NEWS&Notes

Introducing: Video Game Kits!

Peace Library System is very excited to announce the Nintendo Switch Kit is now available for member public libraries to borrow for up to three weeks in order to support in-library programming. The kit includes the Nintendo Switch console, 2 pairs of Joy Con controllers, and 9 games: Overcooked! 2; Mario Maker; Super Mario Party; Just Dance 2019; Super Smash Bros Ultimate; Rocket League; Splatoon 2; 1-2-Switch; and Mario Kart 8 Deluxe.

To request the Nintendo Switch Kit, please email Barbara Johnson at bjohnson@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca and reserve a spot on the list.

Linda Duplessis

It's hard to believe that the first two months of 2020 are almost gone! We have been busy with performance appraisals, the 2019 audit, our 2020 LibPAS Report and Executive/Board meetings. Add to that the implementation of Relais, PLS website renewal, OHS training, a review of our delivery services, and a new photocopier (always fun), and we haven't had a moment to spare. We are trusting that things may slow down a bit in March.

From VDX to Relais: Have Patience

New provincial interlibrary loan (ILL) software called Relais was launched this month to replace VDX. It will facilitate ILL with public libraries in Alberta that are outside of the four library systems in TRAC. Relais went live on February 10, but there are some authentication issues behind the scenes that need to be resolved before it works for TRAC. TRAC is working diligently to get this resolved. The Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) is working to expand Relais to facilitate ILL with post-secondary libraries and with out-of-province public libraries. In the meantime, it will take some manual work to borrow items from post-secondary libraries or out-of-province libraries. A web form has been created to help patrons who want out-of-TRAC materials.

Barb Johnson has been designated as the Relais coordinator for PLS and she will be your main point of contact for Relais questions. In the meantime, we are very grateful that our colleagues at Grande Prairie Public Library have agreed to take care of any remaining VDX requests that are in process.

Delivery Review

The Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) has been reviewing the provincial interlibrary loan (ILL) delivery system over the last several years. In particular, they have been reviewing the cost and usage of Government Courier (GC) by public libraries to deliver ILL materials. GC service is available to about one-third of Alberta public libraries and costs the PLSB about $800,000 per year.

We know that changes are coming in the next few months. PLS has been tasked with reviewing its delivery service to all member libraries and looking at different delivery models. This information will be taken to a provincial delivery meeting to be held on March 5, 2020. After that meeting, PLS will let libraries know more about the changes to PLS delivery service.

More Digital Magazines for Patrons

Through a new agreement between RBDigital and TRAC, residents in all four regions now have access to 3,785 digital magazines. Each system used to handle its own eMagazines (a total of 392 titles) but joined forces to subscribe to more content for about the same combined cost. Please let your patrons know about this expanded service!

Updates from the Public Library Services Branch

Along with Carolyn Kolebaba, the Chair of the Peace Library Board, I recently attended two days of meetings hosted by the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB). The following updates were provided at the meetings:

- Move within Municipal Affairs: The PLSB has moved from the Corporate Strategic Services Division to the Municipal Services and Legislation Division. The ADM is Gary Sandberg.
- Trustee Training: The PLSB will continue to offer Board Basics workshops across the province. They are also creating more documents and webinars to assist boards and Councils. Samples of the documents will be distributed to member library boards.
- eContent: An RFP will be sent out in 2020 for the platform that hosts Read Alberta eBooks and the Prairie Indigenous eBook Collection. Another RFP will be sent out for online magazine service. (The province currently contracts with RBDigital for eMagazines and pays for the platform.) A survey on eContent is being sent to all public libraries to help with planning.
- Accessible Services: The PLSB continues to support programs to help patrons with print disabilities. CELA (Centre for Equitable Library Access) offers a centralized collection of materials, including Braille materials. NNELS (National Network for Equitable Library Service) produces and makes available audio books for the sight impaired. Call your consultant if you have questions about these services.

