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## GPPL Celebrates 75th Anniversary in June

*Submitted by Kelly Dickinson, Head of Adult Services, GPPL*

The Grande Prairie Public Library celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in June. In 1939, the Grande Prairie branch of the Women's Institute asked the town council for room in the town hall for a new library. The town approved the request and Charles Spencer, a local contractor, built the first bookcases for the library. With donations from the *Edmonton Bulletin* and local citizens, the new library had a collection of 300 books on its opening day in June. Seventy-five years and five locations later, the library is located in the beautiful Montrose Cultural Centre. Our collection contains close to 155,000 books, magazines, toys, DVDs, Blu-rays, eBooks and other electronic resources.



To celebrate this occasion, the library provided free memberships for the month of June, and hosted a community celebration on June 21<sup>st</sup> in the Library's Lounge. The highlight was a silver tea reminiscent of the original held on the library's opening day in 1939, featuring mini-cupcakes from OMG Cupcakes, crafts, live music, games and a photo gallery of the library through the decades. The celebration was a huge success with many community members attending.



## From the Director

By Linda Duplessis, Director, Peace Library System



It's back to school and back to routine for many of us who have been on holidays. I hope that the "Eureka!" summer program was a big hit with kids around the region. As you start planning your fall programs and activities, don't forget to schedule in attendance at Rural Libraries Conference in the

third week of September. It is a fantastic opportunity to network and learn something new. We are so pleased to have Alex Daum (formerly Eldridge) on board as our conference coordinator. You won't want to miss the great things she has planned!

While staff have been planning RLC and lots more online training, we have also been in the midst of behind-the-scenes planning for **long-term sustainability** here at Peace Library System (PLS). PLS has a balanced budget for 2014, but faces deficits in 2015 and beyond in order to maintain all current services. We are the largest library system geographically but we serve (and are funded) based on a relatively small population. The PLS Board has developed a "three-pronged" approach to increase revenue:

Beginning in 2015: divert \$0.50 per capita of the allotment funds to help fund regional collection purchases such as eBooks, licensed databases and audiobooks.

Beginning in 2016: increase municipal fees by 5% per year for three years. This would keep us in "the middle of the pack" in terms of library system fees. Note: Such a change to municipal fees must be approved by two-thirds of the municipal members before it can take effect.

Now: lobby the provincial government for additional funding for public libraries and library systems. Our Board Chair, Veronica Bliska, has spoken directly to the Minister of Municipal Affairs about this issue. We also asked libraries to "get on board" and lobby for more funding.

### Action Request to our Members

PLS sent an action request to every member council and

library board asking them to write the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Greg Weadick, about the need for additional funding for public library services in Alberta. This same message will be coming from the other library systems. To date, 17 councils and boards from the Peace region have responded, joining their voices with others from across the province.

### Provincial e-Content

As you know, the Public Library Services Branch has entered into agreements to offer **Zinio** (digital magazines) and **hoopla** (downloadable music and video) services to members of the Public Library Network. **Zinio** was launched as a PLS subscription early in 2014; the PLSB will be extending our Zinio subscription from October 2014 to October 2015. **Hoopla** was launched in the Peace Region on July 28. We will be closely monitoring hoopla usage as the province has assigned a finite amount of funding for each region.

### Alberta-wide Borrowing Delay

The Public Library Services Branch has been implementing the **Me Card Initiative** which will allow people to use their local card at almost any public library in Alberta. Polaris libraries in the Marigold, Peace, Northern Lights and Yellowhead library systems are not yet ready due to technical difficulties. Once a launch date is determined, Janet Ayles will offer webinars on how to help patrons register for Me Card privileges. PLS still plans to introduce plastic cards (for renewals and new patrons) to coincide with implementation of the Me Card Initiative. (Note: A TAL card will still be needed to borrow from college and university libraries. These are available from PLS.)

## Great Program? Exciting News?

Share what you've been doing in your library!

