



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Director	2
System News Bits	2
Reflections on Being a Writer-in-Residence	3
Freeding	4
Fall Author Tours	5
Existing Holds and How to	6
From the IT Desk	7
Email Migration	7
Library Snapshot Day	8
ASLM Board Chair wins President's Award	8
From the Information	9
Around the System	10
AHPM Challenges Grade 5s to Read	12
ASLM's <i>Hope is in Our Hands</i> Book Reading	13
GPPL Wins Mango Contest	13
PLS Board Members Recognized for Long	14
"How do those TAL Cards	15
Connect with PLS	16
Upcoming Events	16



Last Chapter Book Sale a Huge Success!

In the immediate aftermath of the May 2011 wildfires that devastated Slave Lake, Peace Library System was flooded with book donations for the library. PLS sorted, catalogued, processed and stored hundreds of boxes of books until the library re-opened in its temporary location.

Of the over 37,000 donated items, almost 22,000 were added to the Slave Lake Library collection, with an estimated 1,500 books yet to be catalogued. Given the volume of the donations, many books were duplicates, while others were generally not suitable for library circulation due to age or condition. These extra books were made available to the general public in the "Last Chapter" Book Sale, held from May 4th to 6th at the D Company Armouries in Grande Prairie.



The estimated 13,500 books set out on tables for buyers to browse was a sight to see! People were encouraged to fill bags or boxes with books and make a donation to the Slave Lake Library. The generosity and support of the book buyers shone through, **raising over \$10,000** for the Slave Lake Library. There was never a time during the three day long sale that the floor was empty. In fact, it was a common sight to see young and old scattered about reading the books they had just selected or sharing a book with someone else. People reminisced, seeing titles that brought back fond memories. Boxes and bags were filled to brim, with many needing assistance to their vehicles. When people realized that the money was to be donated to the Slave Lake Library, many put away their five dollar bill and pulled out a twenty.

PLS staff members were on hand at all times during the sale. They logged a combined total of over 320 hours for set-up, helping customers, and tear down, much of which was done outside of their regular work hours. Slave Lake library employee **Ivy Gaskell** and Slave Lake Regional Library Board members **Darcie Acton** and **John Buck** rounded out the volunteer effort, and added a "local Slave Lake" element. They were able to speak to buyers directly, answering their questions and providing updates about how Slave Lake is doing nearly one year after the fire. They were also able to witness first-hand the outpouring of support from the people of the Peace Region.

Amazingly enough, only an estimated 3,000 books remained at the end of the sale. Most of these items were donated to the **Canadian Diabetes Association**, the **Rotary Club of Grande Prairie (Swan City) #22868** to be sent to schools in Ethiopia, and to **St. Gerard Catholic School** for an upcoming fundraiser garage sale. Those items deemed in too poor of condition to be resold were collected by **Prairie Disposal** for eventual recycling into fibre for cereal boxes, packing paper, paper towels, and recycled office paper.

Peace Library System wishes to thank the **D Company Armouries Foundation** for generously donating the use of their facility; **Dunvegan Gardens** for the use of their plant flats for organizing the books on tables; **Horizon North Camps and Catering** for providing a trailer for storing the books until the book sale; and **Prairie Disposal** for providing free pick up and recycling.

The "last chapter" is done!

From the Director

By Linda Duplessis, Director, PLS



As we head towards summer, I hope all of you will find time for some refreshing time away. For those of you who are offering a summer program for kids, I hope you have lots of fun as you keep them reading over the summer.

I have one update from the last newsletter concerning the RISE pilot project and then some news on a number of different fronts. Some of these may be covered elsewhere in the newsletter.

RISE Proposal for Videoconference Expansion

The proposal from the RISE network: Chinook Arch, Shortgrass and Marigold library systems – to extend videoconferencing network to the other four library systems on a pilot project basis has been approved. For our region, this means that **Grande Prairie Public Library** and one other library will be linked to the RISE network to participate in programs and meetings. The details will be coming out in June at an APLEN Nodes meeting and we will pass that along when the time comes.

Good News – Same Ministry/Same Minister

After the recent election and cabinet appointments, public library service found itself staying in Alberta Municipal Affairs. The library system directors are unanimous that this is a very good “fit” for libraries, so this was welcome news. Also good news was that the **Hon. Doug Griffiths** continues as the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Mr. Griffiths is a strong supporter of libraries and of rural services in general. We look forward to continuing to work with him and with the Public Library Services Branch on upcoming provincial initiatives.

Alberta Library Conference Presentation

Along with **Marilyn Cavanagh** (Slave Lake board chair), **Deborah Kendze** (former library manager) and **Diana Davidson** (Public Library Services Branch), I co-presented a session at the Alberta Library Conference on the Slave Lake library tragedy and lessons learned. This was a good opportunity to share how the disaster was dealt with from the

point of view of the library manager, the brand new board chair, the regional library system, and the Branch. A similar presentation was offered on June 1 at the Canadian Library Association Conference in Ottawa.

2012 Make It Yours Campaign

TAL has launched the 2012 *Make it yours* marketing campaign to help public library staff and trustees promote their libraries. The campaign will provide media coverage and eye-catching, professional marketing materials that can be used to demonstrate the library’s role in connecting people to the millions of resources available to Alberta public library users. The media component of the campaign will run for six weeks from Monday, May 7 to Sunday, June 17. Newspaper ads will be spread out over the entire six week period and radio spots will air for two weeks (May 7-13 and May 21-27). Facebook ads will also run during this time.

Public libraries have access to all the tools developed in year one of the campaign including the customized posters, screen savers, digital slideshows and make your own poster website. Libraries can use these tools anytime, not only during the six week media campaign. New elements of the campaign for 2012 include bookmarks, additional light-weight tradeshow displays for each regional library system and a rink ad campaign which will run in the fall.

What’s happening with the Community Access Program?

Industry Canada has announced the elimination of the Community Access Program (CAP) effective April 1, 2012. Through CAP, Industry Canada has 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. Without CAP funding, many libraries will find it difficult to regularly replace or upgrade their public access computers and may have to consider charging patrons to use the Internet at the library. Library boards and municipalities across the country are lobbying the federal government for a continuation of the program, but no word has been received to date.

