christmas block of books yet – they include a mix of Christmas fiction and crafts and activities for adults and children – give Rae a call or email and she'll be happy to send one out to you. More information is available at www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/RotatingBlocks.

Lynda.Com

We've recently added Lynda.com to our lineup of great eResources. Lynda allows patrons to take online learning courses on a variety of subjects at their own pace. It is great for those trying to find a career path, job retraining and doing professional development. Your patrons can access Lynda from your library website under the eResources link. Samm is providing lots of training and help on all our eResources. Check back in January for scheduled webinars at www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/calendars-and-schedules or give her a call if you need help with an eResource or device.

TD Summer Reading Club

Now for a mindbender! Planning for the 2018 TD Summer Reading Club is already underway! The theme chosen for the 2018 national club is 'feed your passions' and will focus on "What fires your spirit, excites your mind and influences your choices?" The program will help kids find and explore their passions, and encourage them to share their delight with others along the way. Canadian author and illustrator Anne Villeneuve (the Loula books) has been chosen to illustrate the theme. Please be thinking about your participation in the 2018 TD Summer Reading Club. Katherine and Rae will be contacting you in late January to get the ball rolling. For more, check out <http://staff.tdsommerreadingclub.ca/staff/news/articles/218>.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays from the Consulting Department!

Katherine Wiebe, Emma Stewart, and Samantha Mercer

>> Searching with Sherlock

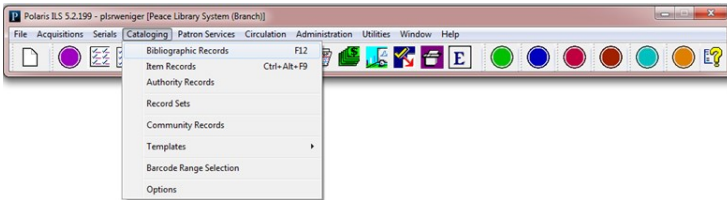


Rae Weniger

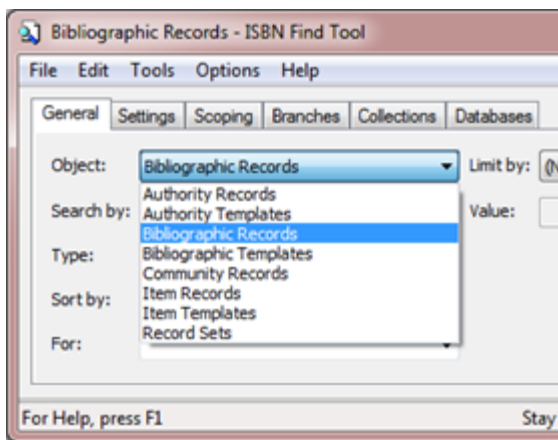
Searching (and finding) in Polaris

Hello everyone! Here begins the first in a multi-part series on searching the Polaris Database!

First for some basics:

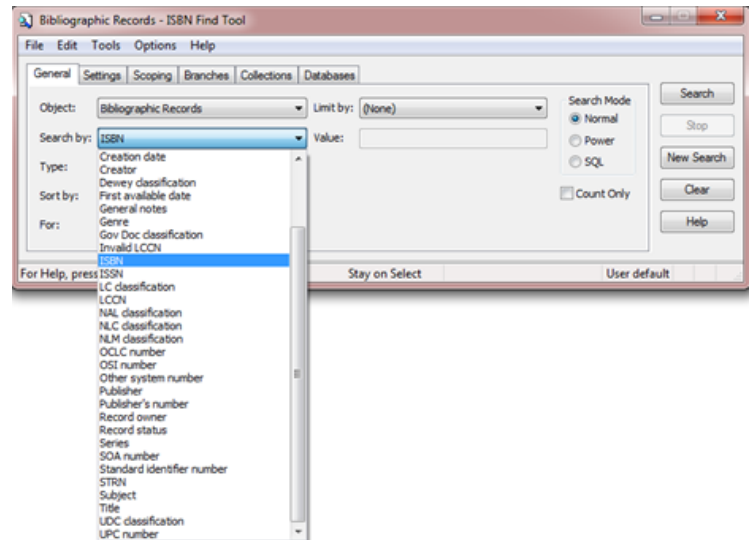


1. Open "Find Tools". In the Cataloguing drop down list, the top five choices on the list open find tools. These have pre-set defaults by Polaris with the Choice name identifying the pre-set object of your search. If you open a Bibliographic Record Find tool, you can change the object of your search to any of the following:



