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Autumn is a second
spring where every
leaf is a flower.

-Albert Camus



Kelley Armstrong to Visit GPPL this Fall



New York Times best-selling author **Kelley Armstrong** will be visiting the **Grande Prairie Public Library** from October 19 to 21. "We extended an invitation to Ms. Armstrong asking her to celebrate Canadian Library Month with us and are very pleased that she has accepted," says Pam Chislett, Interim Library Director. "We know that there are many fans of the paranormal genre who will share our excitement."

While in Grande Prairie, Armstrong will be leading multiple writing workshops and an evening reading with a question and answer session. "These programs require registration which is available through our website at www.gppl.ab.ca or by calling the Library at 780-357-7455," says Chislett.

On Saturday evening, fans will be treated to **Just Desserts: An Evening with Kelley Armstrong**. Ms. Armstrong will be speaking about her life as an author, discussing her books and providing an opportunity to purchase books and have them signed.

Guests are then invited to mingle and experience the dessert auction. "The best bakers in the region will prepare two of a single decadent dessert," explains Chislett. "One will be sampled at the event and the other will be auctioned." Local culinary masters will be vying to outdo each other. "Prepare to be wowed," says Chislett. "Dessert aficionados will not be disappointed." Tickets to Just Desserts: An Evening with Kelley Armstrong are \$20 and will be available at the Library beginning September 4.

About Kelley Armstrong:

Kelley Armstrong has been telling stories since before she could write. Her earliest written efforts were disastrous. If asked for a story about girls and dolls, hers would invariably feature undead girls and evil dolls, much to her teachers' dismay. All efforts to make her produce "normal" stories failed. Today, she continues to spin tales of ghosts and demons and werewolves, while safely locked away in her basement writing dungeon. She's the author of the New York Times-bestselling **Women of the Otherworld** paranormal suspense series and **Darkest Powers/ Darkness Rising** young adult urban fantasy series, as well as the **Nadia Stafford** crime series. Armstrong lives in southwestern Ontario with her husband, kids and far too many pets. Her website is www.KelleyArmstrong.com.



From the Director

By Linda Duplessis, Director, Peace Library System



As you're moving out of summer "mode" and gearing up for fall, please take note of the following updates:

RISE Videoconference Network Expansion

The pilot project to extend the RISE videoconferencing network across the province is underway. In our region, Peace Library System and Grande Prairie Public Library will definitely participate; two other libraries are looking at funding options to purchase equipment for the project, and hope to participate. Once equipment is in place, the participating libraries will be able to share library programs and events across the province, as well as provide a valuable service to their communities. The project will demonstrate whether videoconferencing is an effective tool for delivering public library services, whether there is community demand for the service, and whether it is locally sustainable. It has a lot of potential!

PLS 2013-2015 Plan of Service in the Works

Peace Library System is in the process of developing a Plan of Service for 2013-2015. The Plan of Service Committee has reviewed the 2010-2012 Plan, revised or eliminated the existing goals, and moved some activities/strategies into 2013-2015. In order to develop and refine the goals and plan for new services, an online survey was sent to member libraries in June. Fifty-two responses were received and I would like to thank everyone who responded. Your input will be reviewed

by the Plan of Service Committee in September and incorporated into the draft Plan where possible. The final *2013-2015 Plan of Service* should be approved by the Board in November.

Community Access Program (CAP) Update

As you know, Industry Canada announced the elimination of the Community Access Program (CAP) effective April 1, 2012. Through CAP, Industry Canada provided most member libraries with about \$1,400 per year to help defray the cost of providing members of the public with free access to computers and the Internet. This funding has been extremely important in allowing libraries in our area to keep their public access computers (hardware and software) up to date. Despite lobbying from across the country, MP Chris Warkentin has confirmed that the program will not be reinstated.

PAGES III Workshop

The third free, all-day PAGES workshop for those who work with readers will take place **October 19, 2012** at the **Stanley A. Milner Library** in Edmonton.

PAGES I and II were wonderful opportunities to learn about services to readers and to meet and network with others who work with readers—library staff, authors, booksellers, and teachers. PAGES III will feature keynote speaker Cory Doctorow, blogger and bestselling author, and Patsy Aldana of the National Reading Campaign. This year's exciting event will also feature local experts on reading and literacy. Please go to <http://pages.sclibrary.ab.ca> for more information.

System News Bits

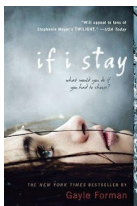


- **Rycroft Municipal Library** reopened in June, with new library manager **Christina Otterstrom-Cedar** (right).
- Peace Library System's summer IT Assistant, **Alex von Tiesenhausen**, worked hard helping libraries with the migration to Outlook and with their websites. His last day was August 24 and we're sad to see him go!
- This spring, Peace Library System welcomed three new school partners: **Fairview and Area Learning Store**, **Peace Regional Outreach**, and **St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy**.
- **Whitelaw Academy** officially closed on June 21, 2012.



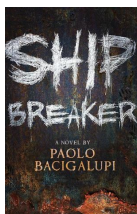
Janice's Best Reads of the Summer

By Janice Brassard, Library Manager, Tangent Community Library



I've read over 30 books this summer of all genres and for all ages. The best one, I think, is one that had me contemplating life. Ironically, I was reading it when my cousin's daughter was in a horrific car accident by Chetwyn. She's doing alright now, but with having both her legs broken, college this fall is out (she's 18). The book is a young adult title: ***If I Stay*** by **Gayle Forman**. On the cover it says, "What would you do if you had to choose?" It's about Mia, a teenage girl who was in a bad accident. It will give it away if I say more, so just read it - the book is good!

Other youth and teen titles:

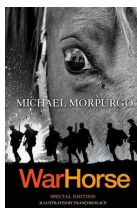


Ship Breaker and ***The Drowned Cities*** by **Paolo Bacigalupi** plus ***The Roar*** and ***The Whisper*** by **Emma Clayton**. Both series are set in the future and kind of makes you think these things can happen.

Memory Boy by **Will Weaver**. Mount St. Helens erupts and two years later ash is still falling from the sky, forcing people to fight to survive. I cannot wait to read the sequel, ***The Survivors***.



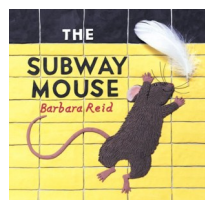
Juvenile titles:



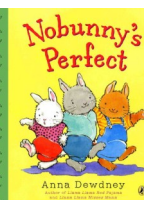
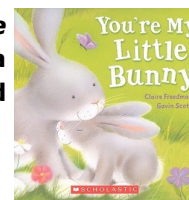
War Horse, its sequel, ***Farm Boy***, and ***Escape from Shangri-La*** from author **Michael Morpurgo** were all good.



