



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Director	2
System News Bits	2
Fall Author Tours	3
Canada Day Parade	4
Canadian Library Month	4
Freecovers.net	4
Quilt Proceeds	4
Rural Libraries Conference	5
25 for 25	5
Open House	5
QR Codes	5
Tech Services Tidbits	6
Penny for Your Thoughts	7
Replying "offlist"	7
What's the best book...	8
From the Info Desk	9
Hogwarts at Grimshaw	10
Rocky Mtn Book Awards	12
Man Booker Prize	12
CCBC Awards	13
Alberta Arts Days	14
Social Insurance Number	16
Upcoming Events	16



Overwhelmed by Generosity

By Linda Duplessis, Director, Peace Library System

Peace Library System (PLS) has experienced an outpouring of generosity from Canadians from all walks of life in response to the loss of the **Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library** during the May wildfires. Immediately after the fire, PLS stepped in to coordinate donations for the library. To date, PLS has received over \$30,000 in cash donations for the library and almost 33,000 items from publishers, booksellers, libraries, organizations and individuals across Canada. This exceeds the library's original collection of about 25,000 items.



Rae Weniger waves among the boxes of donated items in the PLS boardroom.

These have truly been gifts from the heart. A number of children have responded, including a girl who sent the proceeds from a lemonade stand at her family's farm auction. A little boy asked children attending his birthday party to bring donations for Slave Lake in lieu of gifts. Another boy purchased and hand delivered a bag of books to PLS headquarters. Whole classes of students have responded in droves. One school designated its penny collection (5,000 in all) to the Slave Lake library. Another sent boxes of books along with letters from the children explaining why those particular books were selected. In another instance, books were sent in memory of a loved one.

There have been many other examples of generosity. **Strathcona County Library** lent the Slave Lake library a fully stocked bookmobile to provide resources to residents and offer a summer program for the children. More than 30 Canadian writers in the **Writers Union of Canada** have sent autographed copies of their works to be added to the collection. This is all in addition to very large donations from major booksellers, publishers, libraries and other organizations.

All of these heart-warming responses have been an inspiration to the staff at PLS and at the Slave Lake library. Hundreds of personal sentiments have been sent along with the donations:

- "[I am] touched by the disaster to your library."
- "The people of Slave Lake have always been kind and caring to the visitors who stop in the town. Now it is our turn to show them we care."
- "Our thoughts (and now our words) are with you."
- "We are deeply saddened...and hope the enclosed children's books will bring enjoyment to young readers."

Most of these donated items will be catalogued and sent to the library when its temporary location opens. Duplicate copies and items not suitable for the library will be sold at a massive book sale, with the proceeds sent to the Slave Lake library. PLS has 1.5 project staff cataloguing the donations and, in order to have the entire collection ready by year-end, is in the process of adding 2 more project staff. The materials will be part of The Regional Automation Consortium (TRAC) database, making them available to patrons in Slave Lake, in the region, and beyond.

PLS undertook this immense project in order to support the Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library, which has been a member of the System since 1999. PLS staff rose to the challenge and took on the responsibility of fielding calls, receiving donations, sorting through donated books, organizing cataloguing efforts, and planning a book sale. PLS gratefully acknowledges the support that the **Public Library Services Branch of Alberta Municipal Affairs** has provided throughout the process, including a one-time grant to pay for temporary cataloguing staff, transportation costs, and related costs.

Due to the overwhelming response, PLS now needs to limit book donations and requests that donors contact the System before sending donations of books. **We strongly encourage anyone who wants to help to make a cash donation.** Go to the Slave Lake Library website www.slavelakelibrary.ab.ca and click on the "Make a Donation" link on the left side of the screen under the "Home" heading. Donations can also be made via cheque made payable to the "Slave Lake Regional Library Board" and sent to Peace Library System headquarters.

Peace Library System and the Slave Lake Regional Library Board thank all those who have made a contribution to rebuild the library.

From the Director

By Linda Duplessis, Director, Peace Library System



Welcome back from summer activities! This fall Peace Library System is gearing up for the Rural Libraries Conference, our 25th anniversary celebration, two author tours, and consulting visits, not to mention many of the provincial happenings I describe below. We are also committed to cataloguing the donated materials for the **Slave Lake** collection. It's sure to be a busy fall, but we look forward to all that can be accomplished in the coming months.

Saying Goodbye / Saying Hello

Most of you are aware that **Penny Flower**, IT Services Manager, has resigned effective August 31, 2011 to relocate to **Fort St. John** with her family. She will be back off and on in September to train her replacement and do a workshop at the Rural Libraries Conference (RLC). We have hired **Janet Ayles** from Nova Scotia as the new IT Services Manager. With her strong customer service background and IT strengths, Janet will provide strong Polaris support to member libraries. Janet will hit the ground running on September 12, and looks forward to meeting many of you at RLC.

25th Anniversary Celebration

Plans are pretty well finalized for PLS's 25th anniversary celebration on Wednesday, September 21, the evening prior to the Rural Libraries Conference. It will be a time for celebrating System beginnings and accomplishments over the past 25 years. The **Hon. Hector Goudreau**, Minister of Municipal Affairs, will be in attendance. Former Director **Sharon Siga** will provide an historical retrospective of Peace Library System. Peace Library System's new logo and mission statement will be launched at the event, as will the **25 Best Books of Our Time** contest.

Farewell, Penny!



We're saying "so long" to **Penny Flower** as she moves to **Fort St. John, BC**. However, it's not "goodbye" as FSJ is just a hop and a skip down the road! Penny joined PLS 2.5 years ago, and jumped in just as Polaris was being implemented. To say it was a steep learning curve is an understatement! Penny lived and breathed Polaris for many months, helped PLS staff with the transition, helped member libraries adapt to the new software, and worked closely with other TRAC IT staff. From then until now, Penny has become one of the most Polaris-savvy people in TRAC, often passing on her knowledge to new IT people in the other TRAC systems. Her insight and good humour will be missed by those in PLS and throughout TRAC.



System News Bits



- **Charlene Ghostkeeper** is the new library manager at **Paddle Prairie Public Library**, taking over from **Lori Wanuch**.
- **Chloe Leptich** is the new library manager at **Rainbow Lake Municipal Library**, taking over from **Michael Drury**.
- **Peace River Municipal Library** will be celebrating their grand opening at the newly renovated library and Cultural Center on **September 13**, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM.
- **Chuck Watson** of **Calling Lake Public Library** will be making his TV debut as an extra in an episode of the Canadian drama, **Blackstone**.
- In July, **Deborah Kendze** resigned as librarian for the **Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library** and accepted the position of Director of Library Services for Northern Lakes College. The new librarian, **Anne Moore**, will start on October 3 and is coming all the way from the United Kingdom!
- **Pat Gagne** has retired from **Grande Prairie Public Library** after 25 years. In July, **Nikki Mulholland** was hired as the new Overdues Clerk at GPPL.

Provincial Initiatives

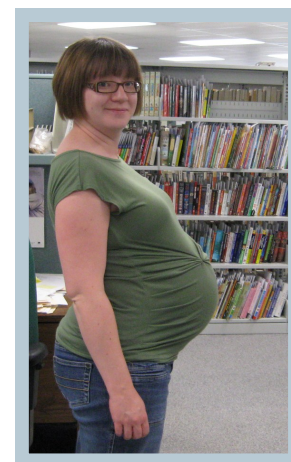
The MLA Committee's **Framework for the Future** report and recommendations have resulted in the following initiatives:

Integrated Library Policy: The development of an integrated library policy for all publicly-funded libraries is in process. Library stakeholders and people from various government departments are meeting on September 13 to provide input and direction.