Linda Duplessis
Director

What's trending in books

CBC CANADA READS FINALISTS 2020

This year's Canadian Battle of the Books is taking place between these 5 novels:

Small Game Hunting at the Local Coward Gun Club by Megan Gail Coles
Radicalized by Cory Doctorow
We Have Always Been Here by Samra Habib
Son of a Trickster by Eden Robinson
**From the Ashes** by Jesse Thistle
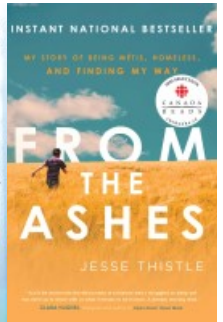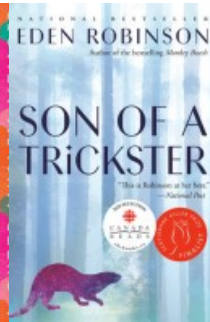
EDGAR AWARD FINALISTS 2020

The Edgar Awards celebrate the best works of mystery and suspense fiction. This year's nominees for best novel are:

Fake Like Me by Barbara Bourland
The Stranger Diaries by Elly Griffiths
The River by Peter Heller
Smoke and Ashes by Abir Mukherjee
Good Girl, Bad Girl by Michael Robotham

RNA POPULAR ROMANTIC FICTION FINALISTS 2020

The Romance Novelists' Association honours the best of romance with their annual awards. This year's shortlist for the Sapere Books Popular Romantic Fiction Award features:

The Glittering Hour by Iona Grey
The Truths and Triumphs of Grace Atherton by Anstey Harris
The Flatshare by Beth O'Leary
Poppy's Recipe for Life by Heidi Swain
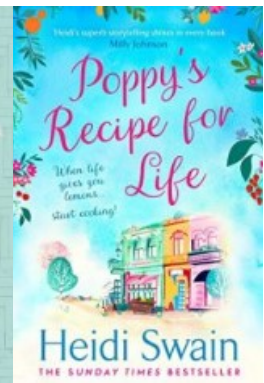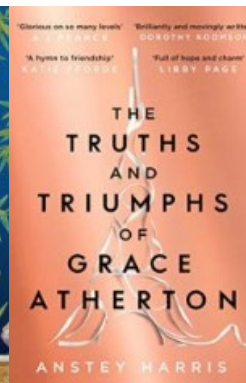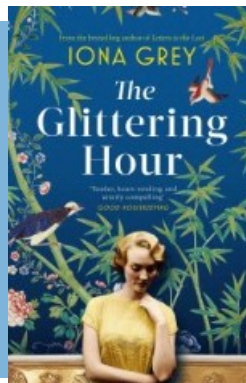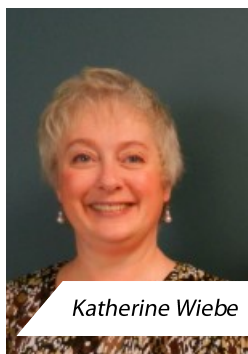
Katherine Wiebe

We trust everyone had an enjoyable Family Day long weekend.

We have a lot going on this month. Public Libraries are completing their LibPAS Annual reports and submitting them to the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) by February 28.

Once that's done, Library Managers and their boards can turn their focus to preparing the 2020 Operating Grant application package. This involves getting the 2019 financials reviewed, and then completing the prescribed forms to report the 2019 Receipts and Disbursements and the 2020 Budget. The operating grant application form and the required financial forms will be available on the PLSB website at https://www.alberta.ca/public-library-board-operating-grants.aspx. At the time of publication of this newsletter, the forms are not yet up, but we expect they will be soon.

It seems unbelievable, but we are already in full swing preparing for summer reading clubs. We have 27 public libraries participating in the 2020 TD-Summer Reading Club, and six libraries that will run an independent summer program. Please watch for the Prizes order form Barb Johnson will be emailing out to participating libraries, as we have a tight turnaround time to receive them back and coordinate a master order to forward to the provincial coordinator, which is Shortgrass Library System this year.

We're excited about the roll-out of our first videogame kit! Samm and Emma will also be purchasing later in the year to create a second videogame kit, along with a new initiative to create two STEM/STEAM kits (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math).

In a few days, Barb will have our first **seasonal** rotating blocks ready to lend to libraries. We started with Easter/Spring and are preparing two blocks. By early fall we will have created two Halloween blocks, so there's a lot to look forward to!