Picture books/easy readers:



These titles were so cute with great page filling illustrations: ***The Subway Mouse*** by **Barbara Reid**, ***Nobunny's Perfect*** by **Anna Dewdney**, and ***You're My Little Bunny*** by **Claire Freedman and Gavin Scott**.



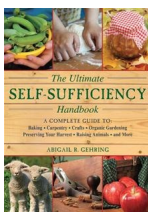
Adult titles:



The Millennium Trilogy by **Stieg Larsson**: ***The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo***, ***The Girl Who Played With Fire***, and ***The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest***. They were all very good page turners, and I sometimes found myself reading for hours but thought it had just been a few minutes!

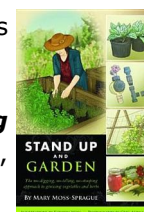


Non-fiction titles:



The Ultimate Self-Sufficiency Handbook by **Abigail R. Gehring** is good for a few tips on gardening, pickling and raising animals.

Stand up and Garden: The no-digging, no-tilling, no-stooping approach to growing vegetables and herbs by **Mary Moss-Sprague** has excellent ideas on raised gardening, which is great for the elderly, mobility challenged or just for small city lots.





News 'N' Notes

Your quarterly professional guide to news, services and connection with the staff at PLS.

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Rural Libraries Conference Fast Approaching!

The Rural Libraries Conference is just around the corner, and we have some new and exciting things happening this year!

First is the change of venue from the Holiday Inn to the **Grande Prairie Inn**. We took into account feedback from the previous conferences and hope that returning the conference to the Grande Prairie Inn will be a great fresh start. We've also added a **Poster Session** on Friday, September 21 from 10:00 to 10:30 am, so libraries can share some of the wonderful things they've been doing.



We have also received some wonderful support from library vendors and local businesses! Our early bird draw prize will be a **Pentax Optio RZ 10 digital camera and case** donated by [Watson's Foto Source](#), and the winner of the vendor game will be walking away with a **Blu-ray Player** from [CVS Midwest Tape](#)! Coming to the Prairie Mall Store Crawl on Thursday evening? If you do, you'll have a chance to win one of six **\$50.00 gift certificates** donated by the [Prairie Mall](#).

A huge thank you is in order for our sponsors so far! In addition to the Blu-ray player, **CVS Midwest Tape** is once again sponsoring our Vendor Reception, while the **Prairie Mall** will be sponsoring the post-Mall Crawl refreshments. Morning snacks are possible by a generous donation from [United Library Services](#). As well, we'll have numerous door prizes to give away from our vendors, and local businesses such as **Canadian Tire, Forbes & Friends, Dunvegan Gardens**, and more!

For the latest information, visit www.rurallibrariesconference.com. See you there!

Authors Chosen for Spring Tours

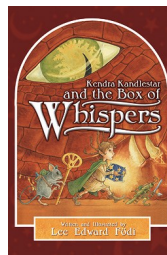
Although the fall author tours featuring **Karen Bass** (northern tour) and **Robert Feagan** (local tour) are just around the corner, planning for the spring author tours is already taking place!



We are excited to announce that **Cyndi Sand-Eveland**, author of *Dear Toni*, will be returning to the Peace region. This time, she will visit libraries and schools on the eastern tour and be speaking about her new book, *A Tinfoil Sky*. To learn more about Cyndi, visit her official website at www.sand-eveland.ca.



Author and illustrated **Lee Edward Födi**, also known as "The Wiz", will be touring with Peace Library System for the first time. He will be visiting libraries and schools on the central tour, and sharing his books and illustrations with children from kindergarten to grade 7. To learn more about Lee, visit his official website at www.leefodi.com.



These tours are made possible by the libraries' partnership with Peace Library System and a grant from the [Canada Council for the Arts](#).

Top OverDrive Downloads for Canadian Libraries as of August 1

These titles are generated from a formula created by OverDrive that includes books checked out and on a waiting list for the month of July 2012 at Canadian libraries with OverDrive. The entire list is available online at <http://search.overdrive.com/Most-Downloaded-Audiobooks-eBooks-Library/Canada>.

Audiobooks - Adult Fiction:

1. *Fifty Shades of Grey* (E. L. James)
2. *Fifty Shades Darker* (E. L. James)
3. *Fifty Shades Freed* (E. L. James)
4. *A Game of Thrones* (George R.R. Martin)
5. *Death of an Artist* (Kate Wilhelm)
6. *Defending Jacob* (William Landay)
7. *Gone Girl* (Gillian Flynn)
8. *11th Hour* (James Patterson)
9. *Wicked Business* (Janet Evanovich)
10. *The Anatomist's Apprentice* (Tessa Harris)

Months on List

4
4
3
16
4
6
2
3
2
7

Audiobooks - Adult Fiction:

1. *Fifty Shades of Grey* (E. L. James)
2. *Fifty Shades Darker* (E. L. James)
3. *Fifty Shades Freed* (E. L. James)
4. *The Help* (Kathryn Stockett)
5. *The Litigators* (John Grisham)
6. *Gone Girl* (Gillian Flynn)
7. *I've Got Your Number* (Sophie Kinsella)
8. *A Game of Thrones* (George R.R. Martin)
9. *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* (Stieg Larsson)
10. *The Next Always* (Nora Roberts)

Months on List

5
4
4
22
9
1
6
16
22
9



Captain McNasty, also known as **Vicki Glover** (left), was the Summer Reading Program Assistant at the **Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library** for the months of July and August. Vicki assisted with the planning and execution of the Summer Reading Program in Slave Lake. Her favorite activity was the **Pirates Afternoon** at **Youth @ the Library**, followed by **The Fun, Fantastical, Fantasy Magic Show** with **Brian Lehr**. Not only did she read stories, prep craft materials, and mix up pirate grog, she updated the **Slave Lake, Smith and Flatbush** library websites, produced brochures and posters, organized and selected prizes and helped with the Circulation Desk. Vicki will be missed greatly in Slave Lake this fall, when she returns to Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Langley, B.C.

Above right: Kids enjoying the Magic show.
Below right: Decoding pirate clues on the scavenger hunt.

Submitted by Robin-Lee Vance



Tech Services Tidbits

By Carol Downing, Assistant Director & Tech Services Manager, Peace Library System



The Cataloguing Department is missing **Julia Little** (Dion) who is on medical leave awaiting the birth of her baby. **Dennis Sheppard** is filling in for Julia while she is away. With summer comes holidays and the Tech Services Department has been quite empty some days. We welcome everyone back at the end of August, relaxed and ready to start a new year.

