



NEWS & Notes

PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

ISSN#1190-8890

VOL. 32 ISS. 3

FALL 2020

Passing the Torch



Our outgoing director, Linda Duplessis, has been hard at work this August bringing our new CEO, Louisa Robison, up to speed on Peace Library System operations! Turn the page to hear more from Linda and Louisa regarding this exciting new chapter in PLS history.

>> From the Director



Linda Duplessis

After 27 years at Peace Library System, including 19 years as Director/CEO, I will be retiring at the end of August. I have to say that those words haven't sunk in yet. Working at Peace Library System has been the highlight of my career as a teacher, teacher-librarian and librarian. It has been truly rewarding to work in an organization that makes a difference to libraries, to patrons and to communities.

There have been many changes and challenges over the years. Between 1993 and 2020, System membership increased from 21 to 39 municipalities, and we now serve 46 public libraries and 50 schools. Within that time, most public and school libraries moved from manual operations (the card catalogue) to a fully automated environment. Libraries had to adjust to the world of technology, and embraced digital resources while continuing to offer a wide range of books for patrons. What hasn't changed is the high quality of library service that has always been offered by dedicated library staff across the region. You are an amazing group of people who do so much for your communities!

I am honoured to have played a small part in expanding library services in municipalities and schools, and I have been fortunate to work in tandem with a supportive board of directors. I have tremendous admiration for the many hard-working library staff and board members I have had the privilege to know over the last 27 years. And I have been blessed to work with a tremendous group of colleagues at PLS headquarters. It is the people that I will miss the most.

As my career ends, new opportunities are coming. Yes, I will have more time to read, and I am excited by that. There will be more time to walk with my friends and experiment with cooking new recipes. But I also plan to find ways to work in the area of literacy and to support the good work my church is doing in this community. And - just to be clear - I am not moving away!

Retiring during a pandemic is strange indeed and I am sorry we can't celebrate together as a group. So please keep in touch and let me know if you have time for coffee when you are in GP. I invite you to email me at lduplessis7881@gmail.com or call/text me at 780-228-1557.

I wish each of you health, happiness and many blessings!

Linda Duplessis, Director



Linda and PLS board chair Carolyn Kolebaba cutting Linda's retirement cake and presenting a gift from PLS



>> From the CEO



Louisa Robison

Here I sit, staring at a blank screen and wondering what I could possibly tell all of you about me that would make me sound fabulously interesting ...

My name, as you've all heard, is Louisa Robison. I come to you recently from the Provincial public service having spent most of my time in the Alberta Government Library system. Wait, I'll rephrase that: What *used* to be the

Alberta Government Library system. Let me explain. I'll start at the beginning.

I was born in Edmonton and moved to Grande Prairie when I was quite young. I went all through school here: Swanavon, Forbes, GPCHS. I left about as soon as I turned eighteen intent on seeing the world. I got as far as Edson. After getting married and having one baby, I started library tech school at Grant MacEwan College, now MacEwan University. I graduated with a tech diploma (and another baby) in 1996, worked stints at Enbridge Pipelines and the consulting services library with Edmonton Public Schools. In 2003, I started in the Labour library of the Alberta Government Library system.

At that time there were eleven libraries in the system, which were then systematically shut down and consolidated from eleven, to seven, to four and finally to just one site. In that time I had moved from the Labour library to the 7th Street Plaza library, which served social and children's services, finished my undergrad degree in communications, finished my Master's degree in Library and Information Studies, moved from interlibrary loans technician to reference librarian and then to head librarian of that site. When the final consolidation happened I went to the newly formed Open Information group, where I was responsible for the designing and building of the new Open Government Portal. (When I was, I was responsible for the design, I mean I assigned the work. Nobody wants to see a website designed by me!) Metadata was my life for a good four years there.

When that was launched and functioning well, I moved to the Assistant Deputy Minister's office for Open Information in Service Alberta and was her executive advisor for a while, running her office, managing her communications, dealing with the budget, etc. Then I went back to the library and became the Manager for Library and Open Information (head librarian plus more), and then I came to PLS.