Technology Plan: As the first phase in the development of a public library technology plan, the Alberta Public Libraries Technology Report and Recommendations was released in July, 2011. The report, which is available at www.albertalibraries.ca/uploads/1106/techplanfinal85008.pdf, includes six general areas of recommendations, including seamless access to public library holdings; establishment of a technology group to oversee provincial technology planning/implementation; centralized IT support for some activities; more collaboration on content creation; province-wide electronic resources (eBooks); and a strong infrastructure (ie. SuperNet and Internet).

Library Book Rate (LBR)

Bill C509 (to entrench and expand the LBR) had made it to the Senate before the federal election was called, so it could no longer go forward. At the CLA conference in Halifax, **MP Merv Tweed** explained the process to bring forward another Private Member's Bill to get the LBR back on the table. He believes he can be instrumental in making that happen and he intends to "relight the fire" when the time comes. He also stated that all parties have been in favour of this legislation, so it should pass the House and Senate quickly.



PLS' mom-to-be, **Danielle Bendtsen**, is due on Oct. 24. Her last day at HQ will be at Sept. 30. Congratulations!

2011 Fall Author Tours

Nicole Luiken, Northern Tour, October 3 to 6



Nicole Luiken, also known as N.M. Luiken, is an intriguing author who writes speculative fiction novels for teens and science fiction for adults. She was born in **Manning**, Alberta in the early 70's and grew up in a small farming community close by called **Hawk Hills**.

She always had a great imagination and began writing at a very early age. She finished her first novel at age thirteen (it was summer holidays and there was nothing else to do). With encouragement from her family, friends and teachers, Nicole began submitting her manuscripts to publishers. By the time she had graduated from high school she had published three young adult novels.

Nicole obtained a library technician diploma after graduating from high school and worked in libraries for several years to support her writing habit. She currently lives in Edmonton with her husband Aaron and three young children Simon, Luke and Jinian and now writes full time. Nicole loves to write and has been heard to say that it is

"physically impossible for me to go without writing for more than three days in a row."

She is the author of eight young adult novels, one adult thriller and several short stories. Nicole's novel *Unlocking the Doors* won her a YTV Achievement Award for writing in 1989. Her book *Violet Eyes* won the Golden Eagle Children's Choice Award in 2004 as did *Frost* in 2008. *Frost* was shortlisted for the 2009 Red Maple Award. On tour Nicole speaks about how she wrote her first book at the age of thirteen and where she gets her ideas from. In between these topics she reads from her books.

Her latest young adult novel, *Dreamline*, was released in April this year, and is a sequel to *Dreamfire*: Lissa is a dream come true. Literally. She has the power to cross the dreamline into the world of dreams even while awake. Years ago Lissa decided she could either have friends or secrets, but not both. Now there's a new boy in town who sees past Lissa's social outcast label, but is he someone Lissa can trust, or a spy for the evil wulfdraigles?



Nicole will be visiting the communities of **Dixonville, Eaglesham, Falher, High Level, Keg River, Manning, McLennan, Nampa, Paddle Prairie, Peace River, and Rainbow Lake**.

Please find more information about Nicole and her books at <http://nicoleluiken.com> and on Facebook.

Joseph Simons, Local Tour, October 24 to 27



Joseph Simons is a Teacher Assistant working in special needs programs at St. Mark Junior High, in Edmonton, Alberta, where he also coaches the robotics and rocketry teams, and has found a busy niche generally as the Tech Mentor. Every day he rides his bike the six kilometres from Little Italy, where he and his wife have a little house, to his school near Westmount, whether it's plus or minus thirty degrees.

Joseph's mother says he learned to walk when she put a pencil in his hand. He could see the pencil out there in front of himself and kept following it around the room! He's been following the pencil ever since and he has been a book addict all his life.

The idea for *Under a Living Sky* got its start when Joseph's father-in-law told him a story he had heard as a young man growing up in the Great Depression about a homemade doll and a family in 1937 depression-era Saskatchewan.

Mary is certain that her parents are giving her new shoes for Christmas, but the Depression has hit her Saskatchewan farming family hard. Mary tries to hide her disappointment when she receives a crude homemade doll instead. She ends up liking the doll much more than she expects, but the doll fuels the rivalry between Mary and her older sister, Judith. Then, when the doll disappears a few weeks later during a snowstorm, Mary and Judith's relationship changes once again.



Joseph will be visiting the communities of **Beaverlodge, DeBolt, Grande Prairie, Hythe, Elmhurst, Fox Creek, La Glace, Sexsmith, Valhalla, Valleyview and Wembley**.

Please visit <http://josephsimons.ca/fiction.htm> for more information about Mr. Simons' book and presentations of *Under a Living Sky*, and to download the **Orca Young Readers Teachers' Guide**.

These tours are made possible with grants from the [Young Alberta Book Society](#) and the [Alberta Foundation for the Arts](#).



News 'N' Notes

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

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This year, to help celebrate Peace Library System's 25th Anniversary, staff worked together to participate in Grande Prairie's **Canada Day Parade**. Above left, from left to right: **Julia Dion, Janet Schultz, Alyssa Linssen, Karen Van der Woerd** and **Carol Downing** work on the signs that read "Supporting Peace Region Libraries, 1986 - 2011". Above right: The finished product.



October is **Canadian Library Month**! This year, the theme is **Your Library: A Place UnBound**. Visit <http://www.cla.ca/clm11> to download posters, bookmarks, a sample press release, and a five page document full of ideas and suggestions to help you celebrate!

Our Summer Reading Program went extremely well this summer. We had approximately 15 children each week. **Tim Lepp**, my summer helper, made it fun, and memorable for all the children.

- **Christa Issac, Hythe Municipal Library**



Freecovers.net

Are you looking to replace a missing or damaged cover for you audio-visual material? **Freecovers.net** provides free covers for you to download and print off! All you need to do is visit <http://www.freecovers.net> and register for the **free account** - it just takes a few minutes. Then, start searching and downloading!

Over 800,000 covers are available for a wide variety of formats, including DVDs, Blu-Rays, CDs, console game systems (Wii, Xbox, etc) and even VHS. Searching is easy with their "Quick Search" feature.

If you wish to have the advertising removed from the site and use the advanced search feature, you can sign up for the Gold Membership at a minimal fee.

Quilt Proceeds to Benefit Slave Lake Library

By Sheryl Pelletier, Library Manager, Shannon Municipal Library

The **Friends of the Shannon Library** had a beautiful butterfly quilt donated by the **Seams Like Sexsmith Quilt Guild**. Normally, this would have been raffled with all proceeds going to a family literacy initiative in our library, but this year the Friends chose a different project.



All proceeds from this quilt raffle are to be given to the **Slave Lake Library**. As we all know, it takes a lot more than books to rebuild a library. The winner of the quilt was **Gail Post**, former Library Manager of our library! To add a bit of icing to the cake, Gail has only JUST moved away from Sexsmith after many years, and winning the quilt from the library was serendipitous to say the least.



Rural Libraries Conference

Planning is in full swing for the 2011 Rural Libraries Conference!

