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## Ryan Goff Says Goodbye to PLS



**Ryan Goff**, PLS' Network Analyst, finished on February 25th and began his new position as Network Consultant on March 1st with **ACSI**, our network support partners. Ryan may very well be the person we get on the telephone when we call for network support! During the last several months, Ryan worked closely with ACSI as PLS upgraded the network and rolled out the new client management software (SCCM).

Ryan began his career at PLS two and half years ago. His first day on the job was during RLC 2008, well before **Polaris** implementation. His calm demeanour, exemplary customer service skills, excellent technical knowledge and sense of humour made him a valuable member of the PLS team and he will be missed. Congratulations to Ryan from all PLS staff!

Ryan is an amazing person, and I for one am going to miss his personality, knowledge and easy going attitude. He has always been there for us and has helped us out of many binds, some probably not worthy of his time, but he always made us feel like they were.

We wish Ryan many successes in his life and hope that this endeavour proves worthy of him. We hope he stays in touch as good people are few and far between, and Ryan is definitely a very, very good person....Happy Trails dear friend.

From **Shelly Longson** at **Beaverlodge Public Library**

Goodbye, BCNE!!!! (best computer nerd ever!!!!)

You will never have another friend like Shannon Library... who else makes sure that snacks are ready for you? Who else has the best gossip? Who else lets you treat them like a lab rat for experimentation? YOU ARE SOOOO GONNA MISS US... but not near as much as we will miss you and your irreverent grasp of the ridiculous. We won't say good bye...

See you around,  
**Sheryl, Kathy and Darcy** at **Shannon Municipal Library**

Good-Bye Ryan!

I would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to Ryan for all he has done for all of us during his time with Peace Library System, and to wish him well in his new position. We will miss you!

On a personal note, Ryan had a lot to deal with when trying to help those of us who's libraries are housed in schools. Having to deal with School Divisions and their policies is not easy at the best of times, but Ryan was able to "convince" Division Techs to do things PLS way! For that alone Ryan, you deserve a medal!

I appreciate the way Ryan was always available and friendly no matter how busy he was ...there was never a snarl or a cryptic comment.

So Ryan, good-bye and good luck and again, thank you.

From **Colleen Rook** at **Worsley & District Library Society**

Ryan, your Zen-like calmness in the face of computer issues makes me think of this:

Chaos reigns within.  
Reflect, repent, and reboot.  
Order shall return.  
(~Suzie Wagner, 1998)

But really, we all know:  
There is only one satisfying way to boot a computer.  
(~J.H. Goldfuss)

All the best in your new position.

From **Karen Bass** at **Hythe Municipal Library**

Ryan, the staff at **Valleyview** will really miss you and we appreciate all the help you've given us...Don't forget to give us your new phone # so we can keep calling you for advice! Best of luck in your new job!

We are really going to miss you, you have been great, and very patient. We wish you all the best in your next endeavour.

From **Gail Perry** and the staff at **Valhalla Community Library**

Of all the Computer Techs we've had come and go, You are one of the best to get to know.  
Please take with your heart,  
Because you are smart,  
We are sure your dreams will line up in a row!

From **The MD of Opportunity Libraries**

I'll miss your endless patience and support. Thank you for everything. Good luck!

From **Bailey** at **Red Earth Public Library**

## From the Director

By Linda Duplessis, Director, PLS



In 2011, Peace Library System is looking forward to providing continued support for libraries in the areas of collection development, technology, marketing and programs, as per our Plan of Service. We're also looking forward to times of celebration as we mark another milestone.

### Let's Celebrate: PLS is 25 Years Old!

This is just a "heads up" that it's Peace Library System's **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary** in 2011. Watch for news and announcements over the next months, but mark your calendar now for a big celebration on **Wednesday, September 21**, the evening prior to the **Rural Libraries Conference**. We're also planning some regional events such as a "25 Best Books" contest which will culminate during **Library Month**. More details on this and other activities will be forthcoming.

### Language Learning Software

**The Alberta Library (TAL)** will no longer be subsidizing **Auralog's Tell Me More** language learning software after April, 2011. Peace Library System did not have this information prior to setting its 2011 budget so will be looking at options to keep this service in place. We'll keep you posted.

### On the Road...Again

I have almost completed the remaining six meetings with library boards to provide a PLS update and discuss technology planning. In order to update Councils and orient new Councilors regarding library system services, I have scheduled 25 Council presentations between March and September. We will make libraries aware of the meeting dates and so that you can join us as we promote library services to Councils.

*I was the kind of kid whose parents would drop him off at the local town library on their way to work, and I'd go and work my way through the children's area.*

- Neil Gaiman, author

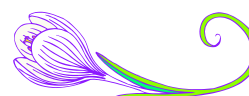
## System News Bits



- ◆ **Alison Butler** has left the position of library manager at **Rainbow Lake Municipal Library**. The new library manager is **Chloe Almberg**.
- ◆ **Tracy Wanuch** is the new library manager at **Paddle Prairie Public Library**.
- ◆ **Lesley Spry-Shandro** has left the position of library manager at **Manning Municipal Library** to move with her family to **Grande Cache, AB**. The library remains open while they seek a new library manager. See page 13 for an update from Lesley.
- ◆ **Alison Wiebe** has been hired as the library manager for **Savanna Municipal Library**.
- ◆ **Sharon Hughes** has left the position of library manager at **Tangent Community Library**. The library will remain closed until the position is filled.
- ◆ In December, **Philippa O'Mahony** lost her husband, **John**, in a tragic vehicle accident. Philippa is the PLS representative from **McLennan** and on behalf of Peace Library System we extend our sincerest condolences to her and her family.



Above: Former PLS Board Chair **Rennie Cauchie** and Saddle Hills representative **Cindy Clarke** pose with a cake to celebrate **Saddle Hills County** joining Peace Library System.



