

# NEWS & Notes

PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## Season's Greetings

From Your PLS Headquarters Staff!



We're imagining ourselves on a beach this winter, thanks to our new green screen! Find out how to borrow it on page 14.

*Back (left to right):* Duncan Lotoski, Ken Sawdon, Ryan Goff, Freya Fonkalsrud, Cliff Lesh.

*Second row (left to right):* Emma Stewart, Janet Ayles, Alycia Vickrey, Dennis Sheppard, Alec Moreau.

*Third row (left to right):* Darla Dawn Lukac, Dorothy Tay-Ellingboe, Barbara Johnson, Tora Volkers, Mallory Bruinsma.

*Seated (left to right):* Rose-Marie Finch, Louisa Robison, Alrene Dempster, Donna Mostowy.

*Not pictured:* Candace Cardinal, Sheri Goff.

# >> From the CEO



Louisa Robison

We share.

As libraries and systems in Alberta become more and more connected and interdependent, we share more and more: with each other, with our patrons, and with the rest of the library community across Canada. An example of the more local kind happened with PLS just this past fall. Let me tell you the story:

So there I was, in a meeting of the library system directors at the Parkland Library System headquarters in Lacombe. As the meeting was just getting started, we were chatting with the new director of the School of Library and Information Studies at the U of A, Ken Gariepy. His question to us was, what are library school graduates not learning at school that they really need to know when out in the real library world? The usual answers were coming up, things like financial planning and forecasting, human resources and performance management, the usual stuff.

Right at that moment, Janet Ayles emailed me to tell me that one of our delivery vans had been pulled off the road because the U-joint was broken, couldn't be driven safely. And oh, by the way, our book trucks are also falling apart, we'll need to plan to buy more and soon. So I said to Dr. Gariepy, here's a thing you don't learn in library school – logistics, what to do when your vehicle fails at a crucial time.

I had the immense good fortune of sitting between Karla Palichuk of the Yellowhead system and James MacDonald of the Northern Lights system. James said, Hey, you need a van? We have a van you can use. And Karla volunteered up some of their extra book trucks that they're not currently using that we could have until next spring.

I expressed a need, and our TRAC partners stepped up and helped us out by sharing what they could spare.

It's this culture of sharing that makes for the exceptional relationships that libraries and systems in Alberta have. We all save each other money by sharing our resources. We help each other out, and our patrons out, by giving access to what we have. And when it came to the van and the book trucks, the partnership we have with the other TRAC systems saved PLS quite a lot of money in vehicle rental costs. And for that, for Karla and James and all of our partner libraries and systems, I am truly grateful.

As we leave 2022 and move into 2023, I look forward to more opportunities to partner with our libraries and with our consortium team to share our resources, our knowledge, our expertise and our trials in an effort to find solutions for us all. Interlibrary loan usage continues to increase as more people discover the service and dive into finding their long list wish list items. Planning for the next iteration of the conference has already begun, and opportunities to come together and brainstorm for ideas and solutions and shared learning are on the horizon.

Library people are among the most selfless people I know, because what we have and what we know we give away, to anyone who asks, for free. Need a book? We have books. Need answers or research help or to figure out what that bug in your garden is? We've got access to the knowledge that will give you those answers. Need a place to be, or a computer to use, or wifi to download your exam paper? We've got that too, and we'll share it all with you.

'Cause that's what we do. We share.

Louisa Robison  
CEO





# A Fond Farewell

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Alrene Dempster

Hi everyone – here is my first and last submission for the Peace Library System newsletter as I embark on retirement!

My first experience with PLS was actually before I was even employed here. Those were the days when the courier service to the northern libraries took two days, which meant an overnight in Peace River. My sister-in-law was courier then and said she needed company for the two-day trip; I was in-between jobs at the time so I said sure, only to find out she just needed someone to guard the door just in case someone decided to come in when not invited. Well, much to our surprise someone did try to enter the room but lucky his key was for a different room and was given the wrong room number. Needless to say neither of us sleep much that night. She was on her own from then on.

She was also the person responsible for me applying to PLS for a term position. First I had to find out what PLS was all about and decided it might be interesting. Oh my goodness, if I only knew what was about to happen! All the books that had been donated to PLS when the U of A Extension Library closed were being stored at the “old” provincial building (now the site of the Credit Union downtown in Grande Prairie). Another person was hired at the same time and our project was to sit there and sell as many books as possible with the understanding that what was left would be moved into this new building. That old provincial building was not very secure, it was creepy, it was stinky, the elevator didn’t work, and yes, we had books in the basement too. I could go on forever, but you get the picture. It seemed like years had passed but I think it was only a couple months before that project ended and all the books not sold were moved over to PLS and shelved for the core collection to be used for interlibrary loan. So, picture this – many boxes coming over, you have no idea what was in any of the boxes until you opened them, your instructions were to shelve everything! So, you can just imagine the chaos and confusion and the number of times things were moved because you found more books in the 200s after you had already shelved the 800s.