System News Bits



- Bibliothèque Dentinger in Falher has officially changed their name and is now known as **Falher Library - Bibliothèque Dentinger**.
- **Laura Reilly** has retired as the Children’s Services librarian at **Grande Prairie Public Library**. GPPL’s Children’s Programming librarian, **Serena Boyte-Hawryluk**, has been promoted to Head of Children’s & Youth Services.
- **The Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library** has hired their new library manager, **Shane Parmar**. Shane is a recent graduate from the MLIS program at UBC and will begin his position on June 20.
- **Charlene “Char” McCoy** is the new library manager at **Hythe Municipal Library**. She has lived in Beaverlodge for the past 13 years and is excited to learn the ins and outs of her new position.
- **Natalie Keizer** of **Bear Point Community Library** will be moving at the end of July. **Twila Clay** has been hired as the new library manager.
- **Kelly Dickinson** is the new Community Services Librarian at **GPPL**, taking over from **Luba Kasum**



Congratulations are in order for Peace Library System’s Network Analyst **Ryan Goff** and cataloguer **Sheri Leeson** on their engagement! Sheri and Ryan will be married in February 2013.

Reflections on Being a Writer-in-Residence

By Karen Bass, *Writer-in-Residence & Former Hythe Library Manager*

Many people have asked me, "What is a writer-in-residence?" I've learned to boil it down to one word: a mentor. Someone who advises and trains. In a nutshell, that's what I've been doing with writers in the Peace Library System for the last three months.

Embarking on a new venture always inspires some trepidation. From talking to the previous PLS writer-in-residence, I had a vague idea what to expect but beyond that there were too many factors to predict how it would shake out. It was like any library program. You pour resources into planning and advertising, but in the end you really don't know who or how many people are going to show up.

Now I'm wiping my brow in relief. People showed up! Of course, in an area as vast as Peace Library System, I wasn't able to visit every community, but I did get to almost one-third of the libraries and saw a few writers from other communities, as well. One person took me up on my offer to do a Skype visit. Several more communicated with me only by email. Technology is so fantastic for bridging distances.

Twice I almost wished I'd visited libraries using technology instead of my car. When I visited **Valleyview** I surfed into town on the leading edge of a snowstorm. Intrepid writers braved the miserable weather to attend the workshop anyway. Then, in mid-April I tried to visit **Slave Lake** but ended up stranded by a snowstorm in **High Prairie** (but since my mother lives there it turned into a family visit). Such are the ups and downs of spring in the Peace Country.



High Level

past month, the insight they gave to my efforts – those are what kept me on the path, journeying from aspiring to published writer. Maybe your community's writers need a nudge to form a group; maybe the library could offer to host, even facilitate, such a group. If it's not possible, there are online critique groups for many genres.

I also met numerous writers for one-on-one consultations, which usually involved critiquing some of their writing. There is a lot of exciting writing happening out there! My goal in these sessions was twofold: encouragement, and offering a tip or two on how to take their writing to the next level. (My mantra for the past three months has been that every single writer has room for improvement, and none of us can avoid editing and revisions.)

Now that the writer-in-residence term has ended, what kind of help can libraries offer to writers in this regard? I doubt that you want to start a manuscript reading service, but you can point writers to groups like the **Writers Guild of Alberta**, which offers that kind of help. Another thing you can point writers to is the **808 section of the TRAC catalogue**. All the information I gave in my workshops is readily available in print. There are books galore that discuss every aspect of writing, from getting started to getting published. The information is online, too, though it might be more frustrating to uncover unless you're a whiz on Google.

In a way, the writer-in-residence program isn't over. It has just returned to where it always was: on the library shelf.



High Prairie

In truth, I preferred visiting libraries in person, and for a very selfish reason: I met people passionate about writing. I'm hopeful that the writers I met came away with at least one new "tool" for their writer's toolbox, maybe more. Mostly, I hope they came away encouraged.

For me, one of the most encouraging things happened in **Fairview**. After an evening session and a full-day Saturday session, the writers said they wished Fairview had a writers' group. They looked around the table, and realized they did. It was them. So they formed a group on the spot and made plans to meet monthly. It was almost like being a mother bird and watching a chick take flight for the first time.

Being part of a writers' group, the encouragement the other writers gave me, the accountability of knowing they'd ask what I'd written the



Valleyview



News 'N' Notes

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

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People in the Peace are Freading!



FREADING

a new look at library lending

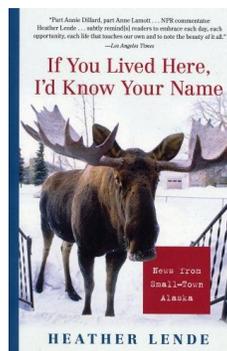
Peace Library System is pleased to announce that thanks to a new eBook solution called Freading, library users across the Peace Region now have easy access to a collection of over 15,000 titles in all genres, with new titles added regularly. Freading is free to public library patrons based on a virtual currency system of four tokens per person per week. Most importantly, Freading offers simultaneous access to all eBook titles, so there is no waiting for the titles you want. Each title requires "spending" a certain number of tokens, many titles are one token, others are more.

Patrons can visit peacelibrarysystem.freeding.com and log in with their library card's barcode and PIN to start downloading titles. Downloaded titles automatically expire at the end of a two week checkout period so there are no late fees and can be borrowed once more without spending additional tokens. Freading also offers mobile apps for iPhone, iPad and Android so you can read on the go.

Encourage your patrons to try this new service! The Freading eBook solution is a pilot project funded by the Public Library Services Branch through the Alberta Public Library Electronic Network (APLEN). Up to \$400,000 has been committed to the license for a period of one year, which began May 1.