# Storytime Kits are Fun for Everyone!

By Rae Weniger, Receptionist, PLS

Ho hum, another day at the desk and phone! ..... NO wait – here's an email request for a **storytime kit**! Yippee...some excellent books (one of my favorite reading levels) and a couple of bins of fuzzy creatures. I check off each item, and sometimes put on a puppet, and glance at a book...and I dream about the happy storytime events that will soon be held at the library where the kit is headed. Then I seal up the bins and send them with **Cliff** or **Wendy** by van, courier or mail for a three month loan.



Here's the list of kits you can borrow:

- Bears
- Big Machines and Construction (books only)
- Bugs and Insects
- Cat tales (my personal favorite)
- Christmas and Other Lands
- Circus
- Dinosaurs
- Fall and Thanksgiving
- Fairytales and Tall Tales
- Farm Animals
- Folktales
- Métis and First Nations
- Oceans
- Pets Kit #1 (1 bin)
- Pets Kit #2 (2 bins)
- Pirates
- Polar Regions: Animals and Folktales
- Safari Kit #1
- Safari Kit #2
- Space
- Spring, Summer and Easter
- Winter and Valentine's

And here's the introductory note that explains the contents:

Welcome! We hope this Storytime Kit will make your storytime easier by having everything you need right at hand, and we hope the children find this kit enjoyable as well.

In this kit you will find books, craft ideas, songs, rhymes, and puppets. To make things as simple as possible, in this resource book there is a craft and song or rhyme designated for each book. So all you have to do is choose a book, and the rest is done for you. Of course, many of the crafts, songs and rhymes are interchangeable between different books. So feel free to swap things around a bit if the book and craft you want to use are not paired together in this resource book. Or if a book is paired with a song, and you would rather not sing, just substitute with a rhyme designated for another story!

The puppets have not been specifically designated for particular books. Many were chosen with a certain book in mind, but use them however you feel they will best enhance your storytime. Just read through your chosen book ahead of time, and select whichever puppets you would like for that story. We do encourage letting the children handle the puppets, perhaps letting them take turns acting out the characters with the puppets while the story is read. Please be advised that there are not puppets for every character in each book, and some books will use a lot more puppets than others. As well, the books and puppets that are packed in the same box do not necessarily go together, as they are packed randomly.

This resource book also contains an action song that can be used to start off storytime, instructions on how to make a sock puppet a list of contents and replacement costs, a place for sharing ideas, and an evaluation form to tell us what you think of this kit. We welcome the ideas and opinions of the hard-working library staff who entertain and educate children with storytimes every week.

**To borrow a kit:** email Rae @ [rwenger@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:rwenger@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca) or phone Rae @ (780) 538-4656 or 1-800-422-6875. Here's the web site link: <http://www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/document/show/2366>.

Come on library and program managers....make my day!



## News 'N' Notes

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

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## Rapid Reads Offering More Titles

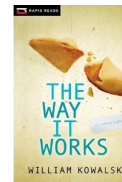
This past fall, Orca's Raven Books have released three new titles in their very popular **Rapid Reads** series, which first debuted in the spring of 2010. The short, well-written stories are designed for reluctant readers, individuals who have difficulty reading and people who are looking for a quality quick read.

An additional five books (including the first two non-fiction titles) are expected to be released in the spring of 2011. For more information about the books please visit <http://rapidreads.ca>.



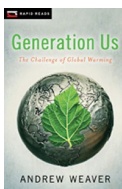
### New fall 2010 titles:

- **One Fine Day You're Gonna Die** by Gail Bowen
- **That Dog Won't Hunt** by Lou Allin
- **The Way it Works** by William Kowalski



### New spring 2011 fiction titles:

- **And Everything Nice** by Kim Moritsugu (available March 1)
- **The Fall Guy** by Barbara Fradkin (available April 1)
- **The Second Wife** by Brenda Chapman (available March 1)



### New spring non-fiction titles available April 1, 2011:

- **Generation Us: The Challenge of Global Warming** by Andrew Weaver
- **Ortona Street Fight** by Mark Zuehlke (Canadian World War II history)



## Peace Library System Author Tours

In order to better accommodate the increased number of member public libraries, Peace Library System has reorganized the author tours. Previously, three tours were held in the fall, and one tour in the spring. However, two tours will now be taking place in the spring, and two in the fall.

### Spring tours

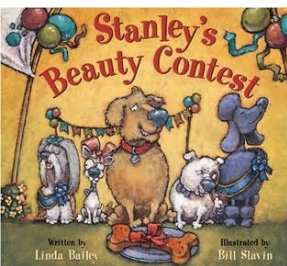
**Central:** Berwyn, Bonanza, Fairview, Grimshaw, Hines Creek, Menno-Simons, Rycroft, Savanna, Spirit River, Woking and Worsley

**Eastern:** Calling Lake, Flatbush, High Prairie, Kinuso, Red Earth, Slave Lake, Smith and Wabasca

### Fall tours

**Northern:** Dixonville, Eaglesham, Falher, High Level, Keg River, Manning, McLennan, Nampa, Paddle Prairie, Peace River and Rainbow Lake

**Local:** Beaverlodge, DeBolt, Elmworth, Fox Creek, Grande Prairie, Hythe, La Glace, Sexsmith, Valhalla, Valleyview and Wembley



For **spring 2011**, Peace Library System is excited to be bringing in **Linda Bailey** for the central tour and **Dave Glaze** for the eastern tour. Linda is the author of the popular **Stanley** picture book series. Dave, who has toured the Peace region previously, is known for his **Mackenzie Davis Files** series and the **Pelly** books.





## Alberta Multilingual Book Consortium

Did you know that your library has access to books in 34 different languages? All TRAC member public libraries are eligible to use the **Alberta Multilingual Book Consortium** (AMBC) to bring in foreign language book blocks for their patrons to use.