Submit photos, news and events to Alex Daum at  
[adaum@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:adaum@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca)

You can submit items for the newsletter at anytime,  
 and they'll be published in the following issue of  
**News & Notes.**

# SNAPSHOT:

*A day in the life of your library*

## 2014



*By Katherine Wiebe, Consulting Services Manager, Peace Library System*

Now's a great time to participate in Snapshot Day 2014! What is Snapshot Day? Snapshot Day allows you to show your community what happens every day in your library. You collect information, comments, stories, and photographs to capture a "snapshot" of a day in your library. How many people visit the library every day? How many reference questions are answered? How many programs are held? Several libraries have already jumped at the opportunity to highlight their library this summer. Your library has probably been very busy with the Summer Reading Club, vacationers stopping in to use the computers, and locals looking for a good summer read. Highlight this by participating in Snapshot Day.

Snapshot Day is an opportunity for every public library in the Peace Region to showcase its value to the community. It's as simple as choosing a day, gathering a couple statistics, and asking patrons to share a few comments.

Peace Library System will add up the results from all our member public libraries and create a colourful brochure demonstrating the combined positive effect of libraries in our region. Please participate and send us your data **by the end of October** so we can compile your contributions and create the brochure in time for your library board's November budget submission to your council. They will be impressed by the impact of participating in a regional library system!

Please see the Snapshot Day 2014 page on the Peace Library System website at <http://www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/snapshot-day>. It provides straight-forward guidance, posters, a data gathering sheet, and the patron comment card. Then, easily submit your numbers and comments gathered from your Snapshot Day using our quick survey link. It is really important that each library contribute its input so we can demonstrate the big impact we have together and in our local libraries.

We look forward to promoting your library and the Peace region!

## System News Bits

- Congratulations to **Dixonville Library Manager Cayley Russell** who had her first baby in July. Baby Sadie (pictured on the right) was born on July 30, 2014 and weighed 7 lbs, 4 oz. Congratulations to Cayley!

*Have exciting news to share? Send it to us at any time at [adaum@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:adaum@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca)*





## News & Notes

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

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## From the IT Desk

By Janet Ayles, IT Services Manager, Peace Library System



### Community Profiles

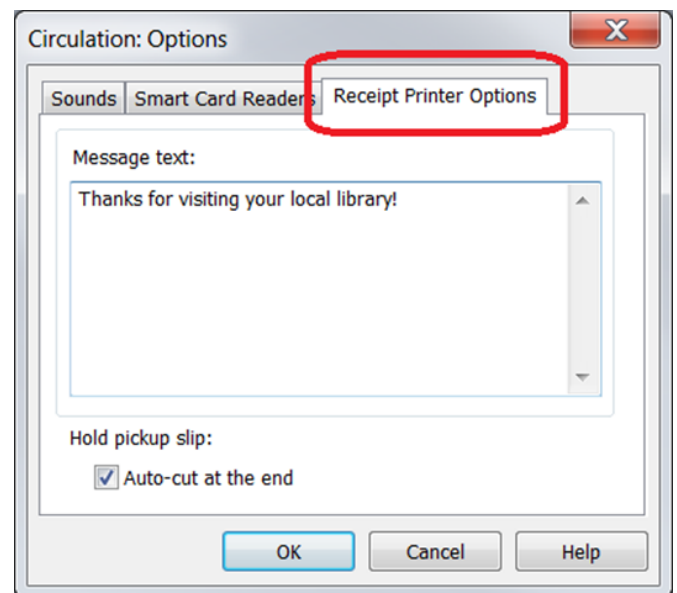
Community Profiles is going to be available for all PLS libraries this fall! Community Profiles gives your library the opportunity to work with community organizations and feature them in TRACpac. These profiles will be searchable by patrons and will be a wonderful way to highlight local organizations. The Polaris session at this year's Rural Libraries Conference will highlight Community Profiles and provide an overview from both the staff and patron points of view. If you are unable to attend the session, come and find me at the Polaris table in the Exhibitor Room.

### Inventory and Your Library

PLS has an inventory computer available for your public library to borrow. Conducting an inventory is a great idea because you can discover hidden problems with your collection. Although everything can look perfect sitting on the shelves, it does not always show that way in Polaris. Going through the inventory process gives you the opportunity to discover items that are still checked out, declared lost, or are missing. You may find some items that should be withdrawn. An inventory is a great time to do an overall assessment of your collection. The inventory computer can be borrowed for a month at a time and if you would like to reserve your month just let me know.