As Barb has already announced by email, we have completed the updating of our storytime kits ages 4-6 and they are available for borrowing. These are a great idea if you don't have a lot of time to develop a program from scratch. We also have storytime kits ages 2-3, some of which are available with French content. Please check out our website and give Barb a call/email to request the storytime kits.

Don't forget about our rotating blocks of Large Print, and audioblocks of books on CD. We also have the Read Alberta Books blocks and our bookclub kits. Information about all of these is available on our website under the Services tab, and click Special Collections.

Samm is offering free webinar training in February. Get a refresher on how to use OverDrive, cloudLibrary & RBdigital and in March Walk through LibraryAware to see the new layout and features. Sign up at http://www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/calendars-and-schedules and make sure to include your name and email address so Samm can forward the webinar link to you.

Samm is gearing up for spring interagency meetings and powwow season as she continues outreach to Indigenous communities and looks forward to collaborating with our liaison workers at some of our libraries.

Emma and Katherine will begin consulting visits out to the libraries in early spring and we look forward to catching up with everyone. But please don't wait until the spring if we can help by phone or email sooner!

Katherine Wiebe
Consulting Services Manager and Assistant Director

>> New Seasonal Blocks & Storytime Kits

Barbara Johnson

Enhance your collection by borrowing a block!

Peace Library System currently has 60 large print, 40 audiobook, and 29 seasonal block selections available to borrow for a six-month term. Our seasonal blocks include Christmas blocks and the recent addition of two new Easter blocks. And this fall we will have two new Halloween themed blocks! Each Seasonal block contains 25 titles with a mixture of content to suit all readers.

Looking for programming ideas? Be sure to check out our Storytime Kits for Ages 2-3 and 4-6! These popular kits are available in a wide range of themes for a three-month loaning period. Each kit includes theme-related books, puppets, games and craft ideas. We've recently added new titles to our kits for ages 4-6.

To see all of our Special Collections, check out our website at http://www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/special-collections.

To request a Storytime kit and/or block, email Barbara Johnson at bjohnson@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca. It's that easy!

>> Tech Services Tidbits

We are happy to welcome Alycia Vickrey as PLS's new Receiving Clerk. Alycia is diving into her new role and learning all about your allotment accounts.

Also, as an avid reader, she's very excited about seeing all the new books as they come in from vendors.

Please reach out to Alycia with any questions about your allotments or monthly statements. Alycia's email address is avickrey@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

>> A Eulogy for Windows 7
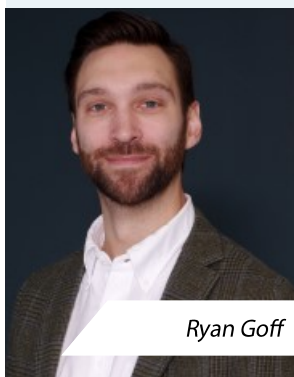
Seeing as how I started my career shortly before the launch of Windows 7, I thought it would be fitting to give it the proper eulogy it deserves. Hopefully this brings you a laugh as you settle into a new era with Windows 10.

Released October 22, 2009, Windows 7 was born from the ashes of the dumpster fire that was Windows Vista. It was the operating system the world deserved and one that somehow made Mr. Bill Gates that much richer in the process. With shiny new features like automatic driver installation, a clean interface, and a heavy focus in security, it was a beautiful piece of engineering that made both users and IT professionals rejoice. As a young 20 something starting out I couldn't have asked for a better challenge to tackle as I began my career.

Ryan Goff

Now, that's not to say that Windows 7 and I didn't have our battles over the years. From compatibility problems with older software, more bloat that often lead to slower performance, the disaster that was the Aero interface, and more than its fair share of dreaded printer problems (I mean seriously, how is printing the biggest problem in IT still?) it's easy to see why we often had a love/hate relationship. Luckily, I never met a problem that couldn't be fixed with a generous cup of coffee, a level of stubbornness some may describe as mule-like, and the occasional threat of violence. Even with our issues, my level of respect towards it only grew over time as it became more mature and stable.

Sadly, like all good things, the end eventually came for Windows 7 on January 14, 2020 when Microsoft released its last round of security updates. While I have fallen for what the young kids call "the new hotness" that is Windows 10, I'll never forget the time I spent with Windows 7, good and bad. It will go down in history as a major win from Microsoft that powered the tech world for over a decade and was monumental in shaping my career. Rest in peace old friend, you had a great run.