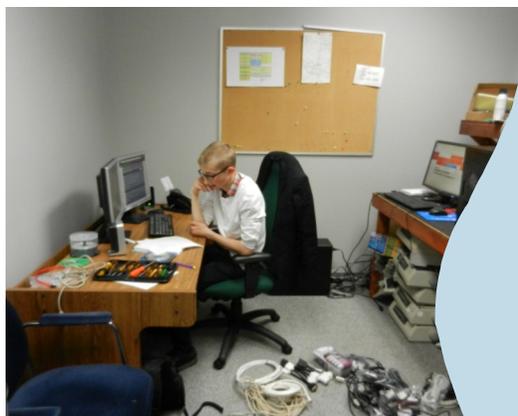
The Stats from May 1 - June 12 ...

- 89 different patrons have downloaded over 180 titles
- Bear Point, Beaverlodge, Calling Lake, Dixonville, Eaglesham, Fairview, Falher, Fox Creek, Grande Prairie, Grimshaw, High Prairie, Manning, Peace River, Rainbow Lake, Savanna, Sexsmith, Slave Lake, Smith, Valleyview and Woking patrons have tried Freading!
- The most popular title in the Peace region is *If You Lived Here, I'd Know Your Name* by Heather Lende with 16 downloads. Other popular titles include: *My Father's Paradise* by Ariel Sabar, *Boone: A Biography* by Robert Morgan, *Anxious to Please: 7 Revolutionary Practices for the Chronically Nice* by James Rapson & Craig English and *Creating Your Best Life: The Ultimate Life List Guide* by Caroline Adams Miller & Dr. Michael B. Frisch.



Promote Freading!

Visit the Peace Library System website at www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/freading to download customized posters and to learn more about Freading!



At left:
Alex von Tiesenhuis, PLS' summer IT Assistant, is hard at work on email migration documentation to make sure everything transitions smoothly for the libraries. Alex has finished his first year in the Digital Media and Information Technologies program at NAIT and will be with Peace Library System until August 17th.

Fall Author Tours: Karen Bass & Robert Feagan



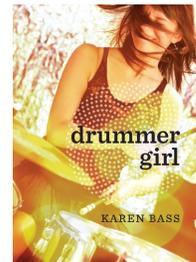
Karen is a fourth-generation Albertan who was born in High Prairie and raised on a farm just outside of town. She went on to attend the University of Alberta and received a psychology degree from the University of Victoria. Karen then returned to Alberta to raise her family. Four years after being hired as the library manager for the Hythe Municipal Library, Karen, who had always been an avid reader, decided to give fiction writing a try. Previously, she had written essays and articles for the local paper, but her real desire was to write a novel.

Her first novel, *Run Like Jäger*, was published in 2008 and received critical acclaim. Written for teens, the book was inspired by a cousin who took part in an exchange program and combined Karen's passion and interest for young adult literature, German culture and World War II. Her second novel, *Summer of Fire*, was published in 2009 and has also received critical acclaim. As with her first novel, it is written for teens, set in Germany and has connections to World War II. In the fall of 2011, Karen's third young adult novel, *Drummer Girl*, was published. It is a contemporary story set in Canada, addressing the issues of peer pressure, acceptance, identity and individuality. To learn more about Karen, visit her official website at www.karenbass.ca.

Karen will be visiting the communities of Dixonville, Eaglesham, Falher, High Level, Keg River, Manning, McLennan, Nampa, Paddle Prairie, Peace River, and Rainbow Lake from October 1 - 4.

Bibliography and Awards & Recognitions

- *Drummer Girl*: Won the 2011 Moonbeam Children's Book Award bronze medal for YA General
- *Summer of Fire*: Won the 2010 Gold Medal for Juvenile/YA Fiction from the Independent Publishers Book Awards (IPPY)
- *Summer of Fire*: Selected as an Honour Book by Paterson Prize for Books for Young People, 2010
- *Run Like Jäger*: Won the 2009 Christian High School Book Club Reader's Choice Award
- *Run Like Jäger*: Won the 2009 Silver Medal for Juvenile/YA Fiction from the IPPY Awards
- *Run Like Jäger*: Won the 2008 Canadian Authors Association Exporting Alberta Award



Robert Feagan was born in Fort McPherson, Northwest Territories while his father, a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, was stationed there. As a result, Robert would often accompany his father on his patrols using a dog sled team. Although Robert has spent the majority of his time in Yellowknife, Cambridge Bay and Inuvik, he has travelled extensively and has lived in numerous Canadian provinces. He now calls Edmonton home.

With his father's career in the RCMP, Robert had the opportunity to either live in or visit all of Canada's provinces and territories. During his travels, he was struck by how little most Canadians actually knew about the northern territories of their own country. As a result, he wrote his first novel, *Napachee*, to teach young people more about the north in an entertaining but realistic fashion.

Robert will be visiting the communities of Beaverlodge, DeBolt, Elmworth, Fox Creek, Grande Prairie, Hythe, La Glace, Sexsmith, Valhalla, Valleyview, and Wembley from October 22 - 25

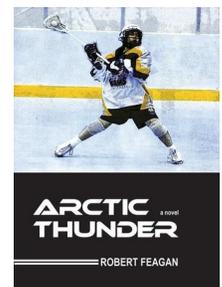
To learn more about Robert, visit his official website at www.robertfeagan.com.

Bibliography

Arctic Thunder, Dundurn Press, 2010
Mystery at Shildii Rock, Dundurn Press, 2007
Napachee, Dundurn Press, 2006

Arctic Thunder Awards & Recognitions

- 2012 Golden Eagle Children's Choice Book Award runner-up
- Shortlisted for the 2012 Manitoba Young Readers Choice Award
- Nominated for the 2012 Rocky Mountain Book Award
- Selected by the Canadian Children's Book Centre for its annual Best Books for Kids and Teens list



These tours are made possible through public library partnerships with Peace Library System and grants from the [Young Alberta Book Society](#) and the [Alberta Foundation for the Arts](#).

