# NEWS&Notes

## Freedom to Read Week 2019
### February 24-March 2, 2019



Near the end of February Canada honours Freedom to Read Week, an annual celebration that encourages Canadians to think about and value our right to read, write, and publish freely, all actions that are guaranteed to us under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

While we like to think of Canada as a nation that treasures freedom of expression and inquiry, censorship continues to abound in our country. Often, this takes the form of self-censorship: books and magazines that might court controversy within the community are quietly removed from libraries and classrooms by staff, or are never added to the collection in the first place. Freedom to Read Week was created to challenge the covert nature of censorship, creating a broader awareness of these ongoing challenges to Canadian artistic expression, and to allow Canadians to celebrate their rights and widen their understanding of the negative effects of censorship.

This year, Freedom to Read Week celebrates its 35th anniversary. Check out freedomtoread.ca for more information and ideas for celebrating Freedom to Read Week in your library.

It's hard to believe that the first two months of 2019 are almost gone!

Unlike this time last year, we are not in the midst of building renovations and needs assessment planning. The building upgrade is complete and the 2019-2021 Plan of Service has been filed with the Public Library Services Branch.

*Linda Duplessis*

Speaking of which, you will have received a summary of our "Future Focused" Plan of Service. Over the next three years, PLS will be implementing a number of new strategies to support your library in the areas of training, advocacy, technology, programs and accessing resources. Thank you again for validating PLS services and sharing your thoughts on the best ways we can support you.

## Welcome Grande Cache - Member Library #46

As many of you know, the Town of Grande Cache dissolved and became a hamlet of the MD of Greenview on January 1, 2019. This automatically made Grande Cache Municipal Library the 46th member library in PLS, whereas before it was a member of Yellowhead Regional Library (YRL). YRL and PLS are both members of the TRAC consortium and our libraries all use the same automation software, so that will make the transition easier. However, there is a lot of work to do, including re-barcoding the entire collection.

The Grande Cache library is located in a school that is part of the Grande Yellowhead School Division. The library legally had to close on January 1, 2019, and will re-open when the newly established MD of Greenview Library Board enters into an agreement with the school division and then hires library staff.

At this point, PLS still does not have access to the library, but has been working behind the scenes to set up the library on Polaris and provide access to PLS eResources. We have also been storing all Grande Cache materials returned by other libraries in the province. We plan to send PLS staff on a work bee as soon as possible to barcode the collection. Other work will also take place to transition the library fully into PLS services. We look forward to working with the library in the months and years to come.
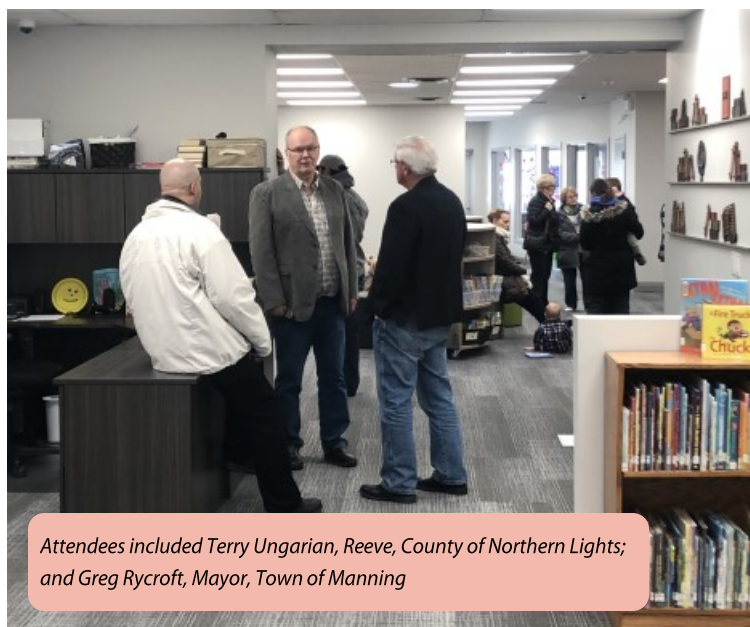
## Manning Municipal Library Grand Opening

On February 11, I had the privilege of attending the Manning Municipal Library's grand opening. The library expanded to more than double its space, added a programming room, and installed new furniture throughout. It is beautiful! One feature is a donation wall that is also a work of art.


