



NEWS & Notes

PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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SUMMER 2016

Peace Library System Celebrates Its 30th Anniversary

30 YEARS!

Time has certainly flown by since Peace Library System was formed in 1986! This year, in order to celebrate Peace Library System's 30th Anniversary, we are making changes to our Excellence in Library Service Awards.



The awards were originally designed to recognize Peace area library staff for outstanding service in school and public libraries. In a typical year, one public library staff member and one school library staff member are honoured with awards which are presented in September at the Rural Libraries Conference.

Rather than only awarding two of our libraries for their outstanding service to their communities or schools, this year we would like to honour **all 45 of our member public libraries and all 50 of our member school libraries** in a presentation at the Rural Libraries Conference. We would like to feature each individual library and highlight how each of you provides excellence in library service.

But we need your help!

In order to create the presentation, we ask that you send us a **brief write-up** (a couple of sentences, no more than 100 words) highlighting an example of excellence in your library. This might feature a program you offered, an event you hosted, a renovation, a great book display, an interaction with patrons or students—anything that shows off your library and what you do. Please also send a **photograph** (up to 2 photos max) that either highlights what you have written about, or features library staff or the library itself.

The deadline to send in your blurb and photo to Emma at estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca is **June 30, 2016**. You can also send in a hard copy and she can scan it. We will use all submissions to showcase your library in a very special presentation.

Please help us celebrate your library!

>> From the Director



Linda Duplessis

With new staff coming on board and funding for new projects, these are busy but exciting times at Peace Library System (PLS).

New Positions at PLS

In response to input from member libraries and boards during the 2015 community consultation, PLS has created two new term positions to start in May. We are very excited to bring two dynamic people on board to help in two key areas.

The first is a summer position as Marketing Associate. Zoe Vatter, who has training and experience in marketing, will join us on May 16. She will work with PLS staff to develop a three-year marketing strategy to promote public library services across the region, and will design a specific marketing campaign for 2017. She will also train library staff to use a new marketing tool called LibraryAware, which includes templates and tools to create newsletters, bookmarks, flyers, and the like for promoting resources and services throughout the library and the community. Our goal over the next few years is to really promote public library services across the region and assist library staff in developing their own promotional materials.

Samantha Mercer will join us on May 24 for a one-year position as Digital Trainer & IT Assistant. She will be the first point of contact for questions relating to digital resources, and will assist with website questions and training. She will provide training on digital resources and will develop training materials and tutorials that library staff can access on our website. She will also provide assistance with basic hardware and software troubleshooting, including Polaris support. We believe that this will help meet the training and support needs identified in the Needs Assessment.

Provincial Operating Grant Increases

The recently tabled provincial budget includes extra funding for public library services. Provincial operating grants will be calculated based on 2015 population, rather than 2014. This will benefit those communities or areas that have had population increases, including Grande Prairie, High Level, Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement, the MD of Lesser Slave River, the MD of Opportunity, and Rainbow Lake. It will also provide additional funding to Peace Library System, which is very timely. We are in

need of major roof repairs and must also pay for new e-mail software and migration.

The second new "pot" of funding will assist on-reserve and on-settlement First Nations and Métis people in accessing existing public library service in Alberta. We are waiting for details on how this program will work and what funding might be directed to PLS. We will keep you posted and will be seeking input from member libraries prior to making any decisions about expenditures.

Linda Duplessis
Director



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.

What's trending in books

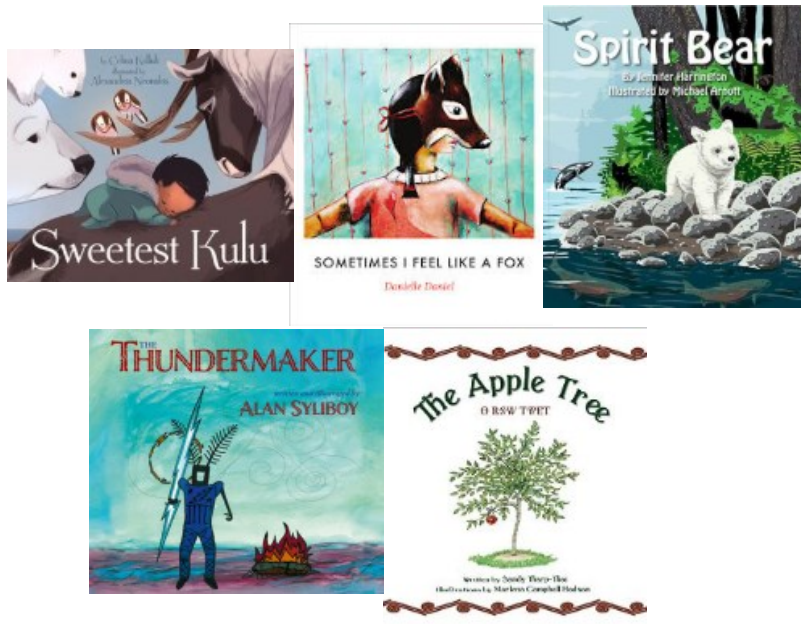
ALBERTA READER'S CHOICE AWARDS FINALISTS 2016

