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Merry Christmas



Back row, left to right: Rose-Marie Finch, Dennis Sheppard, Jen Anderson, Janet Ayles, Andrew Tejero, Cliff Lesh, Sheri Leeson, Katherine Wiebe, Tora Volkers, Carol Downing, Danielle Bendtsen. *Seated, left to right:* Janet Schultz, Alrene Dempster, Linda Duplessis, Rae Weniger, Dorothy Tay-Ellingboe. *Not pictured:* Wendy Hodgson, Julia Little and Karen Van der Woerd.

Welcome to Andrew Tejero, our New Network Analyst



PLS is pleased to welcome Andrew Tejero on board as our new Network Analyst. After three months without this level of technical support in place, it will be wonderful to have Andrew in place to deal with hardware, software and network issues.

Andrew has several years of experience as a network and telecommunications administrator, IT consultant and computer technician. Over the years, he has been a computer support technician at the College of New

Caledonia and a network/telecom administrator at the University of Northern B.C., both in Prince George. He has also been an installation and repair technician for TELUS, and provided support for wireless systems and network devices. He has recently been working on the City of Grande Prairie's mobile broadband access project.

Andrew enjoys working with people and brings strong customer service skills to his role at PLS. He has travelled in our region to build, repair and maintain IP radio systems for the oil and gas sector, so he is not afraid to travel extensively to meet with you. He looks forward to providing you with expert assistance for your IT needs.

From the Director

By Linda Duplessis, Director, Peace Library System



It has been a busy fall with the conference, author tours and system meetings. Added to that was the excitement of the municipal elections (which always have an impact on Peace Library System's board composition), and the challenge of being without a Network Analyst for three months. We

survived those three months with help from other PLS staff, from our TRAC partners, and from Grande Prairie Public Library's Dustin Walker. Many thanks to all of those who pitched in. In terms of the election, I've provided an update on the impact of the municipal elections and other provincial initiatives below.

It was great to see so many of you at the Rural Libraries Conference. We had an excellent turn-out and many inspirational workshops. For the first time ever, we offered a pre-conference session. *Dare to Program* was well-attended and received great reviews. We know that many people went back to their libraries and tried some of the ideas that were discussed – which was our goal. Happy programming, everyone!

PLS Board After the Municipal Elections

The PLS Board will welcome 14 new board members at its November 30, 2013 meeting. With a board of 39 people, that's a 36 percent change in board composition and it will mean lots of orientation planning in the days to come. We are fortunate that our Executive Committee, which meets in between board meetings, is largely intact. Seven dedicated Executive Committee members will be returning and will provide much-needed continuity.

Alberta-Wide Borrowing

Many of you may have heard the term "Alberta-Wide Borrowing." It is defined in the *Public Library Network Policy* that was approved by Alberta Municipal Affairs in December 2012, and is now becoming a reality. The **ME Initiative**, as it is being called, will mean that patrons will be able to use their local library card at any public library in Alberta that is part of the provincial network. Patrons will sign up online for the library or libraries they want to visit, will be authenticated online, and will be able to borrow from that library as a local user. There will be no need to create a new patron account or assign a new barcode at the library being visited, and there will be much fewer restrictions than with the current TAL card (However, the TAL card will still be needed to borrow from college and university libraries). The ME Initiative will be implemented across the province over

the next few months and we will keep you posted as to when TRAC patrons can take advantage of this service.

Changes at The Alberta Library (TAL)

An initiative called the Alberta Public Library Network (APLEN) was created in 1997 in partnership with the Government of Alberta. APLEN became a program under the TAL umbrella to support the public library network, including licensing, training and program support for libraries.

This changed in October, 2013, after the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) of Alberta Municipal Affairs underwent a results-based budgeting review. The PLSB pulled the public library network and technology services from under TAL's umbrella back into its department. PLSB will be maintaining the same level of funding and will be putting a structure in place to support public library technology initiatives. In the meantime, the transition from TAL to PLSB management of the services has created some short-term challenges such as uncertainty about government subsidies for electronic resources. These should be addressed in Municipal Affairs' 2014-2015 operating budget.

New TAL Online

With funding from the PLSB, this fall TAL launched a rejuvenated TAL Online. This is the place to go to borrow resources from colleges, universities and public libraries that are not part of The Regional Automation Consortium (TRAC). The new site is much more user-friendly and dynamic than the previous one, and TAL has received a lot of positive feedback. It is an excellent tool for public library patrons to find the resources they want from almost any library in Alberta.

Fort Vermilion Library and Polaris

Due to the implementation of the provincial *Public Library Network Policy* and the decision by Mackenzie County not to join Peace Library System (PLS), the contract with Fort Vermilion Community Library to use Polaris and participate in the provincial ILL network will cease at the end of 2013. This means that the Fort Vermilion library will no longer be using Polaris or VDX to access materials from TRAC or from other libraries in the province. The Mackenzie County Library Board will instead be automating its three libraries – Fort Vermilion, La Crete, and Zama City – along with school libraries in the Fort Vermilion School Division, on the same ILS to improve resource sharing within the County boundaries.

System News Bits

- **Tracy Deets** is now the manager of the **Beaverlodge Public Library**. This summer she took over from Scheli Longson, who moved to Ontario.
- **Sylvia Gula** has returned as the library manager for **Menno-Simons Community Library**. She replaces Tina Fehr, who accepted another position at the school. **Geraldine Warr** has been hired as the school media specialist.
- **Chelsea Burge** (right) has replaced Chloe Leptich at **Rainbow Lake Municipal Library**. Chloe has left to go to college.
- **Annette Peacock** is the new library manager at **Woking Municipal Library**.
- Cayley Cartwright of **Dixonville Community Library** is now **Cayley Russell**. Congratulations on your wedding this summer!
- **Lisa Deering** is the new library manager at **Red Earth Public Library**, replacing Heidi Short, who left for another job.



