

# NEWS & Notes

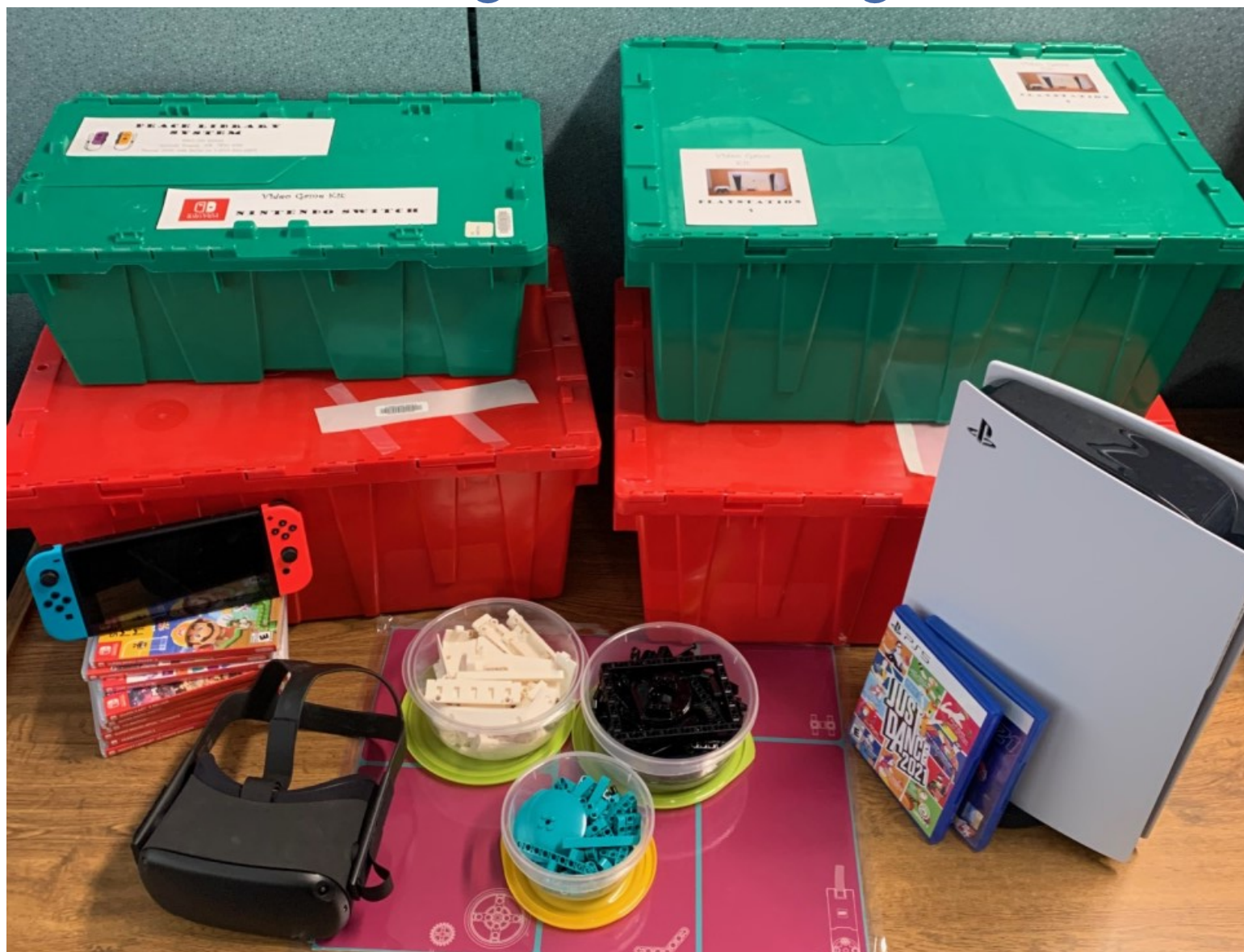
PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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FALL 2021

## STEAM Programming Kits



Four new kits to assist with local library programming will be available this fall: a Lego Mindstorm Robot Inventor Kit, a Nintendo Switch Video Game Kit, an Oculus Quest VR Kit, and a PlayStation 5 Video Game Kit. Stay tuned for more details via email!

# >> From the CEO



Louisa Robison

An article in *Forbes Magazine* earlier this year had the headline, "The Pandemic Has Created a New Kind of Burnout, Which Makes Well-Being More Critical Than Ever". And *Forbes* is by far not the only one to have noticed. From *The Atlantic*, "By Now, Burnout Is a Given"; *Nature*, "Pandemic Burnout is Rampant in Academia"; *New Scientist*, "Pandemic Burnout: Do You Have It and What Can You Do About It?"; *Harvard Business Review*, "Beyond Burned Out"; and on it

goes.

At the beginning of the pandemic, people were rushing to fill the void of business-as-usual, motivated to pivot and change service delivery models, engaged with the news and their customers, while also dealing with stress, cash flow issues, and generalised anxiety over the whole situation. It left many managers tired while at the same time exhilarated by the rate at which it was possible to implement change and still keep the metaphorical doors open. But after a year of dealing with the restrictions/no restrictions/some restrictions roller coaster, the yo-yo of good news followed by bad, people are burned out and exhausted.