This year, 16 vendors have confirmed that they're attending:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ♦ 3M Canada | ♦ Living Books |
| ♦ Alberta Books Canada | ♦ Saunders Book Company |
| ♦ Archambault | ♦ Teachers' Book Depository |
| ♦ Carr McLean | ♦ United Library Services |
| ♦ EBSCO Canada | ♦ Whitehills Canadian Library Services |
| ♦ Echo Hill Publishers | ♦ Wintergreen Learning Materials |
| ♦ Foothill Systems | ♦ World Book Educational Products of Canada |
| ♦ L4U | |
| ♦ Legacy Library Services | |

We're also grateful for the sponsorships from the following:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ♦ ACSI | ♦ CVS Midwest Tape |
| ♦ Alberta Library Trustees' Association | ♦ Micro Computers Plus |
| ♦ Carr McLean | ♦ Northern Vision Centre |
| ♦ Crouse's Cleaners | ♦ Willsey Davis & Co. |



Visit our Open House!

On **Wednesday, September 21** you are invited to attend the **Open House** at **Peace Library System headquarters**, 8301 - 110 Street in Grande Prairie.

The Open House runs from **1:00 to 4:00 pm**, so please drop by before the 25th Anniversary Reception!



Coming Soon! 25 for 25: The Best Books of Our Time

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, Peace Library System will be seeking the 25 best books published over the last 25 years as determined by residents of northwestern Alberta.

To do this, we will be asking the public to vote for their favourite books via a poll on the Peace Library System website at <http://www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca> or through paper ballots available from member libraries throughout the Peace region. The contest will run from **September 21 to October 21, 2011**, to coincide with Canadian Library Month.

The 25 titles with the most votes will be declared "The Best Books of Our Time."

Two lists of books have been compiled. Each list contains 100 titles, all published in or after 1986 (the year Peace Library System was established). One list is comprised of children's and young adult books and the other contains adult titles. Both fiction and non-fiction are included, as are entire series (such as Harry Potter). If a favourite book is not on the list, space has been provided for it to be added.

Voters may select as many titles as they wish from either list.

The online poll will be made available on the PLS website on September 21st. Paper ballots, as well as promotional posters and bookmarks, will be sent to libraries in advance to be ready for the start of the conference.

Completed paper ballots returned to your library will need to be sent to Peace Library System headquarters as soon as the contest ends (October 21).

If voters provide their name and phone number, they will be entered in a draw to win a Kobo eReader or one of three \$50.00 gift certificates from Coles/ Chapters/Indigo. Staff from PLS member libraries will be able to vote, but not eligible to enter the prize draws.

The 25 Best Books of Our Time will be announced on the Peace Library System website on October 31, 2011. Winners of the prize draws will also be announced on the Peace Library System website and notified by phone on October 31, 2011.

More details about the contest will be made available by the middle of September.



25 for 25:
The
Best Books
of Our Time

Between
September 21
and
October 21

Help us determine
the best books
published since 1986

Vote for your
favourites!



What's a QR Code?



Have you been noticing those strange little square barcodes popping up in a bunch of places? They're called **QR Codes**, which stands for **Quick Response**. They are designed to be scanned by smartphones (an iPhone, Android, etc.) provided you've downloaded the scanning app. When scanned, QR codes can open a video, provide contact information, connect to a wireless network, or open a web page. The code on the left, for example, links you to Wikipedia's main page.

Tech Services Tidbits

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



Summer has been a busy time for Tech Services. **Sheri Leeson** came back in June to begin the monumental task of cataloguing the over 30,000 donated items that poured into headquarters from publishers, vendors, libraries and the general public for the **Slave Lake Library**. Sheri is presently set up in the **Yellowhead Regional Library** headquarters building in Spruce Grove to continue cataloguing these items. She is being assisted with this project

at Peace Library System headquarters by **Colleen Doerkson**, **Dennis Sheppard**, and **Elaine Chaisson**. **Meera Mittra** is assisting with the cataloguing for Slave Lake in the afternoons. All headquarters staff have been busy receiving and organizing the donations, as well as weeding through the items to separate out duplicates and damaged items that would not be suitable for the library's collection. **Sharon Lowe** and **Linda Senenko** from **Grande Prairie Public Library** generously donated their time to help sort and weed. **Rae Weniger**, **Janet Schultz** and **Alrene Dempster** used their organizational skills to add some semblance of order to the books waiting to be catalogued. **Chandler Casper**, assisted by his brother **Konner**, used their muscles to distribute the books into the proper locations. As the seacan donated by the **Rotary Club of Grande Prairie** to store the catalogued items until the library in Slave Lake re-opens proved not to be suitable for storing books, **Horizon North Camps and Catering** generously donated a trailer, which is working well. More on Slave Lake can be found on the front page of this newsletter.



Floyd Schultz delivered and positioned the trailer in the PLS parking lot for easy access on behalf of Horizon North Camps & Catering.

Tora Volkens has been busy cataloguing Teacher Resource items for the **French Language Resource Centre** so the teachers can take them out in September. **Alyssa Linssen** completed her contract on August 26th to clean puppets, organize the storytime kits and to create a 25th Anniversary Scrapbook. We have enjoyed having her for the summer.

Ordering and receiving are current to date. **Title Source III** is a saving grace for the order department and for the libraries that use it. If you are not using it, but are thinking of trying it, give us a call and we will walk you through it or follow the instructions posted on the PLS website at <http://www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/Title-Source-3>. Once you start, you won't want to order any other way. **Multi-part** has

been up and running for awhile with no major problems. Just a reminder to follow the format from the multi-part instructions on the PLS website at <http://www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/Multi-Part> and call if you have questions.



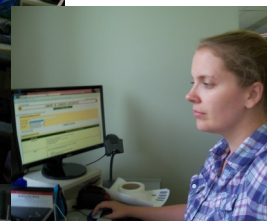
Floyd Schultz (husband of Janet) was contracted to build a very stylish cabinet (left) to spruce up the Shipping Department.

Tech Services staff are now back from summer holidays and geared up for the fall season. We hope you all had a great summer.



Left: **Sheri Leeson's** set up with piles of books at **YRL HQ**.

Below: Sheri hard at work cataloguing!



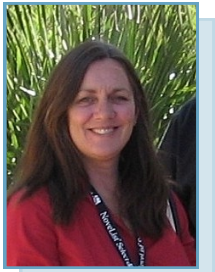
Above: **Colleen Doerkson** cataloguing for Slave Lake.

Right: Slave Lake cataloguers **Dennis Sheppard** & **Elaine Chaisson**.



Penny for Your Thoughts

By Penny Flower, IT Consultant, Peace Library System



Well everyone, my role at PLS is changing to part-time IT Consultant beginning in September and my family is beginning a new adventure in **Fort St. John, BC**. I look forward to working with **Janet Ayles** primarily from my home office, and helping her get started with Polaris and the PLS network.

I will be presenting at RLC, and the topic is of course Polaris, but the specifics are yet to be determined. Those of you that are registered for

this session are more than welcome to send me an email soon with suggestions or Polaris questions. Part of the presentation will cover Patron Notifications. If you're not registered for my session, my notes will be made available on the PLS website after the conference.

Polaris Update

The long awaited permission structure has been completed in Polaris for PLS library staff. This new structure allows for better access to patron records across TRAC and more permissions for managers (posting a note to a patron and merging patrons). The maintenance of permissions will be simpler when future changes are required (new policies, new permissions, new members). My thanks to **Danielle Bendtsen** for all of her help.

Playaway has been created as a material type in Polaris, and this means that other settings for your library need to be entered into Polaris System Administration. If your library is using this code please contact PLS about loan limits, hold limits and fines.