The new donor wall

Congratulations to the Board and Staff of the Manning library for their persistence, hard work and vision to bring this project to fruition.


Attendees included Terry Ungarian, Reeve, County of Northern Lights; and Greg Rycroft, Mayor, Town of Manning

## PLS Salary Survey

PLS will be sending out a salary survey to member public libraries (excluding Grande Prairie Public Library) at the beginning of March. The survey will ask about library open hours, staffing numbers, wages and benefits. Results will be sent to library boards to assist them with financial planning. The survey data will be stronger if everyone participates, so please remember to respond!

Linda Duplessis
Director

# What's trending in books

## CBC Canada Reads Finalists 2019

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

**Homes** by Abu Bakr al Rabeeah with Winnie Yeung
**Brother** by David Chariandy
**By Chance Alone** by Max Eisen
**Suzanne** by Anaïs Barbeau-Lavalette, translated by Rhonda Mullins
**The Woo-Woo** by Lindsay Wong

## Edgar Award Finalists 2019

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

**The Liar's Girl** by Catherine Ryan Howard
**House Witness** by Mike Lawson
**A Gambler's Jury** by Victor Methos
**Down the River Unto the Sea** by Walter Mosley
**Only to Sleep** by Lawrence Osborne
**A Treacherous Curse** by Deanna Raybourn

## RNA Popular Romantic Fiction Finalists 2019

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

**The Lion Tamer Who Lost** by Louise Beech
**One Thousand Stars and You** by Isabelle Broom
**You Me Everything** by Catherine Isaac
**This Could Change Everything** by Jill Mansell
**A Sky Painted Gold** by Laura Wood

# >> Consulting Corner
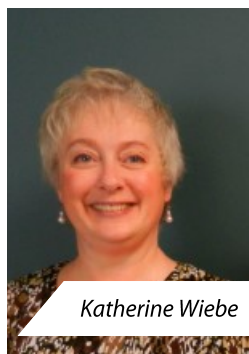
*Katherine Wiebe*

## LibPAS Annual Reports and 2019 Operating Grant Applications

Libraries will have their LibPAS annual reports to the Public Library Service Branch completed and submitted by the deadline of February 28. Library boards must approve the report and make a motion in their minutes to that affect before submitting the report to the PLSB.

The 2019 Operating Grant application forms are now available on the Public Library Service Branch's website at http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/plsb_funding_and_grants. Note that the Branch has included a statement that "Grants will be paid after the 2019-2020 provincial budget is approved, which will be after the 2019 provincial election." Please be aware that the date of the release of the 2019 operating grant monies will be dependent on the timing of the provincial election this year. However, you can submit your grant application as soon as your financial statements have been reviewed. The deadline to apply for the Operating Grant is June 15, 2019.

The Operating Grant application is a package involving five forms:

- The application form (make sure your board's legal name is entered correctly or the application will be refused)
- The 2018 Receipts and Disbursements form
- The extra 2018 Receipts and Disbursements page to be completed by your municipality if applicable
- The 2019 Budget form
- The extra 2019 Budget page to be completed by your municipality if applicable

## TD Summer Reading Club

The TD-Summer Reading Club planning is well underway and 27 participating libraries around Peace submitted their promotional materials orders in January. Northern Lights Library System is coordinating the Club for the province this year and will have a Prizes order form out to us soon, so please watch for that. If your library is planning to run an independent summer reading program, please make sure we know so that we can share the subsidized Prizes order form with you, too.

## Advocacy Course

The winter offering of The Power of Advocacy: Move Your Library Forward live online course got off to a great start on February 4, 2019 and is being offered on Monday evenings this time around to accommodate the schedules of library board members. We are pleased with the uptake of registrants from Peace Library System.

The course is a partnership between Peace, Marigold, and Northern Lights library systems. The Power of Advocacy is tailor-made for small and rural library boards to gain confidence and learn techniques for advocating for their libraries in a supportive and collaborative environment. This offering runs through March 18th.

## Consulting

Consulting visits to libraries will resume in the spring and Emma, Samm, and I look forward to getting out to your libraries. Please don't hesitate to call or email if you need assistance at any time.