Remembering Bonnie Bigam

By Colleen Rook, Library Manager, Worsley & District Library

It all began with a strong desire to promote literacy, \$2.00 and a lot of door knocking. If it were not for the tremendous efforts put forward by **Bonnie Bigam**, it is very likely that we would not have a library in Worsley today. Bonnie was determined that we were going to have a library one way or another and put her heart and soul into making this dream come true. She, and then school librarian, Janet Guy, each put in \$1.00, opened a bank account, knocked on doors, and Worsley and District Library was born.



Bonnie was a major part of our library, both in her role as Library Chairperson and as an avid reader. She fought long and hard, with at times incredible stubbornness, to ensure that our community had a library to enjoy. Bonnie had been a constant force in the library since its "birth" in the late 80's. She had crossed many hurdles and always took pride in the fact that not only did we serve the needs of our community, but also those of the school in which our library is housed.

Bonnie was a long-time resident of Worsley and took pride in doing what she could for the community, from being on the Recreation Board to being elected to Council. She was a force to be reckoned with as many have discovered, but very respected by those who came in contact with her.

Bonnie passed away on Wednesday, October 30th, 2013. She will be missed very much.

Bonnie was also the Clear Hills County representative on the Peace Library Board. She's pictured on the left receiving recognition for five years of service from Vice Chair Ray Skrepnek in 2012.



News & Notes

Your quarterly professional guide to news, services and connection with the staff at PLS.

How to contact us:

janderson@
peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca

Editor/Design:
Jen Anderson

Contributors in this issue:

Janet Ayles

Linda Chmilar

Kelly Dickinson

Kendra Doucette

Carol Downing

Linda Duplessis

Maureen Fisher

Janet Lemay

Susan Moody

Linda Prudholme-Warrior

Colleen Rook

Leslie Ann Sharkey

Katherine Wiebe

Janice Willsey

Rural Libraries Conference Review

"Your resources are always far greater than you imagine them to be.

Never ask, 'Can I do this?' Ask instead, 'How can I do this?'" - Dan Zadra

The 2013 Rural Libraries Conference encouraged delegates to dare to dream and to not limit what they do by thinking that things are beyond reach. As Dan Zadra says above, don't ask "can I do this?" ask, "how can I do this?" In many cases it will take some creativity, determination, and maybe even some sacrifice - but if it is important enough, there will be a way.

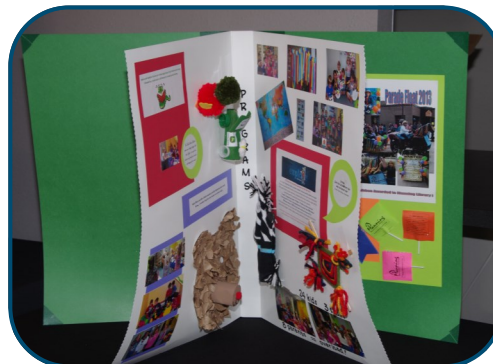
This year's conference marked several firsts: the first time we've offered a preconference session, the first year we've charged registration fees and the first time we've been able to offer an amazing 27 concurrent sessions.

Opening keynote speaker, scholar and educator **Dr. Philip McRae** (above), provided a fascinating look at the forces of global change and how it can relate to libraries. Our Friday keynote, **Ryan Blais**, spoke of how important the role of social media can be.



Dare to Program!, our preconference session, was also a resounding success! Participants first took part in a conversation café that had them thinking and speaking about programming, then they had the opportunity to explore a wide range of programming resources. Last, they had the opportunity to create and take away some actual passive programs - The Awesome Box and Shredded Book Contest (left).

Congratulations to **Stephanie Beyko** of **Jasper Municipal Library** for winning the early bird registration prize (a Kobo Glo donated by **Encana**), and to **Marny Twigge** of **NWT Centennial Library** in Hay River for winning the Exhibitor Bingo game. Her prize was a Blu-ray player donated by **CVS Midwest Tape**. Also, congratulations to **Manning Municipal Library** for winning the poster contest with their book inspired poster (right)! Their prize was a Fujifilm FinePix XP60 digital camera, also donated by **Encana**!



A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the conference - as a delegate, a speaker, a sponsor, or an exhibitor. Also, sincerest thanks to Doug Duplessis for volunteering his time throughout the conference to take photographs.

Save the dates for RLC 2014: September 25 and 26!

For more information about the upcoming conference, please visit

www.rurallibrariesconference.com

Excellence in Library Service Awards

Kathryn Black of the **Shannon Municipal Library** in Sexsmith, and **Janice Willsey** of **Helen E. Taylor School** in Wembley, were recognized for their outstanding work in public and school library service when they received the Excellence in Library Service awards for 2013. The awards were presented at the Rural Libraries Conference in Grande Prairie on September 26.



Kathy Black (left, with Peace Library Board Chair, Veronica Bliska) has lived in Sexsmith for over 20 years, the last 16 of which she has spent working in the Shannon Municipal Library. Since she began her position, Kathy has worked with three different library managers, each of whom introduced their own ideas and visions for the library. However, it has been Kathy who has brought the knowledge of the community and its residents to each library manager.

Kathy's abilities to deal with a vast array of personalities, remain calm and relaxed in even the most trying of situations, and her gift of putting people at ease and making them feel welcome, are what sets her apart. Board member and library patron Holly Handfield explains, "Kathy is approachable and friendly, and is always more than happy to help a library patron find materials...or simply chat with them about things that are going on. I appreciate her welcoming manner and truly believe that she is integral in the open atmosphere that the Shannon Library is known for."