Existing Holds and How to Make Changes

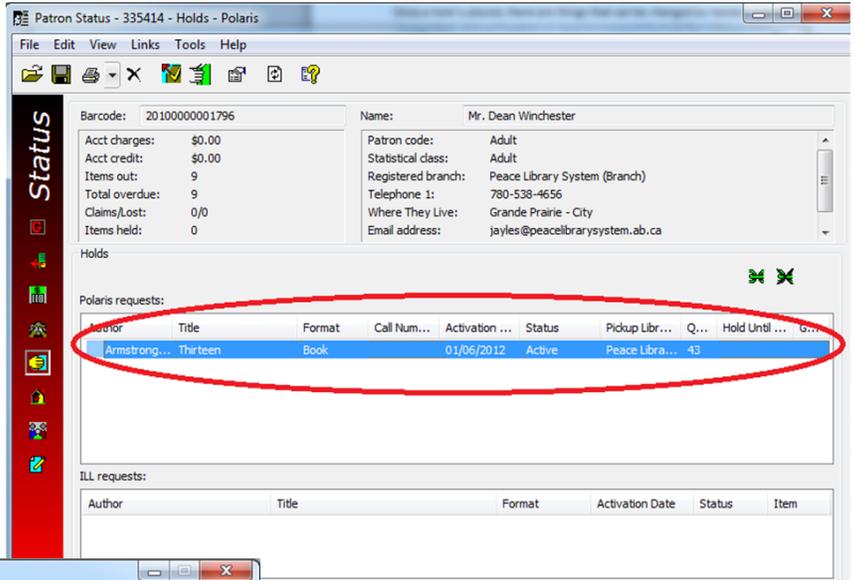
Once a hold is placed, there are things that can be changed as needed. Sometimes patrons need to change their pick up location or want to suspend the hold for a future date.

Changes to a patron's hold requests are made from the **Patron Status record**. To bring up a Patron Status record, you can press **F6** or go to **Circulation > Patron Status** from the Polaris tool bar.

Search for your patron (it defaults to last name, first name), and double click to open their record.

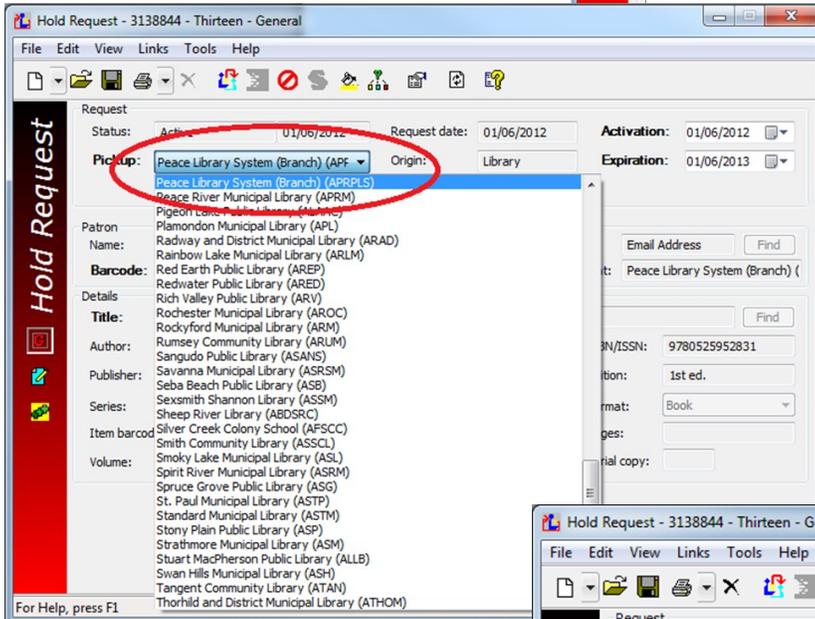
Select the Requests view on the left-hand side (the hand holding a book, 5th from the top).

Double click on the hold request that needs to be changed.

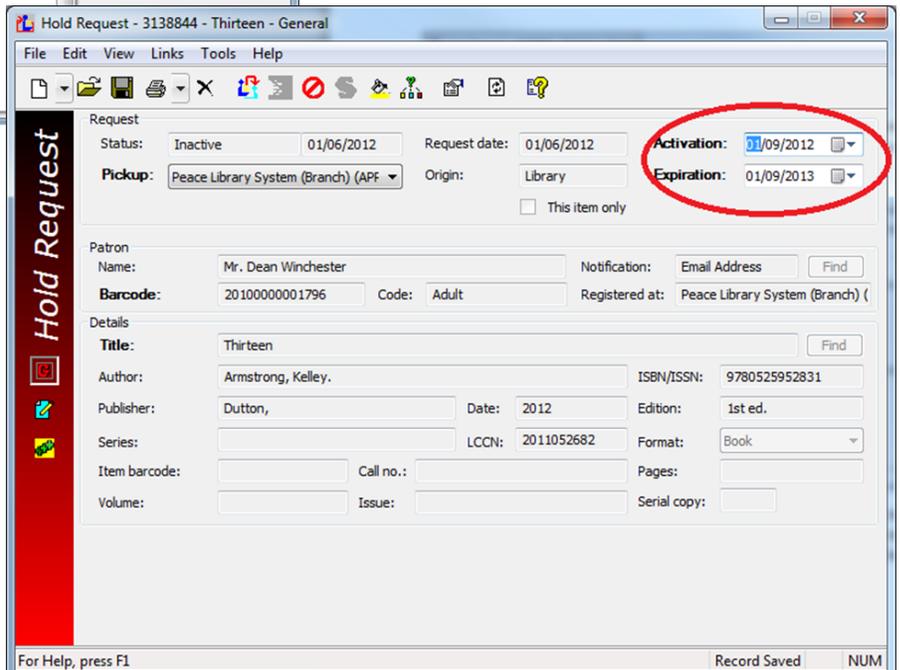


You are now in the **Hold Request** screen.

To change the pick up location, just click on the pickup location box and you should get the full list of all libraries in TRAC. Scroll down and pick whichever library the patron would prefer and remember to save.