Keep warm, spring will be here before we know it!

Katherine Wiebe
Consulting Services Manager and Assistant Director

# >> Titles to Watch Out For

We know our libraries are always keeping an eye out for good titles to add to their collections! Here, Samm highlights the best of forthcoming LGBTQ+ and Indigenous fiction. Check them out!

## LGBTQ+ Titles

**The Priory of the Orange Tree** by Samantha Shannon

From the internationally bestselling author of The Bone Season, an enthralling, epic fantasy about a world on the brink of war with dragons - and the women who must lead the fight to save it.

**Once & Future** by Amy Rose Capetta & Cori McCarthy

As the 42nd reincarnation of King Arthur, Ari Helix, an illegal immigrant in the galaxies, must save humanity from tearing itself apart with the help of an adolescent wizard named Merlin.

**The Devouring Gray** by Christine Lynn Herman

After the death of her sister, Violet Saunders finds herself dragged to Four Paths, New York. Violet may be a newcomer, but she soon learns her mother isn't: They belong to one of the revered founding families of the town, where stone bells hang above every doorway and danger lurks in the depths of the woods.
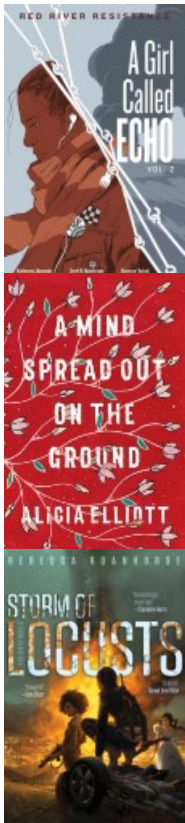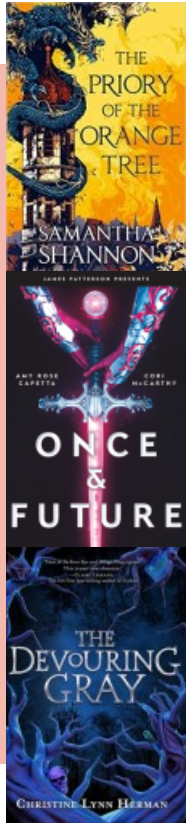
## Indigenous Titles

**A Girl Called Echo: Red River Resistance** by Katherena Vermette

Echo Desjardins just can't stop slipping back and forth in time. One ordinary afternoon in class, she finds herself transported to the banks of the Red River in the summer of 1869.

**A Mind Spread Out on the Ground** by Alicia Elliott

A bold and profound work by Haudenosaunee writer Alicia Elliott, A Mind Spread Out on the Ground is a personal and critical meditation on trauma, legacy, oppression and racism in North America.

**Storm of Locusts** by Rebecca Roanhorse

In the sequel to Trail of Lightning, Maggie Hoskie has found herself responsible for a young girl with a strange clan power when she finds out friends have fallen in with a mysterious cult led by a figure out of Navajo legend called the White Locust.

# >> Tech Services Tidbits

Having spent 20 years working at PLS, I have seen many changes and some unexpected events. Some have caused us to have a good laugh and others a good cry. Here are a few that I wish to share.

When I started at Peace Library System in August of 1988, we were using Dynix and in 2008 migrated to Polaris. The transition was a large learning curve for everyone, but we managed to survive even if a few of us gained some gray hairs. It was worth the move.

We have also had a few rough spots, like the devastating Slave Lake fire in 2011; our hearts went out to the people of Slave Lake. PLS became a mini warehouse for donated materials for the Slave Lake library. It was amazing to see people from all over the world pull together to restock the new library. The cataloguers processed the books suitable for the library and we held a book sale in 2012 for everything else, and the money was given to the library to help fill in those collections. When Slave Lake reopened the new library we had the books delivered. Some of us watched as the sea can was loaded and waved as it was hauled out of the parking lot.

In 2017 we lost a very important staff member of PLS, Carol Downing, to cancer. She was a friend as well as a co-worker.

Over the years we have had a few libraries close and some new ones join PLS, but our latest library to join us is Grande Cache. PLS is looking forward to working with and serving the community of Grande Cache.