According to the Mayo Clinic, the body's response to a short-term stress is the 'fight or flight' response – adrenaline, increased heart rate and blood pressure, and cortisol, the stress hormone. The trouble is that being bombarded constantly by stress can make your body stay in what should be the short-term stress response, producing high levels of cortisol that interfere with sleep, digestion and the immune system. And finally you burn out, your body has trouble producing cortisol, and everything crashes. I think that this is where many of us are now – burned out and trying to deal with the ongoing stress without any mental or emotional reserves left.

We should all take a look around us and recognise that the signs of burnout can be seen in our families, friends, co-workers, even in ourselves. Physical exhaustion (fatigue, insomnia, illness, etc.), emotional exhaustion (anxiety, depression, anger, pessimism, etc.), and a drop in productivity (forgetting tasks, inability to concentrate) can all be indicators of burnout. And the pandemic added an extra layer of potential stress for us all – Zoom Fatigue. An article in *Psychiatric Times* reported that online meeting software is a factor in pandemic burnout, because the electronic delays in conferencing software can negatively affect interpersonal perceptions, as well as the reduced ability to make eye contact and see and interpret non-verbal communication. It makes trying to communicate effectively over the internet

mentally exhausting.

So what do we do? The easy answers are, of course, take a break, see friends and have other positive and meaningful social connections, practice meditation and other calming techniques, take up a hobby. Virtually none of which are practical or practicable today. That does not mean that all is lost, though. The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health has suggestions for dealing with stress and anxiety, which can be found at <https://www.camh.ca/en/health-info/mental-health-and-covid-19/coping-with-stress-and-anxiety>. Community resources are available to Albertans dealing with mental health issues and crises, and Mental Health First Aid is one of the topics PLS is looking to present as professional development and training in the next Plan of Service cycle.

Don't be afraid to reach out if you are having trouble dealing. We are all in the same boat, and with the fourth wave and the Delta variant now here, it looks like we'll be in that boat for a while longer yet. Don't let problems get worse before they get better.

It's been a long, LONG year and a half. My own personal stress level never seems to go down anymore, it always feels like there is one more thing to add to the list. I was so certain that by now it would all be a bad memory in the rear-view mirror. How wrong I was! But while we are all keeping ourselves masked and distanced and safe from the virus, make sure you keep yourself safe from the mental and emotional side effects of it all. Know that you're not alone in shouldering all the stress of trying to keep your library functional while at the same time distancing from your patrons. And reach out for help if you need it.

Fall is coming soon, the season of cosy sweaters, pumpkin spice lattes and changing leaves. I'm crossing my fingers for reduced infection rates and in-person Christmas parties. Chins up, full steam ahead.

Louisa Robison  
CEO



Congrats to Parkland Regional Library System  
on the grand opening of their new facility!



# What's trending in books

## AGATHA AWARDS

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

\*All the Devils Are Here by Louise Penny  
The Gift of the Magpie by Donna Andrews  
Murder in the Bayou Boneyard by Ellen Byron  
From Beer to Eternity by Sherry Harris  
The Lucky One by Lori Rader-Day



## 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 Only Good Indians by Stephen Graham Jones  
Plain Bad Heroines by Emily M. Danforth  
Sisters by Daisy Johnson  
Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia  
Death in Her Hands by Ottessa Moshfegh  
True Story by Kate Reed Petty



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

Beneath the Rising by Premee Mohamed  
A Connecticut Gumshoe in King Arthur's Court by Randy McCharles  
Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia  
The Oppenheimer Alternative by Robert J. Sawyer  
A Stitch in Time by Kelley Armstrong



## AURORA AWARDS



# >> Consulting Corner



## News & Notes

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

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Katherine Wiebe

Hello from the Consulting Department!

I trust everyone is enjoying their summer and the freedom to get out-of-doors. We've certainly been presented with some challenges this summer

what with wild fires smoke, a spell of intense heat, then late rains, and ongoing uncertainty about close interactions and COVID numbers. In spite of all that, I know that libraries in the Peace region are creative obstacle jumpers, as the libraries' contributions attest in this issue of News & Notes!

We have a busy fall coming up with kids going back to school, libraries gearing up for programming, and open doors to your patrons whether inside or curbside. Please remember to keep your website current with up-to-date hours of operation. Emma can help you update your website hours or you can check out our video tutorials on the PLS website under the [Training Toolkit > Website Management](#). Drop Janet an email to the [helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca) as she also updates your hours of operation in Polaris.

Libraries that participated in the TD Summer Reading Club will receive a Statistics and Evaluation form near the end of August to complete. We will send it out as soon as the Club makes it available.

PLS has storytime kits to lend to our member public libraries to assist with your programming for ages 2-3, and ages 4-6. And don't forget the great Programming Index of ideas to be found on our website under the [Training Toolkit > Library Basics > Programming Ideas](#).

Samm has created new gaming kits, some of which can be used in a socially distanced format, and others that library managers may just want to get acquainted with themselves for when you are ready to have close group interactions. Both the storytime kits and gaming kits can be borrowed this fall through Barb on our website under the [Our Services tab > Blocks and Kits](#).

If community nights or tradeshow are gearing up, we have a three-fold display panel with updated PLS information boards that we are happy to lend to help with your display. Again, give Barb a call.

As a service to your patrons, the radon screening kits will again be available to borrow through Polaris starting October 1. The kits are available to borrow during October 1 – April 30.

We are keeping an eye on the COVID numbers in September as to whether we may begin in-person consulting visits again this fall.

The PLS 2022-2024 Plan of Service development is coming along nicely and a draft will be presented to our Plan of Service Committee in September, with final board approval anticipated in November. We are excited about what the future holds.