As I've said I have two kids (well, adults), a dog and two cats. My son Morgan is currently training with the military police academy and should be graduating soon. My daughter Rachel works in property management in Edmonton and raises my grandson Lucas, who will be starting grade 2 in the fall. The dog, Spook, is a Pomeranian Shih-Tzu and looks like a teeny tiny bear. The cats are Maxie and Rupert and will be joining me in GP soon.

I enjoy all the librarian things - knitting, reading, tea and motorcycles. I also play viola and was involved in a number of community orchestras in Edmonton and hope to join one here in the fall (or whenever rehearsals are allowed again). I'm a bike commuter, even in winter, and as soon as my bikes are here I intend to start again, though I will not be biking all the way to the remote libraries, I'm not that good.

My first week here at PLS has been a deep dive into a lot of information and history and an introduction to a wonderfully dedicated, knowledgeable and personable staff. I look forward to meeting everyone - on Zoom if necessary - to discuss your plans and issues and hopes for the future. I know we can all work together to keep PLS the vital and thriving community it has been for many years already and will continue to be long into the future.

Louisa Robison, CEO

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.

>> Consulting Corner



News & Notes

News & Notes is your quarterly professional guide to news, services and connection with the staff at PLS.

How to contact us:

estewart@
peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca

Editor/Design:
Emma Stewart

Contributors in this issue:

Janet Ayles

Hunter Charest

Linda Duplessis

Ryan Goff

Tracy Ireland

Jill Kergan

Samantha Mercer

Louisa Robison

Cyndi Roy

Emma Stewart

Katherine Wiebe

Bettina Worrall



Happy end of August from the Consulting Department.

We've really enjoyed our **virtual Coffee Chats** with the public library managers and staff who have joined us over the past few months, and we hope to see all of

you in September for more conversation and updates.

The next Coffee Chats are scheduled for Monday, September 14 at 2:00 p.m., and Thursday, September 17 at 10:00 a.m. You don't need to register, just click on the link I emailed out and join us!

We are pleased to announce that Peace Library System has entered into an agreement with the Lung Association of Alberta to provide **Radon Screening Kits** to patrons. We have received 18 kits to place in libraries around the Peace region. The kits will be available for loan to patrons of all our member public libraries during the months of October to April when higher radon readings are observed. Although radon levels vary from day to day and from season to season, the highest radon levels of detection are generally found during the winter when our homes are sealed more tightly than during the summer months when windows are open and good circulation reduces radon levels.



Barb is just waiting for a few more titles to arrive, and then we will be ready to start lending our brand new **Halloween rotating blocks** to member libraries. We were able to create two blocks this year and they will be available soon – watch for Barb's email announcing them!

This spring the seven library systems created the virtual **Alberta Summer Reading Club** to complement the virtual TD-Summer Reading Club. Emma and Samm also created a summer reading Bingo for adults and teens in the Peace region. We hope libraries and patrons have been able to take advantage of these opportunities to engage all ages this summer.

To that end, I have recently emailed out a short survey asking you to share about both your virtual and/or in-person summer programs. This way, we hope to gather a regional picture of the summer.

The fall will be here before we know it, and that means the Conference! Due to COVID-19 we were not able to plan our usual in-person Rural Libraries Conference, so Emma has been busy coordinating a **virtual Stronger Together 2020 Conference** with Parkland and Yellowhead Regional Library Systems, and The Alberta Library. Registration opened August 7 and is free. If you cannot watch your desired sessions live on the day (October 1-2), you will be able to watch them via recorded link at your convenience.

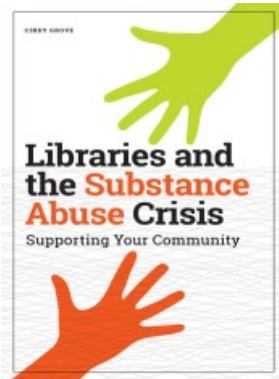
Please visit the conference website at <https://strongertogether.heysummit.com/>.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

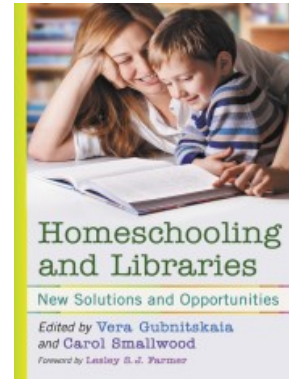
Katherine Wiebe
Consulting Services Manager and Assistant Director