Some of the fun events I got to be involved with included putting together a float that Peace Library System entered into the Grande Prairie Canada Day parade. We managed to get our work done and decorate along with a lot of laughter.

Another fun project was putting together the story time kits in 2007. Finding books and puppets to put in each kit was rewarding. The awesome part was when the puppets came in and we got try some out, just to make sure they worked, of course!

I found that scheduling a monthly luncheon was a great way to get to know your co-workers and what was happening with their lives. So to that end we planned a few interesting lunches over the years, including a spring tea with tea cups and a dirt cake, finger foods, international cuisine, nacho lunch... most of the time everyone tried a little of everything, and I even learned to eat and like jalapeno peppers.

I also enjoyed helping with the yearly Christmas party; meeting and getting to know the PLS board members was a pleasure.

I have also been through two renovations, the first in 2006 and the second in 2018. I must say the first one was not as intense as the second. The 2018 renovation saw every person in the building moving at least once. We also had to deal with the roofing noise: I suggested some bongo drums to go along with the banging on the roof. And the smell of tar that drifted throughout the building is a scent like no other. I don't think anyone at PLS will ever forget it. Having said that we all survived the renovation and the place looks great.

I have to say, the changes and events of the last 20 years, and the hard work and fun things we did during those years, have made PLS a great place to work.

Janet Schultz
Receiving Clerk

# >> New Technology
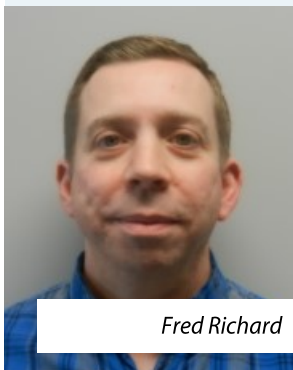
I'm often asked about new technology and my recommendations or thoughts on things such as virtual reality, 3D printing, and coding. These are all great technologies that are getting cheaper as more products flood the market.

VR has made its way into some libraries where it can be a great attraction that gets people wanting to visit the location. Now, along with the entertainment side of the games, there are many educational software programs that can be used with VR for kids as well as adults. VR may not be for everyone, but it is definitely something worth trying at least to experience it and have some fun.

*Fred Richard*

With coding it can be a bit more intimidating depending on the complexity and what it is being used for. That being said, there are some very basic, easy to follow programs and tools that make it straightforward and easy to understand. Websites like code.org, Lego.com and Tynker.com are great places for beginners to grasp some of the basics of coding and to test or play with it. For older individuals there are many sites geared towards you such as Codeacademy.com and Khanacademy.org. Many libraries around North America now offer coding programs and classes for both young and old alike.

3D printing is being used for a wide variety of things these days from creating toys and tools to even human organs! It has come a long way and comes in a variety of shapes, sizes and prices. Schools and bigger libraries have jumped on board and begun offering 3D printing to students and patrons. Most times they charge for materials and the user just needs to provide the file/template they wish to create with it. Websites like Tinkercad.com allow you to play around with designs until you create a final product you are happy with to 3D print. There are predesigned items that you can choose from on this site or become the engineer and create your own!

With new technology come a lot of unknowns that take time to work through and figure out. Most often price, need vs want and product support are all important factors in deciding what is best. The tech industry is always growing and changing so don't be afraid to learn about what is available: it may not be the right thing for your organization, but it is usually fun to learn about it and discover. My best advice is to research and explore!

Fred Richard
Desktop & Network Administrator
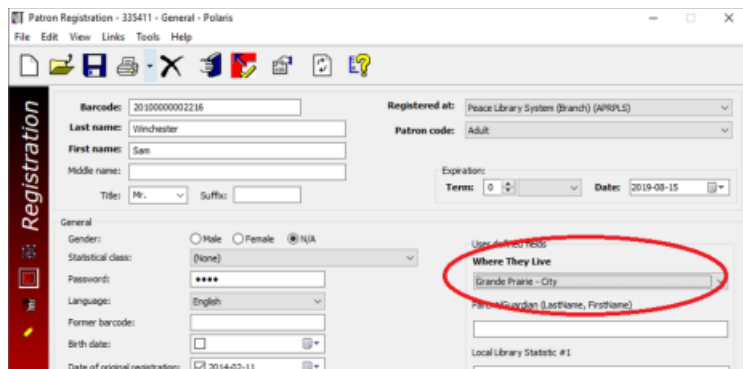
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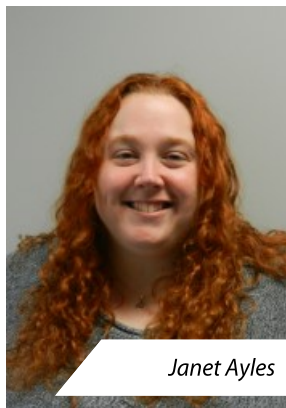