I had pretty much had enough of books when Pat Jobb (the Director at the time) asked if I wanted the receptionist job. My first response was – no thanks! But she convinced me that it was going to be more than what the title insinuated. So, I said sure what the heck, I was looking for a job anyway. So it began!

Some funny stories stick in my head from over the years but some I can’t tell because the bosses aren’t aware of them.

Once the staff fund purchased a large BBQ with a burner on the side; well, you know how many pieces they come in. The receiving clerk at the time and myself were taxed with the job of putting it together. So, give two women a box with many pieces, two screwdrivers, limited instructions, very limited understanding of the limited instructions and tell them to have a working BBQ at the end. Three hours later and many laughs we only had a few spare parts. We gave the BBQ a shake and it didn’t fall apart so our thoughts were the company mistakenly put extra screws in. We moved the BBQ outside and away from the building (still not completely sold on our assembly skills), called my coworker’s husband to light it, and voila it worked and is still working today. You’re welcome!

The job evolved rapidly and eventually morphed into the Executive Assistant position in 2001. Which kind of felt like – there’s the shark tank, I hope you can swim and fast! Thank god I had Linda Duplessis (our Director at the time) as my safety net. Linda put up with a lot from me and I am very glad that we are still friends today. We survived the 2018 renovation which still haunts me to this day – the packing, the moving, the moving again, the dust, OMG the dust. But in the end, we had a beautiful modern looking building.

One executive committee meeting sticks out for various reasons, as they decided one of the meetings would be in Wabasca – it was a very long day, we headed out in the dark and came home in the dark, but the food was excellent at Jennifer’s Open Camp and they gave us popcorn for the ride home – what more could you ask for. We apologized to the courier department for a slightly messy van when we returned.

Who would have thought that a large book sale in 1990 would lead to a 32-year career in a field I would never have seen myself in. Well, it did and here I am today writing an “it’s time for me to retire” article. I always joked when asked “Oh, you must like reading”? My reply was always “Nope, only time I was in the library was for detention”. Then I’d laugh and they wouldn’t know if I was telling the truth or not. I will always cherish what I have learned over the past 32 years and the friendships I have made.

Take Care and Read On!

Alrene Dempster  
Executive Assistant

# >> 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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Emma Stewart

Well, there's no escaping it—winter's here for good! Luckily, here in the consulting department, we were able to complete our first round of completely in-person consulting visits since 2019 this year. We were pleased to be able to get out and visit the libraries and for Duncan and Mallory to get to know the region better. We also hope to continue to host monthly coffee chats over Zoom for libraries to get a chance to share ideas and discuss common concerns.

The PLS fall marketing campaign "Passport to the Peace Library System" ran on Facebook ads and in-person at our libraries over the month of October. Participants could

complete a number of challenges and visit a number of libraries and submit forms to be considered for a prize. Facebook Ads reached 85,937 individuals and were engaged with 3,049 times, which will hopefully help improve awareness of PLS and library services in general across the region. The prize winners were:

- Under 18: Emerie Graham (6) - High Prairie
- Over 18: Kathleen Urichuk (65) - Peace River
- Most Libraries: Cathy Friedel (24 total) - Fairview

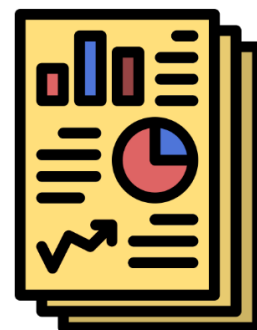
Congrats to all the winners and thanks to all who participated!



I also want to thank libraries for their response to signing up for the 2023 TD Summer Reading Club so much earlier than normal. In light of last year's supply chain issues the TD SRC moved up their sign-up schedule pretty dramatically from February to this November. I really appreciate everyone rolling with the punches and letting me know their commitment to the program so far in advance, and if you have any questions about TDSRC in the coming months please direct them to me. I look forward to hearing about everyone's plans for next summer whether they're participating in the TD program or not!