Diane Galloway-Solowan of the **Online Reference Centre** made the decision to retire and resign her position as ORC Coordinator effective June 30, 2012. During the nine years of Diane's reign, we have seen the ORC develop into a "go to" resource for Alberta's K-12 schools. We will miss Diane's knowledgeable sessions at our Rural Libraries Conference and the excellent information she sent out during the year in her numerous emails. **Jamie Davis**, most recently the Teacher Librarian/Technology Coordinator for Lakeland Ridge School (part of Elk Island Public Schools), has been hired to be the new ORC Coordinator, effective August 20th.

Interlibrary loan is as busy as ever, and seems to be growing every day. Along with this comes the frustration of packaging and sending material so it flows smoothly through the system. A few small steps in advance will help to streamline the process:

- **Blue bags** should be used for items going on System Van Run or Government Courier. **Brown Bags** should be used for mailing items through Canada Post as they have a bigger plastic envelope that nicely holds the Shipping Tool Label. **If you run short of bags, contact PLS and we will gladly send some out to you.**
- Many times staff are confused as to how many items to put in one blue bag. A rule of thumb is to package only items destined for **one library per bag. There can be one item or two or three items in the same bag**, as long as they are going to the same library. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT ITEMS GOING TO MULTIPLE LIBRARIES IN THE SAME BLUE BAG.**

- Do **not** put AV material and books in the same bag, even though they may be going to the same library. All AV material should be bagged **separately** and marked as AV material. This ensures that it will not be placed at the bottom of a pile and be crushed. When packaging AV material, please package correctly with bubble wrap and/or cardboard. Do not put the name of the library it is going to inside the bubble wrap, as System staff then have to unwrap to find the library name and then repackage. Please put the bubble wrapped item inside a separate blue bag, address the bag to the library with the correct System code (i.e. PLS, MLS, YRL, NLLS), and label as AV material. **If you need AV labels please contact PLS headquarters.**
- When sending ILL through the PLS van run for distribution, **please put the name of the library the material is going to and the System Code** (i.e. PLS, YRL, MLS, NLLS) on the address label. This ensures that the material will get to the correct System for distribution on each System's van run.
- **Libraries that are on Government Courier should send directly to other libraries on Government Courier**, or send items to the appropriate System headquarters for delivery. **Remember to include the destination library's full mailing address on the label.**
- **Items to MAIL ONLY libraries must be mailed by everyone.** If your library is not on System Van Run or Government Courier, you will have no choice but to mail everything to the next library in the queue. If your item is destined for a **mail only** library, please mail the item directly to that library.
- If the Shipping Tool goes down, as it sometimes does, please contact Peace Library System. If a library is not in the Shipping Tool, also contact Peace Library System and we will add it. If you are not sure of an address, you can look it up in the **Directory of Public Libraries** at www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/mc_public_library_directory.cfm.

Hopefully, this will clear up some of the confusion!

We hope everyone had a fun and enjoyable holiday and that time was spent relaxing with friends and family.

From the IT Desk

By Janet Ayles, IT Services Manager, Peace Library System



Polaris 4.1

We have a firm date for **Polaris 4.1!** The Polaris upgrade is scheduled for **Monday, November 19th**. As we get closer, I'll be sending out more information and details on how things will go. The changes aren't too drastic,

so not much will change from the library point of view. We have access to 4.1 in a training setting, so I'll keep you all in the loop about what I discover.

Library Hours

The air is getting a bit chillier (although there are still some bursts of heat during the day!) which means that autumn is around the corner. Where did the summer go? At least that's what we've been saying around the office. With the end of summer and the start of school, that often means that library hours will change. If your library is one of those with new hours (or even changes back to last winter's hours), make sure you let me know. Polaris needs the updated hours in order to calculate due dates and overdue fines properly.

Holds

As some of you may have noticed, there have been a few snags and challenges with holds as of late. Most notably, holds either aren't being filled as they should, or aren't being filled at all. We are aware of the problem and have been working with Polaris to resolve these issues. I thank you all for your patience during this little hitch. If you come across any more of these or have any other problems with holds, just let me know.

Helpdesk

As always, don't forget about our Helpdesk. Tickets can be submitted at <http://help.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca> or emailed to helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

Notifications

Don't forget that patrons now have the option to receive notifications of overdues or holds via mail, email, phone or even text. If you would like to have these options activated for your library patrons, please let me know!



Polaris Inventory Manager

Inventorying your collection is a great idea. Using the Polaris Inventory Manager (PIM) allows you to discover problems with your collection. You'll find items that have been declared Lost or Missing (it's amazing how often those get shelved without being discovered). You will find damaged items that should be withdrawn. This is an opportunity to do an overall assessment of your collection.

So you've claimed your month for the PIM unit, now what do you do? There is some prep work to be done. You don't need to wait until the PIM unit is in your hands before doing this, it can be done at any time. First of all, you'll want to examine your collection codes to make sure that they're in sync with what's in your library. Are you using a generic Non-Fiction code in Polaris but dividing them up between Juvenile, Young Adult or Adult in the library? If your library doesn't match what's in Polaris, problems and errors will pop up. Fixing and streamlining collection codes will make inventory go much smoother. Simply Reports will be your best bet to pull your collection information. You can create reports to pull information including the collection codes, call numbers, titles, and more.

Next you'll want to take a look at your call numbers. If you're not the first library manager, the call numbers and spine labels may not be consistent. Take a look at the report you generated and see if you need to clean up the call numbers as well. Like the collection codes, fixing the call numbers will lessen the errors and snags during inventory.

The biggest question to ask yourself is, what do you want to do? Are you looking to just do an inventory? Find out which books are missing or lost? Perhaps find some books that are miss-shelved? Knowing what you want to do helps you figure out your plan of action.

Farewell, Alex!

As summer has come to an end, we've been forced to say goodbye to **Alex von Tiesenhausen**, our summer student. Alex has been a valuable asset to Ryan and I and we appreciate all his hard work. We'll miss you, Alex!



Polaris Reports to Run Regularly

By Katherine Wiebe, Consulting Services Manager, Peace Library System

As a consortium, all automated libraries within TRAC are encouraged to run the following reports regularly to assist with keeping interlibrary loans, overdues, and billings up-to-date, and to keep the TRAC database current.

Reports to run daily:



















Circulation > Request Manager

- Send the items out.
- If you cannot find an item on your shelves, deny the hold.
- Go into the item record and change the status to Missing to stop Polaris from trying to fill future requests with your item.
- If you find the item in the future, run it through check-in to change its status back to In.