Each block consists of 25 books at either a juvenile or adult reading level, and can be kept for up to six months. Requests for blocks can be placed as often as they are needed, but please note they are subject to supply and demand and since the collection is not catalogued, specific title and/or author requests cannot be satisfied. The books are to circulate according to established circulation procedures, which are outlined in instructions that will accompany the block.



To request a block, or to learn more about the AMBC service, which is managed by **Parkland Regional Library** on behalf of TRAC, please visit <http://www.prl.ab.ca/AMBC>. Posters created by **Marigold Library System** to help advertise multilingual books to your patrons are also available at <http://www.prl.ab.ca/AMBCmarketing>.

### Languages available:

Albanian	Farsi	Hungarian	Serbian
Arabic	Filipino	Italian	Spanish
Bosnian	Finnish	Japanese	Slovak
Chinese	German	Korean	Swedish
Cree	Greek	Norwegian	Ukrainian
Croatian	Gaelic	Polish	Urdu
Czech	Gujarati	Portuguese	Vietnamese
Danish	Hebrew	Punjabi	
Dutch	Hindi	Russian	

French language books are not available through the AMBC service. Peace Library System member libraries are encouraged to visit [www.frenchlrc.ca](http://www.frenchlrc.ca) to learn more about the **French Language Resource Centre** and how they can access French books for their patrons.

**PLS Headquarters** is selling their **Xerox Work Centre C3545 Photocopier**. It is in excellent condition, is only five years old, and has a service contract available through Xerox. The asking price is \$5,500.00 or best offer.

### Also for sale:

10 boxes of tractor feed printer paper - size 9/12 x 11, 20lb, 2700/box. Asking price is \$10.00 per box.

Please call **Alrene** at (780) 538-4656 for more details.



## OverDrive eBooks Now Compatible with iPads

Since the **iPad** was first released in the spring of 2010, many library patrons have been anxiously waiting for the device to be compatible with eBooks.

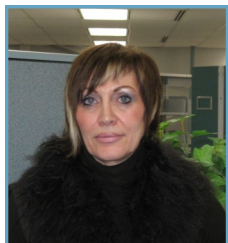
Audiobooks have been available to iPad users from the beginning, but due to restrictions and complications with **digital rights management** (DRM), eBooks were not supported. Digital rights management is a set of parameters determined by the book's publisher which controls what can or cannot be done with the eBook file (for example, how many times it can be downloaded by a user).

However, on February 15th **OverDrive** announced that the wait was over. Digital books in the **EPUB** format are now able to be downloaded on iPad using the free iPad OverDrive application, available through the **iTunes** store.

PLS has created two instructional documents to assist library managers and their patrons with downloading eBooks and audiobooks on the iPad. To download or print off the instructions, please visit the PLS website at: <http://www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/OverDrive>

## Tech Services Tidbits

By Carol Downing, Assistant Director & Tech Services Manager, PLS



Peace Library System was pleased to extend staff contracts in 2011. **Colleen Doerksen** and **Danielle Bendtsen's** contracts have been extended to assist with cataloguing and recon. As well, Danielle helps in the IT department. **Cliff Lesh's** position has been increased to full time to accommodate the increase in interlibrary loan delivery through the PLS van run and to assist in the Acquisitions Department. **Sheri Leeson** was granted a permanent position in the Cataloguing Department and we welcomed **Karen Van der Woerd** in the Acquisitions Department.

The retrospective conversion (cataloguing) of items for **Savanna Municipal Library** is underway with the help of Danielle, Colleen and **Rae Weniger**.

**Wendy Hodges** became a grandma again with the arrival of a bouncing baby girl born to her daughter, **Brandi** - 8 lbs 4 oz. on February 16th. The baby's name is **Lena Marion**.

### Standards and Best Practices Document

The **Standards and Best Practices for Public Libraries** document has been approved by the Department and is posted at <http://www.albertalibraries.ca/standards>. The document outlines information on basic service standards and best practices which allows boards to compare their libraries with libraries of similar sizes. They address equity in delivery of library services, a point of reference for self-evaluation, a framework for future development, support for changes in policy, technology and formats of materials, encourage cooperation, support and guide library boards and staff, inform boards and municipalities, and encourage excellence in library service. The document is broken down into two parts: Part 1 is Standards and Part 2 is Best Practices.

## **BetterWorldBooks® Library Discards and Donations Program**

The **Better World Books Library Discards and Donations Program** is a unique and potentially profitable way for your library to discard unwanted books. Participating libraries use the easy online RUFIS pre-screen tool to determine if the book is suitable to send in, then ship the chosen books free of charge to Better World Books. The organization then puts the books up for sale on over 20 different online marketplaces to generate funding for the libraries. In turn, libraries receive a quarterly commission for their books that are sold during that period. There are also no contracts or service agreements for you to sign.

Thus far, the program has raised over \$9 million dollars for libraries and literacy organizations, and accepted over 48 million books to be resold.

To learn more about the program and to download information packet, please visit <http://www.betterworldbooks.com/>.

## Internet Landscape Changing in Canada

By Ryan Goff, former Network Analyst, PLS



Internet usage as we know it could be changing dramatically for Canadians. For years we have enjoyed high bandwidth caps or unlimited access from major ISPs (Internet Service Providers) on flat rate plans. However, **Bell Canada** has approached the **Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission** (CRTC) in attempts to implement usage-based billing (UBB). If Bell has its way, expect the other major ISPs to follow suit shortly thereafter.

Bandwidth caps could drastically alter not only broadband rates, but emerging services that are bandwidth intensive. Take **Netflix** for example. While actual streaming rates in Canada are very good (testing on the Rogers network had delivery rates over 3 MB/second for Netflix), bandwidth caps could quickly kill interest by consumers. Some ISPs have talked about caps as low as 25 GB per month, or roughly 12 HD movies. Overage penalties could inflate prices to well over the cost of viewing a movie in a cinema! On top of that, BitTorrent, ISO downloads, online gaming, and cloud computing all rely heavily on large amounts of bandwidth. Internet creativity and growth could be in jeopardy.