You can also **suspend or reactivate a hold** for a patron. In the upper right hand corner of the Hold Request screen, you will see the activation and expiration dates for that particular hold request. To suspend the hold, just change the activation date to whenever the patron would like. In this example on the right, the date has been changed to September 1, 2012 to suspend the hold. When the hold request activates on that date, Polaris will process it as normal. If you have a patron with a suspended hold that they would like activated, just change the date to today. Remember to save after adjusting the activation or expiration dates.





From the IT Desk

By Janet Ayles, IT Services Manager, PLS



Polaris 4.1

Yes, Polaris 4.1 is coming. Although we had originally scheduled this for June 11, 2012, there were some bumps in the road and we've had to delay the launch. Right now, we are tentatively scheduling the upgrade for the fall (we're expecting November but are still waiting on a firm date). We should still be able to get the new version for our training server sometime this month. That will give us a few months to work out all the kinks and have everything ready to go in the fall.

Polaris Manuals and Documentation

I was out to a library recently and discovered that they had user guides for Polaris 3.3, which dates back to 2008. How many libraries still have these binders? From what I understand, these were sent out when TRAC first launched Polaris a few years ago. I have to caution you, these are very outdated. I will make the documentation for 4.1 available once we perform the upgrade in the fall. In the meantime, if you are looking for more recent information, please let me know via the helpdesk at helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

Summer Hours

Summer is coming and with it lots of vacations and other changes to hours. If your hours are changing, either for the summer as a whole or even just a few weeks, please don't

forget to let me know! It's important to make sure that the information in Polaris is up to date. When you let me know about the changes to your library hours, please also tell me how long those hours are expected to last – for the summer, indefinitely, anything along those lines.

Equipment Orders

In order to keep all of our info for library purchases in one place, we are asking that libraries submit their requests for purchase (printers, computers, etc.) through the helpdesk. The helpdesk provides a central location where we can keep important pieces of information along the purchasing process as well as communicate directly with the libraries. Requests can be entered at <http://help.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/> or an email can be sent to helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

Don't forget that other technical problems or questions can be sent through to the helpdesk as well!

Summer Student

We've hired a summer student for the IT Department. **Alex von Tisenhausen** started with us on May 14th and will be here until August 17th. He has just finished his first year in the Digital Media and Information Technologies program at NAIT. Alex will be helping out with network projects, workstation setup, and troubleshooting for the libraries.



On the Horizon: Email Migration

By Ryan Goff, Network Analyst, PLS



The PLS IT department is currently working towards an email system migration for the end of June. Gone will be the days of TownLife and their webmail system, replaced by the corporate workhorse **Microsoft Outlook Exchange** system. Moving to Exchange will provide larger mailboxes for staff, real-time email, no password prompts in Outlook, mobile phone support, and custom address lists, just to name a few features, while still supporting a web interface to allow for on the go email anywhere in the world. Best of all, it will be the last email migration we make for the foreseeable future.

With moving to a new system, there are always challenges, in particular learning a new software. However, PLS has been working hard on creating documentation for both Outlook and webmail to assist with getting library staff up to speed quickly. Everything can be found on the PLS website at www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca under **Technology -> Email Help**. During the initial switch users will be required to use webmail interface until we have Outlook properly setup on the workstations. Hopefully this changeover can be done within a few days of the initial migration. We will also encourage using the **help desk** if you have any questions that were not covered in the website tutorials. We are very excited for this transition, and hope you are, too. If you have any questions either before, during, or after, please don't hesitate to contact the PLS IT department.

PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM

Home
About PLS
Public Libraries
School Libraries
Polaris
Technology

- Computer Maintenance
- Barcode Scanners
- Computer Training
- Email Help
- Email Tips
- Technology Planning
- Website Help

Events
 Photo Gallery
 Member Directory
 Documents

Outlook 2007 Help:

- [Adding a desktop shortcut](#)
- [Creating an email signature](#)
- [Creating a new message](#)
- [Replying to and forwarding messages](#)
- [Creating a contact](#)
- [Creating a distribution list](#)
- [Creating folders and organizing Emails](#)
- [Opening the Calendar](#)
- [Switching calendar views](#)
- [Adding appointments](#)

Outlook Web App Help:

- [Logging in](#)
- [Creating a new message](#)
- [Using the calendar](#)

Library Snapshot Day - A Day in the Life of a Library

By Katherine Wiebe, Consulting Services Manager, PLS



For the first time last year, from October 3 – 9, 2011, many libraries around the province chose one day to participate in *Library Snapshot Day* where they agreed to collect information, comments, stories and photographs to get a "snapshot" of a typical library day. Events and programs were held on the day, publicity drew people in, and the media was invited to report on the fun. At the end of the week, each participating library system pooled the data from its libraries in order to demonstrate to community leaders, residents, and councils the strength and value of public library service in the region. You can have a look at the pictures on Flickr at www.flickr.com/groups/albertasnapshotday2011.

This year, Peace Library System libraries have the opportunity to participate. Each library may decide individually whether to participate, although we'd like to encourage as many as possible to give it a go. PLS will pool all the data gathered to present a picture of a day in the life of our libraries! Capture your public's experience of the library!

So that libraries gather similar information, helpful templates have been created. Take a moment and have a look at the *Snapshot Day* wiki chinookarchsnapshotday.pbworks.com including How To and Promotion, some easy forms to help collect data, comments cards for patrons, photo release forms, quick instructions on how you'll be able to add your library's *Snapshot Day* photos to the Flickr group, and creative ways to use the results that you gather.

An added benefit of participating in 2012 will be the pooling of data from all the participating regions of Alberta to present a provincial day in the life of a library. Chinook Arch Regional Library System will tabulate the results for the province.

Please let **Katherine Wiebe** know if your library is interested in participating in *Snapshot Day 2012*. We will make sure to update you as new information comes out; particularly as to the exact dates for this October, once they have been set.

kwiebe@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca
(780) 538-4656; or 1-800-422-6875.

The real benefit of Snapshot Day has been the local press coverage and excitement generated at libraries. Snapshot Day has helped to raise library awareness in the region overall.