Aside from her excellent communication skills, Kathy is artistic and creative. Her beautifully painted scenes on the window in the children's area change from season to season. Both young and old appreciate her art, and frequently comment on Kathy's talent. However, her creativity extends beyond artistic endeavors. Library Manager Sheryl Pelletier explains, "...the ability to bounce ideas around with Kathy has always resulted in improved ideas. Using feedback from her has resulted in well-planned programs that continue to grow and succeed." She further adds, "...every program that is run, every service that is improved, every action I take, has been tempered and improved by Kathy's input."

Holly Handfield summarized Kathy's contributions to the library, by stating, "Throughout the years, Kathy has been a constant at this library, and in addition to dealing with her everyday duties, she has often extended herself to go above and beyond – particularly in times of change or when there was a larger project on the go. From stepping up to be interim library manager when her leadership was needed, to training new staff, to annually looking after the parade float and to helping with miscellaneous seasonal library initiatives, Kathy has played a part of it all."

Janice Willsey (right) has been a loyal employee of the Peace Wapiti School District for 27 years and a long-term resident of Wembley, Alberta. In 1986, she began her career as an Educational Assistant at Helen E. Taylor School, and five years later she became the school librarian. At that time, the school was housed in two separate buildings. Janice would spend part of her day in the kindergarten to grade four building, and the remainder of her day in the grades five to nine building. Despite the complications of having to manage and provide services between the two separate buildings, Janice successfully met the needs of nearly four hundred students and staff members.

In 2006, the school separated. Children in kindergarten to grade four went to the newly founded Wembley Elementary School, while students in grades five to nine remained at Helen E. Taylor School. Lynda Miller, the Principal of Helen E. Taylor school and who nominated Janice, explains, "As part of this transition, Janice continued to demonstrate her dedication to the schools by volunteering to assist the new librarian hired at the other building...Janice would start her day at Wembley Elementary to assist the new librarian with an uncertain process, and still be at her desk on time at Helen E. Taylor School. This commitment to children, books, and library service is part of who Janice is."

Aside from her willingness to volunteer her time to her school and her community, Janice is a dedicated employee who seeks to assist staff and students with their various needs. Dawn Marie Balisky, who is a teacher at the school, states, "Janice's dedication makes the library a very user-friendly place to be. Janice will listen to staff and students to determine what is needed in the library as far as teacher resources, periodicals and reading material. Janice respects the library and teaches all of us to do the same through her kind and gentle manner."

In addition to working diligently to ensure that the library has the resources that staff and students need, Janice goes above and beyond by hosting authors at the school, researching authors for the "Writers in Residence" program, assisting with the rewriting of the school's discipline plan and anti-bullying policy, and regularly takes on other projects, such as creating vibrant bulletin boards on various topics, from local newspaper articles involving students to world issues. Principal Lynda Miller, who has worked with Janice for over 20 years, points out that, "Janice is extremely well respected by all of our students. They know 'Mrs. Willsey' as someone they can trust, and often go to her with requests to find just that 'one particular book'. Janice knows each student by name, the type of reading material they enjoy and is always willing to help them!"



Tech Services Tidbits

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



Winter has finally arrived and along with it come year end rollover activities for Acquisitions staff. As always, staff will be working hard to ensure that all orders get entered and sent to the vendors before the year end cut off. In order for them to accomplish this, **all orders from member libraries must be received at Peace Library System headquarters no later than November 29th at 4:00 p.m.** Orders received after that date will not be entered and sent to the vendors until January 2014. **All vouchers must be received at PLS headquarters no later than December 12th at 4:00 p.m.** Vouchers received after that date will not be entered and paid until January 2014. Your cooperation will ensure that year end activities are accomplished in a timely manner.

Technical Services staff are still missing **Julia Little** and **Karen Van der Woerd**, who are still recuperating

from injuries that happened earlier in the year. We anticipate they will both return early in 2014. In the meantime, we are thankful for the continued assistance of **Dennis Sheppard** in Cataloguing and **Danielle Bendtsen** in Acquisitions, who have worked hard to keep their areas running smoothly.

Member libraries seem to have adjusted to the newly revamped courier routes for the Tuesday and Thursday van runs, which allow our driver to reach more libraries during open hours, as well as shortening his day on the Tuesday route.

On June 19th Bill C-321 [An Act to Amend the Canada Post Corporation Act] received Royal Assent. This Bill enshrined the Library Book Rate into the Canada Post Corporation Act as well as extending it to non-print media materials. Bill C-321 offers libraries a way to reduce the cost of interlibrary loans and helps to provide equal access to materials for all Canadians in both remote rural and urban areas of Canada.



Congratulations to Patricia McNamee on her retirement!

After a 40 year career working with public libraries, 28 years of which were spent with the Public Library Services Branch, Pat McNamee retired this fall.

Pat's knowledge of the *Libraries Act*, policy and trustee roles and responsibilities were unparalleled, and she was a master of not just answering a question, but turning it into a teaching moment as she answered it.

At Peace Library System we were lucky to offer many, many sessions from Pat at the Rural Libraries Conference and she will definitely be missed!

2013 By the Numbers in the Peace Region!

Number of Patrons = 46,433

Number of New Patrons = 7,605

Number of Checkouts = 816,048

Number of Items Added = 66,745

Number of Holds Satisfied = 123,062

Number of Holds Placed = 59,300

From the IT Desk

By Janet Ayles, IT Services Manager, Peace Library System



Our New Network Analyst

We are pleased to welcome Andrew Tejero here at Peace Library System. Andrew joins us as our new Network Analyst. He brings with him several years of experience in network and telecom administration. Andrew will be a great addition to PLS and he will be happy to help you with any computer problems. As always, technical support is available through the helpdesk by emailing helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

Helpdesk

You can reach the IT department in many different ways – email, phone or the helpdesk. With so many different methods, it can be hard to tell which is the best method to reach us. If you are unable to login to Polaris, have no internet connection, or have an issue affecting check-in or check-out, then please call us. For smaller issues, requested changes, or inquiries, please submit a helpdesk ticket. Helpdesk tickets go to all members of the IT department, so you will get a much quicker response.