### Checkout Receipts

Did you know that you can customize your checkout receipt? Most of the details are standardized, but you can add custom text to your checkout receipts. Do you have upcoming events that you'd like to promote? Are there changes coming up at your library or other information you want to announce? The custom text field is a great place for this information. To customize your checkout receipt, go to Circulation > Options and choose the Receipt Printer Options tab. Just enter the text you would like to see on your receipts and press OK!



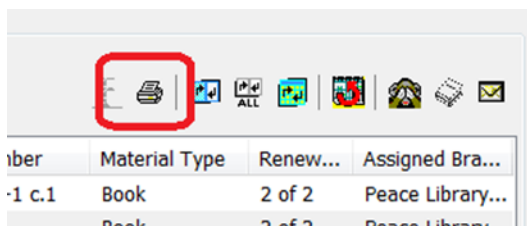
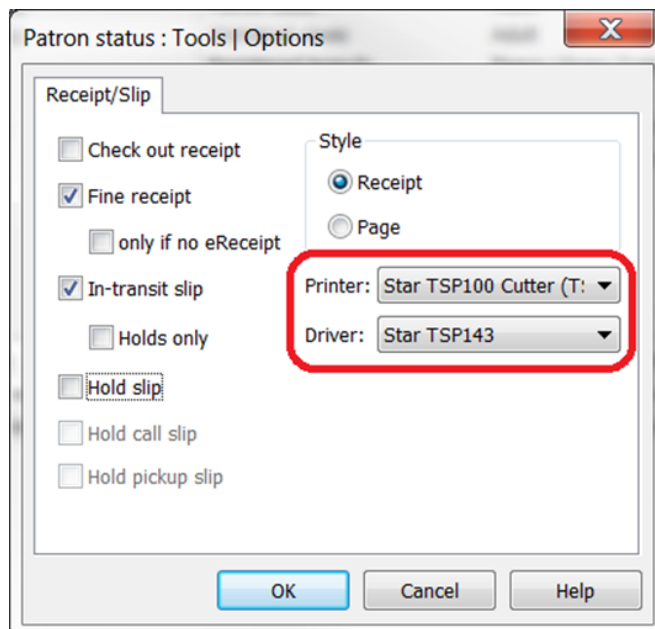


## Continued... From the IT Desk

**FROM THE IT DESK** continued from page 4

### Items Out Receipt

Last time I was in my local library, I received an items out receipt instead of a checkout receipt. At first I was a bit surprised, but the more I thought about it, I realized it was an interesting alternative. A checkout receipt gives you information about the book you've just checked out including title and due date. It does not mention anything about other books that you have previously checked out. An items out receipt gives you the same information as a checkout receipt but also includes other items you've borrowed and when they're due. If an items out receipt is something you'd like to try, go to Patron Status and the Items Out screen. First, we want to make sure that your printer is set up, so click Tools > Options. Make sure your printer and driver are selected. Most libraries have a Star TSP100 receipt printer, so the configuration should look like the example here.



Once you've made sure the printer is configured properly (you'll only have to do this once per workstation), you are ready to print an Items Out Receipt. On the right side of the screen, there is a line of icons (including the renewal icon) including one that looks like a tiny printer. Click on the printer and your receipt will print.

### SUBMITTING A HELPDESK TICKET

If you have questions or non-emergency concerns, remember that you can submit a helpdesk ticket at any time.

You can submit a helpdesk ticket by email, by emailing [helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca) with a description of the problem.

Or, use your web browser to submit a helpdesk ticket. Visit <http://help.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca> and fill in the required fields.

Janet or Andrew will respond as soon as possible!

## From the Information Desk

By Miranda Koshelek, Community Services Librarian, Grande Prairie Public Library



On Saturday, August 9, Grande Prairie Public Library hosted a very successful murder mystery program. The program was a joint project between the Young Adult Services Librarian and an Adult Services Librarian, conceived of initially to act as a means to celebrate Batman's 75th anniversary. Short of writing the script from scratch, it became apparent very early on that it would be quite difficult to create a Batman-themed murder mystery with limited staff resources. However, rather than scrapping the idea, we decided to hold it on its own as a program for ages 14 and older.

Although a number of murder mysteries are available for free on the internet, we wanted to ensure that our murder mystery would be of a very high quality. Moreover, we did not want to host a murder mystery that our attendees would have possibly done before. We decided to order a murder mystery package from [playingwithmurder.com](http://playingwithmurder.com). We chose the Murder in Manhattan theme which required 10 characters but actually had roles for 25. We were very impressed with the quality and level of detail which was included in the package and felt that it was quite worth the \$40 price. To recover the cost, plus serve hors d'oeuvres, we planned to charge \$10 per person.