>> Professional Development Recs

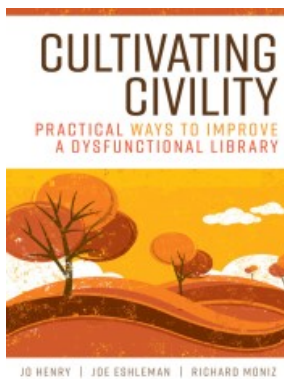
Here at Peace Library System headquarters we have a great collection of professional development titles that you can request and borrow through TRACpac at any time. But did you know that TRAC also has a fantastic collection of titles for library staff on OverDrive? In this edition of the newsletter, we wanted to highlight some of the great eBook titles that you can peruse digitally—because the learning never ends in the library profession!



Libraries and the Substance Abuse Crisis: Supporting Your Community
by Cindy Grove



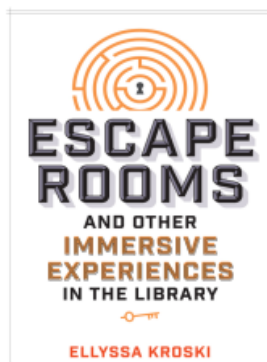
Homeschooling and Libraries: New Solutions and Opportunities
by Vera Gubnitskaia and Carol Smallwood



Cultivating Civility: Practical Ways to Improve a Dysfunctional Library
by Jo Henry, Joe Eshleman, and Richard Monitz



The Weeding Handbook: A Shelf-by-Shelf Guide
by Rebecca Vnuk

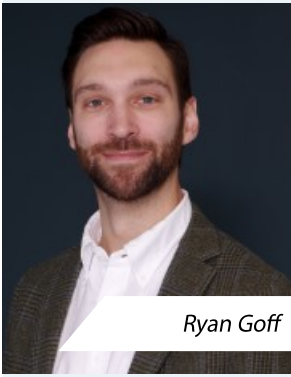


Escape Rooms and Other Immersive Experiences in the Library
by Ellyssa Kroski



Beyond Reality Augmented, Virtual, and Mixed Reality in the Library
by Kenneth J. Varnum

>> Remote Work & Online Scams

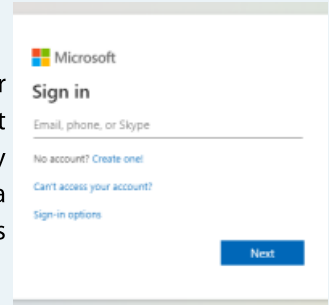


Ryan Goff

What a weird and wacky time we live in right now. While society in general does its best to adjust to new norms and operate with the “business as usual” mentality during the COVID pandemic, it’s clear that we are still figuring things out as we go.

While some libraries are closed, curbside only, or open in some manner to public access, it’s apparent that everyone wants to continue to provide valuable services and support to their communities during these tough times. This can be difficult, especially in maintaining consistent communication when staff are not in the library consistently.

One of the ways that libraries can combat this is via remote email access, either through webmail or a mobile device. For webmail access, please visit www.office.com and sign in using the button in the top right corner. Email setup on mobile phones vary from device to device, but if you need assistance, please call or submit a help desk request via help.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca. Please note this does not apply to email addresses from school divisions (please contact your school IT department for assistance with this).



In addition to email access, we are currently investigating potential long-term solutions for things such as enhanced communication tools and remote file access. While COVID can’t go away soon enough, we believe that this disruption will lead to innovation and improved technical services going forward. Stay tuned for future updates on these initiatives.

Another unfortunate side effect of COVID has been a rise in online scams. Scammers never let a good crisis go to waste, and our current situation is no different. Whether it’s impersonating the government for EI/CERB fraud, fake bank collection notifications, or any other number of sneaky ways to extract your money or data, it’s more important than every to be vigilant while online.