Explore the Object drop downs on the "Find Tools" launched on the other drop down menus under Patron Services and Circulation. All the "Find Tools" are named by the "Object" of the search + the value in the "Search By" field. The Object defines what you are looking for and the "Search By field" tells the tool how to find it.

2. In this Bibliographic Record Find Tool, you can read in the top left corner HOW you want to search, or you can see that default value (ISBN) in the "Search By" field.



This field also has a drop down list so you can ask the find tool to look for the object of your search in a myriad of ways. Note the scroll bar on the side of the list: More than meets the eye!

3. Note the tabs (like index cards in a recipe box) running along the top of the find tool: General, Settings, Scoping, Branches, Collections and Databases. Two of these (Branches and Collections) can be of great use to you! For example, choosing just your branch on the first tab (after "unselecting "ALL") is a very useful parameter. Watch for it in future lessons in this series!

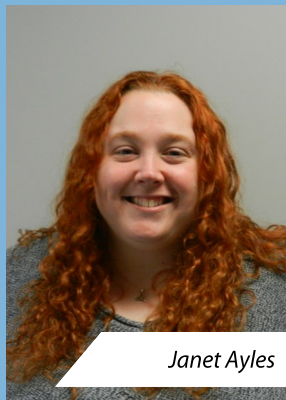
4. Finally, there is an important set of key strokes to learn before we begin: The Control key, the Shift key and the letter A key, held down simultaneously. This combination is called "the Karate Chop" and is essential for large searches. Sometimes your search results in one object being found, but in this enormous database, sometimes the result of your search is a big list, not all of which can be displayed or sorted in the Find Tool window.

Watch for Searching with Sherlock in 2018! Merry Christmas, everyone, and happy, happy new year!

Rae Weniger



>> Tech Services Tidbits



Janet Ayles

Christmas is close and the end to our fiscal year is even closer.

In order to wrap up Acquisitions and prepare for year-end rollover in Polaris, the last date for orders in 2017 is November 29th. Any orders that come in after that date will be processed in 2018 when the PLS reopens.

Although Acquisitions will wrap up early, Cataloguing will continue up until we close for the holidays. Items will still be catalogued and processed and sent out to your library.

We are expecting a busy winter in Tech Services as we face the upcoming renovations at PLS. Things will be a bit chaotic as we move all of Tech Services around, but we are going to do our best to make sure this has minimal impact on getting your items out to you.

Janet Ayles

Tech Services Manager

You will have a bit more time on vouchers, but they do need to be received here at PLS by December 11th in order to be entered for 2017. Anything coming in after that will be processed in the New Year.

>> Into the Future



Fred Richard

With a new year come new goals, new expectations, and Windows 10!

We will be moving towards Windows 10 beginning with staff at headquarters who need new computers (they can be our testers) and then gradually out to public libraries when they purchase new computers. Anyone currently using Windows 7 will continue to do so until a new computer has been purchased to replace the current one. We will also be transitioning into Office 2016 which is very similar to Office 2010—just with some updates and added features.

Many new computers came through my office this year to be set up, which is terrific as many were getting up there in age at our libraries. Newer computers have been coming with more memory (RAM) which allows for the computer to process things faster and move more seamlessly from web page to web page. At times, my office looked like a warehouse, but that is great as it means lots of old computers were being recycled. They had lived a good long life, in many instances!