Christmas Hours

Christmas is coming very quickly and it can be easy to forget about things like changing hours at the library. However, if your library will be closed at all, it is important to let us know so that due dates and fines can be calculated properly. Please email any dates you are closed to helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

Telephony

All libraries are able to send notifications to their patrons via print letters and emails, but did you know that patrons have the ability to get notifications via telephone calls and text messages as well? Telephony is an additional notification method which is available to your library and can be enabled quickly and easily. Once telephony is enabled, patrons can receive automatic phone calls (or text messages) letting them know that they have holds available or overdue items. If you are interested in enabling telephony for your library, please send an email to the helpdesk at helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

Community Profiles

TRAC will be launching Community Profiles early in 2014. Community Profiles allows your library to distribute community information, and promote and share resources. Community Profiles is designed to be a community-led initiative. Your library will designate members from community groups to create information and event pages which will appear in the PAC. More information will be sent out in the New Year.



Fall Author Tour Wrap-up



In total, 23 readings were presented to 1,314 participants, and over 2,300 km were travelled.

Award-winning Alberta author **David Poulsen**, pictured on the left at St. Mary's School in Beaverlodge, performed 12 readings for 897 participants from October 7 to 10. Throughout his tour, he visited the communities of Beaverlodge, DeBolt/Ridgevalley, Elmworth, Fox Creek, Grande Prairie, Hythe, La Glace, Sexsmith, Valhalla, Valleyview and Wembley.

Up and coming author **Robert Feagan**, pictured on the right at Spirit of the North Middle School in High Level, performed 11 readings for 417 participants from October 7 to 10. Throughout his tour, he visited the communities of Dixonville, Eaglesham, Falher, High Level, Keg River, McLennan, Manning, Nampa, Paddle Prairie, Peace River & Rainbow Lake.



These fall author tours were sponsored by the **Young Alberta Book Society**, the **Alberta Foundation for the Arts** and **Peace Library System**.

A Note about Notes in Polaris

By Katherine Wiebe, Consulting Services Manager, Peace Library System

In August of 2012, Peace Library System libraries were given Polaris permissions to add damage notes into the item records of other TRAC libraries, so as to reduce the problems of taping paper damage notes to items or applying them with paper clips. Libraries within TRAC were instructed by their systems to use the **Free Text field** for entering damage notes, but some confusion arose, and other fields were used. The TRAC Public Service Group responded with a unified **Notes Procedure**, which was sent to Peace Library System libraries through PECANS on October 23, 2013.

In summary, transacting libraries may **ONLY** use the Free Text field of another library's item record. The Free Text field will pop up at circulation when the item is scanned. The remaining notes fields may only be used by the Owning library, and of those, the Public Notes field should be used very sparingly, as it displays in TRACpac.

When dealing with damaged items, please keep the TRAC Operational Guidelines in mind: Transacting libraries that receive an item damaged should note the damage in the Owning library's item record prior to checking the item out to their patron, IF the damage is minor and it is suitable to lend the item to the patron. Failure to note the damage before checking the item out to your patron will result in your patron being held responsible for the damage.

However, if the damage is more severe, such as a disk is missing from the set, pages are falling out, or the case is mangled, etc., note the damage in the Free Text field AND return the item to the Owning library so they can have a chance to fix it. Do not check the item out to your patron or forward it to the next library in the holds queue. If you have questions about this procedure please contact us.

Notes Procedure

Please make sure when adding a note into an item record that the note is necessary and in the appropriate spot. Below you will find a breakdown of the different note and block fields and what information is appropriate for each.

The screenshot displays the Polaris interface for item records. On the left, a vertical toolbar contains icons for various functions, with the 'Notes' icon (a notepad with a pencil) highlighted by a red box. The main interface is divided into several sections:

- Notice Dates:** Includes fields for Reminder, 1st overdue, 2nd overdue, 3rd overdue, Bill, and Hold.
- Blocks:** Includes a dropdown menu for Library assigned, currently set to (None).
- Notes:** A section on the right containing three text input fields: Public, Non-public, and Physical condition. This entire section is outlined with a red border.
- Free text:** A large text input field at the bottom, also outlined with a red border.
- System:** A field at the very bottom.

At the bottom of the window, a status bar displays "For Help, press F1" on the left and "NUM" on the right.

Public Notes

Only the owning library is permitted to enter comments in the public notes field and only if it will be helpful to the general public as any information entered in this field will appear on TRACpac for all patrons to see. No information that is already in the bibliographic record should be added to this field. Only pertinent information to patrons regarding the owning library's item should be placed in the public notes field. If the information applies to all items associated to the bib record it should not be entered in this field. Here are examples of suitable and unsuitable notes for the public notes field:

Suitable Public Notes:

- Map is missing from this book
- Workbook can be found on shelves under 722.538

Unsuitable Public Notes:

- Newbery award winner (this information applies to all the items in the bib record)
- Level 3 (this information would be better suited in the suffix field)
- Give to Bob for cleaning (this information can appear under free text or physical condition)
- Cover is ripped (damaged notes belong in the free text block field)
- Softcover (this information is in the bib record)
- Please give to John Smith (no patron information should appear in this field)
- 8 cds (this information can go in the free text block field)

This note field does not pop up in Polaris when the item is checked in or out.