If your library hasn't already done so, now is the time to gather your "typical week" statistics for your annual LibPAS report. The annual statistics that you can gather through a typical one-week count include number of sessions on the public computers, length of time spent on the public computers, number of reference transaction questions asked by users, number of visitors to the library, and a count of in-house use of items. The Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) accepts a typical week count if your library doesn't track these statistics throughout the year. If you are new to LibPAS and aren't sure what the typical week count involves, give me a call or shoot me an email, but don't worry: the PLSB will provide lots of training on how to complete your LibPAS annual report in the new year. In order to be considered eligible for provincial funding, library boards must complete and submit this report by February 28 of each year.

Emma Stewart  
Consulting Services Manager





# >> Stronger Together 2022

Our annual conference was held virtually again this year, with Peace Library System, Parkland Regional Library System, Yellowhead Regional Library System, and The Alberta Library partnering together to provide an amazing conference on October 6-7. Attendees enjoyed sessions on a wealth of topics including leadership, advocacy, and technology. The conference website is at <https://strongertogether.heysummit.com> where replays of the sessions can still be watched.

The conference consisted of 4 keynote speakers, 2 vendor panels, a virtual poster session, a virtual puzzle room, and 20 conference sessions. We were pleased to be supported with a video message from the Minister for Municipal Affairs, and opening ceremonies conducted by our Indigenous Knowledge Keepers Roy and Judy Louis.

Stronger Together could not have been possible without all our sponsors and supporters, but we particularly want to single out our platinum sponsors for thanks: CVS Midwest Tape, Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium, and United Library Services!

We continue to plan for a hybrid format of conference next year; the exact format it will take is still being discussed by system staff and directors. Feedback from conference attendees indicates that there is a majority interest in a continued virtual or hybrid format in years to come. So stay tuned!



## >> Read Alberta eBooks and eMagazines

A new collection of Alberta-based eMagazines has been added to the Read Alberta platform!

This is thanks to a partnership between the Alberta Magazine Publishers Associations (AMPA) and the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB).

### What does this mean?

The Read Alberta Collection now includes 42 diverse eMagazines titles, in addition to the existing digital collection of more than 2,000 Alberta-published eBooks. eMagazine topics include lifestyle, sports and leisure, crafting, current affairs, cities and regions, foods and drink, and literary arts.

### When can I access?

The collection is available now.

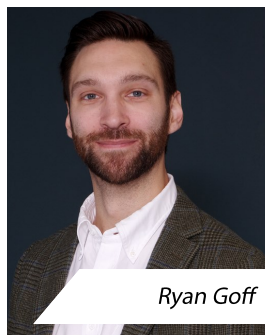
### How can I access?

Read Alberta is available under the eResources tab on your library website. We've linked brochures on how to access content on the platform and how to transfer files to an eReader. You can read the collection on your desktop computer, mobile device, and/or eReader.

Check out the recent eReader Refresher webinar on the PLS Youtube channel for in-depth steps on transferring eReader files.



# >> Windows 11 Timeline for Libraries



Ryan Goff

I've been getting more and more questions recently related to Windows 11, in particular when we may expect to see it rolled out within PLS member libraries. I figured I'd take this opportunity to discuss a key date and how it affects the overall plan we have for the next few years.

The EOL (End of Life) date for Windows 10 is October 14th, 2025. This gives us approximately three years to fully migrate to Windows 11 in order to continue receiving security updates, similar to how Microsoft dealt with the Windows 7 to 10 transition. Knowing this key piece of information has allowed us to build out the following

framework:

New systems ordered in the second half of 2023 will be rolled out with Windows 11. Allowing 2+ years of "naturally" rolling out Windows 11 before the Windows 10 EOL date should cover 30-50% of computers throughout PLS & our member libraries.

Starting 12-18 months before the EOL date, we will be working with member libraries to determine which systems will need to be manually upgraded. This should give us a 3-6-month buffer in the event we run into any unforeseen issues.

Now, you may be asking: Ryan, why don't we start rolling out Windows 11 now? Well, one of the best pieces of advice I received early in my career was that stability and maturity trumps the latest and greatest. By the second half of next year, Windows 11 will be almost two years old and been put through its paces, and gives us a greater sense of confidence that we will have a smooth transition.

Ensuring everything runs efficiently and securely is always my number one priority, and giving a bit more time for the platform to mature will ensure everyone has an enjoyable experience from the beginning. As always, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

Ryan Goff  
Desktop and Network Administrator



# >> Old Friends and New Ones



Rose-Marie Fitch

Do you remember your first book? Probably not, but you may have had a favorite book that you have read many times, maybe so much that the pages are falling out. This happened to two of my books, *Mrs. Mike* and *Palomino*. (The first was my mom's book and the second was given to me by my aunt.)