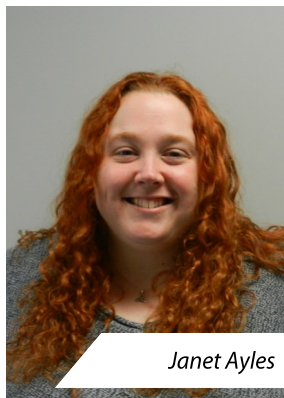
Moving forward, I am working on a master inventory for all the libraries so that I can easily keep track of the age of technology and when someone needs to know what needs to be replaced I can quickly respond from my spreadsheet. That being said, after all the ordering done this year there may not be a whole lot left to replace for a year or two... which is great, but I am always available to help and provide guidance when you are purchasing new equipment be it computers, monitors, printers, etc. As always feel free to reach out to me via helpdesk ticket, email or phone call depending on the question or the urgency of the matter.

Wishing everyone a very happy holiday season!

Fred Richard

Desktop & Network Administrator

>> From the IT Desk



Janet Ayles

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

It is mid-November and Christmas is getting closer every day. So if your library will be closing at all during the holidays, please send an email to helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca

letting us know. One of us will ensure that Polaris is updated

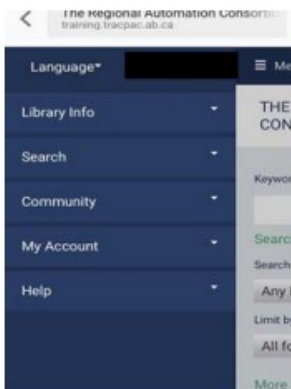
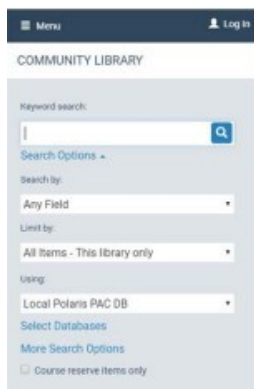
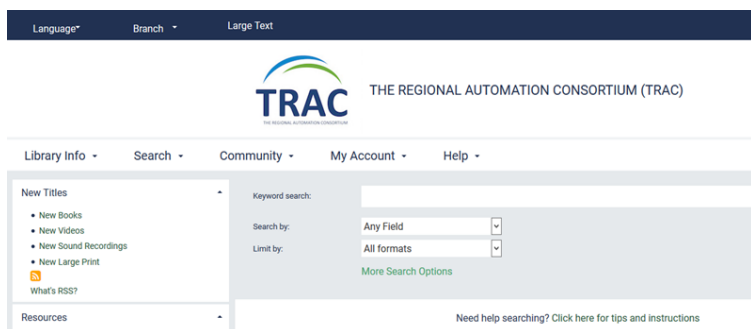
with those dates so your patrons get due dates that work with your Christmas schedule and no incorrect late fines.



Polaris 5.6

The new version of Polaris will come with a few new features. There are no major changes

to the Polaris staff client in this version, with most of the changes centred around TRACpac or Leap. In TRACpac, the look is a bit different with a much more responsive design (way better for you mobile users). Leap comes with the ability to create and delete record sets and item records. Log in and check out the new features!



ME Libraries

ME Libraries has been repaired and is working properly again. We have been able to do some pre-testing before the upgrade to Polaris 5.6 and have determined that there will be no interruption of service.



Help Desk

Please submit any non-critical problems to the helpdesk. The helpdesk can be reached by email at helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca or via the website at help.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

If you are experiencing a critical problem, please call us directly (after hours, please reach out to the Afterhours support at YRL – 1-877-452-8722). Critical problems can be defined as:

- errors when searching TRACpac
- unable to login to Polaris
- errors when checking items out to a patron
- if you can't connect to the internet (YRL staff might not be able to help with the internet and you may have to wait for PLS staff).



Did You Know?