Non-Public Notes

Only the owning library is permitted to enter comments in the non-public notes field. This note does not show to patrons and will not pop up in Polaris when the item is checked in or out. This field is suitable for comments internal to the owning library regarding their item.

Physical Condition Notes

Only the owning library is permitted to enter comments in the physical condition field. This note will not show to patrons and will not pop up in Polaris when the item is checked in or out. Damaged notes should only go in the free text block.

Free Text Blocks

All libraries may use this field for damage notes, reminder notes, contents notes, etc. that they wish to alert the owning library or transacting library about. This note does not show to patrons but does pop up in Polaris when the item is checked in or out. If a transacting library receives an item that is damaged it is important to enter in a damaged note before checking the item out to a patron or returning the item to the owning library. When entering a damage note in the free text field please include your library's national code and the date the note was entered. If you are the transacting library do not delete notes that other libraries have placed. Only the owning library may delete notes from the item record when necessary.

Zero-Based Budget Success

By Linda Prudholme-Warrior, Library Manager, Peace River Municipal Library

When I look back over the last few years, the Peace River Municipal Library has been on quite a journey. Our journey started in 2010 when we moved out of our old space into a temporary location, and then we moved back into our expanded and renovated space in 2011. The expansion created a number of opportunities for us, including a new Art Gallery. In 2012 we embarked on the Public Library Services Branch's new Plan of Service process. By the end of 2012, we had a fantastic new space and an updated and ambitious Plan of Service to make optimum use of our new space. However, with these massive changes came greatly increased pressures on our budget. Our budget had remained static for many years. This resulted in wages becoming more and more out of line with current comparable positions both in our Town and in libraries across the province. To address the situation, in 2013 we undertook a major overhaul both of how we prepare our budget and our wage grids. This meant looking into best practices for budgeting which resulted in our using a zero-based budget platform.



A comfortable reading and relaxing area in the new Peace River Municipal Library.

A zero-based budget starts at a base level of zero. There are several steps involved in generating the budget. First, the facility costs are calculated for each hour the building is open. This includes: utilities, maintenance, telephones, security, Internet connections and excludes staffing and operation costs. Next, in our case, the costs of implementing each of the three service levels outlined in the library standards of Alberta document were calculated. While calculating these three service levels, collection development was factored in.

The next step is staffing. We had reviewed our wages with the town in previous months to see where we compared to regular town employees. It was very apparent that the library's wages had fallen way behind the Town for comparable positions. A subsequent review of provincial wages for libraries showed that they vary widely. Fortunately, the province has a job profile and wage range for various Library positions which is current and compares well with various Town positions. They can be found at <http://alis.alberta.ca/index.html> - Go to Occupational Profiles (OCCinfo).

In calculating staffing costs three scenarios for each of the service levels were developed. They were: first, wages remain the same; second, wages remain the same with some extra hours to cover program costs; third, corrected wages and additional hours to cover program costs. The nine resulting budget scenarios were presented to our board. The board selected budget six, which is an enhanced level service with the new plan of service and corrected wages. Even though this was a middle of the road selection because of the wages getting out of line over many years, it was a major ask to our Town. The budget was submitted to the Town for inclusion into the budget discussions.

Once our budget got to the Town there were also big changes in how it was handled this year. In the past the Library submitted our budget as an outside organization. This year for the first time our budget was submitted as part of the Town FCSS budget submission. We had a 20 minute slot scheduled for our presentation. I went in with a couple of board members to do the presentation. I was very glad I had all the supporting documentation of the work we had done plus all the information from PLS as to what the surrounding municipalities contributed per capita for their residents. Having ALL the data was key to being prepared for the many questions and the resulting discussion that included not only our operating budget but went into details as to the construction phase of the renovation. In the end it lasted two hours but we were successful in having our new budget approved. It was accepted and adopted by council in May 2013.



From the Information Desk

By Kelly Dickinson, Head of Adult Services, Grande Prairie Public Library



All libraries face many challenges due to budget constraints and ever changing technology. However, smaller libraries really struggle to stay afloat in today's economy.

Depending on the size and location of your public library, each one has their own unique challenges. Two challenges in particular that all public libraries currently face are keeping up with current technology and finding adequate funding. Technology has advanced rapidly in the last ten years causing libraries to adapt and change the services and resources they offer. Finding adequate funding is a significant challenge as well, especially with the economic difficulties that Canada and the United States are currently dealing with.

Technology has changed the way people access information, therefore changing the way libraries and librarians serve their patrons. People have access to the Internet through their laptops, mobile phones, tablets and various other mobile devices. Rather than providing patrons solely with a large amount of information, we are called upon to evaluate that information ensuring it is authoritative before passing it on. Public Libraries now offer eBooks to patrons who want to read books on their eReaders, tablets and mobile devices. For example, here at Grande Prairie Public we offer classes on how to utilize our eBook service. The classes provide instruction on how to download and utilize the eBook resources here at the library. The demand is very high for technology classes, so in order to meet that demand our staff have to be familiar with many of the devices that are available.

Another great challenge facing public libraries today is having adequate funding to run the facility and provide

the services and resources that the community needs. Providing access to computers and the Internet, eBooks, databases and programming, paying qualified staff and providing a safe facility costs a great amount of money to maintain. Keeping accurate and extensive statistics proves to local and provincial governments that library resources are needed within the community and must continue to be funded. Currently, we record statistics on a monthly basis however, we are looking at changing the format in the new year to daily statistics. Daily statistics will provide us with much more information regarding busy times and usage of our service areas. Statistics can also provide us with a clearer picture of what services we need to focus on. Also, through strong partnerships, libraries can acquire additional resources and funding to help with associated costs. Smaller communities may be limited to the businesses and organizations they can approach for partnerships but, no matter how small the partnership, it can still have a significant impact on the library.