On a final note, I will be taking early retirement in December after 16 years with Peace Library System. I will miss you all and will be moving to Drumheller to be closer to my aging parents.

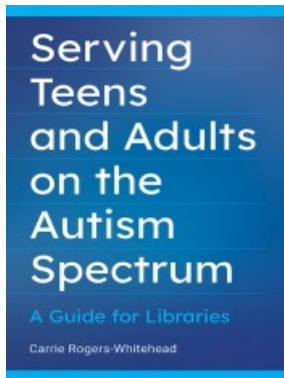
Thank you from the Consulting Department.

Katherine Wiebe  
Consulting Services Manager and Deputy CEO

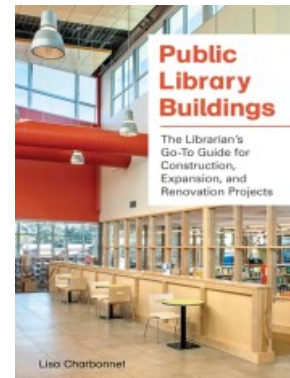


# >> Professional Development Recs

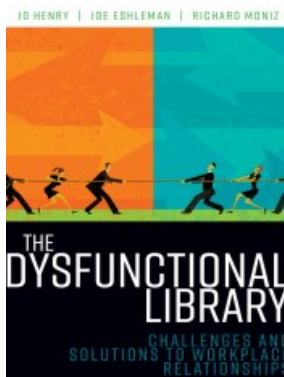
Here at Peace Library System headquarters we have an extensive physical collection of professional development titles that library managers and staff can request and borrow through TRACpac at any time. But for those who like reading digital content, remember that TRAC also has a fantastic collection of professional development eBooks available on OverDrive!



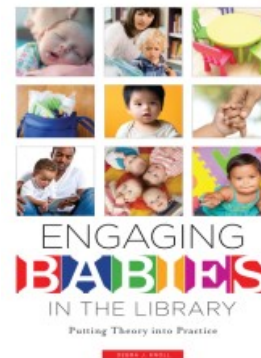
**Serving Teens and Adults on the Autism Spectrum**  
by Carrie Rogers-Whitehead



**Public Library Buildings: The Librarian's Go-To Guide for Construction, Expansion, and Renovation Projects**  
by Lisa Charbonnet



**The Dysfunctional Library: Challenges and Solutions to Workplace Relationships**  
by Jo Henry, Joe Eshleman, and Richard Moniz



**Engaging Babies in the Library**  
by Debra J. Knoll

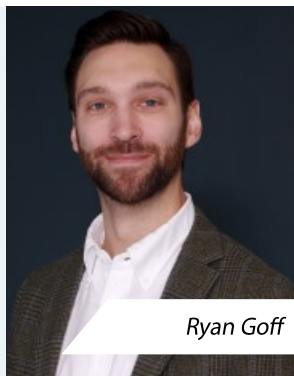


**Crash Course in Weeding Library Collections**  
by Francisca Goldsmith



**Disaster Response and Planning for Libraries**  
by Miriam B. Kahn

# >> Automation: Not Just for Nerds



Ryan Goff

"I choose a lazy person to do a hard job. Because a lazy person will find an easy way to do it."  
Bill Gates

There are a number of famous quotes by technical icons over the past 50 years, but the one above by Mr. Gates stands out above all others in my mind. Throughout my life, I've always hated doing the same things over and over again. This is particularly true when it comes to work.

In a career field ripe for automating the majority of day to day tasks, this has been a no-brainer to implement wherever possible. But automation isn't just for technical staff anymore. More and more, automation is becoming a bigger part of everyone's work life. It's subtle, too: the weekly report you have to run can be scheduled and emailed to you, notification alerts are sent via text messages for appointments or deadlines, etc. Automation of these common tasks have saved tremendous amounts of time and human resources.

I encourage you to take this a step further and look at your routine work and personal tasks. Constantly working on the same Excel spreadsheets and manually entering data? Gathering feedback by hand from internal or external groups? Doing your accounting or payroll without a proper system? Not auto paying your bills? With a little creativity and the proper tools, so many of these tasks can be automated and save precious time and money, leaving more resources to focus on the things at work and home that truly matter.

Saving even 15 minutes a day doesn't sound like much, but over the course of a 10-year span, that's a total of over 38 days. Now I ask you: what tasks will you automate heading into the second half of 2021, and what will you do with the money and time that you save?

Ryan Goff  
Desktop & Network Administrator

## >> Tech Services Tidbits

My official title is Shipper/Courier/Driver and each week we definitely fulfill each of those roles.

Every day we are handling incoming and outgoing totes, either via the vans (Thing 1 – driven by myself or Thing 2 – driven by Cliff and each also driven by Linnea when covering courier, and on that special occasion, our fearless manager Janet) or other PLS vehicles.

We have shelving with spaces dedicated to each library in the system. Once all bins arrive at PLS, it is a simple matter to sort, pack and deliver each tote to a designated destination. It has been noticeably streamlined, for the libraries that have the capacity to sort into Marigold, Northern Lights, and Yellowhead.

The cataloguers are always keeping very busy putting new items that have been received and invoiced on the shelves. These get gathered up and scanned and packing slips are produced. The new book totes have the bright orange label with the dot to make it easy to recognize. It is always nice to be able to bring each library some new books. It's equally rewarding to bring the totes filled with patron requests.