Your patrons are able to get their notifications in so many different ways. The traditional print notices and email notices are turned on for your patrons by default. However, there is the option to turn on telephony. Telephony gives your patrons the option to receive automated telephone notices or even text messages. Notices for holds and overdue items can be delivered directly to your patron's cell phone! If you have any questions about telephony or would like to have it turned on, please let me know.

Janet Ayles
IT Services Manager

>> From Grande Prairie Public Library

Try Something New

by Jacob Fehr, Head of Children's & Teen Services, Grande Prairie Public Library

A few years back I made a small sign to put up next to my computer. It consisted of a clip art hamburger with the caption "There are no sacred cows in libraries. Try something new."



I guarantee some of the library staff members reading that statement thought "Wait a minute! What about intellectual freedom? What about patron privacy?" Others probably worried about the prospect of library users eating and drinking at the public computer and what constant keyboard replacement would do to their limited technology budgets.

Okay, both of those concerned readers are right, but the point of my sign remains. Sometimes the habits that bind libraries and their staff members are stronger than the glue that binds pages into the books on our shelves. "We've always done things this way" isn't good enough anymore. Not when the world has changed around libraries. What's more, we can no longer allow fear to guide our program offerings.

Simply put, it can be scary to start a new program when you're not completely confident in your skill level. But take heart. There are a number of factors working in your favour.

The first factor is the Clarke Effect. Arthur C. Clarke once noted that any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic. In my experience the same can be said regarding skill. Just so long as you're more skilled than the people you're

instructing, you'll seem to be an expert regardless of your actual skill level. I'm an average juggler, painter, coder, and origami folder, but I've been able to successfully run programs in all four areas simply because I knew more than the attendees. A professional juggler would laugh at my skill level, but to someone who has only ever tried to juggle two balls, my ability to keep four in the air for a minute is amazing.

The second factor is related to the first. Library staff members can (and should) use phrases like "for beginners" and "the basics" when necessary to describe programs. Those phrases help set reasonable expectations for attendees and indirectly ensure that the staff member running the program will be the most skilled individual in the room.

Time constraints also help in a strange way. As long as you have a polished complete item to show off as an example when the program begins, attendees will forgive a lesser version you produce as a demonstration during the program itself. After all, you're splitting your time between instructing and producing your own item – what can they expect when you only had half the time to produce your own? The attendees don't need to know that your example displayed at the beginning of the program was your seventh attempt and that it took you six hours to create.

To sum up, I strongly encourage you to watch YouTube, explore Pinterest, and consider bringing your hobbies into your libraries. Teach a nail art class, build mini catapults, paint landscapes, or even play some video games.

Look out your library's windows and think of something new to try. I bet you won't see any sacred cows nearby.



>> Spotlight On: Lynda.com!

Peace Library System is very proud to now be able to offer **Lynda.com** free for your library patrons!

We know many people in our region are looking to upgrade their skills and explore new workforces, and Lynda.com gives patrons access to thousands of expert-led video tutorials on specific job tasks, careers, software, and other helpful topics. The catalogue of videos is being updated daily so patrons get up-to-date information. Lynda.com is available on a browser for online access, a desktop app for offline access, a mobile app for offline access and a Smart TV app for online access.

This resource can be suggested to anyone: employed patrons looking for professional development, unemployed individuals needing to train or retrain for jobs, stay-at-home parents returning to the workforce, teens and adults looking into post-secondary life and even those lifelong learners!



Samantha Mercer

These are just some of the tutorials available to watch through Lynda.com:

A	B	C	D
Feb	Mar	1st Q	Apr
\$26,055	\$22,856	\$ 78,040	\$46,044

Excel 2013 Essential Training with Dennis Taylor
Teaches you the basics of using Excel 2013 to enter and org charts and PivotTables.
6h 32m ■■■ Appropriate for all Views: 10,409,311



Customer Service Foundations with Jeff Toister
Make your customers feel valued. Learn how to deliver outstanding customer service.
1h 57m ■■■ Beginner Views: 1,796,188



COURSE
Learning Facebook with Jess Stratton
Learn how to use Facebook, the popular social network, in this easy course.
● Set up a new Facebook account (4m 5s)
● Manage and delete your Facebook account (2m 15s)
● Fill out your Facebook profile (6m 39s)
+ Show More

Become a Film Producer

Discover what it takes to bring film and video productions to life as a film producer. Whether you are a creative or business professional, learn how to start a film company and manage all aspects of filming, production, and post.