These books become our treasures, something that we go back to, to visit. They have become old friends. Yes, we will find new ones and treasure them as well, but oh the favorite—so well read that we can recite the book almost by heart.

These books are the hallmark of a really great author. The story and characters have become like family. The story is one we know oh so well: familiar, but we can't wait to read it again.

So, pull up a chair, get a mug of tea and find your favorite or a new title and enjoy the adventure the author has in store for you. I bet you will laugh, cry and be mad or happy right along with the characters.

Over the years I've had many favorites. Still love them all, and yes, I do revisit them. Kind of like dropping in on a long-lost friend to say hello. These favorites include:

- *Heather's Song* by Diana Palmer
- *Palomino* by Danielle Steel
- *Mrs. Mike* by Benedict & Nancy Freeman
- *Morcai Battalion* series by Diana Palmer (Susan Kyle)
- *Torpedo Ink* series by Christine Feehan

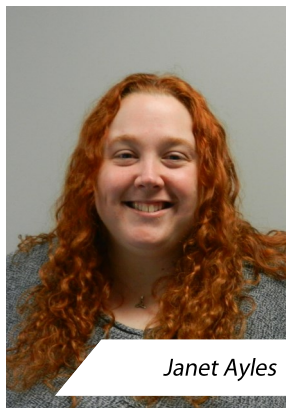
What are some of your old favourite books?

Rose-Marie Fitch  
Programs/Claims Clerk





# >> From the IT Desk



Janet Ayles

## Christmas Closures

Will your library be closing over the holidays? One day? Two days? A whole week or more? Don't forget to let PLS know!

When your library is closed, it's very important to let us know so we can update Polaris and possibly your website or the TRACpac app as well. Why does all of this have to be updated? In order for Polaris to calculate proper due dates,

it needs the dates that your library is closed. No one wants fines that could have been avoided. And updates to the website and app are for your patrons—before someone makes the trek out to visit your closed library, it is a good idea to show that you won't be there. So please email any closure information as soon as you know it to [helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca).

## Help Desk

Speaking of the help desk (see that nice segue?), did you know that any technical problems sat your library should be sent to the help desk? Problems can be emailed in to [helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca) or you can fill out the form on the PLS website (Training Toolkit > Technology Training section > Help Desk and Troubleshooting).

Sending a help desk request is a much better idea than emailing one of us directly. Why? Sometimes one of us is out of the office as we aren't actually shackled to our desks. We have site visits, meetings, and occasionally vacation to take us out of the office. By emailing the help desk, whoever is available will respond as soon as possible.

To use the above-mentioned Christmas holidays as an example, say you email me with the dates your library will be closed. My out of office message lets you know that I've started my vacation, but you don't bother emailing the help desk. That email will sit there until I'm back in the New Year. Given that it covers your Christmas closure dates, addressing it in January is pointless without a TARDIS (and if you have one of those, I would desperately like to borrow it). Anything that is not deemed a critical error can be emailed to the help desk. Ryan or I will get back to you as soon as possible.

What is deemed as a critical error? Short answer is that if you are unable to login to Polaris, check items out to a patron, seeing errors when searching in TRACpac, or have no internet service, these are all critical errors. If any of those happen – please call.

## Things to Do at the End of the Year

Now that 2022 is drawing to a close, it's time to reflect on the year gone by. Maybe take some time and look at the state of things in your library. What do I mean by that? Reports, of course.

Over this past year you've added new items to your collection and likely withdrawn some old ones as well. With this much change, it's probably a good idea to get an updated value for your collection. Open up Reports & Notices in Polaris. Go to the Cataloguing folder, then the Item folder. In there is a report called Collection Value by Organization. Run that report and you'll get the total value of your collection based on the item record price. There may or may not be a significant difference from the last time you ran the report, but this way you will know for sure.

Now that you know what your collection is worth, why not look at where it is?

Polaris does have a process where an item goes overdue, and two notices are sent, before being declared lost and billed to the patron. Normally this is a fairly streamlined and seamless process, but sometimes it fails. There are a few different reasons that items won't convert from overdue to lost. Fortunately, Polaris does have a report, helpfully called Long Overdue Items (located in Reports & Notices in the Circulation folder) that will tell you which of your items are stuck in the limbo between overdue and lost. Once you know what hasn't converted to lost, I can help you determine why the item is still overdue.

It is also worth looking at your items shipped to and from your library. Located in the Custom folder, the In-Transit and Transferred Items report will let you know which of your items are on the move. When running the report, choose your library

and the date by which the items were shipped. In my example, I want to see items that were shipping before November 1, 2022. As that is several weeks ago, most of those items should have arrived. If they haven't, I should look into the reason why.