As for the journey to each library, it is very noticeable when the seasons are changing, as the landscapes show us every colour of the rainbow. We cross many powerful rivers, flowing, frozen and breaking up, and some incredibly tall bridges. Wildlife is abundant and we have to constantly be scanning the roadside for bears, deer, moose, coyotes, foxes etc. When it comes to our feathered friends, we have seen a gaggle, murder, conspiracy, quarrel, mischief, museum, kettle etc. It is not uncommon to see a bald eagle joining crows for a moose feast in the ditch. As for myself, I now recognize the wildlife with their Blackfoot name as I am learning the language of my ancestors.

We have driven under and over trains sporting graffiti from all corners of North America. Roadside attractions such as a bee, beaver, railway spike and Adirondack chair are also on our routes. In the course of a day, we can pass through several different weather systems. Every day provides something unexpected. We support local businesses and often partake in lunch in towns along the way.

"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page."  
Saint Augustine

Darla Dawn Lukac  
Shipper/Courier/Driver



# >> From the IT Desk

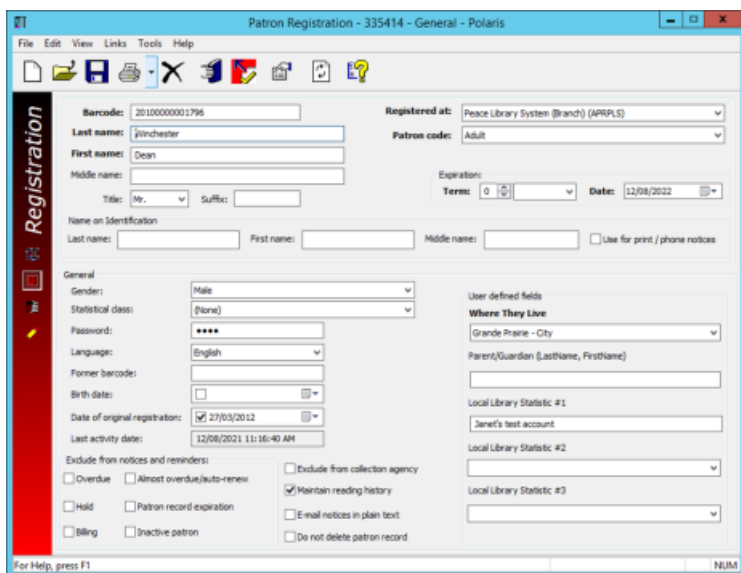


Janet Ayles

Let's talk about stats.

Now I know that talking about stats is enough to make even the most experienced Polaris user run in fear, so let's break this down a bit. Today, we'll focus on stats you can garner from your patron's account. Your patron's account – and what information you gather – can tell you a lot.

When it comes to the Patron Registration screen, the first screen has all the contact information for your patron – address, phone number, email address, etc. However, it's the second screen that has the (potentially) juicy bits about your patron.



Take a look at this screen and you'll see all the areas where you can put in information about your patron. Information you can use later to develop statistics. But before you overwhelm yourself with all the possibilities, the important question to ask yourself is: What information do I want to gather? Once you can answer that question, you have a place to start.

In addition to the standardized fields of: gender, statistical class, and birthdate (which are optional entries), there are the User Defined Fields on the right side of the screen. Where They Live is a required field, of course. Parent/Guardian has been earmarked for its own purpose. However, Local Library Statistics #1, #2, and #3 are just waiting for your creativity.

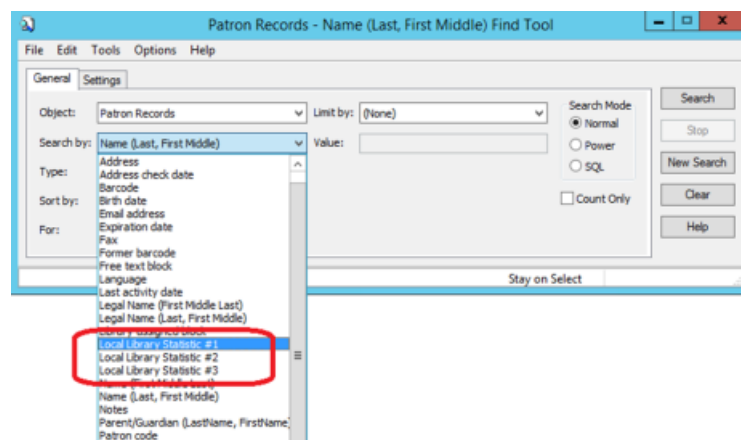
Local Library Statistic #1 is a free text field, which means that you can put whatever you want in there. In 2020, when we were offering Temporary eResource Cards while libraries were closed, I used this field to keep track of them. Every card that I created had

"Temporary eResource Card" in Local Library Stat #1. That way when I needed to pull those records together, I could search for them easily using the Polaris Find Tool or SimplyReports. Library staff use this for all sorts of information. You're only limited by your imagination.

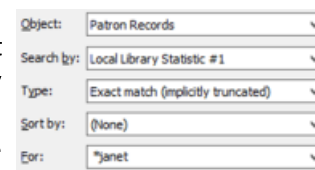
Local Library Statistics #2 and #3 are both drop down menus. They can be easily customized to suit your needs. Do you want to identify your volunteers? Board members? Students or teachers from a local school? It's up to you! All you have to do is let me know what you want for your library in either statistic field.