Requests placed at the Item level, may "drop off" your Request Manager if not filled that day. In order to retrieve "lost holds", run the following two reports:

Utilities > Reports & Notices > Custom folder > Lost Holds

Lost Holds...Item by Assigned Branch
Lost Holds...By Library

Report Categories:	Available Reports:																												
<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Polaris</div></div><div><div><div></div><div>Acquisitions</div></div><div><div><div></div><div>Cataloging</div></div><div><div><div></div><div>Circulation</div></div><div><div><div></div><div>Custom</div></div><div><div><div></div><div>Anne Chorney Public L</div></div><div><div><div></div><div>Drayton Valley Municir</div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div>	<table><tr><th>Name</th><th>Type</th><th>Date Modified</th><th></th></tr><tr><td> Item Records Mismatch</td><td>Report</td><td>21/12/2009 1:06 PM</td><td></td></tr><tr><td> Items with Default Price</td><td>Report</td><td>07/04/2011 1:59 PM</td><td></td></tr><tr><td> Lost Holds (Bib-level - 1 item) by Item assigned branch.</td><td>Report</td><td>28/11/2011 1:54 PM</td><td></td></tr><tr><td> Lost Holds (Bib-level - 1 item) by Patron Branch</td><td>Report</td><td>28/11/2011 1:54 PM</td><td></td></tr><tr><td> Lost Holds (Item-Specific requests) by Library</td><td>Report</td><td>28/11/2011 11:27 AM</td><td></td></tr><tr><td> Lost Holds (Item-specific requests) by Region</td><td>Report</td><td>28/11/2011 11:31 AM</td><td></td></tr></table>	Name	Type	Date Modified		 Item Records Mismatch	Report	21/12/2009 1:06 PM		 Items with Default Price	Report	07/04/2011 1:59 PM		 Lost Holds (Bib-level - 1 item) by Item assigned branch.	Report	28/11/2011 1:54 PM		 Lost Holds (Bib-level - 1 item) by Patron Branch	Report	28/11/2011 1:54 PM		 Lost Holds (Item-Specific requests) by Library	Report	28/11/2011 11:27 AM		 Lost Holds (Item-specific requests) by Region	Report	28/11/2011 11:31 AM	
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 Item Records Mismatch	Report	21/12/2009 1:06 PM																											
 Items with Default Price	Report	07/04/2011 1:59 PM																											
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 Lost Holds (Bib-level - 1 item) by Patron Branch	Report	28/11/2011 1:54 PM																											
 Lost Holds (Item-Specific requests) by Library	Report	28/11/2011 11:27 AM																											
 Lost Holds (Item-specific requests) by Region	Report	28/11/2011 11:31 AM																											





























- If you find the items on your shelves, scan them through check-in and send them out.
- If you cannot find an item on your shelves, go into the item record and change the status to Missing.
- If you find the item in the future, run it through check-in to change its status back to In.

Reports to run weekly:

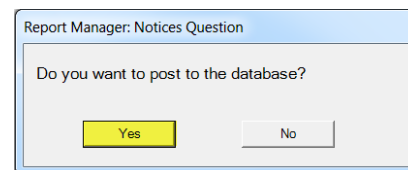
It is essential that libraries run the weekly reports faithfully to ensure that items your patrons have overdue, particularly those belonging to other libraries, are returned in a timely manner. If not, the long overdue item will convert to Lost 35 days after the due date, and the Transacting library (the one that physically did the check-out to the patron) will receive an invoice from the Owning library. **The Transacting library is obligated by the TRAC agreement to pay the invoice regardless of whether you are able to recoup the cost from your patron.** Please keep up with your patrons' overdues!

Utilities > Reports & Notices > Notices folder > Overdues folder

1. Run the *Overdues Full Page Mailer*. Click "Yes" to post to the database. **Save or print** the report: File > Save As> PDF > add date to file name. This saves the *Overdues* report in your My Documents folder, in the My Reports sub-folder, so you can contact patrons to notify them of their overdues.

Report Categories:	Available Reports:
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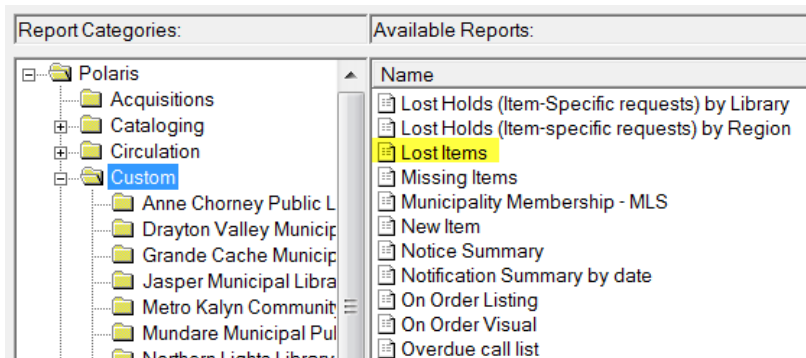
2. Run the *Billing Full Page Mailer*. Click "Yes" to post to the database. **Save or print** the report: File > Save As > PDF > add date to file name. This saves the Billings report in your My Documents folder, in the My Reports sub-folder, so you can give/mail patrons their paper bill for the Lost charges.



It is important to also keep up with other libraries whose patrons have lost your items. It is your responsibility, as the Owning library, to send out invoices in a timely manner.

Utilities > Reports & Notices > Custom folder > Lost Items

Invoice the Transacting Library (not the Patron Library). Delete Lost item records once you have resolved the matter (received payment or decided not to invoice) so they don't keep showing up in your weekly Lost report. You may wish, but are not required, to use the invoice template and tracking sheet provided at www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/ILL-Procedures.



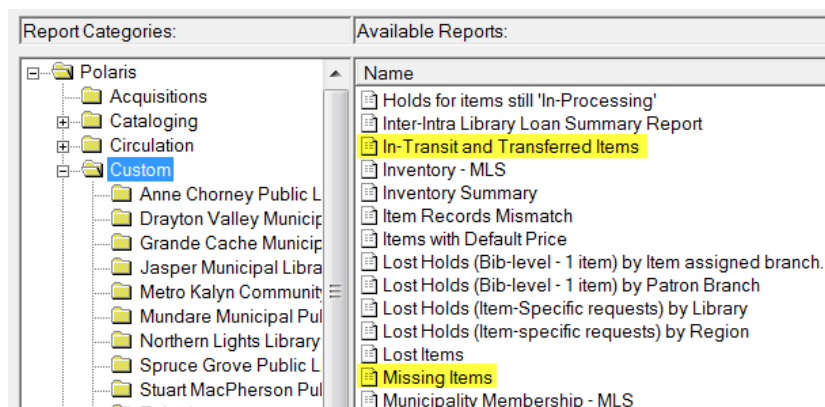
Reports to run monthly:

Sometimes items appear to be "stuck" in the Transferred or the In-Transit status. This may be due to the Owning, Sending, or Receiving library accidentally re-shelving the item or forgetting to check it in.