In meeting today's challenges, the best that public libraries can do is work toward providing quality information and statistics to government on all levels and community organizations. This demonstrates how crucial libraries are and it allows the library to remain a strong focus within the community. It is also important to continue to build, leverage and maintain partnerships with the community, organizations and the general public. Going forward with these activities, libraries have a much better chance at generating the funding needed to provide vital services and resources to patrons.



On September 13, the **Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library** officially reopened the doors in the location that was burned down by the devastating wildfires of May 2011.

Many were on hand to witness as long serving staff member **Pat McLeod** cut the ribbon.

Presentations were made to the various individuals and groups that made the reopening possible. Children's entertainer Rodzilla was on hand for a magic show following the official opening of the Lion's Den children's area.

OverDrive Checkouts from January 1 - November 22, 2013

Total Checkouts:	41721
Tangent Community Library	0
Red Earth Public Library	0
Paddle Prairie Public Library	0
Wembley Municipal Library	4
Kinuso Municipal Library	4
Valhalla Community Library	5
Brownvale Community Library	7
Smith Community Library	8
Rycroft Municipal Library	12
Berwyn Municipal Library	39
Bibliotheque de St. Isidore	48
Rainbow Lake Municipal Library	51
Bear Point Community Library	51
Keg River Community Library	52
Wabasca Public Library	54
Calling Lake Public Library	56
Dixonville Community Library	58
Worsley and District Library Society	61
Flatbush Community Library	77
Menno-Simons Community Library	80
Elmworth Community Library	87
Woking Municipal Library	97
Bonanza Municipal Library	98
Hines Creek Municipal Library	138
Savanna Municipal Library	179
Fox Creek Municipal Library	188
McLennan Municipal Library	220
Nampa Municipal Library	257
DeBolt Public Library	335
Hythe Municipal Library	348
Eaglesham Public Library	381
Fort Vermilion Community Library	405
Spirit River Municipal Library	519
High Level Municipal Library	559
La Glace Community Library	638
Slave Lake Municipal Library	855
Valleyview Municipal Library	991
Grimshaw Municipal Library	1054
Bibliotheque Dentinger	1061
Manning Municipal Library	1092
Sexsmith Shannon Library	1716
Fairview Public Library	1910
Beaverlodge Public Library	2048
Peace River Municipal Library	2219
High Prairie Municipal Library	2282
Grande Prairie Public Library	21377

The Top Circulated Items in TRAC for 2013

Books	Year to date circulation*	Previous year's total circulation	Number of items available*
1. <i>Guinness world records</i>	2,105	1,285	920
2. <i>419</i> (Will Ferguson)	958	307	94
3. <i>The storyteller: a novel</i> (Jodi Picoult)	934	0	118
4. <i>Catching fire</i> (Suzanne Collins)	910	1,133	219
5. <i>Diary of a wimpy kid. Cabin fever</i> (Jeff Kinney)	904	621	138
6. <i>Inferno: a novel</i> (Dan Brown)	880	0	140
7. <i>Diary of a wimpy kid. The third wheel</i> (Jeff Kinney)	870	94	130
8. <i>Mockingjay</i> (Suzanne Collins)	866	1,135	229
9. <i>Diary of a wimpy kid. The ugly truth</i> (Jeff Kinney)	866	605	145
10. <i>Diary of a wimpy kid. Dog days</i> (Jeff Kinney)	837	615	146
11. <i>The casual vacancy</i> (J.K. Rowling)	802	378	126
12. <i>Gone girl: a novel</i> (Gillian Flynn)	800	307	82
13. <i>Diary of a wimpy kid. Greg Heffley's journal</i> (Jeff Kinney)	795	534	169
14. <i>Diary of a wimpy kid. Rodrick Rules</i> (Jeff Kinney)	782	571	158
15. <i>The hunger games</i> (Suzanne Collins)	765	1,055	233
16. <i>The racketeer</i> (John Grisham)	752	266	109
17. <i>Divergent</i> (Veronica Roth)	736	509	114
18. <i>Diary of a wimpy kid. The last straw</i> (Jeff Kinney)	716	472	151
19. <i>Notorious nineteen</i> (Janet Evanovich)	714	165	99
20. <i>Wheat belly</i> (William Davis)	706	418	85
21. <i>The secret keeper: a novel</i> (Kate Morton)	704	188	95
22. <i>The forgotten</i> (David Baldacci)	666	164	95
23. <i>Insurgent</i> (Veronica Roth)	666	371	91
24. <i>A week in winter</i> (Maeve Binchy)	665	119	92
25. <i>Whiskey Beach</i> (Nora Roberts)	653	0	98

DVDs

1. Brave	1,273	91	77
2. The hunger games	1,182	535	85
3. The help	980	907	85
4. Tangled	969	769	76
5. Alice in Wonderland	921	704	115
6. The Lorax	904	272	62
7. Despicable me	815	488	59
8. We bought a zoo	797	503	61
9. Argo	785	0	61
10. War horse	762	601	62
11. Marvel's the Avengers	753	198	58
12. Madagascar 3. Europe's most wanted	751	117	44
13. Les misérables	736	54	66
14. The pirates! Band of misfits	726	207	44
15. Ice age. Continental drift	715	9	52
16. Hotel Transylvania	715	0	50
17. Skyfall	707	0	51
18. Wreck-It Ralph	696	0	51
19. Puss in boots	679	426	52
20. Mirror Mirror	670	327	48
21. Rio	666	559	49
22. The best exotic Marigold Hotel	660	161	49
23. Snow White & the huntsman	648	199	49
24. Cars	644	352	64
25. Peter Pan	643	331	70



* as of November
25, 2013

Authors, Carnivals and more...