ISPs are making the argument that light users could save with a capped plan versus paying a flat rate. However, heavy users could pay exuberant fees in comparison as overage insurance and per GB rates would send prices skyrocketing. Needless to say, the future of the Internet in Canada could be very grim if the major ISPs have their way.

# Penny for Your Thoughts

By Penny Flower, IT Manager, PLS



## PIP: Purging Inactive Patrons

TRAC policy regarding **inactive patrons** is to purge records for patrons whose registration has been expired for more than two years, and whose fines are less than \$10.00. This process has been completed for all libraries in our region. Any patrons that have lost items have NOT been

deleted at this point in time because Polaris disallows it, and we have yet to determine the appropriate workaround. This purge is designed to help TRAC maintain a clean, FOIP-friendly database, and will occur on an annual basis from now forward.

## Multi-Part Volumes in Polaris

**Volume Control** is a feature in Polaris that allows patrons and staff the option to place hold requests on a single issue of a magazine, a single issue of a multi-part book or a single disc of a multi-part audiovisual item. For multi-part holds to function at its best for patrons, a format for entering volume information has been created to ensure uniformity amongst all the TRAC libraries. You should have received a copy of this by email, but you may also download it from our website at <http://www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/Training-Documents>. Thank-you YRL for the use of this document. Please refer to this document when you are creating item records in Polaris.

PLS will be applying bulk updates to correct the format of data in the volume field for all existing item records. We need to ensure that only volume data is in the volume field. Previously this field also contained copy information. During the cleanup, if your records have copy information in the volume field, we will try to add it to the suffix field (this shows in the find tool, but the copy field does not display in our current version of Polaris). We will contact you if we have difficulties correcting your items records.

Other TRAC regions are well underway with their cleanup of volume data. When ALL regions are done, we will "turn on" the multi-part hold feature in Polaris. Watch for announcements!

## When Your Library Schedules Extra Closed Days

Please remember to let PLS know when your library is scheduled to close extra days by sending an email message to [helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca). It is important that we record these dates in Polaris so that patrons do not accrue overdue fines for these days, and so that hold requests are not routed to your library when you are closed. You should also consider posting a message on your website if you are closing on days that your patrons expect you to be open.

## Polaris Patron Codes

Patron codes in Polaris are set on a TRAC wide basis, but some of the codes are shadowed for different libraries. The table below shows the patron codes that exist in Polaris. If you think that your library should be using one that you do NOT see on your dropdown lists, please let PLS know by sending a written request to our helpdesk at [helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca). Patron codes are used to control access to resources and to calculate fines as below:

- fines are calculated based upon both the patron code and the material type of the item
- overdue limits, hold limits and check-out limits are based upon the patron code
- access to electronic resources is disallowed for TAL Cardholder, ILL Library, Limited Services and Local Library Only patron codes
- DAISY readers are restricted to "Print Disabled"

## Available Patron Codes:

Adult  
College Student  
Enhanced  
Exception  
Family  
Homebound  
Institutional  
ILL Library  
Juvenile  
Library  
Limited Services

Local Library Only  
No Fee  
Preschool  
Print Disabled  
Senior  
Standard  
Staff  
Student  
TAL Cardholder  
Teacher  
Youth

## CAP Orders

All of the **CAP hardware** orders have been received! The total hardware order exceeded \$22,000 and consisted of 25 workstations and various other components. Once Ryan's position has



been filled, we will be able to give an estimate of when the orders will be delivered. This will also mean you'll have a chance to meet the new Network Analyst in person.

**Help me keep track of your requests by using our helpdesk please!**

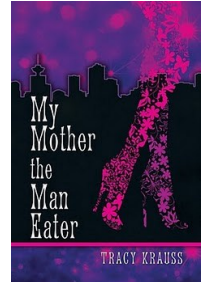




Above: **Grimshaw Municipal Library's** new fireplace in the coffee corner. The fireplace was purchased in memory of long standing board member **Faye Boyle**. Submitted by **Kim Byard**.

## Author to Visit Beaverlodge

Inspirational author **Tracy Krauss**, will be coming to **Beaverlodge Public Library** for a reading on Thursday, **March 24, 2011** at 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be served.



After the reading Ms. Krauss will be selling and signing copies of her books, **And the Beat Goes On**, and the newly released **My Mother the Man-Eater**.

For more information about Tracy and her books, please visit <http://www.tracykrauss.com>.

## Funding Available for Alberta Arts Days 2011



The Government of Alberta is encouraging organizations that will be planning events and activities for the 2011 **Alberta Arts Days** to apply for funding. This year the celebration will run from September 30th to October 2nd. Those that are chosen to be a "Feature Celebration Site" are eligible to receive up to \$20,000. Those that are chosen to be a "Host Celebration Site" will be eligible to receive up to \$5,000. The deadline to apply is **April 20, 2011**. For more information, and to download the application package, please visit <http://www.AlbertaArtsDays.ca>.



The staff of **Grande Prairie Public Library** were all at home sick on **Family Literacy Day**, but fortunately some famous storybook characters were there to fill in. The Paper Bag Princess, Pippi Longstocking, Olivia, Medusa, Madeline, the Cat in the Hat, and many more cool characters made sure that the Library stayed up and running! Visitors to the Library enjoyed games, storytimes, reader's theatre, and puppet shows all day long. Submitted by **Serena Boyte-Hawryluk**.