If you have any questions about any of this or run into any problems, just send an email to the help desk and we'll get back to you.

Janet Ayles  
IT and Technical Services Manager

A screenshot of a software window titled "Report Wizard - In-Transit and Transferred Items". It has a "Parameters" tab selected. Inside, there are two dropdown menus. The first is labeled "Item set to In-Transit or Transferred before:" and shows "November 01, 2022 12:00:00 AM". The second is labeled "item's Owning Library:" and shows "Peace Library System (Branch)". At the bottom right, there are "Submit" and "Cancel" buttons.

# >> Tech Services Tidbits



Ken Sawdon

People selling counterfeit materials has pretty well always been a thing. There's profit to be had by taking someone else's work, recreating it cheaply, and selling it as if you have rights to publish and distribute it. As technology improves it can make it harder to do this, but it can just as easily make it simpler.

TRAC has seen a notable uptick in illegally produced DVDs floating around

in library collections. They are often very well made and appear to be legitimate. So, Library and System Staff must continue to be vigilant and wary of counterfeit materials. I hope I can give you some idea of what to look out for, and save some pain of purchasing and processing a DVD you can't circulate and maybe can't return.

There are three things to be aware of to begin with. First, as stated before, the technology behind creating counterfeits is getting better. DVD discs and their cases can look professional—with all of the correct information and professional-appearing printing. There may be something off, like a wrong UPC or companies included that aren't actually involved with the production or distribution, but some of that may take some research to verify. Second, many online retailers (Amazon, Walmart, Best Buy, etc.) are permitting third-party sellers to use their platform. The way these retailers handle counterfeits from third parties may be lacking for whatever reasons. Third, we are seeing an increase in the number of films and television shows that are getting released only on streaming platforms with no physical release plans announced. This is especially concerning as we have more and more popular and prestige shows that we know will circulate well in a collection, but we have no legitimate means to purchase a physical copy of it. All three of these were the case recently with the television series *The Mandalorian* (2019-) and the film *Greyhound* (2020). Popular titles, sold on large platforms, with high DVD production value.

So, how do we move forward? To a large degree: just the best we can. Anyone could get excited to get a new title into their collection only later to learn that it was counterfeit (or is produced with a Region Code that won't play on most devices in Canada). Being aware is important, but being perfect is impossible.

Please do be wary of any third-party sellers. Buying directly from Amazon, Walmart, or especially through PLS Staff, will rarely if ever result in an illegitimate copy as these vendors, and the other

vendors PLS uses, deal directly with distributors. If you do acquire materials from a third party be suspicious if there are many different price listings. If you can purchase a popular title online but not through any retail store that is also a big red flag. Finally, it would be a good idea to check and see if there was an original release date mentioned online, and if the distributor's webpage mentions ways to purchase a physical copy of a title.

For library staff it is also necessary to consider the Performance Rights related to films. Before presenting a film or show during a library program it is important to have yourself covered legally. A counterfeit DVD will not be acceptable for any library program, and I am unaware of streaming platforms offering these Performance Rights at this time. Please contact your Consultant to discuss how to get Performance Rights to publicly display films and what would be covered by this license.

If you do encounter any item that you suspect is pirated, please do contact PLS as soon as possible. We can verify your concerns, and we will have to let other TRAC offices know that there are copies circulating. We will ensure libraries know to withdraw their items, then we will hide records and cancel holds.

Ken Sawdon

Cataloguing and Acquisitions Supervisor





# >> From Grande Prairie Public Library

## Bringing Life Back Into Your Children's Department

by Bailey Randolph, Head of Children's Services, Grande Prairie Public Library

There is no disputing that libraries are places of learning. Because books are just one of the many ways in which kids learn, Grande Prairie Public Library has been focusing on a different way of learning—through play. Play lays the foundation for literacy and, through play, children learn to practice language and build imagination. The library is the perfect place to foster this.

The Grande Prairie Public Library is lucky enough to have an entire floor dedicated to our Children's Department - an entire floor dedicated to families and children, with enough space for both books and play. However, thanks to COVID, our Children's Department had been looking a little sterile. There was nothing obvious to differentiate the Children's Department from the rest of the library. As a result, we often ran into the problem of having adults taking over the space, leaving very little room for families. And while everyone is welcome in the library, we wanted a definite and obvious space for kids and their families.



We have been slowly adding kid-friendly changes, which has dramatically increased traffic in our Children's Department. And the best part is, the changes we underwent were very cheap, easy, simple to maintain, and used a lot of stuff that we already had.