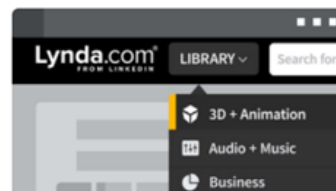
Master the fundamentals of video production and the editing process. **Discover** best practices for budgeting and location scouting. **Learn** effective project management techniques for creative projects.

[Start learning](#) [Preview the first video](#)

Part of your Lynda.com membership.

Video players on a browser include a table of contents, the ability to bookmark sections, the ability to take notes and timestamp those notes to the video. Each video has a transcript that is searchable and that lights up as the video works its way through the text. You can adjust the play speed of the video, add closed captions, and even create a reminder extension for your Google, Outlook, Apple or Yahoo calendars to make sure you stay on track with your learning.

Make sure to watch the tutorial "How To Use Lynda.com" to see everything this resource offers!



COURSE
How to use Lynda.COM with Lynda.com Staff
Make the most of your Lynda.com membership. Learn how to use bookmarks, playlists, notes, transcripts, certificates of completion.
1h 21m ■■■ Beginner Views: 2,154,175 [See Related Courses](#)

Patrons can create their own playlists of videos to watch, they can follow playlists curated by Lynda.com, or they can follow Learning Paths. Learning Paths are dedicated to a specific career and job title so patrons can work their way through tutorials that teach them the skills they need to have in order to succeed in the field! These paths include certificates that you can link and share to your social media accounts, including LinkedIn.

Webinars were also hosted in October to introduce staff to this resource and the recordings along with the manual, presentation, brochure and poster are all available on the Peace Library System website under the Training Toolkit. To customize the brochure and poster with your branding, find the templates on LibraryAware.

Make sure to let all library staff and patrons know about this fantastic new resource!

lynda.com

Around the System...

In *Game of Thrones* as in real life, winter is here... so here's your update on what happened 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!

McLennan Municipal Library

Thanks to the Indigenous Grant, McLennan Municipal Library was able to start an after-school program. Here is some STEM fun with littleBits.

We also have two #1000BooksB4K updates. Super congrats! Not even two years old yet, and Miss Charley from McLennan Municipal Library has had 600 books read to her – well on her way to 1000! And our very first to make it to 1000 books just came in last week to collect her book prize and pose for a photo. Congratulations, Miss Melodie!

—Submitted by Maureen Fisher, McLennan Municipal Library



Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library

Another successful Haunted House at the Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library! 412 community members enjoyed the annual event!