## From the Information Desk

By Pam Chislett, Deputy Director, Grande Prairie Public Library



A couple of things have happened in the last months that have underlined to me the importance of **local knowledge** and **sources** in the provision of reference services. An online question arrived at our desk one day asking for some local history from the late sixties. My reference staff did a great job of searching our local newspaper index and the **local history** books on Grande Prairie. But, it is very difficult to find information past or present about **local businesses**. And not all libraries have been blessed with a historian like Miss **Isabel Campbell** who indexed all of our newspapers. As it happens, the late sixties have not been indexed but 1913-1960, and essentially 1985-2000, have been indexed. However, most communities have a **local history book** written about them so that is always a good source.

As it happened with this question, the resources that proved to be the most effective were the Grande Prairie City Directory and the Grande Prairie phone book. For the years 1968 to 2000, the **Henderson's Directory** is a great resource for finding information about home addresses and the people who lived at those addresses. The business directory part is a little sparse but, in this case, provided the information that we needed. The down side about the Henderson's is that the company that produced the Directory did not do smaller communities. Another problem is that it is no longer produced for a variety of reasons - the Internet likely being the main reason. But, most communities have phone book listings. I am not sure if all libraries have kept the back issues of their phone books, but hopefully this has been done because much can be found out about a community through the phone book. In my case, with the question posed, it was a combination of using both the City Directory and the phone book that allowed us to provide an answer. The moral of this story is to remember to check both the more commonly thought of reference sources for local history like local indexes, local histories and such but also to check sources that are not commonly thought of as authoritative reference sources - phone books and city directories if they are available.

By the time this column is published I will have completed my officials assignment at the **Canada Winter Games** in **Halifax**. This was a special honour for me as I was the organizer (in skating terms - the Technical Representative) of the 1995 Games that were held in **Grande Prairie**. I have never judged at a Games and have always wanted the opportunity. So, it was with loads of excitement that I headed off to Halifax on February 20th. The tying in with local history and archives arose from a query about the Canada Winter Games in general. Although there are many goals and objectives for the Games, one of them revolves around the thought that through the experience of the Games, elite world and Olympic athletes

would emerge. The Games, being a multi-sport experience mirror the **Olympic Games** in this regard. The Canada Winter Games are also held during the Winter Olympics time frame of two weeks in February. So, in thinking about the athletes that participated in figure skating, I consulted the results of the 1995 event (I was lucky and I still had a copy of the results). Now this was from my personal files and I am not sure where the files would be for other sports or for other years. This points to the problem of storage and access to materials like these. No library has the space to store this information nor the means to make the information accessible. In some communities, arrangements have been made with museums, local archives or local historians to keep the material even though access is sometimes an issue.

In talking with the **South Peace Regional Archives Society** informally about the 1995 Canada Winter Games results, they did not have individual sports results but had many of the materials produced about the Games by the Host Society. The archives of the Games are likely held in Ottawa at the Canada Games Council Headquarters. Because there is an overseeing organization responsible for the Games, it only makes sense that the South Peace Regional Archives keeps the material pertaining to the hosting of the event, while the Canada Games Council keeps track of the results. So, what did I find about tracking down individual sports results in 2011? Not everything is on the Internet. Not everything is held locally. Time is needed to get information as people and organizations are busy. All of these lessons are ones that apply to reference and information in general.

What did I learn about the Games in particular? Well, from my local resource - four athletes who competed in Grande Prairie in figure skating moved on to be part of the international scene with several medals won, including World and Olympic participation. From the Canada Games Council website, I learned from a letter submitted by **Fred Jackson**, editor of the **Cape Breton Post** newspaper, that Canada Games alumni contributed 16 of the 26 medals won by Canadians, representing 61 per cent of the medals for Canada in Vancouver. What will the future hold for those athletes participating in the 2011 Games? Only time will tell.

Both of these examples point to the importance of a connection between the Library and the Community for the past, the present and the future. Whether it is the link, the source or the storage point for information, your library's role is vital to the community you serve and it is the library's responsibility to know as much about your community as possible. Enjoy and embrace the challenge.



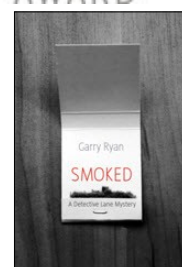
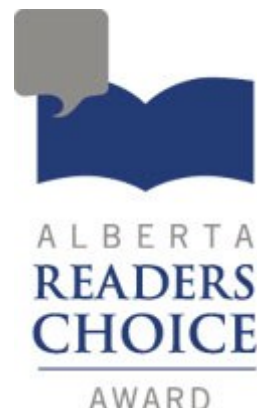
## Alberta Reader's Choice Award Top 10 Titles Revealed

Alberta's librarians have voted, narrowing the original list of 30 contenders down to the top 10 titles for the 2011 **Alberta Reader's Choice Award**. From January to April, noted Albertans are invited to select the shortlist of five titles, which will be announced on May 1, 2011.

Public online voting for the winner of the Alberta Reader's Choice Award will take place from **May 1 to May 31, 2011**. The winner will be announced at the 2011 Alberta Book Awards Gala in Calgary on **June 11th**.

For more information about the award, and to download a promotional poster for your library, please visit: <http://www.albertareaderschoice.ca/>.

- **The Grizzly Manifesto** by Jeff Gailus, Rocky Mountain Books
- **Myth of the Barrens** by Bren Kolson, Eschia Books
- **Prodigal Daughter: A Journey to Byzantium** by Myrna Kostash, U of A Press
- **Too Bad: Sketches Towards a Self-Portrait** by Robert Kroetsch, U of A Press
- **Tangles: A Story About Alzheimer's, My Mother and Me** by Sarah Leavitt, Freehand Books
- **Memory's Daughter** by Alice Major, U of A Press
- **Cinco de Mayo** by Michael J. Martineck, Edge
- **Bitter Medicine** by Clem and Olivier Martini, Freehand Books
- **Smoked: A Detective Lane Mystery** by Garry Ryan, NeWest Press
- **Letters from the Lost: A Memoir of Discovery** by Helen Waldstein Wilkes, AU Press



## CBC Canada Reads Winner Announced



On February 9th, **Terry Fallis'** debut novel and political satire, **The Best Laid Plans**, was declared the winner of CBC's annual Canada Reads book battle. Defended by award winning CNN news Anchor **Ali Velshi**, the book was previously the winner of the 2008 **Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour**.