Utilities > Reports & Notices > Custom > In-Transit and Transferred Items

This report identifies the date your items were put in-transit or transferred. If the item has been in this status for three months or longer:

- Look on your shelf for the item, if found check it in and deal with as directed.
- If not found, contact the Sending Library, and the Receiving Library, and ask them if they may have accidentally shelved your item. If they have, they should check it in, and send it on as directed.
- If the item is not found after six months, go into the item record and change its status to Missing.*
- If the item is found in the future, check it in to change its status back to In.



In order to keep the database up-to-date, items that have been Missing for one year or more should be Withdrawn.

Utilities > Reports & Notices > Custom > Missing Items

- Check your shelves for the item. If you find it, check it in.
- If you cannot find the item and it has been missing for six months or more, go into the item record and change its status to Withdrawn. **
- If the item is found in the future, check it in to change its status back to In.

*Polaris will automatically convert In-Transit and Transferred items to Missing after six months.

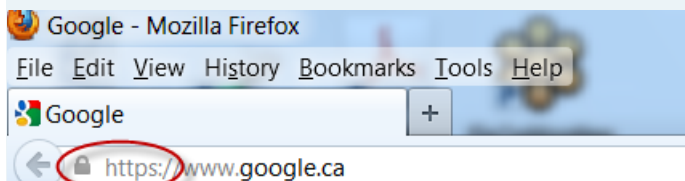
**Polaris will automatically delete Missing items after one year.

How Websites and Browsers are Helping You Stay Safe

By Ryan Goff, Network Analyst, Peace Library System

Security and privacy on the Internet are becoming a major concern for many users. Thankfully, websites like Google and Facebook are realizing this, and changing their security practices to help people enjoy a safe and secure online experience, and web browsers are joining in, as well.

One of the biggest changes has been to secure your connection when connecting with websites. For years, many websites used the unsecure **http (hypertext transfer protocol)**, and rightfully so. Securing connections was costly, both from a financial, as well as a computer hardware perspective. Only critical services, such as banking sites, were using the **https (hypertext transfer protocol secure)**. However, with the explosion of social media, more advanced websites and features, and easy to use exploits, many websites are now implementing this secure protocol everywhere possible. **What https does is secure the connection between your device and the website you are interacting with, encrypting data that passes between both sides.** This makes it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for hackers to eavesdrop and attempt malicious activity.



Above: https with the padlock in Firefox. Below: https with the padlock in Internet Explorer 9.



To help further, most web browsers are attempting to make it easier to identify secure connections. By showing you a **padlock** in the address bar, you can easily identify which sites are using a secure connection. Some browsers even go further, using different colours within the address bar to help users identify these secure sites. On the flip side, you will get a warning from a site that may not be using a proper secure connection. These little additions make it easier than ever to differentiate trusted vs. untrusted sites.

So whether you are surfing Facebook, or just doing a simple Google search, anytime you see https used on a site, you can rest assured that your Internet experience will be a safe and secure one.

Library Month: Libraries Connect / Bibliothèques branchées



Each October, the **Canadian Library Association** hosts **Canadian Library Month** and it's an exciting way to promote and celebrate the value and importance of libraries to Canadians.

To support Library Month, the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) will be providing posters and bookmarks. These promotional materials will be sent to PLS Headquarters for distribution to member libraries. The promotional materials are designed to demonstrate the value of your library services to your community, and offer an opportunity to thank elected officials and community leaders for their support in your library.

To access the full range of promotional materials online, visit www.cla.ca/clm12. They have some great tools such as icons for websites, a sample press release, various ideas for activities, and a calendar of events.

Are you planning to celebrate Canadian Library Month? If you are, send the PLSB your details by email to libraries@gov.ab.ca and they will post it on their website at www.albertalibraries.ca. They will also forward the information onto the Canadian Library Association to post on their calendar of events for Canadian Library Month.

Happy planning!

From the Information Desk

By Pam Chislett, Deputy Director, Grande Prairie Public Library



Grande Prairie Public Library underwent an organization review in 2011. We contracted The Hay Group to conduct the review and from the review, the Library received many deliverables. Several of the documents concerned performance appraisals & competencies. No matter what size of library, this aspect of management is a factor. In a one person library, the staff person would be reviewed by the Board; in a large library, the reviews could be performed by a department supervisor. I thought today I would share a few of the competency areas that The Hay Group identified for us.

The competencies are:

- Set and Accomplish Goals
- Strategic thinking
- Teamwork
- Building Relationships
- Customer Service
- Developing Others
- Leadership

For every position in the library, it is readily evident that the level of competency required for a satisfactory performance, would be different. For us, The Hay Group identified three levels with level three being the highest required.

These competencies can be used in the performance appraisal with a target level being set for the position and then an assessment as to whether the target level was reached or not. For some positions, not all competencies would be applicable. For example, in a large organization for the frontline circulation clerk, there might be four competencies: Set and Accomplish Goals, Strategic Thinking, Teamwork and Customer Service.

Job descriptions can be developed based on what competencies are needed as well. It helps to ask questions in the development of the description first of all, is there an area that needs this competency? Is there a required responsibility that is tied closely with a competency?

For example, the competency of Building Relationships is likely a vital one for the Library Manager. Not only does the Library Manager have to build a relationship with the Board, the staff and the patrons but also with community organizations and funding partners. By acknowledging that this competency is an important

aspect of a Library Manager's role, the description of what is needed can be incorporated into the job description and goal development for the position.

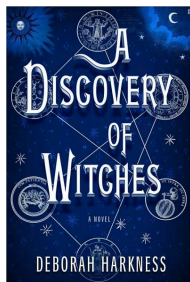
In our Library we had an active discussion about the level of Customer Service across the organization. At the frontline circulation level, it is extremely important to present a friendly, welcoming environment in addition to the skill of dealing with difficult situations concerning fines, etc. For a Library Manager who is not in the frontline of service, Customer Service would be a different aspect- perhaps in relation to funding partners, peers and other community organizations; perhaps setting the tone for Customer Service for the organization. So it is the same competency but there are different characteristics within each competency. It might be considered a level of sophistication in application or perhaps a different level of responsibility.