By Janet Lemay, Library Manager, High Prairie Municipal Library

On August 22, 2013, we had the pleasure of hosting Carol Shaben, author of the book, *Into the Abyss*. The book is about the plane that went down in the High Prairie area in October of 1984, killing 6 people including the leader of the New Democratic Party, Grant Notley. Larry Shaben, father of the author, was also on the plane but he survived.



questions and just enjoyed a visit.

Carol spent the afternoon signing books and renewing old acquaintances since she spent many of her younger years in High Prairie. Later she visited Pleasantview

Lodge accompanied by her mother, who was welcomed with open arms as many of the residents were her peers. Later we hosted a "Wine & cheese" with many invited guests who listened to Carol read from her book, answer



Above: Carol visits with members of the community.

Left: High Prairie staff members (l to r) Tracy Roberts, Paula Shaw and Janet Lemay, pose with Carol (second from the right).

Penny Carnival



Our 20th annual penny carnival was held on August 7th. Our parking lot and the neighbouring church yard were converted into a carnival with games, popcorn, prizes, drinks and lots, & lots of fun. Although the pennies are no longer in circulation, the name has not changed. Children of all ages love this. We have up to 300 people attend. Most of the games are just home made from things around the house. People look forward to this from year to year. This is a "FUN" raiser not a FUND raiser.



Left: Buying tickets to participate in the games.

Above: Trying to get the bean bag in the hole!

Senior's Strawberry Tea



Each year during Seniors' Week we host a tea for our Seniors. We select a theme, decorate and entertain according to this. Our tea in June was a Hawaiian Luau. We decorated in palm trees, bright colors, and flowers. Our young girls dressed in grass skirts, welcomed our guests with leis, and seated them at our attractively decorated tables. The girls served punch, coffee or tea along with fruit salad or strawberry shortcake. The afternoon culminated with dancing by our young Philippine community.



Left: Getting ready to greet the guests. Above: Seniors enjoying their refreshments while watching a dance routine.

Lots Going on in Slave Lake!

By Kendra Doucette, Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library



Puzzles and Games (right) is a new program started at the library. It takes place every Thursday at 10:30 am, and it consists of a variety of games and puzzles for ages two - five.

While in between art exhibits we are putting up local artists on the art wall. So far we have had Maddy Sawchuck (above), and Cody-Lee Steeves.



Youth nights are something the Library has just recently started up again. They have been a great success so far. The youth nights consist of Wii games, board games, group organized games, and snacks.



Halloween Storytime (above) and Halloween Youth Night (below) were both a huge success with many children and youth in attendance.



These new red youth chairs are imported from Europe and are the first of their kind in Alberta!



SRC 2013: “Go” Travel with Us at Grimshaw Municipal Library!

By Linda Chmilar, Library Manager, Grimshaw Municipal Library

Program Sponsors: TD Bank, Grimshaw FCSS, Daishowa-Marubeni International and Friends of the Grimshaw Library

Each week we would take the kids to a different country, read them stories, play games, enjoy a snack and do crafts from that country. They had passports to fill out with a sticker from their journey. At the end of each session the kids would pick a book to read or be read to, to also fill into their passport. They would receive a prize after they had read their book. Each week we made a craft; they could color postcards from that country and play games, all related to the country of the week.



We went to:

USA, Louisiana: Made masks from tracing their hands (*right*) and read *A Cajun Red Riding Hood* by Mike Artell. We had a Mardi Gras parade, collecting beads along the way.



Canada, Drumheller: We read *Drumheller Dinosaur Dance* by Robert Heidbreder. The kids got to dig in sand for dinosaur bones (different kinds of pasta) and re-create a dinosaur picture. We also read the book *Dinosaurumpus?* by Tony Mitton.

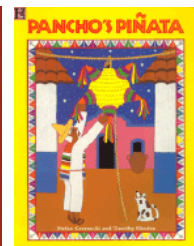
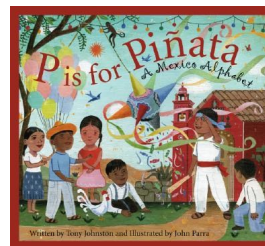
Africa: We had a guest speaker, Jean Paul Nkunkzi, from Africa (*right*). He taught the kids how to dance to the drums, how to greet people and he read them the book *Jungle Drums* by Graeme Base. We made rain sticks and they really worked. Each child got to take home a Mancala game, which we made out of egg cartons. It's a very popular game in Africa.



Vietnam: We made dragon puppets for our parade (*left & right*), and the two stories we read were *Children of the Dragon* by Sherry Garland, and *Tam's Slipper* by Janet Palazzo-Craig.

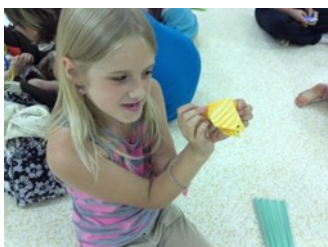


Mexico: We had piñatas and a wild time was had by all! We made a God's Eyes craft (*left*), and the stories were *P is for Piñata: A Mexico Alphabet* by Tony Johnston and *Pancho's Piñata* by Stefan Czernecki. We also ate very spicy homemade salsa and chips.





Scotland: We read *Where Have the Unicorns Gone?* by Jane Yolen and *The Luck of the Loch Ness Monster* by A.W. Flaherty. The Highland Games challenged their strength and balance, and tug of war (*left*) was an all-time favorite.



Japan: Who doesn't want to learn how to make origami fish, frogs, fans and more (*left*)? AND eat their snack with chopsticks - on tables with no legs, too (*right*)? It was fun to watch! We read *Little Oh* by Jim LaMarche and *Suki's Kimono* by Chieri Uegaki.