Alberta readers get to vote for their favourite of these finalists starting on Monday, July 4th:

The Battle of Alberta by Mark Spector
Birdie by Tracey Lindberg
Road Trip Rwanda by Will Ferguson
Rumi and the Red Handbag by Shawna Lemay
A Wake for the Dreamland by Laurel Deedrick-Mayne



FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES READ FINALISTS 2016



The following titles are in the running to become the First Nation Communities Read selection for 2016–2017, which will be announced in Toronto on June 23 as part of the National Aboriginal Day Celebrations:

Sweetest Kulu by Celina Kalluk
Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox by Danielle Daniel
Spirit Bear by Jennifer Harrington and Michael Arnot
The Thundermaker by Alan Syliboy
The Apple Tree by Sandy Tharpe-Thee

AMAZON.CA FIRST NOVEL AWARD FINALISTS

Here is the shortlist for the First Novel Award, celebrating its 40th anniversary:

13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl by Mona Awad
Seep by W. Mark Giles
Backspring by Judith McCormack
The Afterlife of Birds by Elizabeth Phillips
Do You Think This is Strange? by Aaron Cully Drake
Book of Sands by Karim Alrawi



>> 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:

Charlotte Anderson

Cathy Armstrong

Janet Ayles

Linda Chmilar

Diane Collyer

Tracy Deets

Carol Downing

Linda Duplessis

Maureen Fisher

Michele Kettles

Fred Richard

Leslie Ann Sharkey

Beverly Shewchuk

Emma Stewart

Katherine Wiebe



Katherine Wiebe and Emma Stewart

Happy spring, everyone!

New Staff

We are excited to announce that we have hired **Samantha Mercer** to fill our new one-year contract position of Digital Trainer and IT Assistant. Samantha has just completed her MLIS from Dalhousie where she took all the technology courses available to her. She is eager to meet the library managers and staff and put her skills to work! Her start date will be Tuesday, May 24, just after the long weekend. Some of Samantha's duties will include eResources training and troubleshooting, device training webinars, updating documents and creating tutorials.

LibraryAware

We've just signed the agreement to subscribe to LibraryAware and will be rolling out vendor-provided training once the authentication process has been completed. Please watch for a webinar training announcement in the near future.



LibraryAware is an online tool for libraries to connect with readers and keep them engaged. It includes templates and tools to create newsletters, bookmarks, shelf-talkers, flyers, and more for promoting books and resources throughout the library and beyond. Feel free to have a look at the introductory information at <https://www.ebscohost.com/novelist/our-products/libraryaware>.

Summer Reading Club

I'm sure you're diligently planning for your summer reading program. Thirty PLS libraries are participating in the national TD Summer Reading Club with the theme of "Wild" this year. The www.summerreadingclub.ca website is full of helpful information to run the Club. Just click the "For Staff" button in the top right corner of the website, and then the "Resources" tab and you will find Recommended Reads, Activities, Programs, Templates and Guidelines for using them, Images, and Program Forms. Remember to track your statistics throughout the program so you can report them at the end of the summer. There's a helpful Statistics Collection booklet on our website at <http://www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/SRC>. You will be emailed a form at the end of the summer to transfer your collected statistics to.

Professional Development Resources eNewsletter

By now, library managers have probably seen the "Professional Development Resources for Library Staff" eNewsletter emailed out by the Marigold Library System through the TRACSharing listserv. We really encourage you to take some time to read through it. It is free and provides some excellent resources, including links to recorded webinars (free), live webinars, online courses/tutorials, articles and blogposts, and book reviews covering a wide variety of library interests including Leadership and Management, Advocacy and Marketing, Readers' Advisory, Programming, Library/Workplace Skills, Customer Service, Social Media, Personal Development and more. The current issue can be read at <http://www.marigold.ab.ca/professional-development-resources>.