In the past I have also used the concept of competency to assess a particular skill set. In that case it was to assess computer competency. It was several years ago but it incorporated skills such as emails, word processing, saving files, printing files, etc. This specific type of competency assessment could be developed to assess skills on Polaris, Interlibrary Loans, etc. They can be used as a training tool as well to ensure that all new staff are able to do the necessary skills. Or if a new technology is brought in, training could be held and then a competency assessment. Staff can use the assessment as a tool for self-development as well.

So the concept of competencies can be used for small specific tasks that library staff have to perform or it can be expanded to the role of assistance in developing job descriptions; a tool for performance appraisal and possibly even assist in the development of an overall organization grid.

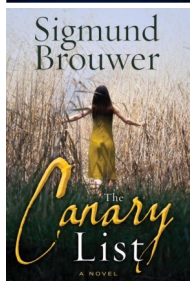
Whether it is a formal adoption by your organization or a best practice, the concept of competencies is a valuable one in delivering quality library service. I appreciate that the Hay Group worked with us in clarifying the competencies that were valuable to our organization. Our supervisors have been using the competencies in performance appraisals for about a year now and the experience to date, has been positive. Maybe you will find some of the ideas useful as well.

What's the Best Thing You've Read or Watched this Summer?



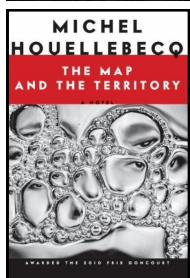
I tried a new author this summer: **Deborah Harkness**. I read the first book in the series, titled **A Discovery of Witches**. I am not usually a fan of paranormal books, but this looked interesting. I enjoyed it very much. I got drawn in by the excellent writing style. It is about a witch that doesn't want her powers, but she is drawn into using them by events happening in her life. The setting is modern day, however there is a lot of historical periods drawn on throughout the book. I have the second book on request right now. It is a bestseller title, **Shadow of Night**...Can hardly wait to see what happens next!

- Tora Volkers, Cataloguer, Peace Library System



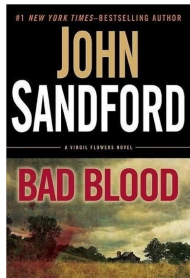
I just finished reading **The Canary List** by **Sigmund Brouwer**. Sigmund has been a frequent visitor to our school and he always advises the students to "push buttons and make your readers really feel their emotions". Well Sigmund definitely pushed my buttons in this read! I am just waiting for the newest release of my all time favorite author Terry Brooks to come out at the end of August to round out my summer reading.

- Janet Stewart, Librarian, St. Thomas More School



Mine is **The Map and the Territory** by **Michel Houellebecq**. A very interesting book about art, aging, love, money, human relationships and human nature. The book won the Prix Goncourt award in 2010.

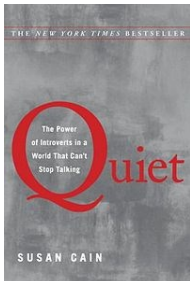
- Jackie Xie, Adult Services Librarian, Grande Prairie Public Library



I have to tell you about the best book I read this summer: **Bad Blood** by **John Sanford**. I have read all of John Sandford's **Prey** books over the years, loved them, and never looked into any of his other works. So when one of his other books, **Bad Blood**, was donated to our library book sale, I decided to try it out.

Well, it was sooooo good I had to round up the other four in the **Virgil Flowers** series as soon as possible! I can hardly wait for the sixth one, **Mad River**, coming out this fall.

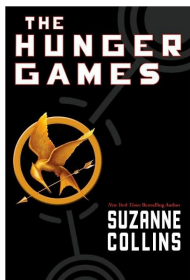
- Susanne Tremblay, Library Manager, Valleyview Municipal Library



Best book: **Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking** by **Susan Cain**.

A truly amazing book. The problem is the people who need to read it most probably will not stop talking long enough to read it. God bless.

- Dennis Sheppard, Cataloguer, Peace Library System



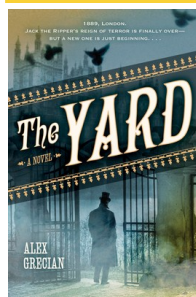
The Hunger Games Trilogy by **Suzanne Collins**: the first one took me a bit to get into it, but by the end I wanted to keep reading them to find out what happened. I know some didn't like book three, or the way it ended, but I did, it gave you closure and left you satisfied. I would watch the movie. **Bride of New France** by **Suzanne Desrochers**: this was an interesting book set back in the early settler days, it was interesting to find out what people in France thought of Canada and its climate and lifestyle. **A Place in the Country** by **Elizabeth Adler**: this is a great book, with a good story about a mother and daughter starting over after being cheated on, moving from Singapore to England, readjusting to a new life.

-Scheli Longson, Library Manager, Beaverlodge Public Library



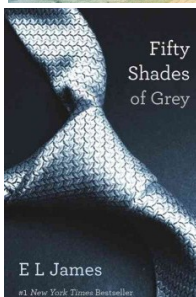
So I've actually had the time to read some books this summer. I read ***The Help*** by **Kathryn Stockett**, which I found to be a really good story. I have the movie and really enjoyed that so I figured I would try and read the book. The detail of the characters were way better and it opened my eyes to how things really were. The second book that I read was ***Fifty Shades of Grey*** by **E. L. James** (all three books). It's been a long time since I've read this many books. So I know that these are supposed to be "dirty books" but that part of the book didn't really matter. The story itself was very gripping. Both of the main characters needed this relationship. I couldn't put these books down.

- Heidi Short, Library Assistant, Red Earth Public Library



My favorite read this summer was ***The Yard*** by **Alex Grecian**. Despite being a debut novel and needing a bit of polishing, I was fascinated by the detail of Victorian London (renewed tea?) and the aftereffects of Jack the Ripper on the detectives of the time. I hope he continues with his cast of characters. I am eagerly awaiting his next book.

- Sheryl Pelletier, Library Manager, Shannon Municipal Library



Before reading the ***Fifty Shades of Grey*** series by **E. L. James**, I have to admit it seemed overwhelming. Once I got into it I really started to enjoy how she portrayed her characters. For being a woman, I think she is really breaking the stereotypical mom in today's society where women are not really supposed to discuss sex. I really appreciated her stepping out of that and being brave with this series. I found the novels to be very powerful and fulfilling. I really enjoyed her writing style and found it easy to read. She really captured what the characters were like and I could picture them every time they came into scene. Behind all the sex I really feel it was written well with great imagination and in depth stories about the characters, and their past histories.