Here are a few quick tips that will help to keep you safe:

- Most governments and major institutions have strict policies on their outbound communications. If you get a call or email from one of these organizations, call them through their direct number to ensure its legitimate.
- If you get an email that seems suspicious from someone you know, contact them directly to ensure they meant to send it before opening.
- If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. I too wish I knew a Nigerian prince that wanted to give me \$100,000,000 for real.
- When in doubt, please call or email the IT department. A two-minute proactive call can save tons of time and money dealing with the fallout of these types of scenarios.



The IT department at PLS continues to evolve and while ensuring technology runs smoothly is still the core focus for us, security is quickly becoming just as important.

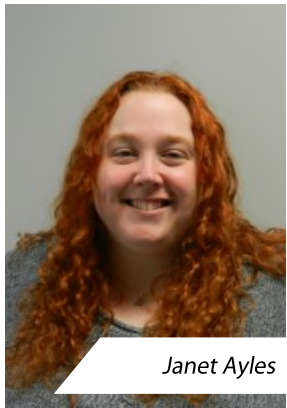
If you ever have any questions or concerns, don’t hesitate to contact us by whatever method is most convenient.

Stay safe out there!

Ryan Goff
Desktop & Network Administrator



>> From the IT Desk



Janet Ayles

Polaris and the Pandemic

Unfortunately, Polaris doesn't have an *In Case of Pandemic* feature, so the last couple of months have been a combination of trial and error and winging it. When libraries first closed, everything shut down. Request Manager was turned off all across TRAC, patrons could still place holds but no one was filling them. Patrons who expired any time after the beginning of February 2020 were renewed twice and set to

expire on July 31, 2020. Item due dates were extended to the same time. The unclaimed dates for holds to be picked up by patrons were extended as well. There was all sorts of stuff happening behind the scenes for you and your patrons.

Of course, as libraries opened for curbside service, we were able to open up Request Manager for local patrons. Things weren't moving between the systems, but you could fill your patrons' requests with items off your own shelf.

Now that libraries are open (mostly, but some do continue to stay closed), due dates and expiration dates are coming up, the request manager is functioning again, and things are getting back to "normal" (whatever that may be).

If your library is open, it's time to do some catching up and cleaning up. Of course, that means, running reports.

Request Manager (Circulation > Request Manager): If your library is open, please run your Request Manager and fill the holds. The PLS van run is running, the new Provincial courier is operational, and it's important that holds are filled. If you are unable to run your Request Manager and fill holds, please contact me and we'll come up with a solution.

Unclaimed Holds (Reports and Notices > Custom > Unclaimed Holds by Pickup Branch): Libraries closed without much notice back in March, leaving holds on the shelves for your patrons. Totally understandable, which is why the held by date for holds was extended until the end of July. Now that the end of July has come and gone and most libraries are open, it's time to deal with held items. Held items that haven't been checked out to a patron should be sent on, either to the next patron waiting or back to the owning library.

In-Transit and Transferred Items (Reports and Notices > Custom > In-Transit and Transferred Items): As with everything else, items moving between libraries stuttered to a standstill back in March. However, with things moving again, it's a good idea to take a look at your items in motion and see how long

they've been in-transit or transferred. Items are taking longer to move around because they're being quarantined at various stops between point A and B, but they're still moving.

There is some handy information on the PLS website (**Training Toolkit > Reports to Run**) which will provide information on what reports you need to run and how often.

Hold

As I mentioned before, Polaris wasn't designed with mass closures in mind. As we were closing things down, then opening up in stages, some weird things happened. Particularly with holds. You may find that your patrons have placed holds on items that you have on your shelves, but are instead filled by other libraries. We may have discovered a small glitch with Polaris (everything can be a learning experience). To quote Douglas Adams, don't panic. Although it feels a little like bedlam right now, we've fixed the problem and it won't affect new holds. Previous holds will work their way through the system.

SuperNet Upgrades

Unfortunately, along with most major plans in 2020, our plans to transition to SuperNet 2.0 were put on hold. Believe me, we're as disappointed as you are. Right now, all we know is that the transition will still happen, but we're not sure when. As soon as I know the new schedule, you'll hear me celebrating in Grande Prairie.

TRACpac App Update

I'm sure you've all had the chance to check out the new TRACpac App (still in beta testing, for the moment). If you haven't had a chance, please check out the app and send us your feedback. The app isn't quite ready for patrons yet, but we're hoping it will be ready for launch soon.