A common comment we often got from both staff and patrons was that the department was boring, with nothing to obviously tell patrons that they were in a Children's Department. To change this, our stuffed animals came out of hiding and were put back onto the tops of shelves. I was able to use Canva to make colourful bookish posters to hang up around the library, and we also strung fairy lights and colourful banners around the space. These small changes were able to help kids immediately make the connection that this is a space for them. We have also hidden little Easter Eggs around the department, including tiny mouse holes tucked into corners. The kids absolutely love finding these, and get so excited about them.

Another thing that was really important to us in redesigning the department was to provide a safe space for our smallest patrons to be able to explore, while also taking some stress off of their parents. We completely rearranged our toddler area to create a



massive, safe play space. Using the furniture we already had in the department, we were able to create a space where toddlers can snuggle with their families and listen to stories, but could also play and colour and explore when they were done. And the best part is that the area is secured with a baby gate, so parents can relax and watch their little ones play and learn, without having to worry about them escaping.

This has been our most successful change thus far, and the feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive. Families all across Alberta are facing inflation, and in a lot of communities the library is the only free place left that they can take their kids to. Adding small aspects of play just makes the space that much more fun and appealing to kids, while we can continue to offer a free and accessible space for all.

All of these simple changes have led to a decrease in stray adults hanging out in the area, and a dramatic increase in family traffic. We have been able to start running our baby and toddler programs in the open library space, which has made them more visible to patrons. This has helped increase both awareness and attendance of our programs, and patrons are sticking around the library for longer.

It is safe to say that our Children's Department has slowly but surely gotten its spark back, and we are excited to welcome families to come and experience the changes first hand.





# Around the System...

Winter is making its presence known... so here's your update on what happened around Peace Library System over the fall! Remember, you can send your own photos and articles at any time to [mbruinsma@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:mbruinsma@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca) and they will be included in the next newsletter. We'd love to hear from you!

## Grande Cache Municipal Library

Where has the time gone?!?! It seems like Summer Reading Program was just yesterday and December is fast approaching, WOW!

Grande Cache Municipal Library started fall programing on September 20th. Prior to starting we attended our Community Connection evening and had our calendars ready, and some of our STEM stuff on hand to entice the kids and keep them busy so parents could browse and register their children for other programs too. This was well received and we register a lot of kids up for programs that night!

This fall we have been offering 6-week sessions for our registered programs as well as including a hand full of drop in events for younger children, and of course one or two pop – up events a month. We are trying to cover all age groups from 0 to adult with our programs. For our adult groups we are offering adult reading challenges, and Crafters Corner. Crafters Corner is held at two different times at two different venues. One is at the Tourism Center on Monday mornings (bi-weekly), and one is held in the evening at the library (bi-weekly). Children and pre-teen are our easiest programs to fill, and the programs include, afternoon storytime, Stay & Play for all ages (morning program – drop in), Drop – In Lego, this runs two days after school, one is for 6–9-year-old, and one is for 10 & up. Registered programs include Origami (beginner and advanced), Creative Reclamation Club (10 & up) this one is well attended to our surprise and consists of all boys! At For the Love of Reading and Writing (we are lucky enough to have an author in town who delivers this one, for teens) we have had 4 dedicated teens attending. To our surprise 3 girls and one gentleman! Maki-It Club (12yrs and up) has been creating some awesome hand sew items. Teen pop-up craft events have been enticing our teens in over the last couple months. They have also rediscovered our quiet room and use it to gather for Dungeons and Dragons, even making reservations for it. We continue to visit Whispering Pines to offer crafts and conversation to the resident. Our Tourism Center has been a constant partnered program/storytime extra for us too. We are continuously busy and thankful for it!

We hope everyone else is doing well in the library world! We wish you and yours a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

P.S. The potato/carrot picture is of our harvest from the library garden!

—Submitted by Sam McDonald, Grande Cache Municipal Library





## McLennan Municipal Library

Here are a few photos of best-selling author of Canadian historical fiction, Genevieve Graham, during her delightful visit to McLennan Municipal Library on Thursday, October 27.

Genevieve enchanted her audience with tales of her childhood, her process of writing, her route to publishing, and fascinating and forgotten bits of Canadian history.

To paraphrase Genevieve, she doesn't aim to be a literary author like Margaret Atwood, but she does aim to flesh out unique and largely unknown stories from Canadian history, at which she succeeds quite admirably.

—Submitted by Maureen Fisher, McLennan Municipal Library



## Savanna Municipal Library

We enjoyed an beginner acrylic paint day at the library. Everyone learned a lot!