Kudos to Marigold for producing this informative resource and for sharing it with all TRAC libraries.

Consulting Visits

Spring is the time for consulting visits to start and we will be contacting our libraries shortly to schedule them. We look forward to catching up with everything you're doing in your libraries!

>> Rural Libraries Conference

Are you getting excited for this year's Rural Libraries Conference? We are! We've already announced our keynote speakers— Kathy Archer and Megan Hartline, who will be talking about leadership themes and discussing how libraries and library staff can take on leadership roles in their communities—but the rest of the sessions and speakers are all lined up and it's going to be a fantastic conference this year.

Just to give you a taste of what will be offered at this year's RLC, here are some of our session titles:

- Small Library, Big Engagement: A Community-Led Approach for Small Libraries
- Connecting the Dots: Play & Early Literacy Skills
- Using Social Media Effectively: How to Create a Social Media Plan for Your Library
- Budget Saving Ideas for the Secondary School Library Learning Commons

There's lots for everyone, so keep an eye on www.rurallibrariesconference.com for updates on the conference schedule and events. You can also check out a photo gallery from last year's conference.

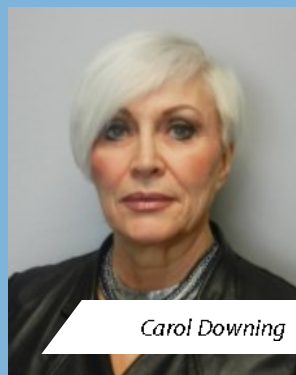
We look forward to seeing you all at the 2016 Rural Libraries Conference on September 22 and 23 at the Pomeroy Hotel & Conference Centre! The registration package will be going out in the next couple of weeks, so stay tuned!



LEADING FROM THE LIBRARY

Rural Libraries Conference 2016

>> Tech Services Tidbits



Carol Downing

We are all happy to see spring arrive, January 2016. Without the library materials rate, the same service even though we had a relatively mild winter. Sheri Goff will be returning from maternity leave on June 1 on a three day per week schedule. We will be happy to have her back with us. All is going well in Technical Services.

Links to websites containing information on the "Learning Commons" have been posted on the Peace Library System website to assist school libraries transitioning to a Learning Commons setting. They can be found under Training Toolkit/School Libraries/ Learning Commons. There are some great ideas for projects to assist both information specialists and teachers on these sites.

Canada Post continues to support Canadian libraries by providing reduced

postal rates for mailing library materials by libraries to their users and other libraries. On January 11, 2016, Canada Post increased library materials rates by a weighted average of 5 per cent. Even with the increase, the rates continue to be substantially lower than our most discounted commercial parcel rates. A 1.0 kg package mailed at the library materials rate increased from \$0.97 to \$1.02 in

Have a wonderful summer.

Carol Downing

Assistant Director and Tech Services Manager



Fred Richard

>> Libraries vs Technology

Technology has come a long way over the last 5, 10, 30 plus years and so have libraries. In the beginning it was a collection of clay tablets but has changed and branched into many new areas to keep momentum moving forward to stay current. Now there are GPS apps that can direct you to material in a library; mobile apps that allow patrons to search, download and read materials; even 3D printers that bring life to 2 dimensional objects.

The digital age has led many people to learn to adapt to these computers, apps and various forms of eReaders. Training is essential as technologies continue to develop and patrons have different wants and needs. Through it all one thing has stayed constant and is key to a library's success and that is having things that people want.

People will always read and there will always be books to read whether it be on a computer screen, some sort of hand held device or a physical copy of the book/magazine. Personally I prefer to read directly from a book rather than a screen. You don't get the intimacy you get like when you hold a great piece of literature in your hands and immerse yourself in the story. I have grown up in the age of technology and have learned to adapt and change as needed. A library in today's modern world is more than just a place to get books. They are gathering places for community members; a place to encourage the arts; a safe place for kids to learn, play and have fun as well as a place to learn new technology for people of all ages.

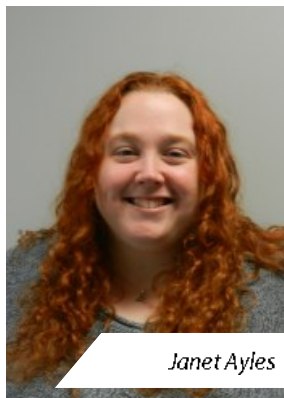
Taking information technology in school was not just a matter of learning things from a computer screen. There were books that were required by the course as well as many books we checked out for research from the school library. Technology and libraries can meld together nicely if training is provided so that everyone knows and understands how to use the technology. This is why I enjoy the work I do, because not only do I fix problems as they arise but I also take the time to explain why something is working the way it is and how it can be resolved.