(Parkland Regional Library, 2011)

Slave Lake Library Board Chair Wins President's Award

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

Marilyn Cavanagh, Chair of the **Slave Lake Regional Library Board**, was presented with the 2012 President's Award from the **Library Association of Alberta**, in April at the 2012 Alberta Library Conference in Jasper. This award is presented to the individual who has made a major impact on a province-wide basis in the library field in Alberta. This is the first time since 1993 that the President's Award has been presented to a trustee.

Pat Sandercock, President of the Library Association of Alberta, states that "Marilyn's personal and professional reflections on the town's loss [of the public library] have not only inspired Canadians to donate books, money, and time toward the rebuilding of the library, but they have also inspired a collective reflection on the importance of libraries to all communities, and the impact that the loss of a library can have."

The **Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library** is so very proud of Marilyn's achievement, and thinks it is well deserved, since Marilyn has worked very hard to establish a temporary library in Slave Lake at the Lakeland Centre, and to plan for the new library in the rebuilt Government Centre.

Right: Marilyn Cavanagh with 2012 President's Award from the Library Association of Alberta at the Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library



From the Information Desk

By Pam Chislett, Deputy Director, Grande Prairie Public Library



2011 saw the first year that the **Grande Prairie Public Library** operated under the 2011-2014 Strategic Plan. We used the process recommended by the Library Services Branch community consultation, service roles, goals and objectives. As we were one of the first Alberta public libraries to use the process, I thought sharing our experience might be interesting.

We were very pleased that our Strategic Plan was well received by our Board, our Community, the Public Library Services Branch and our staff. We worked very hard to set goals and objectives that were measurable, related to our service roles and provided the staff with specific areas to work on and develop.

2011 was primarily a year of measuring and establishing base marks. Not all of the goals and objectives had developed processes for measuring. These were to be developed in 2011 for use in 2012 and beyond. Also during 2011, there were some adjustments to the measuring instruments to more clearly reflect the objective.

A specific difference the Strategic Plan made was a directed focus on a development of partnerships in the community. We had shifted the job description of an Adult Services Librarian to be called a Community Services Librarian. The role is still in its infancy but the first year of the Strategic Plan gave the organization and the specific staff member a detailed objective. As a result, partnerships were investigated; forms and process for partnerships were developed and three formal partnerships were signed.

An outgrowth from these partnerships, were programs complementing these partnerships and shared program sponsoring. The programs often filled two objectives of the Strategic Plan, i.e. programs of *cultural diversity* also fulfilled a *lifelong learning* objective. The synergy provided by the partnerships reached across departments in the Library: Adult Services worked with the Children's department on developing programs and relationships. The objectives not only directed the staff towards specific directions, but also created an environment for the staff to be creative and step outside the previous norms.

Another specific outcome of the Strategic Plan was its effect on our personnel evaluations and specific goal setting for individual staff members. It became much easier to create **SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-based)** goals for each staff member as they could relate to the Strategic Plan for inspiration and direction. This was an unexpected outcome of the process.

It became obvious when reviewing the objectives and the measures achieved, that they have to be evaluated over the three year period of the Strategic Plan. In some aspects, we surpassed our objective dramatically. For these, only time will tell if the rate of achievement will be sustained or if it will level off. For our Library we also have to remember that our activity is still reaching a stabilization point. We moved into a new facility in June 2009. This was followed by a period of incredible growth. There has been a leveling off but it is possible our "new normal" has not been reached yet. Thus it is difficult to assess what our level of growth should be. By the next Strategic Plan cycle, this "new normal" should be known.

Some of the tools that were developed for measuring objectives were as simple as adding some categories to the reference tally sheet reflecting how many times our staff assisted patrons with the OPAC (TRACpac) online databases and online tools. This statistic can be used towards measuring the Service role of *Understand How to Find, Evaluate, and Use Information: Information Fluency*.

There were some tweaks made to the statistical record keeping for children's programs in terms of parents' responses and activities as a result of specific programs.

To assess the timeliness for patrons receiving items, we did a survey where we inserted a questionnaire in every item received via TRAC holds or VDX holds for a period of 3 weeks. We had a terrific response and are now able to report that over 85% of materials requested are received within 7 days. But more importantly, we are able to report that over 95% of our patrons are very satisfied with the speed of delivery. This survey will be delivered on an annual basis.

So the end result is that 2011 saw the development, refinement and tallying of the tools and figures to measure the Library's actions relating to the Strategic Plan. 2012 will be a year to gather the figures and use the tools developed during 2011 to measure the activities that are a result of the objectives. Changes for 2011 in our Library's activities ranged from dramatic to small tweaks but all were directed by the Strategic Plan. It has been an interesting experience to work under the new "structure".

Surprisingly, it has not been restrictive but rather has provided an environment for creativity and growth. Having defined goals shared by all made the focus simple and allowed the stretch of mental processes to achieve those goals. Inter-departmental relationships have grown as well as relationships with organizations outside of the Library.

Resources for Strategic Planning:

Is your strategic plan due soon and you don't know where to start?

- The Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) website at www.albertalibraries.ca/plan-of-service offers a wide variety of resources, including planning toolkit, who to contact for help, examples of plans of service (including GPPL's) and templates of work forms and meeting agendas.
- Borrow Sandra S. Nelson's book, **Strategic Planning for Results**. Many of the PLSB's suggested best practices for strategic planning are based on the book, which is available in TRACpac.
- Contact **Carol Downing** or **Katherine Wiebe** at Peace Library System headquarters. They offer a workshop to assist member libraries with how to do a plan of service.

Around the System



Two little leprechauns munching on shamrock cookies



Children showing off the leprechaun traps they made

On Friday, March 16, **McLennan Municipal Library** held a "Be Seen in Green" St. Patrick's Day Party. Thirty three adults and sixteen children attended, enjoying shamrock cookies, green tea and green lime juice. Storytime was held, and the children then made leprechaun traps. All children received a goody bag, and the winner of the "Guess the Number of Leprechauns" contest gift certificate was Cameron Delaurier of McLennan.