New collection codes have been added to Polaris (and a few discarded). By now you will have received some information from PLS and need to respond if your library would like to use the new collection codes.

New custom reports have been created in Polaris, Reports and Notices. Please carefully review any new reports and check with us if you have any questions or comments.

Patron Notification has changed and many of you are waiting to implement text messaging and telephony at your libraries. This will be one of my topics at RLC. Recently, **Grande Prairie Public Library** enabled text messaging and expanded their use of telephony. **Beaverlodge Public Library** is also beginning to use the service. To get started, ensure that your patron record telephone numbers contain the area code and that mobile phone numbers and carriers are entered if the patron is interested in text messaging in the future. Try this in Simply Reports.

Goodbye, John. We wish **John Evans** the best in his future endeavors. Until a new Network Analyst has been found, we will continue to work with ACSI, our network support partners, to ensure that everything is running.

My mother always said that a child with music is never alone,
but I have found that a good book is great company too!

See you at RLC!

Replying "Off List" on PECANS & TRACsharing

Before hitting "reply" to that next email on PECANS or TRACsharing, stop and ask yourself - do I want *everyone* to see my reply, or just the person I'm replying to?

If you just want to respond to the person that sent the message, this is what you do:

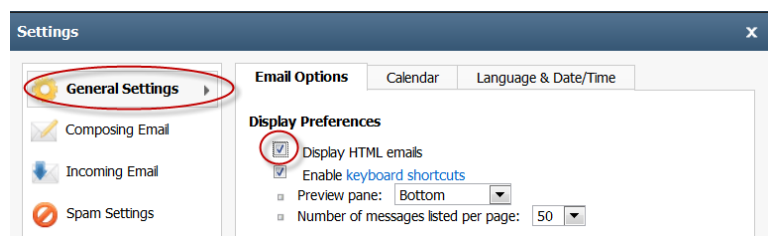
Scroll down to the **bottom of the message** you're replying to and you'll see something that looks like what is shown below. Simply click **Reply to sender** to reply "off list"!

[Reply to sender](#) | [Reply to group](#) | [Reply via web post](#) | [Start a New Topic](#)
[Messages in this topic \(1\)](#)
RECENT ACTIVITY:
[Visit Your Group](#)

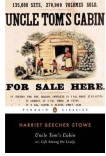
If, instead, you have something that looks like shown below, it means that you do not have **HTML** enabled on your email, so messages that come through do not have properly formatted hyperlinks. You can click on the email address that's shown, or, you can enable HTML for your email.

Reply to sender<mailto:foxcreeklibrary@yahoo.com?subject=Re%3A%20%5Bpe
group<mailto:pecans@yahoo.com?subject=Re%3A%20%5Bpecans%5D%20Re:
post<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pecans/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJwZGszbXQ5Bh
act=reply&messageNum=6890> | Start a New
Topic<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pecans/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJwZGszbXQ5Bh
Messages in this
topic<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pecans/message/6839;_ylc=X3oDMTM0:

For those of you using Townlife's webmail, you can easily change your settings so that you see emails with HTML enabled. To switch, click on **Settings** in the top right corner of your inbox screen and in the box that pops up, put a check mark beside where it says **Display HTML Emails** and remember to **Save**!

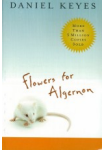


What's the Best Book You Read this Summer?



The best book I've read this summer is ***Uncle Tom's Cabin*** by Harriet Beecher Stowe. I don't know how I have not read it before, classic that it is. I know it's old and maybe outdated, but it's still good writing and a very worthy topic at the time. Enjoyed it very much!

Tina Fehr, Menno Simons Community Library



I enjoyed the book ***Flowers for Algernon*** by Daniel Keyes this summer. What was special about the book: We are all given a gift, for a very special purpose.

Christa Isaac, Hythe Municipal Library



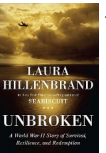
My book for this summer is ***Voices*** by Arnaldur Indriðason, a mystery set in a luxurious hotel during Christmas. Lots of surprises, the banality of life, dark sides of human nature, etc.

Jackie Xie, Grande Prairie Public Library



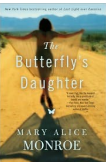
My favorite book this summer was ***Betrayal*** by Fern Michaels, about the lives of a family when an innocent man is sent to prison. Also loved ***The Help*** by Kathryn Stockett.

Alison Wiebe, Savanna Municipal Library



The best read I had this summer was ***Unbroken*** by Laura Hillenbrand. It's an incredible story of survival, resilience and redemption. It was one of our book club selections and I'd recommend it to everyone. It wasn't a book I would normally have picked up and read, but was surprised when I couldn't put it down.

Chris Burkholder, Fairview Public Library



The Butterfly's Daughter by Mary Alice Monroe. Exploring relationships and traditions through a trip by 4 women to Mexico following the migration route of monarch butterflies. Added bonus- I learned lots about monarch butterflies and their tremendous migration- fascinating.

Pam Chislett, Grande Prairie Public Library



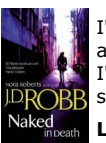
Still Alice by Lisa Genova. This story is told in first person from the perspective of a middle age university professor who is developing Alzheimer's, this hit close to home as I've watched my Grandfather drift away from us with Alzheimer's.

Lori Jackson, Manning Municipal Library



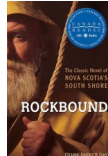
The best book I have read this summer is ***The Beauty of Humanity Movement*** by Camilla Gibb. It grabbed me right from the first page. Set in Vietnam, it is the story of a young woman searching for her roots. It was recommended by my family doctor, although he says that ***Sweetness in the Belly*** by the same author is even better. I have that one waiting for me on ILL so I will be able to let you know my preference. Update: #1 is still ***The Beauty of Humanity Movement*** with ***Sweetness in the Belly*** a close second.

Leslie Ann Sharkey, Fox Creek Municipal Library



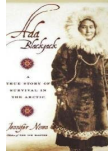
I've been reading an old series, JD Robb's ***In Death*** series, actually I'm listening to some and reading others, depends if I'm in the car or at home, so reading and listening at the same time. Crazy I know!

Linda Chmilar, Grimshaw Municipal Library



A book all Canadians should read: ***RockBound*** by Frank Parker Day.

Yvonne Mury, Grande Prairie Public Library



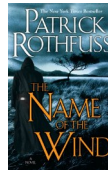
I just finished reading ***Ada Blackjack: A True Story of Survival in the Arctic*** by Jennifer Niven. A very interesting read!!

Colleen Rook, Worsley & District Library Society



The best book I read this summer is ***The Confession*** by John Grisham. It brings up a lot of different emotions as you read it - you're sad, disgusted, then happy, then totally upset and it's very "thought provoking". It was hard to put down, and led to some good discussions between my husband (who also read it) and I.

Marcelle Velve, St. Patrick Catholic School



Favorite book this summer? A re-read of ***The Name of the Wind***, by Patrick Rothfuss in preparation for his second book, fresh out earlier this year...why oh, why is it taking so long for the holds list to move along? I may have to read it a third time!

Sheryl Pelletier, Library Manager



Major Pettigrew's Last Stand, by Helen Simonson. I liked the dry humor of her writing and the friendship between the two main characters; one a Pakistani lady and the other an Englishman, who find themselves falling in love despite the cultural and social differences.