I will end with a quote I saw and loved by Northrop Frye: "The most technologically efficient machine that man has ever invented is the book."

Fred Richard
Desktop & Network Administrator



>> From the IT Desk



Janet Ayles

Polaris Update

This is always an announcement which strikes fear into the heart of any library staff, but there is a Polaris upgrade on the horizon. TRAC will be upgrading to Polaris 5.1 on Monday, June 27, 2016. Polaris 5.1 comes with a few new features. Items checked out from OverDrive in the PAC can now be downloaded directly, rather than having to use the app or visit the OverDrive website. Patrons will also be able to see – right on their checkout receipt! – how much they have saved by using their library. Polaris will now be able to help you market your services to your patrons and help demonstrate just how valuable your library really is!

Email Changes

For the last number of years, Peace Library System (and our member libraries) have been able to use the TRAC Exchange Server for our email services. Sadly, as it happens with electronic devices, the Exchange Server is reaching its end of life. The decision has been made to not replace the existing server. With advances in Cloud Solutions, there are much more efficient and cost effective methods of hosting email. Fred and I are still looking into our options for PLS and our libraries, but we will make this transition as seamless for you as possible. As we have more information, we will let you know.

SuperNet vs Internet

SuperNet and Internet may sound like they should be interchangeable, but the two networks have very different functions. SuperNet is the internal network which connects all the libraries together. SuperNet connects your library to PLS and connects us to Yellowhead Regional Library and the TRAC/Polaris servers. SuperNet on its own does not connect your library to the outside world. It is also not the reason that YouTube keeps buffering. Our Internet connection is what links us to the outside world, and yes, this is why YouTube is choppy. PLS shares its Internet service with your library over the SuperNet. Unfortunately, our current bandwidth subscription is not enough to support PLS and all the member libraries. The rise of streaming services like YouTube and Netflix have put more of a strain on our Internet service than we could have predicted. I know it is frustrating for you and your patrons. I am a music listener and it has been a long time since I have been able to stream playlists while working! Fred and I are looking at options to increase our Internet bandwidth and are hoping to have a solution in place by

the summer. Then we can all rejoice with some music or a cat video of your choosing.

Summer Hours

The weather warmed up and the snow melted early for us this year (not that I'm complaining at all). April is gone, May is rushing by, and June is right around the corner. June means summer (and flip flops, popsicles, and other fun stuff), which can bring changes to your library hours. Will your library be closing over the summer? Will you be reducing hours? Or even just changing up some of the days that you are open? If the answer to any of those questions is yes, please let me know so I can update Polaris accordingly. Send any changes to helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

Did You Know?

The Where They Live field is one of the few fields that Polaris requires when creating a new patron. This drop down menu is customizable by library. The entire list is pretty massive as it includes every city, town, hamlet, MD, County, and other area within the province of Alberta. Most of these are probably not going to apply to your library, but some might. Next time you have a minute, take a look at what shows up on the Where They Live list for your library. Do you need them all? Should something be there that is not listed? If there are any changes to be made, just let me know and I can take care of them.



Janet Ayles
IT Services Manager

>> From Grande Prairie Public Library

There's An App For That? My Favourite of Our App-Based Resources

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

It's difficult enough answering information questions without having to keep up to date on the library's digital resources and App-based services. I can't count the amount of times something has changed (what seems like) overnight and I didn't notice until a patron had an issue with it. In fact, as I was writing this, the 3M Cloud Library app updated.

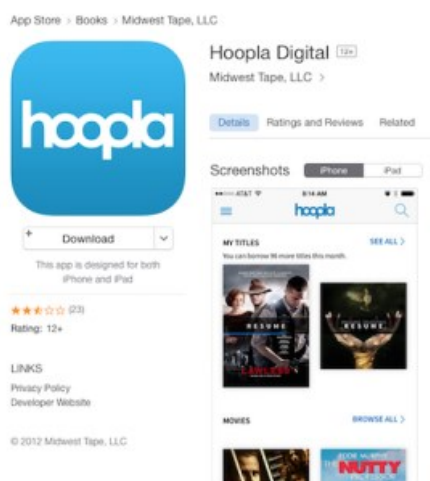
The easiest way to be familiar with all of these apps, even if you're not great with technology, is to use them (if you can). It's so much easier to navigate through new updates or to troubleshoot problems if you know the basics of how it works. I don't mean to, but I absolutely play favourites when it comes to these services, and that's mostly based on how easy they are to teach other people.