Pecans

Pecans has been a staple of communication amongst our libraries for years. Unfortunately, it's run on Yahoo Groups, which is a very dated platform. In fact, Yahoo is phasing it out. I appreciate the nostalgia of the original listserv as much as anyone, but it's been getting more and more glitchy over the last few years.

We have looked at a few different options and have decided on a new platform called Groups.io. It has all the features we need and it is very user friendly. We're going to start migrating users over in September, with a full launch of the new listserv in October.

Janet Ayles
IT and Tech Services Manager

>> From Grande Prairie Public Library

by Jill Kergan, Outreach & Learning Librarian, Grande Prairie Public Library

Reconnecting with Our Community

Since our closure due to COVID-19, libraries have been finding innovative ways to serve their communities. After our initial closure GPPL served patrons through curbside services, virtual programming and a strong social media presence. We did as much as we could to serve while ensuring safety of our patrons and staff, but it became obvious we weren't fully serving community needs while our doors were shut.

When the province unexpectedly announced libraries could reopen during stage 2 of the provincial relaunch strategy, we were excited to welcome the public back but aimed to do it as safely as possible. Due to the sheer size of our space and the limited number of custodians available at the time, opening the entire library was neither possible nor advisable.

Since stress and anxiety run high in times of COVID, we realized we needed take the feelings of patrons and staff into consideration, which was not easy as feelings varied widely from person to person. During our closure, staff met daily to discuss operations and were urged to voice concerns and make suggestions. Ultimately, we developed a plan to reopen in three phases. The first phase of this plan was opening via Library Express on July 2.

Library Express was essentially a mini-library within GPPL that staff could easily monitor to ensure the safety of our patrons. The collection featured a selection of materials for different age groups with an emphasis on new and in-demand materials. Library Express was housed in one of our programming rooms and the exit connected to our customer services desk. We adhered to the regulations set by the province by allowing a set number of patrons in at a time, requiring patrons to social distance and sanitize their hands, and offering them a mask upon entry.

Library Express allowed patrons to access our regular services on a smaller scale. We welcomed patrons in to browse the collection, search the OPAC, access reader's advisory services, photocopy, print, scan, pick up holds and manage their accounts. Library Express enabled patrons to physically enter the library and interact with staff for the first time in months.

We anticipated that patrons may find Library Express too limited or balk at the mandatory hand sanitizing, but the community response was overwhelmingly positive. People continuously commented they were happy with what we could offer and were just glad to be back in the library.

The most pressing concern for many patrons was that Library Express did not offer seating. People wanted a place to sit and read, or a place to access our free Wi-Fi; people want to hang out in the library. This speaks volumes about the importance of the library as a physical space and community hub in the consciousness of the community.



Although curbside served its function in connecting people with materials, it was a poor substitute for our physical space and what it means to patrons. For some, coming to the library is a free, family friendly activity that entertains children and encourages healthy habits. For others, it's a safe place to read or a sanctuary from the outside world. For some, it is the only place they can access the internet to find information and communicate with family and friends. Evidently, the library means many different things to different people.

Although Library Express was a useful phase which helped ease staff and the public into reopening, we were gratified to reopen with limited hours on August 10. We will resume regular hours, including evenings and Saturdays on September 10. At the end of the day, the public's eagerness to reenter our physical space illustrates the value they place in coming into the library. Although we will continue curbside services, it's clear that our physical space is essential to fully serving community needs.



What's trending in books

AGATHA AWARDS

The annual Agatha Awards honor the "traditional mystery"; ie, books best typified by the works of Agatha Christie. This year's finalists for Best Contemporary Novel were:

- Fatal Cajun Festival by Ellen Byron
- *The Long Call by Ann Cleeves
- Fair Game by Annette Dashofy
- The Missing Ones by Edwin Hill
- A Better Man by Louise Penny
- The Murder List by Hank Phillippi Ryan



SHIRLEY JACKSON AWARDS

The Shirley Jackson awards celebrate the best of psychological suspense, horror, and the dark fantastic. This year's finalists for Best Novel were:

- *The Book of X by Sarah Rose Etter
- Curious Toys by Elizabeth Hand
- Goodnight Stranger by Miciah Bay Gault
- Ninth House by Leigh Bardugo
- Nothing to See Here by Kevin Wilson
- Tinfoil Butterfly by Rachel Eve Moulton



AURORA AWARDS

The Aurora Awards are presented annually by the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association. This year's finalists for Best English Novel are:

- Haunting The Haunted by E. C. Bell
- The Gossamer Mage by Julie E. Czerneda
- A Brightness Long Ago by Guy Gavriel Kay
- The Quantum Garden by Derek Künsken
- Jade War by Fonda Lee
- Gods of Jade and Shadow by Silvia Moreno-Garcia



Around the System...

Here's what's been going on around Peace Library System this summer! Remember, you can send your own photos and articles at any time to estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca and they will be included in the next newsletter. We'd love to hear from you!

Menno-Simons Community Library

It has been a busy Summer here at Menno-Simons Community Library. In June, we started Curbside Pickup and in July we reopened the Library to the public again under COVID-19 rules. Beginning with the school year we will start resuming our regular hours. Curbside was not used as much as hoped but as soon as we reopened we have seen an influx of patrons and are seeing a good amount of people for our small community.

For the first time in years we have a Summer Reading Club. As a small rural library that serves a diverse farming community predominantly of Mennonite/German backgrounds it is a busy time for many in the summer and I was wondering if we would have any interest at all after it was not offered during the library/school renovations. Many families do not have online access and even though we promoted the TD Summer Reading Club quite heavily through the school newsletter, websites, social media and bulletin boards we felt that a physical program would probably work better. Due to COVID-19 we cannot meet in person, but we have weekly activity packs for the 3 age groups. We have 7 registered kids who have made crafts from frisbees, spy decoders, designed buttons and medals, blowing bubbles, monster athletes and bookworms to coding and growing crystals. I hope to end the SRC in a couple weeks with a special time where we can celebrate our kids' reading achievements. To be honest, I have almost as much fun as the kids do.

Besides that we are grateful to the Fox Creek and Elmworth Libraries who gave us a DVD Spinner Shelf and Level Reader shelves. We have moved our inventory, reorganized shelves and it looks amazing. We are now getting ready as "Back to School" is approaching fast!

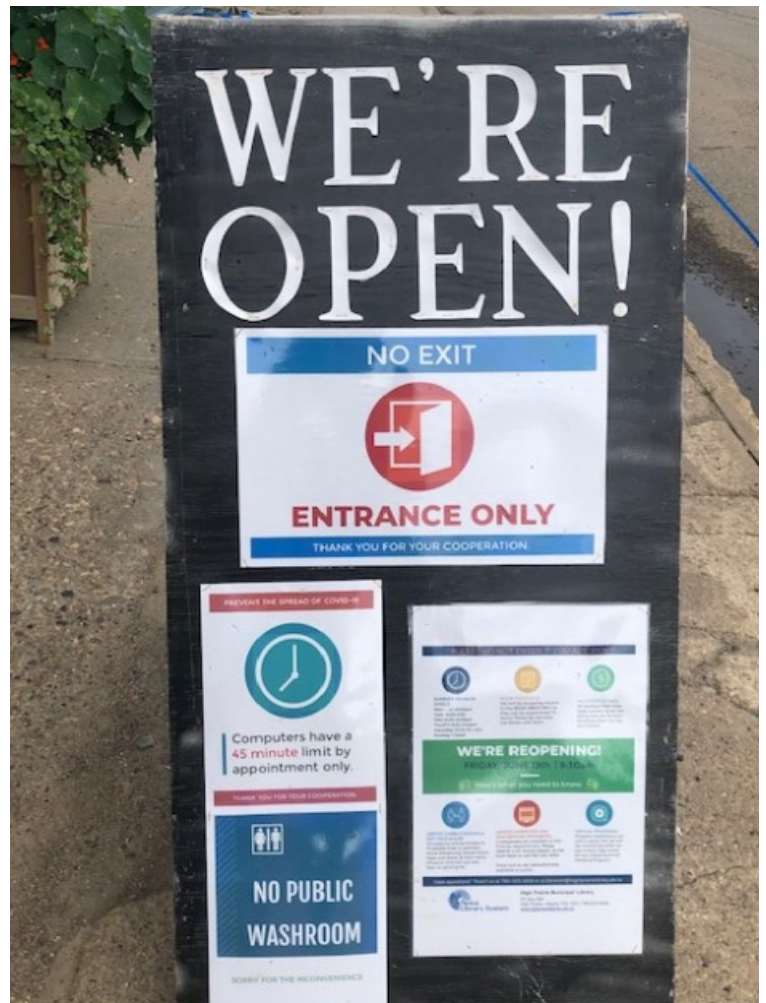
—Submitted by Bettina Worrall, Menno-Simons Community Library