Submitted by **Maureen Fisher**, Library Manager



Children enjoy storytime at the **Hythe Municipal Library** on May 22, as part of the **Beyond the Books for Children** program for ages two and a half to six. The group, in partnership with FCSS, meets once a week for an hour for rhymes, songs and stories. A free book is given to every family.

Submitted by **Joyce Cooper**, Chair, Hythe Municipal Library Board



On March 16th, **Woking Municipal Library** held its official grand opening. The library, which is part of **Saddle Hills County**, first opened its doors on December 17, 2011 and is located within the Woking School. **Bonanza Municipal Library**, also operated by the Saddle Hills County Library Board, opened on December 17th as well, and held its official grand opening on March 17th. Bonanza Municipal Library is located within Bonanza School.

Above: A Woking student cuts the ribbon held by **Sheldon Rowe**, Superintendent, Peace Wapiti School Division (left) and **Tim Stone**, Reeve, Saddle Hills County (right). Saddle Hills County Library Board Chair **Cindy Clarke** and MLA **Hector Goudreau** look on.

Amanda Vance from **Dixonville Community Library** has left us to go to college. She has been with us since we opened the library and she will be missed. We had a farewell cake and coffee on her last day, Saturday May 26th. **Pauline Evans** is our new Assistant Librarian. She is bringing a cheerful attitude and a fresh perspective to our library.

*Submitted by **Geraldine Kristensen**, Library Manager*



Above: A student at **Bonanza Municipal Library** receives a prize from author **Karen Autio**. Karen toured the central Peace region from April 16 - 19 as part of PLS' spring author tours. In total, she gave 12 presentations at schools & public libraries to nearly 600 participants.

*Photo submitted by **Michele Kettles**, Library Manager*



Left: Students at **Kinuso Municipal Library** gather around as author **Dave Glaze** shows them his novel, *Pelly*. Dave toured the eastern region from May 14 to 17 as part of the spring author tours. In total, Dave gave eight presentations at seven schools and public libraries, speaking to over 250 participants.

March 15, **Fox Creek Municipal Library** held its second **Family Games Night** - a great success with 250 turning out, about 100 more than last year. Lots of kids, moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas. Games were varied: none were electronic, some were locally made, like the 8 foot Rebound game, the huge Crokinole board and the giant Dominoes. Along with Double Twister, Limbo, Headbandz, Pop-Up Pirate, Uno Moo, Bowling, Connect 4 and Launchers, Elefun, Bean Bag Toss, Hoppin' Poppin' Spaceballs, Hungry Hippos, Scrabble Upwards and Scrabble Slam.

The hot chocolate and cookies table was kept busy, as was the prize table. Winners enjoyed candy treats, pencils and other various items but none were as popular as the ring pops. Besides the library staff, helping to supervise were members of our local youth group and ladies from Early Literacy and our CHAMPS team from the school. A great time was had by all. What a way to end a long winter!

*Submitted by **Leslie Ann Sharkey**, Library Manager*



High Prairie Municipal Library Challenges Grade 5s to Read

Submitted by Janet Lemay, Library Manager, High Prairie Municipal Library

The **High Prairie Municipal Library** held their fourth annual **Grade 5 Reading Challenge** in March. Our aim is to select a book written by an Albertan first, and if not an Albertan, then we go Canadian. The challenge is for the grade 5s in both the **High Prairie Elementary School** and **St. Andrew's RC School** to read the book, be quizzed at the school level and then three students from each school come to the Library to face-off. Our game is similar to "Jeopardy" and a little like "Who wants to be a Millionaire". We have an MC and judges. Our questions are set out like "Jeopardy" with questions from different chapters worth from 1 – 4 points. The students are able to ask "a librarian," "a teacher" or "a friend" for assistance (one time). The three students from each school receive a t-shirt and a medal. The winners of the challenge receive a copy of the book, free passes to the theatre and a trophy that remains at the school for the year.



The MC asking a question



Books we have used include *Klutzhood* by Chris McMahan, *Frozen brains* by Marty Chan, *Radio Fifth Grade* by Gordon Korman and this year was *Barnabas Bigfoot: A Close Shave* by **Marty Chan**. We have received autographed books or bookplates from the authors for prizes. We have asked Marty Chan both times to be our MC but unfortunately he has been busy. This year though, Mr. Chan Skyped with the students in each school which was a real thrill for them.

An example of the game board from a previous year



Winners of the 2012 Grade 5 reading Challenge

All the grade 5s come to cheer their classmates on. The event lasts for about 2 hours. There is a lot of work in prepping but we have had great compliments on the event. The teachers seem to be excited and very willing to take part in it.



This spring, Peace Library System's Community Initiatives Program (CIP) grant application for matching funding for a much needed new delivery vehicle was approved. On March 9, **MLA Wayne Drysdale** presented a cheque to Linda for \$18,252 on behalf of the **Honorable Heather Klimchuk**, then Minister of Culture and Community Services.

At the Annual General Meeting for the Peace Library Board on May 26, Representative **Darcie Acton** from the **MD of Lesser Slave River** presented a plaque and flowers to Peace Library System in gratitude for all the work over the past year in assisting with the rebuilding of the Slave Lake library. Pictured below from left to right: **Veronica Bliska**, Chair, Peace Library Board; **Linda Duplessis**, Director; and **Darcie Acton**.



Elaine Garrow, Councillor for the **MD of Spirit River** and Peace Library Board Member, is now the Area One representative for the **Alberta Library Trustees' Association**.

Slave Lake Hosts “Hope is in Our Hands” Book Reading

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



The *Hope is in Our Hands* team, left to right: Katie Bickell, author; Jim Meldrum, Slave Lake Firefighter’s Society rep; and Jackie Potts, designer.

The **Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library** was delighted that author **Katie Bickell**, along with designer **Jackie Potts**, and Slave Lake Firefighter’s Society representative **Jim Meldrum** read from *Hope is in Our Hands* on Wednesday, May 16th during the One Year Stronger Commemorative Week.