#1: Hoopla

Hoopla is my favourite in terms of ease of use. Finding and downloading the Hoopla app is simple, and signing up is so similar to the kinds of steps patrons are used to performing to sign up for things like Facebook or email accounts that they barely blink. New Hoopla users are expected to choose their library (we're through PLS of course) and then enter an email, create a password, and enter their library barcode. Once they are signed in, the layout of Hoopla is easy to navigate and searchable. Items can be downloaded to the app so patrons can enjoy their selections offline.

Hoopla does have limitations. The loan periods for the movies are 2 days, 7 days for music, and 21 days for the books, and each card only gets five items per month. Hoopla is funded by PLSB and tends to reach its spending limits, and one of the common questions I get about it is "I haven't taken 5 items out this month, why have I reached the borrowing limit?"

[On a computer, patrons can access Hoopla on their website: www.hoopladigital.com and stream from the browser.]



#2: Overdrive

OverDrive is my favourite eBook resource for selection. TRAC has had OverDrive for years, and so more items have been purchased for it than 3M Cloud Library. The app is easier to use than it used to be, though the newest update has been causing a few growing pains, especially on Apple's iOS. OverDrive does have a fantastic help section to find the solution to your problems. The trouble most people seem to have with OverDrive is remembering "where" they read the books – as in going through the app menu back to the Bookshelf. When I'm teaching OverDrive I always go back and forth a few times to get it into their heads.



A few other things: When a patron is having trouble with the OverDrive app, the first thing I check is to see whether they are signed in to: 1. the OverDrive Account, and 2. the Adobe Digital Editions account. Occasionally, updating the app can sign people out. The OverDrive Account is right under bookshelf in the menu, and the ADE account can be found under settings.

The other problem that's been coming up with surprising regularity is that under settings the option to Browse libraries in Safari is turned on. This means the TRAC OverDrive page is opening in the Safari browser rather than in the OverDrive app, which in turn makes it easier to run into problems with opening/downloading items.

[On a computer, patrons can access OverDrive through <http://trac.lib.overdrive.com/> and download to an eReader through Adobe Digital Editions or to an MP3 player through OverDrive Media Console.]

[Tip: on a computer DO NOT install the Overdrive app for Windows 7 or 8. Get the programs above.]

#3: 3M Cloud Library

Look, I never thought I would be annoyed by choices, but using 3M Cloud Library doesn't feel as intuitive to me as OverDrive does. When I'm browsing for something to read, sometimes I just want to be able to see all options easily, and I have a really difficult time finding that with the 3M app. That said, sometimes I absolutely want to read a Dystopian Fantasy and don't want to wade through a lot of options to find it. The app itself is easy to sign up with using your library card, and you can place holds, return books, and see your reading history in it. If you go to the app menu, filters are easy to access and you can change back and forth between 'available now' and 'all titles'.

[On a computer, patrons can access 3M Cloud Library through <http://trac.lib.overdrive.com/> and will be prompted to download an App. The computer version isn't actually an app, it's a normal computer program. Don't worry about the word app and download the Windows version (unless it's a Mac computer).]

Functionality differs slightly on the app versus the computer program. In the app, you can't "Show All Books" in the fiction category (as far as I've been able to tell). In the computer program it's not easy to turn off the filter for 'available now' without going back to the start page.

#4: Zinio for Libraries

Zinio is the one I want to love, but stays my least favourite of the app resources just because the user has to first go in through the browser. We all know the reason why we go to the PLS Zinio landing page first in order to borrow magazines, but conveying that to patrons looking for a streamlined experience is difficult (the way I explain it in classes is that Zinio is a for-purchase product, and we've purchased the subscriptions from Zinio and they are downloading these items from us). It got better when Zinio released the Zinio for Libraries app, which automatically

connects the account they create on the PLS Zinio landing page to the app when they sign in.

The great part of Zinio is that the back issues of the magazines are still available (up to the date we purchased the subscription to that particular magazine) and there are no due dates. Patrons love hearing that.



Bonus: Mango Languages

Getting the Mango app is easy, but signing up for an account needs to be done through the link to Mango through our web-sites. Once the account is created, it's easy to sign into the Mango app and use it on the go!