High Prairie Municipal Library

We have been open now since June 19th and things have been working out great! We have a different look with all the added PPE, but staff and patrons feel safe entering the building which is the main thing. Here are some pics of our new reality with all our signage and sneeze guards installed at our circulation counter.

—Submitted by Tracy Ireland, High Prairie Municipal Library



More from around the *System*...

McLennan Municipal Library

This summer the McLennan Library has gone completely no contact. We've made sure we're entirely accessible via phone and e-mail to help out all our patrons with their every need; whether that's for specific books they've requested or just general topics they need help with, we've got them covered. For our less tech savvy patrons all our new books have been placed in the window so our patrons can do some window shopping to find what they like. Unfortunately, our summer programming has been cut back since we aren't having anyone inside, so instead we shifted everything online! Every day we share a minimum of four posts on social media, with two being book recommendations. Throughout the week we promote non-fiction, First Nations, Graphic novels, French, and Fiction books in that order. We also have been providing a whole bunch of other fun activities for our patrons, including activities like building challenges, arts and crafts, and origami as well as podcasts and web comics. We've also been taking part in fun outdoor activities like painted rocks we set out around town for people to find and take photos with. We're trying to make sure we offer up everything we normally would during the summer in a safe manner.

—Hunter Charest, McLennan Municipal Library



Peace River Municipal Library

Peace River Municipal Library & Art Gallery re-invented the Stuffie Sleepover and turned it into Stuffie Summer Camp 2020! Stuffies of all ages got to enjoy all that summer camp has to offer, from canoeing and rock wall climbing to delicious smores! They even took home a camping kit for their families with games, recipes, colouring books, and more. We can't wait to see everyone at camp next year!

—Submitted by Cyndi Roy, Peace River Municipal Library



>> Tech Services Tidbits

Delivery

We are now a few months into the new van delivery schedule and so far, things are running smoothly. We have two vans now (and two drivers) and we have been able to expand the number of libraries we deliver to and the number of stops we make in a week. The new provincial courier is running, so items are moving between the TRAC systems. We are still working out the details on a few things and hope to have them finalized soon, but overall, we're settling into our new routine.

Staffing

As I mentioned, we now have two vans and two drivers. Holly Mollard joined Peace Library System on July 6, 2020. Holly has been learning lots and settling into her new role here at PLS.

After thirty-two years here at PLS, Wendy Hodges has decided to retire. Her last day here at PLS will be August 31, 2020. Wendy has seen a lot of changes over the years. From the days when she was the only courier staff to today, where there is a department of three working on readying and delivering materials to libraries. Wendy's dedication to PLS and the libraries has been appreciated over the years and she will be missed.

Ordering: Spend your allotment!

If you're anything like me, it's hard to believe that summer is coming to an end. We're not quite winding down 2020 (although given the chaos of this year, that might be nice), but we're over

halfway through. I know that this year has been anything but normal, but it's important to remember to spend your allotment. Ordering items for your collection may not have been at the top of your to-do list while you were closed, but now that you're open (or opening soon), this should move up the list a bit. Monthly statements have been sent out as normal, but if you have any questions about your available funds, please let us know.

Of course, if you're not sure what to order, Acquisitions staff here are more than happy to help you out.

Relais & ILL Update

Being able to access items from all over TRAC means your patrons can find most of what they're looking to borrow. However, there are times when they may be looking for something more specialized and that's where Relais comes in. Relais launched back in February (although was suspended in March due to the pandemic), but TRAC was not quite ready to go live with the rest of the province. Those problems are being fixed and patrons should have access when Relais is available again.