The McClelland & Stewart website, <http://www.mcclelland.com>, describes the book:

*A burnt-out political aide quits just before an election — but is forced to run a hopeless campaign on the way out. He makes a deal with a crusty old Scot, Angus McIntock — an engineering professor who will do anything, anything, to avoid teaching English to engineers — to let his name stand in the election. No need to campaign, certain to lose, and so on.*

*Then a great scandal blows away his opponent, and to their horror, Angus is elected. He decides to see what good an honest M.P. who doesn't care about being re-elected can do in Parliament. The results are hilarious — and with chess, a hovercraft, and the love of a good woman thrown in, this very funny book has something for everyone.*

In September 2010, Fallis published a follow up novel, **The High Road**, which continues the humorous story of Angus McIntock and his fearless commitment to honesty in Canadian politics.

To learn more about the author, please visit: <http://terryfallis.com/>.

# High Prairie Municipal Library's Disc Repair Machine

*By Angie Caughlin, Assistant Librarian (Interlibrary Loans), High Prairie Municipal Library*

In the fall of 2010 the **High Prairie Municipal Library** purchased a **VenMill OptoClear CD/DVD buffer** and we couldn't be happier with it. For the previous two years we had been using "skins" to protect our new DVDs and, while we had success with them, when we had the opportunity to purchase the buffing machine we jumped at it.

In our interactions with our patrons we found that while many people liked the skins – and wanted to know where they could purchase them for their own collections – we received some legitimate complaints. DVDs with skins are sometimes difficult to remove from slot drive players such as those on some types of laptops and gaming systems. As well, we found that the increased size of the DVDs meant that they would often not fit in their cases properly and this was leading to a greater amount of damage around the center of the DVD.

We began to investigate alternatives to the skins and after some research and price comparison we found a buffer that we felt suited our needs. We looked at the price of the machine, the cost of the buffing liquid and replacement parts as well as ease of use and speed.

Our machine is extremely simple to use and can repair most superficial and many deeper scratches. To repair scratches in a disc, you simply place the disc on the tray, add the anti-static buffing liquid, select the level of buffing you need and away you go. Most scratches can be removed with a single course of the regular buff setting but for deeper scratches you will need to use the deep buff setting. The regular or light buff takes 30 seconds and the deep buff only a minute. This makes it very easy for us to clean a disc during check out and ensure that our patron is actually able to watch the movie.



This particular machine does not leave the scuff marks that some cleaning/repair machines do. The buffing pads need cleaning every fifteen uses but this is no more difficult than cleaning a disc as we were provided with a special metal disc with teeth that bend both left and right. These teeth help to keep the buffing pads clean and fluffy. If we had to think of one thing we don't like about the buffer it would be cleaning the cleaning disc. It's amazing how dirty fifteen discs can be!

We are offering disc buffing to our patrons for the cost of one dollar per disc. We stress to the patrons that we cannot repair all disc damage, merely buff out scratches. One patron brought in a Wii game disc that was not working, we buffed it twice as the scratch was quite deep and she returned the next day with another disc for us to clean. The disc we had done the day before was working perfectly and she was overjoyed, calling it a "miracle worker". She felt that even the chance of fixing the disc was worth her dollar.

We are looking forward to extending the lives of our discs and have not had to withdraw a DVD or CD due to scratch damage since we got the buffer. It has become a valuable asset to our library and we feel it is well worth the purchase price.

*Photographs provided by Tracy Roberts, Assistant Librarian (Programming)*



## News From Fox Creek Municipal Library

By Leslie Ann Sharkey, Library Manager

**Fun and Games!** The community of Fox Creek, Alberta had their share February 17, 2011 as the Library, Champs Team and Early Intervention sponsored a **Family Games Night**. Over 150 parents and children showed up to enjoy an evening of games, hot chocolate, cookies and prizes. Included was a life-sized Chutes and Ladders, as well as bingo, bean bag toss, regular and giant Crokinole, Twister, Elefun, Hoopla, Headbanz, dominoes, bowling, hula hoops, Scrabble Slam and Scrabble Upwards. It was an occasion for families to have a great time together, win a few prizes, and talk to their neighbours.



The **Fox Creek Municipal Library** has just completed a very successful grade four **reading incentive program** for nine years running. During the year, the grade four students at **Fox Creek School** do a special project which earns each of them their own hardcover copy of **The Big Book of Canada**. Recently, at the elementary assembly, book presentations were made to the students in grades 4W and 4S. We would like to say a huge thank you to our financial sponsor, **CIBC Fox Creek**, which was represented by **Danielle Marinus**, who is also a library board member. Funding came through the CIBC "**Employees as Ambassadors**" program. **Neil Bassingthwaite**, chairperson of the Fox Creek Municipal Library Board, was also present and after speaking to the assembly about the importance of reading, assisted Danielle and librarian, **Leslie Ann Sharkey**, in handing out certificates and books to each of the students.