*Janet Ayles*

Up next on the list of **Polaris Spring Cleaning**, which actually may be a misnomer because it's the dead of winter and spring is entirely too far away, are your **patrons.**

When it comes to patrons, you will get the best and most consistent information if the records are standardized. I know, it's not the most exciting thing to do with Polaris and Simply Reports (I'm pretty sure I felt your eyes glaze over from here), but it's super useful for statistics and general cleanliness of the database. Patron accounts are very straightforward but there are lots of little details to be mindful of.

## Where They Live



One of the required pieces of information for Patron Registration is the **Where They Live** field. Are they in the city, town, MD, county, or outside the system? This list is customizable. Is there something on the list that should be removed? Is there something missing from the list, such as a neighbouring town or county? I can add it for you. That way when pulling reports from Simply Reports it is easier and quicker to identify and group your patrons. Why would you need this info? One reason is to make sure that you haven't given a full services library card to someone who doesn't reside within PLS boundaries. Another reason is to determine your patron demographics. If you're in a town surrounded by one or more MDs or counties, then this will help you determine the breakdown of your patrons – how many from the town, how many from this county, how many from that MD, and so on.

When it comes to looking up the **Where They Live** field in Simply Reports, it is a little unintuitive. Most of the output columns in Simply Reports have straightforward names – Patron full name, Patron barcode, Patron email address, etc. – but the User defined fields (Where They Live, Parent/Guardian, and Local Library Statistics 1-3) show in Simply Reports as Patron user 1 – 5.

## Patrons Without Addresses

It doesn't happen often, but occasionally a patron record gets created without an address. If you've done this, I'm sure you have a reason. Although it's not a great idea for a lot of reasons, the main one is billing for lost items. How do you bill for a lost item (or more than one item) if you don't have a place to send it? Even if your patron doesn't have a PO Box or a street address, they are getting their mail somewhere, even if it's just General Delivery. That should still be put into Polaris.
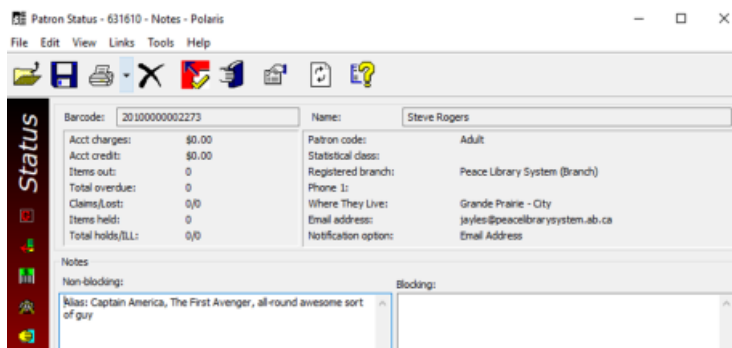
Luckily, Polaris has a report for that. There is a report called Patrons Without Addresses (helpfully named, isn't it?). It's located in Reports and Notices > Public Services > Patron Services. Just choose your library and leave the default date. If your report is empty, yay. However, if you have names on the report, it has just become your to-do list.

## Non-Blocking Account Notes

Non-blocking notes are a great way to record something on a patron account. However, there are a few guidelines to follow here.

When entering notes, don't hit the enter key. If you have multiple details to enter, use something like | or \ to differentiate. Using the enter key means that using Simply Reports to pull patron information including the **Patron non-blocking note** column returns wonky results when exporting to Excel.

Also, keep your non-blocking notes updated and relevant!