Thanks to all the library staff for your patience as we have worked through the process of upgrading all remaining Windows 7 computers. Don't forget to upgrade your home computers from 7 to 10 if you haven't done so already!

Ryan Goff
Desktop & Network Administrator

>> From the IT Desk
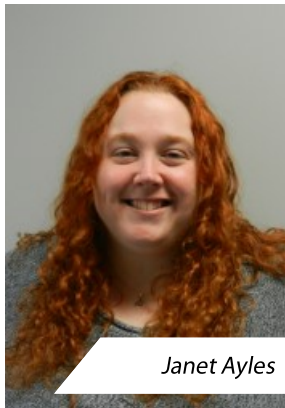
Let's talk about item records.

As you receive items from PLS, you process them. Check the call number, ensure the collection code and shelf location are correct. Maybe even apply a spine label if one isn't already attached.

There are other areas of an item record to remember, though.

Janet Ayles

In the interest of Resource Sharing (as well as adhering to the TRAC Operational Guidelines), items should **Display in PAC**, be **Loanable outside system**, and **holdable**.

There are exceptions to the resource sharing guidelines. Reference materials, periodicals, oversized books, oversized kits, CNIB items, vinyl, and electronic devices do not need to be loanable or holdable.

As with most things, it's not a bad idea to review your collection and make sure that everything is in order.

As it is in so many ways, Simply Reports will be your friend here.

In Simply Reports, create an **item list report**. The columns you need are pretty flexible, depending on your needs, but odds are, you'll want barcode, MARC title, collection code, and material type (those last two could identify the item as one of the above mentioned exceptions).

Once you've got your columns chosen, don't forget to set your **Item general filters**. Set your **Assigned branch** to your library and your **Record status** to final (because odds are, you're only going to be concerned with what's on your shelf).

Up next, we consider the **Item checkbox filters**. You're looking to find which items don't display in PAC, aren't holdable, or are non-circulating.

Now I don't recommend clicking all three at once. You can, but you won't get the full picture. I recommend running three separate reports to get a list of which items need fixing.

Of course there is the area which must left alone.

Unless your item in question qualifies as an exception, nothing in that highlighted area should be checked.

With all the settings correct, items are shared and patrons are happy. All is right in the library world.

Janet Ayles
IT and Technical Services Manager

by Hailey McCullough, Head of Adult Services, Grande Prairie Public Library

Celebrate Freedom to Read Week!
February 23 – 29

One of the most important and meaningful aspects of living in Canada is the country's duty to uphold the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Often referred to as the Charter, this bill of rights is an integral part of the Constitution Act. The Charter was designed with the intent to provide Canadians with core, fundamental principles that allow those in Canada to have freedom of:

i)   Conscience and religion

ii)   Thought, belief, opinion, and expression (including freedom of the press and other media of communication)

iii)   Peaceful assembly

iv)   Association

You may be wondering what the Charter and the freedoms it contains has to do with libraries. Libraries are very passionate about supporting freedoms, especially intellectual freedom. The Grande Prairie Public Library supports the Canadian Federation of Library Associations' Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom which states that "all persons in Canada have the fundamental right, subject only to the Constitution and the law, to have access to the full range of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, and to express their thoughts publicly. Only the courts may abridge free expression rights in Canada".

Did your eyes glaze over reading that? If so, that's okay. Some practical examples of intellectual freedom at work in libraries are the books we have in our collection, or the posters we hang up, or the programs we offer. Intellectual freedom allows libraries to have materials, programs, or posters that may contain unconventional or unpopular ideas to some, and it is a fact of working in libraries that these offerings are frequently challenged by members of the public. I think that the Harry Potter series is a wonderful set of books that include important lessons about friendship, courage, and love. Twenty years ago, a concerned parent from Newfoundland demanded the books be removed from their child's school library due to the depiction of wizardry and magic (the parent had not read the books). Intellectual freedom allows libraries to reject or deny such demands.