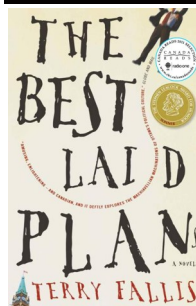
- Lauren Makuch, Summer Reading Program Coordinator, Beaverlodge Public Library



Best loved watch for me this summer definitely was ***Sherlock*** by the BBC (six episodes, three each in seasons one and two).

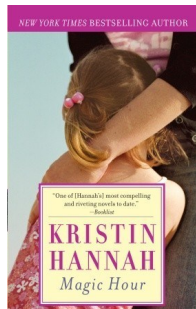
Wonderful remake – Holmes with a cell phone! Warning: LLLOOONNNGGG TRAC wait list.

- Rae Weniger, Library Clerk, Peace Library System



I have spent some time with my nose in a book or plastered to my Kobo and have several best books. Really difficult to choose. I loved ***Best Laid Plans*** by **Terry Fallis**, ***Cutting for Stone*** by **Abraham Verghese** and ***Pillars of the Earth*** by **Ken Follett**. Also just to try downloading on my Kobo I read ***The Accidental Assassin: An Island, a Poole, a Body...*** by **Jan Toms**, which was hilarious. Oh and then there was ***The Boy in the Suitcase*** by **Lene Kaaberbøl** and **Agnete Friis**. You see what I mean. Too many. I really understand the saying "So many books, so little time".

- Leslie Ann Sharkey, Library Manager, Fox Creek Municipal Library

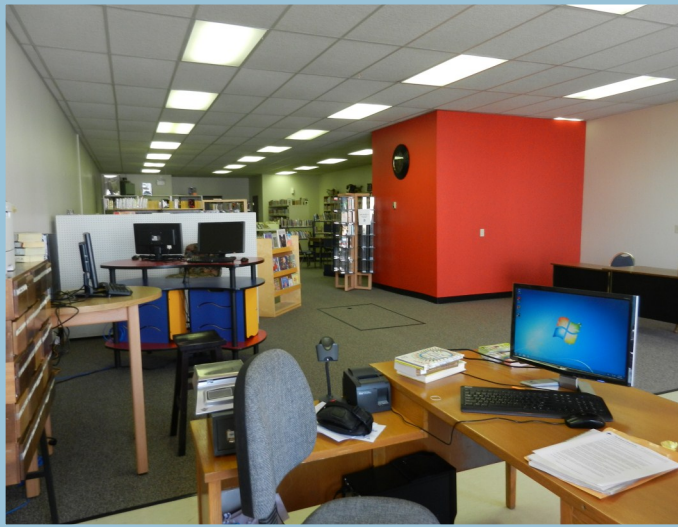


Kristin Hannah is an author that never disappoints me, I read an old title of hers ***Magic Hour***. Good book, stupid title. Kristin writes in a manner that always requires you to connect with the creatures.

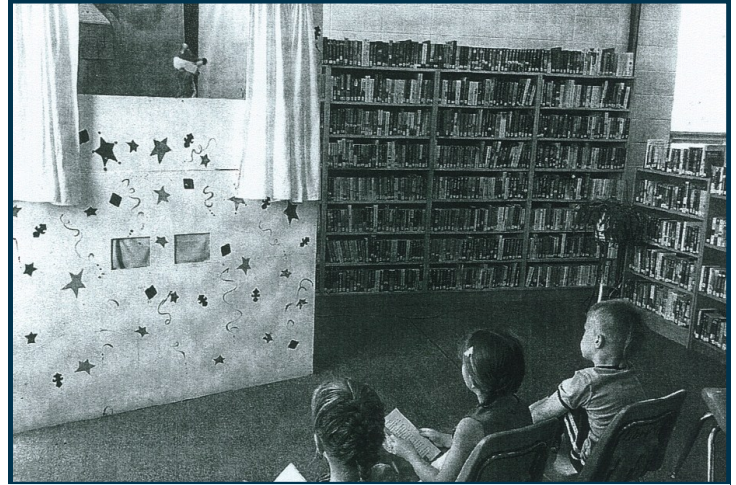
And for fans of **Karen Kingsbury**, her newest, ***Coming Home***, will shatter the Baxter family, and make you realize that life is not always fair but with faith all things are possible to deal with.

- Lori Jackson, Library Manager, Manning Municipal Library

Summer Around the System....



This spring before reopening, **Rycroft Municipal Library** had some renovations done. In addition to a cheerful paint job, there's also now some comfortable furniture!



Kids at the **Elmworth Community Library** enjoy a puppet show during their summer reading/bookworm club, which took place every Tuesday in July.

Submitted by Doreen Dunbar



Above, left: The smiling staff at **Beaverlodge Public Library**, from left to right: Amy, Tracy DuBois, Suzanne, Tracy Deets, Scheli. Above, right: All of the planets that the 7-12 year olds did to be voted on by the public, based on what they thought the planets would look like.

Submitted by Scheli Longson



Left: One of the 42 pairs of children that read together in the Reading Buddies program this summer at **Grande Prairie Public Library**.

Right: Making wizard hats at one of **GPPL's** Summer of Magic storytime and craft programs.

Submitted by Hayley Dolman





On August 6th, the **Grande Prairie Public Library** hosted activities and storytimes in their Storytime Tent at the Heritage Festival in Grande Prairie.

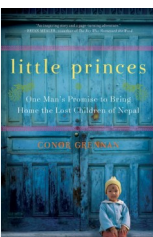
Pictured on the left is **Jackie Xie** as she mingled around the crowd with her peacock puppet. On the right **Hayley Dolman** plays some games with young visitors.

Submitted by Michelle Rempel



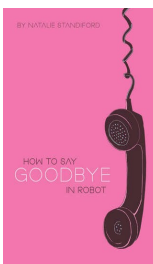
Above: Children at **High Level Municipal Library** working hard on their sand art projects. They applied glue to the page with a paint brush and then sprinkled the color of sand they wanted on that part. They were so creative! We had six weeks of craft sessions, including things like Perler beads, plasticine, cardboard swords and crowns, etc. It was a lot of fun!

Submitted by Melanie DenOudsten



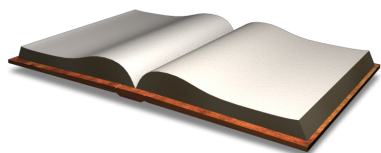
I couldn't put down **Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal**. The author finds himself in some very humorous situations in caring for the adorable Little Princes of Nepal.