This is an uplifting children’s story about Slave Lake and the wildfires, commissioned by the Slave Lake Firefighter’s Society. The inspiration for the title and the book was a mural done by the students at **C.J. Schurter Elementary School**, with the help of students from **Roland Michener**, after the 2011 Wildfire.

A copy of the book was provided to all Slave Lake students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 and the local libraries. There were book sales and a book signing before and after the presentation.



A young patron at the book reading, modeling her *Hope is in Our Hands* t-shirt.



Hope is in Our Hands mural at C.J. Schurter Elementary School, Slave Lake

Grande Prairie Public Library Wins Mango Mania Contest



At the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper this April, **Grande Prairie Public Library** was revealed as the winner of the province-wide **Mango Mania** contest! Led by Adult Services Librarian **Jackie Xie** and Youth Services Librarian **Hayley Dolman**, GPPL rose to the challenge of developing and implementing a promotional plan for Mango that used creativity to engage both the staff and the community in describing and demonstrating the benefits of Mango.

For their efforts, GPPL received a Samsung Galaxy 10.1 tablet, a Logitech headset with microphone and a set of Lonely Planet travel guide books.

Left: **Sharon Lowe** and **Hayley Dolman** prepare to show how Mango can even teach you how to speak pirate!

Peace Library Board Members Recognized for Long Service

At the meeting on March 17th in Peace River, five Board members were recognized and thanked for their long service. Peace Library Board Vice-Chair **Ray Skrepnek** (MD of Fairview) presented each with a certificate of appreciation.



Anton Prybysh, Town of Fairview
5 Years of Service



Bonnie Bigam, Clear Hills County
5 Years of Service



Valerie Forsythe, Village of Berwyn
5 Years of Service



Lorrie Shelp, MD of Big Lakes
20 Years of Service



Philippa O'Mahony, Town of McLennan
25 Years of Service



“How do those TAL cards work again?”

Reprinted and adapted with permission from Parkland Regional Library, Quatrefoil, Spring 2012

Here's the whole scoop:

1. For most member libraries, the TRAC library card is also a TAL card, with spaces for other libraries to affix barcodes.
2. Member library patrons can take their library card to almost any other library in Alberta, where they can get a barcode for that library that will let them borrow items (for free). The first time they visit that library, they will usually need to present picture ID to obtain the barcode. If someone comes to your library and wishes to use their TAL card, please create a patron record for them using the patron code “TAL Cardholder” in Polaris.
3. Participating libraries include all regional library systems, the public libraries in Edmonton, Calgary, and Red Deer, many post-secondary libraries, and others.*
4. All participating libraries will let TAL patrons borrow up to five books at a time. Some (such as Red Deer) will also allow patrons to borrow other formats such as DVDs. Some may also allow more than five items to be checked out.
5. Be sure to include an expiry date on the patron's library card when issuing it to a patron (or renewing it) as some libraries won't issue a TAL barcode if an expiry date is not present on the patron's “home” library card.
6. Patrons can return borrowed items to any participating library; the items will then be forwarded to the owning library, and when they are checked in, the “date returned” will be backdated to the day the patron actually returned the items. This is why, when your library is returning a TAL item to the owning library, you need to write the “date returned” on a TAL Return Flag and include it with the item. (Need more TAL Return Flags? Contact PLS Headquarters)
7. Patrons should be aware that they are responsible for paying any overdue fines charged by the lending library (even if their “home” library does not charge such fines), and are responsible for lost/damaged items.
8. If a TAL patron loses or damages a book belonging to your library, and will not pay the replacement cost, submit a reimbursement form to TAL. The form is available at: www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/forms.html.

- This card must be presented each time materials are borrowed.
- Loss of this card or change of address must be reported.
- Privileges extended with this card may be revoked for cause.
- This card is not transferable.

I agree to be responsible for all materials borrowed on this card and to abide by the rules and regulations of the libraries where I use this card.

Name _____

Issuing Library _____

Signature _____

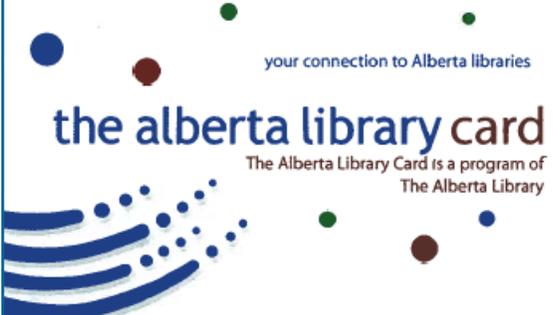
Expiry Date _____



MARIGOLD LIBRARY SYSTEM
NORTHERN LIGHTS LIBRARY SYSTEM
PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM
YELLOWHEAD REGIONAL LIBRARY

VISIT US AT WWW.TRACPAC.AB.CA

ISSUING LIBRARY _____



the alberta library card

The Alberta Library Card is a program of
The Alberta Library

*Check out the complete list of TAL card participating libraries at:
www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/services/talcard/libraries.html

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*.

Connect with Peace Library System!

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 pinterest.com/peacelibrarysys



www.rurallibrariesconference.com

Registration is now open! Register by July 31 to be entered in our early bird prize draw!

Upcoming Events



PLS Executive Committee Meeting

Fairview, AB
August 25, 2012

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



Peace Porridge: A Great Way to Start Your Day!



Welcome to **Peace Porridge**, a blog developed by **Peace Library System**. Here you'll find lots of ideas for services, programming and resources for your patrons, as well as other interesting and helpful tidbits to help motivate and inspire you in your day to day library functions.

We encourage you to share your thoughts, experiences and ideas by commenting on the posts!

Craving some information? Start reading the [blog...](#)

www.peaceporridge.com



PLS' official website:

www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca

Peace Library System wishes **Rae Weniger**, our library clerk and receptionist, a speedy recovery as she heals from shoulder surgery. Rae is expected to return to work on July 18th.



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

Local Fall Author Tour (Robert Feagan)

October 22 - 25, 2012

PLS Executive Committee Meeting

Location to be announce
October 27, 2012

PLS Board Meeting

Grande Prairie, AB
November 24, 2012