New Zealand: Our final destination! We ate kiwi, made Tiki crafts (*left*), watched a traditional war dance and painted the kids' faces in war dance style (*right*).



We had many volunteers helping us with the Summer Reading Program, including two teenage boys who were dubbed "The Big Boys" amongst the kids and staff. They were very helpful in many aspects. The younger boys loved having them to go to for help. They were excellent role models here in the library, very helpful with set-up, clean-up and their knowledge of Lego and origami was well appreciated.



Our volunteers gave us 72.5 hours towards the Reading Program. We could not have pulled it off without them!

We had 58 kids register for our "GO" program:

- Ages 0-5: 8 boys & 14 girls
- Ages 6-8: 12 boys & 12 girls
- Ages 9-12: 6 boys and 6 girls
- Ages 13 & up: we had helpers, 2 boys and 1 girl

We had our program once a week (8 sessions total) and they read **1,392** books during their time at the library. We averaged 38 kids per session, with 304 kids attending the entire program.

Having all the age groups together actually worked out in the end. Several families were happy to just bring them all in together. We saw older kids helping out the younger ones. The summer program was a big success thanks to our amazing coordinator, Danielle Diesel, and to all our volunteers and creative staff!

Around the Region...

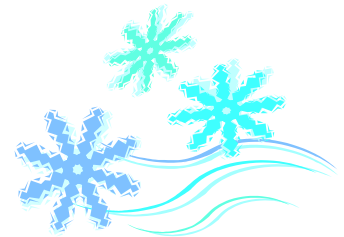


Helen E. Taylor School in Wembley became a Haunted House for Halloween. It was a SCREAM! and a lot of fun for staff and students alike. Thanks to grade six teacher Rane Grinde for her vision and hard work. (Janice Willsey)



On October 29, **Kinuso Municipal Library**, along with Kinuso School, hosted a free story time craft night. It was a big success with 25 children and five adults helping out. (Susan Moody)

The **Worsley & District Library** got into the Halloween spirit with their howling good seasonal display! (Colleen Rook)



While on her vacation across Canada this summer, Maureen Fisher from **McLennan Municipal Library** came across "Canada's 'Smallest' Library" in Cardigan, PEI. The library has a collection of 1,800 titles.

Apparently, the librarian there had contacted the Guinness Book of World Records people to have it officially declared the smallest library, but was told that the category does not exist.



Fox Creek Municipal Library board member, Danielle Marinus, working the library's display for Fox Creek Community Night. It's an annual event in early September, during which different community organizations have information and sign-ups for their clubs. We have information about our library and give-aways. It's always a busy, fun time! (Leslie Ann Sharkey)



Welcome to Annette Peacock, the new Library Manager at **Working Municipal Library!**



Congratulations to **Nampa Municipal Library** on their 50th Anniversary!



This beautiful quilt was raffled off as part of the library's 50th anniversary celebrations. The lucky winner was Donna Gour.

Joy Grant, Library Manager at the **Wabasca Public Library**, recently rearranged the library and spruced things up! They now have a lovely reading area, and the circulation desk has been moved and has a lot more space. The library is also now circulating DVDs, which has made the community quite happy!

Grandma's Gingerbread Pancakes



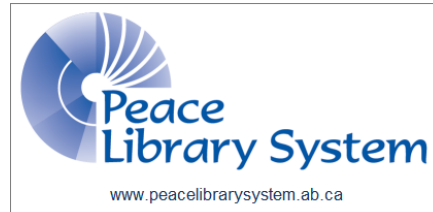
"Ginger, vanilla, and molasses make these dark pancakes taste like gingerbread!"

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour | 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon |
| 1 teaspoon baking powder | 1 egg |
| 1/4 teaspoon baking soda | 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract |
| 1/4 teaspoon salt | 1/4 cup molasses |
| 1/2 teaspoon ground dried ginger | 1 1/2 cups water |

1. Whisk the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, ginger, and cinnamon in a bowl; set aside. Beat the egg in a separate mixing bowl with the vanilla and molasses until smooth. Whisk in the water until completely incorporated. Stir the flour mixture into the molasses mixture until just combined -- a few lumps are okay.
2. Heat a lightly oiled griddle over medium-high heat. Drop batter by large spoonfuls onto the griddle, and cook until bubbles form and the edges are dry. Flip, and cook until browned on the other side. Repeat with remaining batter.

Recipe from Allrecipes.com

Connect with Peace Library System online:



Upcoming Events



Peace Library System Closed for Christmas Holidays

PLS Headquarters will be closed at noon on December 24 and to January 1 and will reopen at 8:00 am on January 2.

Family Literacy Day

January 27, 2013

PLS Executive Committee Meeting

PLS Headquarters
February 22, 2014; 10:30 am

Freedom to Read Week

February 23 - March 1, 2014

PLS Board Meeting

PLS Headquarters
March 22, 2014; 10:30 am

Library Managers' Council Meeting

PLS Headquarters
April 7, 2014; 10:30 am

PLS Executive Committee Meeting

Location TBA
April 12, 2014; 10:30 am

Alberta Library Conference

Jasper Park Lodge
April 24 - 27, 2014

Public Library Meeting

PLS Headquarters
May 5, 2014; 10:00 am

Clear Hills County Advisory Committee Meeting

Fairview Public Library
May 7, 2014; 5:30 pm

PLS Board Meeting/Annual General Meeting

PLS Headquarters
May 10, 2014; 10:30 am

Northern Sunrise County Advisory Committee Meeting

Peace River Municipal Library
May 12, 2014; 10:30 am

MD of Spirit River Advisory Committee Meeting

Rycroft Municipal Library
May 14, 2014; 6:15 pm

MD of Greenview Advisory Committee Meeting

DeBolt Public Library
May 15, 2014; 6:30 pm