To see which of your patrons have non-blocking notes, Simply Reports is your place to be. Unfortunately, there's no way to limit your results to only patrons who have non-blocking notes, so you have to run a list of all your patrons and then use Excel to filter down.

Is this a crucial part of Polaris maintenance? Not so much, but it's really lovely to have nice and clean patron records, isn't it?

Janet Ayles
IT and Technical Services Manager

*by Charlotte Anderson, Emerging Technologies Librarian, Grande Prairie Public Library*

## Video Games in the Library

In 2018 GPPL rolled out our new video game collection. It started as a pilot collection of 20 titles over the 3 most popular consoles and after a 6-month probation period it was approved to become a full collection. In the process, I came up with a few tips for reference staff who aren't familiar with gaming to help our patrons find the material they were looking for.

**The console matters:** There are 3 major brands of devices that play video games - Nintendo, PlayStation, and Xbox, and they are competing with each other to be the best. Which one actually IS the best is a matter of debate among gamers, but that means that each brand has multiple generations of devices.

Dedicated gamers enjoy buying the newest version console from their favourite company (or, in some cases, are reluctantly coerced to upgrade when a game they want to play is only released on the newest generation). Currently, the consoles to watch for are the Nintendo Switch, the PlayStation 4, and the Xbox One.

What this means is that in order to place a request on a game for someone, you need to know which console they're running it on. Most current consoles aren't backwards compatible, so a PS4 game will only play on the PS4, and a Nintendo Switch game will only play on the Switch (etc). One of the other things to keep in mind is that PlayStation and Xbox usually release the same titles, so if someone is looking for the new Kingdom Hearts 3 game it is available on both PlayStation 4 and Xbox One (and GPPL owns both!).

Both the PlayStation 4 and the Xbox One have been out for a few years, so it's unlikely that a new game will be released on the PlayStation 3 or the Xbox 360 (the previous generations). If a patron has an old console and wants a new game, it doesn't exist. It's the same for the Nintendo Wii.

The good news is that there are still games for those consoles in the system, so you can still find something for your patrons to play. The way I do this is to keyword search the console name in a Bibliographic Records search that limits by the type of material to video games.

**Multiplayer games**: A multiplayer game is one where multiple players can be playing at the same time, typically against each other but sometimes working together towards a single goal. To a gamer the word multiplayer implies several controllers connected to the same console, but technically it can include games played over the internet with other people.

Multiplayer games are fantastic for relatively passive programs if you're looking at expanding into a game night for teens or families. All of the consoles have multiplayer games, but the Nintendo has some of the best for this purpose. Consider grabbing Super Smash Bros. Ultimate or Super Mario Party for a gaming tournament at the library (run on the Nintendo Switch). The first time we ran one of these was during LibriCon with the help of one of the local stores, so definitely grab someone who knows gaming to help.

# Current Popular Video Games

## Pokemon Let's Go

Explore the diverse and vibrant region of Kanto! True-to-size wild Pokémon roam around in the game, so catch them like a real Pokémon Trainer by using motion, timing, and a well-placed Poké Ball. Go on a stroll with your favorite Pokémon in your Poké Ball Plus! Connect your game directly to Pokémon GO to receive Kanto region Pokémon.

Note: This comes in both the Pikachu edition and the Eevee edition. All this means is that the companion Pokémon is either a Pikachu or an Eevee. *For Nintendo Switch*. It connects directly to the Pokémon Go game that is so popular as a phone app.

## Kingdom Hearts 3

Kingdom Hearts 3 is the third installment in the beloved RPG series and features a mature Sora who sets forth on an adventure with Mickey, Donald and Goofy through new and legendary Disney worlds. Continuing from Dream Drop Distance, Sora, Donald and Goofy will attempt to search for seven guardians of light and the "Key to Return Hearts", while King Mickey and Riku search for previous Keyblade wielders, in an attempt to stop Master Xehanort's plan to balance the light and darkness.

Note: This game is a crossover between the Disney franchise and the popular Final Fantasy games. Gamers have been waiting over a decade for this installment to come out. For *PlayStation 4* and *Xbox One*.