Rose Crerar, Peace Library System



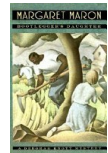
The best book I "read" this summer was ***The Vintage Caper*** by Peter Mayle. OK, I confess a handsome man read it aloud to me while I was driving in the mountains gazing at the scenery....but it still counts as reading!!!! (I can only assume that a man with such a voice is handsome...)

Rae Weniger, Peace Library System



The Woefield Poultry Collective by Susan Juby. A really funny book about Prudence Burns and a motley crew of characters who attempt to turn a run down farm on Vancouver Island into a viable enterprise. Susan writes great books for teens and now she is writing great stuff for adults!

Laura Reilly, Grande Prairie Public Library



I've been enjoying the Margaret Maron mysteries, specifically her ***Judge Deborah Knott*** series. They are on the cozy mysteries brochure from GPPL library. Booklist reviews the series, "In Maron's charming, folksy, small-town world, even the mayhem is domestic in nature." I find them appealing because they are not descriptive blood and gore, and ultimately the person "whodunit" is none of the expected suspects. Judge Deborah is in her mid-30's, a North Carolina woman, who has just married a handsome and rugged deputy with a young son whose mom has recently died (murdered). Maron weaves into her stories true-to-life challenges of being a step-mom, a newlywed, a family-oriented judge, and an extremely curious (nosy) amateur detective (to the consternation of her husband). They are well-written, award winning, and funny, with her "inner critics" of preacher and pragmatist frequently squabbling in her head about how she should react and behave in various situations.

Katherine Wiebe, Peace Library System

From the Information Desk



By Jackie Xie, Adult Services Librarian (AV Specialist), Grande Prairie Public Library

Assisting patrons with **OverDrive** at the reference desk has been an interesting and exciting task for me. We have been offering the OverDrive digital library service since November 2009, but it is still new for many patrons. I am eager to help them and am very interested in finding out how the service is perceived, received and used by them.

Patrons ask different questions about OverDrive at the reference desk. They usually do this over the phone or in person, but seldom via email. It seems that they are all eager to find out the answers. This gives the reference desk a certain pressure, especially when the question requires more time and knowledge about the digital library. I try my best to help them.

How to use OverDrive is one of the frequently asked questions. This is a big question since using OverDrive is such a multi-step process, at least for first-time users. I will first provide general information on the digital library: what formats we offer, how many titles we have, how to access the digital library, where to download the software, how to use My eAccount, etc. Then I will use the computer to quickly demonstrate the major steps of checking out and downloading titles. After this I will briefly explain how the transferring works. Once this has been done, I will hand out our OverDrive brochure to the patron and point out the sections they need to pay more attention to. For example, if a patron owns a mobile device, I will ask them to read the section for owners of mobile devices. At the end I will tell the patron that using OverDrive involves a lot of steps, and that it is very important to follow the downloading instructions carefully and not miss any steps. Answering questions often gives me a good opportunity of advertising our library program, so I will also recommend our OverDrive training session to conclude my answer.

What e-reader to buy is another frequently asked question. This question is quite challenging as library staff cannot test each device and then provide their advice based on the test results. However, the bottom line is that I will not ask the patron to go for a particular device or brand. Patrons have different needs and are not all tech-savvy. My strategy is to outline the major differences between e-readers. I will first briefly describe differences between e-readers and tablets. If a patron is looking for a simple e-reader, recommending such a device, for me, is a sound answer at the reference desk: its diagonal size is 6"-7", it uses E-Ink technology, is compatible with the library content, and has some kind of Wi-Fi. For these patrons, Sony Pocket Edition and Daily Edition, Barnes & Noble's Nook and Kobo e-readers are all good options. If they don't mind using LCD screen, they can consider the touch edition of these brands. Kindle is so far the most popular e-reader in the United States. However, since it is not yet compatible with the library content in Canada, I will not recommend it to patrons who want to use OverDrive.

If a patron is expecting a device more than a simple e-reader, tablets are good choices. Tablets are often multi-functional devices. Patrons can use them not only to read eBooks but to surf the Internet, download apps to read magazines and newspapers, shop directly from the online stores, etc. In addition, tablets have color diagrams, good display quality, the possibility of displaying videos, etc. iPads are often a good choice. Patrons also tend to purchase Pandigital Novel due to its availability in local stores and appealing prices. If a firmware update is required, I feel that Pandigital Novel appears to be a more complicated device, especially for some levels of patrons. Also, if a firmware update is required, patrons will need much more assistance to get started.

Another issue with Pandigital Novel is that its white version and black version work differently. Up to now only Pandigital Novel white supports OverDrive Media Console App and thus direct downloading. However owners of Pandigital Novel black still have to manually transfer titles from the computer to the device.

This brings us to another question. Sometimes it can be confusing for our staff and patrons: what devices are considered by OverDrive as mobile devices? Does a device with WiFi necessarily mean that it supports direct downloading? We cannot guess. The best solution is to refer to the Cheat Sheet-Library Compatible eBook Devices that OverDrive updates regularly at <http://www.overdrive.com/files/ebook-cheat-sheet.pdf> or to the Supported eBook Devices page at trac.lib.overdrive.com. If a device is not listed by OverDrive in the section of mobile devices, we can tell patrons that it doesn't support the OverDrive Media Console App although it has the WiFi function.

Grande Prairie Public Library has been a subscriber of both the printed version and online version of **Consumer Reports**. I will also recommend patrons to refer to this tool for the ratings, reviews and specifications of different e-readers.

One big challenge is to assist a patron who comes to the desk with a computer or a device wanting immediate help. At the beginning I tried to offer this type of help at the desk right away. However, the outcome was often not productive: I had to assist this patron while also looking after other patrons. Then we decided to ask patrons to book an appointment with us if the problem seems quite complicated. Both the patron and I would sit down quietly and work on the problem during the appointment. Now many libraries offer Wi-Fi access, and patrons can quickly connect their computer or device to the Internet. Working on their own computer or device also makes patrons feel more comfortable and saves their time. This type of help often requires at least one hour. Should the library staff directly work on the patron's device? I had a discussion with a staff member about this once. Both of us agreed that it is better for the patron to do the hands-on task. I will generally give out the instructions and then the patron follows them to carry on the troubleshooting task. I feel both of us are happy with this solution.

More questions are related to individual problems: how to request titles, how to change the lending period for mobile devices, why can I not download a title I checked out, why can't I login to OverDrive, etc. In general, I feel OverDrive is a very user-friendly service. Patrons need to read the instructions carefully and follow the steps one by one. Skipping steps will surely cause problems, especially in setting up the Adobe Digital Editions software. If there are any questions I cannot answer, I will ask the support team of OverDrive for assistance. I will tell the patron honestly that I need to confirm with OverDrive. This also assures the patron that they are being helped.

There are lots of resources for assistance available on the digital library website at <http://trac.lib.overdrive.com>: *Getting Started*, *Quick Start Guide*, *Supported Audio Devices*, *Supported eBook Devices*, etc. The new *My Help Beta* section provides explicit instructions on audiobooks, eBooks and mobile devices, and the instructions are delivered in a very intuitive fashion. Patrons only need to click on the links to get the content.