Bonus: TRACPac

Patrons can check their account, access eResources, place holds, etc. in the TRACPac. The coolest feature is BookLook where they can check whether TRAC has a book by scanning the ISBN with their phone/tablet.

Around the System...

Spring has sprung—here's what's been going on around Peace Library System over the past few months! 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!

Peace River Municipal Library

April was a busy month at Peace River Municipal Library. It was Fairy Month! We had workshops on how to make a Fairy Garden, an Enchanted Forest Garden Party, and everyday Tinkerbell was busy with her friends somewhere in the library. Patrons could follow her antics on Facebook! We also hosted a natural look make-up class for teens. That went so well that we are planning sessions for Grad/Wedding looks as well as performance make-up (theatre, skating, dance). Nathan, our programs coordinator, was invited to be a judge at the 2nd Annual Peace Country Robotics Tournament on April 15th in Red Earth Creek. As you can see from his big grin [bottom left], he had a lot of fun and got ideas for the makerspace we are planning.

—Submitted by Beverly Shewchuk,
Peace River Municipal Library



Beaverlodge Public Library

A concert in the library? You know, that building where everyone goes “Shh”? Well, anyone in town who still believes that old nugget had their eyes and ears opened!

On a sunny Sunday evening in April, thirty-nine music lovers showed up at the Beaverlodge library to hear folk/roots group Sweet Alibi perform. The 2014 Western Canada Music Association’s Roots Group of the Year entertained the crowd with guitars, banjos, ukuleles and the cajon (basically a wooden box that is slapped with the hands, fingers, mallets, brushes, etc. to supply percussion). Top these instruments off with the harmonies of their own biological instruments, and there was no doubt the library had never sounded so good!



As befits a “house concert” (in the “community’s living room”!) it was an intimate affair, with guests and band mingling over refreshments during the intermission. The organizers of the concert (the VERA Music Series – presenting house concerts) were excellent partners, and provided enough strong backs to move spinners, shelves and furniture. We’re already contemplating the next concert, and how we could rearrange even more of those pesky books to provide more seating!

—Submitted by Tracy Deets, Beaverlodge Public Library



Calling Lake Public Library and Wabasca Public Library

As part of the MD of Opportunity No.17 Library Board Plan of Service we are “Celebrating Cultural Diversity in Literature”. Each quarter will feature a different Canadian author of fiction. Books and author bios will be displayed in each of the three libraries: Calling Lake, Red Earth Creek and Wabasca. Books will, of course, be available for patrons to check out.

Our first featured author is Richard Wagamese, an Aboriginal author who has written several books about Aboriginal life. Our second featured author is Gabrielle Roy who is a well-known French Canadian author who received the Governor General’s Award as well as the

Lorne Pierce Award. Gabrielle’s books deal with life in Canada. Our featured author for Q4 is David Hugel Schaffer who is of German descent. His books deal with firefighting (both man-made and weather situations) in Northern Alberta and Montana.



—Submitted by Diane Collyer, Calling Lake Public Library and Wabasca Public Library

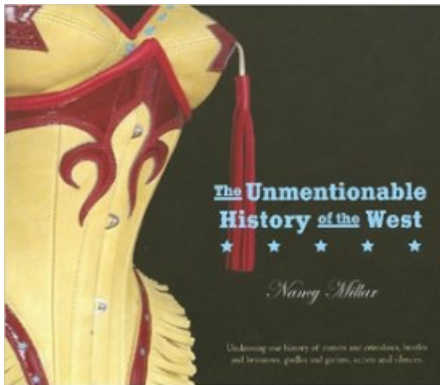
More from around the *System*...

Grimshaw Municipal Library

We picked up *The Unmentionable History of the West* by Nancy Millar at the Grande Prairie Conference! Upon reading the book we found out that Nancy Millar was from Dixonville. Working with our favorite partner, The Peace River Museum, we invited Nancy to come for Seniors Afternoon Tea in April. Nancy and her husband, Bruce entertained 50 of us with stories of things that we couldn't have talked about 80 years ago.

Such a good read! We had the best carrot cake too, with the cream cheese baked in the middle!

—Submitted by Linda Chmilar, Grimshaw Municipal Library



Nampa Municipal Library

Check out these shots of the renovations at Nampa, before and after!