## Super Smash Bros Ultimate

Legendary game worlds and fighters collide in the ultimate showdown—a new entry in the Super Smash Bros. series for the Nintendo Switch system! New fighters, like Inkling from the Splatoon series and Ridley from the Metroid series, make their Super Smash Bros. series debut alongside every Super Smash Bros. fighter in the series…EVER! Fast combat, new items, new attacks, new defensive options, and more will keep the battle raging whether you're at home or on the go.

Note: This game contains a mashup of popular characters from the suite of Nintendo gaming, and is one of Nintendo's fighting games that pit one character against the other. For *Nintendo Switch*.

# Around the System...

## Fox Creek Municipal Library

In November, we invited our patrons to come in and sign Christmas Cards for Veterans. A big thank you to our local Rexall for donating the cards. Our Children's Christmas Craft Workshop was held November 24 and saw many happy children making items for Christmas, either for gifts or decorations and decorating ginger bread cookies.



Christmas Minute to Win It Games for the whole family was held Dec. 11. Teams worked together to accomplish the Minute to Win It tasks; tossing marshmallow snowballs, unwrapping gifts wearing oven mitts, stacking snowballs using tongs, Santa cookie slide and several other hilarious activities. Many families participated along with friends teams for an evening of fun in a packed library.



The library supplied cookies for our entire school and invited classes from playschool to Grade 12 to come in and decorate them. That was fun and exhausting! Some real works of art were made.

Valentines for Vets was held Jan 23rd and 24th with Valentines being sent to Veterans Care facilities in Canada. The library supplied the materials and our patrons supplied the creativity.

January 27 was Family Literacy Day and we spent the month of January collecting entries for our "Basket of Books" Contest. 1036 entries were collected, one for each book read and 5 Baskets of Books (and other goodies) were given out from the draws.

We are busy getting ready for Family Games Night, February 28 in the school gym. A big turnout is expected as usual. We will have giant games as well as lots of movement games and other fun activities. Milk and cookies will be served and there will be door prizes as well.

**—Submitted by Leslie Ann Sharkey, Fox Creek Municipal Library**

## Manning Municipal Library

This winter we have been finishing up our long-awaited renovation on our library.  We have almost doubled our square footage, and since our official opening on January 7th, our patrons have been loving it!  Our program room is much bigger than it was, and we have been able to have a few more kids in for our after school Kid's Picks Program.  We have hired a new programmer, Jen, who comes with tons of experience crafting and entertaining the kids (look out Martha Stewart!).  We also hired a new manager (me) shortly before we reopened. Now that we are reopened to the public, and with a bigger space, we are working on creating more programs for adults as well as for teens.  We are also reaching out to the local minority groups/associations to determine which programs and supports are most needed.  We are very excited to be able to serve our community in new and exciting ways in the future!

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





## Peace River Municipal Library

The Peace River Municipal Library hosted a life-sized version of the Game of Life on January 31st along side the regular Tabletop Gamers night.  Participants stepped around the board collecting jobs, family, and other details of life.  It was a great turnout and plans are being made for the next life-sized game!  A big thank you to Cyndi and Hayley for all of their creativity and hard work putting together such a fun and popular program.

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

# More from around the *System...*

## Shannon Municipal Library

The Shannon Library in Sexsmith was pleased to welcome Karen Bass on one of the coldest days this year! Despite -40°C temperatures, 11 of 12 aspiring writers climbed out of their warm beds, started the car and came to the library. We do not know what happened to the twelfth person… we may find him thawing on the side of the road come spring.

Karen used many resources to work with the group including "Save the Cat! Writes a Novel; the Last Book on Novel Writing You Will Ever Need," by Jessica Brody, soon to be available through our library.

An entire Saturday afternoon was spent developing characters, working through plot sequences and above all, sharing a love and passion for writing. Many participants received the encouragement and support they needed to move forward on works in progress. Some brought self-published works. One participant has already created an outline for her current story based on the workshop. Karen warned them that it would be an afternoon of work and not one walked away.

Karen Bass is a former partner-in-crime and has forgiven me for many things: my snoring while sharing rooms at ALC; that I crack the spines of my personal paperbacks (including hers!); and, most especially, my over the top enthusiasm for her books. She is the author of seven books for teens and has recently had one of her books optioned for a screenplay. This Writer's Workshop was made possible with one of the annual grants available from Peace Library System towards author visits and a grant from The Friends of the Shannon Library Society.