It is also a good idea to recommend that patrons use the Help button located at the top of the digital library website. This Help button is linked to the explanations of the basics of each format, software help and advice on troubleshooting. I talked about the Cheat Sheet for library compatible eBook devices above. At Grande Prairie Public Library we print this document and put the copies at the Reference and Customer Services desks. When patrons ask for information on compatible devices with eBooks, we will hand out such a copy. It turns out to be a very good reference document. At the Reference desk, we have a folder which contains the OverDrive Manual, answers to the important questions patrons have reported to us and downloading instructions for mobile devices such as iPads and iPhones. Such a folder is handy at the Reference desk and certainly helps us answer questions. It is a good thing that we have updated our brochure on OverDrive recently. This new brochure provides more detailed information on eBooks, audiobooks, mobile devices, websites for free eBooks, and answers to frequently asked questions. Copies of this brochure are available at the Reference desk, Customer Services and the AV section.



Hogwarts School Comes to Grimshaw!

By Linda Chmilar, Library Manager, Grimshaw Municipal Library



For four days in July, we had 26 kids, ages 9 to 14 come to the library from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm to attend **Hogwarts - Grimshaw Style**. Upon registering, they received "owl mail" accepting them into Hogwarts and

informing them of what they needed to bring in order to attend. Also, it advised the parents that first years were not allowed their own broomsticks. We based the camp on the first book, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.

Prepping for this camp took months. **Vanessa, Ceili** and **Kim** researched and tried wand-making out of paper, found the actual candy box templates, found 100 trivia questions related to book one, made dragon eggs, mini spell books, a Marauder's Map, ink pots for their quills, and found potions we could try with them. All this in order to make our school happen. We also had time fillers in case we were done our classes early: extra questions to earn more house points and a memory game which we played each day. Thank goodness we had those, the kids devoured everything!

For those of you who have not been to our library, you need to know that we are in the same building as the Elks Hall, kitchen included. We transformed the entire building into the school: Potions classes were held in the kitchen, we found authentic Harry Potter potions stickers online, and gathered interesting glass bottles to decorate the classroom. Herbology was held in the children's section. A friend who knows a lot about herbs was our professor, and she showed them how to make shampoo from herbs. She also had three plants in her own backyard that were mentioned in the book. Also in the children's section were Transfigurations and Owls & Dragonology (displays and information) and we brought in three stuffed owls from the taxidermy shop in Berwyn. We transformed the hall into the Forbidden Forest and the Quidditch Pitch, and built the field out of plastic. We hung the house colours from ceiling to floor to create the field, hung hula hoops from the ceiling for goalposts and simulated a sitting area for the teams that weren't playing. The Great Hall was in the main area of the library, and decorated in House colours. Vanessa was Hufflepuff house head, Ceili was Ravenclaw, **Justine Ross** (student patron) was Gryffindor and I got to be head of Slytherin which was a ton of fun because I got to cheat a little to get more points for my house!

Day 1

All of the kids received a Hogwarts notebook to take notes in, for at the end of every day they had 30 trivia questions to answer which would earn them house points. For sorting them into houses we enlisted our Board Chair to help (he has a really deep voice) and we used walkie-talkies to sort the kids. It worked really well, even though the kids suspected we had something in the hat. But, they were nervous and excited to see which house they would be sorted into. They each received a t-shirt in their house colour and a house crest to wear around their necks. In wand-making we showed them how to make wands out of paper. It was very exciting, and it took a couple of hours to create their magic wand. They got to choose their own wand core: unicorn hair, dragon string or Veela hair (metallic threads of silver, green and gold). While making wands they all started talking about the different spells so we gave them their spell books. They loved those books and referred to them every day - who knew! We

made feather quills while our wands were drying. Before each event I read excerpts from the book. After lunch we practiced Quidditch after figuring out the play and the rules together, and then every afternoon from 1:30 to 2:30 we played Quidditch. The last half hour of the day was the same - after Quidditch they got the 30 trivia questions and had a treat from the candy trolley: chocolate frogs (Vanessa dipped green/white gummy frogs in chocolate), Bertie Botts Every Flavoured Beans (Jelly Belly makes those horrible tasting beans), Double Bubble gum for the Best Blowing Gum (we had a bubble blowing contest for house points), and Jelly Slugs. Then we tidied up the tables and went home.

Day 2

We mixed all the kids up for Potions and Herbology, and then in the afternoon put them back into their house for a contest to see which house could earn the most points by building the highest and strongest tower out of spaghetti and marshmallows. I got to test it all out with ping pong balls, golf balls, tennis balls, baseballs, the Quaffle ball and the 6lb muscle ball - I had great fun in smashing what they built!

Day 3

Morning was Dragonology, and we enlisted the help of a young actor in town who played Hagrid. He came to talk to the entire group about Dragons. Luckily, I just happen to have a 120lb black lab who is very familiar with the library. He slobbered on the kids and caused a great uproar! Hagrid also brought along his parrot, who played a baby Fawkes very well (I looked over at the kids and they were all grinning from ear to ear). He asked the kids questions about the book and went over the different types of dragons. He was great! We then hunted for dragon eggs in the field and they got dragon tattoos. Afternoon was Potions and Herbology for those who missed it on Day 2. Last day for Quidditch!

Day 4

In the morning we watched the first movie with popcorn, and it was interesting to see the kids referring to their books and picking out the differences between the book and the movie. After lunch we handed out the prizes to the Quidditch winners (Hufflepuff) and the house point winner (Ravenclaw). The prizes were Harry Potter books, *Quidditch Through the Ages*, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* and *Tales of Beetle the Bard*. The kids wanted to make another wand so that's how we finished it all up.

It was amazing, and we all decided that we really like that age group! We had kids from **Berwyn, Dixonville, Peace River** and **Grimshaw**. It was great to see all these kids come together, not knowing everyone and working as a team and getting to know one another. In their final comments they all loved the camp, would have liked some Defence of the Dark Arts lessons and want us to do *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* next summer! Help!

We started a Facebook page with this group and are hoping to engage some of them during the year - it's a start!

You can check out the pictures on our library's website at www.grimshawlibrary.ab.ca.



Items from the camp, including notebooks, letters, maps, spell books and more!



The Sorting Hat ready to determine what house this student belongs in.



The Great Hall, with the students divided into their houses.



Quidditch match in progress!



Potions class above, and the Forbidden Forest on the right.



2012 Rocky Mountain Book Awards Shortlist Announced

The deadline to register your class or library group to help determine the winner of the **Rocky Mountain Book Award** is January 19, 2012. The winner will be declared on April 23, 2012 on the award's website. For more information please visit <http://rmba.letbsd.ab.ca>.



- **At the Edge: Daring Acts in Desperate Times** by Larry Verstraete
- **Animals that Changed the World** by Keltie Thomas
- **Arctic Thunder** by Robert Feagan
- **Brussels Sprouts & Unicorns** by Robert Chaplin
- **Burn** by Alma Fullerton
- **Case Closed? Nine Mysteries Unlocked by Modern Science** by Susan Hughes
- **The Cat's Pajamas** by Wallace Edwards
- **Dear George Clooney: Please Marry My Mom** by Susin Nielson
- **Fatty Legs: A True Story** by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton
- **Follow the Elephant** by Beryl Young
- **The Good Garden** by Katie Smith Milway
- **Magic Up Your Sleeve: Amazing Illusions, Tricks, and Science Facts You'll Never Believe** by Helaine Becker
- **The Mealworm Diaries** by Anna Kerz
- **No Moon** by Irene N. Watts
- **Plain Kate** by Erin Bow
- **Prisoner of Dieppe** by Hugh Brewster
- **Robert Munsch** by Frank B. Edwards
- **The Sea Wolves: Living Wild in the Great Bear Rainforest** by Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read
- **Tower of Treasure** by Scott Chantler
- **Who Wants Pizza? The Kids' Guide to the History, Science & Culture of Food** by Jan Thornhill



2011 Man Booker Prize Long List Revealed

In July, the judges for the 2011 Man Booker Prize for Fiction revealed the 13 novels, narrowed down from 138, on their longlist. This year, it includes four first time novelists and three Canadian authors. On September 6, they will announce their shortlist of six titles and on October 18 the winner of the Man Booker Prize will be revealed. For more information visit <http://www.themanbookerprize.com>.