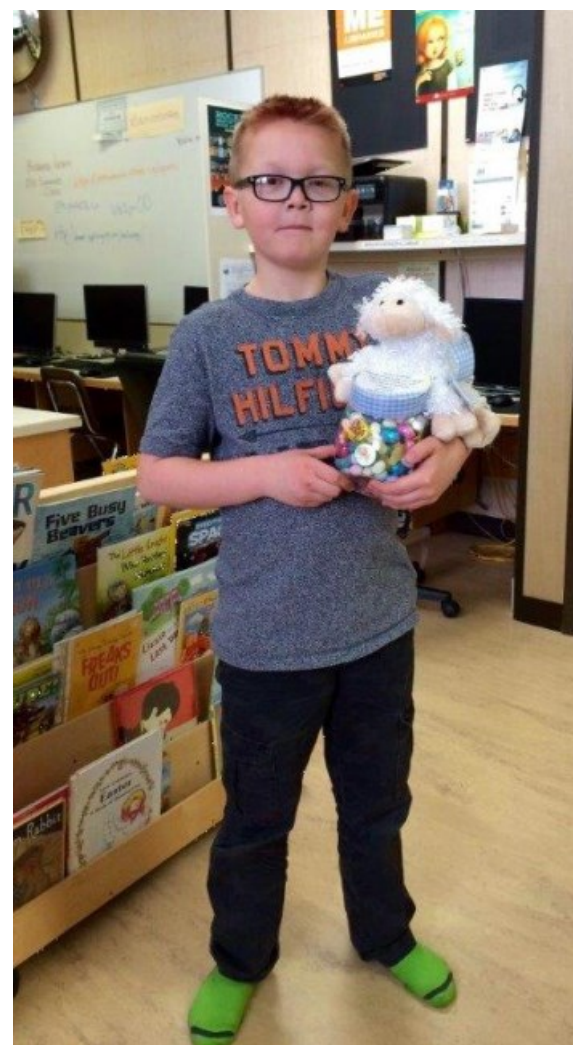
—Submitted by Cathy Armstrong, Nampa Municipal Library



Fox Creek Municipal Library

March 10 was a big night for the Fox Creek Municipal Library as we partnered with our Community Resource Centre and CHAMPS (Mental Health Team) to put on our 6th annual Family Games Night. We had record attendance again this year with 436 people attending from newborns to grandparents. Our school gymnasium was packed with attendees having fun, playing games, eating cookies and drinking milk. With several jumbo games and lots of regular ones, it was all hands on fun. Life sized Angry Birds was a big hit again this year with enthusiastic volunteers and players. Game winners had choices to make as our prizes this year were valued at one to five tickets. We had many wonderful volunteers for this event both adults and students. A grand time was had by all as you can see from the photos.

—Submitted by Leslie Ann Sharkey, Fox Creek Municipal Library



Bonanza Municipal Library

Bonanza Municipal Library had an Easter contest and the winner was Dayton!

—Submitted by Michele Kettles, Bonanza Municipal Library

>> Beyond Books

We all love books. But these days, we also all know that libraries aren't just about books! Our libraries in Peace Library System already lend out so much more than that: DVDs, music, audiobooks, digital material, video games, tablets, book club kits... the list goes on and on.

A lot of libraries are taking that even further and lending their patrons some weird and wacky items that you might never even have considered adding to your collections.

Take **Ann Arbor District Library**. On their "Unusual Stuff to Borrow" page (<http://www.aadl.org/catalog/browse/unusual>) they list all the unconventional things they let their patrons borrow. These include art prints (which can be borrowed for up to eight weeks); musical instruments; and science tools like telescopes and microscopes.



Northern Onondaga Public Library has a LibraryFarm which consists of a half-acre of land where patrons can "check out" plots of land to garden individually. There's also a community garden for everyone to share in. To read more about this project, visit <http://www.nopl.org/library-farm/>.



What about fitness? **Phoenix Public Library** is doing a great job of supporting community health. Three of their library branches offer Active Workstations, treadmills that are fitted with standing desks and computers so patrons can get their work done or surf the internet while keeping themselves moving (visit [https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/ServicesForYou/Unique%](https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/ServicesForYou/Unique%20Collections%20and%20Services)

[20Collections%20and%20Services](https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/ServicesForYou/Unique%20Collections%20and%20Services) for more info).

A lot of the things that these libraries are exploring are expensive and time-consuming and not every library has the resources to offer them to their patrons. But you can start small!

Here are some slightly more manageable ideas for unconventional items that you might want to incorporate into your library collection:

- Museum or rec centre passes
- Board games
- Fitbits or pedometers
- Hardware and tools
- Storytime kits that pair popular titles with puppets, plushes, or other tactile objects
- Wi-Fi hotspot devices (great for communities with spotty internet)
- Kitchen devices
- Air quality meters
- Sports equipment

What else can you think of that would benefit your community?