- Hayley Kirtzinger, Grande Prairie Public Library



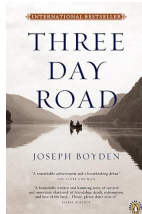
How to Say Goodbye in Robot by Natalie Standiford is a sad, but hopeful, book about Bea's friendship with Jonah, a reclusive guy at her new school. They share a love for a late-night radio show with an interesting group of regular callers, including a woman who's obsessed with Elvis and a man who claims to be from the future. The book is full of offbeat characters, which keep the story from getting melodramatic, even when the action is serious.

- Hayley Dolman, Grande Prairie Public Library



Above: **Kerri Danner** did another great job dressing up the **Valleyview Municipal Library** front window again this year for the Summer Reading Program. Below: Library board members, staff and children all enjoyed our second annual Summer Reading Club entry in the Valleyview fair parade.

Submitted by Susanne Tremblay



The best book I have read lately would be **Three Day Road** by Joseph Boyden. I think it impacted me because my grandfather fought and was injured in WWI. He did not talk about his experiences - this book let me have a glimpse into what conditions were like, and how horrendous it was to be involved.

- Janice Willsey, Helen E. Taylor school



Left: Summer Reading Club participants at **DeBolt Public Library** having a blast with crafts!

Top, Right: DeBolt youths at the dress-up ball, where they put on costumes and danced.

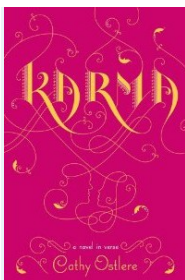
The Summer Reading Club kids also made a Chinese Parade Dragon for DeBolt's annual Heritage Days Festival and Fair. The library won first in the parade! Below, right: building the dragon for the parade.

Submitted by
Yvonne McIntyre



Imaginations ran wild at the **Shannon Municipal Library** over the summer! Top, left: An Egyptian Scarab. During our time travel week, the kids went back to ancient Egypt and practiced their sculpting skills as we created painted clay scarabs just like those found in the pyramids of the great Egyptian kings! Middle: A Flower Fairy. Our fairy tale week found us in an enchanted land where flowers come to life, blossoming into the magical creatures now known as fairies! Top, right: Party Mummy Wrap. The wrap up party was a smashing success, and the kids had a blast turning each other into mummies!

Submitted by Corrie Jahnke



Karma by **Cathy Ostlere**. A teen novel beautifully written in free verse, it "...is the story of how a young woman, straddling two cultures and enduring personal loss, learns forgiveness, acceptance and love."

- Judy Garlinski, Grande Prairie Public Library

Great Program? Exciting News?

Share what you've been doing in your library!

Submit photos, news and events to Jen Anderson at
janderson@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca

You can submit items for the newsletter at anytime, and they'll be published in the following issue of
News 'N' Notes.

Monsters Invade Grimshaw Municipal Library!

By Linda Chmilar, Library Manager, Grimshaw Municipal Library



Riverboat Daze in Slave Lake

Submitted by Robin-Lee Vance, Programming Coordinator, Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library

At the **Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library**, our summer reading program started with excitement. On July 7th, the staff, volunteers and friends decorated a parade float to enter into the annual **Slave Lake Riverboat Daze Parade**, featuring the *Imagine* summer reading program and 1001 Arabian Nights. There were costumed belly dancers, a harem girl, a palm tree and some young friends.

Under the direction of our new Library Manager, **Shane Parmar**, we developed a Kid's Corner, and created a Storytime Area (pictured below) dedicated to children's programming and children's collections. Program Coordinator **Robin-Lee Vance** and Summer Program Assistant **Connie L'Hirondelle** designed a comfy area for children to relax and enjoy reading. This area will be used for expanded children's storytime programming throughout the coming year.



All smiles as staff and children ride the float!



In line, waiting to start!



Amy constructing the float



The Buzz from Beaverlodge

Submitted by Scheli Longson, Library Manager, Beaverlodge Public Library



Above: **Lauren Makuch** (left) and **Ashton Klassen** (right), both 4th year university students, helped make sure the Summer Reading Club was tons of fun!



In June, the C.O.W. bus stopped by the library. It was so popular that there wasn't a time when the bus was empty! Pictured with the bus at the top right (from l to r): Two C.O.W. Bus ladies, Mayor Leona Hanson, Board Chair Mary Hermans, and library manager Scheli Longson. Along with the bus came some wonderful new books, demonstrated by staff members (from left to right): Amanda from the C.O.W. bus, Beaverlodge employee Viktoria Schneider, Scheli Longson, Mayor Leona Hanson and Mary Hermans.



Below, left: Participants from Beaverlodge's **Kids Can Cook** program wearing their chef hats and aprons generously donated by ConocoPhillips. *Below, right:* Thanking ConocoPhillips for their support!





The man that vacuumed the hornet's nest!

In August an exterminator was called to PLS HQ to take care of what turned out to be a very large hornet's nest!

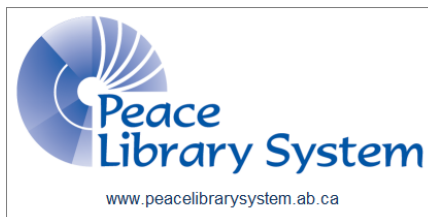


In July, Katherine Wiebe presented Pam Hale of Worsley, AB with a Sony 6" Touchscreen eReader with WiFi. Pam's name was randomly chosen from the participants who filled out the library survey for Clear Hills County.

Connect with Peace Library System online:



www.peaceporridge.com



Upcoming Events



PLS Board Meeting

High Prairie, AB
September 15, 2012

PLS Plan of Service Meeting

High Prairie, AB
September 15, 2012 (Following Board meeting)

Rural Libraries Conference

Grande Prairie Inn
September 20 & 21, 2012

Alberta Culture Days (formerly Alberta Arts Days)
September 28 - 30, 2012

Canadian Library Month

October 2012

County of Northern Lights Advisory Committee Meeting

Manning, AB
October 1, 2012; 11:30 am

Northern Fall Author Tour (Karen Bass)

October 1 - 4, 2012

MD of Greenview Advisory Committee Meeting

DeBolt, AB
October 10, 2012; 6:00 pm

Clear Hills County Advisory Committee Meeting

Cleardale, AB (Menno-Simons Community Library)
October 11, 2012; 5:30 pm

Library Managers' Council Meeting

PLS Headquarters
October 15, 2012; 10:30 am

Netspeed

Edmonton, AB
October 18 & 19, 2012

Kelley Armstrong at Grande Prairie Public Library

October 19 - 21, 2012

Local Fall Author Tour (Robert Feagan)

October 22 - 25, 2012

PLS Executive Committee Meeting

Location to be announced
October 27, 2012

PLS Board Meeting

Grande Prairie, AB
November 24, 2012