## Where are They Now? An Update from Lesley

*By Lesley Spry-Shandro, former Library Manager, Manning Municipal Library*

My husband (Andy) was offered a wonderful job opportunity over the summer as the woodlands manager in **Grande Cache** so he moved here in July. While I love Grande Cache and think the town is beautiful and friendly, I did not want to leave **Manning** and the best job in the whole world. Finally, in January, Andy bought us a house that has a view of the mountains from each window with a greenhouse in the backyard and told me I could move if I wanted to...so I finally caved in and followed him with our four children. So far, our adventure has consisted of a fall up the stairs in Manning leaving me without the use of my right arm for 5 weeks; moving only some of our furniture the first weekend since it was the weekend of a huge storm that stranded many motorists, but not tough librarians driving a huge 1 ton pickup in 4X4 mode. We decided to not try driving with a trailer, though, because that would have been SILLY! I couldn't register the children for school the first couple days because the principal was stranded out of town due to bad roads, so the unpacking boot camp was relatively quick. Now everyone is settled in their new schools, and sports, and loving it. I am going to start looking for a job next week, when I am finished my large stack of novels sitting beside my couch that I always MEANT to read, but never found the time. I only have three left so I just updated my resume and am considering a sit in at the local library until they decide to hire me!

Just so you know I am REALLY missing everyone already.



Did you know that the name of the popular **Quality Street** brand of chocolates and caramels was inspired by a play by **J. M. Barrie**, who also wrote **Peter Pan**? The play, **Quality Street**, opened in 1901 and ran successfully for many performances over the years. In 1937 a film version was made, starring **Katherine Hepburn**. The movie helped launch the chocolates, which used characters from the story for advertising until 2000.



Thanks to our very generous patrons, the **Grande Prairie Public Library** was able to waive over \$3000 in fines during **Food for Fines** (February 14th & 15th). Patrons donated 1170 items to the **Salvation Army Food Bank**. Food donations were down slightly (1382 in 2010) and fines waived increased (\$2583.87 in 2010).

*Submitted by Michelle Rempel*





## Spotlight on: Web Resources

### Books for Business

<http://www.booksforbusiness.com/>

If you're looking to expand your Canadian business collection and its related sections, try visiting Books for Business. The Toronto company, which started in 1991, offers an online searchable database filled with over 11,000 titles on topics pertaining to management, human resources, training and coaching, investments and finance, sales and marketing and economics and history. It's also a good resource for hard to find or out of print titles. To search for Canadian titles, select *advanced search* and enter "Canadian" or "Canada" as a keyword and select your desired category. Most titles should be able to be purchased through Peace Library System via the normal ordering procedures.

### LitLovers

<http://www.litlovers.com/>

A one-stop-shop for free book club resources. LitLovers offers reading guides, recommended titles, generic questions for specific types of books if you're unable to find any prepared guides, instructions on how to start and run a book club (for adults and kids), icebreakers, tie-in recipes and menus, free courses on a wide variety of topics such as the history of the realistic fiction, symbolism, theme, irony and point of view, and much, much more!

### Open Library

<http://openlibrary.org/>

As a project of the Internet Archive (<http://www.archive.org>), Open Library's goal is "one web page for every book." Literally. To date, over 20 million book records (in the form of web pages) have been added to the website. Visiting a book's web page will provide bibliographic information, related editions and titles, clickable keywords for searching for similar books, and in some cases, access to a free downloadable version. Creating a free Open Library account will allow you to contribute your own books and information to the website, edit or update existing records if necessary, and even borrow from their library of over one million free eBooks. According to the website, any Open Library account holder can borrow up to five eBooks at a time, for up to two weeks. Books can only be borrowed by one person at a time. People can choose to borrow either an in-browser version (viewed using the Internet Archive's BookReader web application), or a PDF or EPUB version, managed by the free Adobe Digital Editions software (the same software used by OverDrive).

### TravelDK.com

<http://traveldk.com/>

Already known for their popular travel guides, DK publishing has now created an interactive website to assist with travellers with planning their future trips. Site features include the ability to create, personalize and print your own customized travel guide, learn what apps are available for your portable devices, learn about your destination, get travel ideas and even book flights and hotel rooms!



## Can You Guess the Library?

To the left is a picture of a Peace Library System member public library - can you guess which one it is? **Clue:** One of the library's prized possessions is a copy of *Wop May* by **Iris Allan**. The answer will be revealed in the summer edition of *News 'N' Notes*.

The answer from the previous issue:

**Manning Municipal Library**



# Highlights From My Trip to Egypt

By Katherine Wiebe, Consulting Services Manager, PLS

With **Egypt** in the news so much of late, I am reminded of my visit there in February of 2009 with a friend. Egypt is a northeastern country of Africa and is full of ancient history and modern political and economic struggle. Over 80 million people live in Egypt, of which 10.5 million reside in Greater **Cairo** (incorporating **Gizeh**).

We had only two weeks in Egypt and so traveled it from the northernmost coastal city of **Alexandria**, following the Nile down to the southern tip at **Abu Simbel**. There was not time to visit the nomads of the western desert nor the Eastern resort areas of **Hurghada**, **Sharm El-Sheikh**, nor regrettably, St. Catherine's Monastery in the **Sinai**.

The most memorable sight for me was looking out the airplane window while banking into Cairo and seeing the vast desert and then the three pyramids in all their glory. Being up that high it was not possible to also see the Sphinx at that point. As we changed directions to line up with the airport we could then see the vast populations of Gizeh and Cairo which have grown almost right up to the pyramids. It is a surreal experience to see the pyramids, thousands of years old, with 20<sup>th</sup> century high-rise apartments topped by hundreds of satellite dishes adjacent.

Arriving at the Cairo International Airport, we were greeted by a large sign in English, French, and Arabic advising that trafficking in illicit drugs was punishable by death and to please enjoy our stay in Egypt; along with "No Smoking" signs underneath which leaned armed guards puffing away on their smokes, clearly designed to intimidate and send the unmistakable message that the police are a law unto themselves.