**—Submitted by Sheryl Pelletier, Shannon Municipal Library**

## Fairview Public Library

Fairview has been focusing on different displays using colour.  We started off with red and working through until spring, with blue and green coming up in the next few weeks.

**—Submitted by Chris Burkholder, Fairview Public Library**



## Smith Community Library

We have been having a lot of fun at our library.  On February 7th we had an early Valentines Party.  It was a huge success and we would like to share some pictures with you of our event.  Our library is host to many children's activities.  We look forward to working and playing with the children.

**—Submitted by Ruth Reay, Smith Community Library**



## McLennan Municipal Library

McLennan Municipal Library's after school program is a big hit again this year. Maker Madness, Coding Ninjas, Legendary Lego, and electronics are some of the highlights which keep kids coming back. So much fun!
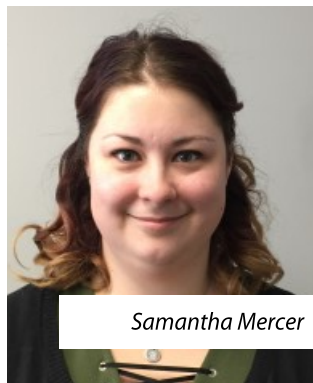
**—Maureen Fisher, McLennan Municipal Library**

# >> 2018 eResource Checkouts

**Overdrive**

Total checkouts: 80,199

**Lynda.com**

Total usage: 8,209

**RBDigital eMagazines**

Total checkouts: 6,541

**3M Cloud Library**

Total checkouts: 3,567

**TumbleBooks**

Total checkouts: 2,504

**PressReader**

Issues read: 15,905

**Ancestry**

Documents viewed: 6,036

# >> Spotlight on: **Solaro**


*Samantha Mercer*



Peace Library System is pleased to now be able to offer Solaro to our member libraries!

The eResource is free to anyone with a library card and offers Alberta-specific curriculum help for grades 3-12. This is a great resource for anyone needing extra help, anyone looking to get ahead as well as distance or homeschool learners. Users can follow through lessons, create flashcards, take notes, take tests and monitor their progress! Stars are rewarded for each lesson a student completes. They can then spend those stars on new clothes or features for their personal avatar!

To access courses, all you have to do is log in, select the "Add Course" button, select your province and grade from the drop down menus. All available courses will show up and students simply check the box beside the class they want to take. From now on, that course will be available right from your homepage after you login! Once you finish a course, you can remove it from your homepage simply by following the same steps and unchecking the box beside the course.

# >> Rural Libraries Conference

We're already gearing up and getting ready for this year's Rural Libraries Conference! The theme for this year's conference will be **The Power of People**. 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 below!



If you have an idea for a session you'd like to present at the conference, email Emma at estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca before March 8th.

We look forward to seeing you all at the 2019 Rural Libraries Conference on September 26 and 27 at the Pomeroy Hotel & Conference Centre! Stay tuned for registration later this spring.

## TD Summer Reading Club

Looking at all the snow on the ground it's hard to believe, but… we're getting geared up for the TD Summer Reading Club already! This year's theme looks fun and engaging; TD Summer Reading Club starts with a splash with the Get Your Summer Read On registration kickoff during the week of June 15–22, 2019.

TD Summer Reading Club 2019

Reading fun for kids, from Canada's public libraries

**Get Your Summer Read On!**

Visit your library and register for the TD Summer Reading Club!

## 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

*Freedom to Read Week*
February 24-March 2, 2019

*Polaris Upgrade*
March 11, 2019

*PLS Board Meeting*
PLS Headquarters
March 16, 2019, 10:30 am

*Library Managers' Council Meeting*
PLS Headquarters
April 8, 2019, 10:30 am

*PLS Executive Committee  Meeting*
Location TBA
April 13, 2019, 10:30 am

*Alberta Library Conference*
Jasper Park Lodge
April 25-28, 2019

*Public Library Meeting*
PLS Headquarters
May 6, 2019, 10:00 am

*PLS Board Meeting*
PLS Headquarters
May 25, 2019, 10:30 am