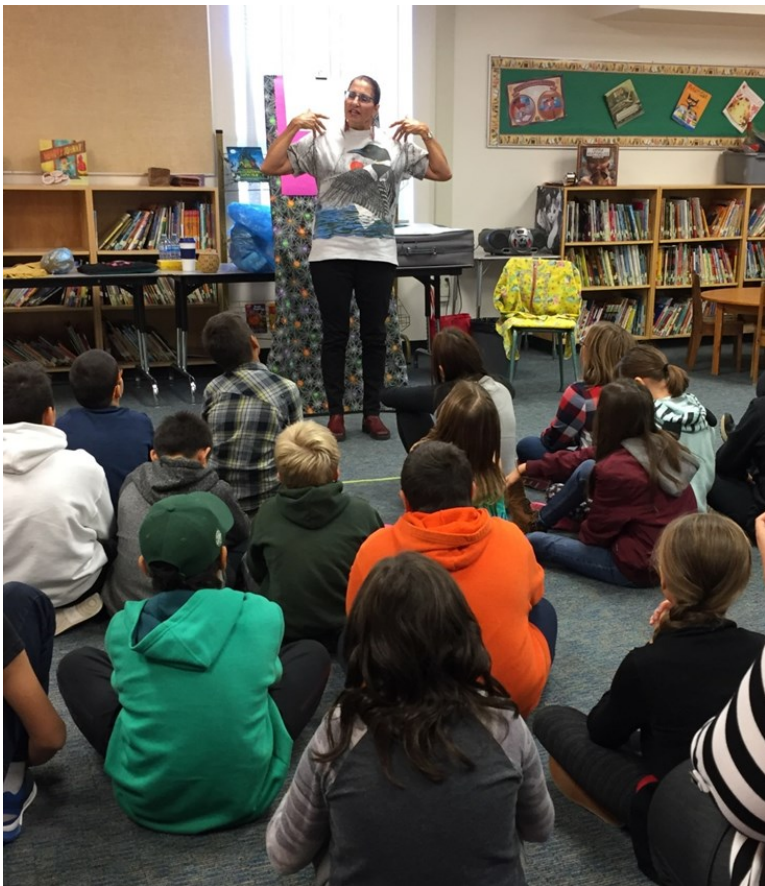
—Submitted by Kendra McRee, Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library



Kinuso Municipal Library

There's been a lot happening in Kinuso this fall!

—Submitted by Susan Moody, Kinuso Municipal Library



More from around the *System*...

Grimshaw Municipal Library

After a very hectic summer moving in to our new location, we're super busy with an average of 125 people a day. We're getting used to the high school students dropping in on their spares, and the junior high students are able to come in either during their lunch hour, or when the teacher sees they need a new book for silent reading time in the classroom. After school is even busier than it was, and we notice more weekend traffic already. We've survived a couple Open Houses too.

We're settling in with our Book Buddies, Little Learners and Seniors Tea programs, and will gradually increase our public programming, likely offering even more than we were in our previous location. Everyone loves the new space!

—Submitted by Linda Chmilar, Grimshaw Municipal Library



Fox Creek Municipal Library

We had a wonderful celebration of art, culture and creativity on Saturday Sept. 30 in Fox Creek with Ryan Cook of Saw Dogs and Carver Kings carving a beautiful piece for us, a mother fox and her baby. What started out as a 4 ft. cedar log ended up a lovely carving done on site with an audience all afternoon. Ryan came with his sponsored trailer with 23 chain saws and numerous other carving tools to produce the carving we now have in the library in Fox Creek.

With 20 art activities for children, teens and adults our crowd had some terrific experiences including making Bannock, Dream Catchers, a large Lego flag, pebble and sea pictures, and acrylic paintings. We saw a large turnout from the community and further afield.

—Submitted by Leslie Ann Sharkey, Fox Creek Municipal Library



Peace River Municipal Library

Peace River Municipal Library held its first Murder Mystery Night as part of our biweekly Tabletop Gamers on October 26th! As an extra surprise there were TWO victims and therefore TWO murders to find. Those who did not wish to join the party picked from our board and card game collection for more traditional fun.