We had arranged a tour guide just for ourselves and were taken around Cairo/Gizeh, the pyramids, ancient Coptic Christian churches, and the **Citadel of Salah Al-Din** including the **Mohammad Ali** (not the boxer) mosque where we sat in stocking feet on ornate carpets and received a 30 minute introduction to the five pillars of the Islam faith from our guide. As this was no longer a functioning place of worship but rather a mosque open to the public, we did not have to cover our heads or be shrouded in robes (except for a few women who were considered too buxom in their travel t-shirts).

One of my favourite stops was the **New Library of Alexandria** or the **Bibliotheca Alexandrina** as it is called. It is a magnificent structure in the shape of a tilted disc facing towards the sea, which symbolizes the sun shining its radiant knowledge out to the masses of humanity. It is surrounded by a moat. There are 11 levels containing 2000 reading seats, capacity for 8 million books, of which it has 160,000 so far and is adding 15% a year; a children's library; a teens' library; an Espresso Book Machine; and an Internet Archive ([Archive.Bibalex.org](http://Archive.Bibalex.org)) comprised of 1636 computers, containing a snapshot of every website from 1996-2007.

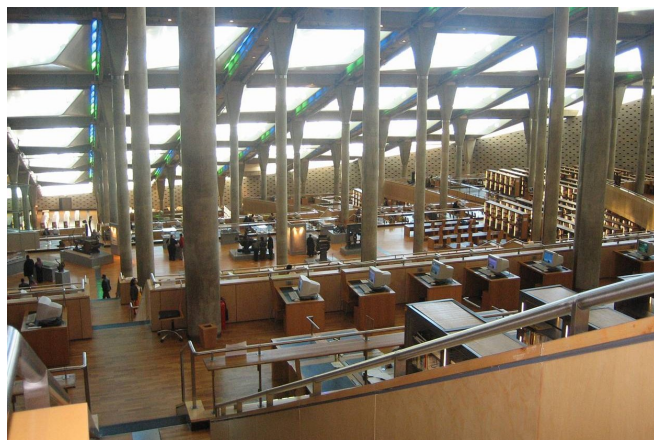
Traveling on south, we visited the **Aswan Dam** and many Pharaonic temples, each having a similar structure of imposing external façade wall, interior open court area, an hypostyle hall (massive columns) and an inner Holy of Holies where used to sit on an altar the stone boat of the god of that temple. All the temples had colossal statues depicting the pharaoh-god of that temple as well as a diminutive statue of his wife reaching to about the height of the god's knee. Hmm. Interestingly, the last temple we visited, built by **Ramesses II** to honour his favourite wife **Nefertari**, had statues of her in equal height to himself. In spite of this seemingly egalitarian overtone, our guide reminded us that Ramesses II still had over 200 wives and concubines.

We met and stayed with some wonderful Egyptians, both Christian and Muslim, and I fervently hope this recent revolution will bring them more freedom, tolerance, and prosperity. We can only wait and see.



Above: the exterior of the Library of Alexandria, photo courtesy of [www.bibalex.org/English/gallery/pages/a01.htm](http://www.bibalex.org/English/gallery/pages/a01.htm).

Below: the interior of the library. There are 11 levels like this one, with different subject areas and a reference desk on each level.



Below: Nefertari's Temple



## Looking for fun and interactive online literacy resources?

**School Library Media Kids** (<http://www.slimekids.com/>) is a website devoted to offering free fun and interactive resources such as educational games, book trailers & reviews, search engines, and reference tools to help motivate students to learn independently.



French and English booklists for the 2011  
"Splash! Celebrate Summer"  
**TD Summer Reading Club**  
are now available!

Visit <http://www.td-club-td.ca/009003-120-e.html>

The **Government of Alberta** and **CBC Edmonton** are partnering to offer free online English lessons to assist adult learners and newcomers.

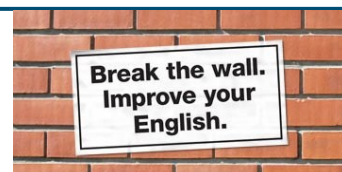
*How the Program works:*

- Each week, **CBC Radio One** provides three news broadcasts, and each month one feature story, in a downloadable audio format. These broadcasts and stories are read at a slower pace to strengthen the student's listening and comprehension skills.
- Each audio file is accompanied by a related written lesson in PDF format, to assist with listening, reading, writing and speaking English.

Visit <http://www.breakthewall.alberta.ca> to download the audio files and accompanying written lessons.

For other English language learning resources offered by the Government of Alberta, please visit:

<http://employment.alberta.ca/Immigration/160.html>



## Upcoming Events



### MD of Greenview Advisory Committee Meeting

DeBolt, AB  
March 16, 2011; 6:00 pm

### PLS Board Meeting

March 19, 2011  
Peace River, AB

### Paddle Prairie Advisory Committee Meeting

April 6, 2011; 3:30 pm  
Paddle Prairie, AB

### Library Managers' Council Meeting

PLS Headquarters  
April 11, 2011; 10:30 am

### Clear Hills County Advisory Committee Meeting

Bear Canyon, AB  
April 13, 2011; 5:30 pm

### PLS Executive Meeting

Location TBA  
April 16, 2011

### County of Northern Lights Advisory Committee Meeting

Dixonville, AB  
April 18, 2011; 11:30 am

### Alberta Library Conference

Jasper, AB  
April 28 - May 1, 2011

### Central Author Tour (Linda Bailey)

May 2 - 5, 2011

### Public Library Meeting

PLS Headquarters  
May 9, 2011

### Annual General Meeting & PLS Board Meeting

PLS Headquarters  
May 14, 2011

### Northern Sunrise County Advisory Committee Meeting

St. Isidore, AB  
May 16, 2011; 11:30 am

### Eastern Author Tour (Dave Glaze)

May 16 - 19, 2011

### PLS Executive Meeting

Location TBA  
August 20, 2011

### PLS Board Meeting

Location TBA  
September 17, 2011

### Rural Libraries Conference

Grande Prairie, AB  
September 21 - 23, 2011