—Submitted by Alison Wiebe, Savanna Municipal Library





# More from Around the System!

## Grimshaw Municipal Library

Somewhere over 200 participants joined us for all sorts of Star Wars related activities on Saturday, October 22. From 11 am – 4 pm we had kids and adults in costumes, reading books, doing crafts, playing games, and getting some fabulous tattoos! We had volunteers and staff at the string art, board games, drawing, Kahoot trivia, perler bead, print making, and Jedi training stations. (Jedi training, in this case, involves children in blaster helmets with the shields down, holding light sabres, and using the Force to deflect Nerf darts being fired at them.)

We were lucky enough to be joined by members of the Crimson Aurora Squad of the 501st Legion, who brought their own photo back-drop, and a lot of excitement. It brings such joy to watch the crowd when the Legion appears – the facial expression on a five year old when they see a Jawa come towards them!

The Yoda and Darth Vader stuffed figures were part of the collection for the Grimshaw Food Bank. Anyone bringing donated items of food could use the items to vote on who should be ruling the galaxy, and the Jedi won, by the smallest of margins.

It was interesting to see the age range at the event: plenty of family groups (of course), but also some of the elusive older teens and twenty-somethings took part, and we had more than one person request a picture with the members of the Legion “to show the grandkids.” Having a day like this boosted the circulation of our Star Wars books for weeks before and after the event.

—Submitted by Vivianne Gayton, Grimshaw Municipal Library

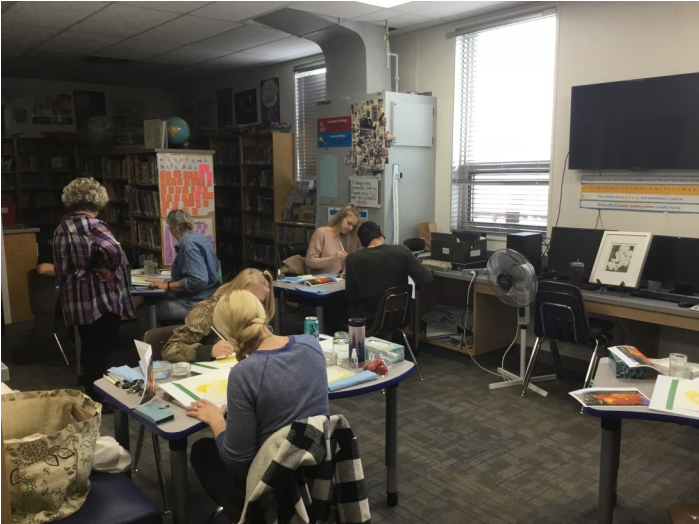




**Bonanza Municipal Library**

Bonanza Municipal Library is offering an introduction to watercolour painting for the fall and winter season. We are fortunate to have a local artist in our community, Joann Nelson ,who is teaching our classes. Joann is an active participating member of the Dawson Creek Art Gallery and a strong advocate for the arts. Joann works primarily in water colours along with both oil and acrylic mediums. She participates regularly in numerous venues in the Peace Region. She is eager to share her enthusiasm and passion for art with those who are keen to learn.

—Submitted by Michele Kettles, Bonanza Municipal Library



**Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library**

Now that we have our new Programmer, Susan Al-Mais, the Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library has been a busy place, with all sorts of things going on for the community!

We concluded our Summer Reading Program and drew random participants to receive the grand prizes. We held events, had displays and offered information online for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We were able to once again hold our Haunted House this year, and 501 people showed up to enjoy the Spooktacular event! We also offered a spooky storytime for the littles. We partnered with members of the Mexican community to put up an altar and held educational sessions as well as showed the movie “Coco” for Day of the Dead. We reached out to a local school that had put up a “Little Free Library” box and filled it with books for them.Using a kit borrowed from PLS, we held Physical Literacy Day – where kids could come and learn about different physical literacy activities and just play and have fun.

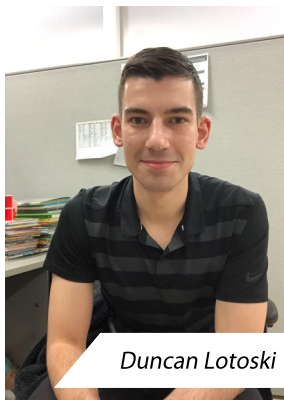


We have also been holding our regular program offerings as well, but these are some of the things that stand out from this fall.

—Submitted by Kendra Mcree, Rotary Club of Slave Lake Regional Library



# >> New Kits at PLS



Duncan Lotoski

Exciting new programming kits are now available for member public libraries to borrow! All the new programming kits have instructional videos that go over how to use the different pieces of tech. These can be found on the Peace Library System YouTube channel or the Staff Niche Academy site.