—Submitted by Beverly Shewchuk, Peace River Municipal Library

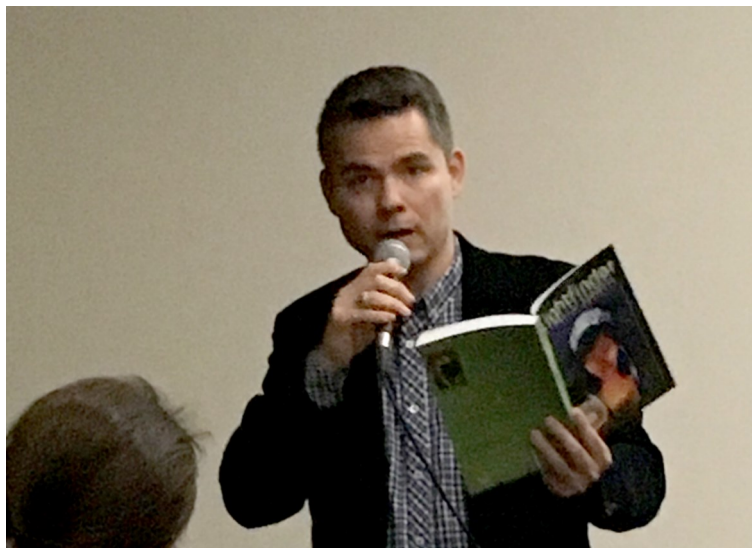


>> Author Tour

Aaron Paquette

October 18-20, 2017

This year's Author Tours were a little different as we invited author, artist, and now Edmonton city councillor Aaron Paquette to do afternoon/evening author talks aimed towards adults in three locations. All the visits were a success with between 30 and 50 people at each event and there was great engagement from the public. It was also great to see Lesser Slave Lake MLA the Hon. Danielle Larivee come to the event at the Slave Lake library!



>> Board Service Award

At the September board meeting, board member Lorrie Shelp of Big Lakes County was honoured for 25 years of service on the Peace Library Board (pictured right with board chair Veronica Bliska).

We thank you for all your service and hard work on behalf of Peace Library System!



>> Rural Libraries Conference

Our annual conference took place at the Pomeroy Hotel and Conference Centre on September 21 and 22, 2017. Keynote speakers Richard Van Camp and Monique Woroniak were very well received, and a number of helpful sessions were offered for public and school librarians and trustees. We also hosted a pre-conference session on the Blanket Exercise at PLS headquarters, which was very insightful for library staff. We hope that you learned a lot during the conference and you came away inspired.

Peace Library System would like to congratulate the winners of the 2017 Excellence in Library Service Awards, Beaverlodge Public Library and Elmworth Community Library. The award winners were announced on September 21 at the Conference.

The 2018 Rural Libraries Conference will take place on September 20 and 21 at the Pomeroy Hotel and Conference Centre in Grande Prairie. Save the date!



Thanks to Our Sponsors...

United Library Services
CVS Midwest Tape

...and Donors!

Scholastic
Whitehots
Tim Hortons Allard Group
Mr Mike's Steakhouse
Baker and Taylor
Kids Can Press
Kobo
Rainbow Healing Publishing
Writer's Guild of Alberta
Book Publishers Association of Alberta
Grass Roots Press
A&W
Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory
Canadian Tire

Congrats to Elmworth and Beaverlodge for their Excellence in Library Service Awards!



Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Library Service

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.

There is a maximum of four awards granted each year. Awards are granted to the board of the library or system board delivering the service being recognized. The recipients will be determined based on their demonstrated example of excellence and/or innovation in delivering library services. The service under consideration for an award must respond to documented community needs, preferably as specified in a plan of service based on a community needs assessment.

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 YOU Libraries Award will be voted on by Albertans through an online vote. A website showcasing all eligible nominations will be provided to assist Albertans in making their choice.

Nominations will open on **December 1, 2017**, and the submission deadline is **February 23, 2018**. YOU Libraries voting will open at 10:00 a.m. (MST) on March 19, 2018 and close at 4:30 p.m. (MST) on March 23, 2018.

Nomination forms and additional details will be available at albertalibraries.ca.

Winners will be notified by early April 2018 and announced at the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper from April 26 - 29, 2018.

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

Peace Library System's events calendar

peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/calendar

Family Literacy Day

January 27, 2018

PLS Executive Committee Meeting

Location TBA

February 24, 2018, 10:30 am

Freedom to Read Week

February 25-March 3, 2018

PLS Board Meeting

PLS Headquarters

March 24, 2018, 10:30 am

Library Managers' Council Meeting

PLS Headquarters

April 16, 2018; 10:30 am

PLS Executive Committee Meeting

Location TBA

April 21, 2018, 10:30 am

Alberta Library Conference

Jasper Park Lodge

April 26-29, 2018

Public Library Meeting

PLS Headquarters

May 7 2018, 10:00 am