Materials are challenged for a number of reasons, but the most popular reasons are that the materials contain themes or topics such as: LGBTQ+, suicide, profanity, sexual references, violence, encouraging disruptive behavior, drug use, offensive political viewpoints, etc. While some of these themes or topics may be difficult to digest, they're often an integral part to the story and are important to include because they connect with real human experiences. These experiences help others who may be dealing with a difficult issue, such as understanding their sexuality, overcoming suicidal thoughts, or fighting an addiction.

To recognize the importance of intellectual freedom, libraries all over Canada celebrate Freedom to Read week every February by creating book displays and encouraging people to check out frequently challenged books. If you can't make it into the library, spread the word about Freedom to Read week to your friends and family – encourage them to check out a challenged book. Many of us enjoy watching television shows and reading books about dystopian worlds where organizations or governments control what the masses say, do, and read - let's celebrate that we're not one.
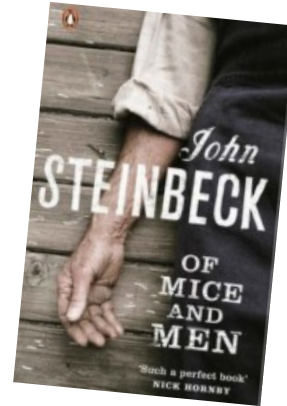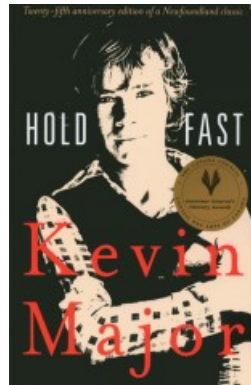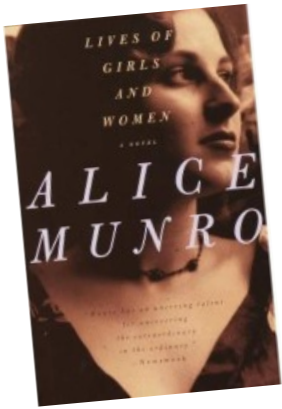
1. *Lives of Girls and Women* by Alice Munro
2. *Go Ask Alice* by Anonymous
3. *Hold Fast* by Kevin Major
4. *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
5. *Asha's Mums* by Rosamund Elwin
6. *The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman
7. *The Wars* by Timothy Findley
8. *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
9. *Underground to Canada* by Barbara Smucker
10. *A Jest of God* by Margaret Laurence
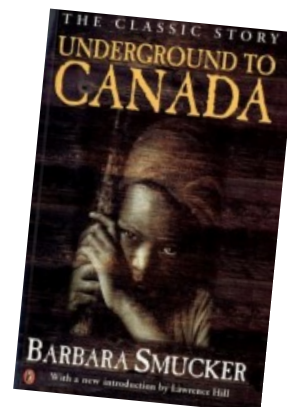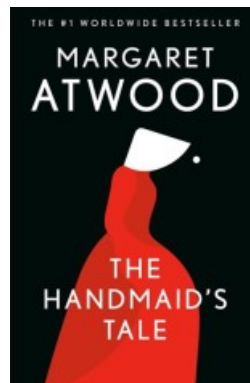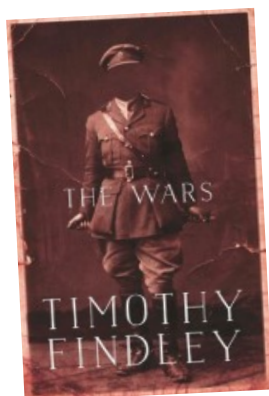
Around the System...

High Prairie Municipal Library

This Valentine's Day we held Blind Date With a Book! We had 50 books wrapped up and 42 went on a date, with patrons entering to win the prize of dinner for two. Congratulations to our winner, Patty Milner.

Also, check out the cute craft Kaylee Calliou, our Indigenous Outreach Programmer, did with the Headstart group in Sucker Creek!

—**Submitted by Tracy Ireland, High Prairie Municipal Library**

Manning Municipal Library

The Manning Library has been busy this winter!

We had our Harry Potter and the Triwizard Tournament on Thursday February 6th. We were attended by 24 kids, 8 adults, 3 volunteers and 4 paid staff members. The kids (and parents) took part in playing Quidditch, crafting their very own wands and trying their hand at our skill testing Trivia! We all had a great time and it looks like there will be a lot of interest in making this an annual event.