Now that you're using the Local Library Statistics in your patron accounts, how do you search for them? As I mentioned above, you can use both the Polaris Find Tool and SimplyReports.

Using the Find Tool in Polaris, you can choose Local Library Statistic #1, #2, or #3 from the Search by drop down menu.



Now, if I knew that I used Janet somewhere in the Local Library Statistic #1, I can use a wildcard in front of my search term to find those results.



The Polaris Find Tool searching is straightforward. Searching the Local Library Statistics in SimplyReports can be a bit more complicated. You can still search for a partial Local Library Statistic field, but SimplyReports uses a different wildcard. The Polaris Find Tool uses \* as a wildcard (as do most search functions), but in SimplyReports, the wildcard is %. As in Polaris, you can also use the wildcard at the front of your search term as well if needed.

Have fun with your stats and make them relevant for you and your library.

Janet Ayles  
IT and Tech Services Manager

# >> From Grande Prairie Public Library

by Bailey Randolph, Teen Services Librarian, Grande Prairie Public Library

## Embracing Social Media – Is It Time For TikTok?

I know what you're thinking – Oh no, not another platform! Hear me out. Snapchat is a dead platform, and Facebook is for 'old people' like us. If you want to engage with teens, you have to be where they are – and that's on Instagram and TikTok. Most libraries today have Instagram, but very few are utilizing the social media platform TikTok. Last December during the closure, GPPL finally took the leap and created a TikTok account – a decision met with some hesitation from some staff – and we have run with it ever since.

TikTok is an amazing app to use to not only brand your library, but to showcase your library's personality as well. While Instagram is so curated, TikTok allows the creativity to flow, and is a great way for library staff from ALL departments to get involved, including staff who are usually behind the scenes.

Our Customer Services staff, who are very rarely featured on our other social media platforms, have starred in many of our TikTok videos, with one staff member even re-writing the lyrics to the classic Black Eyed Peas song 'My Humps', and making it library-fied.



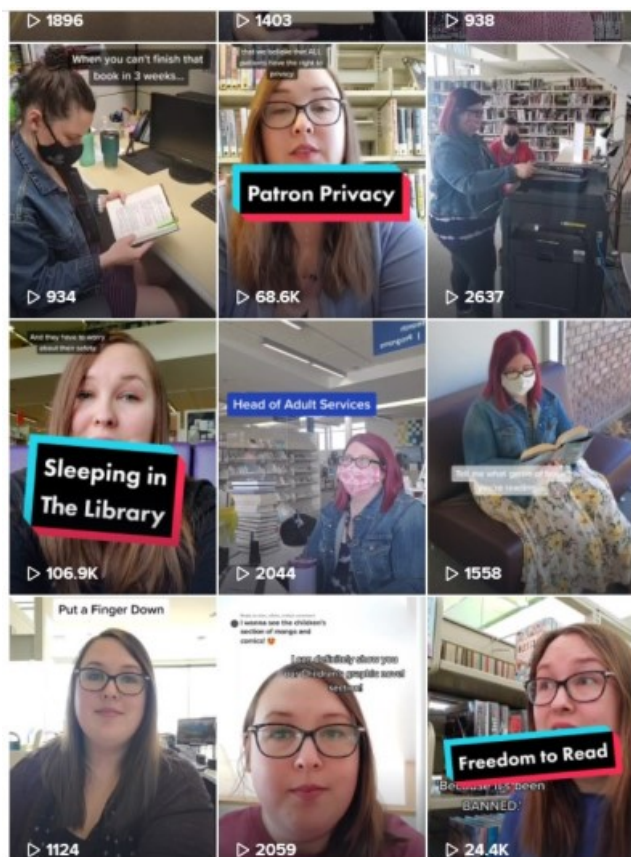
The best part of TikTok is the reach that you can get as a creator. It has by far been our most successful social media platform to date, amassing over 15 thousand followers in 6 months. It has also been an amazing way of reaching non-library users and educating them on library services, and what libraries today are all about. We are no longer the dusty book hoarding buildings that we once were. We focus on community and health and wellness, and TikTok is helping us to break those stereotypes.





TikTok works on an algorithm that puts videos on user's 'For You' page (The FYP). The more interaction a video gets, the more it is pushed to the FYP for everyone to see. This is what allows us to reach those non-library users who think libraries are obsolete. So many people comment on our videos letting us know how surprised they were that we lend out more than just books.

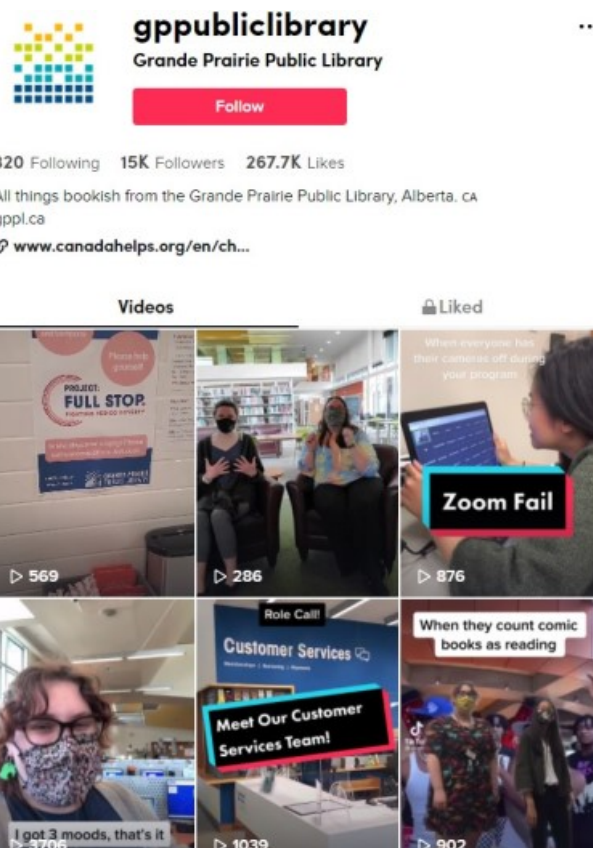
once, and saves them so we can post when needed. And videos are short – anywhere from a few seconds, up to three minutes, so once you have a plan in place, it's not hard to create content.