(Photos from Phoenix Public Library and Northern Onondaga Public Library)

>> Spotlight on: LibraryAware

In this issue we are highlighting one of our upcoming eResources for patrons and library staff: LibraryAware, an online resource that helps libraries connect with readers and keep them engaged.

libraryAwareTM LibraryAware provides templates and tools to create newsletters, bookmarks, shelf-talkers, flyers, and more to help you promote your reader services, databases, collections, and programs throughout the library and in your community. LibraryAware templates are user-friendly and easy to learn and designed by professionals. They are meant to make your job easier when it comes to marketing and promoting your library.

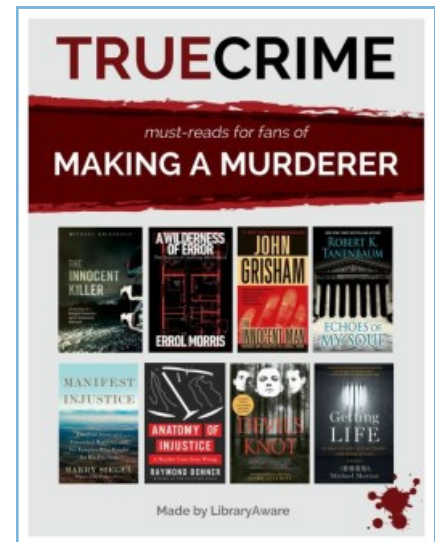
Examples of what you can create through LibraryAware are:

- Book display signs
- Flyers and posters for bulletin boards and end caps
- Shelf-talkers in the stacks
- Bookmarks
- Custom book lists for readers advisory
- E-newsletters that deliver reading recommendations directly to patron inboxes
- Promotional images for highlighting your programs and resources on social media platforms like Facebook
- Website widgets that allow you to share recommendations and promote new titles
- And much more!

You can view cool examples of the different kinds of templates available through LibraryAware on Pinterest at <https://www.pinterest.com/libraryaware/libraryaware-new-templates/> or check out what other libraries have done with the LibraryAware tools on their website at <https://www.ebscohost.com/novelist/our-products/libraries-using-libraryaware>.

To familiarise yourself with what LibraryAware offers and how it works, they have a number of webinar tutorials available for you to view on their website at <https://www.ebscohost.com/novelist/support-training/training>. You can also watch short tutorial videos on their Youtube page at <https://www.youtube.com/user/LibraryAware/>.

Keep your eyes peeled for more training opportunities and the official launch of LibraryAware through Peace Library System!





The Library Toolshed

Many of you have probably already heard of the Library Toolshed and know all about what it has to offer. But a refresher doesn't hurt!



The Toolshed is a collaboration between several provinces and is supported by The Alberta Library, The Association of BC Public Library Directors, Saskatchewan's Multitype Library Board and the Manitoba Public Library Services Branch. It was founded as a place online where library staff are able to upload and share library training resources for other library staff to make use of. This includes support materials to help develop programming, but also conference presentations; for instance, many of the presenters at this year's Alberta Library Conference in Jasper uploaded their presentations and supplemental material to the Toolshed to share with the library community.

You can explore everything that's on the Toolshed by simply browsing what's been uploaded, but there are also useful filters so you can narrow things down by resource type, training topic, and source library region (i.e., what province it came from).

Whether you need help planning a Powerpoint for Beginners library program, or if you want to learn more about Library Press Display and need a worksheet to help you figure it out, or if you missed the ALC session on Reinventing Policies for the 21st Century Library and want catch up on the presentation, the Library Toolshed has content that will help make your job easier. After all, the library community does love to share!

Visit the Library Toolshed today at
<https://librarytoolshed.ca/>.

Peace Library System's events calendar

peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/calendar

Clear Hills County Advisory Committee Meeting

Fairview Public Library
May 18, 2016, 5:30 pm

MD of Spirit River Advisory Committee Meeting

Rycroft Municipal Library
May 25, 2016; 6:15 pm

Northern Sunrise County Advisory Committee Meeting

Bibliothèque de St. Isidore
May 30, 2016, 10:30 am

MD of Smoky River Advisory Committee Meeting

Bibliothèque Dentinger
June 22, 2016, 6:00 pm

Get Your Summer Read On Day

TD Summer Reading Club Launch Day
June 25, 2016

Executive Committee Meeting

Location TBA
August 20, 2016