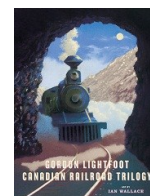
Finalists for the 2011 Canadian Children's Book Centre Awards



The winners of the English-language awards will be announced on October 4, 2011. The winners of the Prix TD de littérature canadienne pour l'enfance et la jeunesse will be announced on October 25, 2011.

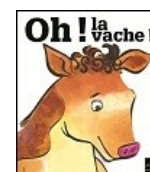
Nominees for the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award:

- ♦ **Burn** by Alma Fullerton (Midland, ON), Dancing Cat Books
- ♦ **Canadian Railroad Trilogy** by Gordon Lightfoot (Toronto, ON), Groundwood Books
- ♦ **The Glory Wind** by Valerie Sherrard (Miramichi, NB), Fitzhenry & Whiteside
- ♦ **I Know Here** by Laurel Croza (Markham, ON), Groundwood Books
- ♦ **Plain Kate** by Erin Bow (Kitchener, ON), Scholastic Canada



Nominees for the Prix TD de littérature canadienne pour l'enfance et la jeunesse:

- ♦ **Le chasseur de loups-marins** by Claire Vigneau (Sherbrooke, QC), Éditions Les 400 coups
- ♦ **Devant ma maison** by Marianne Dubuc (Montreal, QC), Éditions La courte échelle
- ♦ **La fille d'en face** by Linda Amyot (St-Charles-Boromée, QC), Éditions Leméac
- ♦ **Oh ! La vache !** by Alain M. Bergeron (Victoriaville, QC), et al, Soulières éditeur
- ♦ **Xavier-la-lune** by Martine Audet (Montreal, QC), Éditions Dominique et compagnie



Nominees for the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award:

- ♦ **I Know Here** by Laurel Croza (Markham, ON), illustrated by Matt James (Toronto, ON), Groundwood Books
- ♦ **In Front of My House** by Marianne Dubuc (Montreal, QC), Kids Can Press
- ♦ **Singing Away the Dark** by Caroline Woodward (Lennard Island, BC), illustrated by Julie Morstad (Vancouver, BC), Simply Read Books
- ♦ **Spork** by Kyo Maclear (Toronto, ON), illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault (Montreal, QC), Kids Can Press
- ♦ **Stanley's Little Sister** by Linda Bailey (Vancouver, BC), illustrated by Bill Slavin (Millbrook, ON), Kids Can Press



Nominees for the Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-Fiction:

- ♦ **Case Closed? Nine Mysteries Unlocked by Modern Science** by Susan Hughes (Toronto, ON), Kids Can Press
- ♦ **Evolution: How We and All Living Things Came to Be** by Daniel Loxton (Victoria, BC), Kids Can Press
- ♦ **Not Your Typical Book About the Environment** by Elin Kelsey (Pacific Grove, CA), illustrated by Clayton Hanmer (Toronto, ON), Owlkids
- ♦ **Viola Desmond Won't Be Budged** by Jody Nyasha Warner (Toronto, ON), Groundwood Books
- ♦ **Watch this Space: Designing, Defending and Sharing Public Spaces** by Hadley Dyer (Toronto, ON), Kids Can Press



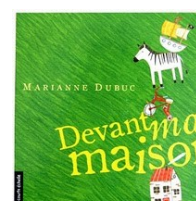
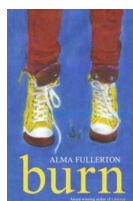
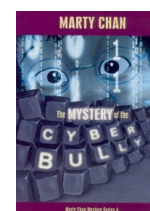
Nominees for the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young People:

- ♦ **Exiles from the War: The War Guests Diary of Charlotte Mary Twiss** by Jean Little (Guelph, ON), Scholastic Canada
- ♦ **Folly** by Marthe Jocelyn (Stratford, ON), Tundra Books
- ♦ **The Glory Wind** by Valerie Sherrard (Miramichi, NB), Fitzhenry & Whiteside
- ♦ **Queen of Hearts** by Martha Brooks (Winnipeg, MB), Groundwood Books
- ♦ **Wild Geese** by Caroline Pignat (Kanata, ON), Red Deer Press



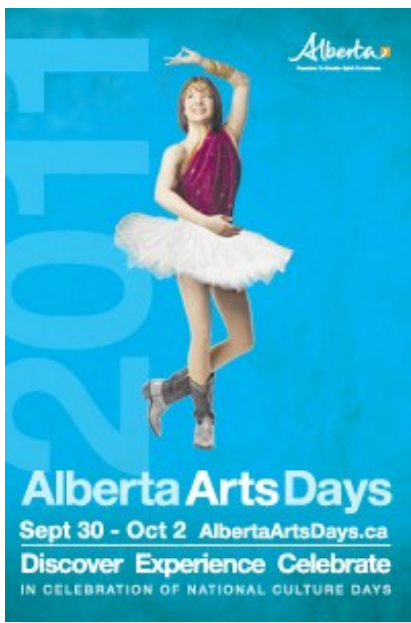
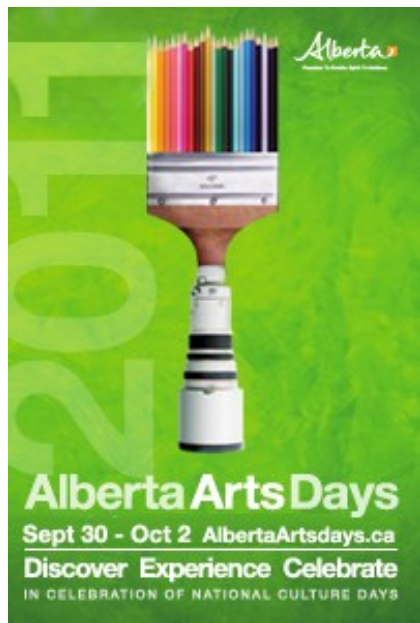
New Award! Nominees for the John Spray Mystery Award:

- ♦ **Borderline** by Allan Stratton (Toronto, ON), HarperTrophyCanada
- ♦ **Dead Bird Through the Cat Door** (Megabyte Mystery) by Jan Markley (Calgary, AB), Gumboot Books
- ♦ **The Mystery of the Cyber Bully** (Marty Chan Mystery) by Marty Chan (Edmonton, AB), ThistleDown Press
- ♦ **A Spy in the House** (The Agency) by Y.S. Lee (Kingston, ON), Candlewick Press
- ♦ **Victim Rights** (Ryan Dooley Mystery) by Norah McClintock (Toronto, ON), Red Deer Press



Celebrate Alberta Arts Days @ your library: Sept 30 - October 2

This article first appeared in Marigold Library System's June 2011 *Marigold Newsletter* and has been reprinted with permission.



Customizable posters are available in English, Chinese, Cree, French, German, Punjabi, Spanish, Tagalog and Ukrainian
<http://culture.alberta.ca/artsdays/resources-posters.aspx>

You can also access wordmarks (logos) at:
<http://culture.alberta.ca/artsdays/resources-wordmarks.aspx>

Start Small, Start Simple — An easy way to do this is to turn an existing event at the library into an Arts Days event. You could invite an artist or musician to the library, reschedule a previously planned arts-themed event or craft program so that it occurs on the Arts Days weekend. Don't forget to register your event.

The Power of Partnerships — You can multiply your resources and share the fun and the work of holding an event by partnering with another community or group. Partners can be found in your community or in nearby communities:

- Cultural groups
- Arts, sports or recreation associations
- Organizations with similar interests or who work with similar people
- Educational and public institutions, such as schools or health care facilities
- Associations such as Scouts, Guides or groups representing people with disabilities
- Businesses and employers
- Service clubs
- Religious groups
- Other libraries

MORE ...

- Encourage local businesses to become involved. Ask them to sponsor part of the event, provide give-away items, or help promote your event to their customers.
- Create a role for local youth. Is there something in your event at the library that could help a youth beef up their resume?
- Offer promotional opportunities to businesses or associations in return for support.

Get the word out — For help in planning read the planning guide at :
http://culture.alberta.ca/artsdays/resources/2011/ArtsDaysEventPlanning_Guide2011.pdf

Celebrate Alberta Arts Days and keep your displays up for Canadian Library Month in October. Below are some suggestions for libraries on how to become involved in the festivities:

PROGRAM IDEAS

Alberta Authors @ your library

Alberta authors can take you from the forest primeval to outer space and from ancient Egypt to beyond the grave. The Book Publishers Association of Alberta <http://www.bookpublishers.ab.ca/> features a listing of new books by Alberta authors. Offer recommendations to your customers — or do a display in the library of Alberta authors and their books.

Karaoke Night @ your library

Feature songs of Alberta performers. If you're not into singing, invite a local band to the library.

Listen to Music @ your library

It sounds like a very basic activity, but how often do we truly listen when music is playing? Have your customers sit around in a group and listen to a piece of music. Promote discussion of the music after.

Shoot and Click @ your library

Invite teens to take your/their digital or video camera on a walk around the library and capture some unique moments. Host a premiere party.

Crafternoon Delights @ your library

Choose a craft project and invite families to come to the library and work on the craft together. There are many different things you can do – quilting, pottery, card-making, painting, wood carving. Post a list of supplies in advance so everyone knows what to bring. Not enough room to host a program? Invite a local shop to display Alberta crafts in the library. If the artist lives nearby invite them to speak.

Culinary Arts @your library

Host a recipe exchange at the library. Issue a challenge to execute the recipe by using local ingredients from local gardens — the staff at the library are always willing to do a taste test!

Become an Exhibitionist @ your library

Turn your library into an art gallery. Host a painting party with the local kids and tape their artwork to the walls or floor. Or, hand out the sidewalk chalk and make each square of pavement a blank canvas. Ask a local artist or art club to give pointers and perhaps critique the results.

Magic Quilts @ your library

Invite local quilters to display their quilts and to talk to a group about their craft. Discuss colour choice, design, meaning of patterns, or inspiration for quilts.

Embrace Alberta's cultural mosaic @ your library

Host a multicultural arts and craft show in your library featuring arts, dance, food and stories.

Story Slam @ your library

Gather local writers and story tellers (or aspiring writers). Throw out a theme and have them create a story on the spot. Encourage young writers to share their experiences.

I Remember When...@ your library

Invite seniors to the library. Ask them to talk about "the good old days" or retell a story from way back when to children and teens. Consider recording them and/or writing down their stories and creating a book.

Glorious Texts @ your library

Ask teens in the library to take an actual text or social media message they wrote and commit it to paper. Encourage them to decorate it as lavishly as a medieval manuscript, to make it a true work of literary art. Does it change their perception of what they wrote?

Cover Story @ your library

Ask teens or other age groups to design a jacket for a book they've read, or one they imagine. Have them choose artwork and font, and write a "teaser" description and snippets of reviews.

Write a Future @ your library

Ask teens to set up an author's webpage, detailing their future success as a world-famous Alberta author. Include descriptions of projects, photos of their jet-set lifestyle, excerpts of their masterpieces, television interviews, etc.

Living Books @ your library

Have people sit with a person for 15-20 minutes to share his/her life experiences on topics such as immigration, abuse, etc.

Start a book @ your library

Leave a piece of paper at the desk with "It was a dark and stormy night..." written on it. When patrons come into the library ask them to write a sentence or paragraph to keep the story going. Peace Library System or a member library could post the finished story on the library website.

Create a Work of Art @ your library...

Origami
Decoupage
Wind chimes out of found objects
Ask teens to draw their perfect vision of a library

stART a picture @ your library

Leave a large piece of paper at the front desk with a partially drawn image. Ask customers to add to the image to create a larger piece of art.



Also, please remember to add your event to the official Alberta Arts Days Calendar at <http://culture.alberta.ca/events>

Keeping your Social Insurance Number Safe



Nowadays, with identity theft so common, we need to be extra vigilant in protecting our personal information. One way to do that is to only give out your Social Insurance Number (SIN) when you're legally required to. Often private sector organizations will ask you to provide your SIN, but just because you're asked for it, it doesn't mean you're always obligated to give it. Below is a guide to help you know when you should or should not provide your SIN, provided by **Service Canada** at <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca>.

When should you provide your Social Insurance Number:

- To your employer
- For income tax purposes
- To financial institutes where you are earning interest or income
- To receive Canada Pension Plan (CCP) or Old Age Security (OAS)
- To receive Employment Insurance (IE) benefits
- To set up a Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) or a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP)
- To receive the Canada Child Tax Benefit
- To receive Canada Student Loans
- For Goods and Services Tax (GST) claims
- To receive social assistance benefits
- For veteran's benefits and programs
- To receive Workers Compensation benefits
- To receive child support payments

When should you NOT provide your Social Insurance Number:

- Proving your identity (except for specific government programs)
- Completing a job application (before you get the job)
- Completing an application to rent a property
- Negotiating a lease with a landlord
- Completing a credit card application
- Cashing a cheque
- Applying for a club membership
- Completing some banking transactions (mortgage, line of credit or loan)
- Completing a medical questionnaire
- Renting a car
- Subscribing to a long distance or cell phone service
- Writing a will
- Applying to a university or college

Upcoming Events



PLS Board Meeting

High Prairie, AB
September 17, 2011

PLS' 25th Anniversary Reception

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Grande Prairie, AB
September 21, 7:00 pm

Rural Libraries Conference

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Grande Prairie, AB
September 22 - 23, 2011

Alberta Arts Days

September 30 - October 2, 2011

Fall Author Tours

Nicole Luiken, northern route, October 3 - 6, 2011
Joseph Simons, local route, October 24 - 27, 2011

Canadian Library Month

October 2011

Clear Hills County Advisory Committee Meeting

Worsley, AB
October 12, 2011, 5:30 pm

Library Managers' Council Meeting

PLS Headquarters
October 17, 2011, 10:30 am

Netspeed

Calgary, AB
October 19 - 21, 2011

PLS Executive Meeting

Location TBA
October 22, 2011

County of Northern Lights Advisory Committee Meeting

Grimshaw Municipal Library
October 24, 2011, 11:30 am

MD of Spirit River Advisory Committee Meeting

Rycroft Municipal Library
October 26, 2011, 6:15 pm

MD of Greenview Advisory Committee Meeting

Grande Prairie Public Library
November 2, 2011, 6:00 pm

PLS Board Meeting

PLS Headquarters
November 26, 2011