On Saturday, we hosted our monthly adult craft. This month we brought in a local artisan, Siobhan Kennedy, who taught us how to wire wrap stones for jewelry. We had 18 total in attendance (2 sessions of 9 people each). It was a big hit and I think we will be bringing her back in to teach us a more advanced course in the future.

—**Submitted by Crystal Jacobson, Manning Municipal Library**

Peace River Municipal Library

On January 30th, Peace River Municipal Library hosted a game of Life-size Sorry in addition to our regular Tabletop Gamers night. The game board was mapped out on the floor and players had to walk their pawns around the room. Twenty-six people joined in the fun. This is our second life-size game with the first being Life-size Life!

—**Submitted by Beverley Shewchuck, Peace River Municipal Library**

More from around the *System...*

Valleyview Municipal Library

Our Harry Potter Book Night was a big success. We had around 60 people attend. We had House sorting; Potions class; Defense Against the Dark Arts (draw your Patronus); Care of Magical Creatures (making a pine cone owl and playing with a giant slimy toad in a tub of water beads); Divination (word search and what turned out to be a very popular game of Harry Potter Would You Rather); House Appreciation (made bookmarks); Introduction to Practical Mischief (making a paper airplane and trying to throw it into the Goblet of Fire, which was a large planter pot); Intro to Quidditch (find the hidden snitches in the library); and more. The biggest attraction was our game of Beanboozled where kids would spin a wheel on the iPad app to choose a jelly bean colour - it was amazing how many times they tried even though they often landed on horrible flavours like Stinkbug, Dirty Dishwater; Smelly Socks, etc. We had a whole bunch of door prize draws including two grand prizes of a Honeydukes Scratch and Sniff Book and a 1000 Harry Potter Sticker Book.

Another great program we did in February was our Hand Drum-Making Workshop. We had 15 people attend and create their own hand-drum using either buffalo or elk hide. The workshop was funded in part by the Indigenous grant through PLS.

—**Submitted by Kerri Danner, Valleyview Municipal Library**
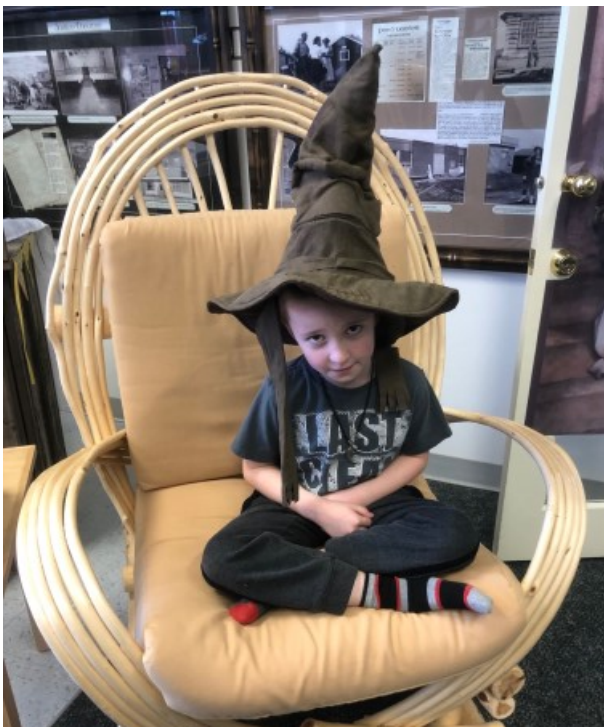
Grande Cache Municipal Library

Our January programs saw participation from 393 patrons. We partnered with Grande Cache ECC, FCSS, and the Tawow Center for Family Literacy Day which saw 2 hours of reading stories and craft sessions and attracted 61 people. Our Crafter's Eve programs continue to be popular. With the closing of GC Parent Link, our partner in these events, we have decided to continue on and provide these evenings on our own. In January the families made Tic-Tac-Toe boards; in February they made Wood Cookie Hearts. Finally, staff member and outdoor enthusiast Ausi Riley gave a presentation on ice and rock climbing. Ausi and her family are avid mountaineers. Grande Cache is a perfect place for them.