Still not sold on the idea? Check out our TikTok account @gppubliclibrary to see what we've been up to. You don't even need to download the app, you can watch right from your computer browser. And if you have any questions, I am happy to answer them! Send me an email at [teens@gppl.ca](mailto:teens@gppl.ca). And if you do create a TikTok account for your library, don't forget to have fun!

We have used our platform on TikTok to showcase that we are a safe space for everyone, and have received so much positive feedback, from all across the world. People have sent us their stories about how libraries saved them growing up, or how they wished their home library offered the services we do. We recently posted a video of our newest community initiative – our Library Pantry – and got an overwhelming response. People from as far away as Arkansas have donated to our pantry, and multiple libraries from across North America have contacted us to get information on starting their own. TikTok has allowed us to build this positive online community that connects us with people all over the world, and it has been incredibly rewarding.

It is so easy to make TikTok work for your niche. There are so many trends and hashtags that can easily be made to fit the library, and staff gets to be creative in how to do that. Or, you can make your own content. This can be either easier or harder to do, depending on the commitment of staff. At GPPL, we do both. Once you pick your direction for your account, you need to decide how much time you want to dedicate to it. We choose to be active and post every day. Does that mean we film videos every day? No. TikTok has a draft feature that allows our staff to film multiple videos at



# 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](mailto:estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca) and they will be included in the next newsletter. We'd love to hear from you!

## Hines Creek Municipal Library

Since reopening the library we are happy to be seeing some of our regular patrons once again and even some new ones.

Our casual employee Jaymee has been coming in on Thursdays to do storytime and crafts with the children. They connect with her very well and have lots of fun. As I am very new to this aspect of the library she has been an amazing help. Also many thanks to PLS for the story time kits! They are amazing and we're looking forward to the next one. The children have made lamb puppets using packing peanuts, beaded snakes, butterflies and turtles. Finding these crafts has been a fun learning experience for me. I am hopeful we will start to see more children as the word gets out especially for preschoolers when school reopens.

Our board is planning its annual fundraiser of a silent auction. It will start in September. I will be posting more info on our Facebook page and our web page as I get more information.

Each week I have a young man who has Downs Syndrome who comes to see me and read books. Each time he comes in now he and I do the craft of the week for story time. He gets one on one interaction takes home a craft and I get a sample craft for the children. I think I learn and get as much enjoyment as he does.

Very happy to report that this year's Summer Reading Club has more participation than last!

—Submitted by Denise Wiseman, Hines Creek Municipal Library

## High Prairie Municipal Library

Candace Cardinal set up a table to give out a teepee craft to the kids at the Treaty Days Celebration in Whitefish. She also had a draw for the adults and one for the children!

—Submitted by Tracy Ireland, High Prairie Municipal Library





## Menno-Simons Community Library

Our little community is just getting used to having a summer reading program again after years of closures and renovations over the summer, and many families are busy all summer with farming, swimming lessons, summer camps and VBS, so carving out library time needs to be worth their while. We started our SRC last year, and it was mainly for me to get a feel for the program and what the community needs are. I found that the TD SRC was a great starting place, but I missed a common thread from week to week. I also found the age activities were not necessarily a good fit for our community. So, this year I decided I would use their materials which I adjusted, but I also supplemented with crafts and activities that fit into our plan. I rearranged the library, so we made a play area and set tables up for crafting. We had 10 kids enrolled, out of those 8 kids attended, we had 1 visiting kid that attended as well. That is an increase from last year and we are happy the numbers are climbing.



I chose themes and we had an Animal theme for the 2-5 year-olds... we started out with a Teddy Bears picnic in the park and then we had weeks for Farm Animals, Water Animals, Fast Animals, Smart Animals and our Final Day. Our 6-9 year-olds had the most fun with the Superheroes theme and each week we chose a different superhero and activities to go with it. Our 10-12-year-olds had to solve the Mystery of the Blue Beetle Diary. This was a deconstructed escape room that was split up into 6 weeks where the readers were drafted into finding a diary that was stolen and hidden in Egypt. While there they went on a clue and riddle hunt through pyramids and we used a portable safe, keyboards, tents, and of course a treasure chamber in which the blue beetles (scarabs) had to be recovered from the maze and to collect the treasure.

I modified and made themed reading journals by adjusting the TD SRC Journals and we used their images, activity booklets, coloring pages, and ideas. Overall, this was a hoot. It was a lot of thinking and prep work but compared to last year we had kids that really wanted to come and that enjoyed their time in the library and whose attention we could keep. It feels good to know the kids love it and I am looking forward to planning another fun summer for next year.