Now that the provincial courier is running, Relais is being restored. Staff access is allowed in order to clean up anything on the admin side. Public access is expected to launch at the beginning of September.

Janet Ayles
IT and Tech Services Manager



You will be missed, Wendy!



Welcome, Holly!

>> Helping Homeschoolers

The 2020 school year is bringing with it a lot of unknowns. While none of us know exactly how the months ahead are going to pan out, we know that it's just not going to look like a regular school year. Some parents are opting to keep their kids at home, at least for the first quarter of the year, to do virtual learning supported by teachers. Others will want to develop their own home education program.

With that in mind, you might want to take some time to think about ways you can support families who are going to be taking on education from home this year and in years to come.

For instance, what laws and regulations are on the books for families who want to teach their kids at home? The government of Alberta has [a page](#) where users can find resources and learn about responsibilities for K to 12 home education in Alberta. This is a good link to have handy for parents who are just figuring their plan out.

What eResources do patrons have access to that will provide homework help? We have a list below for you to keep in mind.

What books and study guides do you have in your collection that will be helpful for those learning from home? What do they need for exam proctoring and computer access?

This is also a great opportunity to connect with your current homeschoolers. A lot of our communities support large homeschooling populations, and many of these families are already regular library users. So have a chat with them when you next see them in the library! What do they use the library for? What resources and books did they find helpful on their homeschooling journey that you can recommend to other families? What resources do they wish the library had that you might consider for your collection development?

At PLS, we've started collecting resources to help libraries support home education on our website under [Training Toolkit > Inclusive Services > Home Education Support](#). Take a look and let us know if you have suggestions for other links and resources and books that we can add to our lists!

>> Educational Resources



Samantha Mercer

With the school year looking different than normal this year, we wanted to make sure everyone knew about the great educational resources they have access to with their library card!

- Alberta Research Portal (access to digitized historical documents)
- Lynda.com (video tutorials on skills and software)
- Online Reference Centre (a provincially funded portal available to all students)
- Pronunciator (language lessons)
- Solaro (online homework help)
- World Book (7 help websites for various stages of school to

support literacy and learning)

For curriculum-specific support, make sure to visit:

- NovelList
On the top toolbar, hover over "Quick Links" and then select "Curriculum Connections"
- Solaro
Select "+Add course" and then "Alberta" as your region and the appropriate grade and subject.
- WorldBook
On the bottom toolbar, select "For Educators" and then "Educator Tools" to find the curriculum correlations

Make sure to share and promote these resources with parents and students for the upcoming school year!

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.

Stronger Together Virtual Conference

Registration is now open for Stronger Together, a virtual library conference hosted jointly by Parkland Regional Library System, The Alberta Library, Peace Library System & Yellowhead Regional Library.

The conference will take place over two days on October 1 & 2, 2020, and feature 41 great speakers, 4 keynote sessions, 24 conference sessions, and 2 vendor panels. And best of all... Stronger Together is free to attend!

There is no cap on attendees, and whether you're a public library staff member, a school library staff member, a library trustee, a system staff person, or a student, there will be something interesting for you to learn. Attendees don't have to be members of a host system, either... we want this event to be open to the whole Alberta library community.

At our [conference website](#), you can explore all the details of the conference schedule, find answers to frequently asked questions, and register to attend. Registration will close Monday, September 28th, so sign up now to snag your spot.

Join us October 1 & 2, 2020 as we become Stronger Together.



STRONGER TOGETHER

REGISTER NOW!

OCTOBER 1 & 2, 2020 • VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

PARKLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM | THE ALBERTA LIBRARY | PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM | YELLOWHEAD REGIONAL LIBRARY



Peace Library System's events calendar

Alberta Culture Days

September 2020

PLS Board Meeting

Via Zoom

September 12, 2020; 10:30 am

Orange Shirt Day

September 30, 2020

Canadian Library Month

October 2020

Stronger Together Virtual Conference

At strongertogether.heysummit.com

October 1 and 2, 2020

PLS Executive Committee Meeting

TBA

October 24, 2020; 10:30 am