We began advertising the program approximately six weeks prior to the date; it was included in our monthly *In Touch* newsletter (which over the summer includes both July and August in one issue), our online calendar, and on posters which were hung around the library. Registrants were provided with brief character descriptions and were asked to choose the three characters which most appealed to them; in addition, participants under the age of 18 were asked to have their parents sign a permission slip to attend. Patrons were slow at first to sign up, but after advertising it a few times on Facebook and Twitter, we began to have more registrations. In a rather interesting twist, more than 25% of our registrants signed up after the registration deadline. We were pleased to accept them and our final numbers hit near the 25 person maximum.

After registration closed, we assigned characters and prepared character information packets enclosed within brown envelopes so as to avoid any pertinent details leaking to curious attendees. These packets also



included name tags which proved to be invaluable throughout the night. Registrants were able to pick up their packages a week before the event, though many did so only a few days before.

We did prepare for the possibility that we might have a cancellation or that one of the crucial characters would not be present for the event. In such a case, one of the librarians or a male volunteer would step in and assume the required role(s). On the night of Murder in Manhattan, two required female characters failed to show up, so both librarians acted in the game to fill the spots.

Fifteen minutes before the library closed, the group was asked to meet in a programming room where they were briefed about library etiquette, codes of conduct, and other important details for the evening. While this was going on, the library was prepared for the event. Although the game would take place in various sections of the library, our main location (where the food was to be served) was in a study area, conveniently located in front of a fireplace.

**MURDER MYSTERY** continued on page 7

## An Evening of Mystery at Grande Prairie Public Library

**MURDER MYSTERY** *continued from page 6*

The location, along with the light decorations (table cloths, candelabras, electronic candles), really set the stage. Many participants remarked that the space was lovely and suited the game perfectly.

Once the game began, the librarians had very little work to do. It was intentional that the food should require little effort after being served so that the focus could be on the game. The first portion of the game was focused on eating and mingling, the second on solving the murder. Following the prepared script, it was quite simple for one librarian to slip away and plant clues, while the other engaged the players. Moreover, having two hostesses who were familiar with the game also allowed for organic prompts which enabled the game to run very smoothly. For example, during a silent moment, one librarian drew attention to the murder weapon which the participants had missed, while the other speculated that perhaps she who found it had also been the one to use it.



The participants were in the library for a total of two-and-a-half hours and the game itself took approximately two hours. At the end, participants voted on various categories such as best dressed, best actor, and of course, who they thought committed the crime. Results were tallied and certificates were given (which were also provided with the game). The participants left, expressing great pleasure and wondering when the next game might be.

### Tips for planning your own murder mystery:

- Choose a good murder mystery. If you decide to use one available for free on the internet, run through it with friends to make sure it's worthwhile. Otherwise, consider buying a package online or from a game store.
- Consider what you're working with when selecting the theme of the murder mystery. Is this for Halloween or for Valentine's Day? What kind of space do you have?
- Most murder mysteries are designed around food, so keep that in mind when planning your event. Try to choose food that requires less preparation so that the host or hostess can focus on the game.
- If possible, have a few people standing by to fill any absences.
- Allow participants to make recommendations about which characters they'd be interested in playing; this way, no one has to step too far out of their comfort zone. Moreover, it makes it easier for the one who is assigning characters (and would presumably be doing so blindly, otherwise).



# A Taste of Peace Porridge

Did you know Peace Library System has a blog? It's called Peace Porridge and it's updated every Monday with a new post! Topics include technology, programming ideas and everything in between! Here's a taste of some of our recent blog articles. For more, visit [www.peaceporridge.com](http://www.peaceporridge.com).

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## **Graphic Design Basics & Tools**, August 18, 2014

*By Alexandria Daum*

Librarians often have to wear many hats. In some libraries, where there is no funding to hire a graphic designer or a communications coordinator, not only do you have to come up with ideas for your library—you have to market them too! This can seem daunting, especially if you don't have any design experience, but there are some easy rules and free online tools that you can use to make your design work look professional and eye-catching.