—Submitted by Bettina Worrall, Menno-Simons Community Library



## Manning Municipal Library

Mary Lambert did her 30-minute virtual performance for us on Thursday, August 5th at 2:00pm. We had 5 virtual log-ins, and one patron (not including myself) who stopped by to watch. Despite advertising and emailing various organizations around town to help spread the word, attendance was minimal. However, the few attendees who did see the show quite enjoyed it (as did I).

She was very entertaining and engaging with the audience. I should like to get her back in the future for another presentation. I had never seen her before, so I wasn't sure what to expect, but she did not disappoint with her songs and colourful costumes! I quite enjoyed "Black Fly Boogie" and found myself tapping my foot along to her songs more than once!

—Submitted by Crystal Jacobson, Manning Municipal Library



# More from around the System...

## Grande Cache Municipal Library

The staff at Grande Cache Library was thrilled to be able to offer in-person services when restrictions were lifted! We were done with role playing the haunted library theme! On June 24th we welcomed back the kids from our community by hosting Harry Potter Book Night! Eleven tweens and teens participated in the event.

Grande Cache Library enjoyed the 2021 Summer Reading Club with 22 participants. Our program ran from June 24th with the kick off until August 10th. This year we chose to do a Bee theme! We kicked off our program with a bee chat from our local Parks and Environment person Courtney Hughes! Our first event had guest reader Lisa Beckstead reading stories about Beking Kind and everyone coloring bees for our reading honeycomb. We invited Darrel Delisle, a local bee keeper to give us a presentation on bee keeping! This was thoroughly enjoyed and Mr. Delisle had a live honeycomb that we could view! The kids enjoyed a Cat in the Hat, Wings and Things movie with snacks and stories with honey tasting. We wound everything up with Lisa Beckstead as our guest reader and a bee piñata beat down! We also received a TD Summer Reading Club Storywalk, which was visited by many Grande Cache citizens.



We also enjoyed Ice Cream Day in July with..... I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream! 13 children and several adults attended for stories, a craft, and of course, ice cream!

During the rest of August, we are busy planning fall programs and enjoying a few special days: Featured Author Day, Bubble Day, and a Back to School Bash! We are looking forward to full steam ahead for fall in-person programming!

—Submitted by Laurel Kelsch, Grande Cache Municipal Library

## Fox Creek Municipal Library

During the COVID closure, Fox Creek Library Staff continued to stay busy offering curbside book/printing services and take-home kits to the community.

The Fox Creek Library was awarded a \$5000 grant from the Shell Canada Community Grants Program. This grant helped the library purchase a Nintendo Switch with games/controllers, six Sphero Bolt Robots and six iPads with cases for in-library use. These items have been great fun for all ages!



In June, for National Indigenous History month we had a beautiful display of Indigenous artifacts to view and offered take home bannock kits, teepee and rainstick craft kits. The Fox Creek Library partnered with the Fox Creek Community Resource Centre to have a permanent StoryWalk installed around the Oasis Pond. To kick off the new initiative, we offered a Story Walk-Opoly Challenge during the months of July and August using a Monopoly themed game board. Every two weeks a new story and activities were displayed around the pond for participants to complete and enter for a chance to win a grand prize.

During the month of July we were excited to resume in-person programming and opened up our STEAM Centre. The Fox Creek Library is running the TD Summer Reading Club for children age 6-12, each week children bring in their log books and make a craft. Teens entered a cupcake challenge, where they brought in cupcakes they baked and decorated at home. The winner of the Teen Cupcake Challenge won a set of LED lights and a spatula. Adults were invited in to create a Windchime made from a glass bottle and glass beads. Community members brought in homemade items for us to display during the month of July for our Sewing and Fiber Arts Display.

TD Summer Reading Club continues full steam during the month of August. Adults have been creating Herb Drying Chalk Boards and Teens have been busy creating Permanent Marker Tie Dye Canvas Bags.

—Submitted by Mandy Miskelly, Fox Creek Municipal Library





### McLennan Municipal Library

Ahoy, mateys, when ye're travellin' sometimes th' most fab finds can be found in th' most out-o'-th'-way ports. This pirate chest be a wee free library found in th' Parc des Trois-Berets lookin' out o'er th' St. Lawrence River in Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, Quebec.

—Submitted by Maureen Fisher, McLennan Municipal Library



### Berwyn Municipal Library

Berwyn Municipal Library would like to welcome Marilyn Maggs as our new Library Manager. I have been offered a full time position at Lloyd Garrison School as their librarian/EA. This year we made up Summer Reading Kits and gave them away to the local children. We received a \$500.00 grant from the MD Peace 135 which made this possible. We also had our 2nd annual back pack giveaway again. We gave away 13 backpacks filled with school supplies to children in our area. All back packs and supplies were generously donated by community members.

Take care and thanks for everything!

—Submitted by Laurie Crowder, Berwyn Municipal Library

### Rotary Club of Slave Lake Municipal Library

At the Slave Lake Library we are continuing to offer online programming, as well as our weekly craft in a bag. We have also begun to do some outdoor in-person programming which we are very excited about! Throughout this summer we have had outdoor storytimes (including a special storytime with the fire department), a magic show, played water balloon baseball and also set up two separate story walks. Our most exciting news is the arrival of our new book bike, which came just in time for our Slave Lake's summer parade. We plan to ride it in the parade and show it off to the community! It has been a great summer at our library :)

—Submitted by Kendra McRee, Rotary Club of Slave Lake Municipal Library



# >> Library Olympics

*by Channing Stenhouse, Peace River Municipal Library*

The 2021 Library Olympics were a smashing success. Four brave teams entered the competition: Manning Municipal Library, Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library, Town of Peace River Library Board, and Peace River Municipal Library. Seven challenges were held in total and all four teams participated in the full gauntlet of sport. Lending us their expert opinions are esteemed judges Linda Duplessis, Louisa Robison, and Cyndi Roy. Results are still pending, but stay tuned for the winners!