—**Submitted by Laurel Kelsch, Grande Cache Municipal Library**

McLennan Municipal Library

Student programmer Jenna led enthusiastic young wizards at the McHogwarts Triwizard Tournament at McLennan Municipal Library. The sorting hat ceremony, games, and Hedwig cupcakes were a huge hit. "I am a wizard, not a baboon brandishing a stick."

We also had some young readers hitting reading milestones at McLennan Library!

—**Maureen Fisher, McLennan Municipal Library**

>> 2019 eResource Checkouts

OverDrive

Total checkouts: 96,632

lynda.com

Total usage: 8,113

RBdigital eMagazines

Total checkouts: 11,784

cloudLibrary

Total checkouts: 4,751

TumbleBooks

Total checkouts: 5,453

pressreader

Issues read: 29,312

ancestry.com

Documents viewed: 6,390

>> Lynda.com Tutorials

Now that we have spent our winter bidding a fond farewell to Windows 7 on library computers…

Let's dive into how to use Windows 10!

Luckily for PLS libraries and their patrons, you don't have to figure this out alone: we have access to free tutorials on all kinds of tech and workplace topics through Lynda.com, including Windows 10 tutorials.

Are you looking to find out what's new and shiny and what Windows has improved in this latest version? Check out **Windows 10 New Features**, a tutorial for beginners that will take you around 40 minutes to watch.

If you're already pretty comfortable with Windows and are looking for something slightly more advanced, you can watch **Windows 10: Tips and Tricks**, which will help you figure out shortcuts and ways to get your work done more efficiently on Windows 10.
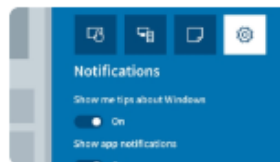

lynda.com

COURSE
Windows 10 New Features
with Garrick Chow

40m 41s   Beginner

COURSE
Windows 10: Tips and Tricks
with David Rivers

1h 29m   Intermediate

>> Rural Libraries Conference

Libraries All Life Long
Rural Libraries Conference 2020

We're already gearing up and getting ready for this year's Rural Libraries Conference! The theme for 2020 **celebrates Libraries All Life Long** and focuses on fostering a multigenerational library culture with programs and services for all demographics.

The conference website has been updated to reflect the new theme; check it out at www.rurallibrariesconference.com, and check out the logo for this year's conference at left!

If you have an idea for a session you'd like to present at the conference, send the following information to the conference coordinator at estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca: your name; affiliation; position/title; contact information including mailing address, phone number and e-mail address; and your session title and session description (around 100 words). The deadline for submissions is Friday, March 13th, 2020.

We look forward to seeing you all at the 2020 Rural Libraries Conference on October 1 and 2 at the Pomeroy Hotel & Conference Centre! Stay tuned for registration later this spring.

Peace Library System acknowledges Treaty 8 territory as well as the Métis Nation of Alberta. Peace Library System libraries are located on territory that provided a travelling route and home to many Indigenous peoples.

Read for 15

Read for 15 is an annual competition between Alberta libraries that celebrates Family Literacy Day. Each year on January 27th, libraries track the number of members of their community who read for at least 15 minutes in a bid to be the most "readerly" community in Alberta. We're happy to see two PLS libraries on the winners lists for 2020:

Highest Percentage Winner:
1st Bashaw Municipal Library (95.18%)
2nd place: Valleyview Municipal Library (51.42%)

Most Improved from 2018 to 2019:
1st Slave Lake Public Library
2nd Most Improved: Coaldale Public Library

Great job to everyone who participated!

Submit to News & Notes!

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

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

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

Peace Library System's
events calendar

PLS Board Meeting
PLS Headquarters
February 22, 2020, 10:30 am

Freedom to Read Week
February 23-February 29, 2020

Library Managers' Council Meeting
PLS Headquarters
April 6, 2020, 10:30 am

PLS Executive Committee Meeting
Location TBA
April 18, 2020, 10:30 am

Alberta Library Conference
Jasper Park Lodge
April 23-26, 2020

Public Library Meeting
PLS Headquarters
May 4, 2020, 10:00 am

PLS Board Meeting
PLS Headquarters
May 23, 2020, 10:30 am