1) **Get inspired!** Before you even start to design something—whether that be your website or a flyer—think about what it is you want to communicate. What information do people need from this item? How do you want it to make them feel? What images can you use to communicate these ideas? Use the answers to these questions as guidelines. Scour the web for images or designs that speak to you and that fit your intentions and use these as inspiration.

*Visit [www.peaceporridge.com](http://www.peaceporridge.com) for eight more design tips and tons of free online design tools!*

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## **Planning for Technology and Your Library**, August 12, 2014

*By Janet Ayles*

So what is a technology plan, why do I need one, and how do I create one?

A technology plan is just what it sounds like—a plan for new and replacement technology within your library.

Creating a technology plan gives you an idea of what you will have to include in your budget for future years. It also helps balance your projects. Implementing too many projects in a short time span or trying to research too many initiatives gets a little overwhelming, particularly when you have the rest of your job to worry about.

So, now that you know what a technology plan is and why you need one, creating one is the next and final step. Well, it's technically multiple steps, but you get the idea.

*Visit [www.peaceporridge.com](http://www.peaceporridge.com) for five easy steps to creating your technology plan.*

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## **Other recent blog posts**

- Unprogramming at Your Library, August 5, 2014
- The Wonderful World of Tumblr, July 28, 2014
- Starting a Baby Program, July 21, 2014
- Nursery Rhymes, July 14, 2014

*All of these and more available at [www.peaceporridge.com](http://www.peaceporridge.com)!*



# Introducing... Hoopla!

By Alexandria Daum, Library Consultant, Peace Library System

What's all the hoopla about? As of July 28, library patrons in the Peace Region now have access to hoopla – downloadable movies, TV shows, music, and audiobooks. Hoopla content can be accessed on a computer using a web browser, or patrons can download the app for their tablets or smartphones by searching for "hoopla digital" in the App Store or Google Play store.

Signing up for hoopla is easy! Whether patrons are in the app or online at [www.hoopladigital.com](http://www.hoopladigital.com), they must simply click "Sign Up." When selecting their library, be sure they choose "Peace Library System" as individual libraries will not show up. Then, library patrons must input their library barcode number and PIN. Finally, they will create a hoopla login by typing their email and choosing a password. Now they're ready to take out items!

To borrow items, patrons simply click "Borrow" once they locate an item they'd like to take out. This item will then appear in their "My Titles" list.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the lending periods for hoopla items?

This varies based on the type of item. Movies and TV shows can be checked out for three days (except for Paramount items which are limited to two days). Music can be taken out for seven days, and audiobooks are limited to 21 days.

### Is there a limit to how many items a patron can borrow?

Each patron has a limit of five items per month.

### Do I need an internet connection to play hoopla items?

No, you do not need an internet connection if you're using the hoopla app on a tablet or smartphone. Simply borrow an item and then click "download." This will

download the item to your device so that you can play it at a later time, without connection to the internet. This can be very useful for playing items while traveling, like in the car or on a plane. You do need an internet connection to play hoopla items using the computer, however, as playback on a computer is web-based.

### Are hoopla items limited to one item per user, like Overdrive eBooks?

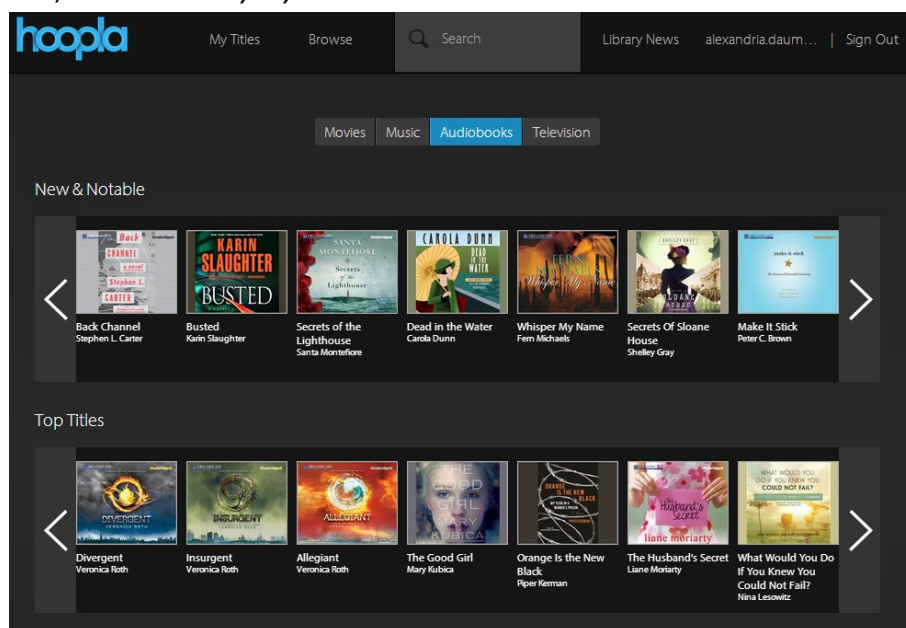
No, hoopla items are simultaneous use, meaning multiple users can borrow the same item at the same time. This means no holds or waiting for items.