The first two challenges were done in advance as competitors designed their team flags and uniforms. The five live events were inspired by librarians, Olympians, and children around the world.



**Balloon Shelving** tested the coordination and shelving skills of even the most experienced library worker by requiring competitors to run a race and shelve books while keeping a balloon afloat. Penalties of additional time were added for dropped balloons and misplaced books. Manning Municipal Library achieved the outstanding speed of 21 seconds, securing their first of several Olympic gold medals; well done!

The **Leaning Tower of Books** challenged competitors to create the tallest tower of no more than 20 books within a 5-minute time frame. The tallest free-standing towers from each library were submitted and the Peace River Municipal Library took home the gold with an impressive height of 173 cm.

**Library Gymnastics** blended balance and speed by requiring graceful library enthusiasts to complete a race with a book balanced on their head. Helpful hairstyles were permitted and penalties given for falling books. In this test of poise Manning Municipal Library earned their second gold medal, taking the lead in medal counts.

The **Great Cart Race** realized every library worker's dream as pairs of competitors completed a relay race, driving their book trucks with reckless abandon. Another gold to the Manning Municipal Library with a speedy 6.1 seconds; what do they feed those people, jet fuel?

**Will-Tell's Rubberband Archery** required a different type of skill. This competition saw teams release hoards of rubber bands on unsuspecting apples, gradually increasing the distance with each successful hit. With eagle eyes and accuracy, Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library took home their first Olympic gold medal; congratulations!



In all, I had a blast in designing and participating in games and I am very grateful to all our participants. Thank you to our judges for taking the time out of your busy schedules to support us. Thank you to Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library and Manning Municipal Library for accepting our challenge. It has been a delight watching your photos come in. Thank you to the Town of Peace River Library Board for participating, putting up with our friendly smack talk and for allowing us some time for this PD. Thank you to Annette Eddy at Movement Speaks Dance Studio for giving us a cardio and stretch

warm-up before the games. Thank you to the Peace River Municipal Library staff for not calling me crazy (to my face) while I experimented with the Balloon Shelving concept in the children's area, and for being such an amazing team to work with; I am proud of you. And finally, thank you to Anne Pearson for stepping up in a big way and helping me design and host the games. I hope our participants had as much fun as I did and that you made some good memories. I hope you, our readers, have enjoyed following this journey and that you might join us again in the future.



# >> Stronger Together 2021



# REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

## JOIN US FROM SEPTEMBER 22 - 24, 2021 AS WE BECOME STRONGER TOGETHER

Registration is NOW OPEN for [Stronger Together](#), a virtual library conference hosted jointly by Parkland Regional Library System, Peace Library System, The Alberta Library, & Yellowhead Regional Library.

The conference will take place over three days from September 22 - 24, 2021, and feature:

- Keynote speakers Timothy Caulfield and Heidi Jacobs
- Wellness speakers Nicola Gunter and Gurdeep Pandher
- Preconference speaker Kimberly Knull
- Knowledge Keepers Roy and Judy Louis
- Sponsor panels and a visual exhibit

And a wealth of conference sessions on topics like governance and leadership, diversity and inclusivity, post-pandemic reintegration, school librarianship, and Netspeed (emerging technologies)!

Stronger Together is once again **free to attend**, and we welcome anyone with a passion for libraries to register today.

At our conference website, you can explore all the details of the [conference schedule](#), find answers to [frequently asked questions](#), and [register to attend](#).

Join us from September 22 - 24, 2021 as we become [Stronger Together](#).



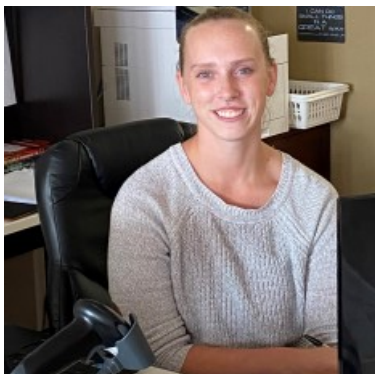
Peace Library System acknowledges Treaty 8 territory as well as the Métis Nation of Alberta. Peace Library System libraries are located on territory that provided a travelling route and home to many Indigenous peoples.

## New Library Managers

We welcome two new library managers to the region!



Marilyn Maggs,  
Berwyn Municipal  
Library



Shelby Cordingley,  
Rycroft Municipal  
Library

## 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](mailto: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

## Alberta Culture Days

September 2021

## Plan of Service Committee Meeting

PLS Headquarters

September 18, 2021; 9:30 am

## PLS Board Meeting

PLS Headquarters

September 18, 2021; 10:30 am

## Personnel Committee Meeting

PLS Headquarters

September 18, 2021, 2:30 pm

## Stronger Together Virtual Conference

At [strongertogether.heysummit.com](https://strongertogether.heysummit.com)

September 23 and 24, 2021

## Orange Shirt Day

September 30, 2021

## Canadian Library Month

October 2021

## PLS Executive Committee Meeting

TBA

October 16, 2021; 10:30 am