To request, please use the lending form on the PLS website under Blocks & Kits.

## Audio Technology Kit

Includes audio-based technology. Program ideas might include podcasting, oral history projects, live streaming, creating music, etc.

### Notable Items:

- Yeti USB Microphone - Plug into your patron computers and instantly start recording
- Sound Isolation Box - Place the mic inside to eliminate unwanted noise for crystal clear sound
- Zoom H1n Handy Recorder - Take recording on the go or use as an interview mic

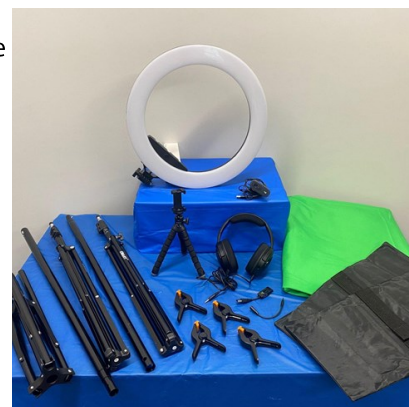


## Video Technology Kit

Includes video-based technology. Program Ideas might include green screen creations, video game streaming, making movies, etc.

### Notable Items:

- Green Screen - Add fun visual effects to photo or video projects
- Ring Light - Reduce shadows and cast an even light on your subjects
- Gaming Headset - Use for zoom meetings or video game live streaming



## Programming Laptop

At this time, the programming laptop can only be requested for use with one of the technology kits. It cannot be requested on its own. The laptop has been updated with relevant software that works with the technology kits.

You do not need the laptop to use the technology kit. The kits are compatible with patron and staff computers.

## Lego Creations

Our previous Lego Mindstorms kit has evolved into the Lego Creations kit.

The kit has everything you need to create Lego robotics or stop-motion projects! Use the included iPad to control your Lego robot creation or create a stop-motion film with the included Lego bricks and minifigures.

Duncan Lotoski  
Consultant Librarian





# What's trending in books

## 2022 GILLER PRIZE



These Canadian novels made the 2022 Scotiabank Giller Prize shortlist & contended for the \$100,000 prize:

The Sleeping Car Porter by Suzette Mayr \*  
Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century by Kim Fu  
Stray Dogs by Rawi Hage  
We Measure the Earth with Our Bodies by Tsering Yangzom Lama  
If an Egyptian Cannot Speak English by Noor Naga

*\*Winner*

The Booker Prize awards £50,000 to the best novel published in the UK. This year's shortlist featured:

Glory by NoViolet Bulawayo  
Treacle Walker by Alan Garner  
The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida by Shehan Karunatilaka \*  
Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan  
The Trees by Percival Everett  
Oh William! by Elizabeth Strout

*\*Winner*

## 2022 BOOKER PRIZE



## 2022 HILARY WESTON WRITERS' TRUST PRIZE



The Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize awards \$60,000 for the best title in Canadian nonfiction. This year's finalists were::

The Invisible Siege: The Rise of Coronaviruses and the Search for a Cure by Dan Werb  
The Petroleum Papers: Inside the Far-Right Conspiracy to Cover Up Climate Change by Geoff Dembicki  
Nothing Will Be Different: A Memoir by Tara McGowan-Ross  
The Long Road Home: On Blackness and Belonging by Debra Thompson  
Making Love with the Land by Joshua Whitehead

*\*Winner*

Peace Library System acknowledges Treaty 8 territory of the Cree, Beaver, and Dene people, and Region 6 of the Métis Nation of Alberta. We are grateful to live, work, and learn together on this land which has been home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples since time immemorial. We recognize this land as an act of reconciliation, and we also commit to supporting and celebrating our local indigenous communities while working to break down institutional barriers to make our libraries equitable and accessible.

Peace Library System was pleased to recognize three board members for five years of service on the Peace Library Board in September 2022.

Congratulations to Harry Ezio, Roxann Dreger and Gena Jones (not pictured). We thank them for their contributions to Peace Library System over the past five years.



## Submit to News & Notes!

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

Send photos and articles to Mallory Bruinsma: [mb Bruinsma@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:mb Bruinsma@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 Mallory Bruinsma.

# Peace Library System's events calendar

## Headquarters Closed for Holidays

December 23, 2022 (noon) -  
January 2, 2023

## PLS Executive Committee Meeting

January 21, 2023, 10:30 am

## Family Literacy Day

January 27, 2023

## Freedom to Read Week

February 19-25, 2023

## PLS Board Meeting

February 25, 2023, 10:30 am

## LibPAS Deadline

February 28, 2023