### How do I return items using hoopla?

Hoopla items will automatically disappear from your account after the lending period, and returning items early does not impact your borrowing limit, so there is no need to return items early. However, if you have downloaded an item to your tablet or smartphone and wish to free up that storage space, there is a Return button in the top right corner of the screen.

### Where can I get more help with hoopla?

Visit [peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/hoopla](http://peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/hoopla) for resources and videos. You can also contact your library consultant for additional help!



## Around the System...



### PIRATE PARTY!

Everyone had such a good time at our Pirate Party last month, that we wanted to show you!



The **Peace River Municipal Library** hosted a pirate party in May. A great time was had by all the kids who attended!

- Submitted by **Raylene Snider**, Communications Coordinator, Peace River Municipal Library





## Around the System...



It's been a busy summer at the **Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library**. Youth nights featured melted crayon art, and adults have been able to take a "summer vacation with a book" (see top right photo). Like blind date with a book, adults can choose a wrapped book for a surprising vacation read! In July, comedian magician Brian Lehr visited the library and nearly 200 people came out to see the performance (bottom right).

- Submitted by **Desiree Remillard**, Programming and Public Relations Services, Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library



# INNOVATE. STIMULATE. TRANSFORM. RLC 2014



Preparations for the Rural Libraries Conference, taking place September 25 and 26 in Grande Prairie, are in full swing and we have some exciting things planned!

Remember, **the deadline for registration and payment is September 5, 2014** and no refunds will be processed after the registration deadline. For more details and to register, visit the conference website at [www.rurallibrariesconference.com](http://www.rurallibrariesconference.com). Here are some conference updates!

- Wendy Hodgson-Sadgrove's *Repair, Recycle, Reorder* session taking place on Friday, September 26 is now full. However, there are still a few spots in the pre-conference session of the same name, held from 2:00-4:00 pm at Peace Library System headquarters on Wednesday, September 24. Register now for the pre-conference and reserve your spot!
- Preparations for the duct tape creation station are underway! We're pouring over all the duct tape books from around the system to find ideas for crafts that YOU can make at the conference... plus, we'll have a prize for the best creation!
- The exhibitor tradeshow is now full! For a full list of exhibitors, visit the conference website.

## Upcoming Events



### PLS Board Meeting

High Prairie, AB  
September 20, 2014; 10:30 a.m.

### Rural Libraries Conference

Grande Prairie, AB  
September 24, 25, & 26

### Northern Lights Advisory Committee Meeting

Manning, AB  
September 29, 2014; 11:00 a.m.

### Clear Hills County Advisory Committee Meeting

Cleardale, AB  
October 1, 2014; 5:30 p.m.

### Netspeed

Edmonton, AB  
October 16-17, 2014

### Northern Sunrise Advisory Committee Meeting

St. Isidore, AB  
October 20, 2014; 10:30 a.m.

### MD of Spirit River Advisory Committee Meeting

Spirit River, AB  
October 22, 2014; 6:15 p.m.

### PLS Executive Committee Meeting

Fairview, AB  
October 25, 2014; 10:30 a.m.

### Library Managers' Council Meeting

By videoconference  
October 27, 2014; 10:30 a.m.

### MD of Greenview Advisory Committee Meeting

Grande Prairie, AB  
October 30, 2014; 6:30 p.m.

### PLS Board Meeting

PLS Headquarters, Grande Prairie, AB  
November 29, 2014; 10:30 a.m.

Find Peace Library System online:

